

In cooperation with Charles University Centre for Excellence:
ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORTHODOX RESEARCH GROUP
CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

30 NOVEMBER-2 DECEMBER 2018 PRAGUE

Welcome to the Meeting of St. John Chrysostom Orthodox Research Group in Prague

Welcome to the Conference and Meeting of St. John Chrysostom Orthodox Research Group in Prague, November 30-December 2.

It's an exciting time for our theological research group! We are delighted to bring Theology graduates together to provide a quality environment for enabling to continue theological research in an academic environment, pursuing it not as a lonely endeavour but in a spirit of conciliarity or *sobornicity*.

We are very thankful to Dr Ivana Noble and her team who have provided such an inspiring opportunity for our group to organise our first group meeting in such a beautiful city like Prague.

The primary goal of our meeting is to build a dedicated research team involved in a joint research project. *Deo volente* we hope to outline our provisional research plan for the nearest future. We are open to any new ideas and projects from your side in this regard.

At the moment the general areas of our research group are the major topics of Dogmatic Theology, *viz.* Creation, Incarnation, Economy of Salvation, God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, Revelation *etc.* The focus of our current meeting in Prague is the Economy of Salvation or 'Understanding Orthodox Spiritual Life' with an emphasis on Pneumatology, *viz.* the relation between the human spirit and the Holy Spirit.

The brainstorming of the group research plan is scheduled after the Liturgy on Sunday December 2. Sunday afternoon will also be the time to toss into the pot any of your suggestions regarding the further group activity including pilgrimages and study retreats.

Your Arrival to Prague

You can get to the monastery from the airport either by Uber, Taxify or taxi or by public transport.

Uber or Taxify

Both Uber and Taxify services are available in Prague. If you are a user of any of these applications in your home country and prefer to travel this way (cheaper than a taxi, but more expensive than public transport), then place your own order via on smartphone once you get into the arrivals hall and instruct them that you need to get to Husova 8.

Public transport

Another possibility is to use public transport services. A ticket of 32 Kc is valid for 90 minutes since stamping it on any city bus, tram or metro. Changing from one transport service to another is permitted, no need to stamp the ticket again. Tickets can be purchased from vending machines in the bus stop in front of arrivals hall or at specialised ticket offices inside the arrival halls. Travelling without a ticket is risky, ticket controls are frequent, fines are high, and the procedure is time-consuming.

To get from the airport to the Dominican Monastery by public transport you need to take bus 119 to final stop *Nadrazi Veleslavin*. At the airport, there is a bus station in front of each terminal. Then you get onto the metro line, direction *Skalka*. You get off at metro stop *Mustek*. There are two exits from the metro station *Mustek*; please make sure to follow the one towards *Mustek, ul 28. Rijna* and not the one towards *Vaclavske Namesti/Muzeum*. From there, you can walk to the Dominican Monastery, which is located on 8 Husova Street.

To get from the airport directly to the conference venue, please follow the same instructions as above, but you should then expect a slightly longer walk to the conference venue at 9 Cerna Street.

More details on Prague public transport is available at www.dpp.cz, where you can select the English version of the site. For better orientation on public transport services from the airport, we recommend that you check in advance the official Prague airport website www.prg.aero

Taxi

Taxi rates usually vary between 550 CZK and 650 CZK from the airport to the event venue, depending on the taxi operator. *Taxi Praha* is readily available in front of the arrival halls at *Vaclav Havel* airport; dispatchers can organise for you the car with an English speaking driver accepting credit card or Euro. You need to specify the preferred payment method before the departure.

You can place reservations at Taxi Praha +420 220 414 414 or better use the dispatch services in the arrival halls at both airport terminals.

Money exchange

The current exchange rates are approx. 22 CZK/ 1 USD; 26 CZK/ 1 EUR; 30CZK/ 1 GBP. You can exchange money at the airport (arrival halls). However, the rates & commissions might not be very convenient. Alternatively, you can withdraw cash from any ATM in the arrival hall, as long as your card/ bank allows it. Please contact your bank before departure for more details.

Paying with EUR (not USD or GBP) for a taxi is also possible, but needs to be checked in advance with the driver. The rest (if needed) is usually paid in CZK at the service provider's preferred exchange rate. Payment by international credit cards is widely accepted with larger service providers, but we advise you to check with your driver in advance. Shared-economy transportation (Taxify/ Uber) should work as you are used to, as long as you have an active account, connected to your card.

