

Ecclesiological Investigations Thessaloniki



Wednesday, 17 September

St. Gregory Palamas Educational and Cultural Foundation (Nik. Plastira 65, Thessaloniki 54250)

Parallel Session 1: Concepts and Terms (15:00–16:30)

Session 1.1 The Future of Creeds and Councils

Location: Auditorium

Chair: Anastacia Wooden (Catholic University of America)

-- “The Continuing Relative Value of Classical Creedal Christology”: A Test-Case for Christian Unity in the Theological Formulations of World Christianity

Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen (Fuller Theological Seminary)

-- Nicaea and the Inadequacy but Necessity of “Sufficiency”

Eugene Schlesinger (Santa Clara University)

-- Calling Together an Ecumenical Council in Post-Christendom

Charles Shaw (Advent Lutheran Church)

Session 1.2 Nicaea toward the Future

Location: Omega Room

Chair: Dale Irvin (Ecclesiological Investigations)

-- From the Ecumenical Authority and Exclusivity of the Nicene Creed to the Recognition and Reception of the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed

Georgios Martzelos (CEMES)

-- Extensions to the Global Problems of Our Human Societies

Kostas Zorbas (Orthodox Academy of Crete)

-- Recent Ecumenical Dialogue on the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed - Any Potential towards greater Unity between East and West?

Miriam Haar (Institute for Ecumenical Studies and Research Bensheim)

Session 1.3 New Reflections on Synodality

Location: Alpha Room

Chair: Sandra Arenas (Catholic University of Temuco)

-- Synodality Beyond Synods: The Limitations of an Events-Based Synodality

Brian Flanagan (Loyola University Chicago)

-- Synodality and Democracy

Christophe Arvanitis (Académie Ecclésiastique Suprême Patriarcale de Crète)

-- Nicaea: A Model for a Sociopolitically Informed Theology of Synodality in the Twenty-First Century

Christopher Denny (St. John's University)

Opening Prayer (17:00–17:15, Main Hall)

Welcome and Opening Remarks (17:15–17:30, Main Hall)

Plenary Session (17:30–18:45, Main Hall)

Leo Lefebure (Georgetown University)

Sophia's Banquet: Christian Identity, Dissent, and Power

Chair: Aaron Hollander (Graymoor Ecumenical &

Interreligious Institute)

Respondent: Tamara Grdzeldze (Ilia State

University)

Location: Auditorium

Thursday, 18 September

American College of Thessaloniki (17 Sevenidi St., Pylaia Thessaloniki 55535)

Plenary Session (10:15–11:45)

Susan Durber (World Council of Churches)

The Council of Nicaea: Inspiration for Those Seeking Unity Today

Location: Bissell Library

Chair: Miriam Haar (Institute for Ecumenical
Studies and Research Bensheim)

Respondent: Sotiris Boukis (Greek Bible College)

Parallel Session 2: Dissent (12:15–13:45)

Session 2.1 Struggles for Dogma

Location: West Hall 101

Chair: Eugene Schlesinger (Santa Clara University)

-- Defining orthodoxy: dissent, development, delineation, and disobedience in a twenty-first century communion

Charlie Bell (Girton College, Cambridge)

-- Perichoretic *Avapxiá*: The Queerness of Trinitarian Inclusivity Beyond Monarchy

Timothy Couper (Fordham University)

-- On the Phenomenology and Hermeneutics of Dogma: Rethinking Theological Norms Beyond Ecclesial-Political Power

Jack Pappas (Fordham University)

Session 2.3 Protestant Reflections on Nicaea

Location: West Hall 103

Chair: Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen (Fuller Theological Seminary)

-- Ruminating on a Reformed Nicene Ecclesiology: Between Polarities of Polity

Henry Kuo (Eden Theological Seminary)

-- The Nicene Creed in the Anabaptist-Mennonite Tradition: Ethics, Complicity, and Unity

Jeremy M. Bergen (Conrad Grebel University College)

-- The Fading Ecumenical Dream?: The National Council of Churches and Bureaucratic Christianity

Casey Smith (Princeton Theological Seminary)

Session 2.2 Discourses of ‘Heresy’

Location: West Hall 102

Chair: Vladimir Latinovic (Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen)

-- On “Heresy,” “Schism,” and “Rival Assemblies”: Basil of Caesarea, the Council of Nicaea, and the Problem of Rebaptism

David Hunter (Boston College)

-- Heresiological Assumptions in Christian “Re-Enchantment”: Problematic Implications from Prospective Doctrinal History

Nicholas Brotherton (Union Theological Seminary)

-- For Reconsidering the Concept of Heretic to Deepen Dialogue Among Christians: A Reflection Inspired by the Melitian Schism

Nino Sadzaglishvili (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)

Session 2.4 Conversation with the Author: Raimundo C. Barreto’s *Engaging “Base Ecumenism”*

