

Two world wars, the fear of nuclear apocalypse during the Cold War, and the ecological catastrophes of the last quarter of the century have undermined the hope that the achievements of science and technology would usher in a glorious future for humankind. But have we moved beyond the claims of scientific positivism that only science can open the door to genuine knowledge? Influential spokespersons for science continue to preach a gospel of scientism that is anchored in materialism and explanatory reductionism. Yet other voices, from within and beyond science, call for serious reappraisal of our approach to scientific knowledge and human progress. They ask whether there is a universal concept of science or several competing models of science? They call for different conceptions of science, nature, and the mind that transcend explanatory reductionism and provide a place for wonder and the divine in the world? They question why scientific findings are often so uncongenial to human aspirations?

Orthodox Christianity may have much to offer in these matters, and the Second SOW International Conference will examine how a characteristic Orthodox approach can contribute to the reassessment of scientific knowledge and enhance the conversation between science and religion.

Among several themes to be offered for discussion are the following:

- What are the current conceptual foundations of modern science and Orthodox Christianity? How do they differ? Are they compatible in any meaningful way?
- What can Orthodox Christianity contribute to the contemporary reassessment of scientific knowledge?
- Can we suggest models of science that pay proper tribute to the enormous explanatory power of science while avoiding the excesses of scientism and reductionism?
- What is the contemporary Orthodox stance with regard to the moral and ethical aspects of science, and the manipulation of nature and humankind?

A number of distinguished scientists, theologians, historians, philosophers and thinkers from different countries gather in Athens for a lively and fruitful dialog between exponents of various viewpoints.

SCIENCE AND ORTHODOXY  
AROUND THE WORLD  
2<sup>ND</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
National Hellenic Research Foundation

Athens,  
09-10 February 2018

# ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY AND THE REASSESSMENT OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE



<http://project-sow.org/conf2>

Project **Science and Orthodoxy around the World** is hosted  
by the **Institute of Historical Research** of the **National Hellenic Research Foundation**



ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΙΣΤΟΡΙΚΩΝ ΕΡΕΥΝΩΝ  
ΕΘΝΙΚΟ ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΕΡΕΥΝΩΝ  
INSTITUTE OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH  
NATIONAL HELLENIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION



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ΕΘΝΙΚΟ ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΕΡΕΥΝΩΝ



# PROGRAM

DAY  
1

FRIDAY 09  
FEBRUARY 2018

9:00-10:00 | GATHERING OF PARTICIPANTS /  
REGISTRATION

10:00-11:30 | SESSION 1

Chair: **Efthymios Nicolaidis** *Research Director, Institute of Historical Research, National Hellenic Research Foundation / Director of Project "Science and Orthodoxy around the World"*

Welcome & opening remarks

Keynote address: **Stylianos Antonarakis** *Professor and Chairman, Department of Genetic Medicine and Development University of Geneva Medical School, and University Hospitals of Geneva*

"THE HUMAN GENOME: A CHALLENGE FOR THE THEOLOGICAL ARGUMENTS?"

11:30-12:00 | COFFEE BREAK

12:00-13:30 | SESSION 2

Chair: **Prof. Andrew Briggs** *Professor of Nanomaterials, University of Oxford*

**Rev. Doru Costache** *Senior Lecturer in Patristic Studies, Sydney College of Divinity*  
"ONE DESCRIPTION, MULTIPLE INTERPRETATIONS: SUGGESTING A WAY OUT OF THE CURRENT IMPASSE"

Comment by **Stoyan Tanev** *Assoc. Professor, Carleton University, Ottawa*

**Gayle Woloschak** *Professor, Northwestern University*

"SCIENCE AND ORTHODOXY SHOULD BE COMPATIBLE... ARE THEY?"

Comment by **Rev. Răzvan Andrei Ionescu** *Centre Orthodoxe d'Étude et de Recherche «Dumitru Stăniloae», Paris*

Discussion

13:30-15:00 | LUNCH BREAK

15:00-16:30 | SESSION 3

Chair: **Alexei Bodrov** *Founder & Rector, St Andrew's Biblical Theological Institute, Moscow*

**Basarab Nicolescu** *President, Centre International de Recherches et Études Transdisciplinaires, Paris*

"SCIENCE AND ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY CONFRONTED WITH THE NEW BARBARISM: PANTERRORISM, ANTHROPOCENE, AND TRANSHUMANISM"