A few useful words

Many Czechs in Prague have a good grasp of English, but knowing some basic Czech will be helpful. While it is always polite to say '*Dobry den*' (meaning 'Good day'), it is more so to say your 'please' and 'thank you'. '*Prosim*' [proseem], which means please, and '*Dekuji*' [dyekwee] which means thank you, are two words that are good to know and use. Other than these, perhaps the most useful phrase one can learn, is '*nerozumim cesky*' [nero-zoo-meem tchesky] or '*mluvite anglicky?*' [mloo-vee-the an-glits-kee?] which mean 'I don't understand Czech' and 'Do you speak English?' respectively.

Accommodation at Dominican Monastery 8 Husova Street



The group members who requested the organising team to arrange for accommodation will be staying at the Dominican Monastery in Prague, located at 8 Husova Street, 110 00 (<https://hostel.op.cz>). This location is within walking distance from the main conference venue and close to metro station *Narodni Trida* (yellow line) and *Mustek* (green line). The Monastery provides rooms with multiple beds & bathroom. While there is no breakfast included/ served, a shared kitchen is located on the same floor for all accommodated guests. All rooms are on the second floor, and there is no elevator (please consider how much luggage you take along!).

The Monastery has an accommodation capacity of 8 rooms, 5 of which will be used by our research group. The rooming list is managed by the conference organisers, not by monastery reception. The organisers have paid the 50% deposit for accommodation. All guests are to settle their accommodation costs upon arrival.

The check-in time is 2 pm – 6:30 pm. Later arrivals need to inform the organisers in advance. Check-out time is 10:00 am. Upon check-out, room keys are to be returned to reception or left in the drop-off box at reception. Do not leave the keys in your rooms. Luggage storage is not available during the weekend.

The entire Monastery area is smoke-free. Guests are also kindly asked to respect the need for tranquillity and recollection of the other accommodated guests.

Meeting the Conference Team

The conference is organised by the Orthodox Research Group of St. John Chrysostom, in cooperation with the Charles University Centre of Excellence: Theological Anthropology in Ecumenical Perspective – UNCE No. 204052 (HUM/012).

The conference will take place at the Protestant Theological Faculty of Charles University, Prague, located at 9 Cerna Street, Prague 1 (<https://web.etf.cuni.cz/>).

9 Cerna Street is the main conference venue for all working sessions. On Friday evening, however, all conference participants are kindly invited to join in icon exhibition at Jabok College Library, 1538/8 Salmovská, 120 00 Prague 2 (<https://www.jabok.cz>), followed by a public lecture by Dr Ivana Noble and Vespers at the same venue.

The Ecumenical Institute of the Protestant Theological Faculty of Charles University

The Ecumenical Institute was founded in January 1956 as part of the Department of Systematic Theology under the direction of Josef Lukl Hromádka for the study of ecumenical questions and the organisation of inter-church relations both at home and abroad. After 1989, under the direction of Prof. Pavel Filipi, professor of practical theology, the Ecumenical Institute was linked to the Department of Practical Theology.

Since 2016 the Ecumenical Institute has been led by Prof. Ivana Noble as a self-standing institute. The Ecumenical Institute of the Protestant Theological Faculty of Charles University concentrates on research into theology, spirituality and missiology, as these have been formed in confrontation as well as in dialogue between various Christian churches, and in modern times with secular and post-secular societies.

Evening at Jabok College Library on Friday

On Friday 5.15 pm we are invited by Dr. Ivana Noble to visit her icon exhibition at JABOK College The visit will be followed by Ivana's talk "Can Icons be painted in a Western Key".

In this lecture Ivana is going to explore how images can testify to our participation in God, and how the borders between icon and idol inform Christian art today. Taking the position of an engaged observer, Ivana will enter into conversation with the modern and the current Orthodox theologians writing on iconology, such as Pavel Florensky, Leonid Ouspensky, Paul Evdokimov, and also Richard Schneider and Assaad Kattan. Working from her own experience of making biblical lithographs, she will reflect on the themes taken from Orthodox iconology, such as the relation of the creatures to the uncreated, the task of the icon writer, and the rules regarding what can and what cannot be depicted, and those about light, space, composition, figures, colours. In conclusion Ivana will ask in what sense people engaged in Christian art in various Orthodox and Western contexts can help each other interpret their task and the tradition they together inherit to help them in it.

