



Sibiu 2026



Imagining the Body: Metaphors in Early Christian Literature and Beyond

International Conference

4 - 7 June 2026

Sibiu, Romania

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PROGRAMME

IMAGO International Conference · Sibiu, 4–7 June 2026

Each presentation: 15 min + 10 min Q&A · On-site unless otherwise noted

DAY 1 · Thursday, 4 June 2026

Arrivals

19:00 Dinner at Hotel Ramada Sibiu

DAY 2 · Friday, 5 June 2026

08:00 – 09:00 Breakfast at Hotel Ramada Sibiu

Morning Session · Moderators: Constantin Oancea, Zoltán Kövecses

09:15 – 09:30 Introduction

09:30 – 10:15 **Zoltán Kövecses** *The LIGHT Metaphor in the Bible*

10:15 – 10:45 **Ekaterina Damjanova** *Metaphor in Image: The Eye as a "Window to Eternity" in Christian Iconography*

10:45 – 11:15 **Pavel Pavlov** *The Use of the Image Mouth/Tongue in the "Encomium to St. Cyril" by St. Clement of Ohrid*

11:15 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 – 12:00 **Ivaylo Naydenov** *From Nostrils to Breath and Anger: Anthropological Dimensions of ἄρα in the Old Testament*

12:00 – 12:30 **Veronika Szelid** *Embodied Biblical Imagery and the Conceptualization of Anger Across Languages*

12:45 – 13:45 Lunch

Afternoon Session · Moderators: Dragoş Boicu, Sebastian Mateiescu

14:30 – 15:00 **Svetoslav Ribolov** *From Hebrew Pānīm to Christian Πρόσωπον: The Transformation of the Biblical Concept of "Face" in the Hellenistic and Early Christian Milieu*

15:00 – 15:30 **Ioannis Kaminis** *The Image of the Mind: A Comparative Study of Evagrius Ponticus and St. John Cassian*

15:30 – 15:45 Coffee Break

15:45 – 16:15 **Theodor Avramov** *Shoulders: Dynamics of Power*

16:15 – 16:45 **Kalina Grigorova** *The Hand as a Symbol in the Miniatures of the Vienna Genesis (6th Century)*

16:45 – 17:00 Conclusions

17:30 – 19:30 Guided City Tour of Sibiu

20:00 Dinner at Hotel Ramada Sibiu

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DAY 3 · Saturday, 6 June 2026

08:00 – 09:00 **Breakfast at Hotel Ramada Sibiu**

Morning Session · Moderators: Georgiana Huian, Svetoslav Ribolov

09:15 – 10:00 **Andrew Mellas** (online) *The Womb as Cosmos: Transfigured Creation in Byzantine Nativity Hymns and Icons*

10:00 – 10:30 **Constantin Oancea** *Multiplex Cor – An Exploration of the Heart's Conceptualizations in the Triodion Compared to the Bible*

10:30 – 11:00 **Dragoş Boicu** *Between topos and tropos: the Heart in the Hymnography of the Menaia*

11:00 – 11:15 **Coffee Break**

11:15 – 11:45 **Radu Gârbacea** *Shapes of the Heart in the Byzantine Homiliaries. Case Study: The Parable of the Sower*

11:45 – 12:15 **Georgiana Huian** *The Image of the Heart in Modern Theology. A Transformation Metaphor or a Story of Transformation?*

12:45 – 13:45 **Lunch**

Afternoon Session · Moderators: Theodor Avramov, Veronika Szelid

14:30 – 15:00 **Magdalena Burlacu** *Imagery of Ecclesial Identity: From the Shepherd of Hermas to Old Catholic Theology*

15:00 – 15:30 **Sebastian Mateiescu** *Human Being as an Image of the Church in St Maximus the Confessor's Mystagogy*

15:30 – 15:45 **Coffee Break**

15:45 – 16:15 **Ovidiu Matiu** *Ashes of the Apocalypse: Echoes of the Book of Revelation in Cormac McCarthy's The Road*

16:15 – 16:45 **Raluca Boboc** *From the Bones to the Innermost Parts as Topoi of Identity*

16:45 – 17:00 **Closing Remarks**

20:00 **Dinner at Restaurantul Sibiul Vechi**

DAY 4 · Sunday, 7 June 2026

08:00 – 09:00 **Breakfast at Hotel Ramada Sibiu**

Departures

09:30 – 11:30 *Holy Liturgy at the Metropolitan Cathedral (optional, for guests leaving in the afternoon)*

USEFUL INFORMATION



Hotel Ramada Sibiu
Conference venue & accommodation



Restaurantul Sibiul Vechi
Dinner in the old city centre



Abstracts
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CONFERENCE VENUE & ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Ramada Sibiu

Strada Emil Cioran 2, Sibiu 550025

Dinners: Thursday & Friday evenings

Breakfast: each morning

DINNER IN THE OLD CITY CENTRE · SATURDAY, 6 JUNE

Restaurantul Sibiul Vechi

Strada Papiu Ilarian 3, Sibiu

Traditional Transylvanian restaurant

in the heart of the old city

CONTACT & INFORMATION

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