



UNIVERSITÄT
ERFURT
Philosophische
Fakultät



VOLOS
ACADEMY for
THEOLOGICAL
STUDIES



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Orthodox Christianity between Pre-Modern Commitments,
Modern Challenges, and Post-Modern Relevance

OCTOBER 19–22, 2023
“THESSALIA” CONFERENCE CENTRE
MELISSATIKA, VOLOS, GREECE

CHAIR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES (ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY),
FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY, UNIVERSITY OF ERFURT (GERMANY)

VOLOS ACADEMY FOR THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (GREECE)

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October 19–22, 2023

“Thessalia” Conference Center
Melissatika, Volos, Greece

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2023

Arrival

19:00–22:00 Evening Together, Roof Garden, Kypseli Hotel, Volos

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2023

Link for remote access (Zoom):
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83162144590>

8:30 Departure from the Hotel to the “Thessalia” Conference Centre;
Registration

9:00 Opening of the Conference

I. THE PRE-MODERN COMMITMENTS OF ORTHODOXY

9:00–10:30 First Session:

Moderator:
Prof. Vasilios N. Makrides
(University of Erfurt, Germany)

Dr. Pantelis Kalaitzidis

(Director, Volos Academy for Theological Studies,
Volos, Greece)

*When the Desert Becomes an Empire:
Monasticism, Politics, and Church-State Relations*

Dr. Vassa Kontouma

(Professor and Director of Studies in Orthodox Christianity, 15th–21st c.;
Dean of the Religious Sciences Section,
École Pratique des Hautes Études, PSL, Paris, France)

*An Uncomfortable Compromise?
The Gradual Adoption of the Sacramental Septenary
in Orthodox Doctrine and its (In)Adequacy with Practice*

10:30–11:00 Coffee Break

11:00–13:15 Second Session:

Moderator:
Sister Prof. Tereza Obolevich
(Pontifical University of John Paul II, Krakow, Poland)

Dr. Ekaterini Tsalampouni

(Professor of New Testament, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece;
Member of the Board of Directors, Volos Academy for Theological Studies)

*Exploring the Role of Women in Orthodox Christianity:
Past Commitments, Perennial Problems, and Recent Developments*

Dr. Gregory Tucker

(Postdoctoral Researcher, Faculty of Catholic Theology,
University of Regensburg, Germany)

*Ressourcement, Reform, Revolution?
Liturgical Development in Eastern Orthodox Christianity*

Dr. Lidiya Lozova

(Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Exeter, Exeter, UK;
“Spirit and Letter” Research and Publishing Association, Kyiv, Ukraine)

*Pre-Modern, Anti-Modern, Pro-Modern?
The Ethos of Icons in Ukraine and Russia Today*

13:15–15:00 Lunch Buffet

15:00–16:30 Third Session:

Moderator:
Prof. Vassa Kontouma
(École Pratique des Hautes Études, PSL, Paris, France)

Georgios Vlantis, MTh

(Director of the Council of Christian Churches in Bavaria, Germany;
Research Associate, Volos Academy for Theological Studies, Volos, Greece)

*Church Renewal and the Authority of the Fathers in Orthodoxy:
A Historical and Systematic Approach*

Dr. Vasilios N. Makrides

(Professor of Religious Studies/Orthodox Christianity,
Faculty of Philosophy, University of Erfurt, Germany)

*Orthodox Anti-Westernism in a Global Age:
The Burden of the Past and Contemporary Critical Voices*

16:30–17:00 Coffee break

II: THE MODERN CHALLENGES FOR ORTHODOXY

17:00–19:15 Fourth Session:

Moderator:

Prof. Ekaterini Tsalampouni
(Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece)

Sister Dr. Tereza Obolevich

(Professor and Head of the Department
of Russian and Byzantine Philosophy,
Faculty of Philosophy,
Pontifical University of John Paul II, Krakow, Poland)

*Russian Religious Thought
in the Face of Modernity*

Dr. Konstantinos Papastathis

(Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science,
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece)

*Investigating Modernisation
in the Orthodox Christian World:
The Jerusalem Church and the Sacralisation of the Nation*

