

International Conference Ecumenism and Cosmopolitanism

A conference organized by the *Department of Language, Literature and Culture of Black Sea Countries, Democritus University of Thrace, Greece; the University Suor Orsola Benincasa of Naples, Italy; the Department of Foreign Languages, Translation and Interpreting, Ionian University, Corfu, Greece; and Cambridge University, UK.*

CALL FOR PAPERS

Ecumenism

Since the mid-6th century BC Hecataeus the philosopher provided us with a conceptual frame to understand the unity of the world: Ecumenism or, in its more etymological spelling, Oecumenism. The term derives from the Greek Oikoumenē (Latin Oecumene) meaning literally the whole of the inhabited earth, or simply the globe. In Hecataeus' thinking, Ecumenism is a locus within which all people living there share common values, customs, rites, mores, culture, and language(s). At a later stage, the term incorporated the meaning of the territory of an empire. In that sense within a given political entity it is the common political system that provides the grounds for the development of an ecumenic domain. In addition to that, ecumenic might be an intellectual community that overtakes any type of boundaries (whether material or cultural). Certainly, ecumenism does not include a common 'life-style'; on the contrary the modus vivendi of human groups dwelling in an ecumenic area may differ significantly. Actually, this is the difference between ecumenism and globalization: while globalization leads to an imposed uniformity, ecumenism is the unifying ground that shows tolerance towards differentiated modes of living, promotes intellectual production, and provides the motivation for communication among groups. The Conference revolves around the concept of Ecumenism as the common political, ideological, linguistic, cultural, religious etc. frame, within which human coexistence and productivity are facilitated. The basic component of ecumenism is the creation of material, intellectual and cultural products that belong to the whole world. The conference is developed along the following themes:

- 1. History or the past of Ecumenism.** Ecumenism as a diachronic phenomenon. Ecumenic perceptions on space, communities and relationships: politics; economy; civilization; culture; national, ethnic, social and/or communal links; and modes of production within a unified frame. Ecumenism during the Age of the Empires; Imperialism VS Ecumenism; the great empires of the past; ideological and religious ecumenism. Language(s) in the past and nowadays; *linguae francae* and *linguae mundi* (*francophonie*, *lusofonia*, etc).
- 2. Intellectual Ecumenism.** Literature and letters and their contribution to the formation of a common intellectual locus. Literature and translations. The distribution of culture as well as of spiritual civilization through a common language. Special panel: Greek letters around the globe.

3. **Ecumenism and Cosmopolitanism.** Counter to globalization, ecumenism is the wider geographical, cultural, and demographic range that liberates human being from boundaries in all aspects of social or intellectual life.

4. **After Ecumenisms – Digital Ecumenisms.** Contemporary common languages of intercommunal, interethnic or international communication; social media; the borderless virtual world; digital publications – digital libraries – digital education/formation.

The organizers intend to build an academic community linking scholars across disciplinary and cultural boundaries.

The Conference will include:

1. Oral presentations (max 20 minutes)
2. Poster exhibition
3. Round tables

Conference languages: Greek & English

What To Send

A 300-word abstract of the proposed contribution (paper or poster, proposals for round tables) should be submitted by Sunday **February 27, 2022**.

All proposals will be double blind reviewed,

You will be notified of the panel's decision by Sunday, **March 20, 2022**.

For more information, please see the conference site:

<https://dddpmc.bscc.duth.gr/conference2022/index-en.html>

Registration: **No registration fee.** Participants are required to submit the abstracts in due time and get registered through the conference site.

Venue: Democritus University of Thrace, Komotini, Greece.

Dates: **27, 28 and 29 May 2022**