

In cooperation with the Theological faculty of Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORTHODOX RESEARCH GROUP CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

29 NOVEMBER-3 DECEMBER 2019 CLUJ-NAPOCA

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

Welcome to the Conference and Meeting of St. John Chrysostom Orthodox Research Group in Cluj, November 29-December 3.

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 setting in a spirit of conciliarity or *sobornicity*.

We are very thankful to Christof Sonea and his team who have provided such an exciting opportunity for our group to organise our first group meeting in such a beautiful city of Transylvania.

Your Arrival to Cluj

Public transport

Public transport in Cluj is good and cheap. A ticket of 2.5 RON (approx. 0.5 EURO) is valid for 30 minutes since stamping it on any city bus or tram. It is recommended to buy a couple of tickets so you can enjoy transportation during the conference days (payment by card or cash). Stamping is mandatory right after you enter the bus or tram. Changing from one transport service to another is not permitted. You can purchase tickets from the vending machine in the bus stop outside the airport terminal or from vending machines available in many of the bus stations. Travelling without a ticket is risky, ticket controls are frequent, and the procedure is time-consuming. In the last months the municipality introduced a new method of payment by contactless card right in the bus. However, it might not always work as expected.

To get from the airport to the Universitas Hotel by public transport you need to take **bus 5** ([station](#) is 5 minutes walking distance from the terminal) to the city centre or central train station and then a bus or tram to *the* final destination.

Bus 5 [timetable is here](#). The last departure from *Aeroport Nord* is 22:35 Mo-Fr or 22:26 Sa-Su:

Option #1 (2-3 minutes walking): **bus 5** to the central train station, stop [P-ta Garii Sos](#) and from that stop take **tram 101 or 102** (Direction: Bucium) to [Plopilor Nord](#) stop right in front of the hotel.

Option #2 (7-10 minutes walking): **bus 5** (Direction: *P-ta Garii*) to stop [Sora](#) and from stop *Sora*, in the same direction, any of the following **buses 6, 7, 24, 24B or 25**: to stop [Gradini Manastur \(or Campului\)](#). You shouldn't need to wait more than 5 minutes for those buses. Then you can use Google maps to navigate to the Hotel.

More details on Cluj public transport is available at <http://ctpcj.ro/index.php/en/>, where you can select the English version of the site. Google maps directions (for transportation) are pretty good at Cluj.

Taxi

We recommend you to use a very popular mobile taxi app **Clever-low price & fast rides** (iOS) or **Clever** (Android) to hire a car. The application has English menu, and you can pay cash to the driver.

Taxi rates usually vary between 35 RON and 50 RON (approx. 7-11 EUR) from the airport to the hotel, depending on the route and traffic. Taxi cars can be found just outside the arrivals hall, waiting in a line. It is always a good idea to ask the driver before entering the car how much the journey will cost and if they accept EUR or credit card (most likely, not).

Money exchange

The Romanian currency is RON – Romanian New Leu.
EUR is not officially accepted.

The current exchange rates are approx. 4.77 RON / 1 EUR; 4.30 RON / 1 USD; 5.52 RON / 1 GBP. You can exchange money at the airport (arrival halls). However, the rates might not be very convenient. There is a bank office in the departure hall, Banca Transilvania, which has a good exchange rate, but operating hours are limited to Mo-Fr 9-17. Alternatively, you can withdraw cash from the ATM in the arrival/ departure hall, as long as your card/ bank allows it. Please contact your bank before departure for more details.

Taxi drivers will generally accept only RON. They might take EUR from tourists, but usually it will not be in your favour.

Payment by international credit cards is widely accepted in the city. Usually, taxi drivers do not accept credit/debit cards, so be ready to have cash with you.

A few useful words

Most of the young Romanians in Cluj have a good grasp of English, but knowing some basic Romanian will be helpful. '*Va rog*', which means please, and '*Mulumesc*' which means thank you, are two words that are good to know and use. Since Romanian is a Romance language, you can use, as well, the French versions of the phrase, '*Salut*' and '*Merci*', even though more informal, everyone will understand you.

Accommodation at Universitas Hotel Babes-Bolyai University



The group members will be staying at the Universitas Hotel Babes-Bolyai University, Plopiilor street, 54, Babes park.

