

PAPERS AND PUBLICATION

Those who wish to present a paper should send a summary (400–500 words) by email to St. Andrew's Institute by 1 November 2020. The Organizing Committee selects papers for the Conference and sends invitations to the speakers. The full texts of all selected papers will have to be submitted by 1 December 2020. The working languages of the conference will be Russian and English.

Papers are scheduled for 20 minutes each. Some of the papers will be published in St. Andrew's quarterly *Pages: Theology, Culture, Education*. The registration form can be found on St. Andrew's website www.standrews.ru. Registrations, summaries and papers should be sent to:

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ORGANIZATION AND ACCOMMODATION

The working days of the Conference are 11 and 12 December. The organizers can assist the speakers in finding suitable accommodation in Moscow. Some scholarships to cover part of the cost of participation in the conference might be available upon request.

St. Andrew's Biblical Theological Institute

PATRONS: METROPOLITAN KALLISTOS OF DIOKLEIA, LORD RICHARD HARRIES,
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Invitation and Call for Papers

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

THE PERSON IN A POST-RELIGIOUS SOCIETY

10–13 December 2020
Moscow, Russia

Visit our web-site
STANDREWS.RU

THEME OF THE CONFERENCE

Significant changes taking place in contemporary society over the last decades, caused by globalization and the information revolution, allow us to speak of a new emerging religious situation. Traditional religion is more and more superseded by a different kind of religiosity often called “post-religion”. This multifaceted phenomenon is difficult to determine in strict terms but it can roughly be described as a free, open and non-dogmatic search for the sacred, which often finds its expression in emerging groups and communities that, unlike traditional religious bodies, are non-hierarchical in their structure and have a more positive attitude toward the contemporary world with its aspiration for individual freedom and self-realization. This applies not only to the so-called new religious movements but increasingly to the mainstream religions, including Christianity. Even within the most conservative Orthodox churches there emerge such grass-roots movements inspired by new ideas and new approaches to age-old existential and spiritual issues. Post-religion thus should not necessarily be presented as something totally opposed to and separate from traditional religiosity; it can perhaps be regarded as a further stage in the evolution of religion conditioned by new developments taking place in human society.

How does this new situation affect the concept of the person, the very content of this idea? Christianity has often claimed that this concept has theological roots: as long as the human being was considered to be an image of God, the idea of the human person was deeply influenced by the notion of the Trinity and the

interpersonal relations between its hypostases, as this was developed in early Christian theology. Even if this is not the full truth, still one can hardly deny that a religious dimension has been important for the understanding of the human person in medieval and modern times. But what kind of changes in the concept of the human person can we observe today, in our post-modern and post-religious age,

- when Christianity actively interacts with other religions and cultures whose understandings of the person may differ significantly from the Christian concept;
- when, due to feminist theology, God is no longer perceived in solely masculine and patriarchal terms;
- when ecological concerns and the issue of animal rights impel us to think of the rest of creation in less impersonal categories than in the past and to regard the human being not as “the crown of creation” but as just one part of it, perhaps not even the best part;
- when real human community is more and more transformed into a society of consumption and entertainment populated by “one-dimensional” individuals with “virtual” rather than real relations between them;
- when artificial intelligence is becoming itself a quasi-personal reality that can greatly facilitate our life but can also be used to control almost every aspect of it?

These are some of the questions we would like to discuss at the forthcoming conference.