

2022 - 2023 End of Year Newsletter

25th Anniversary edition

2024

1999



INSTITUTE FOR
ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN STUDIES
CAMBRIDGE

EDUCATION ♦ RESEARCH ♦ OUTREACH ♦ SINCE 1999



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A Letter from the Principal



'Dear Friends, Donors, and Students of the Institute,

A blessed Christmas to you all and a Happy New Year in 2024!

As the Institute prepares to enter its silver jubilee year in 2024, celebrating 25 years since it was founded in Cambridge, I want to use this space to reflect both on the Institute's highlights in 2023 and on three core qualities of IOCS, which have shaped our history so far.

IOCS 2023 highlights

You can read a bit more on the highlights of this year in the pages that follow, but it is important for me to emphasise what a blessed year 2023 has been for IOCS.

- We have gained a new member of staff in June, **Fr Deacon Gregory Craveiro**, who has joined the core team as Academic Administrator. Deacon Gregory has brought



Metropolitan Anthony about to teach at IOCS, with then Principal Fr John Jillions

the gifts of his youth, enthusiasm, and prayer to enrich us all.

- We were delighted to welcome two Sabbatical Fellows this year, **Dr Dănuț Mănăstireanu** and **Prof Peter Bouteneff** – who was accompanied by his wife **Dr Patricia Fann Bouteneff** – their stay here made possible only through the generous bursary offered by our generous donor K. Eden. Their time here was mutually enriching and opened up new opportunities for future collaboration. It reminded me how crucial support from donors is in order to promote both better links between the Orthodox worldwide and to foster ecumenical encounter.
- We organised a truly memorable event in September, our Summer Institute on the topic of ***Finding God in the Everyday: Faith, Profession, Vocation***. This was a resounding success and a true international conference, with speakers like **Sister Vassa Larin**, **Revd. Dr Brandon Galagher**, **Aidan Hart**, **Dr Alexander Lingas**, or **Dr Hermina Nedelescu** (to name but a few), coming from the UK, the US,



Our student community in the early days of the Institute

Greece, and Austria. **The event was generously sponsored by the Koga Family**, and that had a major contribution to its reach and outcome! If you haven't yet done so, please check the conference recordings on the [IOCS YouTube channel](#).

- Last but not least, as evidenced in this Newsletter, our staff took part in more prestigious academic events than ever before and have continued to publish steadily in international journals.

We have had 12 MA students in 2023 and, besides this traditional student contingent, IOCS has also been gradually developing a PhD student community which has now reached 10 researchers – leading to an overall community of 62 students across all the degrees that we offer. We relish in the diversity, richness and spread of our student body! We have plans to further grow the student collective in 2024 by continuing to offer courses and events of particular interest for today's world and by offering courses aimed at our brothers and sisters in the Coptic and Oriental Orthodox Churches.

The IOCS 25th anniversary

The highlights of 2023 bring further witness to the journey IOCS has been called to travel since 1999. In equal measure, they are the outcome of our quarter-century activity in Cambridge, and they hold the promise of things to come in the years that follow.

It is not easy to sum up in a few lines what has informed the ethos and life of IOCS in the past 25 years, but as I look back on our history so far, it is evident to me that the three historic core qualities of IOCS are:

- ***The Institute has always been about 'the face of Orthodoxy' rather than 'the idea of Orthodoxy'.***
- ***The Institute is the sum of all the people that have shaped us.***
- ***The Institute's gift and mission is to create the conditions for 'metanoia through education'.***

Allow me to briefly unpack these aspects.

The Institute has always been about ‘the face of Orthodoxy’ rather than ‘the idea of Orthodoxy’.

Although I was not there at the very beginning, I have been involved with IOCS in one way or another for 17 years, and what is remarkably clear to me is that the existence of the Institute was never predicated on an ‘off-the-shelf’ vision about Orthodoxy – one that would fly the flag of ‘the glories of the East’, or of ‘Byzantium’, or of ‘the unspoiled legacy of the Eastern Church’.

Rather, the Institute was about a humble yet self-assured approach, that is to say, a personal, incarnate experience of Orthodoxy – embodied in the people who founded and later generously devoted their gifts to sustain it. Therefore, the Institute was always about ‘the face and life of Orthodoxy’ rather than ‘the idea of Orthodoxy’ – which is inexorably connected to the fact that:

The Institute is the sum of all the people that have shaped us.

The ‘face of IOCS’ has always been outward-looking, dialogue-seeking and generous – a tapestry of people steeped in faith, in study, and the bold yet pastoral application of one’s Orthodox inheritance. It is the face of people like that of our founding Principal, **Revd Prof John Jillions**, and of spiritual guides like **Revd Prof Andrew Louth**, or **Archimandrite Zacharias** of the Essex monastery. It is the face of our teachers of blessed memory: of **Metropolitan Kallistos Ware**, of **Metropolitan Anthony Bloom**, **Archimandrite Ephrem Lash**, of **Dr Christine Mangala Frost**, or of **Fr Michael and Jeanne Harper**. It is made up of the faces of people like **Revd Dr John Binns** (former vicar of the University Church of Great St Mary’s, and longest-standing Director of IOCS), or of **Revd Dr Rowan Williams**, the former Archbishop of Canterbury (a longstanding friend and Patron of IOCS), or that of **Dr Sebastian Brock** (one of the foremost researchers in the area of Syriac studies). They, and many others like them, over the past 25 years, have taught and lectured here, all the while also supporting the Institute with donations and as ambassadors.

