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IMAGING, SPECTROSCOPIC AND SAMPLE ANALYSIS OF A 16TH CENTURY CANVAS PAINTING REPRESENTING THE HOLY TRINITY WITH SAINTS

...After the multispectral imaging, X-ray fluorescence punctual analysis was focused in fifteen selected spots in order to define the pigment palette used by the painter (Figure 4). The XRF points of analysis were chosen in accordance with the teacher restores and with the students of the master course in Conservation and restoration of cultural heritage. XRF analysis allowed for detecting the chemical elements (with atomic number more than 16) in the fifteen examined points with the relative amount expressed in cps (counts per second) [12, 13].

The overall results are shown in the Table 1. Lead (Pb) is detected in all measured points, suggesting its presence in the ground layer and/or in the priming. When exhibiting higher counts, Pb can be associated to lead-based pigments such as lead white that can be supposed used for lightening the colours, such as in points X2, X4, X5, X8 and X10. In the point X8, Pb is associated to

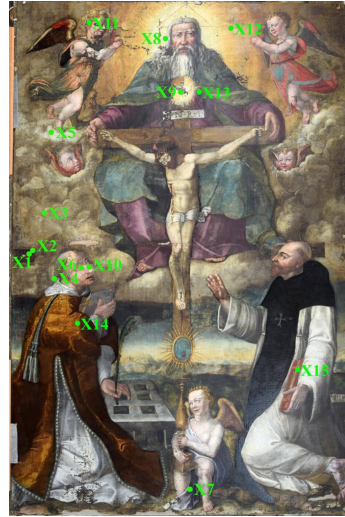


Figure 4. Image of the painting representing The Holy Trinity with the Saints Lawrence and Famiano, with the points of XRF analysis

tin (Sn) indicating the presence of lead/tin based yellow (the so called Giallorino) [14, 15].

Sn has been detected also in points X12 and X14, again in correspondence of yellow areas, confirming the use of a lead/tin based pigment. Traces of Sn are detected also in point X9 where high counts

of zinc are found. Point X9 is located in correspondence of a dark zone close to the little dove on the breast of God the Father. It can be supposed the presence of an oxidized zinc lamina or the application of zinc white pigment, now darkened. The eventual presence of zinc white indicates a re-painting being this pigment used starting from the 19th century. This finding has been considered interesting and it was decided to take a sample from this area.

Iron (Fe) and calcium (Ca) are present in almost all the examined points suggesting their association to the ground layer. Higher counts of Fe have been measured in points X1, X2 and X3 probably due to the use of iron-based pigments, such as ochre. The presence of potassium in X1 and X3 confirms the use of ochre, natural pigments based on iron oxides and hydroxides associated to K-silicates [16].

[...more at](#)

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THE INFLUENCE OF NIKOLAI LOSSKY'S INTUITIVISM ON CTIBOR BEZDĚK'S ETHICOTHERAPY

Abstract: The paper describes the work of the Czech physician Ctibor Bezděk and his relation to the Russian philosopher Nikolai Lossky. The study examines Bezděk's ethical theories (i.e. 'ethicotherapy') which he tried to incorporate into Medicine and focuses particularly on the role of intuition in Bezděk's approach to Medicine, comparing it with the concepts of intuition and of substantial agents elaborated by Lossky. Lossky's theories about disease and healing influenced several physicians and psychiatrists, and his work also received support from T.G. Masaryk. Although he has been included among the pioneers of psychotherapy, Bezděk still remains unknown in the Czech Republic. The present study aims to introduce Ctibor Bezděk and his contributions to a wider audience.

