

HYBRID INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



BASIL II AND HIS AGE (976-1025): Material Culture, Art and Architecture

(on the Occasion of the millennium of his passing)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF THESSALONIKI,
13-15 DECEMBER 2025



ORGANIZERS

Paschalis ANDROUDIS

Associate Professor of Byzantine and Islamic Art and Archaeology, Department of History and Archaeology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Jenny ALBANI

Dr, Architect, Art Historian



PROGRAM

First Day: Saturday 13 December 2025

09:00-09:10 **The Organizers**
Welcoming remarks

1st Session – The Ruler's Image

Chair: Aristotelis MENTZOS

09:10-09:30 **Symeon PASCHALIDIS** - The emperor Basil II in the encomiastic Life of St Photios founder of Akapniou monastery (BHG 1545) by Eustathius of Thessalonica

09:30-09:50 **Manolis PATEDAKIS** - The Palace of the Earthly Lord, and the Lord of Heaven, in Symeon the New Theologian

09:50-10:10 **Konstantinos TAKIRTAKOGLU** - Some observations about the image of Basil II in Armenian historiographical sources

10:10-10:30 **Pagona PAPADOPOULOU** - Gold, Silver, Copper: The Coinage of Basil II in Context

10:30-10:50 Questions – Discussion

10:50-11:10 Coffee Break



2nd Session – Byzantium and Beyond

Chair:

11:10-11:30 **Maria GEROLYMATOU** - Trade privileges and agreements around the time of Basil II

11:30-11:50 **Angeliki DELIKARI** - Byzantium and the Slavic World

11:50-12:10 **Srdjan PIRIVATRIĆ** - Basil II and the management of ecclesiastical affairs - the case of Bulgaria

12:10-12:30 **Alexandra-Kyriaki WASSILIOU -SEIBT** - Reconstructing the Byzantine Balkan

Frontier under Basil II and his successors

12.30-12.50 Questions – Discussion

12.50-13.10 **Koray DURAK** - The Μαγαρίται and Shifting Alliances on Byzantium's Border with Syria

13.10-13.30 **Andrey VINOGRADOV** - Byzantium and Rus' under Basil II

13.30-13.50 **Sverrir JAKOBSSON** - The Origin of the Varangian contingent in the Byzantine Army. Conflicting Narratives

13.50-14.10 Questions – Discussion

14:10-16.30 Lunch Break



KEYNOTE LECTURE

16.30- 17.10 **Paul MAGDALINO**

The Millennial Emperor and the Queen of Cities: Constantinople in the reign of Basil II



3rd Session – Basil II's Artistic Patronage, the Great Church and the Monasteries in Constantinople

Chair:

17.10-17.30 **Vasileios KATSAROS** - Basil II as patron of arts

17.30-17.50 **Lorenzo RICCARDI** - A Basil II's patronage in the Hagia Sophia? The lunette mosaic of the south vestibule

17.50-18.10 **Kostis SMYRLIS** - Monastic fortune in Constantinople

18.10-18.30 **Nikolaos MELVANI** - The Constantinopolitan monastery of Stoudios in 10th c.

18.30-18.50 Questions - Discussion



4th Session – Beyond Constantinople

Chair:

18.50-19.10 **Aristotelis MENTZOS** - Basil II and the Monastery of Akapniou at Thessaloniki

19.10-19.30 **Konstantinos RAPTIS** - Thessaloniki at the time of Basil II

19.30-19.50 **Teresa SHAWCROSS** - The Importance of Athens in Basil II's Imperial Policy

19.50-20.10 **Demetrios ATHANASOULIS, Eleni MANOLESSOU** - Corinth in the days of Basil II

20.10-20.30 **Vassiliki SYTHIAKAKI** - Byzantine Crete at the age of Basil II

20.30-21.00 Questions - Discussion

End of the first day of the Conference



Second Day: Sunday 14 December 2025

5th Session – Written Sources and Literature

Chair: **Vasileios KATSAROS**

09.00-09.20 **Stratis PAPAIOANNOU**- The Byzantine Literary Production during the Reign of Basil II: A Reconsideration