We see the same blessing continuing in the people who have more recently joined the Institute’s wider faculty



Metropolitan Kallistos Ware and Revd Prof Andrew Louth 2016
as Associate Researchers or Lecturers, like **Dr Elizabeth Theokritoff**, or iconographer **Aidan Hart**, or **Dr Ralph Lee**, or **Dr Alexander Lingas** (world-famous professor of Byzantine music and an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate).

The Institute’s gift and mission is to create the conditions for ‘metanoia through education’.

The institute’s mission and Orthodox witness in Cambridge goes beyond the obvious institutionally-observable aspect. Its most underrated but impactful purpose, I have found, has to do with the profound change that it elicits in those who study with us. It is not an exaggeration to say that the lasting gift of the Institute is that of ‘metanoia’ – the change that means the reconnection with one’s own Orthodox faith and tradition. I have seen this taking shape in so many of our students and even in those visiting from Eastern Europe or further afar, for a term or even a short academic exchange.

Indeed, I am one of those students, having come from Romania to the IOCS to study on the then MA in Pastoral Theology of the Institute, some 17 years ago. I was looking forward to the scholarship and new resources available here but, having studied theology in Romania for 9 years before that, the last thing I expected in a ‘non-Orthodox country’ like England was to re-learn in Cambridge at IOCS what it means to be Orthodox and how to study theology. But that’s exactly what happened. IOCS has proved a providential place of learning and lived Orthodoxy for me, so that, in the most ‘metanoic’ sense, I fell in love with my

own Church again. Here I learned that Orthodoxy thrives when it employs critical thinking with excellent teachers and resources and also that, rather than keeping itself far from modernity for fear of ‘corruption’, the generous, luminous, critical and inquisitive patristic mind of Orthodoxy is exactly what modernity needs.

Later, I was given the privilege of recognising in the lives of other students what I discerned in my own, that IOCS – as a pan-Orthodox house for theological studies in the ancient university city of Cambridge – has worked that rarest of miracles of (Orthodox) education: a change of mind, not against what had been there before, but as activating the full potential of something that had been there, untapped.’

(Continued on next page)



The IOCS fundraising conference ‘Standing at the crossroads’, in 2017. Left to right: Dr Razvan Porumb (Vice-Principal), Revd Dr Rowan Williams (host, former Archbishop of Canterbury), Sir David Suchet (supporter and special guest), Metropolitan Kallistos Ware (President IOCS, host), Revd Prof John Jillions (founding Principal IOCS), Father Dragos Herescu (Principal), Dr Christoph Schneider (Academic Director).

Supporting IOCS beyond 25 years

‘Metropolitan Kallistos once said that it was a real miracle that IOCS was established in Cambridge and that we have continued to exist, despite not having any subsidy, endowments or sources of steady financial support. So, as I conclude this message, on the cusp of our silver jubilee year, I want to put forward to you, our friends, students, and supporters **an invitation to renew your connection to IOCS**. This is connected to the core of a realisation that has taken root in me – and I trust also in many of our students, alumni, and donors – namely that:

The Orthodox institute in Cambridge is a gain for the Orthodox everywhere.

You can do that by promoting our work, our courses, and our vision for a generous, open and erudite Orthodoxy in a world-leading hub of learning like Cambridge. If you can, please support us by making a gift: either a regular monthly donation, or by donating to our scholarship fund, or for our Lectureship appeal. If you can, remember us in your legacy.

We will launch in January 2024 a capital campaign to secure an endowment fund for IOCS, so we can continue our work for at least another 25 years. Watch this space!

I hope you will join me in keeping the Institute in your prayers and may God’s abundant blessings visit you all!’

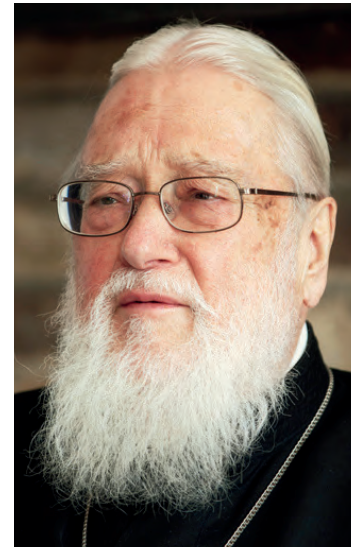
Father Dragos Herescu, Principal



Bishop Kallistos presenting The Philokalia to Prince Philip in 2001.

...a sense of curiosity and wonder...

