
The Institute for Ecumenical Research Centrul De Cercetare Ecumenica Sibiu - Institut für Okumenische Forschung Hermannstadt

2020 July Bulletin

Colleagues, supporters and friends,

We return with this second newsletter of our Institute to a very different world than when the first was released. Now at this moment in time when all of us seem to be attached to news of COVID 19 pandemic and social unrest in many parts of the world, we hope we can be forgiven for not being more prompt with our own humble, newly-initiated newsletter.

First, let us state that all of our Institute staff and their family are, at the time of this writing, safe and healthy, and working from home as much as possible while our office at Teutsch Haus is closed to the public. As an Institute housed within a building that functions as a community center, coffee shop and bookstore, museum and staff residencies, we have a responsibility to ensure that our presence is not a potential contributing factor to increasing the risk of infection to ourselves, our colleagues, or the visitors to Teutsch Haus.

We have missed our regular routines and the simple joys of working and socializing in community and at work these past months. While the disappointments and frustrations have been very real, our Institute has proven capable of adaptation under these adverse circumstances, and new opportunities for publications, conferences, and innovative research projects have begun to surface.

As we journey through the second half of 2020, we look forward to continuing our work with the knowledge that the Institute and its mission have more purpose than ever before.

January to June 2020 In Review

Institute for Ecumenical Research, Institute for the History of Religions (Romanian Academy) Sign Academic Partnership

On February 20th, 2020, the Institute for Ecumenical Research and the Institute for the History of Religions, Romanian Academy, signed an agreement for academic partnership on the occasion of the visit of the Director of the institute, Dr. Bogdan Tătaru-Cazaban. The partnership states that both institutions will collaborate with regards to publications, conferences, academic programs, and research. Following the signing of the partnership, Dr. Bogdan Tătaru Cazaban presented a public lecture at Teutsch Haus entitled *Recollections of an Orthodox Observer at Vatican II: Andrei Scrima on the Unity of the Church*, in which he spoke on the reflections of the 20th-century Romanian theologian and senior archimandrite of the Romanian Orthodox Church, Andrei Scrima during the Second Vatican Council.



The Institute for Ecumenical Research thanks Dr. Bogdan Tătaru Cazaban for his outstanding efforts to realize this partnership between our respective institutions, his well-received lecture on Andrei Scrima, and looks forward to all future cooperation. The first such collaboration will be through issue 3/2020 of our *Review for Ecumenical Studies*, dedicated to the legacy of Andrei Scrima, with Dr. Cazaban as guest editor.

Other Public Events

Along with Dr. Bogdan Tătaru-Cazaban's lecture in late February, the Institute was able to host or co-host three other public events before the decision to suspend public activities in the wake of the COVID 19 pandemic.

On January 28th, a book launch for the publication *Bafta, Devla și Haramul. Studii despre cultura și religia romilor*, was held at Erasmus Bookshop Cafe in Teutsch Haus. The book, a socio-religious academic work on culture and religion of the Roma people of Romania, was authored by noted sociologist Dr. Mirel Bănică, and released by Polirom publishers. The panel was hosted by Dr. Stefan Tobler with Dr. Mirel Bănică, Cristina Muntean, and Rev. Dr. Alexandru Ioniță participating. Also contributing was the delightful "Caravana Gypsy Jazz" Band with live musical performances at the beginning and end of the panel.

On February 3rd, the Institute hosted a lecture entitled *Jerusalem from the Ummayyad to Ottoman Era*, given by visiting lecturer, Hisham Khatib. This lecture examined the Islamic religious, cultural and architectural heritage of the city of Jerusalem. Jerusalem under the Ummayyad Caliphate (661-904 CE) and the Ottoman Empire (1516-1917). Hisham Khatieb is a tour guide and independent researcher in the city of Jerusalem, with a special focus on Islamic cultural and archaeological heritage of Jerusalem and the Holy Land. He is active in the Centre for Jerusalem Studies, an Institution under the administration of Al-Quds University.

On Feb 11th, Institute researcher Dr. Alexandru-Marius Crișan offered a lecture on Taize entitled *Taizé din perspectiva tinerilor europeni*. Dr. Alexandru's lecture focused on the unique liturgical traditions of the Taizé Community, described by him as „A Protestant background, perfectly compatible with Catholic spirituality and opened to the Orthodox spirit of worship.”

We look forward to returning to hosting more public events within the regional ZETO network following the end of the COVID 19 pandemic, as well as examining possible videoconferencing options in the near future.

