



13th European Symposium on Religious Art Restoration & Conservation

The symposium is scheduled to 25th – 27th May 2023 and the sessions will take place at Ovidius University of Constanța, located in Aleea Universității, no. 1 (Campus Corp A).

Historically known as Tomis, Constanța is the oldest continuously inhabited city in Romania, founded around 600 BC. Located in SE part of Romania, Constanța is the largest port on the Black Sea and the main city of historical region Dobrogea, that can be thought as a synthesis of Western and Eastern civilizations and cultures and, also as a paradigmatic space of the interaction between monotheistic religions and as a multi-ethnic mosaic still present today. Constanța offers sources of reflection on the history, identity and culture of Christianity in the Romanian space, but also an undeniable testimony to the values of religious tolerance in the past and present.

Topics
Topics of interest to the conference are as follows:

A. Socio-spiritual values of the religious art:

- A1 – Artistic and cultural evaluation
- A2 – Historic, theological and social perspectives (past and present)
- A3 – Religion and modern cross-cultural communication
- A4 – Religion and globalization
- A5 – Religion, terror and the role of cultural heritage

B. Conservation and restoration of religious cultural heritage:

- B1 – Environmental impact
- B2 – Analytical, diagnostic and intervention methodologies
- B3 – New materials for conservation and restoration
- B4 – Monitoring and scheduled maintenance

C. Sacral sights in the light of tourist trade marketing:

- C1 – Marketing of sacral sights as universal cultural heritage

- C2 – Sacral sights as new dimension of secular tourism
- C3 – Sociocultural development in regions
- C4 – Sacral sights as new tools of war/as tools of politics
- C5 – Sacral sights and securitization discourses
- C6 – Sacral sights and cultural identity

D. Materiality and meaning in religious art and architecture:

- D1 – Religious media and their audience
- D2 – Modern communication of world religions

E. Culture and identity in Dobrogea area:

- E1 – Religious and ethnic diversity in Dobrogea
- E2 – Dobrogea as a paradigm of tolerance and peace
- E3 – Interreligious and intercultural dialogue in Dobrogea

Chair of Symposium
Assoc. Prof. Ioan Dura, PhD.
Ovidius University of Constanța, Romania
[Conference link](#)

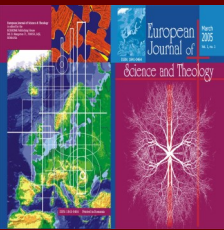
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HOW CAN PHILOSOPHICAL EDUCATION CONTRIBUTE TO THE DENIAL OF RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE?

Abstract: This study aims to reveal the capacity of children's philosophical education in their spiritual development and its efficiency in promoting peace and the denial of religious violence. While analysing the model of philosophical education, this article briefly examines its principles, goals and methods. It then investigates the impact of this educational program on improving children's peaceful behaviours and enhancing their communicational skills with others in order to reduce violence. Field studies have shown that failure in self-expression, inability to self-control and self-restraint, low level of tolerance, imposition of radical and monopolistic ideas, dogmatism and weakness in reasoning are the most significant causes of religious violence in children. Therefore, one of the essential missions of the educational system should be to create a friendly and safe environment where the grounds and causes of violence are not possible. One of the most significant functions of philosophical education is to strengthen skills such as open-mindedness, critical-reasoning thinking, empathic thought to promote a culture of tolerance and teaching an aesthetic view of existence that leads to the love of God and His creatures. The findings show that the development of these skills through philosophical education can improve their relationships with fellow human beings in an empathetic and rational atmosphere and thus, reduce religious tension and violence.

ECUMENISM AND COMMUNISM PRIESTS VIRGIL GHEORGHIU AND ANDRÉ SCRIMA IN THE DOSSIERS OF THE SECURITATE

Abstract: Based on documents found in the former Securitate Archive of Bucharest, but also on the works of Virgil Gheorghiu and André Scrima, both Orthodox priests, writers and personalities with a cultural impact, and on publications dedicated to them, the authors of this study try to emphasise the way in which their work in the ecumenical field was reflected in the documents of the Securitate. The purpose is to investigate whether the agents who were in charge of surveillance were interested in this topic, which particular aspects were of interest or made them intensify their work, and how they interacted with the activity of the aforementioned priests in the ecumenical field. The study will present two relevant examples (case studies) and will contribute to the understanding of the way in which the Romanian communist regime regarded ecumenism and tried to use it to its advantage.

