

LOCEOC - THE LOUVAIN CENTRE FOR EASTERN AND ORIENTAL CHRISTIANITY

LOCEOC consists of professors of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies with expertise in the fields of Eastern Christianity.

The first objective of the Louvain Centre for Eastern and Oriental Christianity, established at the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies of the Catholic University of Leuven, is to promote the study of Eastern Christianity from a theological, historical, and social perspective. It thus connects to an old Leuven tradition of Syriac, Coptic, and Armenian studies. Its second objective is to bring the current developments within the world of Eastern Christianity to the attention of a wider public.

Contact Us

Prof. Dr. Joseph Verheyden
Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies
Sint-Michielsstraat 4 bus 3101
B-3000 Leuven

Phone: +32 16 32 38 23
Email: jos.verheyden@kuleuven.be
Web: https://theo.kuleuven.be/en/research/centres/centr_loceoc

THE HOPE OF COMMUNION: FROM 1920 TO 2020

16 & 17 DECEMBER, 2020



CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN CHURCHES & LOUVAIN CENTRE FOR EASTERN AND ORIENTAL CHRISTIANITY



cec
conference of european churches

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Overview of the Event

Description

The Conference of European Churches, together with the Louvain Centre for Eastern and Oriental Christianity (LOCEOC) are hosting this online conference.

Distinguished speakers have been invited from across Europe and North America to bring into focus the two landmark ecumenical texts from 1920, namely The Patriarchal Encyclical Letter to the Churches of Christ Everywhere and The Appeal to all Christian People issued by the Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops.

The conference will explore the expectations for unity reflected in these texts, examine their relationship to the subsequent ecumenical developments, and address the question of what the hope of communion means for relations between the churches today.

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Programme - 16 December

- Greetings:** **Conference of European Churches Vice-Presidents**
- 17:00-17:10 **Rt. Rev. Dr. Guli Francis-Dehqani**
Church of England
- H.E. Metropolitan Cleopas of Sweden and All Scandinavia**
Ecumenical Patriarchate
- Greetings:** **The Louvain Centre for Eastern and Oriental Christianity (LOCEOC)**
- 17:10-17:20 **Prof. Joseph Verheyden**
Coordinator of LOCEOC
- Session 1:** **1920: Annus Mirabilis? 'Unto the Churches of Christ Everywhere,' and 'Appeal to All Christian People'**
Moderator: Dr. Jørgen Skov Sørensen, General Secretary, CEC
- 17:20-17:40 **The 1920 Encyclical and the Self-Understanding of the World Council of Churches**
Rev. Dr. Odair Pedroso Mateus, World Council of Churches
- 17:40-18:00 **The Lambeth Appeal and the Appeal of Britain**
Rev. Canon Prof. Mark D. Chapman, University of Oxford/Ripon College
- 18:00-18:20 **The Contribution and Ecumenical Vision of Metropolitan Germanos Strenopoulos and Professor Hamilcar Alivizatos for a Koinonia of Churches**
Prof. Stylianos Tsompanidis, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
- 18:20-19:30 **Discussion**

Programme - 17 December

- Session 2:** **Hopes Fulfilled, Deferred and Re-Directed: Changing Ecumenical Priorities 1920–2000**
Moderator: Dr. Viorel Coman, Post-doctoral Researcher, KU Leuven
- 11:00-11:20 **The 1920 Synodal Encyclical of Constantinople: The Vision for the Church's Mission in the World**
Ms. Natallia Vasilevich, Council of Christian Churches in Germany
- 11:20-11:40 **Developing a Roman Catholic View on Unity: From the Malines Conversations to Vatican II**
Prof. Peter De Mey, KU Leuven
- 11:40-12:00 **Communion and Context: Discerning Koinonia on the Ground**
Dr. Andrew Pierce, Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin
- 12:00-13:00 **Discussion**
- Session 3:** **Signs of Hope, Models of Unity: The Ecumenical Landscape Today**
Moderator: Ms. Katerina Pekridou, Executive Secretary, CEC
- 14:30-14:50 **The Challenges to the Goal of Full Visible Unity, and the Shift from Organic Unity to Reconciled Diversity**
Prof. Michael Root, Catholic University of America
- 14:50-15:10 **Visible Unity in Reconciled Diversity? How to Continue the Mission of Charta Oecumenica**
Prof. Friederike Nüssel, Heidelberg University
- 15:10-15:30 **Visible unity: Still our hope?**
Rev. Canon Dr. Jeremy Worthen, Church of England
- 15:30-16:30 **Discussion**
- Closing:** **Reflections on the Conference**
- 17:00-17:15 **H.E. Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, Ecumenical Patriarchate**
- Conclusion**
- 17:15 *Prof. Peter De Mey, LOCEOC, KU Leuven*

