

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY

International workshop (co-organized with the MA Program *Identity, Education & Competences for democratic culture*)

Christianity and Democracy: Historical Legacies, Contemporary Challenges, and Education for Democratic Culture

Wednesday 11 November 2026, Audiovisual Hall of the Theological
Faculty of NKUA, Panepistimiopolis, Ilissia

ATHENS 2026

Workshop Program and Scope



Ambrogio Lorenzetti, *Allegory of Good Government (detail)*, 1338–1339. Fresco, Palazzo Pubblico, Siena.

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Workshop Program

16.30-16.50 Opening

A. Aspects of modern Democracy and Christianity

16.50-17.10 **Pavlos Leussler**, *Research Assistant at the Catholic Theological Faculty of the University of Bonn*, Human Rights - A Common Sense with Different Meanings?

17.10-17.30 **Dimitrios Moschos**, *Professor of Church history at the Department of Theology of NKUA*, Reflections on democratic values by the modern Greek academic theology

B. Democracy, empire, nation and the Christian Orthodox theology of today

17.30 – 17. 50 **Nikos Kouremenos**, *Research Associate at Volos Academy for Theological Studies*, Orthodoxy between Empire and Democracy: The “Russian World” as a Contemporary Challenge

17.50 – 18.10 **Dragica Tadic**, *ABD Dr. Theol., Dep. of Theology NKUA*, Serbian Orthodoxy, National Identity, and Democratization: Historical Authority and Ecclesial Responsibility

C. Orthodox Christianity, Democracy and Education

18.10 – 18.30 **Marios Koukounaras Liagkis**, *Professor of Religious Education at the Department of Theology, NKUA, Director of the MA Program Identity, Education & Competences for democratic culture*, Orthodox Christianity and Education for Democratic Culture. Dialogue, Pluralism and Critical Reflection

18.30 – 19.00 Coffee break

19.00 – 20.00 Discussion

Online attendance available via this link: www.youtube.com/@ΘεολογικήΣχολήΕΚΠΑ

Workshop Scope: In public discourse within Christian tradition, in both Eastern Orthodox and Western, Catholic, and Evangelical traditions, we tend to regard Christianity's democratic nature as self-evident, usually invoking the Church's procedural functions, such as conciliarity, or its trinitarian teaching. It is easy to forget that this organic placement of Christianity into democracy took place only recently and after long and fierce rearguard struggles in which almost all Christian traditions vigorously defended monarchical, hierarchical, and aristocratic models of social and political organization. In addition, democracy does not only mean electoral representation but also implies a set of principles and virtues that need to converse with Christian anthropology: freedom of conscience and religious tolerance, what rights the minority can possess when Christians do NOT belong to it, whether there can and/or should be a "Christian" state, etc. The Research Colloquium "*Christianity and its theology in history and culture*", which has been organized since 2017 bringing together young scholars in the fields of historical theology (and lately) and culture and the well-known and successful Master's Program *Identity, Education & Competences for democratic culture* coordinated by the Department of Theology of the University of Athens, and directed by Professor Marios Koukounaras-Liagkis in a series of events under the title “Christianity and Democracy” co-organize this international Workshop about the topic “**Christianity and Democracy: Historical Legacies,**

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Contemporary Challenges, and Education for Democratic Culture", in order to shed light on the essential interaction of Christianity and democracy both in history (especially of Orthodox nations and empires) and in the formation of modern education, with the participation of senior professors and young scholars. The event also emphasizes the role of education in developing competences for democratic culture, fostering critical reflection, respecting religious and worldview diversity, and strengthening dialogue and democratic participation.

