

**Newsletter
Christmas
& New Year
2018-2019**





MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Father Dragos Herescu



Someone recently asked me to summarise in one word what 2018 has been for the Institute. The word that came to my mind was *change*. But *change* is a word that always requires qualification. What kind of change are we talking about? I am delighted to say that, in 2018, the

word associated with change in the Institute's case is *positive*.

For IOCS, the positive change has been not incremental, but substantial. 2018 brought three landmark changes to IOCS, which stand to shape the journey of the Institute in the foreseeable future.

The first change has been a change of address. In March 2018, after a five-year residency in Chesterton, IOCS moved back to Wesley House, in the centre of Cambridge, physically re-joining the community of colleges and research institutions which we have spiritually been a part of for almost 20 years. I say we moved back to Wesley House, because it was here that the Institute had its first offices all those years ago. However, this move back is anything but a step back in time. Predicated on a new ecumenical partnership with Wesley House, as part of our joint membership of the Cambridge Theological Federation (CTF), the return of IOCS to Wesley House signals a fresh, more sustainable approach to the work that we do. This includes resource sharing, collaborative teaching, ecumenical encounter, and strategic planning. We bring, in dialogue and in the actual sharing of the space, the best of what our respective tradition, theology and faith practice has to offer. We learn to better articulate our own identity because of



The joys of moving house!

this encounter, all the while learning more about that of our fellow Christian colleagues. Next time you find yourselves on Jesus Lane in Cambridge, look out for the IOCS

sign on the grey brick Georgian building and come say hello!

The second major change for IOCS in 2018 was an academic change, in relation to the provision of our teaching and learning. No later than mid-summer this year, we embarked on a new suite of Master programmes, specially created in partnership with the Cambridge Theological Federation and accredited by

Anglia Ruskin University. One of our core aims in this endeavour was to provide flexible learning options at competitive prices. I have to congratulate my colleagues at IOCS for their superb effort, dedication, and



The Institute's new home on Jesus Lane

professionalism in delivering, in an incredibly short span of time, new MA modules for two MA programmes: *Contemporary Faith and Belief* and *Spirituality*. Testament to the quality of the offering is the astonishing surge in interest and student applications since the launch of the new MAs in September 2018. The IOCS student community is growing and is as diverse as ever.

It is important to consider the academic change we accomplished in the wider context. It is no small thing to ponder that IOCS is the sole Christian Orthodox institution for higher education in the UK. It functions



Our new Library is dedicated to the memory of our dear friends and benefactors, Father Michael and Jeanne Harper

with the blessing of the Pan-Orthodox Episcopal Assembly in the UK, and we have always benefited from the guidance, prayer, and teaching of Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, whom we consider our spiritual father. But, the higher education sector in the UK is highly competitive and flourishing in this context is no easy task. In today's secular society the task becomes

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



twice as difficult for any institution involved in theological or religious studies. For an institution like IOCS, representing a minority faith in the UK context, this takes the challenge to yet another level. So, we are always looking to make our educational offer relevant to the needs of both a local and international



Our dear friends and hosts at Wesley House surprised us with this home-made welcome cake!

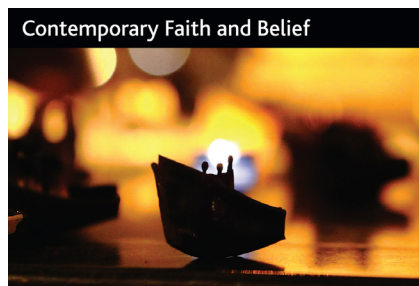
Orthodox community and to address in our courses and research programmes contemporary issues from an Orthodox perspective. Our aim is to continue to provide a unique Orthodox resource in the heart of Cambridge, while fostering a learning and research environment of exploration and articulation of the Orthodox faith by welcoming encounter and dialogue. I am grateful to God and proud of my IOCS colleagues for helping us deliver on this aim.

The third change in 2018 had to do with the wider context of the Cambridge Theological Federation. As a full member of the CTF, IOCS has been fully involved in a year-long process of streamlining the Federation

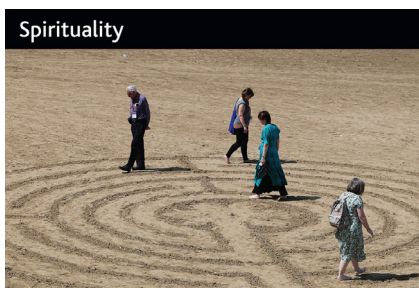
– again, with the aim to better equip this unique federative ecumenical body and its constituent Houses to deliver world-leading theological education. With God's help and in an inspiring display of ecumenical cooperation, I am thrilled that we have achieved that. This change has enabled more targeted alignment of teaching resources and planning across the different CTF Houses, decentralising several key processes and creating more parity. The best endorsement of the strength, quality, and uniqueness of the CTF has been that, as a result of the restructuring process, two new institutions have joined the CTF: Westfield House, the Lutheran college in Cambridge, and The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, taking the number of institutions in the CTF from 9 to 11.

