

Leverhulme Lecture

Dr Ina Merdjanova

Orthodox Christianity in a Pluralistic World

Tuesday 16th October, 19.00 – 20.30 followed by refreshments, Coventry Cathedral

In this presentation Dr Merdjanova will address important questions about her own faith tradition, Orthodox Christianity, and how it relates to the increasingly pluralistic world in which we live today. As religious pluralism is intimately linked to the processes and realities of globalisation, she will first look at globalisation and at how it generates religious and cultural diversity. She will then discuss the relations between the Orthodox Christianity and religious pluralism, which have often been marked by an attitude of 'ambiguity', in the apt description of Elizabeth Prodromou. She will explore the historical and socio-political developments that fostered such ambiguity, and will conclude by referring to the work of several Orthodox theologians, which bespeak a slowly emerging sea-change in Orthodoxy's engagement with contemporary pluralism.

Ina Merdjanova is Leverhulme visiting professor at the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations at Coventry University & senior researcher and adjunct assistant professor in religious studies at the Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin. She had held visiting fellowships at Oxford University, New York University, Freiburg University, Birmingham University, Edinburgh University, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington DC, the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences, the Central European University in Budapest, Radboud University in Nijmegen and Helsinki University. She is the author of four books and numerous articles on religion and politics in post-communist society. Her recent publications include *Religion as a Conversation Starter: Interreligious Dialogue for Peacebuilding in the Balkans* (with Patrice Brodeur; Continuum, 2009, paperback 2011), and *Rediscovering the Umma: Muslims in the Balkans between Nationalism and Transnationalism* (Oxford University Press, 2013, paperback 2016).