

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

Zoom link: <https://authgr.zoom.us/j/97847353247?pwd=KQCYPMYG7j6wwqWdtOTpUOPTvwwxjE.1>

Meeting ID 97847353247

Passcode 971725

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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 -Who Saved Basil from the “Saint”?

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: Konstantinos TAKIRTAKOGLU

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

11:30-11:50 Bojana KRSMANOVIĆ, Ljubomir MILANOVIĆ- Introduction to the Project and Volume “Barbarians, Rhomaioi and Those in Between. Integrating the Christians of the Central Balkans into the Byzantine Empire (late 10th - mid-13th century)”

11:50-12:10 Srdjan PIRIVATRIĆ - Basil II and the Management of Ecclesiastical Affairs -

The Case of Bulgaria

- 12.10-12.30** **Stavros GOULOULIS**- The Basilica of Saint Achilleios in Prespa and the Archbishopric of Justiniana Prima (Basil II's Second Sigillion, the Catalogue of the Archbishops of Bulgaria)
- 12.30-12.50** **Alexandra-Kyriaki WASSILIOU -SEIBT** -Under the banner of the seals: The Byzantine Balkan Frontier under Basil II and his successors
- 12.50-13.20** Questions – Discussion
- 13.20-13.40** **Koray DURAK** - The Μαγαρίται and Shifting Alliances on Byzantium's Border with Syria
- 13.40-14.00** **Andrey VINOGRADOV** - The marriage and baptism of Prince Vladimir: the Byzantine background
- 14.00-14.20** **Sverrir JAKOBSSON** - Basil II, Prince Vladimir of Kiev and the Origin of the Varangians
- 14.20-14.40** Questions – Discussion
- 14:40-17.00** Lunch Break



KEYNOTE LECTURE

- 17.00- 17.40** **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: Ioanna CHRISTOPHORAKI

- 17.40-18.00** **Vasileios KATSAROS** - Basil II, continuator of the “first Byzantine humanism” and leader of the “renaissance” of the early 11th century

- 18.00-18.20** **Lorenzo RICCARDI** - A Basil II's patronage in the Hagia Sophia? The lunette mosaic of the south vestibule
- 18.20-18.40** **Nikolaos MELVANI** - Basil II and the monastery of Stoudios
- 18.40-19.00** Questions - Discussion



4th Session – Beyond Constantinople

Chair: Charles KUPER

- 19.00-19.20** **Aristotelis MENTZOS** - Basil II and the Monastery of Akapniou at Thessaloniki
- 19.20-19.40** **Konstantinos RAPTIS** - Thessalonica in the tenth century: From the sack of the Saracens to its urban prosperity under Basil II
- 19.40-20.00** **Teresa SHAWCROSS** - The Importance of Athens in Basil II's Imperial Policy
- 20.00-20.20** **Demetrios ATHANASOULIS, Eleni MANOLESSOU** - Corinth in the days of Basil II
- 20.20-20.40** **Nikolaos KARYDIS** - New Perspectives on Ecclesiastical Architecture under Basil II: Reinterpreting the Octagon-Domed Churches of the 11th century
- 20.40-21.10** Questions - Discussion

End of the first day of the Conference



Second Day: Sunday 14 December 2025

5th Session – Written Sources and Literature

Chair: Jenny ALBANI

- 09.00-09.20** **Sophia KALOPISSI- VERTI** - Epigraphic Evidence from the Time of Basileios

II's Reign (976–1025): Some Observations

- 09.20-09.40** **Jim CROW** - Basil II and the water supply of Constantinople, a discussion of the epigraphic and archaeological evidence from eastern Thrace
- 09.40-10.00** **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
- 10.00-10.20** **Ioanna RAPTI** - Gift diplomacy between Constantinople and Vaspourakan: the holy cross of Aparank
- 10.20-10.40** Questions – Discussion
- 10.40-11.00** Coffee Break



6th Session – Mount Athos

Chair: Yannis VARALIS

- 11.00-11.20** **Dimitrios LIAKOS** - Basil II and the foundation of Iviron monastery: the chapel of St John the Forerunner
- 11.20-11.40** **Paschalis ANDROUDIS** - Ecclesiastical architecture on Mount Athos in the era of Basil II
- 11.40-12.00** **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)
- 12.00-12.20** **Theocharis PAZARAS** - Byzantine sculpture on Mount Athos
- 12.20-12.40** Questions – Discussion