Rt. Rev. Dr. Guli Francis-Dehqani

Gulnar (Guli) Francis-Dehqani was born and raised in Iran before moving to England in 1980 following the events of the Islamic Revolution.

She graduated from Nottingham University with a degree in Music before working for the BBC for several years, first at World Service Radio and later in the religious department of domestic radio. She went on to obtain an MA and PhD from Bristol University's Theology and Religious Studies department and was ordained in 1998.

She has written and spoken on a variety of subjects including in the areas of religious feminism and interfaith studies. Guli has worked as a parish priest, educational chaplain and diocesan curate training officer before becoming Bishop of Loughborough in 2017.

She has been vice-president of CEC since 2018.

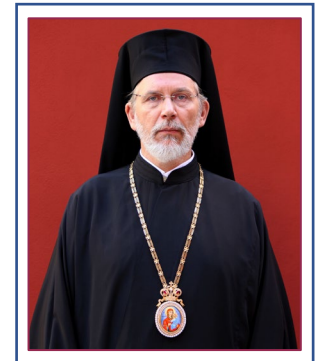


H.E. Metropolitan Cleopas of Sweden and All Scandinavia

His Eminence Metropolitan Cleopas of Sweden and All Scandinavia, Exarch of the Northern Lands (born Athens, 1966) studied Theology at the Universities of Athens, Thessaloniki, Durham (England), Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts, Harvard Divinity School, and Boston University. He was ordained a Deacon and Presbyter by Metropolitan Cleopas of Thessalotis. He served as a clergyman in the Metropolis of Thessalotis, as well as the Archdioceses of Thyateira and America, as well as a university professor at Holy Cross, Queens College, and the University of Massachusetts.

Ten of his studies have been published in Greek and English, as well as numerous papers in theological journals in Greece and abroad.

He was elected Metropolitan of Sweden on May 5, 2014 and ordained to the episcopacy by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on May 21, 2014. He has been vice-president of CEC since 2018.



Prof. Joseph Verheyden

Joseph Verheyden is Professor of New Testament Studies at the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies at the KU Leuven. He studied Religion (MA), Philosophy (MA), Christian Oriental Cultures and Languages (MA), Arabic studies (BA), History and Theology (STD) at the KU Leuven. He received his D. Theol. in 1987.



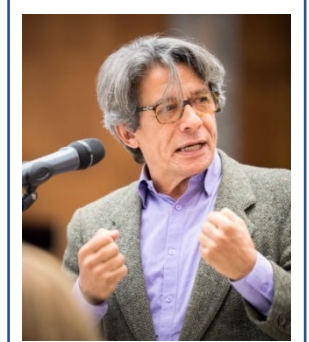
Currently, he is the Director of the Leuven Centre for the Study of the Gospels (LCSG), of Polemikos (Centre for the Study of Religious Polemics), and of the Louvain Centre of Eastern and Oriental Christianity (LOCEOC).

He is the editor-in-chief of the *Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses* (ETL) and *The Journal of Eastern Christian Studies* (JECS) and of the series *Bibliotheca Ephemeridum Theologicarum Lovaniensium* (BETL), *Biblical Tools and Studies* (BiTS), and *Eastern Christian Studies* (ECS). He is a member of the editorial or advisory board of ten other journals and series.

