

Missiological News

Orthodox Mission in the Contemporary World

Online Autumn Webinar Series 2021

With the aim of encouraging a broader conversation within the Orthodox churches on the theme of Christian witness in today's world, the IOTA Missiology Group organized a series of webinars with speakers who can draw on their scholarly research and practical experience of mission to respond to the challenges and complexities of different contexts and cultures around the globe. The webinars were held on the zoom platform.

After each webinar's presentation(s) there was time for questions and discussion among experts and peers.

Videos of the lectures are being uploaded on the IOTA youtube channel.

An Overview of the Programme:

Thursday 28th October 2021, 19.00-20.30 (EET)
(12.00-13.30 EDT):

Fr Luke A. Veronis (USA)

Welcoming the Stranger as a Means of Witness: Learning from Archbishop Anastasios

Thursday 4th November 2021, 19.00-20.30 (EET)
(12.00-13.30 EDT):

Fr John Takahashi (Japan)

Saint Nikolai (Kasatkin) and Orthodox Mission in Japan

Thursday 11th November 2021, 19.00-20.30 (EET)
(12.00-13.30 EDT):

Fr Cosmas Ngige, Fr Evangelos Thiani, Ziporah Mwaura, and Dr Joseph William Black (Kenya)

Women's Ministry and Theological Education in Contemporary Orthodox Mission and Practice in Africa/Kenya

Thursday 18th November 2021, 19.00-20.30 (EET)
(12.00-13.30 EDT):

Canon Mark Oxbrow (UK) and Deacon Anton Ponomarev (Russia)

The Role of Orthodox and Protestant Churches in Creating and Maintaining Eucharistic Community in Contemporary Society

Thursday 25th November 2021, 19.00-20.30 (EET)
(12.00-13.30 EDT):

Athanasios N. Papathanasiou (Greece)
and Mika Vähäkangas (Sweden)

Christian Witness in Modern-Day Europe

Thursday 2nd December 2021, 17.00-18.30 (EET)
(10.00-11.30 EDT):

Fr Jossi Jacobs (India)

Orthodox Mission in Contemporary India

Thursday 9th December 2021, 19.00-20.30
(EET) (12.00-13.30 EDT):

Vladimir Yakuntsev and Kirill Mozgov
(Moscow, Russia)

The Main Trends of Orthodox Missiology in Russia Today

The IOTA Missiology Group Committee:

Rev. Dr. Michael Oleksa

Dr. Alison Kolosova

Rev. Dr. Anastasios Kihali

Dr. Evangelia Voulgaraki

Dr. Valentin Kozhuharov

IOTA Missiology Webinars 2021

Brief Report for Dec 3rd 2021 IOTA Leaders'
Meeting by Alison Kolosova

Thank you for this opportunity to say a few words about the webinars the IOTA

Missiology Group has held during 2021. We first had the idea of holding these webinars in order to grasp more fully what is actually going on among the Orthodox churches in the area of missiology and mission. Orthodox Missiology is both vastly understudied and potentially covers extremely diverse geographical and cultural contexts. So we realized there was a need to develop our network of contacts to understand better not only what is being taught about missiology but also what is happening on the ground in different areas of the world. Of course, this could be an endless, ongoing project and in some ways the webinars have been a drop in the ocean. But we have still learnt a lot in the course of the year, and more importantly, forged collegial links and friendships with a whole new network of people.

Geographically, the webinars have taken us on a journey from Orthodox heartlands such as Romania and Russia, to regions of the world which have encountered Orthodox Christianity in recent times such as Sub-Saharan Africa and Japan. Yesterday [Dec 2nd], we had a fascinating webinar with Fr Jossi Jacob, Principal of St Thomas Orthodox Seminary in Nagpur, India who spoke about approaches to mission in the ancient Malankara Oriental Orthodox Church, its engagement with the Indian caste system and evangelization among the Dalit untouchables. Four theologians and practitioners of mission in Kenya, including the Kenyan Orthodox church's only woman with higher theological education, discussed with us 'Women's ministry and theological education in contemporary Orthodox practice in Africa and Kenya'. Fr Elekiah Andago Kihali who directs an Orthodox school and orphan-

age in Kenya and Evi Voulgaraki, Lecturer in Missiology in Athens, gave us a broader picture of issues faced by the Orthodox Church in Africa.