09.20-09.40 **Sophia KALOPISSI- VERTI** - Byzantine inscriptions

09.40-10.00 **Jim CROW** - Basil II and the water supply of Constantinople, a discussion of the epigraphic and archaeological evidence from eastern Thrace

- 10.00-10.20 Questions – Discussion
10.20-10.40 Coffee Break



6th Session – Mount Athos

Chair: Symeon PASCHALIDIS

- 10.40-11.00 **Dimitrios LIAKOS** - The 10th-century chapel in the yard of the Monastery of Iviron, Mt Athos
- 11.00-11.20 **Paschalis ANDOUDIS** - Ecclesiastical architecture on Mt Athos
- 11.20-11.40 **Marco MERLINI** - Apothikon-Amalfion: The Benedictine Monastery on Mount Athos and Its Role in Fostering Christian Dialogue through Greek-to-Latin Hagiographic Translation (10th-11th century)
- 11.40-12.00 **Theocharis PAZARAS** - Byzantine sculpture on Mt Athos
- 12.00-12.20 Questions – Discussion



7th Session –Architecture and Architectural Sculpture

Chair: Jenny ALBANI

- 12.20-12.40 **Georgios PALLIS** - Byzantine sculpture in the era of Basil II: Landmarks and Developments
- 12.40-13.00 **Eleni MANOLESSOU** - Byzantine sculpture in the era of Basil II: the Hosios Loukas Monastery
- 13.00-13.20 **Michalis KAPPAS** - Ecclesiastical architecture in southern Greece at the threshold of the first to the second Millennium AD.
- 13.20-13.40 **Stavros GOULOULIS** - Redating the basilica of Hagios Achillios in Prespa
- 13.40-14.00 **Denis JOLSHIN** - A church, a palace, and a fortress: Byzantine builders and the rise of masonry architecture in the late 10th-century Kiev

- 14.00-14.20** **Veronica KALAS** - Byzantine Architecture in Anatolia during the time of Basil II: Rock Carved Settlements in Cappadocia Revisited
- 14.20-14.40** Questions - Discussion
- 14.40-16.00** Lunch Break



8th Session – Architecture

Chair: **Paschalis ANDROUDIS**

- 16.00-16.20** **Anastasios TANTSIS** - The katholikon of the Monastery of St. Luke
- 16.20-16.40** **Nikolaos KARYDIS** - New Perspectives on Ecclesiastical Architecture under Basil II: Reinterpreting the Octagon-Domed Churches of the 11th century
- 16.40-17.00** **Nikolaos DELINIKOLAS, Androniki MILTIADOU-FEZANS, Helen GHINI-TSOFOPOULOU** - The Katholika at Dafni and Hosios Lukas monasteries. Parallel building projects during the first quarter of 11th century
- 17.00-17.20** **Anna MISSAILIDOU** - Octagonal churches: investigating a new architectural trend on Chios from the early 11th century onwards
- 17.20-17.40** **Christina MARANCI** - Trdat and Hagia Sophia
- 17.40-18.00** **Maria KONTOGIANNOPOULOU** - The Church of Hagia Sophia in Drama
- 18.00-18.30** Questions - Discussion
- 18.30-18.50** Coffee Break



9th Session – Cult and Imagery

Chair:

- 18.50-19.10** **Svetlana MALTSEVA, Anna ZAKHAROVA** - Architecture and Painting in the Northern Balkans in the Late 10th - First Half of the 11th Century
- 19.10-19.30** **Antonis TSAKALOS** - Byzantine frescoes in Cappadocia
- 19.30-19.50** **Vasiliki TSAMAKDA** - Byzantine Manuscripts

- 19.50-20.10** **Anna ZAKHAROVA** - The Menologion of Basil II as the Central Work of Art of his Time
- 20.10-20.30** **Charles KUPER** - What does the Menologion of Basil II have to do with Basil?: Some Observations
- 20.30-20.50** **Jenny ALBANI** - Illuminating the piety of a soldier emperor: Female saints in the Menologion of Basil II
- 20.50-21.20** Questions – Discussion

