



Sveučilište u Zagrebu Filozofski fakultet
University of Zagreb
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences



New Generation Research Exchange Call for Applications

New Horizons for Science and Religion
in Central and Eastern Europe

Summary

The Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion, University of Oxford, and the Faculty of Philosophy, Universities of Warsaw, in collaboration the Faculty of Philosophy, Zagreb University invite applications for the New Generation Scholars Exchange programme. The Exchange programme will give young scholars in Central and Eastern Europe working on Big Questions at the intersection of science theology and philosophy the opportunity to participate in three fully funded workshops taking place at the Universities of Warsaw, Zagreb and Oxford. Most successful participants will have the further opportunity to work on finishing their Masters dissertations during a term of funded supervised research at Oxford University.

Eligibility

Applicants will normally be MA students in their penultimate year at Central or Eastern European research institutions, including universities, research academies and seminaries. The programme is intended to support research projects of successful candidates during the final year of their MA course. Proposed projects must fall under the project themes, which are outlined below. It is expected that most applications will be natural scientists, theologians and philosophers, but there are no disciplinary restrictions and applicants with academic backgrounds in other areas are also welcome. Applications are welcome from researchers working in any religious tradition, and from researchers working in no religious tradition.

For the purposes of the project, Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) is defined as: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, the former East Germany, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine.

Supported Research Themes

The programme will support research which engages with Big Questions at the intersection of science, theology and philosophy. Applicants will be expected to engage with recent developments in their disciplines, and demonstrate a high standard of academic rigor. The Project encourages applications that fall within three broad themes: science and religion in the CEE context; reason and faith; and persons, mind and cosmos. Suitable topics include:

- The significance of theological traditions for scientific practice today;
- The relations of brains, minds and human persons;
- Whether physical cosmology can explain the origin of the cosmos;
- The role of religion in the historical development of science;
- The place of values in the natural world;
- How the history of CEE has influenced views on science and religion;
- Free will and scientific determinism and/or divine foreknowledge;
- Empirical psychology and the second person perspective;
- Phenomenological approaches to religion;
- Understanding notions of God, good and evil in a scientific age.

For further example areas, applicants are strongly encouraged to visit the Ian Ramsey Centre's website where example areas of interest for the New Horizons for Science and Religion in Central and Eastern Europe project as a whole are listed.

Activities

Successful candidates will participate in a series of three masterclasses during the course of the final year of their MA. The meetings will take place over two days at the Universities of Zagreb, Warsaw, and Oxford. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss their work as a group and with IRC-appointed tutors, as well as participate in seminars led by prominent visiting speakers. The Fellowship will cover all the costs of participating in each masterclass including travel and accommodation.

At each meeting participants will give presentations on the progress of their research and receive feedback from the IRC-appointed tutors. Each participant's progress will be evaluated, and the two most promising researchers will receive funding for completing their research during a term at Oxford University, where they will be able to work closely with a secondary supervisor on finishing their research. The remaining Scholars will have the opportunity take part in an exchange through the CEEPUS network (conditional on their home institutions being part of the network) to finish work on their research at a chosen academic institution within CEE where they will be able to attend classes bearing directly on their work.

The programme will cover travel and accommodation for each masterclass. The research scholarships at Oxford University will cover accommodation, living costs, college fees, and supervision.

Application process

Applications for Exchange Fellowships must be submitted no later than **25 June 2021** for the first cycle of the programme starting October 2021. Applications must include the following documents.

- A proposal describing the research the candidate is doing for their MA, how far the research is advanced, and an outline of the work the candidate expects to complete during the course of their final year.
- A full curriculum vitae, and a statement saying how the candidate expects to benefit from participating in the programme
- Two academic references including a reference from the candidate's supervisor
- A confirmation from the candidate's institution stating that they are allowed to participate in the programme during the final year of their degree course.

All application materials should be submitted via email to cee.irc@theology.ox.ac.uk stating in the subject line: "New Generation Exchange application". The results of the competition will be announced by **30 July 2021**.

By submitting an application for the New Generation Research Exchange candidates accept and acknowledge the terms of processing their personal data for the purpose of the application process. For further information concerning the processing of personal data by the University of Warsaw see the personal data information sheet. If you have any questions please contact Dr Mikołaj Sławkowski-Rode: m.slawkowski-rode@uw.edu.pl