

## AGENDA

### International Workshop on Christianity in the Middle East

Athens, Greece – October 21<sup>st</sup> 2022

Registration: 09:00 – 09:30

#### SESSION 1

#### Introduction and Communities in the Middle East

- 09:30 – 10:00 **Opening Remarks by Sotiris Roussos**
- 10:00 – 10:20 **Hratch Tchilingirian**, Minority within Minorities: Armenian communities in the Middle East between imposed realities and uncertain future
- 10:20 – 10:40 **Konstantinos Papastathis**, The Institutional Aspect of the Greek/Palestinian Divide within the Orthodox Church of Jerusalem
- 10:40 – 11:10 **Charitini Petrodaskalaki & Zakia Aqra**, Ontological Security Theory: Christian ‘Existential Anxiety’ in Egypt and Lebanon
- 11:10 – 11:40 **Q&A**

**11:40 - 12:00 Coffee Break**

#### SESSION 2

#### Middle East Christians and the World

- 12:00 – 12:20 **Marina Eleftheriadou**, Christian Right and US Foreign Policy in the Middle East
- 12:20 – 12:40 **Anthony O'Mahony**, Pope Francis, the Vatican and Christianity in the Middle East: Diplomacy, Ecumenism and interreligious Dialogue
- 12:40 – 13:00 **Ilias Tasopoulos**, Religious influence and international relations: Christian actors in Syria and Iraq
- 13:00 - 13:30 **Q&A**

**13:30- 15:00 Lunch break**

#### SESSION 3

#### Christians and Middle East Politics

- 15:00 – 15:20 **Stavros Drakoularakos**, Christian militarisation in Iraq
- 15:40 – 16:00 **Angeliki Ziaka**, Christian Networks in the Middle East
- 16:00 – 16:20 **Nikos Christofis**, Securitizing Identity: Anti-Christian Policies during the AKP Rule
- 16:40 – 17:00 **Q&A**

#### Sotiris Roussos: Concluding Remarks

Workshop on the project Christianity and Religious Pluralism in the Modern Middle East: International Politics and Religion at the turn of the 20th and 21st century, funded by the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation

## Panelists

**Zakia Aqra**, Ph.D. Candidate, University of the Peloponnese, Greece. She is also a Senior Editor at the Centre for Mediterranean, Middle East and Islamic Studies (CEMMIS).

**Nikos Christofis**, Associate Professor of Turkish and Middle Eastern history and politics at the Centre for Turkish Studies at Shaanxi Normal University; adjunct lecturer at the Hellenic Open University; and affiliate researcher the Netherlands Institute at Athens. His work focuses on comparative historical analysis of Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus, and the Middle East.

**Stavros Drakoularakos**, Ph.D, Political Science and History, Post-Doctoral Researcher University of the Peloponnese, Editor-in-Chief at the Centre for Mediterranean, Middle East and Islamic Studies (CEMMIS).

**Marina Eleftheriadou**, adjunct lecturer at the University of the Peloponnese. Her research focuses on political violence and non-state armed actors, with an emphasis on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. She is also a consulting editor at the Centre for Mediterranean, Middle East and Islamic Studies (CEMMIS) and has served as research associate at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies at the European University Institute (EUI).

**Anthony O'Mahony**, tutor in World Religions at Blackfriars Hall and Studium, University of Oxford and a Graduate College Adviser. He was Reader in the History of Eastern Christianity, Heythrop College, University of London, between 1999-2018 and Director for the Centre for Eastern Christianity 2009–2018. In 2018 he was appointed Associate Fellow at School of Advanced Studies, University of London. He held the Sir Daniel & Countess Bernardine Murphy Donohue Chair in Eastern Catholic Theology in 2018/2019 at the Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome.

**Konstantinos Papastathis**, Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Previously, he worked as a researcher at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the University of Luxembourg and Leiden University. His main scientific interests involve the fields of Politics and Religion, and Middle Eastern studies.

**Charitini Petrodaskalaki**, MA in History: Near and Middle East (SOAS, University of London), and coordinator at the Centre for Mediterranean, Middle East and Islamic Studies (CEMMIS).

**Sotiris Roussos**, Professor on International Relations and Religion in the Middle East at the Department of Political Science and International Relations of the University of the Peloponnese. He is the Head of the Centre for Mediterranean, Middle East and Islamic Studies (CEMMIS).

**Ilias Tasopoulos**, Ph.D., University of the Peloponnese, Scholar of the Greek State Scholarships' Foundation, Senior editor at the Centre for Mediterranean, Middle East and Islamic Studies (CEMMIS).

**Hratch Tchilingirian** Associate Faculty member of the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Oxford; Associate Professor of Armenian Studies (IMAS program) at Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales and is the Director of Armenian Diaspora Survey, a 10-country, public opinion research project.

**Angeliki Ziaka**, Professor of the Study of Religion, Scientific Head of the Committee of the Undergraduate Program in Islamic Studies at the School of Theology of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and Visiting Professor at the School of Education. Her main areas of academic specialization include early and medieval Islamic Kalam, Byzantine and post-Byzantine Greek literature on Islam, interreligious dialogue and Religious Education (schools) in religious and secular environments and institutions.