

Antonia Borissova Atanassova

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31 Cushing Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
Tel. 617-864-6012
E-mail: atanasso@bc.edu
Fax: 617-554-0794

Theology Department
Boston College
Stokes Hall, N422
Chestnut Hill, MA 02167
Tel. 617-552-3579

EDUCATION

- 1998-2004 **Boston College** *Chestnut Hill, MA*
Ph.D. degree in the History of Christian Life and Thought. Minor:
Systematic Theology.
Comprehensive Exams: Cyril of Alexandria and the Christological
Controversy 427-431(major field); Augustine on Grace (minor field).
Dissertation Title: “Container of the Uncontainable God: Mary the
Theotokos in the Nestorian Controversy”.
- 1996-1998 **Harvard University** *Cambridge, MA*
Master of Theological Studies degree, Harvard Divinity School, June
1998.
Concentration: History of Christianity.
- 1992-96 **Wellesley College** *Wellesley, MA*
B.A. *magna cum laude* with honors in Religion, June 1996. Majors:
Spanish Studies and Religion (specialization in Bible Studies). Thesis title:
“Knocking at the Gates of Heaven: The Ladder of Divine Ascent by St.
John Climacus”.

EMPLOYMENT

- Boston College (2003-)
Lecturer/Visiting Assistant Professor, Perspectives Program
- Boston College (2007-)
Advisor, MCAS Cornerstone Program and Academic Advising Center

PUBLICATIONS

“Cyril of Alexandria”. Eds. A. Glazier, N. Panova. *Antologia na Rannohristiyanskata Literatura*. Sofia: Communitas Publishing, a division of Sofia University Press (2022), 267-278.

“The Theme of Marian Mediation in Cyril of Alexandria’s Ephesian Writings” in: *Presbeia Theotokou*. Eds. L.M. Peltomaa, P. Allen, Vienna: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften (2015), 109-113.

“A Life of Ideal Beauty: St. Gregory of Nyssa and the *Life of Macrina*” in: *Love, Marriage and Family in Eastern Orthodox Experience*, T. Dedon & S. Trostyanskiy, eds., Theotokos Press: New York (2014), 128-141.

“A Ladder to Heaven: Ephesus I and the Theology of Marian Mediation.” *Studia Patristica* LXII (2013), 353-362.

“Engaging the Realities of War and Peace in the Bulgarian Orthodox Tradition” in: *Just Peace: Orthodox Perspectives*. Eds. S. Asfaw, A. Chehadeh, M. Simion. Geneva: WCC Publications, 2012, 33-42.

“The Blessed Virgin Mary” (thematic article) in: *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Eastern Orthodox Christianity*, v.1, J. McGuckin, ed., 2011, 594-599.

“Theological and Cultic Components of Mariology in the Context of Ephesus”. *Studia Patristica* XLIV (2010), 447-460.

“Making Mary a *Theotokos*: What Did Women Contribute?” in: *Philanthropy and Social Compassion in the Eastern Orthodox Tradition*, M. Pereira, ed., New York: Theotokos Press, 2010, 137-144.

“Did Cyril of Alexandria Invent Mariology?” in: *The Origins of the Cult of the Virgin Mary*, C. Manning, ed., New York: Continuum, 2008, pp.105-125.

“Orthodoxy and the Concept of Natural Way of Life” in: *St. Athanasius Orthodox Journal*, 2:2008, 20-21 (in Bulgarian).

“Defining Nature in Orthodoxy” in: *Rodovo Imenie*, 37:2008, p.22 (in Bulgarian).

“Cyril of Alexandria and His Contribution to Mariology”. *Studia Patristica* XLII (2006), 29-43.

“Searching for a Lost Treasure: Bulgarian Women in the Orthodox Church”. *Roles and Rights of Women in European Orthodoxy*. Eva Sumak, ed., Vienna: Kovar Press, 2005, pp. 223-241.

“‘Little Images of the Truth’: The Definition of Religious Language in Gregory Nazianzen and Gregory Palamas”. Konstantine Boudouris and Takis Poulakos (eds.). *The Philosophy of Communication*, v. II, Athens: Ionia Publications, 2002, pp. 34-44.

“Philosophy and the Concept of Eternal Life,” *Journal of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences*, 12:1991, pp. 20-22 (in Bulgarian).

“The Christian Concept of the Trinity”. *Journal of Philosophy*, 5:1992, pp. 13-17 (in Bulgarian).

“Man, a ‘Child of This World’”, *Journal of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences*, 12:1990, pp. 18-24 (in Bulgarian).

AWARDS

Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society, Sigma Delta Pi Spanish National Honor Society, Bulgarian Ministry of Education Award, “Open Society” Soros Foundation Award, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences Award, International Foundation “St. st. Cyril and Methodius” Award, Durant Scholar, Dudley Folk Templeton Foundation Prize, Ernest L. Fortin Research Grant, Harvard Divinity School Fellowship, Boston College Graduate Studies Fellowship, Boston College Dissertation Fellowship, Boston College Language Study Grant.

PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS AND PAPERS PRESENTED

“A Life of Ideal Beauty: St. Macrina in Cappadocian Theology”. Sophia Institute Annual Conference, Columbia University, New York, NY, December, 2013.

“Unconventional Strategies of Spiritual Healing in the Balkans”. Varna History Society, Varna, Bulgaria, June 2013.

