

THE INSTITUTE FOR ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STUDIES, CAMBRIDGE

SUMMER INSTITUTE

'FINDING GOD IN THE EVERYDAY: FAITH, PROFESSION, VOCATION'

WESLEY HOUSE, JESUS LANE, CAMBRIDGE, UK

11– 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

- 9:00-9:30 Morning Prayers, Wesley House Chapel
- 9:30-10:00 Registration
- 10:00-10:15 Welcome and Introduction by the Principal; Brief remembrance of Dr Christine Mangala Frost by Dr Mark Frost.
- 10:15-11:15** *Completing the World to Come: Work as the Resurrection of Creation*
Revd Prof Brandon Gallaher (University of Exeter)
- 11:15-11:45 Coffee/tea
- 11:45-12:45** *God in Exile: Suggestions for a Phenomenology of Displacement*
Dr Ana-Maria Pascal (SCIO / Wycliffe Hall, University of Oxford)
- 12:45-14:30 Lunch Break (lunch not provided by the event)
- 14:30-15:30** *God and the Neurosurgeon: The Risks of Medical Materialism*
Dr Sebastian Koga
- 15:30-16:00 Coffee/tea

16:00-17:00

Weaving Trinity in CommUNITY

Dr Vasiliki Tsigas-Fotinis (County College of Morris, New Jersey) – Lecture delivered live by Zoom.

17:00-17:30

Coffee/tea

17:30-18:30

Finding God in the Classroom

Marina Robb (Secondary School Teacher, London, Adult Catechism Teacher, Curriculum Lead for the Archdiocese of Thyateira)

TUESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

9:00-9:30

Morning Prayers, Wesley House Chapel

09:30-10:30

Finding God in Cathedrals and Concert Halls

Prof Alexander Lingas (City, University of London/IOCS)

10:30-11:00

Coffee/tea

11:00-12:00

Heaven at Home: Creating Liturgical Spaces in the West

Aidan Hart

12:00-12:30

Coffee/tea

12:30-13:30

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

Sr Dr Vassa Larin (University of Vienna)

13:30-15:00

Lunch Break (lunch not provided by the event)

15:00-16:00

Addiction as a Normal Hedonic and Motivating Function of the Neural System

Dr Hermina Nedelescu (Department of Neuroscience at Scripps Research, California)

16:00-16:30

Coffee/tea

16:30-17:30

Final discussion

17:45-18:45

Panikhida service for Dr Christine Mangala Frost and Archpriest Raphael Armour

This Summer Institute is 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.



THE SUMMER INSTITUTE SPEAKERS:



Dr Sister Vassa Larin is a Nun of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad. She is a liturgiologist and host of the online catechetical program, Coffee with Sister Vassa. Sister Vassa has authored many scholarly articles, a monograph on Byzantine liturgy, and most recently, a book on the Daily Hours, *Praying in Time: The Hours & Days in Step with Orthodox Christian Tradition*. Her online mission includes a daily Newsletter (with a brief reflection on Scripture), weekday audio-podcasts called “Morning Coffee” (on the lives of daily saints of the New Calendar and Older Calendar, and Scripture), an ongoing video-course on Divine Liturgy (available on patreon.com), and over 300 YouTube videos on Orthodox Theology and Tradition.

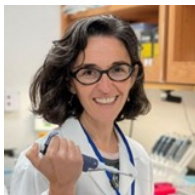


Revd Prof Brandon Gallaher is Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at the University of Exeter (Devon, UK) and studied literature, philosophy, religious studies and theology in Vancouver, Montreal, New York and Oxford. He served at the Holy and Great Council of Crete as a Theological Subject Expert in the Ecumenical Patriarchate Press Office (2016), was part of the drafting committee of *For the Life of the World: Towards a Social Ethos of the Orthodox Church* (2020)

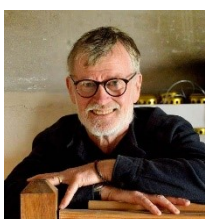
(<https://www.goarch.org/social-ethos>) and was a primary drafter of 'A Declaration on the "Russian World" (*Russkii Mir*) Teaching' (<https://publicorthodoxy.org/2022/03/13/a-declaration-on-the-russian-world-russkii-mir-teaching/>). Fr Brandon is currently working on books on Orthodoxy and world religions and Sergii Bulgakov. He is a priest of the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain (Ecumenical Patriarchate) and serves its communities in Devon.



Dr Alexander Lingas, music director and founder of Cappella Romana, is Professor Emeritus of Music at City, University of London, and a Research Fellow of our institute. During this coming academic year (2023–24) he will also be Professor of Music and Associate Director of the Institute of Sacred Arts at St Vladimir's Seminary in Yonkers, NY. He completed his doctorate at the University of British Columbia and then, with the support of a SSHRC postdoctoral fellowship, moved to Oxfordshire to study theology with Metropolitan Kallistos Ware. From 1997 to 2021 he was a Fellow of the University of Oxford's European Humanities Research Centre. His present work embraces not only historical study but also ethnography and performance. In 2018 His All-Holiness, Bartholomew I, Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch, bestowed on him the title of Archon Mousikodidáskalos.