Fr Luke Veronis challenged us with his accounts of grassroots interfaith dialogue in refugee camps in Albania while also sharing his experience of the missionary vision and activity of Archbishop Anastasios Yannoulatos. Fr Cristian Sonea gave us an overview of attitudes towards mission in Romania over the last 100 years, highlighting the dilemmas faced by the Romanian Church in the post-Communist era both at home and in the vast Romanian diaspora. Next week, we shall be discussing recent trends in the missiology of the Russian Church with colleagues from St Philaret's Institute in Moscow.

The challenges of reinventing Christian mission in secularized contemporary Europe have not been left out of the picture. Two professors of missiology, one from northern Europe, and one from southern Europe, one Lutheran and one Orthodox, Athanasios Papathanasiou from Greece and Mika Vähäkangas of Sweden and Finland, held a very thought-provoking dialogue on this thorny issue. Continuing this ecumenical approach, Mark Oxbrow of the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies and Anton Ponomarev, who represents the Lausanne Orthodox Initiative, shared their vision of ecumenical collaboration between Orthodox and Evangelical Protestants and churches of all traditions as they face the missional challenges of the contemporary world.

If you're wishing that you'd had time to attend these informative and challenging webinars, then the good news is that a series of IOTA Missiology Lecture videos

is gradually being uploaded to the IOTA Youtube channel. The first video was uploaded about two weeks ago and has already had more than a hundred watches. So in the run-up to the 2023 IOTA conference on mission, please use these videos as a resource to inform and inspire you. Thank you.

Remembering the Vanguard, Opening New Paths

A New Association for Missiological Studies

A new non-profit association for Missiological Studies «Μνήμη και Πρωτοπορία» | "Remembering the Vanguard, Opening New Paths", was founded in Athens by the decision of the county court Nr 458/9-11-21. The purpose of the Association is to support and enhance intercultural, Interreligious and Orthodox Missiological Studies as well as research in the fields of World Christianity and Interreligious Dialogue.

A interim board stands as follows:

Dr. Evangelia Voulgaraki, President
Dr Panagiotis Volakis, Vice President
Mrs Theodora Paragiou, Secretary
Mr Vasilios Mylonas, Treasurer
Dr Nikos Tsirevelos, Member

As an Athens based association, it is dedicated to the pioneers in Mission and Dialogue, Professors of the Department of Social Theology and the Study of Religion, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA), the late Elias Voulgarakis, Anastasios (Yannoulatos) of Albania and the late Nikos Nissiotis.

The Association's aim is to support publications, both serial as well as mono-

graphs in English and Greek, conferences, webinars, workshops, exchanges, scholarships and all kind of projects serving its purpose.

An ongoing project of the Association throughout the academic year 2021-22 is the *Athenian Dodecalogues*, jointly organised with the graduate course of the Study of Religion, Area of Study: "Philosophy of Religion and Missiology" at the NKUA in the form of open online lectures, with open subscription at its website, <https://mnimi-protoporia.com/>. A Certificate of Attendance will be issued for regular participation at the end of the meetings.

Lectures are delivered in Greek. Each lecture is given by a main speaker and there is also a short response by a graduate student on a related subject. A lively discussion, freestyle, follows and completes the session.

An Overview of the Programme:

Monday 4th October 2021, 20:00 (Athens)

Official Opening and greetings by:

Dr. Evi Voulgaraki-Pissina, President of the Association, Scientific Director of the Programme

Prof. Giorgos Filias, Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Social Theology and the Study of Religion, NKUA

Asst. Prof. Haralambos Ventis, on behalf of the graduate Programme Philosophy of Religion and Missiology, NKUA

Keynote Speaker:

Emeritus Prof. Demetrios Gonis

Elias Voulgarakis: The Founder of Missiological Studies in Greece

Re: Vasilios Mylonas

The Development of the Discipline of Missiology and of Missional Theology in Greece