‘As we give thanks to God for blessings received, as we pray to him for the continuation of those blessings, let us pause to reflect on the purpose of our Institute and more generally on the purpose of education as such. Here, the Latin and Greek words for education can provide us with vital clues. The Latin *educatio* is linked to the



verb *educere*, to lead or call forth, to evoke, to awaken or kindle. In an Institute such as ours, as in any school or place of learning, the aim of the teachers is not merely to communicate information, nor yet to impose upon their pupils their own scheme of ideas. It is, rather, their purpose to call forth and evoke in their pupils a sense of curiosity and wonder, a spirit of free enquiry so that those who we teach may open their eyes and see for themselves. In the words of the second-century letter to Diognetus, “God persuades, he does not compel, for violence is foreign to him”. Such, exactly, is to be the pattern that the true teacher should follow. Such indeed was the mode of Christ’s ministry - he invited and he did not compel. Let us teachers in the Institute show the same spirit, not oppressing but evoking. And as we evoke let us show respect to the inexhaustible variety of character and outlook among our pupils. For, as St Paul insists, there are many differentiations within the created order: there is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon and yet another glory of the stars (I Cor 15:41).

So it is in our Institute, and in every place of learning, one pupil differs from another in gifts and potentiality and this is something that a true teacher will always respect.’

Fragment from the sermon given by Metropolitan Kallistos Ware at the tenth anniversary of IOCS

Make a Difference Today!

BECOME A FRIEND OF IOCS

Become a Friend of IOCS and make a lasting impact for as little as £5 a month! Your ongoing support ensures we can continue our important work. Join the community of sustaining donors making a difference for IOCS and Orthodox Christian education in Cambridge and beyond.

[Learn more here:](https://www.iocs.cam.ac.uk/friends-of-iocs/)

<https://www.iocs.cam.ac.uk/friends-of-iocs/>.

SUPPORT THE ST SOPHRONY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The St Sophrony Scholarship fund supports PhD students at IOCS, allowing them to pursue postgraduate research on topics related to Orthodox Christianity. With your help, we can ensure that student researchers at IOCS have the support they need to complete their work and share it with the world. [Donate here today:](https://www.iocs.cam.ac.uk/saint-sophrony-scholarship/)

<https://www.iocs.cam.ac.uk/saint-sophrony-scholarship/>



SPONSOR AN EVENT

Every year IOCS hosts engaging lectures and thought-provoking conferences, attracting scholars, students, and members of the public from across the country and around the world. When you sponsor an IOCS event, you make these important gatherings possible. Sponsorships are an excellent way to share your commitment to IOCS and robust Orthodox Christian scholarship and education. To learn more, contact us at info@iocs.cam.ac.uk

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY

Help sustain IOCS far into the future and secure your legacy by naming IOCS in your will or making it the beneficiary of an estate gift. A legacy gift of any size will support the institute and its mission for generations to come. Planned giving is easy and impactful. Contact us at info@iocs.cam.ac.uk to learn more about how you can make a lasting gift.



LECTURESHIP IN ORTHODOX AND ECUMENICAL STUDIES

Setting up a Lectureship in Orthodox and Ecumenical Studies, in perpetuity, will ensure that Orthodoxy remains an essential part of the ecumenical dialogue in Cambridge. This will keep an open portal both towards the wider Christian world for the Orthodox, and towards the riches of Orthodoxy for the other traditions.

[More details here:](https://www.iocs.cam.ac.uk/appeal-for-the-iocs-lectureship-in-ecumenism/)

<https://www.iocs.cam.ac.uk/appeal-for-the-iocs-lectureship-in-ecumenism/>



Testimonials



Wendy Regas, MA Student

‘The MA program offered through IOCS has been a dream come true. I am not only digging deeper into the rich theology of the Orthodox Church, I am doing so under the tutelage of those who are publishing and speaking of it in our modern context. I recommend the IOCS program to anyone who wants to be part of the Orthodox conversation, in dialogue with fellow Christians. I treasure the friendships I'm making and the insights I'm gaining.’



Dr Georgiana Constantin-Parke, Certificate Alumna

‘No matter what your faith background is, this program is a great opportunity to learn about Orthodox Christianity and the traditions of the ancient faith.

The faculty and staff are great. They are encouraging, patient, give useful feedback, and will definitely enhance the academic experience.

It was a great journey of discovery! I highly recommend it to all who are interested in theology.’



Fr Joseph Matlak, PhD Student

‘I have enjoyed my doctoral research at the institute immensely. Not only have my studies enabled me to grow academically as a scholar, but I chose to study here specifically because of its Orthodox Christian identity. Throughout my research, I have experienced a fulfilling academic formation with encouraging supervisors, as well as a profound spiritual orientation and commitment to share the riches of the Orthodox Christian tradition in dialogue with other Churches. I wholeheartedly commend the institute to those who would like to deepen their understanding of Orthodox Christian theology.’



Maria Rapti, former exchange student

‘I came to visit Cambridge with my husband and my kids. We met Father Dragos and he saw us around IOCS and Wesley House. So many changes... Cambridge also has changed. But what remains always the same is the light, the kindness, the respect of the people who work at IOCS. When I am there I always feel the warm-hearted welcome. My kids and also my friend with her son who came with us to England felt the same too.’

