



The Institute for the Study of
Culture and Christianity

10 years

KNOWLEDGE & FREEDOM

*International Conference on the Occasion of the 10th
Anniversary of The Institute for the Study of Culture and
Christianity*

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Dom omladine Beograda, „Amerikana“ Hall

October 12-13, 2022.



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Београда



The Institute for the Study of Culture and Christianity was established in 2012. The decision to establish the Institute was made in order to advance the activities of the former Christian Cultural Center in the fields of Christianity and culture, primarily in the domains of research and education, following that way the vision of late Professor and Father Radovan Bigović, who established the Center and guided its activities as its president.

The Institute promotes dialogue between Christianity and various aspects of contemporary culture and society. The Institute affirms the values of creativity, critical thinking, inter-cultural, inter-religious and ecumenical dialogue, academic rigor and new insights, based on free research and independent thinking. The Institute also affirms accessible education and the freedom of thought.

To achieve its aims, the Institute organizes seminars, summer academies, lectures, conferences, trainings and workshops. The Institute also organizes exhibitions and publishes books, conference proceedings and other materials relevant to its mission.

<https://culturechristianity.com/>

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Wednesday, October 12

17.00-17.30 Gathering of the participants

17.30-18.00 Opening

Sergej Beuk, Dom omladine Beograda
Danijela Marković, The Institute for the
Study of Culture and Christianity
Davor Džalto, The Institute for the Study of
Culture and Christianity

Keynote Lecture (in English)

Moderator: Davor Džalto

18.00-18.45 *Opening the Ears: What Does it Mean to
Know God?*

Graham Ward, Oxford University

18.45 -19.15 Discussion



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Thursday, October 13

09.30-10.00 Coffee /tea

Panel 1 (in Serbian)

Moderator: Danijela Marković

10.00-10.20 *Empedocles' Integral Knowledge and His Approach to Life and Death*
Sandra Šćepanović, University of Belgrade

10.20-10.40 *The European Ur-Discovery of (Un)Freedom and (Un)Knowledge from the Spiritual Dimension of Otherness*
Chaslav D. Koprivitsa, University of Belgrade

10.40-11.15 Discussion

11.15-12.00 Coffee/tea break

Panel 2 (in Serbian and English)

Moderator: Davor Džalto

- 12.00-12.20 *The Distinction between Knowledge, Faith, and Morality – for the Sake of Freedom*
Michael Hjälms, Sankt Ignatios College,
University College Stockholm
- 12.20-12.40 *Normality and Socialization: A Lacanian Understanding of Freedom*
Aleksandar Fatić, University of Belgrade
- 12.40-13.15 Discussion

Panel 3 (in Serbian)

Moderator: Sandra Šćepanović

- 15.00-15.20 *Meritocracy: The Rise, Contemporary Confrontations and Perspectives*
Boris Begović, University of Belgrade
- 15.20-15.40 *On the (Un)Known: The Inexpressibility of the Aesthetic*
Una Popović, University of Novi Sad
- 15.40-16.15 Discussion
- 16.15-16.30 Coffee/tea break



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Panel 4 (in Serbian)

Moderator: Aleksandar Fatić

- 16.30-16.50 *Three Misconceptions in Economics: Full Employability, Minimal Wages, and Economic Inequality*
Danica Popović, University of Belgrade
- 16.50-17.10 *State, Knowledge and Freedom: Utopia or Cynicism?*
Vladimir Gvozden, University of Novi Sad
- 17.10-17.40 Discussion
- 17.40-18.00 Concluding remarks



About the Participants

Dr. Graham Ward is full professor of theology at Oxford University. He is also an Anglican priest and one of the most influential contemporary Anglican theologians. He authored and edited numerous books including: *Another Kind of Normal: Ethical Life II*, *Christ and Culture*, *Theology and Contemporary Critical Theory*, *Barth, Derrida and the Language of Theology*, *The Blackwell Companion to Postmodern Theology*, *The Postmodern Age: A Theological Reader*.

Dr. Sandra Šćepanović is associate professor of classics at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade. Her research focus is on early Greek thinkers. She also translates philosophical fragments of early Greek philosophers. She authored a book on Empedocles titled *Empedocles: On the Structure of the World and Human Destiny*.

Dr. Chaslav D. Koprivitsa is full professor at the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade. He has published several books and numerous academic papers and essays in the fields of history of philosophy, history of ideas, and political theory, including *The Philosophy of Activism*, *Being and Destiny: Heidegger's Thought between Exemplarity and Temporality*.



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Dr. Michael Hjelm is associate professor and dean of the Department of Eastern Christian Studies at University College Stockholm. His research is focused primarily on the relationship between the church and society. He authored *Liberation of the Ecclesia. The Unfinished Project of Liturgical Theology*.

Dr. Aleksandar Fatić is research professor at the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory of the University of Belgrade. His areas of research include theoretical and applied ethics, political philosophy, and philosophy of psychiatry and psychotherapy.

Dr. Boris Begović is retired full professor of the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade. His areas of professional interest include economic analysis of law, industrial organization, theory of economic growth, theory of economic regulation, protection of competition policies and urban economy.

Dr. Una Popović is associate professor at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad. In her research, Dr Popović focuses primarily on to the sphere of aesthetics and the question of apophaticism in religion and art.



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Dr. Danica Popović is full professor at the Faculty of Economics, University of Belgrade. She is a consultant to the World Bank and the World Trade Organization on the issues of macroeconomic policy and foreign trade liberalization. She is the winner of the “Conquest of Freedom” award given by the “Maja Maršićević-Tasić” foundation.

Dr. Vladimir Gvozden is full professor at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad. He has been researching on contemporary literary theories, contemporary comparative approaches to Serbian literature, travelogues, imagology and various forms of the interdisciplinary study of literature.

Sergej Beuk holds a B.A. in pedagogy, and an M.A. degree in theology and cultural studies. He is the program director at Belgrade Youth Center.

Danijela Marković is chairwoman of The Institute for the Study of Culture and Christianity. She is also a columnist for the RYL portal and co-editor of books *Contemporary Readings of the Grand Inquisitor* and *Contemporary Readings of the Apocalypse*.



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Dr. Davor Džalto is full professor in the Department of Eastern Christianity at University College Stockholm, and president of the Institute for Cultural and Christian Studies. He authored and edited several books, and numerous academic papers and essays in the fields of political theology and philosophy, aesthetics, history and theory of art, and cultural studies.