Monday 18th October 2021, 20:00 (Athens)

Dr Panayotis Volakis

Sainthood and Mission: The Saints as Witnesses of Faith

Re: Theodora Paragiou

Maria Skobtsova: Saint Mariae [or St Marie] of Paris

Monday 1st November 2021, 20:00 (Athens)

Dr Gregory Stouraras

Relations between Christian, Muslim and Jewish Communities in Greece during the Ottoman Period

Re: Vasilis-Alexandros Palaiodimopoulos

Significance and Challenges of Co-existence among Religious Communities in Greece Today

Monday 29th November 2021, 20:00 (Athens)

Prof. Niki Papageorgiou

Major Religious Traditions in Asia and Women

Re: Maria Droulou

Gender Issues and the Resonance of the Ecclesial Kerygma in Greece today

Monday 13th December 2021, 20:00 (Athens)

Asst. Prof. Chara Karagiannopoulou

Religion and Gender Equality: Patterns of a "Confrontational" Relationship in the International Setting

Re: Angelina Giannopoulou

Gender Equality, Feminist Emancipation and Religion in Europe. Dialogue as a Political Demand

Monday 24th January 2022, 20:00 (Athens)

Dr Evi Voulgaraki-Pissina

Babylas versus Apollo. Persuasion or Coercion? Religious Conflicts and Encounters in Late Antiquity

Re: Stella Synegianni

A Comment on St. Basil the Great's Homily to Youth on the Benefit from Right Use of Classical Literature

Monday 7th February 2022, 20:00 (Athens)

Rev. Dr Alexander Kariotoglou

Prospects and Challenges for Christian-Muslim Dialogue Today

Re: Roni Bou Saba

Dialogue and Coexistence: The Lebanese Experience

Monday 21th February 2022, 20:00 (Athens)

Prof. Niki Tsironi

St Philothei of Athens. Thoughts on Women's Identity in Difficult Times

Re: Rev. Gabriel Yannopoulos

St Nina, Equal to the Apostles: A Story from Ancient Times

Mina Volaki

A Few Words on Mother Anthousa of Evangelistria Monastery in Boiotia, Greece, on the Eve of the Feast of St. Anthousa

Monday 21th March 2022, 20:00 (Athens)

Dr Kallirroï Akanthopoulou

Teaching Religion at an Intercultural High School in Thessaloniki

Re: Vasiliki Garoufallia

Inclusion in Education

Monday 11th April 2022, 20:00 (Athens)

Prof. Frances Kostarelos

Critical issues and social forces shaping the response of the Greek Orthodox Church to missions and pastoral care in the United States

Re: Yannis Marinakos

Faith as an Inner Need and not as an Imposition on other people

Monday 16th May 2022, 20:00 (Athens)

Dr Eirini Afentoulidou

"Magical" Elements in Byzantine Liturgical Prayerbooks (Euchologia). A Study of the Manuscripts

Re: Rev. Rafael Tsaltas

How to Overcome a Magical Understanding of Worship Today

Monday 30th May 2022, 20:00 (Athens)

Dr Nikos Tsirevelos

The Reconstruction of the Church of Albania: Proselytism or Orthodox Witness?

Re: Michail Larentzakis

The Struggle to recover and maintain the Orthodox Christian Heirlooms in Albania

Concluding celebration (to be announced at <https://mnimi-protoporia.com>)

IOTA Mega-Conference

Dedicated on Mission

The second mega-conference of the International Orthodox Theological Association will take place in Volos, Greece on January 10-15, 2023. The overall theme of the conference is all aspects of the mission of the Orthodox Church. Call for papers to be announced in <https://iota-web.org/>

Graduate Studies in Philosophy of Religion and Missiology at the NKUA, Department of Social Theology and the Study of Religion

(A Four Semester Course in Greek)

1st Semester

Introduction to Research Methodology
(Theory and Application) PREREQUISITE

E. Voulgaraki

Theory and application of scholarly research. Introduction to methodological principles. Fundamental Guidelines of academic writing.