End of the second day of the Conference



Third Day: Monday 15 December 2025

10th Session – Glimpses of Everyday Life

Chair:

- 09.10- 09.30** **Hasan Sercan SAĞLAM**, The Aegean Coasts through a Different Mirror: Topographical Insights from an Early 11th-Century Fatimid Cosmography
- 09.30- 09.50** **Joanita VROOM** - Material culture and Everyday Life in the Era of Emperor Basil II
- 09.50-10.10** **Anastasios ANTONARAS** - Byzantine Glass
- 10.10-10.30** **Pari KALAMARA** - Dress as an element of everyday life and as a means of expression for the Byzantines at the end of the 10th and during the 11th centuries
- 10.30-10.50** **Marielle MARTINIANI-REBER** - Luxury textiles at the time of Basil II. Surviving examples and miniatures
- 10.50-11.20** Questions – Discussion
- 11.20-11.40** Coffee Break



11th Session – Art and Faith on the Move

Chair:

- 11.40-12.00** **Ioanna RAPTI** - Gift diplomacy between Constantinople and Vaspourakan: the holy cross of Aparank
- 12.00-12.20** **Arianna D'OTTONE**, Artistic exchanges between Byzantium and the Muslim World at the turning of the 10th/11th century
- 12.20-12.40** **Juan DE LARA** - Diplomatic gifts between the Byzantines and the Abbasids
- 12.40-13.10** Questions - Discussion
- 13.10-16.30** Lunch Break



11th Session – Minor Arts at the Time of Basil II

Chair:

- 16.30-16.50** **Livia BEVILACQUA** - The Proedros and the Emperor: Art at the Court of Constantinople in the First Decade of Basil II's Reign (ca. 976-985)
- 16.50-17.10** **Antje BOSSELMANN-RUICKBIE** - Abundance and Absence? Byzantine Enamels Before and During the Reign of Basil II (976-1025)
- 17.10-17.30** **Anastasia DRANDAKI** - Byzantine Metalwork
- 17.30-17.50** **Elena DE ZORDI** - Heavenly Warriors. The Two Relief Icons of the Archangel Michael in the Treasury of San Marco
- 17.50-18.10** **Ioannis VARALIS** - Byzantine steatites
- 18.10-18.30** **Gudrun BÜHL**- On the Throne, on the Label: The Craft of Ivory, Courtly Claims and the Burden of Attribution in the 10th to 11th Century
- 18.30-19.00** Questions – Discussion

End of the Conference

Zoom link to be announced.



LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Albani Jenny, BA in Architecture, PhD in Art History, Hellenic Ministry of Culture- Directorate of Archaeological Museums, Exhibitions/and Educational Programs, jennyalbani@gmail.com

Androudis Paschalis, DEA, PhD Archaeology, MA in Conservation Studies, Architect, Associate Professor of Byzantine and Islamic Art and Archaeology, Department of History and Archaeology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, pandroudis@hist.auth.gr

Antonaras Anastasios, Dr Archaeologist, Museum of Byzantine Culture, Thessaloniki, aantonaras@culture.gr

Athanasoulis Demetrios, Dr Archaeologist, Hellenic Ministry of Culture Head of the Antiquities of Cyclades, dathanasoulis@gmail.com

Bevilacqua Livia, Assistant Professor, Byzantine Art History, Roma Tre University, Rome, Italy, Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici, livia.bevilacqua@uniroma3.it

Bosselmann-Ruickbie Antje, Justus-Liebig-University Giesen, Art History Department, antje.bosselmann@kunstgeschichte.uni-giessen.de

Bühl Gudrun, Berlin State Museum - Skulpturensammlung und Museum für Byzantinische Kunst, G.Buehl@smb.spk-berlin.de

Crow Jim, Emeritus Professor of Roman and Byzantine Archaeology, University of Edinburgh, jim.crow@ed.ac.uk

D'Ottone Arianna, Professor of Arabic Language and Literature at Sapienza University, Rome, arianna.dottone@uniroma1.it

