

Under the auspices of the
Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies
at the **University of Zagreb**

the
**CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
SCIENCE AND RELIGION**
presents the

PROGRAM

of the
First CePOZiR Conference - 2025

Zagreb, September 24-26, 2025



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by CePOZiR



Logos et scientia

Center for the Study of the Relationship between Science and Religion

Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies
at the University of Zagreb

Jordanovac 110, P.O. box 169, HR-10000 Zagreb,
<https://cepozir.ffrz.hr/>

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CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN SCIENCE AND RELIGION



2025

First CePOZiR Conference

EXPLORING RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

The Relationship between Science and Religion

Religion and Society

Science and Society

Our Distinguished Keynote Lecturers:



Very Revd Prof Dr
Nikolaos Loudovikos

University of Ioannina, Greece
University of Balamand, Lebanon
Institute for Orthodox Christian
Studies, Cambridge, UK



Professor emeritus
Piero Benvenuti

University of Padova, Italy



Revd Dr
Rodney Dennis Holder

The Faraday Institute for
Science and Religion,
Cambridge, UK

CONTACT

cepozir.conference@ffrz.unizg.hr

MORE INFO ON OUR WEBSITE

cepozir.ffrz.hr/cepozir-konferencija

SEPTEMBER 24-26, 2025

ZAGREB, CROATIA



CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SCIENCE AND RELIGION

Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies, University of Zagreb
Jordanovac 110, P.O. box 169, HR-10000 Zagreb



VENUE

University of Zagreb, Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies

Address • Jordanovac 110, HR-10000 Zagreb, Croatia, EU
Hall • Fr. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach SJ (122 seats)

ORGANIZER

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SCIENCE AND RELIGION

at the Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies,
University of Zagreb

MAIN PATRONS



University of Zagreb

**Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies,
University of Zagreb**



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CROATICA
ZAGREBIA



PATRONS

Catholic University of Croatia

Catholic Faculty of Theology, University of Zagreb

Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb

Institute of Philosophy (Zagreb)



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AKADEMSKI.hr, portal Sveučilišta u Zagrebu

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies

Grand Chancellor **R. P. Arturo Sosa Abascal SJ**
Superior General of the Society of Jesus, Rome

Deputy Grand Chancellor **Fr. Sebastian Šujević SJ**
Provincial of the Croatian Province of the Society of Jesus, Zagreb

Dean **Professor Fr. Ivan Šestak SJ**

Center for the Study of the Relationship between Science and Religion

Head **Dr. Petar Tomev Mitrikeski, Assistant Professor**

Deputy Head **Dr. Dan Đaković**

Secretary of the Center **Ante Belić, mag. phil.**

Secretary of the Cabinet **Dora Šajnić, mag. relig.**

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

Honorary President of the Conference **Professor Emeritus Marijan Sunjić**
University of Zagreb, Faculty of Science

Scientific and Program Board (international)

President of The Board **Hrvoj Vančik (Croatia)**

Vice-President of the Board **Petar Tomev Mitrikeski (Croatia)**

Members **Denis Sunko (Croatia), Petra Korać (Croatia), Hrvoje Štefančić (Croatia), Branko Klun (Slovenia), Nenad Polgar (Belgium), Tomislav Kovač (Croatia), Barbara Čuk (Croatia), Michael Fuller (UK), Giandomenico Boffi (Italy), Ivana Karasman Skuhala (Croatia), Filip Grgić (Croatia), Vuko Brigljević (Croatia), Bruno Petrušić (Croatia)**

Organizational Board (local)

President of The Board **Branko Murić**

Vice-President of the Board **Dan Đaković**

Members **Andrej Vidak, don Damir Šehić, Ana Grgić, Ante Belić, Josip Periša, Marta Kranjčec, Dora Šajnić**

Conference Crew (students from either FFRZ¹ or FF²)

Crew Captain **Petra Caput (FFRZ)**

Crew Members **Jana Gašljević Vukobradović (FF), Stan Josip Glavaš (FFRZ), Larisa Kačavenda (FF), Monika Kelemenić (FF), Amedeo Oreški (FFRZ), Domagoj Popović (FFRZ), Branimir Antun Puntarić (FFRZ), Kaja Rubić (FF)**