We look forward to continuing our growth at IOCS in 2019, with the confidence that all the changes we successfully negotiated in 2018 serve to prepare us better for the future. But for growth to be sustainable, it needs more than good people, good ideas, or good intentions. It needs real support.

*So, my final words here are to encourage you to support the Institute. The Institute is one of those places for which the word *unique* was invented. This is not hyperbole. Simply consider the way the Institute holds together and makes these words a living reality: *Orthodox, Cambridge, education, research, mission, dialogue, witness, ecumenical*. In 2019, choose to be part of the unique history of IOCS. Consider a monthly donation. Or, if it is not beyond your means, consider endowing a scholarship or a lectureship. Consider IOCS in your legacy. Or simply, spread the word about the Institute. There is much good work to talk about here, and much more to yet be accomplished. May God bless us to serve Him for many years to come!*



Contemporary Faith and Belief



Spirituality

NEW! IOCS MA PROGRAMMES

Since October 2018 IOCS is offering, in collaboration with other theological colleges of the Cambridge Theological Federation, two new Master degrees: the [MA in Spirituality](#) and the [MA in Contemporary Faith and Belief](#). Our Durham MA in Theology, Ministry and Mission will be discontinued next year. The new postgraduate degrees are accredited by Anglia Ruskin University and are open to both onsite and distance learning students.

The [MA in Contemporary Faith and Belief](#) reflects on an explicitly Christian understanding of faith, but also looks at the more general notion of belief that is implied in every religious or secular worldview. Students are instructed how to identify the often hidden presuppositions and metaphysical commitments of the intellectual trends that dominate contemporary society.

The [MA in Spirituality](#) explores spirituality in a variety of expressions across different faith traditions and contexts. While doing so it seeks to identify the key characteristics of a genuinely Christian spirituality. Each of the MAs comprises two compulsory core modules, to which students can add two optional modules according to their preferred theological topic.



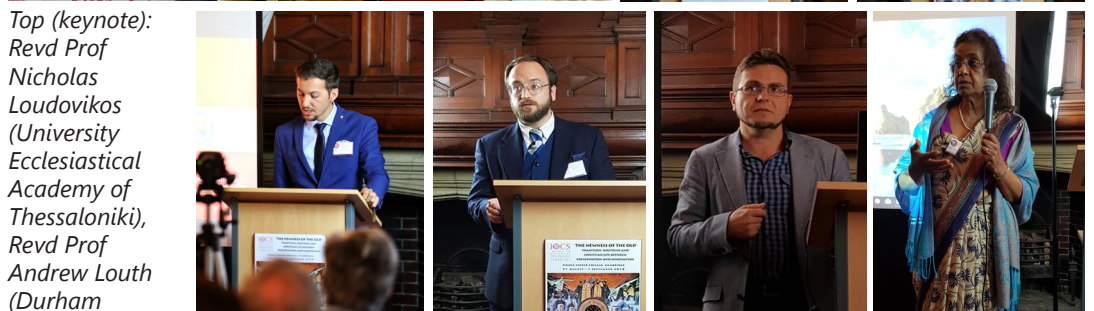
THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE

THE NEWNESS OF THE OLD - Tradition, Doctrine and Christian Life between Preservation and Innovation

Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge



From 31 August – 1 September 2018, IOCS hosted an international conference with the title 'The Newness of the Old': tradition, doctrine and Christian life between preservation and innovation. Apart from the four key note speakers, Revd Dr Brandon Gallaher (University of Exeter), Revd Prof Nikolaos Loudovikos (University Ecclesiastical Academy of Thessaloniki), Revd Prof Andrew Louth (Durham University), and Prof Jens Zimmermann (Trinity Western University), twelve scholars from seven different countries contributed to the event. The conference addressed the perennial theological question of how we are to conceive of a living tradition, and how a suffocating traditionalism as well as a utopian progressivism can be avoided.



Top (keynote): Revd Prof Nicholas Loudovikos (University Ecclesiastical Academy of Thessaloniki), Revd Prof Andrew Louth (Durham University);

second row (keynote): Dr Brandon Gallaher (University of Exeter), Prof Jens Zimmerman (Trinity Western University); rows 3-5 (shorter presentations): Prof. Sigríður Halldórsdóttir (University of Akureyri), Barnabas Aspray (University of Cambridge), Austin Choate (University of California, Berkley), Lucian-George Berciu (University of Fribourg), Yulia Rozumna (University of Nottingham), Benjamin Morris, Michael Miller (University of Cambridge), Dr Viorel Coman (KU Leuven), Stefan Zeljković (University of Belgrad), Ryan Haecker (University of Cambridge), Dr Smilen Markov (University of Oxford) and Dr Christine Mangala Frost (IOCS - who also kindly introduced her latest book: 'The Human Icon: A Comparative Study of Hindu and Orthodox Christian Beliefs').