7th Session –Architecture and Architectural Sculpture

Chair: Jenny ALBANI

- 12.40-13.00** **Georgios PALLIS** - Byzantine sculpture in the era of Basil II
- 13.00-13.20** **Eleni MANOLESSOU** - Byzantine sculpture in the era of Basil II: the Monastery

of Hosios Loukas

- 13.20-13.40** **Vassiliki SYTHIAKAKI** - Sculpture in Central Crete at the Dawn of the Second Byzantine Period (from 961 to the early 11th century)
- 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 Kyiv
- 14.00-14.30** Questions - Discussion
- 14.30-17.00** Lunch Break



8th Session – Architecture

Chair: Paschalis ANDROUDIS

- 17.00-17.20** **Anastasios TANTSIS** - The katholikon of the Monastery of Hosios Loukas
- 17.20-17.40** **Nikolaos DELINIKOLAS, Androniki MILTIADOU-FEZANS, Helen GHINI-TSOFOPOULOU, Charikleia KOILAKOU** -
The design grid of greek-cross domed octagon churches
- 17.40-18.00** **Nikolaos DELINIKOLAS, Androniki MILTIADOU-FEZANS, Helen GHINI-TSOFOPOULOU, Charikleia KOILAKOU** -
The initial composition of the Daphni and Hosios Lukas Monasteries
- 18.00-18.20** **Anna MISSAILIDOU** - Octagonal churches: investigating a new architectural trend on Chios from the early 11th century onwards. The reasons why
- 18.20-18.40** **Christina MARANCI** - Tenth-Century Hagia Sophia in (an Armenian) Context: Basil II, Trdat, and Their Contemporaries
- 18.40-19.10** Questions - Discussion



9th Session – Cult and Imagery

Chair: Pari KALAMARA

- 19.10-19.30** **Svetlana MALTSEVA, Anna ZAKHAROVA** - Architecture and Painting in the Northern Balkans in the Late 10th - First Half of the 11th Century

- 19.30-19.50** **Dimitra PETROU, Paschalis ANDROUDIS**
The Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour at Koropi (Attica), a monument of the era of Basil II
- 19.50-20.10** **Antonis TSAKALOS** - Byzantine paintings in Cappadocia at the time of Basil II (976-1025)
- 20.10-20.30** **Anna ZAKHAROVA** - The Menologion of Basil II as the Central Work of Art of his Time
- 20.30-20.50** **Charles KUPER** - What does the Menologion of Basil II have to do with Basil?: Some Observations
- 20.50-21.10** **Jenny ALBANI** - Female saints in the *Menologion* of Basil II: Illuminating the Piety of a "Soldier emperor"
- 21.10-21.40** Questions – Discussion

End of the second day of the Conference



Third Day: Monday 15 December 2025

10th Session – Glimpses of Everyday Life

Chair: Anna ZAKHAROVA

- 10.00-10.20** **Hasan Sercan SAĞLAM**, The Aegean Coasts through a Different Mirror: Topographical Insights from an Early 11th-Century Fatimid Cosmography
- 10.20-10.40** **Joanita VROOM** - Power and Pottery: Material culture and Everyday Life in the Era of Emperor Basil II
- 10.40-11.10** Questions – Discussion
- 11.10-11.30** Coffee Break

11th Session- Precious textiles and Gift Diplomacy

Chair: Despoina EVGENIDOU

- 11.30-11.50** **Marielle MARTINIANI-REBER** - Luxury textiles at the time of Basil II.

Surviving examples and miniatures

- 11.50-12.10** **Silvia PEDONE** - The use of pseudo-Kufic script during the time of Basil II: imitation or creation?
- 12.10-12.30** **Arianna D'OTTONE**, Byzantium and the Islamic World in the Age of Basil II. Material and immaterial connection
- 12.30-13.00** Questions - Discussion
- 13.00-17.00** Lunch Break



12th Session – Minor Arts at the Time of Basil II

Chair: Anastasios ANTONARAS

- 17.00-17.20** **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)
- 17.20-17.40** **Antje BOSSELMANN-RUICKBIE** - Abundance versus Absence? Byzantine Enamels Before, During, and after the Reign of Basil II (976-1025)
- 17.40-18.00** **Anastasia DRANDAKI** - Reimagining the past, reshaping the empire: art and ideology in the Byzantine metalwork of the Macedonian era
- 18.00-18.20** **Elena DE ZORDI** - Heavenly Warriors: the Two Relief Icons of the Archangel Michael in the Treasury of San Marco
- 18.20-18.40** **Ioannis VARALIS** - Icons in Steatite in the Century of Ivory
- 18.40-19.10** Questions – Discussion

End of the Conference



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