¹ University of Zagreb, Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies

² University of Zagreb, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

CHAIR OF THE LAUREATE'S LECTURE

Dr. Giandomenico Boffi
Nuovo SEFIR APS

CHAIR OF THE HONORARY LECTURE

Associate Professor Branko Murić
University of Zagreb, Catholic Faculty of Theology

SECTION CHAIRS

The Relationship between Science and Religion

Keynote Lecture One Hrvoje Štefančić

Invited Speaker One Ilche Micevski-Ignat

Invited Speaker Two Bruno Petrušić

Invited Speaker Three Branko Murić

Contributed Presentations Filip Grgić, Dan Đaković, Denis Sunko

Religion and Society

Keynote Lecture Two Hrvoj Vančik

Invited Speaker Four Petra Korać

Invited Speaker Five Tomislav Kovač

Invited Speaker Six Giandomenico Boffi

Contributed Presentations Paul Clemens Cavallin, Kotel Dadon,
Branko Klun

Science and Society

Keynote Lecture Three Vuko Brigljević

Invited Speaker Seven Erkki Vesa Rope Kojonen

Invited Speaker Eight Constantin Stoenescu

Invited Speaker Nine Tereza Obolevich

Contributed Presentations Andrej Vidak, Antun Volenik, Petar Tomev
Mitrikeski

PROGRAM

Tuesday, September 23

Arrival

15:00 – 18:00	Registration
18:00 – 20:00	Welcome Reception

Wednesday, September 24

Working Day One

08:00 – 09:00	Registration continued
09:00 – 09:20	Opening Ceremony
09:20 – 09:50	Ceremonial Academy - Presentation of the Ruder Bošković SJ Award
09:20 – 09:30	Award Ceremony (in Croatian)
09:30 – 09:50	Laureate's Lecture (in English)
09:50 – 10:20	Break One

Section One	The Relationship between Science and Religion
10:20 – 11:20	KEYNOTE LECTURE ONE
10:20 – 11:05	<i>Cosmologia as the Bridge to Reunite Science and Theology</i> Piero Benvenuti
11:05 – 11:20	Discussion
11:20 – 12:00	INVITED SPEAKER ONE
11:20 – 11:50	<i>Philosophical and Scientific Elements in the Byzantine Accounts of Creation</i> Ivan Vasilev Christov (Иван Василев Христов)
11:50 – 12:00	Discussion
12:00 – 13:10	CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS
12:00 – 13:00	Ivana Knežić: The Relationship between the Science <i>Peri Phýseos</i> and Religion in The Early Greek Philosophy
	Luka Popov: The Emergence of the Scientific Method within the Paradigm of Christianity
	Finley Issac Lawson: A Non-Materialist Metaphysical Paradigm at The Interface of Science and Religion
	Marko Grba: Evidence in Science and Evidence in Religion
13:00 – 13:10	Joint Discussion

13:10 – 13:55	Light Lunch
13:55 – 14:35	INVITED SPEAKER TWO
13:55 – 14:25	<i>Re-examining the Compatibility of Evolution and Design Arguments</i> Erkki Vesa Rope Kojonen
14:25 – 14:35	Discussion
14:35 – 15:45	CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS
14:35 – 15:35	Vlatko Smiljanić: Mirko Danijel Bogdanić and Catholic Enlightenment in the Habsburg Monarchy
	Roman Brajša: A Relationship between Science and Religion According to Arnold Benz
	Momir Oljača: Theosis and Individuation: A Link between Christianity and Psychology
	Josipa Nemet³: Order and Contingency – The Fruitfulness of Divine Wisdom
5:35 – 15:45	Joint Discussion
15:45 – 16:00	Break Two
16:00 – 16:40	INVITED SPEAKER THREE
16:00 – 16:30	<i>Science and Religion from the Western and Eastern Christian Perspective</i> Tereza Obolevich
16:30 – 16:40	Discussion
16:40 – 17:35	CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS
16:40 – 17:25	Marijana Bijelić: Science, Truth, and the Victim: A Comparative Analysis of Nietzsche and Girard
	Ilche Micevski-Ignat (Илче Мицевски-Игнат): The Dialogue between Theology and Science as a Sincere Search for Truth. Between Scientific Experiment and Religious Experience
	Petar Tomev Mitrikeski: Faith as an Epistemic Tool
17:25 – 17:35	Joint Discussion
18:00 – 19:30	ZAGREB CITY TOUR⁴