De Lara Juan, University of Oxford, The Khalili Research Centre, Faculty of Oriental Studies, Faculty Member, juan.delara@ames.ox.ac.uk

De Zordi Elena, PhD Candidate in Art History, Università di Ca' Foscari, Venice, elena.dezordi@unive.it

Delikari Angeliki, Professor of History, Department of History and Archaeology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, adelikar@hist.auth.gr

Delinikolas Nikolaos, Architect, Head in honor of the Section of Studies on Byzantine Monuments, Hellenic Ministry of Culture, deliniko@gmail.com

Drandaki Anastasia, Associate Professor of Byzantine Archaeology, Department of History and Archaeology, National Kapodistrian University of Athens, adrandaki@arch.uoa.gr

Durak Koray, Associate Professor, Department of History, Bogazici University, Vice-director of Byzantine Studies Research Center, Istanbul, koray.durak@bogazici.edu.tr

Gerolymatou Maria, Dr., Research Director, Institute of Historical Research, National Hellenic Research Foundation, Athens, mgero@eie.gr

Ghini- Tsofopoulou Helen, Archaeologist, Head in honour of Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities, Hellenic Ministry of Culture, eltsof@gmail.com

Gouloulis Stavros, Dr of Byzantine Philology, stavros.gouloulis@gmail.com

Jakobsson Sverrir, Professor in Medieval History, University of Iceland, sverrirj@hi.is

Jolshin Denis, PhD, researcher, curator, The State Hermitage Museum, Department for architectural archaeology, jolshin.denis@gmail.com

Kalamara Pari, Dr Archaeologist, Manager of the Historical Archive of the National Bank of Greece, former director of the Byzantine and Christian Museum, parikal1965@hotmail.com

Kalas Veronica, Dr Archaeologist, Historian of Art , vkalas@yahoo.com

Kalopissi- Verti Sophia, Emeritus Professor of Byzantine Archaeology, Department of History and Archaeology, National Kapodistrian University of Athens, skalop@arch.uoa.gr

Kappas Michalis, Dr Archaeologist, Hellenic Ministry of Culture, Ephorate of Antiquities of Messinia, mgekappa@yahoo.gr

Karydis Nikolaos, Architect ARB, M.Arch. M.Sc. Ph.D., Senior Lecturer in Architecture Director, MSc in Architectural Conservation, School of Art & Architecture, University of Kent, U.K., N.Karydis@kent.ac.uk

Katsaros Vasileios, Emeritus Professor of Byzantine Philology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, vkatsaro@lit.auth.gr

Kontogiannopoulou Maria, Dr Archaeologist, Hellenic Ministry of Culture, Ephorate of Antiquities of Drama, mkontogiannopoulou@culture.gr

Kuper Charles, Assistant Professor, Department of Classics, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, ckuper@utk.edu

Liakos Dimitrios, Dr Archaeologist, Hellenic Ministry of Culture, Ephorate of Antiquities of Halkidiki and Mount Athos, liakos712003@yahoo.gr

Magdalino Paul, Bishop Wardlaw Professor (Emeritus) of Byzantine History at the University of St Andrews, pm8@st-andrews.ac.uk

Maltseva Svetlana, Associate Professor of Art, St. Petersburg State University, s.maltseva@spbu.ru

Manolessou Eleni, Dr Archaeologist, Hellenic Ministry of Culture, Ephorate of Antiquities of Cyclades, elmano7@yahoo.com

Maranci Cristina, Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies. Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Department of History and Architecture, Harvard University, cmaranci@fas.harvard.edu

Martiniani-Reber Marielle, Conservatrice en chef honoraire, Musée d'art et d'histoire, Geneva, mariellereber421@gmail.com

Melvani Nikolaos, Dr Archaeologist, nmelvani@gmail.com

Mentzos Aristotelis, Emeritus Professor of Byzantine Archaeology, Department of History and Archaeology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, mentzos@hist.auth.gr

Merlini Marco, Senior researcher of Lucian Blaga University (Research Center for Cultural Heritage and Social Cultural History), Sibiu, Romania- Director of Communication of the Institute of Archaeomythology, Sebastopol, USA- Director of Eurinnet, Rome, Italy, marco.merlini@mclink.it

