



Building the House of Wisdom

**Sergii Bulgakov - 150 Years After His Birth
International Conference**

Fribourg – September 2–4, 2021

University of Fribourg (CH), Fordham University (USA),
Volos Academy for Theological Studies (Greece),
hosted by the University of Fribourg, Switzerland

<https://www.unifr.ch/sergij-bulgakov>



Sergii Bulgakov, Portrait by Sister Joanna Reitlinger, Paris 1936 (private collection of C. Eltchaninoff, Paris)

Sergii Bulgakov is one of the preeminent theologians of the 20th century. The international conference on the occasion of his 150th birthday (16th/28th July 1871 – 13th July 1944) aims to promote the reception of his work in Eastern and Western academic life. The conference wants to explore Bulgakov's contribution to meeting the challenges of the modern world and to build bridges between East and West.

The colloquium will bring young researchers from different theological disciplines and different ecclesiastical traditions into conversation with established Bulgakov specialists.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Barbara Hallensleben

Professor of Dogmatic Theology and Ecumenism, University of Fribourg (Switzerland)

Regula Zwahlen

PhD, Scientific Director of the Sergii Bulgakov Research Centre, University of Fribourg (Switzerland)

Aristotle Papanikolaou

Professor of Theology, Archbishop Demetrios Chair in Orthodox Theology and Culture, and Co-Founding Director of the Orthodox Christian Studies Center, Fordham University (New York, USA)

George Demacopoulos

Fr. John Meyendorff & Patterson Family Chair of Orthodox Christian Studies, and Co-Founding Director of the Orthodox Christian Studies Center, Fordham University (New York, USA)

Pantelis Kalaitzidis

Director, Volos Academy for Theological Studies (Volos, Greece),
Member of the Executive Committee of the European Academy of Religion (Bologna, Italy)

Under the patronage of Rowan Williams

Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge (2013–2020), Archbishop of Canterbury (2002–2012)

MAIN SPEAKERS

Antoine Arjakovsky

Co-directeur du département de recherche Politique et Religions
du Collège des Bernardins, Paris, France

Nikolaos Asproulis

Deputy Director of the Volos Academy for Theological Studies, Greece

David Bentley Hart

Faculty Fellow, Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study, USA

Antonio Bergamo

Director of the ISSR of Lecce and Professor of Theological Anthropology
at Sophia University Institute, Florence, Italy

Catherine Evtuhov

Professor of History, Department of History, Columbia University, New York, USA

Brandon Gallaher

Senior Lecturer of Systematic and Comparative Theology, University of Exeter, UK

Paul Gavrilyuk

Aquinas Chair in Theology and Philosophy at the Theology Department
of the University of St. Thomas, Saint Paul, Minnesota, USA

Barbara Hallensleben

Professor of Dogmatic Theology and Ecumenism, University of Fribourg, Switzerland

Pavel Khondzinskii

Dean of the Theological Faculty, St. Tikhon's Orthodox University, Moscow, Russia

Alexei Kozyrev

Deputy Dean on Science and Associate Professor, Chair of History of Russian Philosophy,
Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia

John Milbank

President of the Centre of Theology and Philosophy, University of Nottingham, UK

Natalia Vaganova

Lecturer of Philosophy at the Theological Faculty, St. Tikhon's Orthodox University,
Moscow, Russia

Nathaniel Wood

Associate Director, Orthodox Christian Studies Center, Fordham University, New York, USA

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Faculté de théologie de l'Université de Fribourg

Institut d'études œcuméniques de l'Université de Fribourg

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

08:30	Registration / Coffee	
09:15	Welcome addresses by the Dean of the Faculty of Theology of the University of Fribourg by the organisers	Prof. Dr. Dr. Dr. hc. Mariano Delgado Regula Zwahlen, Sergii Bulgakov Research Center Nathaniel Wood, Fordham University Pantelis Kalaitzidis, Volos Academy
09:45	Introduction: Building the House of Wisdom	Barbara Hallensleben
10:15	Short break	
10:30	Keynote: Bulgakov's Christology	Rowan Williams
12:00	Lunch	
13:15	Lecture 1: Creation out of nothing as Creation out of and in God: Bulgakov's Chalcedonian Ontology	Brandon Gallaher
14:00	Lecture 2: "Religion and Politics"	Catherine Evtuhov
15:00	Short break	
15:15	Panel I: Religion, Politics, and Economics 1) The World as the Household of Wisdom: Political Theology and Philosophy of Economy 2) Independent? Resistant? Cooperative? Father Sergii Bulgakov's Thoughts on the Church-State Relations and the Paradigm of Postsecularism 3) Rethinking the Language of economics as a systematic Christian response to economic and ecological crises in the thought of S. Bulgakov	Moderator: Pantelis Kalaitzidis Dionysios Skliris Yuri Safoklov Tikhon Vasilyev Respondent: Nikolaos Asproulis
16:45	Coffee break	
17:15	Lecture 3: Bulgakov's Chalcedonian Politics of Divine-Human Personality	Nathaniel Wood
18:00	Lecture 4: Sophiology and Personalism, Pillars of a New Political Science for the XXIst Century	Antoine Arjakovsky
18:45	Welcoming reception	

