



**SR21**

European Research Network

Science-Religion Interaction in the 21st Century

Project Coordinator: Dr. Argyris Nicolaidis • e-mail: sr21admin@auth.gr  
 phone: +30 2310 998143 • fax: +30 2310 998128 http://SR21.physics.auth.gr

*The relevance of a Theology, advanced by Gregory Palamas in the 14th century, for a reconstruction of the modern scientific knowledge, will be examined in one-day sessions on*

***“Saint Gregory Palamas and the research for a new Epistemology”***

*to be held in Venice and Thessaloniki, and organized by the European Research Network “Science-Religion Interaction in the 21st Century”.*

*The Venice event will take place on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February, at the Auditorium Santa Margherita (University Ca’ Foscari), while the Thessaloniki event will take place on the 24th of February at the Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art*

*Sponsored by*

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*In the 14th century there was a strongly animated theological debate between Saint Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessaloniki and later canonized Saint of the Orthodox Church, and Varlaam, a Calabrian monk. Varlaam suggested that there is no direct way to approach God, leading to the inaccessibility of God. Palamas suggested a highly significant distinction between the essence of God and the energies of God. While the essence of God remains hermetically unknown to us, we can partake to the uncreated energies of God, thus leading to communion with God, and to what is known in Theology as "theosis".*

*The work of Palamas is of great relevance, going beyond Theology. The priority of energy over essence resonates with the achievements of Modern Science of the 20th century. Furthermore the emphasis on the energy-act opens an original way to reassess in an integrated and coherent way logic, analysis, ethics, and provides the elements of a new epistemology.*

*The above issues will be presented and debated in the event. The double event coincides with the translation of the collected works of Saint Gregory Palamas from Greek into Italian by Prof. Ettore Perrella (the three volumes appeared in the Editions Bompiani).*

#### *Venice Event*

*The session in Venice will be chaired by Prof. Luigi Vero Tarca (Faculty of Philosophy, Ca Foscari University).*

*Morning session starts at 09:30*

*Prof. Argyris Nicolaidis (Physics Department, University of Thessaloniki), coordinator of the Network;  
Short presentation of the European Research Network*

*Metropolitan of Nafpaktos Ierotheos:  
"Hesychasm and the knowledge of God"*

*p. Giuseppe Pirola S.J.:  
"Il contributo di Palamas alla riflessione epistemologica su un'etica della relazione interpersonale"*

*A lunch break is scheduled at 12:30*

*Evening session starts at 14:30*

*Prof. Marios Begzos (Faculty of Theology, University of Athens):  
"The priority of energy in Gregory Palamas and Contemporary Physics"*

*Prof. Natalino Valentini (Faculty of Theology, University of Urbino):  
"Gregorio Palamas e il pensiero russo. Dalla tradizione esicasta alla filosofia del Nome"*

*Prof. Ettore Perrella:  
"Verso un'epistemologia triadica"*

*A round table discussion will conclude the event.*

*The translation from Greek to Italian (and inversely) will be assured by Dr. Meletis Meletiadis*