2020 Andrei Scrima Fellows Workshop

On March 5-6, the 2020 Workshop for Andrei Scrima Fellows was held at the Institute for Ecumenical Research. The Institute offers fellowships for the academic year 2020-2021 for doctoral, postdoctoral, and junior researchers in any field of humanities and social sciences, with preference given to researchers in the fields of ecumenical studies, biblical and religious studies. This year's Fellows and their research projects were Dragoș Boicu (*Epiphany of the Other. The Religious Dialogue in the View of Father André Scrima*), Iuliu Marius Morariu (*The Ecumenical Vision of Father Andrei Scrima as Reflected in „Securitate” Archives*), Mircea Dulus (*Defining Religious Identity in the Twelfth Century Norman Kingdom: The Case of Philagathos of Cerami and Neilos Doxapatres*), Andra Jugănar (*Mapping Women's*



Pilgrimages in the Fourth and the Fifth Century. Itineraries and Social Networks), Corina Hopârtean (*Mendicant Orders in Sibiu / Hermannstadt in the 16th Century*), Mihai Grigoraş (*Theophany in John Scot Eriugena's Periphyseon V, Expositiones and Commentarius*), and Nicolae Dragusin (*A Brick to the Foundation of Christian-Jewish Dialogue: Petre Chiricuță's Reply (1926) to AC Cuza's Religious Antisemitism (1923)*). Our 2020-2021 Fellows have been selected, and will be introduced via our website in the autumn. For more information about the Andrei Scrima Fellows program, please visit ecum.ro/bursele-andrei-scrima/.

Ecumenical Semester Update

In February, our annual German-language Ecumenical Semester began with eight participants. Unfortunately, the timing of the program was such that the COVID 19 pandemic disrupted all but the first weeks of the Semester, as the program in its present structure was designed as a cultural immersion experience. We share in both their disappointment as well as their hopes that they will return to participate in the program when it can once again be offered. At present, we are examining options for a return of the Ecumenical Semester in 2021, including a possible transition to an entirely online format. To be put on the waiting list for the program, please send an email to cces@ecum.ro.

Dan Slușanschi School for Classical and Oriental Languages Moves Online

The Dan Slușanschi School for Classical and Oriental Languages will begin its courses via videoconferencing in July. This summer we are offering five levels of Ancient Greek, two levels of Latin, and an introductory course for Old Slavonic. The courses are offered in English and the response to a shift to online courses has been overwhelmingly positive, with high enrollment numbers, and may well lead us to focus our efforts on providing online courses in the future. We are planning extensive Romanian language courses for classical and oriental languages starting with October. To follow announcements for the School on Facebook, visit DanSlusanschiSchool.

RES & Studia Oecumenica Releases

Our staff and review board for the Review for Ecumenical Studies has adjusted well to the present adverse circumstances. The April/Issue 1 Edition of the Review, *Ecumenism at the Turn of the Decade*, (editor: Antoaneta Sabău) has been published, printed and uploaded online. We are presently preparing Issue 2, *The Ecumenism of the Mystics*, (editor: Alexandru Marius Crișan) for publication, while the call for papers for Issue 3, *An Intellectual of the Church: Remembering Father André Scrima (1925-2000)*, (editor: Bogdan Tătaru-Cazaban) is open until September 1st. You may also now follow the Review on Facebook at [ReviewofEcumenicalStudies](#).

The latest volume of "Studia Oecumenica", *Muzica în spațiul liturgic Interferențe culturale* is dedicated to the question of liturgical music. The two editors - Alexandru Ioniță & Teresa Leonhard - bring together authors from different confessional and cultural backgrounds, who explore the phenomenon of church music from very different points of view. Written in Romanian, this edition is neither a purely theological or musicological publication, but rather a unique exploration of the convergence of the respective disciplines.



Sibiu, Romania - www.ecum.ro
Office and ecumenical library located in [Deutsch Haus](#)
at the junction of Strada Mitropoliei and Astra Park.
Our academic journal [Review of Ecumenical Studies](#)
is published in print three times a year and is [available online](#).
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Final Summer Notes

Please remember that our Institute staff will be on leave throughout August, with only the email ccesiofh@gmail.com being checked with regularity. We will send out a final year-end newsletter in December. In September, we will begin a new email-based announcement service for our newsletter, calls for papers, and all other pertinent information related to the work of the Institute; we will be sending further information once it is prepared.

From Sibiu, we wish all of you a safe and healthy summer as we hope for better days ahead.

Our English-language newsletter is published two to three times a year. Help us expand our network by sharing this newsletter or asking colleagues to contact us at ccesiofh@gmail.com. If you wish to be removed from either the mailing list or newsletter, please contact us at the same address.



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