

The workshop seeks to explore strategies and practices for securing absolution of sins in the Eastern Orthodox world during the early modern and modern periods. Our goal is to move beyond doctrinal and canonical precepts, in order to examine the actual ritual practices of the clergy, as well as the agency and strategies employed by believers. Rather than tracing the history of the rite of confession, we focus on case studies, emphasize praxis over doctrine, and aim to highlight the diverse ritual and strategic aspects of securing absolution.

THIS EVENT IS JOINTLY ORGANIZED BY:

The “Iorgu Iordan – Al. Rosetti” Institute of Linguistics, Bucharest, Romania

The “ORTHPOL – Orthodoxies and Politics: The Religious Reforms of Mid-17th Century in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe” project, funded by the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (Grant agreement No. 950287)

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Cover: Georgios Klontzas – Icon depicting The Second Coming (detail) – The Hellenic Institute of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Studies in Venice. Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Last_Judgment_%28Klontzas%29.



ORTHPOL WORKSHOP

FORGIVENESS (PLEASE?)

Strategies and Practices of Absolution in Eastern Orthodoxy in the Early Modern and Modern Periods

BUCHAREST, 9-10 OCTOBER 2025

“Iorgu Iordan – Al. Rosetti” Institute of Linguistics
(Casa Academiei, Calea 13 Septembrie 13)



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PROGRAMME

Thursday, October 9

09:30–10:00	Welcome and Introduction
10:00–13:15	FIRST PANEL (Chair: Nikolaos Chrissidis, Ovidiu Olar) Stamatis Zochios <i>The Fate of Souls: Witnessing the Intermediate State and the Transformative Power of Prayer in Orthodox Visionary Narratives</i> Emanuela Timotin <i>Forgiveness through Reading Apocrypha in Orthodox Christianity (16th–18th Centuries)</i>
11:30–11:45	Break Nikolaos Chrissidis <i>Scenarios of Forgiveness: Synchorochartia in Eastern Orthodoxy</i> Octavian-Adrian Negoită <i>The Grand Theologian Georgios Koressios on Purgatory and Forgiveness of Sins</i>
13:15–14:15	Lunch Break
14:15–16:45	SECOND PANEL (Chair: Emanuela Timotin) Anna Ohanjayan <i>Sin and Mercy: Simple Believers and Discourse over “Correct” Absolution in the Seventeenth-Century Armenian Constantinople</i> Illia Kovalenko <i>What if the Priest is out of Reach? Strategies of Absolution in Popular Religious Literature. The Case of Agapios Landos</i>
15:45–16:00	Break Stauros Grimanis <i>Preaching Practices and Techniques / Guidelines of Repentance: The Case of a Greek Orthodox Bishop in Venice, 16th–17th Century</i>
16:45–17:00	Break
17:00–18:00	KEYNOTE SPEECH (Introduction: Nikolaos Chrissidis) Nadieszda Kizenko <i>“Let Me Count the Ways”: The Varieties of Absolution Across Orthodox Traditions</i>
19:30	Dinner for Workshop Presenters

Friday, October 10

09:30–12:45	THIRD PANEL (Chair: Milorad Kapetanović) Bernard Heyberger <i>Mimicry and Competition: Confession among the Rūms of Antioch before the Split of 1724</i> Vera Tchentsova <i>Appealing to the Dead: The Head and Hand of the First Known Metropolitan of Korçe as Instruments of Forgiveness</i>
11:00–11:15	Break Laurent Tatarenko <i>The Regime of Exception and Forgiveness: Absolutions and Dispensations for Clerics of the Greek Rite in Southern Italy during the post-Tridentine Period</i> Mirjam Mencej <i>Another Perspective: The Dead Seeking Forgiveness from the Living</i>
12:45–14:00	Lunch Break
14:00–15:30	FOURTH PANEL (Chair: Vera Tchentsova) Mihail Qaramah <i>Penitential Prayers and Rites in Romanian Euchologia (16th–18th Centuries): A Historical and Liturgical Analysis</i> Ovidiu Olar <i>A Robber’s Road to Paradise: An Early Eighteenth-Century Tale of Redemption</i>
15:30–16:00	Break
16:00–17:00	CONCLUDING SESSION All participants (Chair: Bernard Heyberger)

PARTICIPANT AFFILIATIONS

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