³ This presentation originally belonged to the *Science and Society* section, but it was replaced with a presentation by Kotel Dadon from the *Relationship between Science and Religion* section at his request due to the impossibility of arriving at the proposed time; the Organizer chose and made the change in accordance with the principle of preserving the general structure of the schedule.

⁴ Please see the *Supporting Info* section.

Thursday, September 25

Working Day Two

Section Two	Religion and Society
09:00 - 10:00	KEYNOTE LECTURE TWO
09:00 - 09:45	<i>What society? What science? What religion?</i> Nikolaos Loudovikos (Π. ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΣ ΛΟΥΔΟΒΙΚΟΣ)
09:45 - 10:00	Discussion
10:00 - 10:40	INVITED SPEAKER FOUR
10:00 - 10:30	<i>Are We a Scientific or Fideistic Society?</i> Luciana Dini
10:30 - 10:40	Discussion
10:40 - 11:50	CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS
10:40 - 11:40	Maja Poljak: Rationality of the Act of Faith According to John Henry Newman
	Nikola Vranješ: Acting from Faith and the Scientific-Technological Paradigm Based on the Pastoral Constitution <i>Gaudium et Spes</i>
	Antun Volenik & Andrija Piskač: Living Faith Authentically: between Inner Truth and Unconscious Motives
	Hrvoj Vančik: From Truth to Counterfeit
11:40 - 11:50	Joint Discussion
11:50 - 12:40	Light Lunch
12:40 - 13:20	INVITED SPEAKER FIVE
12:40 - 13:10	<i>Morality as Based on Religion</i> Srećko Kovač
13:10 - 13:20	Discussion
13:20 - 14:45	CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS
13:20 - 14:35	Sava Raitchev Kokoudev (Щони Райчев Кокудев): Comparative Theology and Technology (AI) - A Possible Methodological Approach?
	Mikolaj Martinjak: When Did Salvation Become Digital? Cybergnosticism and the Scientific Reimagining of Religious Transcendence
	Odilon-Gbènoukpo Singbo: Abandoning a Body to Enter Eternity: The Metaphysical Design of Posthumanism
	Ivan Andriyanić: Tradition and Transformation: Modern Vedāntic Responses to Science
	Khaled Meghni: Conceptualizing Islam and Science: Perspectives from University-Educated Individuals in a Muslim Majority Context
14:35 - 14:45	Joint Discussion
14:45 - 15:00	Break Three

15:00 - 15:40	INVITED SPEAKER SIX
15:00 - 15:30	<i>The Concept of Deep Incarnation in the Dialogue between Science and Religion</i> Niels Henrik Gregersen
15:30 - 15:40	Discussion
15:40 - 16:50	CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS
15:40 - 16:40	Ante Belić: Art, Science, and Faith in the Works of Dante Alighieri
	Victoria Campbell: God and the Purpose of Pain
	Kristina Fišter: Contemplative Prayer and Physical Health: A Literature Review
	Gerry Quinn: A Microbiological Hypothesis on the Nature of Healing Soils and Holy Waters
16:40 - 16:50	Joint Discussion
16:50 - 17:05	Break Four

Section Three	Science and Society
17:05 - 18:05	KEYNOTE LECTURE THREE
17:05 - 17:50	<i>The Heavens Declare: Cosmology and Divine Design</i> Rodney Dennis Holder
17:50 - 18:05	Discussion
18:05 - 18:45	INVITED SPEAKER SEVEN
18:05 - 18:35	<i>Paul Feyerabend on Science, Theology, and the Good of Society</i> Nancey Claire Murphy
18:35 - 18:45	Discussion
18:45 - 19:55	CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS
18:45 - 19:45	Kotel Dadon: Religion and Science Facing Artificial Intelligence Challenges
	Denis Sunko: How Humans Are Different Than Animals
	Giandomenico Boffi: Mathematics and Aliens
	Franjo Jović: On Finality and Truthfulness in Open System Behavior
19:45 - 19:55	Joint Discussion
20:00 - 22:00	Conference Dinner

