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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
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Resilience: Spiritual Practices and Theological Insights in Different Religious Traditions

International Scientific Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Conference
29 May-1 June 2025, Fortna, Hradčanské náměstí 184/3, Praha 1

Organised by: The European Regional Development Fund project “Beyond Security: Role of Conflict in Resilience-Building” (reg. no.: CZ.02.01.01/00/22_008/0004595), Charles University Centre of Excellence: Theological Anthropology in Intercultural Perspective (No. UNCE/24/SSH/019).

Protestant, Catholic and Hussite Theological Faculties of Charles University

Working Language: English

The conference will explore how different forms of resilience underpin human development, and what spiritual and theological sources they draw on. Aware of the ambivalence of the concept of resilience, we will focus more on its positive capacity in the following ways: (i) as long-term care for what holds human personal and collective life together and gives it meaning and direction; (ii) as a gift and an ability to recover after having encountered situations that are in radical discord with human faith, desire for truth and justice, and human well-being; (iii) as mechanisms that help in negotiating conflicts and crises, and thus contribute to healing processes; (iv) as a gift and a task to adapt into new circumstances, to integrate insights from the dark times and whatever is left and/or rediscovered from spiritual practices and their theological interpretations.

In all these aspects of resilience the focus will be on personal as well as communal life in its different dimensions, relationship with nature, culture, engagement in social and political life. We will be exploring differences in cultural forms of resilience, and while most of the contributions will present Christian theological anthropological positions, the conference will include voices from other religions.



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PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 29 MAY

16.00 Registration and coffee at Fortna

17.00 – 19.00 Welcome, introduction of the participants (Ivana Noble)

SESSION I: DISCERNING RESILIENCE IN ALWAYS NEW CIRCUMSTANCES

Ivana Noble: What Does Not Kill You Makes You Stronger? Lev Gillet, André Scrima and Mother Maria Gysi on Different Forms of Resilience Underpinning Human Development

Pavel Kolář: Fragile Celebration of Dignity: Liturgical Aspects of Coping with the Colonial Past among Canadian Anglicans

Adéla Muchová: Adaptation to New Circumstances: Complicated Relationship between Theological Traditions and Spiritual Practices in the Czech Republic

19.00 Prayer in the chapel

Dinner

FRIDAY 30 MAY

9.00 Prayer

9.30 – 10.30 SESSION II: RESILIENCE WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN

Moderator: Tabita Landová

Pantelis Kalaitzidis: Resilient Striving for Peace and Unholiness of Killing in Orthodox Interpretation of War

Petre Maican: Recovering from Trauma: Orthodox Spiritual and Theological Resources

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 – 12.00 SESSION III: CARE FOR SOURCES – SOURCES OF CARE

Moderator: Tim Noble

Kateřina Kočandrle Bauer: Caring for Others and Caring for Sources of Life in Times of Crisis: Maria Skobtsova and Madeleine Delbr  l

Tereza Obolevitch: Different Notions and Practices of Care in Christian Mysticism according to Myra Lot Borodine

12.15 Lunch

14.00 – 15.30 SMALL GROUPS I (each speaker - 20 min + 10 min discussion)

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee break

16.00 walk/public transport trip to the University Campus, Hybernsk   4

17.30 short visit of the Campus

18.00 HYBERNSK  : HOLY PLACES IN UNHOLY TIMES: INTER-RELIGIOUS ROUND TABLE

Moderated by Kateřina Kočandrle Bauer and Ivana Noble, Guests: Anne-Marie Reijnen, Saida Mirsadri, Sr Marie-Farouza Maximos CCN, Sylvie Wittmannov  

A small reception afterwards at Hybernsk  



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SATURDAY 31 MAY

9.00 Prayer

9.30 – 10.30 **SESSION IV: LEARNING FROM NATURE**

Moderator: Pavel Kolář

Paola Moretti: Relationship between People and Animals in Ambrose of Milan

Tabita Landová: Ritualisation of Nature in Liturgy

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 – 12.00 **SESSION V: LEARNING FROM THE ART**

Moderator: Pavol Bargár

Assaad Kattan: All Beauty Prepares Us to Receive the Imperishable City: Reflections on Art and Beauty in Orthodox Theology

Ruth Anderwald: Dizziness: Philosophy and Art in Conversation on Practices of Resilience

12.15 Lunch

14.00 – 15.30 SMALL GROUPS II (each speaker - 20 min + 10 min discussion)

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee break

16.30 – 19.00 A Walk to Petřín Hill (organised by doctoral students)

SUNDAY 1 JUNE

9.00 Liturgy at Fortna

10.30 Coffee break in refectory

11.00 – 12.00 **SESSION VI: MISSION AND ECUMENISM STRETCHED BETWEEN DESIRES TO RETURN AND NEW WAYS FORWARD**

Moderator: Zdenko Širka

Najib Awad: Resilience, Resistance and Belonging: Making Sense of Self-Perception in Relation to the Religious Other

Fr Milutin Janjić and Tim Noble: How Mission Strengthens or Manipulates Resilience Face to Face Post-Truth Ideologies

12.15 – 12.45 FINAL DISCUSSION – Reflection on the conference (Pavol Bargár)

Moderator: Ivana Noble

13.00 Lunch



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