

## The Ecumenical, Theological, and Interdisciplinary Symposium

2016: Knowledge and Enchantment:  
A World without Mystery?

2015: Cultural Transparency and the Loss of Privacy  
in the Era of Digital Technology:  
How Is This Shaping Our Becoming and the Ethical  
Dilemmas Related to It

2014: Remembering Peace:  
Justice, and Forgiveness in a Time of War

2013: Vivat Academia! How Post-Modern  
Rhetoric Shapes Our Understanding of Modern and  
Pre-Modern Values

2012: Time, Place and Self in Interdisciplinary  
Narratives

2011: Alienation and Authenticity in Environments  
of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Technology, Person and  
Transcendence

2010: Meaning and Mystery: From the Philosophy  
of Knowledge to the Theology of Person

2009: Religion and Politics: The Human Society  
between the Power of God and the Power of Man

2008: Cult and Culture: The Transcendental Roots  
of Human Civilization

2007: Theology and Literature: The Deification of  
Imagination and Its Cathartic Function in Spiritual  
Growth

2006: The Glory of Knowledge: Construction and  
Deconstruction. When Human Quest Ends in  
Apophysis

2005: Unity in Diversity: Can We Live Together in  
an Apocalyptic World?

2004: Globalization from A (Archeology) to S  
(Spirituality): What Is It and Who Needs It?

2003: Science and Theology: New Challenges and  
Perspectives

2002: Contemporary Culture in the Light of  
Christian Spirituality at the Beginning of the Third  
Millennium. The Secular Realities and Spiritual  
Perspectives

2001: Prayer as Theology of the Mind and of the  
Heart for the Humanity in the New Millennium

2000: Humanity in the Third Millennium and the  
Mystery of the Divine

1999: Jesus Christ as the Theandric Paradigm of  
Man's Restoration at the Dawn of the Third  
Millennium

1998: The Theological Legacy of Fr. Dumitru  
Staniloae and its Ecumenical Actuality

1997: Rediscovering God: The Relation between  
God and Man and its Significance for our Life  
Today

1996: Freedom and Responsibility in  
Contemporary Society

1995: Divine Creation and Human Responsibility  
in the Context of Contemporary Ecological  
Preoccupations

1994: Quo Vadis Homo? Salvation and the Modern  
World

1993: Worship and Identity in our Contemporary  
Society



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Adele Weiner, PhD, Dean

### PROGRAM

*The XXVth Ecumenical Theological  
and Interdisciplinary Symposium*

**Nation and Identity: Reconciling the  
Traditional Sense of Belonging with the  
Globalist Tendencies of Current Post-  
Culturalism**

Saturday, December 2nd, 2017  
10:00 AM

Metropolitan College of New York  
60 West Street, New York, NY 10006  
Commons on First Floor  
Subway: Rector Street on R or 1,  
Wall Street on 4 or 5 trains

**Theodor Damian, PhD**

Professor of Philosophy and Ethics,  
Metropolitan College of New York;  
President of the Romanian Institute of  
Orthodox Theology and Spirituality:  
*Nationalism vs. Globalism. The Cultural  
Meaning of Borders*

**Humphrey Crookendale, JD**

Dean of School for Public Affairs and  
Administration,  
Metropolitan College of New York:  
*Communication and Identity in American  
Politics*

**Richard Grallo, PhD**

Professor of Applied Psychology,  
Metropolitan College of New York:  
*Fooling Ourselves with Personal Identity*

**Louis Tietje, PhD**

Professor of Ethics,  
Metropolitan College of New York:  
*Driverless Cars: A New Occasion for the  
Trolley Problem*

**Doru Tsaganea, PhD**

Professor of Mathematics,  
Metropolitan College of New York:  
*Nation, Nationalism and Nation State in  
Historical Perspective*

**Alina Feld, PhD**

Affiliate Faculty at the General Theological  
Seminary, New York:  
*Cosmopolitanism or Recognizing Humanity  
on the Other: Simone Weil and Martha  
Nussbaum*

**David Rosner**

Associate Professor of Values and Ethics,  
Metropolitan College of New York:  
*How Can the Ancient Teachings of  
Xenophanes of Colophon Be Applied to the  
Contemporary Problem of Globalization?*

GUESTS OF HONOR:

**His Eminence Nicolae Condrea, PhD**

Archbishop of the Romanian Orthodox  
Archdiocese of the United States of America  
Metropolitan of the Romanian Orthodox  
Metropolia of the Americas

**Vinton Thompson, PhD**

President of Metropolitan College of New  
York

**Tilokie Depoo, PhD**

Chief Academic Officer and Dean  
School for Business  
Metropolitan College of New York

MODERATOR:

**Humphrey Crookendale, JD**

Dean, School for Public Affairs and  
Administration,  
Metropolitan College of New York

DISCUSSANT:

**David Rosner**

Associate Professor of Values and Ethics,  
Metropolitan College of New York

“SPIRITUS” ART GALLERY  
(Director **Viorica Colpacci**)

**Elena Mitru:** Vestimentary art exhibit

Is identity important at all? Who are you,  
who am I? In the Purpose-centered educational  
system at the Metropolitan College of New  
York, in the first semester, Purpose I, all  
teaching is focused on students’ self-  
assessment. Who am I?

To try to understand who you are as a  
human being, as partially as it can be, is crucial  
when it comes to relating yourself to others,  
which is both inevitable and an implicit  
phenomenon of life. Socrates’ exhortation  
“Know thyself” undertaken from the temple of  
Apollo in Delphi is as valid today as at any  
other time. In his celebrated book *Who is  
Man?* Abraham Heschel raises the question at  
the theological, ontological, anthropological  
and sociological levels in surprising ways. Who  
are we? We are, he believes, a reflection of  
something or somebody higher than ourselves.  
That is why definitions of man, like that of  
Aristotle, who famously said that man is a  
political animal, do not satisfy. Man’s  
reference point cannot be the animal. It has to  
be related to a higher paradigm, and that is  
where religion comes into play.

An interesting theological question can be  
raised about one’s salvation in the context of  
one’s belonging to a given nation. The  
apparent response is that salvation has to do  
with what a person believes and not with where  
one belongs. Yet, belonging to any group,  
including a nation, contributes to one’s identity  
and makes the person be, in no small part, who  
he or she is.

Cultural values, habits, practices, biases,  
all form, inform and transform one’s mind and  
consequently one’s doing. And salvation does  
depend, besides God’s grace, on how one  
thinks and on what one does, which is part of  
one’s identity.

*Theodor Damian*