

Religion Matters:  
Interreligious Encounters in the Trans-Ottoman Setting  
JOINT TRANSOTTOMANICA & ORTHPOL WORKSHOP

VIENNA, 24-25 NOVEMBER 2023



**CONVENORS**

Taisiya **LEBER** (TRANSOTTOMANICA) & Ovidiu **OLAR** (ORTHPOL)

**VENUE**

ÖAW, Georg-Coch-Platz 2, 1030 Vienna

**PARTICIPANTS**

Liliya **BEREZHNAYA** (Vienna) / Benedetta **CONTIN** (Vienna) / Taisiya **LEBER** (Mainz) / Ovidiu **OLAR** (Vienna) /  
Vassa **LARIN** (Vienna) / Ekaterini **MITSIU** (Vienna) / Octavian-Adrian **NEGOIȚĂ** (Bucharest) /  
Anna **OHANJANYAN** (Yerevan) / Adrian **PIRTEA** (Vienna) / Klaus-Peter **TODT** (Mainz) /  
Nadia **ZELDES** (Be'er Sheva)

How much do we know about interreligious and interconfessional encounters in the Early Modern period? Where do we draw the line between daily encounters with people of different faiths and disputes on religious matters? How “performative” had to be the “real” interreligious debates?

Building on recent developments in the field of interconnected religious history, the workshop revolves around the theme of religious polemical disputes as “performed” by the Orthodox Christians against the “other” – other religions (Judaism, Islam), other religious denominations (Latins, Armenians), or even other Orthodox Christians. Seeking to go beyond the binaries “Muslim” and “Christian”, “Eastern” and “Western”, the participants scrutinize the personality of the interreligious polemics’ authors, reconstruct their personal, religious, and societal networks, tackle the Early Modern revival of the genre of public disputations on religious matters, and address the transfer of knowledge via manuscripts and printed books between the Ottoman Empire and Eastern Europe.

## **24<sup>th</sup> November, Friday**

**14:00–14:15**

### **OPENING REMARKS**

Ovidiu OLAR & Taisiya LEBER

**14:15–18:30 First Session**

### **BETWEEN ENCOUNTERS AND POLEMICS**

Chair: Ekaterini MITSIOU

**14:15–15:00**

Taisiya LEBER

*Between Encounters and Polemics: Orthodox Greeks against Jews*

**15:00–15:45**

Octavian-Adrian NEGOIȚĂ

*The Grand Theologian and the End of Times: Biblical Exegesis and Polemics in Georgios Koressios’ (c. 1570–1659) Interpretation to the Apocalypse of John*

**15:45–16:00 Coffee Break**

**16:00–16.45**

Vassa LARIN

*Encounters or Polemics: Arsenij Suchanov and Greeks*

**16.45–17.30**

Anna OHANJANYAN

*Encounters with Greeks in the City: The Old and New in Armenian Polemicist Gēōrg Mkhlayim’s Correspondence with Eustratios Argenti*

**17:30–17.45 Coffee Break**

**17:45–18.30**

Nadia ZELDES

*Jewish Refugees in Ottoman Valona: Conflictual Encounters Within and Without*

**19:00 Dinner for invited guests**

**25<sup>th</sup> November, Saturday**

**09:30–13:30 Second Session**

**POLEMICS AS A PERSONAL FIGHT**

Chair: Adrian PIRTEA

**09:30–10:15**

Ovidiu OLAR

*“No Time to Die”: Kyrillos Loukaris’ Anti-Jesuit Stance*

**10:15–11:00**

Benedetta CONTIN

*17<sup>th</sup> centuries Armenian Witness Narrators: Daily Life and Confessional Competition within the Christian Communities of the Transottoman Space*

**11:00–11:30 Coffee Break**

**11:30–12:15**

Liliya BEREZHNYAYA

*Anti-Muslim Treatises of Ioannikii Halatovs’kyi (d. 1688) and Early Modern Ruthenian Interreligious Encounters*

**12:15–13:00**

Klaus-Peter TODT

*Polemics Against Papacy and the Roman Catholicism in the “History of Patriarchs of Jerusalem” by Dositheos II of Jerusalem (1641–1707) in the Context of His Fight for the Holy Sepulchre and His Attitude to the Ottoman Rule*

**13:00–13:30 Concluding Remarks**

This event is jointly organized by:

The Priority Programme “TRANSOTTOMANICA: Eastern European-Ottoman-Persian Mobility Dynamics,” funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). TRANSOTTOMANICA has existed since 2017 and brings together researchers from more than ten universities and research institutes in Germany. The programme focuses on social and (trans)cultural ties and communication practices between the Ottoman Empire, Poland-Lithuania, Russia, and Persia from the early modern period to the beginning of the twentieth century.

The “ORTHPOL – Orthodoxies and Politics: The Religious Reforms of Mid-17th Century in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe” project, funded by the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (Grant agreement No. 950287). ORTHPOL is hosted by the Institute for Habsburg and Balkan Studies of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (Vienna), and explores the mid-seventeenth century East and South-East European religious reforms from an interconnected perspective.

Cover: The Complex of Churches, Synagogues and Mosques on Mount Sion. Library of the Mekhitarist Fathers in Vienna, W757, f. 11v (Eremia Atanac’i, 1697). Photograph by Mikayel Arakelyan.

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