“The Catholic Community in the US: Developments and Critical Perspectives”. Lecture delivered at the Centre for Catholic Studies, Sofia, Bulgaria, May 2012 (*invited speaker*).

“Faith for Hire: Introducing Religious Education in Post-Soviet Eastern Europe”. American Academy of Religion National Meeting, San Francisco, November, 2011.

“A Ladder to Heaven: Ephesus I and the Theology of Marian Mediation”. Sixteenth International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford, UK, August, 2011.

“Religious Education and Its Contemporary Transformations in Eastern Europe”. Third Annual Conference on Orthodox Literature, Varna, Bulgaria, September, 2010.

“For the Love of God and Country: How to Use the Term ‘Nationalism’ in the Eastern Orthodox Tradition”. Eleventh International Symposium on Bulgarian Spiritual Teachings, Rila, Bulgaria, August, 2010.

“Philanthropic Texts in the Early Christian Tradition”. Sophia Institute Annual Conference, Columbia University, New York, NY, December, 2009.

“Engaging the Realities of War and Peace in the Bulgarian Orthodox Tradition”. International Orthodox Consultation on Ethics of Peace (*invited*), Bucharest, Romania, July, 2009.

“The Image of Mary in Modern Orthodox Theology”. Columbia University Conference on Women in Orthodoxy, New York, NY, December, 2008.

“Trinity and Incarnation in St. Cyril of Alexandria’s *Commentary on Luke*”. Pappas Institute Conference in Patristic Studies at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, MA, October, 2008.

“Perperikon: The New Golden City of Antiquity?” National American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, May, 2008.

“The Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos: Response to Marinel Marcu”. Pappas Institute Conference in Patristic Studies at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, MA, April, 2008.

“The New Civilization”. Eleventh International Symposium on Bulgarian Spiritual Teachings, Rila, Bulgaria, August, 2007 (*honorary guest*).

“Liturgical and Cultic Components of Mariology in the Context of Ephesus”. Fourteenth International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford, UK, August, 2007.

“The Purpose and Placement of Healing Miracles in Gregory of Nyssa’s *Life of Macrina*”. Pappas Institute Conference in Patristic Studies at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, MA, October, 2007.

“Willing and Unwilling of the Passion: Divine Suffering and Its Acceptance in the Writings of Cyril of Alexandria”. Pappas Institute Conference in Patristic Studies at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, MA, October, 2006.

“The Creation of Marian Liturgical Vocabulary: The Case of Ephesus”. Pappas Institute Conference in Patristic Studies at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, MA, March, 2006.

“Ecumenical Synods and Imperial Politics: Response to S. Danckaehrt”. Pappas Institute Conference in Patristic Studies at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, MA, March, 2006.

“Cyril of Alexandria and His Contribution to Mariology”. Thirteenth International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford, UK, August, 2003.

“The Theotokos in the Nestorian Controversy”. Boston College History of Christianity Colloquium, Chestnut Hill, MA, 2003.

“The Ministry of Fire: Firedancing and Ritual Empowerment in the Balkans”. American Academy of Religion National Meeting, Toronto, Canada, 2002.

“Truth and Selectiveness: Muslim-Christian Dialogue in the Balkans”. American Academy of Religion National Meeting, Toronto, Canada, 2002.

“Dancing with Dander: Neraids in Modern Rural Greece”. American Academy of Religion New England Regional Meeting, Waltham, MA, 2002.

“Whose Mother is Mary? Cyril of Alexandria and the Origins of the Nestorian Controversy”. National American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, 2002.

“Holiness, Sin and Symbolism: Penitent Harlots in Early Antiquity”. National American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, 2001.

“Vision, Sacrament, Reality: The Liturgical Power of the Eastern Orthodox Tradition in Post-Communist Europe”. American Academy of Religion New England Regional Meeting, Providence, RI, 2000.

“‘Little Images of the Truth’: The Definition of Religious Language in Gregory Nazianzen and Gregory Palamas”. Thirteenth International Conference on Greek Philosophy, International Association for Greek Philosophy, Rhodes, Greece, 2000.

“Word, Spirit, and Power”: The Inheritance of Women in the Eastern Orthodox Tradition”. American Academy of Religion National Meeting, Nashville, TN, 2000.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Boston College

2003-present Perspectives on Western Culture Core Program

2002-2003 Core Course: Introduction to Christian Theology

2001-2002 Core Course: Introduction to Biblical Studies I and II
Teaching Assistant/ with D. Vanderhooft

2000-2001 Core Course: Introduction to Christian Theology I and II
Teaching Assistant/ with K. Gill and S. Pope

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Boston College

2006-present Advisor at the Academic Advising Center

2010-present Advisor, Cornerstone Program

2000-2001 Research Assistant with D. Dietrich, Theology Department

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society
Sigma Delta Pi Spanish National Honor Society
American Academy of Religion
North American Patristic Society
Senior Fellow, Sophia Theological Institute, NY
International Project on Early Mariology

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Early Christian Theology (Greek Fathers, Augustine), Marian Theology, Eastern Christianity, Women's Roles in Christianity, Christian Visual Culture.

LANGUAGES

Bulgarian (native language)
Russian (near-native fluency)
Spanish (fluent)
French (reading proficiency)
German (reading knowledge)
Italian (reading knowledge)
Classical Ancient Greek
Byzantine Greek
Latin
Old Slavonic (reading proficiency).