He is co-coordinator of several long-term research projects on the study of the gospels, the reception of the New Testament in the early Church, epigraphy, and NT studies. He has published widely on issues related to gospel studies, the reception of the Bible in the Church, apocryphal literature, and early Christian literature.

Rev. Dr. Odair Pedroso Mateus

Odair Pedroso Mateus is interim deputy General Secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC), Director of the WCC Commission on Faith and Order, and lecturer on Ecumenical Theology at the WCC Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, Switzerland.



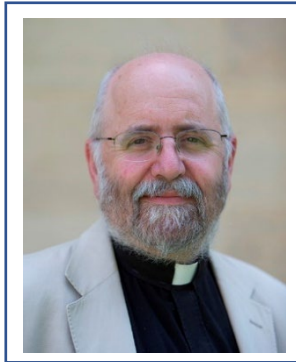
*Photo credit:
Albin Hillert/WCC*

Rev. Canon Prof. Mark Chapman

Mark Chapman is Professor of the History of Modern Theology at the University of Oxford and vice-principal of Ripon College, Cuddesdon, the largest seminary in the Church of England.

He has written widely on all aspects of modern church history and theology. Among his many books are *The Fantasy of Reunion: Anglicans, Catholics and Ecumenism, 1833-1882* (2014), *Theology at War and Peace* (2017) and *Anglican Theology* (2012).

He is an Anglican priest and a member of the Church of England's General Synod, its Council for Christian Unity and is co-chair of the Meissen Theological Conference, which promotes ecumenism between the Church of England and the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD).



Prof. Stylianos Tsompanidis

Stylianos Tsompanidis is Professor of The Ecumenical Movement: History & Theological Dialogues at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH). He specialises in ecumenical ecclesiology and ecumenical social ethics. He studied theology at Thessaloniki and Heidelberg, Germany.

In 1996 he was awarded a PhD from the AUTH Faculty of Theology for his thesis on Liturgy after the Liturgy. The contribution of the Orthodox Church and Theology in the common witness of Christians for justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

He is a deputy member of the Synodical Committee for Inter-Orthodox and Inter-Christian Relations and a member of the Environmental Council of AUTH. On behalf of the Church of Greece, he participated at the 10th WCC Assembly in Busan, South Korea.

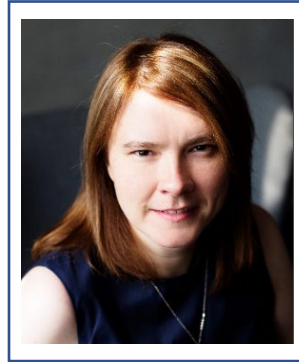
His monographs include: *Ecumenical Portraits. Ecclesiological and socio-ethical approaches*, (2018); *The ecclesiological challenge after the Holy and the Great Council of the Orthodox Church, Ostracon*, (2018).



Ms. Natallia Vasilevich

Natallia Vasilevich is an Orthodox theologian and political scientist from Belarus.

Currently she lives in Germany, where she is completing her PhD dissertation on the social doctrine of the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church at the University of Bonn. Natallia is the Director of Centre Ecumena, a Minsk-based NGO. She is a member of the CEC Thematic Group on Ecclesiology & Mission representing the Council of Christian Churches in Germany (ACK).



Prof. Peter De Mey

Peter De Mey is Professor of Roman-Catholic Ecclesiology and Ecumenism at the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, KU Leuven.

He publishes regularly in periodicals and collective volumes about the development of the Catholic view on ecumenism prior to Vatican II, the redaction history and interpretation of the documents of Vatican II, post-conciliar Roman Catholic ecclesiology and ecclesiological themes in the bilateral and multilateral ecumenical dialogue.