The accommodation was booked for you for five nights from Friday 29 November (arrival on Friday afternoon) to Wednesday morning 4 December 2019 (departure on Wednesday 4 December).

Weekend programme

Friday, November 29

6-7pm Vespers at Metropolitan Cathedral, Piața Avram Iancu

<https://goo.gl/maps/1fdDBx3neHJ4ZWxR9> or the Church of St. Andrew, Strada Galaxiei 2

<https://goo.gl/maps/k1imGgiaCukjSyn2A>

Followed by the dinner at the local restaurant in the old town



Saturday 30 November FEAST OF ST ANDREW

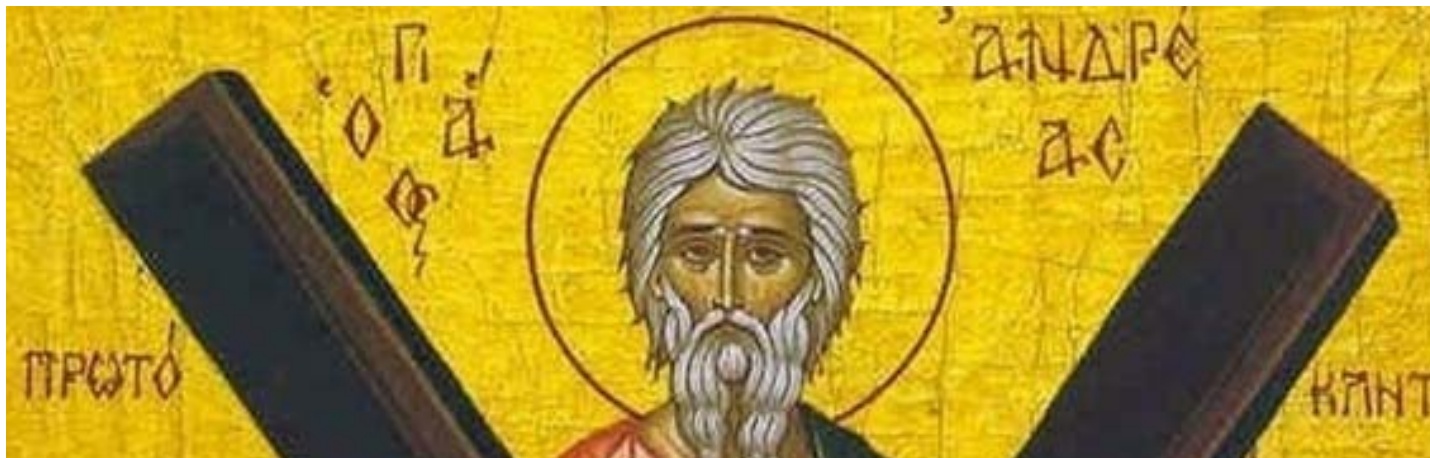
On Saturday our group is invited by the host of our conference Fr. Christian Sonea to join their parish celebration of St Andrew Feast the Church of St. Andrew, Strada Galaxiei 2

<https://goo.gl/maps/k1imGgiaCukjSyn2A>. Our group member Father Stephen will preach on that occasion, and we are also invited to join the festive meal and further celebrations.

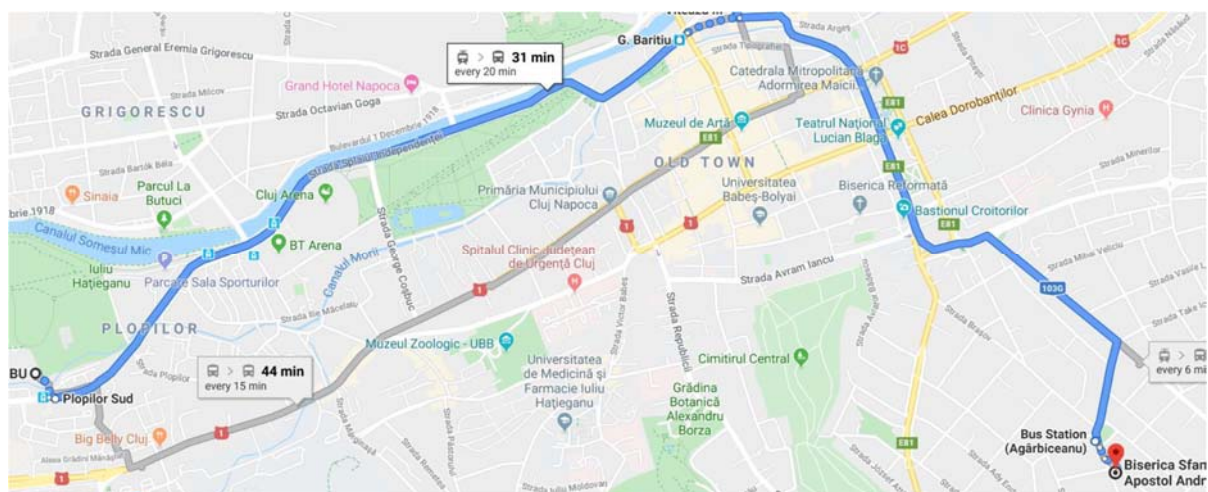
We meet together at the hotel entrance at 8.15am and decide whether we want to go by public transport or to share an Uber or a taxi.