Rev. Dr. Ioan Moga

(Associate Professor of Orthodox Systematic Theology,
Faculty of Catholic Theology,
University of Vienna, Austria)

*Dialectics of a Christian Kairology in Modernity:
The Case of the Romanian Orthodox Theology*

20:00 Dinner



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023

Link for remote access (Zoom):
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85000795101>

8:30 Departure from the Hotel to the “Thessalia” Conference Centre

9:00–10:30 Fifth Session:

Moderator:
Dr. Lidiya Lozova
(University of Exeter, UK)

Dr. Mihai-D. Grigore

(Privatdozent and Research Fellow at the Department of Religious History,
Leibniz-Institute of European History, Mainz, Germany)

*Orthodoxy Challenged:
A Church Becomes World's Second Christian Confession*

Dr. Dimitrios Moschos

(Professor of Church History and Head of the Department of Theology,
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece;
Member of the Board of Directors, Volos Academy for Theological Studies)

Greek-Speaking Orthodox Theology Facing Modernity

10:30–11:00 Coffee break

11:00–12:30 Sixth Session:

Moderator:
Dr. Nikolaos Asproulis
(Volos Academy for Theological Studies, Greece)

Dr. Efstathios Kessareas

(Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Erfurt, Germany)

*The Phenomenon of Orthodox Rigorism/Fundamentalism:
Its Deep Historic Roots and its Modern Transformations*

Dr. Maria Hämmerli

(Lecturer in Religious Studies, University of Fribourg, Switzerland)

*Eastern Christianity in the West:
Endogenous and Exogenous Challenges of an Encounter*

12:30–14:00 Lunch buffet

III. THE POST-MODERN RELEVANCE OF ORTHODOXY

14:00–16:15 Seventh Session:

Moderator:

Prof. Dimitrios Moschos

(National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece)

Dr. Spyridoula Athanasopoulou-Kypriou

(Religious Education Teacher at the Moraitis School,
and Psychotherapist, Athens, Greece)

*Gender Theories
and Constructive Orthodox Theology:
An Eschato-Christocentric Understanding
of Sexuality and the Body*

Rev. Dr. Timothy Boniface Carroll

(Principal Research Fellow, Department of Anthropology,
University College London, London, UK;

Director of the Centre for Anthropology and Ethnography
of Orthodox Christianity,

Institute of Orthodox Christian Studies, Cambridge, UK)

*On the Veracity of Participation:
Quotidian Mysteries in Orthodox Christianity
as Means to Certainty*

Dr. Christopher D. L. Johnson

(Senior Instructional Designer,
Walker Center for Teaching and Learning,
University of Tennessee
at Chattanooga, USA)

*“Weaving Ropes from Sand”:
The Role of Orthodox Christianity
in the Postmodern Age of Intelligent Machines*

16:15–16:45 Coffee break



16:45–19:00 Eighth Session:

Moderator:
Dr. Pantelis Kalaitzidis
(Volos Academy for Theological Studies, Greece)

Short Presentation of the RESILIENCE Programme:
RESILIENCE Meets International Scholars

Dr. Nikolaos Asproulis
(Deputy Director, Volos Academy for Theological Studies;
Lecturer, Hellenic Open University, Patras, Greece)

*Post-Modern Orthodox Theologies:
Venturing into Uncharted Waters?*

Dr. Zdenko Š. Širka
(Research Fellow and Lecturer, The Ecumenical Institute,
Protestant Theological Faculty, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic)

*Post-Modern Hermeneutics and Orthodoxy:
An (Un)Fruitful Encounter*

Dr. Sebastian Rimestad
(Privatdozent and Research Fellow,
Centre for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences
“Multiple Secularities: Beyond the West, Beyond Modernities”,
University of Leipzig, Germany)

*Conversion to the Orthodox Church:
A Theological or a Political Act?*

19:15–19:45 Concluding Discussion

20:00 Dinner

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023

Optional Departure Day

8:30–10:00 Divine Liturgy at the parish Church of St. Constantine and Helena

8:30 Optional Daily Excursion to the Meteora Monasteries – Departure from the Hotel