



21st - 23rd October 2016, Bucharest, Romania

# Religious Education between Radicalism and Tolerance INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



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UNIVERSITY OF  
BUCHAREST  
VIRTUTE ET SAPIENTIA

## Organisers, Partnerships:

University of Vienna and University of Bucharest, Faculty of Orthodox Theology,  
Centre for Studies and Documentation, Society, Law and Religion

## Supporters:

Chamber of Deputies - Romania, Austrian Embassy, State Secretariat for the Religious Affairs - Romania, Ministry  
of Education - Romania,

**Media Partners:** Trinitas TV-Radio, BASILICA - Orthodox Church, TVR - National Television

## PROGRAM

### I. Friday, 21th of October 2016:

**Location: Chamber of Deputies - Romanian Parliament, Bucharest**

"Mihai Viteazul" Conference room; Language in use; Romanian and English (simultaneous translation),

09.00 - 10.00: **Registration**

10.00 - 11.30: **Moderator:** Drd. Ana-Maria **GHEORGHE**, Vice-president of the RAYS

(Romanian Association of Young Scholars) PhD. candidate at the Doctoral School of Political  
Science, University of Bucharest

**Opening Ceremony - under the High Patronage of the President of the Chamber of Deputies**

Welcome - Prof. Dr. Romiță **IUCU**, Rector-Interim of State University of Bucharest, 5 min

**Mr. Florin IORDACHE, The President of the Chamber of Deputies, 10 min**

**Message of the President of Romania - Dr. Sergiu NISTOR, Presidential counsellor -**  
Department of Culture, Religious Affairs and Centenary, 5 min

**Short video-presentation - University of Bucharest and Parliament House, 5 min**

Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research -

Romania, Prof. Dr. (Monica **ANISIE - tbc.**) - State secretary, 10 min

**Details of the conference organizing**

Prof. Dr. Ednan **ASLAN**, University of Vienna, 5 min

Dr. Laurentiu D. **TANASE**, University of Bucharest, Faculty of Orthodox Theology, 5 min

**Institutional speeches and greetings of welcome**

State Secretariat for the Religious Affairs - Romania, Dl. Victor **OPASCHI**, 5 min

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, - Irina **COMAROSCHI**, General Director - communication, public  
diplomacy and culture, 5 min

Mr. Ambassador of Austria to Romania: H.E. Mr. Gerhard **REIWEGER**, 5 min

Representative of the Romanian Orthodox Church, 5 min

Representative of the Jewish Community of Romania (tbc), 5 min

Representative of the Islamic Community of Romania, 5 min

Musical performance - Young Religious Choir: (10 - 15 min.)

Short break - institutional departures (5min.),

**A. Plenary session: 11.30 - 13.00; Religions, education and human values;**

Chairman: Moderator: GREAT BRITAIN, (Farid **PANJWANI**, (London),

**Keynote speakers:**

🇷🇴 ROMANIA: Răzvan **THEODORESCU** member of the Romanian Academy, former  
Minister of Culture and Religious Affairs; "An European space of tolerance"

🇱🇻 LATVIA: Dzintra **ILISKO** (Daugavpils); "Building bridges over troubled waters or learning  
to live together"

🇷🇴 ROMANIA: Pr. Dr. Stefan **BUCHIU**, Dean of the Faculty of Orthodox Theology,  
University of Bucharest: "Religious education, not a dogma in public schools, but an investment  
for future generations moral behavior"

🇦🇹 Discussant and debates: AUSTRIA, Gerhard **LANGER**, (Vienna);

13.00-14.30: Lunch, Swedish buffet - conference hall, Parliament

13.30 - 14.15: Visiting tour - Romanian Parliament

## II. Afternoon: Friday, 21th of October 2016:

### B. Plenary session - *Religion and the pedagogical principles*

14.30-16.30: (3+1) Chairman: Moderator: ROMANIA, Dr. Aurel **MIHAI**, Univ. Bucharest,  
Faculty of Orthodox Theology  
30 min/pers + 30min. discussions

- 14.30 - 15.00 NETHERLANDS: Cok **BAKKER** (Utrecht); *"The unavoidable subjective representation of a religion and the RE-teacher as moral agent"*
- 15.00 - 15.30 GREAT BRITAIN: Farid **PANJWANI** (London); *"Teaching History: the case of Islam and modernist historiography"*
- 15.30 - 16.00 ROMANIA: Dr. Vasile **TIMIS**, Univ. "Babes-Bolyai" Cluj-Napoca, *"Religious education and the challenges of globalization - ecclesial perspectives reflected in educational catechetical-homiletic activities of Religious Denominations"*
- 16.00 - 16.30: Discussant and debates: CYPRUS: Areti **DEMOSTHENOUS** (Nicosia)
- 16.30 - 17.00: *Coffee break*

### C. Plenary session - *Education at school between legal principles and challenges of contemporary society (I)*

17.00-19.45: (4+1) Chairman: Moderator: ROMANIA, Dr. Laurentiu **TĂNASE**, Univ. Bucharest,  
Faculty of Orthodox Theology

