

EDITORIAL

The years 2020 and 2021 will linger in memory as the *anni horribiles* of the COVID-19 pandemic—with 2022 passing the baton to global security concerns of war and peace while the pandemic is still ongoing. The predicament of the pandemic poses considerable challenges to our societies: from our everyday life and our collective interaction with and understanding of science, to our ecclesial life and our theology. This special issue of *Analogia* is dedicated to the study of the relationship between the pandemic and the church, science and religion, in the predominantly Orthodox countries of Bulgaria, Serbia, Romania, and Greece during 2020 & 2021, yet it also addresses a wider aspect relating to the representations of ‘science’ and ‘religion’ in the public square of these countries and beyond.

On Saturday 9 April 2022, we convened a virtual workshop on ‘*Representations of science and religion in the public square of predominantly Orthodox countries during COVID-19*’, jointly hosted by IOCS Cambridge and the Faculty of Theology ‘St Clement of Ohrid’ in Skopje, which formed the basis for the present issue.

In the first paper, Dr Sotiris Mitralaxis provides insights from **Greece**, with a paper titled ‘Religion as Science, Science as Religion, and an Unwelcome Reformation: Science and Religion in the Public Square during COVID-19—a Greek Orthodox Case Study’. Dr Vladimir Cvetković from the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade, offers an overview of developments in **Serbia** in his paper ‘Creationism, Communion and Vaccines: Science and Religion in the Serbian Orthodox Church’. The third paper, on **Romania** and by Dr Alexandru Racu (Hyperion University, Bucharest), studies ‘the Romanian Orthodox Church and its Attitude towards the Public Health Measures Imposed during the COVID-19 Pandemic’. Two papers on **Bulgaria** follow: Professor Smilen Markov’s (University of Veliko Tarnovo & Regent’s Park College, Oxford) ‘COVID-19 and Orthodoxy: Uncertainty, Vulnerability and the Hermeneutics of Divine Economy’, and Professor Georgi Kapriev’s (St Kliment Ohridski University, Sofia) ‘COVID-19 Crisis, Social Panic, Religious and Academic Life in Bulgaria’. Revd Prof. Nikolaos Loudovikos (University Ecclesiastical Academy of Thessaloniki, IOCS Cambridge & University

of Winchester), the senior editor of *Analogia*, offers the epilogue to this special issue on the pandemic.

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– *Dr Sotiris Mitralaxis* &
Revd Dr Milan Đorđević, Guest Editors