Missailidou Anna, Dr Archaeologist, Ephorate of Antiquities of Chios, amissailidis@yahoo.com

Miltiadou-Fezans Androniki, Dr., Civil Engineer, Associate Professor, School of Architecture, National Technical University of Athens, amiltiadou@arch.ntua.gr

Pallis Georgios, Associate Professor of Byzantine Archaeology, Department of History and Archaeology, National Kapodistrian University of Athens, gpallis@arch.uoa.gr

Papadopoulos Pagona, Associate Professor of Byzantine Art and Archaeology, Department of History and Archaeology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, pagonapapa@hist.auth.gr

Papaioannou Stratis, Dr., National Research Hellenic Foundation, Institute for Historical Research, epapaioannou@eie.gr

Paschalidis Symeon, Professor of Patristics and Hagiography, School of Social Theology and Christian Culture, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, spaschal@past.auth.gr

Patedakis S. Manolis- Assistant professor, Department of Philology, University of Crete, patedakis@uoc.gr

Pazaras Theocharis, Professor Emeritus of Byzantine Archaeology, Department of History and Archaeology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, pazaras@hist.auth.gr

Pirivatrić Srdjan, Dr., Research Fellow at the Institute for Byzantine Studies of SASA, srdjan.pirivatric@vi.sanu.ac.rs

Rapti Ioanna, Directrice d'études à l'EPHE, Section des sciences religieuses. UMR 8167 Orient et Méditerranée, rapti.ioanna@orange.fr

Raptis Konstantinos, Dr. Archaeologist, Hellenic Ministry of Culture, Ephorate of Antiquities of Thessaloniki, raptis.constantinos@gmail.com

Riccardi Lorenzo, Dr. Archaeologist, Funzionario Storico dell'Arte Ministero della Cultura, Soprintendenza archeologia, belle arti e paesaggio per le province di Frosinone e Latina, riccardi.lorenzo@gmail.com

Sağlam Hasan Sercan, Koç University Sevgi Gönül Center for Byzantine Studies (GABAM), Assoc. Professor Dr. of Architecture, saglam.h.sercan@gmail.com

Shawcross Teresa, Associate Professor of History and Hellenic Studies, History Department, Program in Hellenic Studies, Princeton University, shawcro@princeton.edu

Smyrlis Kostis, Dr. In History, Director of Studies, National Research Hellenic Foundation, Institute for Historical Research, ksmyrlis@eie.gr

Sythiakaki Vassiliki, Dr Archaeologist, Hellenic Ministry of Culture Head of the Antiquities of Herakleion, vsythiakaki@yahoo.gr

Takirtakoglou Konstantinos, Assistant Professor of History, Department of History and Archaeology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, ktakirta@hist.auth.gr

Tantsis Anastasios, Associate Professor of Byzantine Archaeology, Department of History and Archaeology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, tassostan@hist.auth.gr

Tsakalos Antonis, Dr Archaeologist, antonistsakalos@gmail.com

Tsamakda Vasiliki, Univ.-Prof. Dr., Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Institut für Kunstgeschichte und Musikwissenschaft, Abteilung Christliche Archäologie und Byzantinische Kunstgeschichte, tsamakda@uni-mainz.de

Varalis Ioannis, Associate Professor of Byzantine Archaeology, University of Thessaly, iovaralis@ha.uth.gr

Vinogradov Andrey, Dr., National Research University Higher School of Economics, History (Russia), Faculty Member, ampelios@gmail.com

Vroom Joanita, Professor of Archaeology, Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University, joanitavroom@hotmail.com

Wassiliou-Seibt Alexandra-Kyriaki, Professor of Byzantine History and Sigillography, Department of History and Archaeology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, avassili@hist.auth.gr
Visitor Researcher at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, alexandra.wassiliou@oeaw.ac.at

Zakharova Anna, Associate Professor at the Department of History and Theory of Art, Faculty of History, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Head of the Department of Byzantine art at the State Institute for Art Studies, Moscow, zakharova@inbox.ru