9am-12pm: Matins and Divine Liturgy for the feast of St. Andrew at Church of St. Andrew, Strada Galaxiei 2 followed by the communal meal and celebration of the feast of St. Andrew.

Walk to the Old Town and return to the hotel



In case you will need to go independently here is the map:



3-4.30pm **Round Table 1**

The Methods of Theological Research. All participants are encouraged to share their reflections on the following questions:

What methodology do you use in your research in Theology?

What author on methodology do you recommend to the group?

If possible, please share the texts on the methods of theological research that you believe to be helpful so that others could have a look into it in advance and be ready for the discussion.

Venue: Hotel of Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai, 7 Pandurilor Street, 400376, Babeş Parc, Plopilor entrance

5.30-7pm **Round Table 2**

Discussion of St. John Chrysostom Group Institutional Issues

Venue: Hotel of Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai, 7 Pandurilor Street, 400376, Babeş Parc, Plopilor entrance

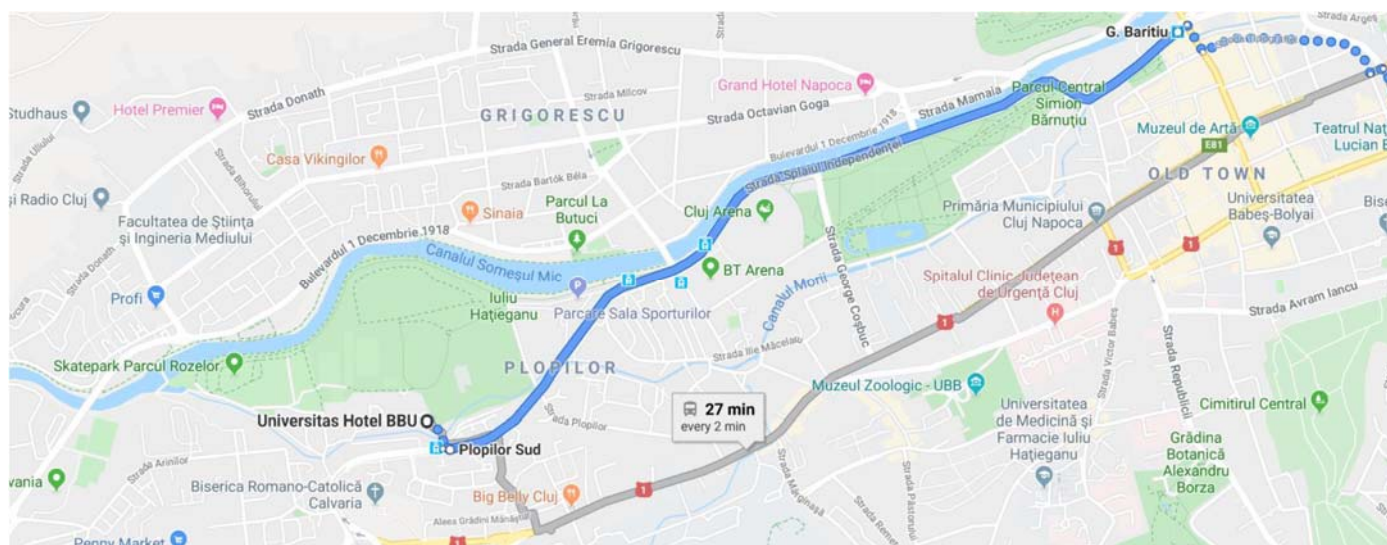
7pm Dinner (place TBC)

Sunday 1 December

We meet at the entrance of the hotel at 9.15 am to share a taxi.