Dr Hermina Nedelescu is a research scientist studying the neurobiological basis of brain functions and maladaptive behaviour relevant to human psychopathology at the Scripps Research Institute. She is a Staff Scientist in the Department of Neuroscience investigating activity-based interrogations of groups of neurons - neuronal ensembles and engram cells - within discrete circuits to link activation of neurocircuits by environmental cues with drug-seeking behaviour. Dr Nedelescu believes in the importance of a neuroscience-theology. Suggesting it would provide an intriguing discussion regarding the use of modern neuroscience technology to treat mental illnesses that may often cause spiritual illness as well. Dr Nedelescu would like to follow a non-reductionist path toward what people actually think about death and afterlife by supplementing her behavioural neuroscience studies with theology and the philosophy of science.



Aidan Hart has been a professional icon painter and carver, since 1984. His works are present in over twenty-five countries. Born in England, he was raised in Auckland and worked as a sculptor (by the name Christopher Hart), until returning to the UK in 1983. He has authored three books; *Festal Icons: History and Meaning*

(2022), *Beauty Spirit Matter: Icons in the Modern World* (2014), and *Techniques of Icon and Wall Painting* (2011).

Training others in liturgical arts has also been part of his work. He is director and tutor for the part-time Icon Certificate programme of The Prince's Foundation School of Traditional Arts, London. He founded this in 2009, and teaches it in Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

In demand as a writer, lecturer and teacher, he has had numerous articles published on the subjects of iconography, ecology and Orthodox spirituality. In 2015 he was elected a Fellow of the Temenos Academy.



Dr Petre Maican is a Post Doctoral Researcher at the Institute of Eastern Christian Studies associated to Radboud University in The Netherlands and one of the founding members of Saint John Chrysostom Orthodox Institute in Aberdeen, Scotland. In 2016, he obtained his PhD from the same university with a thesis that draws a constructive ecumenical ecclesiology from the writings of Dumitru Stăniloae, Hans Urs von Balthasar, and Paul Tillich. His current research interests lie in the area of disability theology, focusing on the relationship between intellectual disability and the Orthodox understanding of human perfection.



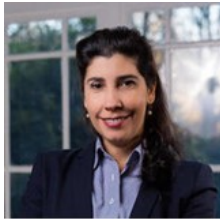
Dr Sebastian Koga is Associate Professor of Neurosurgery specialized in brain tumours and complex spinal disorders. He served as Chairman and Director of Ochsner Neuroscience Institute and is a Diplomate of the American Board of Neurological Surgeons. He has studied in Cambridge, Oxford, Virginia, Hannover, Sapporo, and Christchurch, and performs surgeries around the world. As a neuroscience researcher he conducted a landmark study in brain development for the MacArthur Foundation and helped established the Institute of Child Development in Romania. He is an Honorary Member of the Romanian Academy of Medical Sciences.

He currently lives in New Orleans and works on neuroimaging and emerging surgical technologies. His other interests include poetry, medical literature and the neurobiology of spirituality. Dr Koga has served on the Board of Directors of IOCS since 2013.

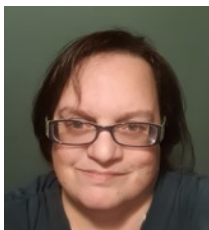


Dr Vasiliki Tsigas-Fotinis is an Adjunct professor at the County College of Morris, New Jersey, US. Here she teaches general psychology for the Psychology and Education Department within the School of Liberal Arts at County College of Morris. She is, and has been for 17 years, a Consultant at Creative CommUNITY Learning, where she provides creative, interactive and informative seminars, workshops, retreats, leadership training, organizational and strategic planning and community enriching services with increased client involvement.

She was a faculty member as a Part-Time Lecturer at Caldwell University, New Jersey, US, from Sep 2006 till May 2015. Her focus was on Educational Psychology and Foundations in Education. Dr Tsigas-Fotinis was also a high school Curriculum Coordinator for the Department of Religious Education of Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.



Dr Ana-Maria Pascal is the Academic Director and Senior Tutor for visiting students at SCIO/Wycliffe Hall and an associate member of the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford. Dr Pascal has a twofold background, in Philosophy (PhD on Pragmatist Hermeneutics and ‘the End’ of Metaphysics, Cum laude, 2005) and International Business (MBA, 2006, distinction). She taught general philosophy and ethics at the University of Essex and Regent’s University London, before joining SCIO / Wycliffe Hall in Michaelmas Term 2022. Dr Pascal is a contributor to a long-term international project on Comparative Metaphysics, which has entered its third year, bringing together more than a dozen researchers in comparative philosophy, religion, and ethics, from different traditions. She is currently working on a paper on “the other” in phenomenology, West and East (especially the Kyoto School), and a monograph on exile and displacement.



Marina Robb is a philosopher, theologian and art historian, who has two decades of experience teaching Religious Education in London Secondary schools. She studied theology at the University of Athens, and pursued postgraduate studies at King’s College London. Marina has been an adult catechist and devised the Introduction to Orthodoxy online course for the Archdiocese of Thyateira. She was also curriculum lead for the Archdiocese’s Christian formation programme for children. Most recently, she has completed a Farmington Fellowship, entitled “Gifts from the East: Teaching Orthodox Christianity”.