Friday, September 26
Working Day Three & Departure

Section Three	Science and Society
09:00 - 09:40	INVITED SPEAKER EIGHT
09:00 - 09:30	<i>Artificial Intelligence and Christian Humanism</i> Paul Clemens Cavallin
09:30 - 09:40	Discussion

09:40 – 11:05	CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS
09:40 – 10:55	Saša Horvat⁵: Religious Experience at the Crossroads of Neuroscience, Theology, and Philosophy
	Mirko Čorlukić & Dora Novak: Human Behavior and The Mind: A Perspective of Philosophy, Christianity and Cognitive Neuroscience, Can There Be Any Overlap?
	Constantin Stoenescu: Science, Social Order and Religious Values. The Revival of Merton's Thesis
	Katarína Valčová⁶: Created in God's Image, Connected Online: Theological Perspectives on Youth Identity and Relationality in the Age of Social Media
	Branko Klun: From Enframing to Encoding. Phenomenological Reflections on the Nature of Digital Technology
10:55 – 11:05	Joint Discussion
11:05 – 11:20	Break Five
11:20 – 12:00	INVITED SPEAKER NINE
11:20 – 11:50	<i>Contributions of the Benedictine Order to the Development of Experimental Natural Science</i> Boris Kožnjak
11:50 – 12:00	Discussion
12:00 – 13:25	CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS
12:00 – 13:15	Dan Đaković: Science or Wisdom?
	Bruno Petrušić: From Scholasticism to Darwinism
	Michal Valčo⁷: From <i>Scientia</i> to <i>Sapientia</i> : Paradigm, Narrative, and Meaning in Contemporary Knowledge Making
	Arnon Levy: Kitcher and the Scientific Research Agenda
	Darko Polšek: Demarcation Problem in the Age of "Triage Epistemology"
13:15 – 13:25	Joint Discussion
13:25 – 13:55	HONORARY LECTURE UNDER THE AUSPICE OF THE HEAD OF THE CENTER
13:25 – 13:45	<i>The Beginning of the Universe and the Question of Causes: Theological Reflection on the Alternatives to Creatio ex nihilo</i> Krešimir Cerovac
13:45 – 13:55	Discussion
Closure & Departure	
13:55 – 14:10	Closing Ceremony
14:10 – 14:45	Lunch & Departure

⁵Originally, this lecture belonged to the section *The Relationship between Science and Religion*, but due to a last-minute arrival day change, we had to ask the section *Science and Society* to provide an asylum

⁶ibid (asylum 2: *Religion and Society to Science and Society*)

⁷ibid (asylum 3: *The Relationship between Science and Religion to Science and Society*)

SUPPORTING INFO

Around and in the Venue and at the Conference

Parking lot	a commercial parking lot is available at the site
Internet access	free Wi-Fi service is available at the premises
Dress code	business casual (at Ceremonial Academy, preferably, but not mandatory, business formal)

Currency in Croatia

Legal tender in Croatia	EUR (€)
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Welcome Reception, Conference Dinner, Light Lunch, Breaks

Welcome reception	cocktail bar
Conference dinner	get-together over food and wine & beer on the Faculty lawn
Breaks	bottled water, beverages, light refreshment, coffee; also, commercial coffee machines are available at the site
Light lunch	sandwich bar; in general, special diet requests will be met if pre-announced; however, persons with special (i.e. medical) diet needs are encouraged to bring their food if necessary

Zagreb City Tour

Only for foreign guests and participants

City of Zagreb

In case you wanna discover the city	https://www.infozagreb.hr/en/
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CePOZiR would like to thank the Dean and the Board of the Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Sciences for their comprehensive support. Special thanks also go to the patrons and sponsors of the Conference, and to the media that follow the event. Finally, the Head of the Center expresses his deep gratitude to his colleagues at the Center and to the men and women of the Conference Boards.