10am-12pm: Divine Liturgy Metropolitan Cathedral <https://goo.gl/maps/1fdDBx3neHJ4ZWxR9>

If you need to travel independently, here is the map:



12-5.30pm Lunch followed by the visit to the local monasteries (TBC)

5.30-7pm **Round Table 3**

“On which point do we begin to do Theology”. All participants are encouraged to prepare a 5-20 minute speech on the relevant topic.

Venue: Hotel of Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai, 7 Pandurilor Street, 400376, Babeş Parc, Plopilor entrance

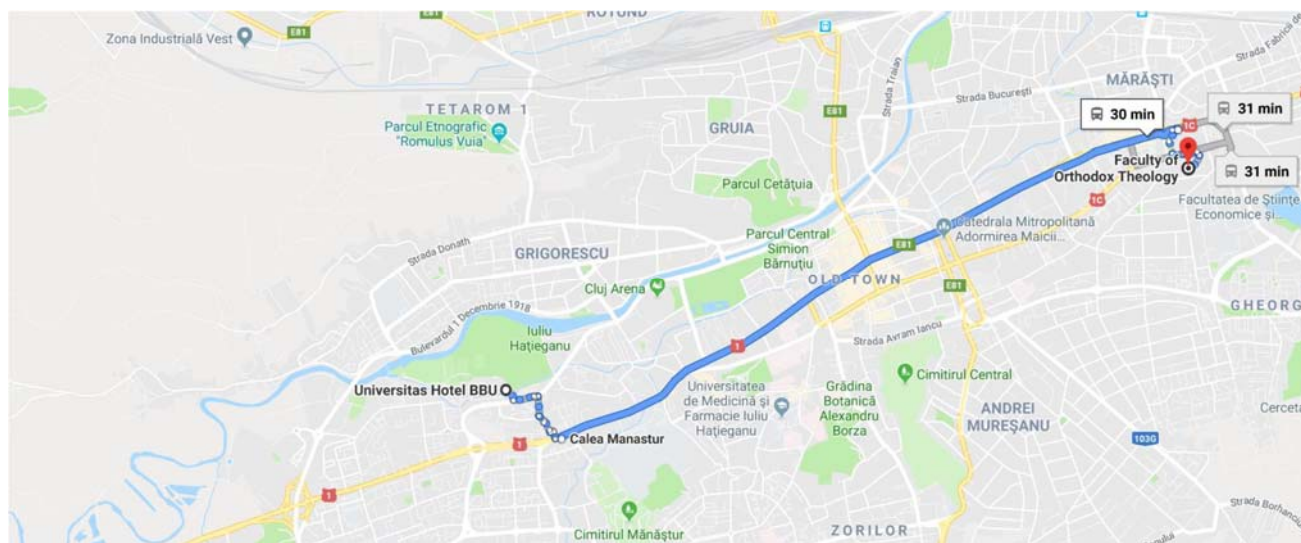
7pm Dinner followed by the celebration of Romania's National Day

Monday 2 December

Talks at Theological Department (Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai, Strada Episcop Nicolae Ivan FN)

The transportation to the conference venue will be organized by the faculty.

In case you need to travel to the conference venue independently, the easiest option is to walk 10 minutes to bus stop Calea Manastur and take any of the following **buses: 6, 24, 24B, 25** to stop Maresal Constantin Prezan. The journey takes approx. 15 minutes, then 4 minutes walking distance to the Faculty of Orthodox Theology, Episcop Nicolae Ivan Street.