Testimonials



“The IOCS and their Distance Learning course have been a great help to my own spiritual development. As a third-generation British Cypriot my experience of Orthodoxy was perhaps rather typical of many within my generation; growing up as what I would now describe as a "secular Christian". Having the internet at our fingertips is great but attempting to study as an adult without a guide was a recipe for disaster. Having first found a parish community, and with my spiritual father's blessing, I joined the IOCS distance learning course. The flexibility which the course offers allowed me to fit studies around my existing commitments. Being grounded within the liturgical life of the Church, in conjunction with the distance learning course, has brought me a greater clarity than any self-study I was attempting online.

“The contributors and teaching staff I can only describe as world class”

Louis Sideras, London, UK

Distance Learning Certificate Student

The course content enabled me to gain a broad exposure to Orthodox theology, and with the patience and knowledge of my tutor, I was able to unpack some of the truths within our rich Apostolic Faith. From early Church Fathers, all the way to contemporary theologians, the course offers a broad overview of the continuing and unbroken Tradition of the Orthodox Church. The contributors and teaching staff I can only describe as world class. Furthermore, having the opportunity to attend open lectures held throughout the year, as well as the Institute's summer conference adds another dimension. The focus on bringing ancient Christian wisdom to bear on contemporary issues is a great encouragement in living a Christian life in a secular society.”



“The DL Certificate in Orthodox Christian Studies is a great way for me to organize my reading in a meaningful and coherent way. The learning experience is very good and it is exactly what I was looking for in my search for deepening my Orthodox Christian understanding and education.

In the meantime, the staff here at IOCS are not only always warm and friendly but also very knowledgeable and always ready to promptly answer my questions. This also contributes a lot to making this very comprehensive program an overall great experience for me. Thank You.”

Marius Nicula - Laval, Quebec, Canada

Distance Learning Certificate Student



As we embrace the beginning of the New Year, in 2024 we invite you to join us in jubilation as we celebrate a momentous milestone:

The 25th Anniversary of IOCS

IOCS was founded in 1999 and, since then, we have stood as the sole institution of Orthodox Christian higher education in the United Kingdom.

For over two and a half decades, we have gathered and educated Christians from every corner of the globe, weaving a tapestry of faith and knowledge. Let us come together, as we pay homage to this journey and celebrate the power of faith and learning.



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Anniversary events in 2024

In 2024, we look forward to celebrating the milestones of yesterday and set our sights on what we can achieve in the future. We plan to host three events centred around commemorating past accomplishments while looking ahead.

While reflecting on our achievements and our mission, we will be also looking for ways to secure our future in Cambridge by raising funds for our endeavours. Therefore, one of the main goals of these events will be fundraising so that we may ensure that our presence in Cambridge is permanent.

Two of these events will be open to the public, the first in London and the other in Cambridge. Our third event will be an invitation-only occasion, with the primary goal of attracting donations and endowments for the future.

Watch our [website](#) for further updates and for more information.

Donors & Friends Service and Reception

Westminster Abbey
(24/06/2024)



Orthodox Day

Southwark Cathedral
(03/08/2024)

IOCS Alumni Day and Fundraising Concert

Cambridge
(Date TBC)



SUMMER INSTITUTE 2023





The 2023 Summer Institute

‘Finding God in the Everyday: Faith, Profession, Vocation’

The Summer Institute of 2023 was one of the richest, most inspiring and topical events IOCS has ever organised! All thanks to a diverse and truly exceptional line up of speakers and a fantastic audience!

This Summer Institute was kindly sponsored by Dr and Mrs Sebastian Koga of New Orleans, Louisiana, in loving memory of Dr Christine Mangala Frost, Research Associate and dear friend of IOCS.



On the 11th and 12th of September we held our annual Summer Institute. This year the aim was to bring together voices from within the wider Church who would speak of how their Christian faith meets their profession, their work, or their vocation. We believe this to be a timely topic for two reasons:

Firstly, it acknowledges the role of the laity in shaping our awareness of the diversity of Christian experience today, both in the sense of challenges but also of occasions for discernment of God’s presence in the world today.

Secondly, as part of our lived negotiation of faith and praxis in the West, we experience the difficulty of ‘finding God in the everyday’, as our society grows increasingly secular and spiritually fragmented. The stark, statistical evidence that Christianity is now a minority in the UK highlights the reality of this challenge.





Our Speakers (with the titles of their talks) were:

Revd Prof Brandon Gallaher

(University of Exeter) ‘Completing the World to Come: Work as the Resurrection of Creation’

Aidan Hart

‘Heaven at Home: Creating liturgical spaces in the West’

Dr Sebastian Koga

‘God and the Neurosurgeon: The Risks of Medical Materialism’

Sister Dr Vassa Larin

‘Being Church Between Sundays: Rediscovering the Liturgy of the Hours and Weekdays as a Layperson’

Dr Alexander Lingas

(City, University of London/IOCS) – ‘Finding God in Cathedrals and Concert Halls’

Dr Hermina Nedeleescu

(Department of Neuroscience at Scripps Research, California) – ‘Addiction as a Normal Hedonic and Motivating Function of the Neural System’

Dr Ana-Maria Pascal

(University of Oxford) – ‘God in Exile: Suggestions for a Phenomenology of Displacement’

Dr Vasiliki Tsigas-Fotinis

(County College of Morris, New Jersey) – ‘Weaving Trinity in CommUNITY’

Marina Robb

(Secondary School Teacher, London, Adult Catechism Teacher, Curriculum Lead for the Archdiocese of Thyateira) – ‘Finding God in the Classroom’





A panel of conference speakers in dialogue with the participants and with each other was a fitting way to close one of the richest, most inspiring and most topical events IOCS has ever organised!