God of the Philosophers

H. Ventis

The course examines the various perceptions of God as shaped by philosophical thought. It emphasizes classical Greek philosophy and modern philosophy since early modernity.

Patristics and Mission

E. Voulgaraki

The course attempts an in-depth exploration of the Orthodox understanding of mission, in its multilayered conceptions as envisioned and implemented by the Church Fathers.

2nd Semester

Anthropology of Religion

H. Ventis

This course focuses on numerous religious perceptions of the human condition with an emphasis on the Christian worldview.

Orthodoxy in Africa

E. Voulgaraki

The course reviews the presence of Orthodox Christianity in Africa in the 20th and 21st centuries, for the purpose of familiarizing students with the local Churches. The historical presence of Christianity in the African continent is also explored, alongside issues arising from Africa's encounter with different versions of Christianity and challenges at the crossroads of cultures.

Contemporary Theory of Knowledge

H. Ventis

The course reviews various post-kantian epistemological trends with a major impact on both science and philosophy, over the question of truth.

3rd Semester

Religion, Law and Political Philosophy

H. Ventis

The course examines contemporary theories of Justice and Ethics, focusing on such issues as the just state, liberal democracy and the new left, against the backdrop of religious faith.

Witness (Martyria), Diaconia and Politics.

E. Voulgaraki

Mission always occurs in specific historical conditions. What is the relationship between witness and diaconia, Church and power, mission and money? Taking into account specific historical cases, the course will seek to propose a theory and methodology of mission in relation to politics, in the context of contemporary global reality, beyond the structures and traditions of the Western world.

Identity and Otherness in a Theological Context

H. Ventis | E. Voulgaraki

The course focuses on the dynamics of religious identity in view of the identity of the Other (otherness) from the perspective of Philosophy of Religion, Missiological Theology, Dialogue and the self-awareness of Religions. The course prioritizes contemporary concerns.

4th Semester

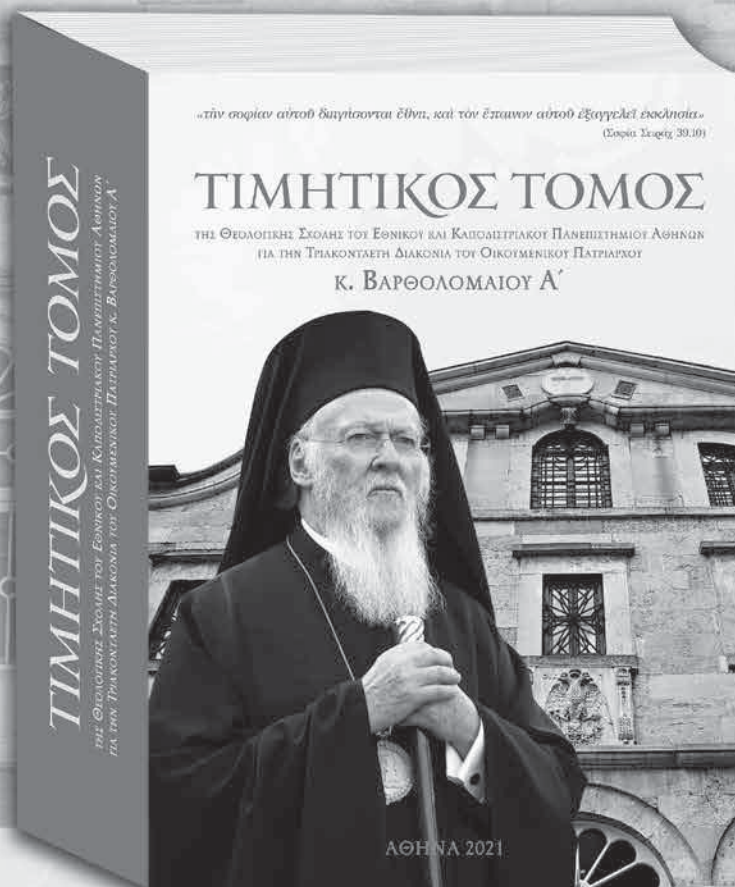
Master's Thesis

The Honorary Volume of the Theological School
of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

for the thirtieth anniversary of the Ecumenical Patriarch

Bartholomew I

is composed of 56 studies and consists of 990 pages.



