



Hidden Galleries Seminar Series

November 7th CACSSS Seminar Room, 2-3pm Presents:

Orthodox Christian Renewal Movements in Eastern Europe at the beginning of 20th Century

This talk will present the changes underwent by the Orthodox Churches of Eastern and Southeastern Europe as they came into contact with modernity. The movements of religious renewal among Orthodox believers appeared almost simultaneously in different areas of Eastern Europe at the end of the nineteenth and during the first decades of the twentieth century. Movements that could be defined as *renewal* in Eastern Orthodox traditions include the *God Worshippers* in Serbia, religious fraternities in Bulgaria, the *Zoe* movement in Greece, the evangelical movement among Romanian Orthodox believers known as *Oastea Domnului* (The Lord's Army) and *Maliovantsy* in Ukraine. These case studies provide a new understanding of processes of change in the spiritual landscape of Orthodox Christianity and various influences such as other non-Orthodox traditions, charismatic leaders, new religious practices and rituals. Studying different historical, anthropological and cultural aspects, the religious renewal movements represented a form of resistance of its kind to secularization of the society and breakthrough modernity. The research on Orthodox renewal movements aims to contribute to a larger scholar debate on religious changes and mutual influences within different Christian traditions in Europe.

Dr. Aleksandra Djurić Milovanović is a research fellow at the Institute for Balkan Studies of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Belgrade, Serbia. Her research has been primarily focused on the anthropology of religion and church history, especially with regards to neo-Protestant movements and Orthodoxy in Eastern Europe. From 2008, she has conducted extensive ethnographic and archival research on religious minorities in Serbia, Romania, and the United States. Her book *Double Minorities in Serbia. Distinctive Aspects of the Religion and Ethnicity of the Romanians in Vojvodina* was published in 2015 by the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts. In 2017 she published co-edited volume *Orthodox Christian Renewal Movements in Eastern Europe* (Palgrave Macmillan). Currently, she is a Visiting Fellow at the Study of Religions Department, University College Cork.



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