SCIENCE AND RELIGION IN MODERN CULTURE INTERACTIONS AND INTERDEPENDENCIES

Abstract: Historical aspects of cultural development have close ties with religion. Meanwhile, Science is also an integral part of modern-day culture. Culture without religion loses its deeper meaning. The mind - the tool required for any scientific activity - loses its ability to function properly, to choose a rational goal. It becomes incapable of setting rational goals and learning the truth in the ontological sense if it loses relationship with God as the basis of being. Because of that, the main functions of the mind to determine the goal of cognition and transform reality cease to be rational and begin to follow traditions, obey the world's powers, or even become arbitrary. This may result in a threat to human existence and life in general. Science and religion must interact with each other. This is all the more important because sometimes, modern technologies interfere with morals and ethics that are also based on religion and spirituality. This paper aims to highlight the issues of interface between Science, culture and religion and to find possible compromises in the event of controversial issues between them.

SOPHOCLES' 'OEDIPUS REX' IN RENÉ GIRARD'S 'VIOLENCE AND THE SACRED'

Abstract: The article examines the problem of antagonism - how the problem is interpreted in René Girard's works (primarily in 'Violence and the Sacred'), in psychoanalytic theory and structuralism, as well as in the book contemporary with 'Violence and the Sacred' - 'Anti-Oedipus' by G. Deleuze and F. Guattari written in the tradition of Marxism. It is shown that the antagonistic conflict can be considered both imaginary (in Girard's work) and fundamental (in the rest of the listed concepts), which has both certain explanatory advantages and causes disadvantages of each of the approaches.

THE KNOWLEDGE AND EMOTIONS OF ADAM IN PARADISE IMAGINING THE ORIGINAL JUSTICE WITH AQUINAS

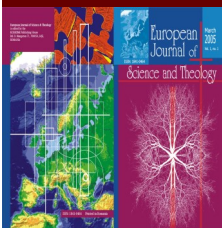
Abstract: The description of Paradise in Aquinas's theology is based on the concept of rectitude ('rectitudo'), which points to the state of man living in what is called 'original justice' in a realistic - and not merely symbolic - way. Due to its temporality and non-definitive nature, Paradise represents a time that assumed the necessity of final salvation. Therefore, Adam's faith in Paradise was necessary as a means of reaching Heaven. His sin changed the way or circumstances by which the human being reaches it, but not the goal itself. In this context, Aquinas looks at the relationship between the natural and moral order and Adam's perfection before the Fall, which is relative (perfection at a given stage of development) rather than absolute. The paper will present Aquinas's description of Adam's way of knowing God in Paradise (which was not the beatific vision) as well as the nature of his faith before the Fall and its relationship to emotions and virtues. It will also refer to Aquinas's thoughts on why the 'old creation' was needed at all and, thus, why the 'new' one was not established immediately. Finally, a question will be asked about the aspects of the Thomistic description of Paradise that may still be attractive to contemporary theologians in reference to modern science.

TRADITIONAL RELIGIOUSNESS OF YOUTH FROM SMALL-TOWN AND RURAL AREAS OF LESSER POLAND IN THE FACE OF THE FEAR OF ILLNESS AND DEATH RELATED TO THE COVID PANDEMIC

Abstract: The article is based on a mid-2021 survey of a group of 400 secondary school students from rural and small-town areas of south-eastern Poland which region is called Lesser Poland, an area considered to be traditionally religious and Catholic. The study investigated the occurrence of fear caused by the pandemic and the religious response to it. It was preceded by an analysis of texts and articles on similar subject matter that were published during the pandemic. They show the scale of the threat, the fear and uncertainty associated with it, and possible reactions, including religious ones. In Poland, there is a conviction that the deep-rooted religiousness of youth is in decline or hiding solely due to external factors and may re-emerge when a situation that occurs stimulates this. The emergence of traditional religiousness is inspired by emotionally positive situations, such as conventions, meetings and pilgrimages or emotionally negative situations such as war, disease and threats to life and health. The pandemic can undoubtedly be considered such a situation. The research among the youth of Sandomierz Diocese aims to show to what extent the assumption concerning traditional religiousness of rural and small-town areas of Lesser Poland region commonly functioning in Polish Episcopate's pastoral programs is correct and to what extent and in what way traditional religiousness manifests itself and

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works in trying times.

