



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

# ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY AND IDENTITY POLITICS

IDP - LIUDGERHAUS  
ÜBERWASSERKIRCHPLATZ 3, MÜNSTER

JUNE 28 - JULY 1, 2024

UNIVERSITY OF MÜNSTER  
CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS STUDIES  
CHAIR OF ORTHODOX THEOLOGY

International Conference  
**ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY  
AND IDENTITY POLITICS**

IDP - Liudgerhaus  
Überwasserkirchplatz 3  
Münster, Germany

June 28 - July 1, 2024

# Timetable

**FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 2024**

16.30 – 17.00 Registration

17.00 – 17.30 Opening-Greetings

**Dr. Assaad Elias Kattan**, Professor of Orthodox Theology, University of Münster

**Metropolitan Augoustinos of Germany** (Ecumenical Patriarchate), President of the Orthodox Episcopal Assembly of Germany

**Dr. Pantelis Kalaitzidis**, Director, Volos Academy for Theological Studies

Session I:

Moderator: Dr. Assaad Elias Kattan  
(Professor of Orthodox Theology, University of Münster)

17.30 – 17.50: **Dr. George E. Demacopoulos** (Fr. John Meyendorff & Patterson Family Chair of Orthodox Christian Studies; Co-founding Director of the Orthodox Christian Studies Center, Fordham University, NY, USA)

*Contemporary Orthodox Identities  
and the Specters of Byzantium*

17.50 – 18.10: **Dr. Pantelis Kalaitzidis** (Director of the Volos Academy for Theological Studies, Volos, Greece):

*Identity Christianity and Religious Nationalism:  
From the History of Salvation to the History of National Revival*

18.10 – 18.45: Discussion

19.30: Dinner

**SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 2024**

Session II:

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Christophe D'Aloisio  
(Director, Orthodox Theological Institute of Brussels – IOJ;  
Secretary of the European Forum of Orthodox Schools of Theology – EFOST,  
Belgium)

09.00 – 09.20: **Dr. Tim Noble** (Associate Professor of Missiology, Protestant Theological Faculty Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic) and **Dr. Ivana Noble** (Professor of Ecumenical Theology, Protestant Theological Faculty, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic)

*Memory, Identity and Orthodoxy:  
From a Singular Metanarrative to Various Testimonies*

09.20 – 09.40: **Rev. Dr. Vasilios Thermos** (Professor, Supreme Ecclesiastical Academy of Athens; Psychiatrist of Children and Adolescents, Athens, Greece)

*Healthy Identity vs Identity as a Defense:  
Applications for the Orthodox Church*

09.40 – 10.00: **Dr. Sarah Riccardi-Swartz** (Assistant Professor of Religion and Anthropology, Northeastern University, USA)

*Radical Recruitment:  
Cybernetic Cartographies of Orthodox Conversion Online*

10.00 – 10.45: Discussion

10.45 – 11.15: Coffee Break

Session III:

Moderator: Dr. Michael Hjälms  
(Senior Lecturer in Eastern Christian Studies,  
Dean of Sankt Ignatios College, Stockholm, Sweden)

11.15 – 11.35: **Dr. Hans-Peter Grosshans** (Professor of Systematic Theology, Institute for Ecumenical Theology, Faculty for Protestant Theology, University of Münster, Germany)

*National, Ethnic and Cultural Belonging –  
and Transnational, Transethnic and Transcultural Loyalties of Christians.  
A Protestant Perspective on Political Responsibility and Christian Catholicity*

11.35 – 11.55: **Dr. Anna Briskina-Müller** (Research Associate, Saxonian Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Leipzig; Lecturer at the Faculty of Theology at the University of Halle, Germany)

*Living Together, or Preserving Nationalities  
under Surmounting National Dominances:  
The Polyethnic Brotherhood of Paissius Velitchkovsky (1722-1794)*

11.55 – 12.30: Discussion

12.30 – 14.00: Lunch

Session IV:

Moderator: Dr. Branko Sekulić

(Lecturer, University Center for Protestant Theology “Matthias Flacius Illyricus”, Zagreb, Croatia; Member of the Institute for the Study of Culture and Christianity, Belgrade, Serbia)

14.00 – 14.20: **Dr. Michael Hjälml** (Senior Lecturer in Eastern Christian Studies, Dean of Sankt Ignatios College, Stockholm, Sweden)

*Becoming Orthodox:  
Ethos before Ethnos in the Diaspora*

14.20 – 14.40: **Dr. Yauheniya Danilovich** (Lecturer, Institute for Orthodox theology, University of Munich; Research Associate, Evangelical Theological Faculty, University of Münster, Germany)

*Identity and Orthodox Religious Education  
in the Diaspora*

14.40 – 15.15: Discussion

15.15 – 15.45: Coffee Break

Session V:

Moderator: Ms. Katerina Pekridou, ThM

(Programme Officer for Theology and Studies, CEC, Brussels, Belgium;  
Research Associate, Volos Academy for Theological Studies, Greece)

15.45 – 16.05: **Dr. Vladimir Latinovic** (Lecturer & Research Fellow, University of Tübingen, Germany)