Important members of the Greek and international academic community have submitted their intellectual effort with articles in Greek and other languages in order to honour the leader of Orthodoxy who has been shepherding the Ecumenical Patriarchate for thirty years. Among other outstanding publications this is the most important publication of the Theological School of the University of Athens.

ISBN: 978-960-639-084-5

The Theological School of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens



fully renovated under the Dean Prof. Christos Karayiannis
is currently developing a series of undergraduate and graduate programmes.

Learn more about the current CIVIS EU Programme

Religion and power in the Eastern Mediterranean in Late Antiquity and Early Middle Ages

Discover how the interaction between political power and Christianity, Judaism, Early Islam, and other religious currents shaped cultural and religious identities in the broader Eastern Mediterranean.

This blended mobility CIVIS course aims to familiarise Bachelor's students with the transformation of Christianity and the broader religious landscape after the 4th century. During the course, Professors and students will analyse the relation of this transformation with the then refurbished model of a Christian empire. There will be a focus on the impact of this process on the emergence of the so-called Byzantine Christianity in the East, the native peripheral Christianity in Asia (Syria, Armenia) and Africa (Coptic, Ethiopic, Nubian Christians), as well as the transformation of the broader religious landscape concerning Judaism, "marginal" religious currents such as Gnosticism and apocalypticism. Finally, the course will highlight the consequences of the addressed topics to Early Islam and its millennial features during the Meccan period. From March to June, seminar sessions will be held in rotation in Tübingen, Athens, and Stockholm. Students that are not residing in each respective hosting city will attend these sessions online. In the first week of July 2022, a field trip will be organised in Athens. Selected students will be supported by a grant for physical mobility. This second part of the course is organised in plenary sessions that will take place in actual sites connected with the object of the course (late antique religious sites, museums, and monasteries in Attika). During these sessions, the assigned students will present their presentations.

<https://civis.eu/en/civis-courses/religion-and-power-in-the-eastern-mediterranean-in-late-antiquity-and-early-middle-ages>



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
**National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens**
— EST. 1837 —

NKUA is a research University and, as a leading higher education institution since 1837, it aims to advance knowledge and educate students in sciences and arts that will best serve the nation and the community of the twenty first century. Committed to innovation and academic excellence, we seek to infuse each member of our academic community with the passion of research and knowledge gain. We encourage cultivation of creativity, maturation of social and cultural sensibilities as well as critical thinking, by supporting free and open dialogue and a culture of integrity and diversity.

Strategic Goals

Evolve

- Provide innovative and dynamic curricular offerings
- Build a transformative global educational experience for students
- Implement novel approaches to teaching, learning and research
- Prepare for the new technological advances and socioeconomic challenges

Integrate

- Realize the value of the resources of a historical University
- Capture the advantages of our cultural Athens location
- Develop community awareness and institutional responsibility

Expand

- Attract the highest caliber students and faculty
- Enhance the core curriculum
- Propel student academic development and success

Internationalize

- Internationalization of education
- Development of foreign language programs especially for international students
- Internationalization of academic research as a key to innovation
- Encouragement of the University's international presence and recognition
- Engagement in partnerships and University networks

ISSUE NR 1 OF
*SALT: CROSSROADS OF RELIGION
AND CULTURE*

WAS DESIGNED BY EVI VOULGARAKI.
IT WAS PAGED ON A DESKTOP SYSTEM WITH SEGOE UI, CALIBRI AND CENTURY GOTHIC FONT FAMILIES AT THE ROUBIECCA ATELIE OF MAISTROS PUBLICATIONS. IT WAS EDITED BY ELIZABETH THEOKRITOFF, ALISON KOLOSOVA AND EVI VOULGARAKI. PROOF READING WAS DONE BY ELENA GOGOU AND ALISON KOLOSOVA. IT WAS PRINTED IN ATHENS ON CHAMOIS PAPER 100GR IN FEBRUARY 2022 ON BEHALF OF

MAISTROS PUBLICATIONS