This unique event which attracted a great number of enthusiastic participants evoked in all those present a sense of prayerful community, 'a sense of curiosity and wonder, a spirit of free enquiry' - to paraphrase Metropolitan Kallistos' words, when he referred more generally to the mission of our Institute (see page 5).

And you will see this ethos permeating all the talks given at the Summer Institute, most of them available to [watch freely on the IOCS YouTube channel](#).

Looking forward to seeing you all again next year!

'An amazing and unforgettable experience'

'The Summer Institute was an amazing and unforgettable experience. In fact, I can still sense its fragrance up to this day. It was my first time visiting IOCS, and it turned out to be such a blessing! The speakers had their professions in very different fields, but they all share one heart and the same fervour for God. Their talks suited so well the theme: 'Finding God in the Everyday Life'. I enjoyed each of these talks and learned a lot from them. The beauty of the Body of Christ was truly present in the harmony among the speakers, the IOCS staff and those in attendance. It was very pleasant to meet the lovely IOCS staff, and so many wonderful believers.'

Ada Chang, Summer Institute Participant

IOCS EVENTS IN 2023

15/02 - 'Church Leadership'

Father David Lowell and Mr Simon Jennings

We were delighted to have two distinguished presenters from our 'IOCS family', Father David Lowell and Mr Simon Jennings, both Directors of our Institute. Some of the explored themes were: a case for organizational competence and good stewardship, using the talents of the laity in parishes and better involving the people in a familial sense of engagement and responsibility - plus many others.



03/05 - 'AN ORTHODOX PERSPECTIVE ON HEALTHCARE CHAPLAINCY'

Deacon Dr Nikitas Banev and Svetlana Mellusco.

Again we were fortunate to have with us two presenters from our 'IOCS family' giving a unique presentation on an very important topic. Deacon Dr Nikitas Banev is an MA alumnus as well as former Director of Studies of IOCS. He is currently Associate Professor of Byzantine and Orthodox Theology at the University of Durham. Svetlana Mellusco (formerly Vinogradova) is also an MA alumna of the Institute. She is currently a Chaplain at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, with which she has collaborated for 14 years.

26/06 - 'Wisdom in Christian Tradition: The Patristic Roots of Modern Russian Sophiology'

On 26 June, at the Faculty of Divinity in Cambridge (Lightfoot Room), our Institute hosted the book launch for the latest work of our dear friend and former IOCS Principal, Professor Marcus Plested: *Wisdom in Christian Tradition: The Patristic Roots of Modern Russian Sophiology* (Oxford: OUP 2022). Prof Plested's presentation was followed by a response from Revd Dr Dominic White OP (Acting Director of Research, Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology).



30/06 - 'Meditations on the Incarnation: Humanity, Society, and the Church'

Revd Dr Boniface Carroll

On 30 June, Revd Dr Boniface Carroll delivered a lecture on the theme of 'Meditations on the Incarnation: Humanity, Society, and the Church'.

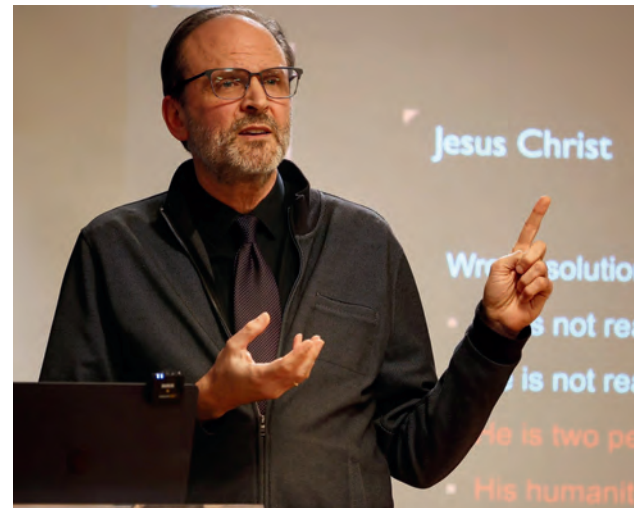
Father Boniface has recently joined IOCS as a Visiting Professor and is heading the Centre for Anthropology and Ethnography of Orthodox Christianity (CAEO).

05/12 - 'Rapprochement between the Eastern and Oriental Churches — Perspectives on the past, hopes for the future'

Prof Peter Bouteneff

We were honoured to host this fascinating and auspicious talk at IOCS by Prof Peter Bouteneff (of St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, New York).

We had Peter for ten weeks with us in Cambridge as an IOCS Sabbatical Visiting Scholar, and the contribution both he and his wife Patricia have brought to the life and scholarship of our Institute has been truly invaluable.