SPEAKER'S LIST WITH CV (alphabetically):

Pavlos Leussler, *Research Assistant at the Catholic Theological Faculty of the University of Bonn*

Short CV: Pavlos Leussler is a Research Assistant at the International Center for Comparative Theology and Social Issues at the University of Bonn, where he has been pursuing a doctorate in Catholic Theology under the supervision of Professor Klaus von Stosch since 2021. He studied Catholic Theology at the Universities of Bonn and Münster, completing his Magister Theologiae in 2021, and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Sciences, Sociology and Philosophy at the University of Bonn in 2019. Since 2020, he has also been pursuing a Master of Arts in Political Sciences at the University of Münster. He previously worked as a student assistant in Liturgical Science at the University of Bonn and in Medieval and Modern Church History at the University of Münster, and as an employee in the Department for Dialogue and Annunciation of the General Vicariate of the Archdiocese of Cologne. Since 2023, he has also led the supervision group for the advanced "Theology in Distance Learning" course within the Department of Education of the Archdiocese of Cologne.



Nikos Kouremenos, *Research Associate at Volos Academy for Theological Studies*

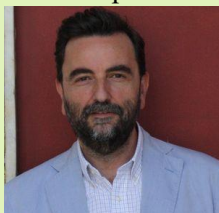
Short CV: Nikos Kouremenos is a Research Associate at the Volos Academy for Theological Studies (Greece). He studied Theology at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and received his PhD in Eastern Christian Studies from the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome. He has conducted postdoctoral research in Jerusalem, Athens, and Bologna and has taught at academic institutions in Greece, Italy, and Germany. His research focuses on the history of Eastern and Oriental Christianity, particularly the Coptic and Byzantine traditions, religious and cultural interactions in the Eastern Mediterranean, and the relationship between Christianity and political power. Alongside his historical research, he is actively engaged in contemporary Orthodox theology, ecumenical dialogue, and the study of religion in modern societies. His current research interests include the intersections of religion, nationalism, and political ideology, as well as the historical legacies of imperial Christianity and their implications for contemporary Orthodox attitudes towards democracy, pluralism, and human rights.



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Marios Koukounaras Liagkis, Professor of Religious Education at the Department of Theology, NKUA, Director of the MA Program Identity, Education & Competences for Democratic Culture

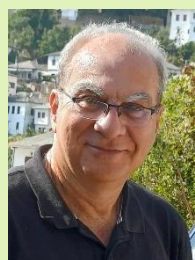
Short CV: Marios Koukounaras Liagkis (BA, MA, MSc, PhD, Postdoc) is a professor of Pedagogies and RE in the Department of Theology. He directs the international MA programme at the National and Kapodistrian



University of Athens, the Council of Europe's Identity, Education and Competences for Democratic Culture, the Pedagogical Laboratory of Theology, and the Learn Inn EKPA (Lifelong Learning Centre). He teaches in three departments of the University of Athens and at universities in Germany and England. He has published twelve books and more than 100 articles and chapters, mainly about RE, curriculum, theatre in education, and competences for democratic culture.

Dimitrios Moschos, Professor of Church history at the Department of Theology of NKUA

Short CV: Dimitrios Moschos studied Theology at the Department of Theology of Athens University (NKUA)/Greece (BA, 1986) and Byzantine Studies at the University of Munich/Germany (MA, 1994). In 1996, he earned his Ph.D. in Church History from the Department of Theology at Athens University, and in 2007, he earned his Doctor Habilitatus (postdoctoral degree) in Church History from the Theological Faculty of the University of Rostock/Germany. After serving as a Religious Education teacher in Secondary Education,



he has been a faculty member (Full Professor since 2021) in the Department of Theology at NKUA, specializing in Church History. Since 2007, he has also been teaching as an adjunct Professor (Privatdozent) at the Theological Faculty of Rostock University/Germany. He is a member of the International Orthodox Theological Association and of the editorial board of the theological review "Synaxi". Since 2018 serves as Director of the Oriental Christianity Research Laboratory (OCREL) at the Department of Theology of NKUA. From September 2022 to August 2025, he served as Chairperson of the Department of Theology at NKUA.

Dragica Tadic, ABD Dr. Theol., Dep. of Theology NKUA

Short CV: Dragica Tadić Papanikolau is a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Theology of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. After graduating from the Theological Faculty of the University of Belgrade, she obtained a Master's degree at the Theological Faculty of the NKUA. Her field of interest is the history of the Serbian Orthodox Church through the prism of hagiology, as well as in the broader socio-cultural context. Her publications are mainly related to this subject area.