IOCS 2018 CONVERSATION DAYS



'ECOLOGY AND CHRISTIAN TRADITION' - 17 MARCH

Our first Conversation Day took place on 17 March, at Wesley House. The theme of the day was: *Working salvation in the midst of the earth: Ecology and Christian tradition*. The two featured speakers in conversation were Dr Elizabeth Theokritoff (Senior Research Associate, IOCS) and Dr Rebecca Watson (Research Associate, The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion). This was a fascinating and fruitful day which opened a rich and inspiring dialogue.



'MODERN SCIENCE AND ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY: FRIENDS OR FOES?' - 28 APRIL

Our second Conversation Day was hosted by our friends across the road at Westcott House and addressed the theme of *Modern Science and Orthodox Christianity*. Our two guest speakers in conversation were Revd Dr Christopher Knight (Senior Research Associate, IOCS and Executive Secretary of the International Society for Science and Religion) and Dr Elizabeth Theokritoff (Senior Research Associate, IOCS). This event attracted a numerous audience and the talks were followed by a captivating Q&A session.

'MONASTIC LIFE IN TODAY'S WORLD' - 19 MAY

It was our great joy to welcome Archimandrite Zacharias (of the Monastery of St John the Baptist, Essex) at our new location. Father Zacharias is an old and dear friend and spiritual father of our Institute. He was joined by Father George Guiver (Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield). Both offered perspectives on the theme of the day: *'Monastic Life in Today's World'*. The profound insights from the two speakers and their often converging views made this a particularly memorable day.



'PERSECUTION AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM TODAY' - 16 JUNE

For our last Conversation Day of the year, we had the great honour of welcoming His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos of London (of the Coptic Orthodox Church) who was joined by Revd Prof Andrew Louth, a founding member and mentor of our Institute. The topic of the Conversation Day was *'Persecution and Religious Freedom Today'* and the thought-provoking contributions from both speakers made this day moving and profoundly enriching.



IOCS Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies Cambridge
1,247 subscribers

Uploads PLAY ALL

- Revd Dr Brandon Galbraith on 'Sophiology' is it traditional? 27th Nov - 2 months ago
- Metropolitan Anthony of Souzhani on 'The Place of...' 2nd Dec - 2 months ago
- Revd Prof Andrew Louth on 'The Icon and the beginning...' 27th Nov - 2 months ago
- Dr Elizabeth Theokritoff on 'The book of creation: How...' 27th Nov - 2 months ago
- Revd Dr Christopher Knight on 'Modern Science and...' 2nd Dec - 2 months ago
- Archimandrite Zacharias on 'Living outside the camp of...' 16th Dec - 1 month ago
- Revd Prof Andrew Louth on 'Hagia Sophia in the early...' 16th Dec - 1 month ago
- Archbishop Angaelos of London on 'The diabolical...' 16th Dec - 1 month ago
- Ecology and Christian tradition - Dr Elizabeth... 16th Dec - 1 month ago
- Ecology and Christian tradition - Dr Rebecca... 16th Dec - 1 month ago

This series of events has been kindly sponsored by the Koga Family.

Recordings of all the Conversation Day talks are available on [our YouTube channel](#).





EVENTS

PRESENTATIONS FROM VISITING RESEARCHERS

On 30 August, we invited our students, friends and supporters to attend a session of talks delivered by our three Visiting Researchers at the end of their research period in Cambridge: Revd Dr Nathanael Neacsu, Revd Teofil Pantiru and Diogene Mihaila (all hailing from Romania). Each delivered a 20-minute paper, introducing their research projects and highlighting their findings while at IOCS. Their presentations were followed by an engaging Q&A session and farewell drinks.



Top: The IOCS Visiting Researchers in 2018 together with the Institute staff: Diogene Mihaila, Dr Christoph Schneider (Academic Director), Father Dragos Herescu (Principal), Revd Dr Nathanael Neacsu, Father Teofil Pantiru, Dr Razvan Porumb (Vice-Principal)



Top: Father Dragos celebrating the festive Holy Liturgy. Bottom: Our guests enjoying the warm fellowship after the service.

FEAST DAY OF SAINT CATHERINE - OUR PATRON SAINT

Following a long-established tradition, the Institute celebrated the Feast Day of St Catherine - who is the Patron Saint of our Institute - on Saturday, 24 November. The day began with the Divine Liturgy, celebrated in the college chapel of Wesley House. The service was followed by a light but very cosy and friendly lunch, in an atmosphere worthy of a Feast Day! Friends and supporters, students and visitors had a chance to meet each other, talk, strengthen connections and find out more about the opportunities and developments at IOCS. To that end, after lunch, Dr Elizabeth Theokritoff, as our UK Chair of Friends of IOCS, and Father Dragos Herescu, the Principal of the Institute, gave two brief presentations about the highlights of the past year.

