# SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER

#### SAINT SOPHRONY SCHOLARSHIP

In February 2022, with the blessing of 'St John the Baptist' Monastery in Essex, IOCS established the "Saint Sophrony Scholarship" as a research / PhD scholarship in Cambridge. This project implies raising funds for supporting the work of researchers from the Orthodox world on the work, theology and vision of Saint Sophrony as well as on related patristic or theological themes. The Institute has already received a generous contribution to this scholarship fund of £14,500, plus an additional £595 via Facebook, but more is needed in order to secure £54,000 - an amount that would allow a scholar to finalize a doctoral project. This is a blessed opportunity and an educational project worthy to be supported! You can support this by making a donation on this page. Further details about this scholarship project and appeal on the Institute's website, here. Your contribution will make an impact, whether you donate £5 or £500 - every little bit helps!



"All of us in the monastic Community of St John the Baptist were very happy to hear about the initiative of the Institute of Orthodox Studies in Cambridge. We believe that the theological legacy of St Sophrony the Athonite will contribute to maintain the good standard of theology of the Institute, adding a more experiential character, which is really what the people need and seek for in our tímes.'

The Abbot of the Patriarchal and Stavropegic Monastery of St John the Baptist, Archimandrite Peter

## **LECTURE DAYS IN 2022**

The Institute started this year's series of lecture days by hosting a presentation by Revd Dr Boris Gunjević (Director of Theological Studies, Westfield House, Cambridge) on 'Giorgio Agamben: Biopolitical Emergency – Minority Report' – on 25 February 2022. This was the first event after the pandemic that was held physically at Wesley House Cambridge, while also remaining open to online participation by Zoom. A recording of this talk can be found <u>here</u>.



The second lecture day featured a presentation given by the IOCS Vice-Principal, Dr Razvan Porumb, on N. Steinhardt - the popular Romanian writer, monastic and theologian - and his 'Vision of Freedom in Totalitarianism'. This talk - given on 24 March at Wesley House - can be watched on YouTube <u>here</u>.

The lecture day series continued on 28 April with a talk by Zoom by Dr Alon Segev, one of the IOCS Research Associates, who talked on "Totalitarianism in Theological Perspective: Hannah Arendt's Work Reconsidered."

Finally the last lecture day of the year so far took place on 13 May and tackled the theme of 'Beauty, Eros and Education for the Future of the

Planet' - a talk delivered by Dr Simon Wilson (Senior Lecturer, Canterbury Christ Church University). The recording of this fascinating and original presentation can be found <u>here</u>. 'For a person to become a Christian he must have a poetic soul. He must become a poet. Christ does not wish insensitive souls in His company. A Christian, albeit only when he loves, is a poet and lives amid poetry'

(St Porphyrios - quoted by Dr Simon Wilson).



# PAVEL FLORENSKY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY



## IOCS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 14 SEPT (EVENING) -16 SEPT 2022

## WESLEY HOUSE/WESTCOTT HOUSE

JESUS LANE, CAMBRIDGE, UK (ALSO BY ZOOM)

Dr Clemena Antonova (Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna) Dr Ksenia Ermishina (Alexander Solzhenitsyn Centre, Moscow - via Zoom) Prof Bruce Foltz (Eckerd College, FL) Prof Paul Gavrilyuk (University of St Thomas, MN) Prof Michael Martin (Center for Sophiological Studies, MI - via Zoom) Prof John Milbank (University of Nottingham) Dr Alexei Nesteruk (University of Portsmouth) Dr Anke Niederbudde (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich) Dr Avril Pyman (Durham University) Prof Paweł Rojek (Jagiellonian University, Krakow) Dr Christoph Schneider (IOCS)

## PROGRAMME NOW AVAILABLE HERE.

www.iocs.cam.ac.uk/iocs-international-conference-2022

THE INSTITUTE FOR ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STUDIES 31 Jeus Lane, Wesley House, Cambridge, CB5 8BJ, United Kingdom For more information please write to: **info@iocs.cam.ac.uk** 





INSTITUTE FOR ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STUDIES

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### **IOCS PHD SEMINARS**



This year's first PhD Seminar was presented on 5 May by IOCS doctoral student Jeremy N. Ingpen on the topic of 'The Symbolic Structure of Olivier Clément's Thought'. Jeremy's research



Revd Joseph Matlak

is supervised by Dr Elizabeth Theokritoff (Associate Lecturer IOCS) and Dr Pantelis Kalaitzidis (Director of the Volos Academy for Theological Studies, Greece).