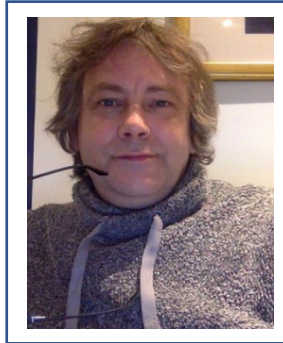
He is the founding chair of the Vatican II Studies group (2012-2016) of the American Academy of Religion. During 2004-2010, he was secretary and then president of Societas Oecumenica, the European Society for Ecumenical Research.

Since 2010 he is the president of the National Commission for Ecumenism of the Catholic Church in Belgium.

Dr. Andrew Pierce

Andrew Pierce is an Assistant Professor in Ecumenics. A former Head of the Irish School of Ecumenics in the School of Religion, Trinity College Dublin.

An Irish Anglican, his research has focused on the Catholic Modernist Crisis and - more recently - on the experience of place in theologies of nature and grace.



He has served as a committee member and president of Societas Oecumenica, the European Society for Ecumenical Research, and between 2009 and 2019 he was a consultant to, and member of, the Inter-Anglican Standing Commission on Unity, Faith and Order (IASCUFO).

Prof. Michael Root

Michael Root is Professor of Systematic Theology at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, USA.

He earlier taught at various Lutheran seminaries in the United States and served ten years as a Research Professor at the Institute for Ecumenical Research in Strasbourg, France.

He was received in the Catholic Church in 2010.

He served as a Lutheran on ecumenical dialogues with Methodists, Anglicans, and Catholics and was on the drafting team for The Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification and for Called the Common Mission, the agreement that led to full communion between the Episcopal Church USA and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

As a Catholic he has served on the USA Catholic-Lutheran dialogue.



Prof. Friederike Nüssel

Friederike Nüssel is Full Professor of Systematic Theology and Director of the Ecumenical Institute at Heidelberg University since 2006.

She was born in Heidelberg, Germany, and studied theology at Tübingen, Göttingen, London and Munich.

She completed her dissertation under the supervision of Wolfhart Pannenberg in Munich, received the doctoral degree in 1994, and did her habilitation in 1998.

In 2001, she was appointed full professor of Systematic Theology and Director of the Ecumenical Institute of the Protestant Faculty in Münster.

She was a member of the Churches in Dialogue Commission of CEC and served also in various other ecumenical dialogue groups.



Rev. Canon Dr. Jeremy Worthen

Jeremy Worthen was ordained as a priest in the Church of England after studying at Cambridge, Toronto (where he completed his Ph.D. at the Centre for Medieval Studies) and Oxford.

He was Director of Studies and then Principal at the South East Institute for Theological Education, before becoming Secretary for Ecumenical Relations and Theology at the Church of England's Council for Christian Unity.

He has recently taken up a parish role in the Diocese of Canterbury and is a member of the CEC Thematic Group on Ecclesiology & Mission.

His publications include: *The Internal Foe: Judaism and Anti-Judaism in the Shaping of Christian Theology* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2009); *Responding to God's Call: Christian Formation Today* (Canterbury Press, 2012); *After Brexit? European Unity and the Unity of European Churches*, co-edited with Matthias Grebe (Evangelische Verlagsanstalt, 2019).





CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN CHURCHES

We are a fellowship of churches bringing together 114 churches from Orthodox, Protestant, and Anglican traditions from all over Europe for dialogue, advocacy, and joint action.

Together we strengthen our common witness, act in service to Europe and the world, promote peace, and work for the unity of the Church.

A network of National Councils of Churches keeps us connected to national and regional concerns and Organisations in Partnership develop our expertise in a number of areas, including diaconia, migration and refugee issues, and women and youth in the churches.

The Conference of European Churches emerged as a peacebuilding effort in 1959, building bridges between the East and the West during the Cold War. This original mission carries us forward today as we continue to work for a humane, social, and sustainable Europe at peace with itself and its neighbours.

Contact Us

Rue Joseph II, 174
1000 Brussels

Phone: +32 (0)2 230 17 32

Email: cec@cec-kek.be

Web: www.ceceurope.org