

Transhumanism in the light of theology, philosophy and science *Critical perspective and Christian metaphysical implications*

International Conference organized by the
Faculty of Letters, Theology and History
(West University Timisoara)

Timisoara,

Deschiderea oficială:

Vineri, 27 mai 2022, ora 9.00

Locația: „Sala Rotonda” (str. Oituz, nr. 4)

TOPICS:

1. THE DELUSION OF TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSCENDENCE
2. THE BIBLICAL ESCHATOLOGY AND THE ‘IDEA OF PROGRESS’
3. „BEYOND MAN”: REFLECTIONS ON A CONTEMPORARY TOPIC OF TRANSHUMANISM AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
4. TRANSCEND OR TRANSGRESS? TRANSFORMATION OF BODY AND MIND – THE CHRISTIAN RHETORIC INTO THE TRANSHUMANITY DEBATE
5. DIGITAL IMMORTALITY – RELIGION, MIND UPLOADING AND A POSTHUMAN CONDITION
6. TRANSHUMANISM AND TRANSCENDENCE: CHRISTIAN HOPE IN AN AGE OF TECHNOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT
7. TRANSHUMANISTIC AND POSTHUMANISTIC – NEW RELIGION, NEW MATERIALISM
8. THE BRAIN, THE MIND AND THE MYSTERY OF THE SOUL AND THE PERSON
9. NEUROSCIENCE AND THE SOUL: THE HUMAN PERSON IN PHILOSOPHY, SCIENCE, AND THEOLOGY
10. HUMAN UNIQUENESS IN SCIENCE AND THEOLOGY

Organizing Committee:

Acad. MIRCEA DUMITRU (Romanian Academy)

LOREDANA PUNGĂ (West University of Timișoara)

ADRIAN LEMENI (University of Bucharest)

NICHIFOR TĂNASE (West University of Timișoara),

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TRANSHUMANISM

Critical perspectives and Christian metaphysical implications

a dialog between

Theology, Philosophy and Science

International Conference (Timișoara, MAY 27-28, 2022)

In this academic event we will bring the transhumanist ideal into conversation with modern philosophy and Christian theology. We are inviting you to participate in this conference to examine, from the perspective of philosophy and theology, the recent cultural movement calling itself transhumanism, that combines biology with technology, enhancing our bodies and brains with scientific innovation, seeking to overcome the limitations of our flesh.

The dialogue between science, theology and philosophy lately has managed a notable move in a fresh creative direction. This is owed largely to his principal aim of juxtaposing the conventional modern philosophical and cosmological concerns with the theological ideas and methods of the early Church Fathers. Therefore, the main objective of this conference is to advance the science and theology discourse along an existential route, employing Patristic ideas toward a new synthesis with modern philosophy and science and, thus, to locate scientific knowledge and faith as twin activities of the contemporary shared human subjectivity.

TOPICS:

- ✚ THE DELUSION OF TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSCENDENCE
- ✚ THE BIBLICAL ESCHATOLOGY AND THE 'IDEA OF PROGRESS'
- ✚ „BEYOND MAN”: REFLECTIONS ON A CONTEMPORARY TOPIC OF TRANSHUMANISM AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
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SECRETARIATUL DE STAT
PENTRU CULTE



ACADEMIA ROMÂNĂ
FILIALA TIMIȘOARA

International Conference

“Transhumanism in the light of theology, philosophy and science - critical perspectives and Christian metaphysical implications”

(Timișoara, MAY 26-29, 2022)

TIME	Thursday, 26 May 2022
19.00-21.00	Welcome, Introductions and Dinner
TIME	Friday, 27 May 2022
9.00-9.30	Opening of the Conference and Welcome Speeches His Eminence, Metropolitan Ioan Selejan *** Professor ADRIAN LEMENI – PhD, Associate Professor, University of Bucharest Acad. Professor DAN DUBINĂ, PhD, President of the Romanian Academy - Timișoara branch Professor MARILEN GABRIEL PIRTEA, PhD, Rector of the West University of Timisoara Professor LOREDANA PUNGĂ, PhD, Dean of the Faculty of Letters, History and Theology
I.	FIRST session: PLENARY Presentation
Chairman	Professor, PhD. ALIN GAVRELIUC Faculty of Sociology and Psychology (West University of Timisoara)
9.30-9.50	Professor PhD. ADRIAN LEMENI Associate Professor, University of Bucharest Title: <i>“Himera transumanismului cu privire la depășirea morții prin tehnologie”</i>
9.50-10.00	Q & A
10.00-10.20	Assoc. Prof. dr. eng. FLORIN DRĂGAN Professor of Computer Science (Rector of Politehnica University Timișoara) Title: <i>“People and Technology. Quo vadis?”</i>
10.20-10.30	Q & A
10.30-10.50	Principal Researcher PhD. ȘTEFAN CÂRSTEA Senior Researcher 1, Department of Theoretical Physics at IFIN-HH - Horia Hulubei National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering Title: <i>“Transhumanism face to face with the Holy Cross Mystery”</i>