Another PhD Seminar was delivered on19 May by doctoral student



Jeremy Ingpen

Revd Joseph Matlak with a fascinating talk on the topic of 'Celibacy, Marriage, and Priesthood in the Christian East and West'. Fr Joseph's doctoral research at IOCS

is supervised by Dr Augustine Casiday (Research Fellow, Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute, University of St Michael's College) and Dr Razvan Porumb (Vice-Principal IOCS). Please go <u>here</u> for a recording of this event.



### ORDER OF SAINT ANTHIM THE IVERIAN

The Principal of IOCS, Father Dragos Herescu together with the Vice-Principal, Dr Razvan Porumb were delighted and humbled to be awarded the Order of Saint Anthim the Iverian by His Beatitude Daniel, Patriarch of Romania.

The orders were presented on 26 March, during the Assembly of UK priests and deacons, an event hosted by the Romanian Embassy in London. His Eminence Iosif, Metropolitan of Western Europe, together with Revd Dr Michael Tita - representing a delegation from the Romanian Patriarchate - awarded the orders to Fr Dragos, who also gave a talk at the event. These distinctions were awarded for the recipients' 'distinguished activity in defending and serving the Orthodox faith, in

promoting Christian art and culture and Romanian spirituality.

His Eminence losif, Metropolitan of Western Europe, Father Dragos Herescu and Revd Dr Michael Tita - representing a delegation from the Romanian Patriarchate

#### IOINT EVENT BY THE VOLOS ACADEMY AND IOCS

An exciting joint event co-organized by the Volos Academy of Theological Studies (Greece) and the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies in Cambridge took place on 4 May: a round table on "The Role of the World Council



of Churches (WCC) in the 21st Century and the Contribution of the Orthodox Church". This event was organized on the occasion of the 11th General Assembly of the WCC, which will take place in Karlsruhe, Germany, from August 31 to September 8, 2022, with the topic "Christ's love moves the world to reconciliation and unity."

The panel for the event included IOCS Vice-Principal Dr Razvan Porumb. More details on the event here. The recording of this round table can now be watched here.



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## CHRISTIANITY AND ECOLOGY

THIS COURSE WILL ALSO BE OFFERED NEXT SUMMER (2023) AS A ONE-WEEK SUMMER SCHOOL TAUGHT IN CAMBRIDGE BUT ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE<sup>\*</sup>

## COURSE ON 'CHRISTIANITY AND ECOLOGY'

IOCS was able to offer for the first time a course on 'Christianity and Ecology' taught in May-July 2022 by Dr Elizabeth Theokritoff (Associate Lecturer IOCS). This 10-session course was conceived as a module of the MA in Contemporary Faith and Belief in the Global Context, taught by IOCS and the Cambridge Theological Federation, and awarded by Anglia Ruskin University. However, guest students (or auditors) were also able to follow this module without being enrolled in the MA programme, for the very reasonable amount of £230.

This module engaged with some of the underlying questions raised by ecological awareness and the environmental crisis: How do we regard and value the natural world? How do we see the role of the human being in creation and in relation to other creatures? How does this influence the way we live on earth and use its goods? In search of answers, this module concentrates not on tailor-made 'eco-theologies' but on the witness of various facets of the historical Christian tradition, especially that of the Christian East, which is increasingly recognised for the insights of its theology of creation. This exploration of Christian sources is intended to give the student a vantage point from which to critique assumptions about the criteria for 'eco-friendly' beliefs and world views, and identify the sorts of ecological action that form a natural expression of Christian faith.

The basis for the module were sources and practices that are the common heritage of Eastern and Western Christianity: patristic writings of the first millennium and their theology of creation, worship and sacramental life, the ascetic and spiritual tradition, lives of saints ancient and modern. The final three lectures highlight some major themes and figures in modern ecological theology, suggesting how they draw on sources deep within Christian tradition: asceticism and practice of the virtues; worship, prayer and sacraments; theology.

## \* Do let us know if you are interested and wish to receive notifications about this forthcoming course.



#### FOLLOW OUR NEWS AT WWW.IOCS.CAM.AC.UK JOIN US ON FACEBOOK AND FOLLOW US ON YOUTUBE

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