St Catherine Feast Day - 24/11: 'Axia Women and the Anthropologist from Mars'- a talk by Dr Patricia Fann Bouteneff



On 24 November, we held a festal vespers at Wesley House Chapel for the feast of St Catherine, our institute's Patron Saint. Following the service, Dr Patricia Fann Bouteneff, president and founder of ***Axia Women*** gave a talk titled 'Axia Women and the Anthropologist from Mars'. It was a blessed event with a large number of participants attending in-person and also via zoom. Dr Bouteneff spoke about the Axia Women mission and focused on the necessity for recognising the role women play in the orthodox church.

The lecture was recorded and is available to view via our YouTube Channel.



Kind words from Dr Patricia Fann Bouteneff:

“On 24 November, I gave a presentation at IOCS called ‘Axia Women and the Anthropologist from Mars’. That would never have happened under most circumstances. I appeared here as a kind of stowaway to my husband Peter’s sabbatical fellowship, as I needed some dedicated research time. After the two of us met the Institute’s entire administration over a pub lunch, Dr. Razvan Porumb not only took the time to look at my organization’s webpage (axiawomen.org), but also followed us on Facebook, not just as a one-time thing, but regularly reacting to our posts. That led to the administration inviting me to speak, not at just any event, but on the institute’s patronal feast day, as they thought it was time

for a woman to be at the dais as a way of honouring St. Catherine. But before that evening, Fr Dragos Herescu sat down with me for a conversation of candour and openness. He talked me through how he sees Orthodoxy on these shores and listened to how I see and wanted to talk about Orthodoxy across the Atlantic. He didn’t ask for a single change. He reminded me of the energy and possibilities that lie—often obscured—in the Church. And those characteristics—which add up to a deep pastoral sensibility married to theological rigour and an unflinching awareness of context—infuse the Institute of Orthodox Christian Studies as a blessing for the whole Church. I feel very fortunate to have had this time here.”





We offered this postgraduate module on **Christianity and Ecology**, taught simultaneously on-site and online by Dr Elizabeth Theokritoff (Associate Lecturer IOCS), between 17-21 July 2023, with two sessions per day. The module is a part of the MA in Contemporary Faith and Belief in the Global Context taught by IOCS and the Cambridge Theological Federation), but guest students could also follow the Module, without being enrolled in the MA programme.

This standalone 'mini'-course was meant to provide a glimpse into Orthodox attitudes towards modern-day questions and issues. The course was also a 'taster' for our Master of Arts programmes (in Christian Spirituality East and West and Contemporary Faith and Belief in the Global Context) as the level of teaching and class discussions followed our postgraduate course standards.

Our Institute will continue to organise such courses in the future - do follow our website!



NEW! - Centres at IOCS

The Centre for Anthropology and Ethnography of Orthodox Christianity (CAEO)

The Centre for Anthropology and Ethnography of Orthodox Christianity (CAEO) is an international, inter-institutional research centre bringing together the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies in Cambridge (IOCS)



and the Department of Anthropology, University College London, in a formal knowledge exchange partnership. The Centre studies Orthodox Christianity — both Eastern and Oriental — from an interdisciplinary anthropological and ethnographic perspective. It focuses on the phenomenon of being human, both in the specifics of the human person and in the wider context of being in relation and society.

Contact: Revd Dr Boniface (Timothy) Carroll (Visiting Professor IOCS, Principal Research Fellow in Anthropology UCL) at: t.carroll@ucl.ac.uk

The Cambridge Centre for Orthodox Studies in Ecumenism (CCOSE)

The Cambridge Centre for Orthodox Studies in Ecumenism (CCOSE) is functioning under the aegis of the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies in Cambridge and has an international, inter-denominational and pan-Orthodox (both Eastern and Oriental) reach. The purpose of the Centre is to research ecumenical paradigms and developments in order to formulate and articulate a theology that rediscovers and reasserts ecumenism as an intrinsic essential aspect of the Christian faith. CCOSE aims to do this with regard to Orthodox theology in particular, but it also seeks to encourage new ways of incorporating ecumenism in the theologies of other traditions.

Contact: Dr Razvan Porumb (Director of Research, Vice-Principal IOCS) at: grp29@iocs.cam.ac.uk



IOCS at major events in 2023



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PARTICIPATION IN IOTA CONFERENCE - Volos, Greece, 11-14 January 2023

The IOCS team and many of the Institute's associate scholars took part in the IOTA (International Orthodox Theological Association) Conference on 'Mission and the Orthodox Church' – hosted by our friends and partners at the Volos Academy – with presentations on a wide range of themes. Among them: Revd Dragos Herescu on 'Orthodoxy Today: Negotiating Its Identity between Secularisation and Migration', as well as participation in the Round Table on 'Theological Education in the 21st Century'; Dr Christoph Schneider on 'The Mediation of Love: Reflections on S. Kierkegaard, V. Solovyov and P. Florensky', and participation in the book launch event of Nicholas Loudovikos' *Analogical Identities: The Creation of the Christian Self*; Dr Razvan Porumb on 'Nicolae Steinhardt's Paradigm of Cultural and Existential Ecumenism' and participation in the Round Table on 'Orthodoxy after the 11th WCC Assembly: Challenges and Perspectives'; Dr Elizabeth Theokritoff participated in the Round Table on the SWO project (*Science and Orthodoxy around the World*) as well as chairing the IOTA permanent group on 'Science and Theology' and the Session on 'Theology of Creation, Environment and Place'. And many other contributions from our IOCS family!



