

Pantelis Kalaitzidis

Short Bio

Dr. Pantelis Kalaitzidis is an internationally well-known Orthodox Christian theologian, very much involved in Ecumenical and Interreligious dialogue, with a rich record of publications in the areas of the dialogue between Orthodoxy and modernity, religious nationalism and fundamentalism, Political theology, Curricula of Religious Literacy in Pluralistic Societies, and more.

Director of the Volos Academy, Research Fellow in American and European Universities, Co-Chairman of St Athanasius Lutheran-Orthodox Theological Fellowship, Member of the Steering Committee of the Pro Oriente for Catholic-Orthodox Dialogue, Co-Chair of the Political Theology group of IOTA, Editor of the series Doxa & Praxis/WCC Publications, Member of the Advisory Board of Orthodox and Ecumenical journals, Member of the Executive Committee of the European Academy of Religion (EuARE), Dr. Kalaitzidis is well-known for his efforts toward an inclusive approach to religious phenomenon which is both respectful of the respective religious traditions, and the neutrality and the pluralistic character of the public sphere.

Dr. Pantelis Kalaitzidis
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Statement

As the director of the Volos Academy for Theological Studies, my interest for the Executive Committee of EuARE can be summarized in the following three points:

(a) the importance of a pluralistic, non-denominational, and inclusive approach to religious matters both in public schools and media in order to address the phenomenon of the so-called religious illiteracy and to shape European citizens of tomorrow who will be characterized by tolerance of religious otherness and diversity, and not be seduced by populist rhetoric which misappropriates religious issues.

(b) the emphasis on the East and South-Eastern Europe and the Middle East, not as areas of religious conflict, clashing nationalisms and geopolitical rivalry, but rather as geographical areas with embedded spiritual and cultural patrimony that can promote the coexistence of religious diversity and, more generally, religion both as personal and cultural value, as well as a factor of peace and reconciliation.

and finally (c) the need to promote an Orthodox Christian theology and tradition in general that is not identified with nationalist state schemes and models of cultural wars but instead it stands critically and self-critically against the temptations of fundamentalism and intolerance being able to contribute to addressing contemporary challenges such as the ecological crisis, the understanding of human being in the post-modern society, etc.

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Curriculum Vitae

Dr. Pantelis Kalaitzidis studied Theology in Thessaloniki, and Philosophy in Paris, Sorbonne and Ecole pratique des hautes études. He has published extensively in many languages (Greek, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, Czech, Romanian, Serbian, Croatian, Bulgarian, Russian, Belarusian, and Arabic) in the areas of the eschatological dimension of Christianity, the dialogue between Orthodoxy and modernity, religious nationalism and fundamentalism, Political theology, contemporary Orthodox theology, issues of renewal and reformation in Eastern Orthodoxy, Ecumenical and Inter-religious dialogue, Curricula of Religious Literacy in Pluralistic Societies, and more. He serves as the editor of the theological series “Doxa & Praxis: Exploring Orthodox Theology” (WCC Publications), while he is a member of the Advisory Board of the *Review of Ecumenical Studies* (Sibiu, Romania), of the Orthodox journal *The Wheel* (USA), the *Journal of Orthodox Christian Studies* (John Hopkins University Press), and *Political Theology* (Taylor and Francis). He taught Systematic Theology at the Hellenic Open University, and at St Sergius Institute of Orthodox Theology in Paris (as Visiting Professor). He has also been a Research Fellow at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (Boston), Princeton Theological Seminary, and Princeton University (New Jersey), DePaul University (Chicago), at the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies of KU Leuven (Belgium), and at the Faculty of Protestant Theology of Münster University (Germany). Dr. Kalaitzidis is Co-Chairman of St Athanasius Lutheran-Orthodox Theological Fellowship, Member of the Steering Committee of the Pro Oriente Foundation for Catholic-Orthodox Dialogue, a member of the Executive Committee of the European Academy of Religion (EuARe, Bologna), a Chair (jointly with Prof. Papanikolaou) of the Political Theology group of the International Orthodox Theological Association (IOTA), as well as a member of the American Academy of Religion (AAR), and the Society of Christian Ethics (SCE). For the last twenty-two years Dr. Kalaitzidis has been the Director of the Volos Academy for Theological Studies, a research center in Greece dealing with contemporary issues for Eastern Orthodoxy.

In May 2007, Dr. Kalaitzidis was awarded with the honor of “Chévalier dans l’ordre de palme académique” (French Minister of Foreign Affairs and Institut français d’Athènes).

Publication of his books include, among others, the following titles:

- *Orthodoxie și modernitate. O Introducere*, traducere din neogreacă de Florin-Cătălin Ghiț, Prefață de Radu Preda, Colecția Universitas, Seria Theologia Socialis 9 (Cluj-Napoca: Eikon Publications, 2010).

Orthodoxy and Political Theology (Geneva: WCC Publications, 2012).

- *Nel mondo ma non del mondo: sfide e tentazioni della chiesa nel mondo contemporaneo*, traduzione, cura, prefazione di Luigi d'Ayala (Magnano: Edizioni Qiqajon-Comunità di Bose, 2016).

- *Orthodoxy and Modernity: Introducing a Constructive Encounter* (Paderbon: Brill/Schöningh, forthcoming fall 2022).