



Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Theology

The Church in the Second Millenium

2nd International Conference in Theology and Religious Studies

Tuesday, 27 May 2025
Student Space of Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University, Tbilisi,

Organizing Committee

Gocha Barnovi,

Dean, Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University (Georgia)

Andreas P. Zachariou,

Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University (Georgia)

Scientific Committee

Vaja Vardidze,

Head of Programms of Theology, Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University (Georgia)

Teimuraz Buadze,

Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University (Georgia)

Guram Lursmanashvili,

University of Vienna (Austria)

Moderator

Alexandre Tskhakaia,

Student at the Faculty of Theology, Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University
(Georgia)

Opening

13:00-13:10 **Greetings**
Gocha Barnovi,
Dean, Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University

1st Session

13:10-13:30 *The reorganization and administration of the Patriarchate of Antioch during the Ottoman period*
Ioannis Panagiotopoulos
Professor in the Department of Theology, Faculty of Theology, University of Athens

13:30-13:50 *The abolition of the autocephaly of the Church of Georgia*
Gocha Barnovi,
Professor, Dean in the Faculty of Theology at Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University, Tbilisi

13:50-14:10 *The role of the laity in the Rites of the eastern Orthodox Church: past, present and future (prerequisites for more active participation of the laity in orthodox worship)*
Photios Apostolos
Assist. Professor in the Department of Theology, Faculty of Theology, University of Athens

14:10-14:30 *Middle Ages: rethinking progress in a misunderstood era*
Teimuraz Buadze
Professor in the Faculty of Theology at Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University, Tbilisi

14:30-14:50 *Desecularization policies and attempts in the USA since 2022*
Piotr Musiewicz
PhD, Adjunct Professor, Institute of Political and Administrative Studies, Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow

14:50-15:10 **Discussion**

15:10-15:30 **Coffee break**

2nd Session (Presentations via Zoom)

- 15:30-15:50 *The Church in the second Millenium against or favourite the ethics of woke agenda*
Eirini Artemi
Professor at the Israel Institute of Biblical Studies of Hebrew University of Jerusalem / Adjunct Professor at Hellenic Open University
- 15:50-16:10 *The burden of 2nd millennium challenges of Orthodox Christianity in contemporary pastoral theology*
Petros Panagiotopoulos
Associate Professor, Faculty of Theology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
- 16:10-16:30 *The role of hesychast prayer in the ascetic life: teachings from Theoleptos and Palamas*
Alessia Brombin
Assoc. Professor in the Faculty of Theology at Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University (Tbilisi), Lecturer at the Pontifical University of Saint Crux (Rome)
- 16:30-16:50 *The hesychast method of prayer: tradition or innovation?*
Andreas P. Zachariou
Assist. Professor in the Faculty of Theology at Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University, Tbilisi
- 16:50-17:10 *The death of Patriarch Kirion II*
Guram Lursmanashvili
Assist. Professor in the Faculty of Theology at Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University, Tbilisi
- 17:10-17:30 **Discussion**
- 17:30-18:30 **Lunch**

3rd Session (Presentations via Zoom)

- 18:30-18:50 *Byzantine Monasticism during and after Iconoclasm (726-1453)*
Spyridon P. Panagopoulos
PhD in Philosophy, Independent Researcher of Byzantine and Patristic Studies, Patras
- 18:50-19:10 *Joy-bearing grief according to saint John of the Ladder along with references from the Great Lent*
Theocharis S. Papavissarion
PhD in Theology, University of Athens
- 19:10-19:30 *Diakonia or authority: the Orthodox Church amidst conflicts in the second millennium*
George Kounnousii
Teaching Associate of the Theological School, Church of Cyprus
- 19:30-19:50 **Discussion**
- 19:50-20:10 **Conference conclusions - closing remarks**