Comment by **Yakov Rabkin** *Professor, Université de Montréal*

**Rev. Jean Boboc** *Dean, Centre Orthodoxe d'Étude et de Recherche «Dumitru Stăniloae», Paris*

"TRANSHUMANISM AND ORTHODOXY"

Comment by **Magdalena Stavinschi** *Director, Institute for Transdisciplinary Studies in Science, Spirituality, Society, Bucharest*

Discussion

16:30-17:00 | COFFEE BREAK

17:00-18:30 | SESSION 4

Chair: **Sotirios Despotis**, *Professor, School of Theology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens*

**Sergey Horuzhiy** *Major Research Fellow, Institute of Philosophy, Russian Academy of Sciences*

"RISKY TRENDS OF SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE PROBLEM OF INTEGRAL ECOLOGICAL EXPERTISE"

Comment by **Mihai-Dan Chitoiu** *Professor, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Iasi*

**Sergey Demidov** *Professor, Dept of Mechanics and Mathematics, Moscow State University*

"INFINITY IN THEOLOGY AND MATHEMATICS: REASSESSING THE DISCUSSION BETWEEN ACADEMICIAN N.N. LUZIN AND FR PAVEL FLORENSKY"

Comment by **Alexey Postnikov** *Professor, S.I. Vavilov History of Science and Technology Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences*

Discussion

19:30 | PARTICIPANTS' DINNER

DAY  
2

SATURDAY 10  
FEBRUARY 2018

10:00-11:30 | SESSION 5

Chair: **Kriton Chrysochoidis** *Research Director Emer., Institute of Historical Research, National Hellenic Research Foundation*

**Argyrios Nicolaidis** *Professor, Dept of Theoretical Physics, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki*

"MODERN SCIENCE AND ST. GREGORY PALAMAS"

Comment by **Alexandre Kostov** *Professor, Institute of Balkan Studies & Center of Thracology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences*

**Gheorghe Stratan** *Chief Researcher, Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna / Professor, Horia Hulubei National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering, Bucharest*

"ORTHODOXY AND THE SCIENCE OF THE FUTURE"

Comment by **Ronald Numbers** *Professor Emer., University of Wisconsin*

Discussion

11:30-12:00 | COFFEE BREAK

12:00-13:30 | SESSION 6

Chair: **George Vlahakis** *Hellenic Open University*

**Jean Staune** *General Secretary, Université Interdisciplinaire de Paris and Lecturer, École des Hautes Études Commerciales*

"APOPHATISM IN SCIENCE, A KEY CONCEPT FOR THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY AND SCIENCE"

Comment by **William Shea** *Galileo Professor of History of Science, University of Padua*

**Alexey Nesteruk** *Senior Lecturer, University of Portsmouth*

"PHILOSOPHICAL DELIMITERS IN THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN SCIENCE AND THEOLOGY AND THE RELEVANCE OF THE FATHERS"

Comment by **Vasilios Makrides** *Prof. of Religious Studies (Orthodox Christianity), Faculty of Philosophy, University of Erfurt*

Discussion

13:30-15:00 | LUNCH BREAK

15:00-16:30 | SESSION 7

Chair: **Meropi Morfouli** *SYRTE, Observatoire de Paris*

**Rev. Paraskevas (Perry) Hamalis** *Metropolis of Korea / North Central College, Naperville USA*

"CONQUERING DEATH THROUGH RADICAL LIFE EXTENSION: A CHALLENGE FOR AND TO ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ETHICS"

Comment by **Hilary Marlow** *Course Director, Faraday Institute for Science and Religion / Aff. Lecturer, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge*

**Petar Jevremović** *Professor, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade*

"CRITICAL PSYCHOANALYSIS AND THE QUESTION OF ECCLESIAL TRUTH"

Comment by **Rev. Vasilios Thermos** *Professor, High Ecclesiastical Academy of Athens / Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist*

Discussion

16:30-17:00 | COFFEE BREAK

17:00-19:30 | SESSION 8

Chair: **Efthymios Nicolaidis** *Research Director, Institute of Historical Research, National Hellenic Research Foundation / Director of Project "Science and Orthodoxy around the World"*

Round Table with the participation of:  
**John Hedley Brooke** *Fmr Idreos Professor of Science & Religion, University of Oxford*  
**Rev. Doru Costache** *Senior Lecturer in Patristic Studies, Sydney College of Divinity*  
**Rev. Christopher Knight** *Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies, Cambridge*  
**Donald Yerxa** *Editor, Fides et Historia*

19:30 | CONFERENCE SUMMARY AND CLOSING REMARKS