

European Intensive Programme
**TRANSLATING GOD(S):
FLUID RELIGION AND ORTHODOXY**
Constanța, Sept 9 to 22, 2012

This **European Intensive Programme** (IP) offers post-graduate students from around 20 European universities a European Theology & Religious Studies course in the new academic disciplines of *Intercultural Theology* and *Interreligious Studies*. Its course value is 10 ECTS. Arrival Sept 9; departure Sept 22, 2012.

Faced with Europe's increasingly crosscultural and interreligious realities, students will explore the ecumenical and cultural challenges for theology and religion today. The IP in Constanța is hosted by "**St. Andrew**" **Orthodox Theological Faculty at the Ovidius University of Constanța** at the Black Sea in Romania. While drawing on elements from the former two IPs, it will focus on the theme of *Fluid Religion and Orthodoxy*. It will explore comprehensively important contemporary socio-cultural and religious developments and Orthodox and other faiths' theological responses to them.

In this sense, the programme invites, on the one hand, to study "Orthodoxy and Religions in Contemporary Southeast Europe", and to further questions around "Religion and Public Theology", "Constructing Religious Identities", "Religion and the EU", "Religious Convictions in (Post)Secular Societies" and "Religion and Globalization", on the other. From this broader study interest, the IP offers students from across Europe unique insights on the following four thematic areas:

Religion and Democracy in Southeast Europe

The end of communism brought about new possibilities for religion to participate in the public sphere of Southeast Europe. The pivotal social-political changes raised a number of questions, which this thematic element seeks to address. How is the communist oppression and cooptation of religion remembered and conceptualized today? What are the major legal, social and cultural aspects of the redefinition of the relationship between the State and religion? What are the theological reflections on the processes of democratization in Southeast Europe?

Religion and Nationalism in the Balkans: Continuity and Change

The powerful links between religion and nation have a long historical record in the Balkans. This thematic unit will discuss both historical and contemporary aspects of the interplay between religious and national identities. It seeks to defy stereotypes that only Orthodox Christianity is tied to nationalist ideologies and political practices. It will also look at some theological responses to nationalism in different faith traditions.

Religion and the EU: Integration of Southeast Europe

Ongoing debates on the place and role of religion in the EU have been influenced by, and have also influenced, discourses on the European identity (in construction), historical legacies, religious and political boundaries, legal and theological concerns. This thematic unit will explore challenges and opportunities for different religions, and particularly for Orthodox Christianity, in the perspective of the EU enlargement. It will revisit debates and interpretations of Europe's religious heritage and consider the role of religion in the secular framework of the EU.

Religion and Globalization

Studies on religion and globalization have become prominent entry points in the understanding of contemporary fluid religion and culture. Globalizing economies, technologies of communication, global migration and transportation prompted simultaneous processes of homogenization and particularization, captured by the term "glocalization." Fluid interaction of different cultures and religions has increased religious pluralism, the porousness of religious boundaries and cultural *bricolage*. These developments received a variety of religious and theological responses. This thematic element will deal with topics such as Orthodoxy Christianity in a global age, interreligious coexistence, conflict and dialogue. It will also explore theological responses to the "new modernities" and to the global realities of "fluid religions."

A detailed programme with abstracts and registration details will be available by November 1, 2011. For further information contact: translating.gods@tcd.ie.