FUNDAMENTAL CAUSES OF MODERN SECTARIAN TENSION ILLUSTRATED BY THE CASE OF THE MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES

Abstract: The purpose of the article is to explore the modern nature of sectarian tension and to identify the fundamental reasons underlying it. The research involved a number of special methods, in particular, comprehensive systemic and holistic analysis, the method of expert assessment, as well as general scientific methods: analysis, synthesis and comparison. The paper concludes that there are three fundamental reasons among the broad range of reasons engendering sectarian tension that are of foremost importance for the origination of interreligious conflicts, relative to the countries of the Middle East region. The introduction of the fundamental correlation coefficient by the authors made it possible to construct a scale of assessment for individual countries of the Middle East according to the level of tension between the confessions therein and to set the principal measures to attenuate it. The comparison of the fundamental reasons for the emergence of sectarian tension and its manifestation in individual countries made it possible to evaluate the levels of its manifestation. The obtained results will significantly promote the constructive organisation of inter-confessional interaction in the 21st century.

INTERDISCIPLINARY DEFINITION OF EVOLUTION BASED ON ANALOGOUS MOUNTAIN-BODY MODEL OF UNDERSTANDING

Abstract: Evolution is a subject, which has excited minds from the very beginning and is often presented in a very truncated form, reduced only to theory. In this paper, we present a broader, interdisciplinary understanding of Evolution, which we set out on the basis of our analogous Mountain-body model of understanding. According to our model, Evolution can be defined by its principal essence as the adaptation of organisms to the environment; by its essential nature, as the movement of Creation towards ever-increasing complexity and perfection; by its essential goal, as the tool of God's Providence for the creation of a human being, the pinnacle of Creation; and by its essential destiny, as a divine means by which God will restore friendship with humanity. Evolution has observable material principles such as surprising facts (e.g. rudimentary organs) and evidence in its favour (e.g. homologous organs). There are three material causes for evolution: scientific (mutation, selection, genetic drift and migration), theological (the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven) and philosophical (The First Cause). There are also three essential causes of Evolution: the Law of Evolution, the ideal of The Heavenly Jerusalem and The Holy Trinity. Theoretical mechanism of Evolution is the interplay of variation, heredity and the struggle for existence. There also exists a unique Darwinian or evolutionist identity. Finally, Evolution has also an attractive spiritual purpose, namely eternal life. Evolution is therefore a reality or a phenomenon of nature that has several layers of meaning, so we must approach it in an interdisciplinary manner. It is, however, a prime example of the encounter between Science and Theology, for only with the help of both can we compose its complete meaning.

CULTURAL FEATURES OF ORTHODOX FEMALE MONASTICISM

Abstract: Orthodox monasticism is an integral part of the culture of the Russian people. Monasteries have always had a significant impact on people's life and traditions, being the source of the Orthodox worldview, spiritual, moral and ethical values. The authors examine the history of the formation of Orthodox female monasticism, analyse the features of the culture of Orthodox female monasticism, including its material and social components, as well as the culture of religious practices.

COVID-19 IN ISLAMIC THEOLOGY AND ITS IMPACT ON SOCIO-RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS IN INDONESIA

Abstract: The Covid-19 pandemic is a phenomenal discourse that captures the world's attention in various dimensions, such as the medical, scientific, student, economic, politic, psychological and theological community. In the Islamic theology realm it is generally viewed with a different focus than other approaches and the most striking aspect is the involvement in the areas of destiny, gratitude, endeavour, worship, prayer and trust. Consequently, this study uses a qualitative approach, as discussing theological issues is an area of thought that cannot be oriented in exact terms. It also uses the phenomenological method by comparing data on Islamic theology and Covid-19 variables. This approach is considered relevant because of the pandemic field events that occur extremely and sustainably. The primary data source in this study is the literacy of internationally indexed scientific journals, while the secondary source is scientific journals set in Indonesia and its surroundings. Subsequently, the results conclude that Islamic theology examines the Covid-19 pandemic with various dimensions. First, the concept of the religion in response to the plague during the time of the Prophet, and second, spiritual immunity as a surplus from preventing exposure to Covid-19. The third view refers to the dimension of wisdom and effort from the existence of the pandemic, while the fourth discusses the friction between government policies and religious leaders affecting the socio-religious community.

