

**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM**  
**Christian Egypt and Syria at the dawn of the 7th Century:**  
**Theological and Cultural Interactions**

Thursday, 23 November 2017  
Skoufa 45, Historical Archives,  
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

**PROGRAM**

18:00 Opening - Greetings

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**Introduction**

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18:20 *Damian of Alexandria (578-605) and his Entourage: Coptic Literary Production between Theological Controversies and Cultural Necessities.*

**Nikos Kouremenos** (Postdoctoral fellow, Research Centre for the Humanities, Athens)

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**Keynote lecture**

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18:45 *New discoveries in Coptic and Copto-Arabic Literature: Rufus of Shotep and Constantine of Assiut: Constantine of Assiut on John of Lycopolis: a Life or an Encomium?*

**Mark Sheridan** (Rector emeritus, Pontifical Athenaeum of St. Anselm, Rome)

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**Contributions**

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19:30 *The perception of Egypt in Christian Middle East during the 6th and 7th centuries*

**Dimitrios Moschos** (Associate Professor, Faculty of Theology, University of Athens)

19:50 *Christian Nubia and Syria: Tracing the Evidence*

**Alexandros Tsakos** (Postdoctoral fellow, University of Bergen, Norway)

20:15 Discussion

20:45 End of the event

**The participants**

Originally from Washington, DC, **Mark Sheridan** is a Benedictine monk in the Holy Land and professor emeritus in the Faculty of Theology of the Pontificio Ateneo S. Anselmo, Rome, where he served as dean of the Faculty of Theology (1998-2005) and Rector Magnificus (2005-2009) of the Athenaeum. He continues his research in the areas of Coptology and ancient Christian literature. Among his publications are: *Rufus of Shotep. Homilies on the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Introduction, Text, Translation, Commentary* (Roma, 1998) [Sahidic texts of the sixth century C.E.] and *From the Nile to the Rhone and Beyond: Studies in Early Monastic Literature and Scriptural Interpretation* (Studia Anselmiana 156; Roma, 2012). [Collected essays including topics in Coptology]



**Dimitrios Moschos** is Associate Professor of Church History in the Faculty of Theology at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and private lecturer (Privatdozent) at the Theological Faculty of Rostock University in Germany. His research interests focus on the interrelation between broader religious and cultural currents like ascetism or Greek philosophy and institutional and social transformations within the Christian Church.

**Alexandros Tsakos** has studied History and Archaeology in Greece and Ancient Religions in Belgium. He holds a PhD from Humboldt University, Berlin, on Greek manuscripts from medieval Sudan. Since 2008, he is living in Bergen, Norway, where in 2011 he founded with his wife, Henriette Hafsaas-Tsakos, the Organization for Greek-Norwegian Cooperation in the fields of Culture and Humanities. He is currently a postdoc researcher at the Institute of Archaeology, History, History of Art, and Religion at the University of Bergen, with the project Religious Literacy of Christian Nubia.



**Nikolaos Kouremenos** earned his PhD degree in Oriental Ecclesiastical Sciences at the Pontifical Institute of Rome in 2014. His dissertation was the *editio princeps* of the Coptic Passion of Saint Philotheus of Antioch. He specializes in Early Oriental Christian Literature, mainly in Coptic and Syriac literary productions. He is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Research Centre for the Humanities (Athens) focusing his research on the formation of the Coptic identity within the Coptic literature during the 6th and 7th centuries.