

The veneration of local saints has been a fundamental component of incorporating newly baptized territories into the Eastern Christian world. Byzantine liturgical practice, hagiography, and iconography provided a rich basis for developing a cult of local saints in premodern Eastern and South Eastern Europe. However, most of these components were blended into local strategies for asserting sainthood, specifically tailored to local needs.

This workshop will focus on (but not be restricted to) saint-making, ritual, and cult development, veneration and transfer of relics, the establishment of local shrines, pilgrimages, transfer of knowledge and practices, and ecclesiastical and political uses of locally defined sainthood. We aim to discuss the dynamic process of saint-making and the veneration of local saints in premodern Eastern and South Eastern Europe through an integrated approach drawing from historical, art historical, and literary studies.

**CONVENORS**

Iulia Nițescu ([iulia.nitescu@icub.unibuc.ro](mailto:iulia.nitescu@icub.unibuc.ro))  
 Ovidiu Olar ([ovidiu.olar@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:ovidiu.olar@oeaw.ac.at))

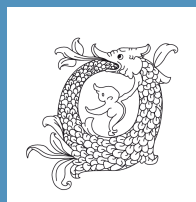
This event is jointly organized by:

The “MOSCUIT – Saint-Making and Institutional Consolidation: The Veneration of Metropolitans in 14<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> Century Muscovy” project, funded by The Romanian Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitization, CNCS - UEFISCDI (project code PN-III-P1-1.1-PD-2021-0234). MOSCUIT is hosted by the Research Institute of the University of Bucharest and addresses the emergence of the local cult of the Moscow-based metropolitans of all Rus’ from the 14<sup>th</sup> to mid-16<sup>th</sup> century.

The “ORTHPOL – Orthodoxies and Politics: The Religious Reforms of Mid-17<sup>th</sup> 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.

**CONTACT**

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Cover: Meeting of the Vladimir icon of the Theotokos. Icon from 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Source: [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/39/Sretenie\\_Vladimirskoy\\_ikony.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/39/Sretenie_Vladimirskoy_ikony.jpg)



AUSTRIAN  
ACADEMY OF  
SCIENCES



MOSCUIT & ORTHPOL WORKSHOP

# STRATEGIES OF SAINTHOOD

LOCAL SAINTS IN PREMODERN EASTERN  
AND SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

10-11 MAY 2024  
AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES  
GEORG-COCH-PLATZ 2  
1010 VIENNA



# PROGRAMME

## FRIDAY, 10 MAY

- 09:15–09:30 **Introductory remarks**
- 09:30–10:10 **Ovidiu Cristea** | Bucharest  
*The Use of (Local) Saints in Medieval Wallachia and Moldavia: An Overview*
- 10:10–10:50 **Elisabeta Negrău** | Bucharest  
*Divine Guidance: Icons Depicting Portraits of Voivodes and Patron Saints in Late Medieval Wallachia*
- 10:50–11:10 COFFEE BREAK
- 11:10–11:50 **Monica White** | Nottingham  
*Rus Pilgrims to Constantinople and the Circulation of Saints in the Medieval Orthodox World*
- 11:50–12:30 **Iulia Nițescu** | Bucharest  
*Sainthood and Ecclesiastical Succession: Metropolitans as Saintly Protectors in 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> Century Moscow*
- 12:30–14:00 LUNCH
- 14:00–14:40 **Liliya Berezhnaya** | Vienna  
*St. Barbara on the Kyivan Hills: Local Saint-Making in an Interconfessional Perspective*
- 14:40–15:20 **Nataliia Sinkevych** | Leipzig  
*Veneration of Juliana of Holszansky – The First Attempt to Create a Local Female Cult in the Kyivan Metropolia*
- 15:20–15:40 COFFEE BREAK
- 15:40–16:20 **Emese Muntán** | Vienna  
*The Itinerant Madonna(s) of 17<sup>th</sup>-Century Ottoman Bosnia between Catholicism, Eastern Christianity, and Islam*
- 16:20–17:00 **Justin Willson** | Clinton, MA  
*The Fate of Icon Painters in Constructing a Saint's Legacy*
- 18:00 **Dinner**

## SATURDAY, 11 MAY

- 10:00–10:40 **Marija Vasiljević** | Belgrade  
*(Re-)Fashioning of a Local Saint in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Patriarchate of Peć: Noble-Despot-King Stefan Štiljanović*
- 10:40–11:20 **Yorgos Tzedopoulos** | Athens  
*Saint-Making, Confessional Antagonism, and Orthodox Identities in Istanbul during the Second Half of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century*
- 11:20–12:00 **Ovidiu Olar** | Vienna  
*The Making of Saint Kyrillos: Politics of Martyrdom in Early Modern Eastern Mediterranean*
- 12:00–12:30 **Concluding remarks**