

Acknowledgments

Welcome to the first edition of the Harvard Square Symposium—an event organized by the Scientific Press together with the Institute for Peace Studies in Eastern Christianity (IPSEC) on April 29–30, 2016. This symposium was held as a private event at the Harvard Faculty Club, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, reuniting academics from the fields of arts and sciences from three continents.

On behalf of the organizing institutions, we wish to express our gratitude and commend all those involved in the realization of this event for their tireless efforts and dedication.

His Excellency, Senator Dr. Titus Corlăţean, Romania's Minister of Justice (2012) and Minister of Foreign Affairs (2012–2014), presented the keynote paper at Harvard Faculty Club, and, together with Rev. Dr. Ioan-Gheorghe Rotaru, edited the *Proceedings*. His Excellency, Senator Mihnea Costoiu, Romania's Minister Delegate for Higher Education, Scientific Research and Technological Development (2012–2014), currently president of University Politehnica of Bucharest—offered an inspiring keynote speech to the participants. Invaluable support was offered by Dr. Marian Gh. Simion, IPSEC President and Field Education Supervisor at Harvard Divinity School and Dr. Nelu Burcea, Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard Divinity School.

The theme, “the Future of Knowledge,” was suggestively chosen to highlight the mission of our symposia; that of making a valuable contribution to a future of humanity full of hope and trust, keeping in mind that the common responsibilities toward the future generations (which we share across nations, cultures, and beliefs), ought to be symbiotic with our professional ideals in providing good stewardship.

From its inception, the goal of this symposium was to create an environment in which existing and promising scholars—working in the general fields of arts and sciences—can share their knowledge within their respective disciplines and beyond. The environment in which ideas can be exchanged goes beyond the most exclusive

context of a specific discipline, and the intended exchange is set to take place in relative awareness of the direct and indirect input of other disciplines, with an exclusive influence of attitudes conditioned by a peaceful coexistence and spirituality.

The Scientific Press is part of IPSEC's Round Table consulting program—a program meant to raise awareness on the role of religion for a peaceful coexistence of current and future generations, by providing an environment of symbiotic exchanges between the domains of public policy, business and academia.

We congratulate all contributors for their hard work, cutting-edge research and dedication to making the world a better place.

Beyond the advancement of academics, we hope that our symposia will continue to plant the seeds of trust and hope for a better world.

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