Guided tour on Russian Orthodox Emigrants in Prague in 1920s on Saturday

On Saturday at 2.30 pm a guided tour through places inhabited by Russian Orthodox emigrants in 1920s will take place, led by Dr. Kateřina Kočandrlé Bauerová, followed by the vespers in one of the local churches. The group will depart from the main conference venue.



Sunday Liturgy and Orthodox Research Group Meeting

On Sunday starting from 9.30 am we will gather for the liturgy at the Orthodox Cathedral of Saints Cyril and Methodius, 9a Resslova Street, Prague 2 (www.katedrala.info). The service will be celebrated by Father Vaclav Jezek. After the liturgy we will have a meal together, followed by the brainstorming of the group research plan and further activities.

Orthodox Cathedral of Saints Cyril and Methodius

The Ss. Cyril and Methodius Cathedral in Prague is the principal church in the Metropolitan Council of the Czech Republic. The existing structure had its origins as a Roman Catholic church built in the eighteenth century (1730-1736). As this major church has initially been consecrated to St Charles Borromeo, the frescoes inside depict scenes from the legend of St Charles. The church had served the Czechoslovak Orthodox Church since 1935 when it became the seat of Orthodox Bishop Gorazd. The new holders had to adapt the temple space to Orthodox liturgical tradition. Numerous icons in the temple ship come from the Russian painter Mikhail Vasnetsov or the renowned builder of the Czech the Orthodox temples and the iconographer of the Archimandrite Andrey (Kolomacke). The temple was consecrated to the Slavic Apostles and teachers Ss. Cyril and Methodius. From its consecration, the cathedral has been linked by the Prague press to its Byzantine missionary past and to Ss. Cyril and Methodius. It was noted that saint Methodius had been there, presiding over worship, and had baptised the first Czech Duke Borivoj and his wife according to the Eastern Church rite. In 1951 The Orthodox Church achieved legal autonomy, and St Cyril and Methodius became a Metropolitan church. Services are also held in Church Slavonic.



Prague sightseeing

Should your flight schedule allow you some time to explore Prague, don't miss the chance to do it. The historic city is a genuine architectural jewel and is listed as UNESCO World Heritage. To find out what to visit while in Prague, please consult the Prague information server at www.prague.eu. If you want a "private" guided tour, then you can download the Smart Guide application (<https://smart-guide.org/>) on your phone and follow the instructions.

Meals

The closest supermarket from the monastery & conference venue is Tesco, located at the underground level of *Narodni* shopping mall, 63/26 Národní, Praha 1 (<https://itesco.cz/prodejny/obchody-tesco/my-narodni/>). The supermarket is open daily from 7 am to 9 pm, except for Sunday, when it only opens at 8 am.

Within walking distance, there are many restaurants offering breakfast, lunch and dinner.