#### Keynote speaker:

17.00 - 17.45: AUSTRIA: Gerhard **LANGER** (Vienna); *"Religious Education in Judaism between Fundamentalism and political powerlessness"*

#### Speakers

- 17.45 - 18.15 AUSTRIA: Martin **ROTHGANGEL** (Vienna); *"Anti-Semitism as a Challenge for Religious Education"*
- 18.15 - 18.45 CYPRUS: Areti **DEMOSTHENOUS** (Nicosia); *"Peace Education in Cyprus at a time of Conflicts and Radicalization"*
- 18.45 - 19.15 SPAIN: Juan Ferreiro **GALGUERA** (Coruna); *"Spain: teaching or religion in public school in a Non Confessional (or secular) State. The constitutional principle of cooperation makes the difference of the Spanish legal perspective"*
- 19.15 - 19.45: Discussant and debates: TURKEY: Osman **TAŞTAN** (Ankara)
- 20.00 Dinner - Restaurant of Chamber of Deputies

## III. Saturday, 22th of October 2016 a.m.

Location: University of Bucharest - Faculty of Law, Bd. Mihail Kogălniceanu nr. 36-46, sector 5

### D. Parallel sessions - Young Researchers; Saturday 22th of October

30 min/pers. + 30 min. discussions

- a) Session: 8.00 - 10.00: (4+1): *Religious Radicalism and modern societies*: (Romanian language)  
Chairman: Moderator: ROMANIA, Dr. Valentin **ILIE** Univ. Bucharest,  
Faculty of Orthodox Theology

8.00-8.30; 8.30-9.00; 9.00-9.30; 9.30-10.00,

- 1) ROMANIA, Drd. Daniel **CERGAN**, Univ. "Babes-Bolyai" Cluj-Napoca, Faculty of Orthodox Theology, *"Religious Education in Romanian public schools, from the human rights perspective"*
- 2) ROMANIA: Prof. Drd. Daniela **STAN**, Univ. "Ovidius", Faculty of Orthodox Theology, Constanta, *"Religious education in Dobrogea, an important element of social construction"*
- 3) CRAIOVA, Dr. Ioniță **APOSTOLACHE**, Dr. Adrian George **BOLDIȘOR**, Univ. of Craiova, Faculty of Orthodox Theology, *"The religious and interreligious education in the context of secular challenges. Key issues in Oltenia region"*
- 4) ROMANIA, Mrd. Marius **OBLU**, Bucharest, National Intelligence Academy, *The role of religious education in developing the concept "security culture"*

Discussant and debates: ROMANIA, Dr. Vasile **CRETU**, Univ. Bucharest, Faculty of Orthodox Theology

10.00 - 10.30 *Coffee break*

b) Session: 8.00 - 10.00: (4+1): **Religion and the pedagogical principles** (English language)

Chairman: Moderator: AUSTRIA, Kohki **TOTSUKA**

1) ITALY Sara COLANTONIO (*Sapienza University of Rome, Department of History, Culture, Religions*), "*Crisis of authority and Islamic catechism: an Italian case study*" (*apologies - cancellation*)

- 1) FRANCE, Paris-Sorbonne, CÎRLAN Lucian, "*Religious Education and Laicité in France. From separation to cooperation*"
- 2) ITALY Rossana M. SALERNO, University of Enna studies "Kore". *Women and the Sacred. The Dialogue in the Name of S. Rosalia*"
- 3) GERMANY, Raid al-DAGHISTANI (research assistant at the Zentrum für Islamische Theologie of the University of Münster), "*Rethinking Sufism – Spiritual Education as a Means against Religious Radicalism in Islam*"
- 4) ROMANIA, Cezar DASCALU, Univ. of Bucharest, Faculty of political Sciences, "*Religious education versus Sexual education in Romania. Secularization, Radicalism and Tolerance*"

9.30 - 10.00 Discussant and debates: MOLDOVA: Viorica GORAS-POSTICA (Chisinău)

10.00 - 10.30 *Coffee break*

E. Plenary session : 10.30 - 12.00: (2+1) **Religious education limits and religious radicalism risks**

Chairman: Moderator: Ednan ASLAN, Austria

10.30 - 11.00 DENMARK: Mark SEDGWICK (Aarhus); "*The Traditional Islam movement as counter-radicalism*"

11.00 - 11.30 ISRAEL: Ayman AGBARIA (Haifa); "*Engaging critically with religious authority in Islamic education: A socio-theological perspective on intellectual rigidity*"

11.30 - 12.00 Discussant and debates: AUSTRIA: Martin ROTHGANGEL (Vienna);

12.00 - 12.10 *Short break*

**Keynote speaker: 12.10 - 13.00**

GERMANY: Friedrich SCHWEITZER (Tübingen); *Education for tolerance: Secular or religious?*

13.00- 14.30 *Lunch, Swedish buffet - Senate conference room, University*

#### IV. **Saturday, 22th of October 2016 p.m.**

20 min/pers. (4) + 20' discussions

F. Plenary session - 14.30-16.10: (4+1) **Religious education and pluralism, regional perspective**

Chairman: Moderator: ROMANIA, Dr. Vasile TIMIS (Cluj- Napoca);