Conference Programme

9.45-10.00am Prayer at the Chapel

10.00-10.10am Conference Welcome Speech

10.10-10.20am Dean of the Faculty Welcome Speech

1st Session:

Chair: Dr Danut Monasterianu

10.20-10.50am Fr. Christian Sonea

Theosis and mission. A missionary analysis of deification process and it's relevance for today's world

10.50-11.20am Fr. Stephen Headley

The "Tall Garden" ... theological anthropology of Paradise in St. Ephrem the Syrian

11.20-11.40am Fr. Adrian Podary

Michael Psellos' anthropological ideas in his philosophical *opuscula* contained in *Philosophica minora* II

11.50- 12.10am Dr Sotiris Mitralaxis

Exploring the territory of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church in regard to Orthodox-Catholic relations: some remarks

Lunch 12.20-1.30pm

2st Session

Chair: Dr Viorel Coman

1.30-1.35pm Dr Nicolaos Asproulis Introduction Speech on Florovsky's theological heritage

1.35-1.55pm Dr Brandon Gallaher

TBC Skype presentation

2.05-2.25pm Dr Nikolaos Asproulis

Georges Florovsky and Sergei Bulgakov in dialogue: Contemporary Orthodox theology between neo-scholasticism, modernity and churchification

2.35-2.55pm Dr Nikos Kouremenos

Ecclesiology and Ecumenical Theology: A Parallel Approach to the Contributions of George Florovsky and Hamilcar Alivisatos

3.05-3.20pm Coffee break

3rd Session

Chair: Dr Eirini Arthemi

3.20-3.40pm Dr Viorel Coman

Georges Florovsky's Perennial Hellenism and the Question of Inculturation

3.50-4.10pm Dr Olga Sevastyanova

Vertical Dimension of Divine-Human Relationship in George Florovsky and Anders Nygren

4.20-4.40pm Dr Dionysios Skliris

The notion of freedom and contingency in the thought of Georges Florovsky

4.50-5.10pm Dr Dimitrios Keramidas

Orthodoxy and the others: Florovsky's ecclesiology and Christian witness

5.20-5.40pm Dr Guram Lurmanashvili

Incarnation for Georges Florovsky and John Zizioulas

6pm Vespers at the Chapel of the Theological Department

7pm Dinner

Tuesday 3 December

Talks at Theological Department (Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai, Strada Episcop Nicolae Ivan FN)

1st session:

Chair: Dr Raul-Ovidiu Bodea

9.45-10.10am Prayer at the chapel

10.10-10.30am Dr Eirini Arthemi

Human 'Image and Likeness' of God in the anthropology of Cyril of Alexandria in his commentaries on Pentateuch

10.40-11.10am Dr Emil Marginean

Purification as restoration of the divine image: common ascetical patterns in St. Symeon the New Theologian and Fr. Sophrony Sakharov

11.20am-12.40pm Dr Petre Maican

Rethinking human Perfection in light of profound cognitive disability

12.40-1.50pm Lunch

2nd session:

Chair: Dr Alexey Sevastyanov

1.50-2.20pm Fr. Benedict Valentin Vesa

The process of knowledge in the writings of Simon Taibuteh, between anatomy and spirituality

2.30-2.50pm Dr. Raul-Ovidiu Bodea

Existential Freedom As The Hallmark Of Authenticity In Nikolai Berdyaev's Thought

3-3.20pm Dr. Mihai-Iulian Grobnicu

Obedience – does it reflect human authenticity? A philocalic reading

3.30-3.45pm Coffee break

3rd Session

Chair: Dr Emil Marginean

3.45- 4.05pm Dr Natalia Doran

Human as the Bridge between the Material and the Divine - from the Church Fathers to the Rise of Veganism

4.05-4.25pm Dr Zurab Jashi

The liberation Theology of Origen of Alexandria (Skype)

4.35-4.55pm Dr Bogdan Hulea

The Theological Anthropology in the Writings of Father André Scrima

5.05-5.25pm Dr Slavisa Kostic

The notion of secular in thought of John Milbank and David Bentley Hart

5.35-5.55pm Natalia Munataeva

Creativity-Innovation and views of human in it – what an Orthodox respond could be?

6-7pm **Conference closing session**

7pm Vespers at the Chapel of the Theological Department

8pm Dinner



Your conference contact in case of need

Should you need any assistance during your stay in Cluj, please feel free to contact our Conference Preparation Team:

Emil Marginean +40 747113989 (concerning all local issues)

Olga Sevastyanova +447884971624 (on Saturday and concerning the roundtables)

Eirini Arthemi +306972057346 (on Sunday)

Petre Maican + 447562616994 (on Monday and Tuesday and concerning the presentations)

Alexey Sevastyanov +447456633893 (concerning all other issues)

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

Cluj Conference Team