

# From *polyglossia* to *polyethnia*: Culture, Ethnicity and Identity on Medieval Mount Athos

The Second Workshop for the ERC Starting Grant “Mount Athos in Medieval Eastern Mediterranean Society: Contextualizing the History of a Monastic Republic (ca. 850-1550)”

March 17th-19th, 2022, Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz, GFG 01-511 (a “hybrid” event)

## Description

The participants in this second MAMEMS workshop will explore questions of cultural and ethnic identity on medieval Mount Athos. Of particular importance will be discussing ways of moving beyond traditional discussions of “national” identity on the Holy Mountain, and how more recent scholarship on ethnicity in the Middle Ages might inform the Athonite context. The workshop will be held in a “hybrid” format, with both in-person and digital participation via Zoom. Those interested in attending the workshop should send an e-mail to [mamems@uni-mainz.de](mailto:mamems@uni-mainz.de) by March 15th, 2022. Attendees will be then sent a Zoom-link for all of the workshop sessions.

### Thursday, March 17th

**4:30-5:00 p.m.**

Welcome, Opening Remarks

**5:00-7:00 p.m.**

Session 1: Changing Identities on Ottoman Athos

*Georgios Liakopoulos / Elias Kolovos*  
“In Search of Ethnic Diversity in Ottoman Documents Pertaining to Mt Athos”

*Sergej Shumylo*

“The Existence of the Ukrainian ‘Cossack’ Skete ‘Black Whirlpool’ on Mount Athos in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century According to Archival Sources”

*Radu Păun*

“The Languages of Charity. Mount Athos in the Wallachian and Moldavian documents (14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Centuries)”

**7:00 p.m.**

Dinner for Conference Participants

### Friday, March 18th

**10:00 a.m.-12:00 a.m.**

Session 2: A Lingering Presence: Armenians, Georgians and Latins on Athos

*Gevorg Kazaryan*

“Historical Evidence for the Presence of Armenian Monks on Mount Athos, 9<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Centuries”

*Marco Merlini*

“The Geopolitical Role of the Benedictine House in the Ecumenical Athonite Community”

*Tamar Otkhmezuri*

“Georgians on Mt Athos: Medieval Georgian Literary Culture and Manuscript Production at Iviron Monastery”

**12:00-1:00 p.m.**

Catered Lunch for Conference Participants

**1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.**

Session 3: South Slavs and *Serbokratia*

*Kirill Maksimovič*

“Communities and Communication on Mount Athos: Possibilities and Limits of Interethnic Connections Between Russians and Serbs”

*Kyrill Pavlikianov*

“The Bulgarian Linguistic and Ethnic Presence on Mount Athos from 980 to 1550”

**2:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.**

Coffee Break

**3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.**

Session 4: Liturgy and Living Together

*Tinatın Chronz*

“Liturgical Life of Iberians and Rhomaioi in Iviron: Separate and Yet Together”

*Srđan Pirivatrić*

“Concepts of Ethnicity at the Monastery of Hilandar (late 12<sup>th</sup> - mid-13<sup>th</sup> Century)”

**7:00 p.m.**

Dinner for Conference Participants

### Saturday, March 19th

**10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

Session 5: Identity on and beyond Athos

*Zachary Chitwood*

“Shifting Allegiances: Mount Athos, Byzantine Political Decline and the Emergence of a ‘Hagiorite’ Identity”

*Jost Gippert*

“*Membra disiecta*: Georgian Manuscripts of the Iviron Monastery and Beyond”

*Milan Vukašinić*

“Mobility, Property, (Extra)territoriality: Whose Language and Ethnicity Mattered on Athos?”

**12:00-1:00 p.m.**

Concluding Remarks and Discussion