*Rethinking Orthodox Ecclesiology:  
Constructing a Supranational Paradigm*

16.05 – 16.25: **Rev. Dr. Christophe D'Aloisio** (Director, Orthodox Theological Institute of Brussels – IOJ; Secretary of the European Forum of Orthodox Schools of Theology – EFOST, Belgium)

*Panorthodox Identity as a Political and Ecclesiological Project  
in Recent inter-Orthodox Relations*

16.25 – 16.45: **Dr. Athanasios N. Papathanasiou** (Associate Professor of Missiology, Supreme Ecclesiastical Academy, Athens, Greece; Chief Editor of the Greek Theological Quarterly “Synaxi”)

*Orthodox Christianity between Eschatology and Eschatologies,  
Cultural Sarx and Cultural Sarcophagus,  
Post-colonialism and Anti-colonialism*

16.45 – 17.15 Discussion

18.00 – 19.15: Visit to the Exhibition “Encounters with Orthodox Christianity in Greece” (“Begegnungen mit dem Orthodoxen Christentum in Griechenland”), with photos by **Olya Gluschenko** and **Costis Drygianakis** from the Metropolis of Demetrias, co-organized by the Protestant Faculty of Theology of Münster University and the Volos Academy for Theological Studies

19.15: Reception – Drink

20.15: Dinner

### **SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2024**

10:30: Divine Liturgy at the Antiochian Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

12:30: Lunch (offered by the Antiochian Orthodox Parish)

Session VI:

Moderator: Dr. Hans-Peter Grosshans  
(Professor of Systematic Theology, Faculty for Protestant Theology,  
University of Münster, Germany)

16.00 – 16.20: **Dr. Georges El Hage** (Lecturer, Catholic Institute of Paris, France; President of “Syndesmos”)

*The Orthodox in Antioch  
between Cultural and Political Levantinism*

16.20 – 16.40: **Dr. Ionut Biliuta** (Research Associate, Gh. Sincai Institute, Romanian Academy, Târgu Mureş, Romania)

*An Anti-Western Theology?  
The Ultrationalism and Fundamentalism  
of the Romanian Orthodox Church in Post-Communist Years*

16.40 – 17.15: Discussion

17.15 – 17.45: Coffee Break

Session VII:

Moderator: Dr. Alexei Bodrov

(Rector, St. Andrew's Biblical Theological Institute, Moscow, Russia;  
Associate Researcher, Institute of Eastern Christian Studies, Radboud Uni-  
versity, Nijmegen, Netherlands)

17.45 – 18.05: **Dr. Jennifer Wasmuth** (Professor of Ecumenical Theology with special reference to Orthodox Christianity, Faculty of Theology, Göttingen University, Germany):

*Creating Identity through Polemical Delineation?  
Protestantism in Russian Academic Theology of the 19th/20th Century*

18.05 – 18.25: **Dr. Nadezhda Beliakova** (Guest Researcher, University of Bielefeld, Germany):

*Is there a Room for a Feminist Identity in the Orthodox Church?*

18.25 – 19.00: Discussion

19.30: Dinner

**MONDAY, JULY 1, 2024**

Session VIII:

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Vladan Perišić

(Director of the Center for Philosophy and Theology,  
Trebinje, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

09.00 – 09.30: **Dr. Branko Sekulić** (Lecturer, University Center for Protestant Theology “Matthias Flacius Illyricus”, Zagreb, Croatia), and **Dr. Zoran Grozdanov** (Associate Professor, University Center for Protestant Theology “Matthias Flacius Illyricus”, Zagreb, Croatia)

*Kingdom Turned Inside Out:  
The Theology of National Liberation in the Former Yugoslavia*

9.30 – 10.00: Discussion

10.00 – 10.30 Coffee Break

Session IX:

Moderator: Dr. Aristotle Papanikolaou  
(Archbishop Demetrios Chair in Orthodox Theology and Culture,  
Co-founding Director of the Orthodox Christian Studies Center,  
Fordham University, NY, USA)

10.30 – 10.50: **Dr. Regina Elsner** (Professor of Eastern Churches and Ecumenism, Catholic Theological Faculty, University of Münster, Germany)

*“Not like them!” The Harm of Othering  
and the Quest for a New Orthodox Paradigm in Ukraine.*

10.50 – 11.10: **Dr. Lidiya Lozova** (Post-Doctoral Researcher, Exeter University, UK; “Spirit and Letter” Research and Publishing Association, Kyiv, Ukraine)

*The Visual Identity of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine*

11.10 – 12.30: Discussion, Conclusions, End of the Conference





The Conference is organized by the Chair of Orthodox Theology,  
Center for Religious Studies, University of Münster (Germany)

in cooperation with

Volos Academy for Theological Studies (Greece)  
Orthodox Christian Studies Center of Fordham University (New York, USA)  
Sankt Ignatios Orthodox Theological Academy (Stockholm, Sweden)  
Institute for the Study of Culture and Christianity (Belgrade, Serbia)  
Center for Philosophy and Theology of Trebinje (Bosnia-Herzegovina)  
St. Andrew's Biblical Theological Institute (Moscow, Russia)  
European Forum of Orthodox Schools of Theology (Brussels, Belgium)

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