NASSIM NICOLAS TALEB AND PREDICTABILITY PARADOXES

Abstract: The aim of this text is to show a different side of the human being inspired from the well-known book of Nassim Nicolas Taleb, 'Black Swan'. Using a variety of sociological and philosophical approaches on the condition of the mass-(supra)human, we intended to identify a couple of paradoxes of predictability in the modern world. Modern society, in the complexity of its manifestations, generates a series of challenges in front of knowledge, the effort of realising predictions being determined by the level of knowledge, by the used instruments, by the position of the subject and by the paradigms in which he is situated.

THE ARGUMENT FOR GOD'S EXISTENCE FROM AI

Abstract: I provide a novel mental argument for God's existence that makes crucial use of the nature of the field known as artificial intelligence (AI). The underlying bases of the argument include not only what specifically undergirds AI, but the formal, i.e. logic-based, foundations of computation in general.

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RUSSIAN ORTHODOXY IN DIGITAL EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT OF MODERN RUSSIAN SOCIETY

Abstract: The Covid-19 pandemic has become a serious threat to the health of people in all countries, but it has also affected all spheres of life in the world community. The use of distance learning is not any new, but the pandemic has intensified the process. Especially it has affected the sphere of religious education, which in Russia had always been very conservative. The traditional education method aimed only at obtaining knowledge is outdated. The educational paradigm itself requires transformation and change of the existing teaching approaches and methods. Religious education is also forced to actively use the distance-learning format for the implementation of its educational programs in the context of the current rapid digitalization of the educational environment in Russia and in the whole world community. The Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) found itself in a difficult situation. On the one hand, the state's recognition of theological education made it possible to restore the historical connection between secular and spiritual education. On the other hand, the requirements of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation to the academic discipline Theology do not take into account the specifics of spiritual education. This is especially true for distance education. It is extremely important to develop new educational trajectories accounting for the relevance of distance education forms that open up learning possibilities to everyone from anywhere in Russia, as well as the availability of the ROC training courses to all members of the world Eastern Orthodox community. At the same time, it is important not to lose the main component of spiritual education - communion with God.

THE ETHICAL CONSUMER AND THE RELIGIOUS NATURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL THINKING

Abstract: Consumption cannot simply be defined in terms of the utilitarian functions of rational economic processes, but in parallel by its ethical and symbolic dimensions. Consumption is a social phenomenon with the pervasive influence of values, norms, customs, traditions, beliefs and other forms of cultural, psychological and spiritual ways of life. Against the background of a hyper-consumerist society, predatory capitalism and the reality of ecological threats, the motivation is intensifying for ethical consumption: ecologically friendly ways of life taking the form of deliberate and voluntary frugality and environmentalism. This study aims to demonstrate the presence and function of Christian values in environmental thinking and to re-examine Christian anthropocentrism as a consistent component of environmentalism. At the same time, through the lens of environmental virtue ethics, I present an argument that strips Christian anthropocentrism of its label as an alleged source of ecological threats and instead refer here to the potential of humanity as caretakers and protectors of Nature. This is illustrated using biblical verses on the emblematic figures of the Good Steward and the Good Shepherd, expressing the responsible and environmentally oriented relationship of humanity to nature.