'A Tent of Learning: Synodal Conversation and Conversion in Receptive Ecumenism'

This event was hosted on 23 September by the Society for Ecumenical Studies, in conjunction with the Centre for Catholic Studies, Durham University, and the London Jesuit Centre. Speakers from seven Christian traditions reflected together on how a church can be truly 'synodal'.

Our Principal Fr Dragos Herescu spoke at the event representing our institute and offering an Orthodox response to the papers presented.



Rowan Williams: A Cambridge Celebration

Our principal Fr Dragos Herescu was the Chair for the Eastern Orthodox Theology Panel at the Conference dedicated to Rowan Williams and held between 11-12 September 2023. Other speakers included: Rev Dr Isidoros Katsos (University of Athens), Rev Dr Andrew Louth (Durham University), Dr Aristotle Papanikolaou (Fordham University).



Fr Dragos Herescu at the Lausanne-Orthodox Initiative (LOI) Consultation 2023

The event engaged with the topic of mission in the context of the UK, where Christian communities from a range of traditions live closer to each other than they would in their countries of origin. All face the common challenges of identity, home, faith journey, as all aim to be witnessing communities of faith. The Lausanne-Orthodox Initiative is a movement of Orthodox and Evangelical Christians, established in 2010, who wish to respect each other's beliefs, learn from and support one another.

The 2023 IOCS Sabbatical Scholars

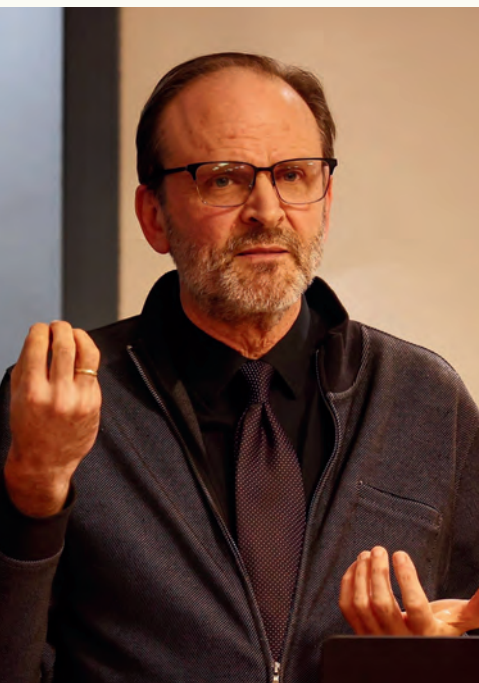


Dr Dănuț Mănăstireanu: July-August 2023

'From July 3rd to August 11th 2023 I had the privilege to spend a sabbatical period at IOCS in Cambridge, being hosted at Wesley House. This coincided, providentially, with the time when one of my best friends, a Romanian scholar, was also in Cambridge, hosted by Tyndale House. This allowed us to meet regularly and work together on a large collective volume, including twenty individual authors, planned to be published in 2024. We also worked together on an article on ecumenism for the

journal *Religions*, which we co-authored. The time spent there was also a great opportunity to meet with a number of renowned scholars and younger colleagues, to participate in various religious services, including those of the Romanian Orthodox parish, and, last but not least, to enjoy fellowship with friends at IOCS. This was, all in all, one of the richest times I had in the last years, and I am really grateful for the generous donors who made this possible.

May God reward them richly.'



Prof Peter Bouteneff: October-December 2023

'I consider my ten-week sabbatical fellowship one of the greatest gifts I've received during my three decades in theological work. Through it, I was placed in a situation where I could both maximize time spent on academic research and writing, and also refresh myself—together with my wife Patricia—in the idyllic setting of Cambridge. IOCS was able to open the doors to all of the libraries and other academic resources I could need, so that I could spend hours a day reading, writing, and walking between the

libraries. In all of this I also discovered IOCS itself to be a jewel of Orthodox thinking, teaching, and life. The small staff operate with an efficiency that allows them to achieve a very great deal. But they also share a life-giving and welcoming vision for Orthodoxy and its place within the wider Christian spectrum, and its role within the society. Which means I'm grateful as well for the institutional and personal bonds that we have strengthened and will continue to build up.'

2023 Publications



Dr Razvan Porumb - Vice-Principal/Director of Research

'Orthodox Pastoral Theology'

Article published for the *St Andrews Encyclopaedia of Theology* titled 'Orthodox Pastoral Theology'. His article 'delineates Orthodox pastoral theology by chiefly emphasising the organic connection between Liturgical/sacramental life and social/pastoral involvement in the Christian Orthodox tradition.'

The *St Andrews Encyclopaedia of Theology* is a nascent online, free-to-access encyclopaedia of the highest academic standards, treating the full discipline of Theology with rigour and clarity.

'Rebooting Ecumenism - New Paradigms for the 21st Century'

Dr Razvan Porumb is the guest editor of the special issue 'Rebooting Ecumenism - New Paradigms for the 21st Century' of the journal *Religions*.

