



## **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

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### **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)

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## **Under the patronage of Rowan Williams**

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

## **MAIN SPEAKERS**

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### **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

## **SPONSORED BY**

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Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF)

Orthodox Christian Studies Center, Fordham University, New York

Volos Academy for Theological Studies, Greece

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Faculté de théologie de l'Université de Fribourg

Institut d'études œcuméniques de l'Université de Fribourg

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## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

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<b>08:30</b>	Registration / Coffee	
<b>09:15</b>	<b>Welcome addresses</b> 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
<b>09:45</b>	<b>Introduction: Building the House of Wisdom</b>	<b>Barbara Hallensleben</b>
<b>10:15</b>	Short break	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Keynote: Bulgakov's Christology</b>	<b>Rowan Williams</b>
<b>12:00</b>	Lunch	
<b>13:15</b>	<b>Lecture 1:</b> Creation out of nothing as Creation out of and in God: Bulgakov's Chalcedonian Ontology	<b>Brandon Gallaher</b>
<b>14:00</b>	<b>Lecture 2:</b> "Religion and Politics"	<b>Catherine Evtuhov</b>
<b>15:00</b>	Short break	
<b>15:15</b>	<b>Panel I: Religion, Politics, and Economics</b> 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: Adalberto Mainardi Dionysios Skliris Yuri Safoklov Tikhon Vasilyev Respondent: Nikolaos Asproulis
<b>16:45</b>	Coffee break	
<b>17:15</b>	<b>Lecture 3:</b> Bulgakov's Chalcedonian Politics of Divine-Human Personality	<b>Nathaniel Wood</b>
<b>18:00</b>	<b>Lecture 4:</b> Sophiology and Personalism, Pillars of a New Political Science for the XXIst Century	<b>Antoine Arjakovsky</b>
<b>18:45</b>	Welcoming reception	

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## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

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### 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: Beyond Idealism and Romanticism

- 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

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## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

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### 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