Location: West Hall 105

Chair: Aaron Hollander (Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute)

Panelists:

Ana María Bidegain (Florida International University[retired])

Aristotle Papanikolaou (Fordham University)

Dale Irvin (Ecclesiological Investigations)

Raimundo C. Barreto (Princeton Theological Seminary)

<p>Session 2.5 Reception and Resistance: Nicene Paradigms Location: West Hall 104 Chair: Ted Dedon (Creighton University) -- Is Nicaea really over? Conciliarity and Reception in the Eucharistic Ecclesiology Anastacia Wooden (Catholic University of America) -- A Temple without columns? A Common Creed without Common Life: Understanding Together the Nicene Creed Augustinos Bairactaris (Patriarchal Ecclesiastical Academy Crete, Heraklion) -- Unity through ontology: a movement towards unity through the ontological paradigm of Nicaea in contradistinction to Zizioulan existentialism Nicholas Desmond Bamford (Egerton Rothsay School)</p>	
<p align="center">Parallel Session 3: Power (16:00–17:30)</p>	
<p>Session 3.1 Politics, Territory, and Conciliar Legacy Location: West Hall 105 Chair: Brian Flanagan (Loyola University Chicago) -- Nicaea's Geo-Ecclesiological Paradigm and Post-Modern Church Unity Ihor Rantsya (Institut catholique of Paris) -- Conciliarity and State Theory: A Path for Modern Ecclesiology? The Case of Canonical Territory Conflicts Yury Safoklov (University of Hagen)</p>	<p>Session 3.2 Race, Ethnicity, and Ecclesiology Location: West Hall 102 Chair: Yenny Delgado (University of Lausanne) -- The Trinity and the Spirits: A Decolonial Ecumenical Re-Reading of the Nicene Creed from an Indigenous Perspective Marina Behera (Oxford Centre for Mission Studies) -- From Bundang to Kabul: How White Evangelical Racism Shaped Korean Christian Mission Sangeon Kim (Princeton Theological Seminary) -- Rome Has Spoken, The Matter Is Closed: Reimagining a Nicaean Era Vision of Papal Primacy in the Context of Synodality and White Supremacy Deepan Rajaratnam (Saint John's University)</p>
<p>Session 3.3 Power & Justice Location: West Hall 103 Chair: Nikolaos Dimitriadis (CEMES) -- From 325 to Project 2025: Nicaea, Religious Nationalism and the Legacy of Imperial Orthodoxy Michele E. Watkins (St. John's University) -- By Their Fruits You Will Recognize Them: Legacies of Nicaea and the Call to Leave the Empire David Ketter (Liberty University) -- Councils, Conciliarity, and Confessing in a Fractured and Unequal World Stephen Brown (The Ecumenical Review, World Council of Churches)</p>	<p>Session 3.4 The Politics of Nicaea, Then and Now Location: West Hall 104 Chair: Joy McDougall (Candler School of Theology) -- The "Church of Piety" towards Constantine's political authority: the sanctification of political authority from Nicaea to the present Pantelis Levakos (KU Leuven) -- Not of This World: The Church and Political Authority Joshua Cole (Union of Charismatic Orthodox Churches) -- Performing Pilgrimage: Political Ecclesiology in Immigrant Solidarity Work Britta Marie Meiers Carlson (University of the South)</p>

<p>Session 3.5 Charismatic Christianity and Questions of Identity Location: West Hall 101 Chair: Tamara Grdzeldze (Ilia State University) -- Bridge-Building Dialogues: LGBTQ+ Inclusion and Ecclesial Unity within Pentecostalism in Latin America Claudia Alvarez (Princeton Theological Seminary) -- Christian Identity: Mother Mother Gaye Coston (Union of Charismatic Orthodox Churches) -- Pentecostalization and the “Nicene Option” David de la Fuente (Fordham University)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Plenary Session (17:45–19:00) Geraldine Smyth (Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin) <i>The Wound of Christian Identity in Times of Division</i></p> <p>Location: Bissell Library Chair: Nikolaos Dimitriadis (CEMES) Respondent: Eleni Kasselouri-Hatzivassiliadi (Hellenic Open University)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Friday, 19 September</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Parallel Session 4: Identity (10:00–11:30)</p>	
<p>Session 4.1 Contemporary Catholic Ecclesiology Location: West Hall 101 Chair: Jason Welle (Boston College) -- The Body as an Image of Unity? Two Hundred Years after Johann Adam Möhler’s <i>Unity in the Church</i> Elyse Raby (Santa Clara University) -- Communion in the Risen Christ, the ideal locus for true ecumenism. The relationship between Paul VI, Athenagoras and Chiara Lubich Roberto Catalano (Istituto Universitario Sophia) -- The Catholic Church’s Modern Trinitarian Journey - from Pope Paul VI to Pope Francis Patricia Madigan (Dominican Sisters)</p>	<p>Session 4.2 Creedal Commitments and Interpersonal Relationships Location: West Hall 102 Chair: Radu Bordeianu (Duquesne University) -- The Hard Limits of Christian Identity: Primacy and Power aimed at a Theology of Friendship Ted Dedon (Creighton University) -- The Nicene Creed as a Call for Christian Unity Today Ioannis Panteldis (Trinity College Dublin) -- Receptive Ecumenism: a contemporary paradigm of the First Ecumenical Council Crystallia Latsara (University of Helsinki)</p>

