

**PLOVDIV UNIVERSITY “PAISII HILENDARSKI”, BULGARIA**  
**UNIVERSITY OF FRIBOURG, SWITZERLAND**  
**UNION OF SCIENTISTS IN BULGARIA – PLOVDIV**



## **PROGRAM**

**International Conference**

# **“Physics and Theology – Yesterday and Today”**

*The conference intends to share scientific experience and knowledge in view of discussing the role played by natural sciences and Physics in particular in the development of ideas and concepts in Theology and Philosophy.*

**20-22 June 2019, Plovdiv**

Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”  
24 Tsar Asen St., 4000 Plovdiv, Bulgaria

## **LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

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*Assoc. Prof. Dr. Todorka L. Dimitrova*

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*Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lyuba Panayotova*

*Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Atanas Terzyiski*

*Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Anelia Dakova*

*Senior Lecturer Nikolay Zhelyazkov*

*Valentin Velchev, Ph.D. Student*

*Nayden Yotov, Ph.D. Student*

*Delko Zlatanski, Ph.D. Student*

### **Technical Secretary**

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## **PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

*Prof. Dr. Barbara Hallensleben*

*Prof. Dr. Guido Vergauwen*

*Prof. Dr. Ivan Dimitrov*

*Prof. Dr. Antoine Weis*

*Assoc. Prof. Dr. Todorka L. Dimitrova*

**Thursday, 20 June 2019**  
**5th Auditorium “Todor Vasilev”**

**OPENING SESSION: *DOES GOD PLAY DICE?***

- 12.00-14.00    **Registration**  
Conference Hall “Compass”
- 14.00-14.10    **Todorka L. Dimitrova**  
*(Opening of the conference)*  
*Physics and Theology – an unusual conference*
- 14.10-14.30    **Welcome addresses**
- 14:30-15:15    **Guido Vergauwen**  
*The concept of “Nature” and its importance for Theology*
- 15:15-15:45    **Coffee break**
- 15:45-16:45    **Todorka L. Dimitrova and Antoine Weis**  
(Lecture with demonstrations)  
*The wave-particle duality of light*
- 16:45-17:30    **Barbara Hallensleben**  
(Book presentation)  
*New Chances and Challenges for Theology as a Consequence of Research Results in Physics*
- 17:30-19.00    **Cocktail**  
Coffee Bar F10

**Friday, 21 June 2019**  
**5th Auditorium “Todor Vasilev”**

**SESSION 1: THE UNIVERSE AND ITS CONSTITUENTS**

- 9:00-9:30     **Venelin Kozhuharov**  
*A world of particles*
- 9:30-10:15   **Antoine Weis**  
*Mysteries of the Universe*
- 10:15-10:45   **Stoyan Tanev**  
*A methodological approach to the encounter of  
Theology with Physics*
- 10:45-11:15   **Coffee break**
- 11:15-12:00   **Arnold Benz**  
*Astrophysics and Theology of Creation*
- 12:00-12:30   **Ralf Bergmann**  
*On the Relation of Divine Intervention and  
Laws of Nature*
- 12:30-13:00   **Ivan Dimitrov**  
*Faith and Science – a Permanent Basic  
Discussion*
- 13:00-14:00   **Lunch: Self-organized**

## SESSION 2: *THEOLOGY TODAY*

- 14:00-14:30 **Valentin Kozhuharov**  
*Theology of the Mission of the Church in Light of Quantum Physics*
- 14:30-14:50 **Maria Schnitter**  
*Transformation in the understanding of time after the introduction of Christianity as reflected in the ancient Bulgarian literary tradition*
- 14:50-15:10 **Atanas Terziyski, Nikolay Kochev and Stoyan Tenev**  
*Dynamics of Science-Religion Interactions: practical, social and political implications*
- 15:10-15:30 **Viktor Kostov**  
*Returning to the fundamentals: the fallacy of scientific eschatology*
- 15:30-16:00 **Coffee break**
- 16:00-16:20 **Todor Veltchev**  
*Physics as vocation – now and in the past. A Christian perspective*
- 16:20-16:40 **Velislav Altunov**  
*Theology and science fiction - a possible dialogue?*
- 16:40-17:00 **Victor Makarov**  
*The God who plays... hide and seek*
- 17:00-18:00 **General discussion**  
led by Goran Blagoev (“Faith and Society”, Program of the Bulgarian National Television)
- 20:00 **Conference Dinner**  
Restaurant [\*Central Park\*](#) (Tsar Simeon Garden)

**Saturday, 22 June 2019**  
**5th Auditorium “Todor Vasilev”**

**SESSION 3: SCIENCE AND THEOLOGY – YESTERDAY  
AND TODAY**

- 9:00-9:30      **Dieter Hattrup**  
*In the 20th century, the former threat from  
natural sciences turned out to be an  
opportunity for theology*
- 9:30-10:00    **Ralf Bergmann**  
*Christian faith in a Post-Christian Europe:  
obstacles and opportunities*
- 10:00-10:45   **Henry F. Schaefer**  
*The life and faith of a scientist*
- 10:45-11:20   **Coffee break**
- 11:20-11:40   **Vladimir Bozhilov**  
*Photopolarimetric study of Blazar – type AGN  
OJ287 -Results and Discussion*
- 11:40-12:00   **Helmut Brückner**  
*Measuring time - potentials and limits of  
geological dating*
- 12:00-12:20   **Nayden Yotov**  
*Humanity+*
- 12:20-12:40   **Andrey Romanov**  
*Faith as an intellectual, emotional and  
spiritual endeavor*
- 12.40-13.00   **Yordan Epitropov, Yoan Epitropov**  
*On the evolutionary stages of knowledge*
- 13:00-14:00   **Lunch:** Self-organized

## **SESSION 4: SHORT COMMUNICATIONS**

- 14:00-14:10     **Valentin Velchev**  
*Is it possible to present a scientific argumentation for the existence of God?*
- 14:10-14:20     **Oliver Cackov Yuliana Belcheva**  
*The transition of Blaise Pascal from the calculating machine to Jansenism*
- 14:20-14:30     **Dimo Hristozov**  
*Spiritual value in human evolution through physics and theology achievements*
- 14:30-14:40     **Kiril Kolikov**  
*The Spiritual Waves Doctrine in the Teachings of Wisdom*
- 14:40-14:50     **Tzvetelin Angelov**  
*The theological idea in theological context in the philosophy of Immanuel Kant*
- 14:50-15:20     **Coffee break**
- 15:20-18:00     **Round table discussion**  
led by Barbara Hallensleben / Maria Schmitter  
*Science and Theology: What do we know, what have we learned?*
- 18:00            **Closing remarks**

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