A STUDY ON 'ARIRANG' A KOREAN FOLK SONG THAT IS BEING ACCEPTED WORLDWIDE

Abstract: 'Arirang' is a Korean song that has been deeply loved not only by the people of South and North Korea, but also by people across the world. Why does Arirang fascinate people all over the world? With respect to this phenomenon, the dominant view attributes it to the activities of unrivalled entertainers spreading Korean popular culture on a global level, such as BTS (Korean male youth art group composed of seven people who dance and sing) and other dedicated musicians who introduce and popularize Korean folk songs in the world. This study acknowledges that these artists' efforts to spread Korean popular culture abroad have contributed to the globalization of Arirang to a large extent. However, the study does not limit reasons for the globalization of Arirang to such efforts and dedication. Instead, we argue that the 'specificity' of Korean culture, as demonstrated by Arirang has a very high 'universality', making people from various countries accept and enjoy it without hesitation.

CAN SCIENCE SHAVE GOD? THE MULTIPLY LIMITED VALIDITY OF OCKHAM'S RAZOR

Abstract: I argue that Ockham's razor is only one of at least 34 factors to be weighed in scientific theory formulation or assessment, with no principled way of doing any weighings. And that is the sense in which I claim that Ockham's razor is of multiply limited validity. The function of the razor is not ontological. For there are just as many entities as there are. Nor is its function epistemic. For it is used to decide between empirically equivalent theories. Thus its function can only be pragmatic. And that gives it a normative aspect. For it has pragmatic value. All of the factors, including the razor, logically can conflict with and limit each other, both singly and in combinations. And there is no principled way to decide any such conflicts. Thus we cannot use the razor simply to 'bean count' the entities of the 'best' theory, as so many writers do. This includes scientific theories, going back at least to Laplace, that use the razor to shave God as an unnecessary hypothesis. In fact, Albert Einstein and some of the great Quantum physicists find that religion adds an extra dimension of ontological understanding of the world. And that weighs in favour of keeping God. Indeed, the existence of the very issue whether there is such an extra dimension of understanding implies that God cannot simply be 'bean counted' out of the picture by scientists using the razor. For all the dimensions of understanding need to be weighed and balanced to the extent possible, and this dimension is not even scientific. But in the present paper, I mainly discuss the role of the razor in scientific theories, so as to provide an independent theory of the razor that is separate from the religious question.

THE CHRISTIAN JOURNALIST AND HIS QUALITIES FOR SECULAR TIMES

Abstract: The present study analyses the secularized context in which a Christian journalist carries out his mission, as well as the qualities necessary to carry it out. The Christian communicator must offer prompt and concrete answers to the actual states of secularization and contribute to diminishing the tendency of the autonomization of cultural and social life, offering him a perspective that allows him to look beyond the utilitarian factor. In addition to the necessary qualities of any journalist, the Christian must possess some qualities specific to missionary requirements, so that the message sent to the public has the impact necessary for the mission of the Church.

GRAPHICAL PROJECTION OF THE DAILY ORBIT OF THE STAR SIRIUS ON THE PAVEMENT OF SAINT PETER'S SQUARE

Abstract: In this paper we present geometrical projections of the daily orbit of the star Sirius on the pavement of Saint Peter's Square, in Vatican City. These projections are done -graphically and numerically - through certain sculptural motifs on top of the obelisk. These sculptural motifs reproduce the iconographic elements found on the coat of arms of Pope Alexander VII. We bring a new approach to the analysis of an internationally renowned square, which has great architectural and cultural heritage value. We make it clear that this research consists of a geometric analysis and not a historical study; that is why we show the results obtained without taking into account the intentionality or arbitrariness that Bernini's design entails.