

Eastern Orthodoxy and the Challenge of Covid 19.

Dr. Nikolaos Asproulis

Dr. Nikolaos Asproulis is currently Deputy Director of the Volos Academy for Theological Studies, Volos, Greece and Lecturer at the Hellenic Open University, Patras, Greece. He graduated in Theology (University of Athens, 1997). He obtained MTh (2007) and PhD degrees (2016) in Theology at Hellenic Open University. His research focuses on the history and development of contemporary Orthodox theology (20st – 21st century), a field in which he approached several research avenues: systematic theology, ecclesiology, history, methodology, and hermeneutics.

He published articles in peer-reviewed journals like the Review of Ecumenical Studies, *Communio Viatorum*, *Participatio*, while he serves as reviewer in journals like *Critical Research on Religion* (Sage), *Open Theology* (De Gruyter) and *Review of Ecumenical Studies* (De Gruyter).

He is also Coordinator of the Network of Ecumenical Learning in Eastern and Central Europe (Nelcee – <http://www.nelcee.org/>), member of the European Academy of Religion, and official representative of the Church of Greece in the Thematic Group of the Conference of European Churches (CEC) on “Ecological and Economic Justice”.

Integrating the ‘Forgotten Dimension’ of Care into Health Care Practices – an Orthodox’ view of nurturing spirituality

Rev. Dr. Stavros Kofinas

Rev. Dr. Stavros Kofinas was born (1949) and raised in the U.S.A. After his theological studies (B.A. 1971, M. Div. 1974) at Hellenic College-Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, he received his doctorate (D. Min. 1976) in Clinical Psychology and Psychiatric and Pastoral Care from Andover-Newton Theological School. He serves as the Coordinator of *Network of the Ecumenical Patriarchate for Pastoral Health Care*. Since 1994, he is the celebrant at the Holy Monastery of St. Meletios of Kitherona. He served as the priest of the Red Cross Hospital in Athens (1976-1988) and the parish of St. Nicholas in Thebes (1989-1994). For ten years (2000-2010), representing the Ecumenical Throne, he was the Coordinator of the *European Network of Health Care Chaplaincy*. He is well experienced in the field of psychotherapy and pastoral care. In the realm of his ministry, he has led many psychotherapeutic groups, particularly for couples, parents and young people. He has organized and taken part in many educational seminars, training programs and conferences for clergy, doctors, nurses and social workers in Greece and abroad. Parallel to this, he is well known for his writings in the area of psychology and pastoral care.

Health and embodiment: an Islamic approach

Seyed Hassan Eslami Ardakani

Professor of philosophy of religion and ethics at URD (Qom, Iran)

Seyed Hassan Eslami Ardakani (1960-) is an Iranian theologian and ethicist. He studied Islamic philosophy, theology, and jurisprudence at Qom, Iran, Seminary, and philosophy of religion at the State University of Qom. Currently, he is Professor of Philosophy of Religion and Ethics at University of Religions and Denominations, and teaches mainly global ethics, environmental ethics, bioethics, mystical ethics, morality and religion, Islam and human rights, and philosophy of religion. He is specialized in Islamic theology and applied ethics and has authored many articles and some books in these areas, including commanding right and forbidding wrong (2018), Human Cloning in Catholic and Islamic Perspectives (2007), the Ethics of Criticism (2003) and On Expedient Lies: Meaning and Examples (2003).

Topic: Health and embodiment: an Islamic approach

Religion and Science Can Go Hand in Hand in Response to COVID-19

Dr. MH Nicknam

Professor Doctor "Mohammad Hossein Nicknam", a graduate of Medical School (MD degree) from Tehran University in 1985, pursued his post-graduate education in "Immunology" leading to a PhD degree from the same university in 1998. He accomplished his post-doctoral fellowship from the University of Pittsburg in Chicago, USA in the year 2000. Dr. Nicknam reached to the level of "Full Professorship" of Tehran University and became Director of Molecular Immunology Research Center in Iran as well.

Professor Nicknam contributed (as the main author/s) in writing many medical and public health publications and journals in English and Farsi languages.

Parallel to his scientific achievements to this date, he has maintained high level executive posts such as "Director General of International Relations" of the "Ministry of Health and Medical Education" (MOHME), "Advisor to the Minister" for the past 2 decades and "Acting Minister for the International Relations" of the MOHME.

For the past 20 years Prof. Dr. Nicknam has been actively playing top level coordinative and managerial role fine-tuning relations of the ministry of health with the international community in different as well as difficult circumstances. In this respect he has been collaborating closely with the United Nations agencies such as UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF and World Health Organization in particular as well as other diplomatic institutions and the foreign states.

Two decades of policy- and decision-making, planning, coordination, facilitation and achievements in international and diplomatic arenas have resulted in meaningful impacts on global health translated into attainment of highest possible standard of health for the people of the country, region and the world over.

His experience brought him strong leadership and excellent managerial quality that has been realized in good terms by the management of the "world health assembly" of the "World Health Organization" (committee B) in the May 2012.