'The articles contained in this Special Issue seek to explore novel models of perceiving or conceiving ecumenism, from historical to contemporary examples, from theological to ecclesiological or pastoral designs, and from spirituality to methodology.'

Religions is an international, interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed, open-access journal on religions and theology, published monthly online by MDPI.

'Nicolae Steinhardt and the mystery of freedom'

Forthcoming article in *The Wheel*.



Dr Christoph Schneider - Academic Director

'God as Truth'

Article submitted for the forthcoming *2023 T&T Clark / Bloomsbury Encyclopaedia of Christian Theology*.

The Encyclopaedia of Christian Theology is edited by an international and multi-denominational team of the top scholars in the field.

'Divine Energies'

Forthcoming article for the *St Andrews Encyclopaedia of Theology* on the 'Divine Energies'. (See above about *St Andrews Encyclopaedia of Theology*).



Fr Dragos Herescu - Principal

'Ortodoxie, societate și secularizare în România - O perspectivă critică' ('Orthodoxy, society and secularisation in Romania - A Critical Perspective')

Article submitted for *Biserica si Statul: Perspective diacronice asupra unei relatii polivalente*, Doxologia, Iasi, ed. by Brudiu, R. and Qaramah, M.K., 2023.

'Rebooting ecumenism – The Theological Equivalent of the Climate Crisis. The Role of Urgency and Accountability on the Road of Ecclesial Interdependence.'

Forthcoming article for the journal *Religions*. (See above about *Religions*)

Memory Eternal!

+ Fr Raphael Armour

1946-2023

Father Raphael's passing to the Lord was a huge shock for all at IOCS. He was a remarkable presence in the life of the institute, as one of our founding members, then as Chaplain and later as Trustee. For over two decades, Father Raphael has been both at the centre of our Institute's life and of the Orthodox witness in Cambridge. As the parish priest of the Russian Orthodox Parish of St Ephraim, he has helped shape the Orthodox witness and fellowship in Cambridge and beyond, while his devoted and unparalleled pastoral support was crucial for so many of our students, staff and faculty. In that sense, one cannot overstate the seminal and lasting influence of Father Raphael over the life and work of our Institute.

Memory eternal in the community of God's beloved Saints!



+ Metropolitan

John Zizioulas

1931-2023

A giant of Orthodox theology passed to the Lord in 2023. His influence on Orthodox theology - and theology in general - has been enormous.

This photo is from the 2014 IOCS event '**On Eschatology Today: A celebration of the life and work of John Zizioulas**' (Westcott House, Cambridge) organised by IOCS Tutor, Revd Dr Liviu Barbu.



+ Prof James Aitken

1968-2023

We were saddened and heartbroken by the untimely death of one of our beloved friends, Professor James (Jim) Aitken of the Faculty of Divinity in Cambridge. A giant of Biblical scholarship, Jim was a lovely, gentle and kind person, a true friend in the most profound sense of the word. He was one of our Institute's constant friends, supporters and collaborators, and we - as well as many of our students and scholars - loved him dearly, and cherished both the knowledge he imparted and his warm and joyful friendship.



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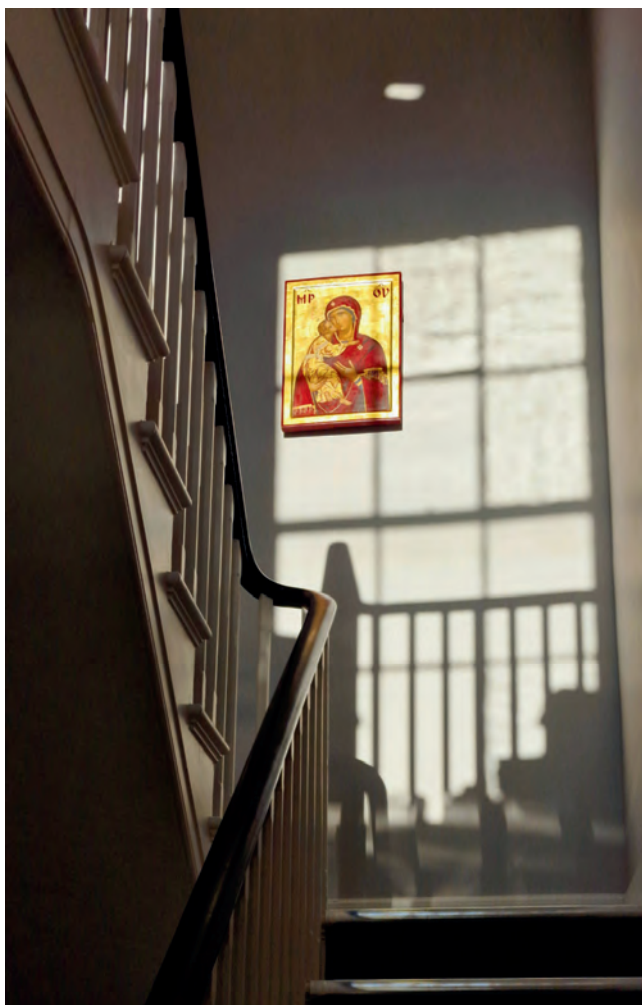
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