LIFE OF SAINT JOHN CANTIUS UNVEILED IN A WALL PAINTING AT THE FORMER ZAMOYSKI ACADEMY IN ZAMOŚĆ

Abstract: The paper presents the visual aspects of the life and miracles performed by Saint John Cantius on a wall painting in the building of the former Zamoyski Academy. Saint John Cantius was a professor at the University of Kraków, philosopher and, above all, a clergyman with an extraordinary ability to attract the faithful. He was characterised by his devotion to God, high intellect, goodness, modesty, helpfulness and diligence. Already during his lifetime, he performed miracles and after his death he contributed to many recoveries. He was beatified in 1680 and canonised in 1767. His cult was initially concentrated in Kraków, but before his canonisation it spread across the Poland and Europe. Poles, Czechs, but also French and Italians made pilgrimages to his tomb, hoping to be heard and interceded for. Saint John Cantius became a patron of the Zamoyski Academy in 1702 and his cult contributed to the commemoration of his person. The historical decorations depicting the saint was discovered during renovation works in one of the rooms in the west wing. Only a part of it remained and the rest was irretrievably damaged. Thanks to interdisciplinary research in the fields of architecture, conservation, archival research, hagiography, 3D scanning, endoscopy and thermal imaging, it was possible to draw conclusions which enabled the determination of the period when the painting was created, the probable author and, most importantly, the identification of scenes from the life of the saint which had been irretrievably lost. The personage depicted on the painting was also unquestionably confirmed. The period of partitions and communism, which lasted for almost 200 years on the Polish territory, made his person almost forgotten. This can be seen in the paintings - first, the Russian army painted over the polychrome wall paintings and then, it was forgotten. As after the fall of communism the cult of the saint began to revive, maybe the wall decorations in Zamość will also see the light of day and bring back the memory of the saint to Zamość. Saint John Cantius is the patron of Poland and Lithuania, Kęty, Kraków, the Archdiocese of Kraków, Lublin, Bielsko-Żywiec Diocese, professors, teachers, students, and about 600 schools in the country.

MONASTIC GARDENS OF ATHOS THE ARCHETYPE OF THE GARDEN IN THE GENESIS OF CHRISTIAN ARCHITECTURE

Abstract: The gardens of Athos are so unique that they lend credibility to the statement that their forms and purpose are a bridge between the Garden of Eden and the City of God. They are both exceedingly beautiful and extremely practical, providing monks and pilgrims with spiritual experiences and food while representing prayer and work in one. They are an answer to the call of 'ora et labora', which is in Latin but was known well before the split of the Church. This paper demonstrates how the diverse composition of the gardens of Athos serves the primary goal of the existence of Athos as a place where Orthodoxy unifies numerous countries of the world, from Romania to Egypt, in prayer and work. The gardens are blended into the landscape and their composition, which takes the form of contemplative fragments, follows the idea of Heavenly Jerusalem. It is not possible to investigate the gardens of Agion Oros solely through reason, just as it is impossible to rationally explore the qualities of Paradise.

PHILOSOPHICAL AND THEOLOGICAL BASIS OF ICON PAINTING

Abstract: An icon is a sacred work of art that is both material and spiritual, based on the cultural experience acquired by the Christian community over two thousand years of Christian civilization. This is the uniqueness and universality of the icon in the Christian concept of knowing and worshiping God. The authors analyse such philosophical foundations of icon painting as transcendentalism, metaphysics and ontological nature, and anthropologism. The material and spiritual nature of the icon is determined, the theological foundations of icon painting are identified including the observance of the canons and mysticism.

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Abstract: This contribution focuses the attention on the documentation and diagnostic campaign on a 16th century canvas painting representing The Holy Trinity with the Saints Lawrence and Famiano, performed on the occasion of the restoration work carried out in the Laboratory of the master degree course in Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage at University of Tuscia. The diagnostic investigation started with the documentation and non-invasive analysis through multispectral imaging and X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy respectively. After this first non-invasive step, micro-samples were taken for laboratory analysis through micro-stratigraphic inspection of cross-sections and morphological observation of canvas fibres. The results of the analysis, useful for the restoration work, highlighted the presence of a wide variety of pigments such as smalt blue, azurite, vermilion, lead white, lead and tin yellow, red and yellow ochre. Moreover, the ultraviolet fluorescence image showed the presence of an intense red fluorescence on the God garment, suggesting the use of an organic dye that was characterized through surface enhanced Raman spectroscopy. The most interesting result, revealed by infrared reflectography, was the reading of an inscription which allowed to redefine the dating of the painting with respect to that established by the stylistic and documentary analysis alone.