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

09:00 Panel II: Anthropology and Spirituality

- 1) “Transcende te ipsum”: Faith, Prayer and Name-Worship in Unfading Light
- 2) The Kenotic Iconicity of Sergii Bulgakov’s Divine-Humanity: A Feminist Retrieval
- 3) Sergii Bulgakov and the Practice of Speculation

Moderator: Paul Gavriluyk

Ivan Ilin

Sarah Livick-Moses

Joshua Heath

Respondent: Paul Ladouceur

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 **Lecture 5:** From Grammar to Wisdom:
Bulgakov’s Trinitarian Ontology

John Milbank

12:00 Lunch

13:15 **Lecture 6:** From Social Trinity to “Linguistic Trinity”:
Sergii Bulgakov’s contribution to analytic theology

Nikolaos Asproulis

14:00 **Lecture 7:** Sergii Bulgakov’s “Karamazov Excursus”

Pavel Khondzinskii

14:45 Short break

15:00 Panel III: Anthropology and Personhood

- 1) The Authenticity of Creativity
- 2) Sergei Bulgakov’s Fragile Absolute:
Kenosis, Difference, and Positive Dissociation
- 3) On Mangodhood: Satan after Schelling

Moderator: Regula Zwahlen

Deborah Casewell

Jack Louis Pappas

Justin S. Coyle

Respondent: Brandon Gallaher

16:30 Coffee break

17:00 **Lecture 8:** Gods, Chimaeras, and Portmanteaux:
Bulgakov and the Metaphysics of Personhood

David Bentley Hart

18:00 Short break

18:15 Panel IV: God-Humanity

- 1) Mariology as personalized Sophiology:
Sergii Bulgakov’s Chalcedonian Theology
- 2) A Proposal for Bulgakovian Ecology
- 3) Shapers of Deification in the West:
Sergii Bulgakov and Myrrha Lot-Borodine

Moderator: Aristotle Papanikolaou

Dario Colombo

Austin Holmes

Mark McInroy

Respondent: Barbara Hallensleben

19:45 Dinner

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

09:00 Panel V: Ontology

1) Sergii Bulgakov's Early Marxism:

A Narrative of Development

2) Creatio ex Sapientia in Sergei Bulgakov's
Unfading Light

3) The Reception of the Palamite Theology
in the Sophiology of Sergei Bulgakov

Moderator: Catherine Evtuhov

Caleb Henry

Taylor Ross

Liubov Petrova

Respondent: Aristotle Papanikolaou

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 **Lecture 9:** Sergej N. Bulgakov: Entre théologie
kénotique de l'évènement et ontologie trinitaire

Antonio Bergamo

11:45 **Lecture 10:** Le débat sophiologique dans
le contexte de la théologie politique

Alexei Kozyrev

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Panel VI: Church

1) Is it all the Greeks' Fault? Reconsidering
the Byzantine Legacy

2) Sergius Bulgakov and Latin American
Liberation Theology

3) The Vision of Unity. The Ecumenical Thought
of Father Sergii Bulgakov

Moderator: Michel Stavrou

Nikos Kouremenos

Graham McGeoch

Adalberto Mainardi

Respondent: Pantelis Kalaitzidis

15:00 Coffee break

15:30 **Lecture 11:** Unfinished dispute. How is it possible
to criticize Bulgakov's sophiology today?

Natalia Vaganova

16:15 SHORT BREAK

16:30 **Lecture 12:** "The Training for Dying and Death":
A New Reading of Bulgakov's Sophiology

Paul Gavrilyuk

17:30 **Final Discussion**

18:30 Closing reception