10.50-11.00	Q & A
11.00-11.20	Coffee Break
Chairman	PhD. Lecturer ADRIAN COVAN, Faculty of Letters, History and Theology (West University)
11.20-11.40	<p align="center">Professor PhD. ȘTEFAN TRĂUȘAN-MATU</p> <p align="center">Professor of Computer Science (University Politehnica of Bucharest) & Romanian Academy Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence "Mihai Drăgănescu" (ICIA)</p> <p align="center"><i>Title: "Artificial Intelligence, Transhumanism and the Delusion of Mind Uploading, from a Science-Theology Perspective"</i></p>
11.40-11.50	Q & A
11.50-12.10	<p align="center">Professor PhD. ALIN GAVRELIUC</p> <p align="center">Faculty of Sociology and Psychology (West University of Timisoara)</p> <p align="center"><i>Title: "Technological development, subjective happiness, and the enlargement of experiential consumerism for the post-materialist human"</i></p>
12.10-12.20	Q & A
12.20-13.00	<p align="center">LANSARE DE CARTE</p> <p align="center">Conf. dr. ADRIAN LEMENI – "TEHNICIZAREA INUMANĂ A VIETII" (București: Editura Basilica, 2022)</p>
13.00-15.00	Lunch & rest time
II.	SECOND session: PLENARY Presentation
Chairman	PhD. Lecturer DANIEL LEMENI (West University of Timișoara)
15.00-15.20	<p align="center">PhD. Assistant PAUL SANDU</p> <p align="center">Faculty of Philosophy (University of Bucharest)</p> <p align="center"><i>Title: "Techno-logos. Plato's Critique of Technology"</i></p>
15.20-15.30	Q & A
15.30-15.50	<p align="center">Professor Ph.D. FLORIN LOBONȚ</p> <p align="center">Department of Philosophy Faculty of Political Sciences, Philosophy and Communication (West University Timișoara)</p> <p align="center"><i>Title: "Negative Freedom, Responsibility and Empathy in Weak Transhumanism"</i></p>
15.50-16.00	Q & A
16.00-16.20	<p align="center">Associate Professor, PhD. GABRIEL KELEMEN</p> <p align="center">Head of the Art History and Theory department on the Faculty of Arts and Design (West University of Timișoara)</p> <p align="center"><i>Title: "Transmodernity in art and culture"</i></p>
16.20-16.30	Q & A
16.30-17.00	Coffee Break
Chairman	PhD. Assistant PAUL SANDU, Faculty of Philosophy (University of Bucharest)
17.00-17.20	<p align="center">PhD. Lecturer DANIEL LEMENI</p> <p align="center">Faculty of Letters, History and Theology (West University)</p> <p align="center"><i>Title: "Asceticism of the Mind: Forms of Attention and Inner Transformation in Early Antique Monasticism"</i></p>

17.20-17.30	Q & A
17.30-17.50	<p>PhD. Lecturer ADRIAN COVAN Faculty of Letters, History and Theology (West University) Title: <i>"The incarnation of the divine Logos or the resumption of the theandric dialogue: Face to face"</i></p>
17.50-18.00	Q & A
18.00-18.20	<p>PhD. Lecturer NICHIFOR TĂNASE Faculty of Letters, History and Theology (West University) Title: <i>"Knowledge and intellectual illumination (νοερός φωτισμός) - the healthy human brain, beyond sensation or reason"</i></p>
18.20-18.30	Q & A
18.30-18.50	<p>PhD. Lecturer RAFAEL POVĂRNARU Faculty of Letters, History and Theology (West University) Title: <i>"Holy Trinity - The Paradigm of the New Man. A Theological and Liturgical Approach"</i></p>
18.50-19.00	Q & A
19.00-21.00	Diner
TIME	SATURDAY, 28 May 2022
III.	THIRD session: ONLINE Presentation
Chairman	Assoc. Prof. dr. eng. FLORIN DRĂGAN (Rector of Politehnica University Timișoara)
10.00-10.20	<p>Prof. PhD. PHILIPPE GAGNON Chaire Sciences, technosciences et foi à l'heure de l'écologie intégrale (Université Catholique de Lille) Title: <i>"Transhumanism as a glimpse in the beyond: a case for its ventriloquy and narrative substitution"</i></p>
10.20-10.30	Q & A
10.30-10.50	<p>Rev. dr. CHRISTOPHER KNIGHT Senior Research Associate of the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies (IOCS) Cambridge Title: <i>"Transhumanism and our Garments of Skin"</i></p>
10.50-11.00	Q & A
11.00-11.20	<p>Prof. PhD. YANNICK IMBERT Doyen, Professeur d'apologétique (Faculté Jean Calvin) Title: <i>"Teleological Perspectives on Humanity: Singularity or Kingdom Oriented?"</i></p>
11.20-11.30	Q & A
11.30-12.00	Coffee Break
Chairman	Professor Ph.D. FLORIN LOBONȚ, Department of Philosophy (West University Timișoara)
12.00-12.20	<p>PhD. Lecturer DANIEL ENEA Faculty of Letters, History and Theology (West University) Title: <i>"The hesychastic experience and the spiritual perception of the divine light of St. Symeon the New Theologian, as a patristic response to the challenge of transhumanism"</i></p>
12.20-12.30	Q & A

12.30-12.50	<p style="text-align: center;">PhD. Lecturer MARIUS FLORESCU Faculty of Letters, History and Theology (West University) <i>Title: "Theology and Astronomy. Possible Points of View from the Orthodox Theology on the Last Developments in the Science of Searching Universe"</i></p>
12.50-13.00	<p>Q & A</p>
13.00-13.20	<p style="text-align: center;">PhD. Lecturer MARIUS IOANA Faculty of Letters, History and Theology (West University) <i>Title: "Preaching in Metaverse?"</i></p>
13.20-13.30	<p>Q & A</p>
13.30-18.00	<p>Vineyard Tour and Tasting with Lunch</p>