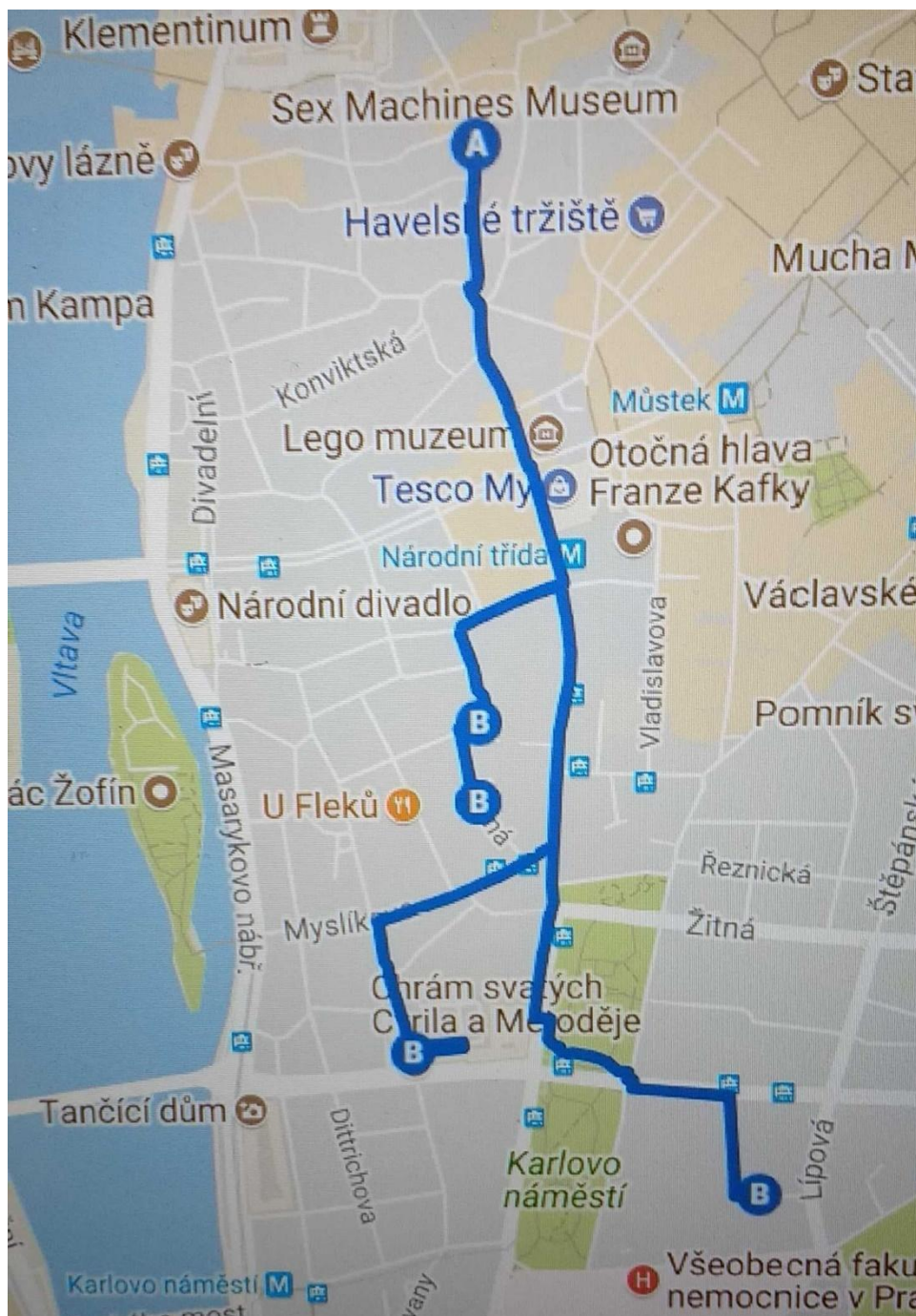
Please note that our lunch breaks are very short. Therefore we have decided to cooperate with a local vegetarian restaurant Estrella located at 17 Opatovická Street. This restaurant is close to the venue. It has an excellent rating and reviews and considered by reviewers to be one of the best places for vegetarian dishes in Prague. We strongly recommend to have a look into their menu:

<http://estrellarestaurant.cz/en/> and order food for yourself in advance to avoid long waiting time.

You can email the restaurant team estrella.rest@gmail.com and let them know that you are a member of St. John Chrysostom Orthodox Research Group and want to order food in advance. This restaurant opens Mon-Sun 11:30 am - 10:30 pm.

Here is a list of other coffee places and restaurants located in the vicinity of the monastery and conference venue. For restaurant reviews and table reservations, please use <https://www.restu.cz/en/>

- Food court *Quadrio*, 22 Spalena Street, (<https://www.quadrio.cz/en/>); open from 7 am – 10 pm. A wide choice of restaurants located on the upper floor of shopping mall *Quadrio*, above *Narodni* metro station.
- *Bageterie Boulevard*, 27 Narodni, (<https://www.bb.cz/pobocky/bb-narodni-trida>); open 8 am-11pm
- *Bistro'os*, 127/28 Ostrovní, bistroos.cz; open only for lunch/ dinner on Friday, with a vegetarian choice



Useful addresses:

- A – Dominican monastery 8 Husova Street
- B1 – Theological Faculty 9 Cerna Street
- B2 – Jabok College Library 1538/8 Salmovská Street
- B3 – Ss. Cyril and Methodius Cathedral 9a Resslova Street
- B4 – Restaurant Estrella 17 Opatovická Street

UNDERSTANDING ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

Conference Program

Friday, November 30

I. Talks at Theological Department (Černá 9, 115 55 Prague 1)

9:00-9.15 Prayer

Conference Welcome Speech: Revving up Orthodox Research

1st Session: Holy Fathers on the Life in the Holy Spirit

Chair: Dr. Petre Maican

1. 9.15-9.30 Dr. Nikos Kouremenos

Athanasius' Letter to Virgins: The Interpretation of the Song of Songs in the Service of Spiritual Perfection

2. 9.40-9.55 Dr. Zurab Jashi

The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit according to Gregory of Nazianzus

