sciendo

The André Scrima Fellowships, 2017-2021

Starting with 2017, the Institute of Ecumenical Research, Lucian Blaga University, inaugurated a series of research fellowships dedicated to young scholars. The program bears the name of the Romanian-French Orthodox theologian André Scrima (1925-2000). Trained both in philosophy and theology, Scrima's thinking and spirituality displayed a profound knowledge and openness not only for the Christian tradition but also for other religions (e.g. Hinduism, Islam).

The fellowship aims to promote excellence in research and interdisciplinary approaches among young Romanian theologians. Each year a composite group of fellows is selected to foster a dynamic forum for research. The program is designed for doctoral, postdoctoral and junior researchers in any field of humanities and social sciences, with preference given to researchers in the fields of theology, history, philosophy and religious studies. The fellowship period commences in the second part of the academic year, in the summer semester. Fellows taking up research stays contribute to the journal issued by the Institute, the *Review of Ecumenical Studies,* with an article or a review (depending on the duration of their stay). The fellows are expected to take an active part in the activities of the Institute and to present their research in a public conference organized by the Institute. The fellows also take part in the workshop usually organized at Stânceni Skete (one of the five skete foundations of the Carmelite Monastery of Saint Elijah, Saint-Rémy, renowned for its uniquely rich theological library).

Thus far the André Scrima fellowships have been awarded for the completion of small-scale, yet ambitious projects with a focus on theological or religious topics addressed from a variety of perspectives. The listing provided here offers an overview of the projects that have been funded so far. The incoming fellows for 2021 and their respective research projects are: Iulian Apostolescu (*The Phenomenological Implications of André Scrima's Apophatic Anthropology*), Valentina Covaci (*Easter in Crusader Jerusalem: Latin-Greek Liturgical Encounters and Debates on Orthodoxy*), Victor Georgescu (Deuteronomy 4:1-40 *and the First Commandment of the Decalogue*), Mihail Mitrea (*Praying in late Byzantium: Philotheos Kokkinos's* euchai diaphoroi), Anca Șincan (*The End of the World is Coming: Women Seers and Visionaries Redesigning Traditional Hierarchies in the Religious Underground in 1950s Romania*), Mariana Țăranu (*Resistance Through Religion in the Soviet Socialist Republic of Moldova, 1944-1965*).

In 2020 the Institute welcomed the following fellows: Dragoș Boicu (*Epiphany of the Other. The Religious Dialogue in the View of Father*

André Scrima), Nicolae Drăguşin (*A Brick to the Foundation of Christian-Jewish Dialogue: Petre Chiricuță's Reply, 1926, to A.C. Cuza's Religious Antisemitism,1923*), Mircea Duluş (*Defining Religious Identity in the Twelfth Century Norman Kingdom: The Case of Philagathos of Cerami and Neilos Doxapatres*), Mihai Grigoraş (*Theophany in John Scot Eriugena's* Periphyseon V*, Expositiones and Commentarius*), Corina Hopârtean (*Mendicant Orders in Sibiu/Hermannstadt in the 16th Century*), Andra Jugănaru (*Mapping Women's Pilgrimages in the Fourth and the Fifth Century. Itineraries and Social Networks*), Iuliu Marius Morariu (*The Ecumenical Vision of Father Andrei Scrima as Reflected in „Securitate" Archives*).

In 2019 the Institute financed the projects of the following fellows: Răzvan Perșa (*Heresy/Heretics, Schismatics/Schism, Ilicit Assemblies. Naming the Non-Orthodox Communities in the First Millennium*), Ana-Maria Răducan (*A fi sau a nu fi … filosofi. Configurarea identității unei elite în secolul al XI-lea*), Paul Siladi (*The "Ecumenism" of the Desert Fathers. The Relation to the Other in* Apophtegmata Patrum), Alexandru Briciu (*The WCC, an* Arbitrator ex Aeque et Bono *in the Eastern Bloc. The Romanian Systematization Issue*), Daniel Cergan (*Comunicarea religioasă și societatea modernă. Identitatea religioasă în lumea modei*), Ileana Suciu (*Despre identitate și datorie: Sărbătoarea Bunei-Vestiri*).

For the year 2017 - 2018 – the first year of the program – the fellows have been invited to the Institute already in the fall semester: Ionuț Biliuță (Ex Occidente Lux: *Orthodox Students in German Protestant Departments of theology, late 19th century-1945*), Ionuț Crișan (*Spiritualitatea sacrificială în opera pr. Dumitru Stăniloae și a lui Jürgen Moltmann. O receptare critică pentru o teologie ecumenică*), Marian Pătru (*Utopie sau mit teologico-politic? Religie, politica si interconfesionalitate in opera lui Vladimir Soloviov*), Cătălin Popa Ștefan (*Heilig und profan in Jerusalems des 7. Jahrhuderts. Sophronius Wahrnehmungen über eine Stadt in Veränderung*), Cătălin Vatamanu (*Rezeption des ersten Gebotes des Dekalogs in jüdischer und christlicher Tradition als Modell zur Förderung der Einheit der Christen in der heutigen Welt*). A more detailed report on the beginning of the fellowship was published in Issue 2 of *Review of Ecumenical Studies* 10 (2018): 282–83.

The Institute of Ecumenical Research is grateful to the patrons of the project that have diligently supported the program from the very beginning. A special token of gratitude is due to the board of Sefar Company of Sighișoara, Romania, which sponsors the fellows every year.

Florin George Calian
André Scrima Program Coordinator
Institute for Ecumenical Research