14.30 - 14.50 ROMANIA, Dr. Adriana CUPCEA, (Cluj- Napoca); Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities; "*Islam in Dobruja (Romania), interactions between local tradition and transnational influences*"

14.50 - 15.10 ROMANIA, Dr. Liviu VIDICAN-MANCI Univ. "Babes-Bolyai" Cluj-Napoca, Faculty of Orthodox Theology; "*Religious education in the context of religious pluralism in Transylvania; from a diachronic perspective*"

15.10 - 15.30 ROMANIA, Dr. Valentin ILIE, Univ. of Bucharest, Faculty of Orthodox Theology, "*Religion*" as a discipline of study in the public schools: *religious education or spiritual initiation?*"

15.30 - 15.50 ROMANIA, Dr. Constantin Iulian DAMIAN, (Iasi) Univ. Alexandru Ioan CUZA, Faculty of Orthodox Theology, "*History and Philosophy of Religions in Orthodox Theological Schools: An Antidote to Religious Radicalisation?*"

15.50 - 16.10 Discussant and debates: ISRAEL: Ayman AGBARIA (Haifa)

16.10-16.30: *Coffee break*

Plenary session - 16.30-18.30 (4+1); *Teaching religious education in public schools*  
Chairman: Moderator: TURKEY: Nuri DYNÄZ (Istanbul) - Marmara Univ.

**Keynote speaker: 16.30 - 17.15**

**ROMANIA: Dr. Otniel BUNACIU, (Bucharest), professor, Faculty of Baptist Theology, *Learning from the other about living together; a Baptist perspective on religious freedom and reconciliation in the context of contemporary religious challenges***

17.15 - 17.45 MOLDOVA: Viorica GORAS-POSTICA; *"Religious Education in Republic of Moldova; official approaches, problems and successful practices"*

17.45 - 18.15 **ITALY: Mariachiara GIORDA (Bologna - skype, video - recorded); *"The Trojan Horse? Religious education in Italy"***

18.15 - 18.30 Discussant and debates: DENMARK: Mark SEDGWICK (Aarhus)

18.30 - 19.30: *Back to the hotel (by cars); preparing for official dinner;*

19.30: *departure (by cars) from the hotel lobby, for official dinner to Casa Universitarilor - Romanian, folkloric and cultural programme -*

**Under high patronage of Prof. Dr. Mircea DUMITRU, Minister of Education**

20.00 - 23.00: *Official Dinner -*

*Restaurant of University of Bucharest - Casa Universitarilor (University House)*

**V. SUNDAY, morning, 23th of October 2015: *checkout hotel rooms - the luggage will be stored in the special room in the reception of the Hotel Ibis***

**Location: Faculty of Orthodox Theology - Bucharest, conference room - amphitheatre I.G.Coman**

8.00 - 8.45: Short prayer of blessing, from Sunday morning, *Church of "St. Catherine"*, near the Faculty of Orthodox Theology

8.45 - 9.00: Coffee break

**H. Plenary session: 9.00 - 11.30: (2+1), *Muslim Religious education and secular society (I)***

Chairman: Moderator: ROMANIA, Dr. Mircea BOTESCU, (Bucharest),  
Faculty of Sociology and Social Assistance

9.00 - 9.30 ISRAEL: Ayman AGBARIA (Haifa); *"Engaging critically with religious authority in Islamic education: A socio-theological ISRAEL: Ayman perspective on intellectual rigidity"*

9.30 - 10.00 TURKEY: Osman TAŞTAN (Ankara); *"Human Rights and Religious Education through Islamic Legal Theory"*

10.00 - 10.30 FINLAND: Arto KALLIONIEMI (Helsinki); *"Developing Muslim Religious Education and Muslim Teacher Education - an Approach from Finland"*

10.30- 11.00 TURKEY: Nuri DYNÄZ (Istanbul) - Marmara Univ; *"The Importance of Secular State Religious Education Policies for the Sake of Tolerance and Moderate Religiosity - The Case of Turkey"*

11.00 - 11.30: Discussant and debates: NETHERLANDS: Cok BAKKER (Utrecht);  
11.30 - 12.00: *Coffee break*

**I. Plenary session - Special guest: 12.00 - 13.30:**

Chairman: Moderator: CYPRUS: Areti DEMOSTHENOUS (Nicosia);

1. **ROMANIA: Yusuf MURAT - The Great Mufty (Constanta): *Islamic religious education in Romania; it is also possible peaceful coexistence of religions?***

2. **ROMANIA: Mircea DUMITRU, University of Bucharest - Minister of Education *On Toleration, Charity, and the Dialogue between the Religions***

Discussant and debates: GERMANY: Friedrich SCHWEITZER (Tübingen);

**J. The session of the CLOSURE panel of the Conference; conclusions**

Ednan ASLAN; Laurentiu TANASE, Gerhard LANGER (Vienna);

13.30 - 14.00: *Lunch, sandwich*

14.00: *Back to the hotel (by cars); preparing departures*

- Good luck and success!-