

October 26, 2021

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**Regina Elsner, *Die Russische Orthodoxe Kirche vor der Herausforderung Moderne* [*The Russian Orthodox Church Facing the Challenge of Modernity*], reviewed by Vasilios Makrides**

The relations between Orthodox Christianity and modernity have been amply discussed in recent decades, based on the various experiences of local Orthodox Churches and cultures. If we were to find a more or less common denominator in these studies, it would be that Orthodoxy's encounter with modernity has been less fruitful than it could potentially have been. There are many reasons for this. Simply the fact that modernity was the outcome of tremendous multi-layered transformations in Western Europe suffices as an explanation. This area was historically dominated by the Roman Catholic Church, whereas the rise of modernity went hand in hand, *inter alia*, with the outbreak of the Reformation and the concomitant sweeping change of the (religious) landscape there.

Truth be told, Western Christianity (especially Roman Catholicism) was most seriously and painfully challenged by modernity, yet despite losses it managed to align itself with it critically and productively in the long run. Due to the religious and other estrangement between East and West in the Middle Ages and later, the Orthodox, for their part, came to view with suspicion everything that had originated from Western Europe, religious or not. This may also explain the Orthodox distrust towards modernity as a Western product. It is about the Orthodox anti-Westernism as a pervasive orientation that has shaped Orthodox cultures across centuries and still lingers on today in various forms.

Read Vasilios Makrides's full review [here](#).

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## IOTA Talks Launched



IOTA has launched its new video series, IOTA Talks™. The purpose of IOTA Talks is to produce short, engaging videos where Orthodox scholars share an idea about which they feel passionate with lay Christians in a manner they can understand. Some talks are primarily intended for inquirers wishing to learn more about the Christian faith. Other talks are more suitable for those engaged in Christian education, from Sunday School teachers to clergy. IOTA Talks will engage the fundamental questions of Christian faith and contemporary issues. Three talks are now available on IOTA's YouTube Channel:

- [Dr. Paul Gavriluk, What is Deification?](#)
- [Dr. Carrie Frederick Frost, Does the Orthodox Church Have a Woman Problem?](#)
- [Dr. Gayle Woloschak, Science and Faith](#)

These talks were recorded at and sponsored by the Eagle River Institute (Eagle River, Alaska). IOTA wishes to thank the director of the Eagle River Institute, Fr. Marc Dunaway, for his excellent organization and support of this project. If you would like to provide feedback, sponsor a new IOTA Talk, or have recommendations for topics and speakers, send an email to Dr. Paul Gavriluk at [president@iota-web.org](mailto:president@iota-web.org). Thank you for your interest!

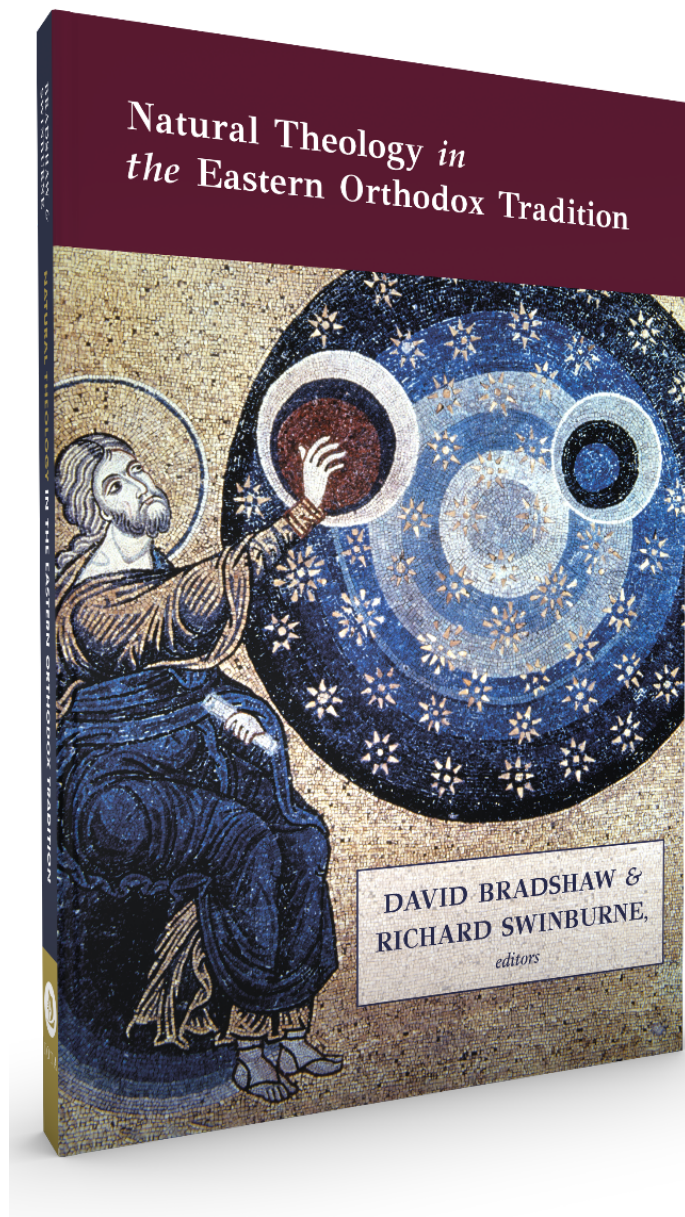
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## Job Opportunity at St Vladimir's Seminary

One of IOTA's co-laborer organizations, St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, invites applications for a faculty position in Biblical Studies. For more information, [see the job posting here](#).

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