During the Liturgy, Father Dragos remembered all those, living and departed, who have been our benefactors, praying for each by name.

A NEW RESIDENTIAL PHD STUDENT AT IOCS - KIDIST BAHRU (ETHIOPIA)

'I have just started my first year as a PhD student at the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies in Cambridge. Moving from Ethiopia to a new place and starting a new project would have been a cumbersome task without the assistance of the faculty and staff of IOCS who are competent, understanding and friendly. I am also impressed with the opportunity of having access to all the libraries in the Cambridge Theological Federation in addition to the well-organized library of Anglia Ruskin University. In general, joining this remarkable institution is a highly recommended experience.'



Wesley House Cambridge and the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies present a day workshop on the arts, spirituality and the Christian imagination

“To Sound the Depths of Love Divine”



Saturday 1st December 2018, 10am-3pm
Wesley House, Cambridge

Spirituality and the Art of Making
The Revd Michaela Youngson
President of the Methodist Conference

Music for Body, Mind and Soul
Workshop with professional musicians
Sarah Rodgers and Geraldine Allen

‘Windows on Heaven’: Icons, art or theology?

Fr Dragos Herescu Principal of the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies, Cambridge



This is a free event. Donations are invited to support the Wesley House bursary fund.
Register at: soundthedepths.eventbrite.co.uk



‘TO SOUND THE DEPTHS OF LOVE DIVINE - A DAY WORKSHOP ON THE ARTS, SPIRITUALITY AND THE CHRISTIAN IMAGINATION’

This event organised by our friends and hosts at Wesley House together with our Institute, took place on 1 December 2018. The day was blessed with an atmosphere of friendly dialogue and communion, a perfect example of mutually enriching ecumenical exchange. The speakers for the event were (as pictured below): Father Dragos Herescu, Geraldine Allen, Sarah Rodgers and Revd Michaela Youngson.



‘DIFFERENCES AND POINTS OF CONTACT BETWEEN JESUIT AND ORTHODOX THEOLOGY’

Together with our friends at The Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, IOCS hosted a talk on ‘Differences and Points of Contact Between Jesuit and Orthodox Theology’. The talk was delivered by Dr Paul Shore - Adjunct Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Regina (Canada) and a Visiting Fellow at the Faculty of Divinity in Cambridge. The event took place on 27 November, at the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology.



CURRENT PROJECTS AND FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Father Dragos Herescu: ‘Prayer as Practical Ontology’, in *Forerunner* (Journal of the Orthodox Fellowship of St John the Baptist, No. 71, Winter 2018-19).

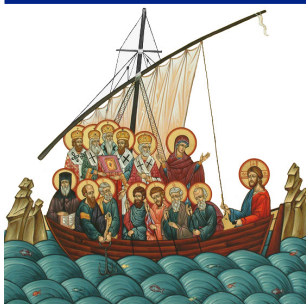
Dr Christoph Schneider: Editor of *Theology and Philosophy in Eastern Orthodoxy* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock) (submission in 2019). Contributors: Crina Gschwandtner, Sergey S. Horujy, Evert Van der Zweerde, David Bentley Hart, Paweł Rojek, Rico Vitz, Christoph Schneider; ‘Orthodox Theology and Philosophy of Language’, in *Theology and Philosophy in Eastern Orthodoxy* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock) (submission in 2019); ‘Faith and Reason: Sergei Bulgakov, Pavel Florensky and the contemporary debate about ontotheology and fideism’, in *Analogia. The Pemptousia Journal for Theological Studies* (forthcoming); ‘P.A. Florensky: at the Boundary of Immanence and Transcendence’, in George Pattison, Caryl Emerson & Randall Poole (eds), *Oxford Handbook of Russian Religious Thought* (Oxford: Oxford University Press) (forthcoming).

Dr Razvan Porumb: *Orthodoxy and Ecumenism: Towards an Active Metanoia* (forthcoming book, Peter Lang, 2019); ‘N. Steinhadrt et la transperence des pierres’ in *itinéraires*, 103:2 (2018), 19-23.



Front cover (and bottom of back cover): *Christmas in St Giles’ Church in Cambridge, where the Romanian Orthodox parish conducts its services.* Back cover: Top: Stills from the Order for the Blessing of the Water, which the Institute celebrated in November as part of the ‘Federation Worship’, offered for all the theological colleges in Cambridge; middle: Participants from this year’s IOCS conference at concluding dinner.

A festive day at IOCS to say goodbye to our visiting researchers for the academic year 2017-2018



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