

Colloquium Origenianum Tertium Decimum
Tuesday, August 17th – Friday, August 20th, 2021

August 2020

Dear Colleagues,

As you have been informed via email, the scientific committee has decided – due to the current corona-pandemia – to transfer the 13th International Conference on Origen Studies from Santiago, Chile to Münster, Germany. The *Colloquium Origenianum Tertium Decimum* will take place at Münster University (WWU Münster) on August 17–20, 2021. The new overall theme of the conference will be:

Origen and Philosophy: A Complex Relation

During the 20th century, scholarship on Origen first focused on the systematic aspects of his theology. Then, Origen's spirituality, exegesis and the 'mystical' aspects of his writings became a new focal point for research. During the last decades, some Origenian scholars turned to the philosophical aspects of his thought. In current research, these aspects (to which more could be added) are sometimes seen as opposites, sometimes as complementary, or related to each other in different ways and not without tensions and contradictions. The focus of the *Origeniana Tertia Decima* therefore is twofold: on the one hand, to discuss the different aspects of these questions and their relationship to each other, and on the other, to challenge their boundaries and definitions. A crucial point of Origen's "complex relation" to philosophy is how we as modern scholars conceptualize notions like "philosophy", "spirituality", and also "Christianity". In order to overcome false oppositions and to come to a nuanced description of Origen's "complex relation to philosophy", it is important to think about the concepts, the properties, and the functions of these basic notions before correlating them with each other.

This topic includes the following areas:

- **The Alexandrian Background of Origen's Christian Philosophy** (*the combination of Platonism and the Bible in Philo, Clement and others; the philosophical environment of Alexandria, etc.*)
- **Philosophical Traditions and Institutions in Origen's Times** (*Platonism, Stoicism, Aristotelianism; Origen's complex attitude and relation to these traditions; philosophical schools and training in the Roman Empire, etc.*)
- **Exegesis and Philosophy** (*Origen's exegetical methodology; his approach to the biblical text; the relationship between the Bible and philosophy; included here is also Origen's relationship to Jewish exegesis*)
- **Spirituality and Philosophy** (*Origen as man of the church and master of Christian spirituality; his nuanced relationship and often highly critical attitude to philosophy*)
- **The Impact of Origen's Christian Philosophy on the Development of Christianity** (*including all aspects mentioned in the previous subthemes*)

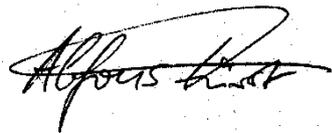
The program will include plenary lectures (by invitation), workshops and communications. The areas described above cover the different aspects of Origen's complex relation to philosophy, and all scholars are cordially invited to propose workshops and communications related to these areas. Nonetheless, it is possible to give communications and workshops on other themes in Origenian studies.

Papers—restricted to one per person—may be presented in one of the following languages: English, French, Italian, German and Spanish. Younger scholars are especially encouraged to participate in the conference. We hope to provide affordable rooms and registration fee exemptions for doctoral students.

The deadline for submission of themes and abstracts (maximum 2000 characters) for workshops and communications is **January 31, 2021**.

We would like to encourage you to forward this circular letter to all potential attendees. More information about practical matters will follow in the next circular.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alfons Fürst', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Alfons Fürst (Münster, organizer), Marie-Odile Boulnois (Paris), Samuel Fernández (Santiago de Chile), Peter Martens (St. Louis), Lorenzo Perrone (Bologna) and Emanuela Prinzivalli (Rome).

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