



Religion and the Public Sphere

PROGRAM

July 2–5, 2013

International Conference

Within the Research Project

“Religion and the Public Sphere: Interdisciplinary Approaches”

The project carried out between 2010 and 2013 has been funded by The National Science Fund,
Ministry of Education and Science, the Republic of Bulgaria

Tuesday, July 2

Introduction of the participants

- 17.00–20:00 Meeting of the Bulgarian and international workshop participants
- 20:00 Dinner

Wednesday, July 3

Thematic Sessions, PART ONE

Venue: The American Research Center in Sofia (ARCS), 75 Vasil Petleshkov Str.

- 10.30–12.00 Introductory Session 1 **Religion and the Public Sphere:
The Challenges of Interdisciplinarity**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Simeon Evstatiev, *Sofia University*, Project Leader
— Religion, Public Sphere, and Interdisciplinarity

Prof. Dr. Dale F. Eickelman, *Dartmouth College, US*, Keynote Speaker
— Religion, Public Islam, and the Common Good

- 12.00–13.30 *Lunch break*

▪ 13.30–15.00 **Session 2** **Normative Approaches and Philosophical Discussions on Religion and the Public Sphere**

Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rossitsa Gradeva

Prof. Dr. Plamen Makariev, *Sofia University*

— The Public Sphere as a Pattern of Public Legitimization

Prof. Dr. Stilian Yotov, *Sofia University*

— The Post-Secular: A Concept and a Social Reality

Kiril Vassilev, *Sofia University* (doctoral student’s presentation)

— On the Translation of Religious Contents in the Hermeneutics of Gadamer and the Deconstruction of Derrida

Discussants: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivo Hristov, Dr. Ilia Iliev,
Lyubcho Atanasovski

▪ 15.00–15.30 *Coffee break*

▪ 15.30–17.00 **Session 3** **Christianity and Islam as “Public Religions”:
Comparative Perspectives**

Moderator: Dr. Daniela Kalkandjieva

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan Zabaev – *Faculty of Theology, St. Tikhon’s Orthodox University, Moscow*

— Orthodox Christianity in Contemporary Russia: Public Religion Without a Private One (Paper 1)

Yana Kozmina – Research Fellow, *Center for Sociology of Religion, St. Tikhon’s Orthodox University, Moscow*

— Orthodox Christianity in Contemporary Russia: Public Religion Without a Private One (Paper 2)

Mila Begova – *Sofia University* (doctoral student’s presentation)

— “Public Religion” in the Arab-Israeli Conflict

Discussants: Dr. Angeliki Ziaka, Dr. Momchil Metodiev,
Tsvetomira Antonova

Events in the Main Building of Sofia University, the New Conference Hall

Address: 15 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd.

▪ 18.00–19.00 **Public Lecture by Prof. Dr. Dale F. Eickelman, Dartmouth College**

Topic: “Islamism and Governance after the Arab Spring”

▪ 19.00–19.30 *Coffee break*

▪ 19.30–20.30 **Religion, Politics, and the Public Sphere – Debate**

Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Simeon Evstatiev, Sofia University

Participants: Father Alexander Lashkov, St. Trinity Orthodox Church in Sofia; Mr. Nedjmi Dabov, Regional Mufti of Smolyan District; representatives of Christian and Muslim denominations in Bulgaria; Prof. Dr. Dale F. Eickelman, Dartmouth College, and the other members of the team of *Religion and the Public Sphere* Project

— Translation from/to English is provided for the lecture and the public debate.

▪ 20.30 Dinner

Thursday, July 4 Thematic Sessions, PART TWO

Venue: The American Research Center in Sofia (ARCS), 75 Vasil Petleshkov Str.

▪ 10.30–12.30 **Session 4 Genealogy of the Public Sphere:
Historical and Ethnographical Glimpses**

Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivo Hristov

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rossitsa Gradeva, *Bulgarian Academy of Sciences; AUBG*
— Conversion, Apostasy, and Martyrdom in Ottoman Sofia

Dr. Ilia Iliev, *Sofia University*
— Ramadan in a Secular Pomak Village

Desislava Popova, *Sofia University* (doctoral student’s presentation)
— Fatwas and the Public Space in Post-Classical Islam: Taqi al-Din al-Subki (d. 1355)

Emanuil Georgiev, *Sofia University* (doctoral student’s presentation)
The Hesychasm Controversy in Byzantium during the Fourteenth Century

Discussants: Dr. Galina Evstatieva, Dr. Daniela Kalkandjieva
Dr. Angeliki Ziaka, Kiril Vassilev

▪ 12.30–14.00 *Lunch break*

▪ 14.00–15.30 **Session 5 Religion, Law, and Secrecy**

Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Simeon Evstatiev

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivo Hristov, *Plovdiv University*
— Religion, Public Sphere, and Legal System in Bulgaria

Tsvetomira Antonova, *Sofia University* (doctoral student’s presentation)
— Reforms, Church Councils, and Public Contests during the Regime of the Bulgarian Agrarian National Union (1920–1923)

Dr. Momchil Metodiev, Editor in Chief of *Christianity and Culture Magazine*
Publicness and Secrecy: The Bulgarian Orthodox Church and the Archives of the Communist State Security

Discussants: Prof. Dr. Stilian Yotov, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan Zabaev,
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rossitsa Gradeva, Yana Kozmina

- 15.30–16.00 *Coffee break*
- 16.00–18.00 **Session 6** **Religion, Media, and Education**

Moderator: Prof. Dr. Plamen Makariev

Dr. Daniela Kalkandjieva, *Sofia University*
— Religious Education in Bulgaria: Dilemmas and Solutions

Dr. Angeliki Ziaka, *Faculty of Theology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece*
— Public Debates on Religious Education in Greece

Tsvetomira Antonova and Desislava Popova, *Sofia University*
— Presentation of the empirical research on key events and topics carried out within the project under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Anna Krasteva

Discussants: Dr. Galina Evstatieva, Dr. Momchil Metodiev, Kiril Vassilev

- 18.00–18.30 *Coffee break*
Interview of Professor Dale F. Eickelman with Mr. Boyko Vassilev, “Panorama”, Channel 1, Bulgarian National Television

- 18.30–19.30 **Concluding Session 7**

Chair: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Simeon Evstatiev

Prof. Dr. Dale F. Eickelman
— Concluding Observations

General Discussion

- 20:00 Dinner

Friday, July 5 **Farewell and departure**

- 9.00–12.00 Meetings with the participants, media interviews, departures