Session 4.3 New Avenues for Ecclesiological Problems

Location: West Hall 105

Chair: Britta Marie Meiers Carlson (University of the South)

-- Between Self and Other: Nicaea's Theological Boundaries and the Flourishing of Identity

Matthew Brown (Fordham University)

-- Ethics – aesthetics in ecclesiology: Christology saving churches from ugliness and meaninglessness

Sandra Arenas (Catholic University of Temuco)

-- Orthodoxy and Culture: Toward a Typology of Orthodoxy Systems Ethics

Rachel Contos (Fordham University)

Session 4.5 Local Theologies and Christian Identity

Location: West Hall 103

Chair: Miriam Haar (Institute for Ecumenical Studies and Research Bensheim)

-- Beyond Nicaea: Affirming Christian Identity in Abya Yala

Yenny Delgado (University of Lausanne)

-- Anishinaabeg Interpretations of Early Church Doctrine via Methodist Hymnody in 19th-Century British North America

David Kim-Cragg (Emmanuel College, University of Toronto)

-- From the Council of Nicaea to the Second Plenary Council of the Philippines

Levy Lara Lanaria (San Carlos Major Seminary)

Session 4.4 Asian Theologies and Christian Identity

Location: West Hall 104

Chair: Dale Irvin (Ecclesiological Investigations)

-- Reassessing Nicaea's Legacy in Contemporary Ecclesial Boundaries

Aaron Joshua John (United Theological College, Bangalore)

-- A Kapwa Ecclesiological Model: A Space for Negotiating Similarities and Differences

Agnes Brazal (De la Salle University)

-- The Nicene Creed and Its Impact on Modern Chinese Christianity

Jacob Chengwei Feng (Fuller Theological Seminary)

Plenary Session (12:00–13:15)

Marco Demichelis (University of Bologna)

Divine Word and Spirit in a Human Body? 'Isā ibn Maryam and the Interreligious Debate between Islam and Eastern Christianity

Location: Bissell Library

Chair: Jason Welle (Boston College)

Respondent: Angeliki Ziaka (WCC)

Parallel Session 5: Interreligious and Intercultural Reflections (15:00–16:30)

<p>Session 5.2 Nicaea, Judaism, and Islam Location: West Hall 102 Chair: Jason Welle (Boston College) -- The Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed in Arabic: Christian Denominations and Islam Between Unity and Distinction Anna Canton (University of Palermo) -- Is an Anti-Supersessionist Ecclesiology Possible after Nicaea? B. Kevin Brown (Gonzaga University) -- How can the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea be commemorated in the context of current Jewish-Christian relations? Martin Hoegger (HET-PRO, Switzerland)</p>	<p>Session 5.3 Nicaea and Interreligious Dialogue Location: West Hall 103 Chair: Aaron Hollander (Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute) -- Orthodoxy in Dialogue: Engagement with Non-Believers and Other Religions as a Challenge to Nicene Consensus Eugen Rosu (Rio Salado College) -- Council of Nicaea: a phenomenological and inter-religious perspective Thomas Blanquart (Pontifical Oriental Institute) -- Nicaea's Homousios and Vatican II's Nostra Aetate: The Significance of History, Culture and Context for Renewal of Theological Approach Olisaemeka Okwara (Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg)</p>
<p>Session 5.4 Leaders and Members: Practical Issues in Ecclesiology Location: West Hall 104 Chair: David de la Fuente (Fordham University) -- Eucharistic Unity: The Tension between Nicaea's Codification of Presbyter-Led Eucharistic Communities and Imperial, Episcopal, and Doctrinal-Based Church Unity Radu Bordeianu (Duquesne University) -- Practical Ecclesiologies and Lay Vocation: Case Studies from the Creative Callings Research Project Claire Wolfteich (Boston University) -- The Council of Nicaea on Christian Identity and Its Limits in the Orthodox Missions Today – An African Perspective Ngige John Njoroge (Kenya Methodist University)</p>	
<p>Final Plenary Session (17:00–18:00) Location: Bissell Library</p>	
<p>Chair: Sandra Arenas (Catholic University of Temuco) Panelist: David Hunter (Boston College) Panelist: Vladimir Latinovic (Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen)</p>	
<p>Concluding Prayer and Remarks (18:00–18:15)</p>	