3. 10:05-10.20 Dr. Eirini Artemi

The donations of the Holy Spirit in the Pneumatology of Cyril of Alexandria

4. 10:30-10:44: Dr. Dionysios Skliris

The Pneumatology of Saint Maximus the Confessor

10:55-11:10 Coffee/Tea

2st Session: Exploring the Driving Forces of Spiritual Life

Chair: Mihai Iahym

1. 11:10-11:25 Dr. Sotiris Mitralaxis

Why There can be no "Orthodox Spirituality"

2. 11:35-11:50 Dr. Olga Sevastyanova

Human Spirituality as Led by the Holy Spirit

3. 12:00-12:15 Slaviša Kostić

Spiritual Presence in Paul Tillich and in Eastern Orthodox Ascetism

3rd Session A: Contouring Christian Authenticity of the Spiritual Life: Spirituality and Comparative Anthropology
Chair: Natalia Munataeva

4. 12.25-12.40 Father Stephen C. Headley

Comparative Anthropology of Prayer

5. 12.45-12.50 Emil M. Marginean

Orthodox Spiritual Life and Eastern Meditation in the Writings of Archimandrite Sophrony Sakharov

13.00-14.00 Lunch (restaurant Estrella 17 Opatovická Street)

3rd session B: Spirituality and Personhood
Chair: Valentina Druart

14.30-14.45 Dr. Nikolaos Asproulis

Personhood as “Glocal Citizenship”: Towards a Spirituality of the Secular age – An Orthodox reflection

14.55-15.10 Ana Novakovic

Orthodox Spirituality and Positive Psychology Concept of Well-being

15.20-15.35 Camelia Isaic

Courage in Nicolae Steinhardt’s Prison-Shaped Theology

15.45-16.00 Dr. Stefan Zeljkovic

The Contribution of St. Sava to the Development of Serbian Orthodox Spirituality

16.10-16:30 Coffee/Tea

II. Evening at Jabok College Library (Salmovská 1538/8, 120 00 Prague 2)

17:15-18.00 Icon Exhibition visit

18:00-18.45 Public Lecture by Dr. Ivana Noble: Can Icons be painted in a Western Key?

18.45-19.15 Discussion

19.15-20.00 Orthodox Vespers at the Jabok College Chapel

20.00 Dinner (Brewery House 15 Jecna/Lipova)

Saturday 1 December

9:00-9.20 Jesus prayer

5th session: Life in the Spirit as a Living Practice: Orthodox Church Towards the World
Chair: Dr. Viorel Coman

1. 9.30-9.45 Dr. Dimitrios Keramidas

Orthodox Spirituality and Church Mission. The Kingdom “inside” or “among” us?

2. 9.55-10.10 Dr. Krastu Banev

Invocation of the Holy Spirit and Reconciliation in St John Chrysostom

3. 10.20-10.35 Natalia Munataeva

Representing Ourselves through Discussing Others: Values of Truth and Knowledge in Orthodox Discourses of Buddhism

4. 10.45-11.00 Dr. Guram Lursmanashvili

“On the Day of Pentecost the Spirit descends on the Apostles”: The Sacrament of Pentecost according to Georges Florovsky

5. 11.05-11.20 Andrej Strocav

Historical and Theological Context of Pšerov Congress

6. 11.20-11.35 Dr. Petre Maican

On the Importance Staniloae's Approach to Filioque for a more Inclusive Theology of Disability

11.40-12.00 Coffee/Tea

12.00-13.00 Panel discussion – Fr. Stephen Headley, Dr. Ivana Noble, Dr. Krasu Banev, Dr. Nikoalus Asproulis, Dr. Sotiris Mitralaxis, Dr. Katerina Bauerova.

Definition and Challenges of Orthodox Spirituality

13.15 -14.30 Lunch (restaurant Estrella 17 Opatovická Street)

14.30-18.30 Guided walk through places inhabited by Russian Orthodox emigrants in 1920s led by Kateřina Kočandrle Bauerová, followed by the vespers in one of the local churches

Dinner (the place tbc)

Sunday 2 December

9.30am Liturgy at Ss. Cyril and Methodius Cathedral (Resslova 9a street, Prague 2) followed by communal meal at 12 pm and a group brainstorming regarding the activities ahead

Free time to visit the old centre of Prague



Your conference contact in case of need

Should you need any assistance during your stay in Prague, please feel free to contact

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Wishing you a safe journey and an enriching experience in Prague,

Prague Conference Team