

## **ABSTRACT TO THE THESIS OF HABILITATION**

### **The Relationship between Theology, Philosophy and Science in the Contemporary Context**

**Dr. Nicolae Adrian LEMENI, Lecturer  
Faculty of Orthodox Theology  
University of Bucharest**

#### **A. Scientific and Academic achievements connected with disciplinary and inter-disciplinary subjects.**

##### **I. Assumption and capitalization of the ecclesiastic conscience in the view of the apologetic research of the present day academic theology within the scientific examination and philosophical thinking of the contemporary period**

1. To assume an ecclesiastic outlook in improving the apologetic consciousness within the context of the contemporary, academic, scientific and cultural exigencies.
2. To apply the ecclesiastical apologetics to the main results obtained in the scientific research and in the specific domains of the philosophic thinking emphasizing on the specific competencies of apologetics within the framework of the university theological education.
3. To continue, to thoroughly study and interpret Father Dumitru Stăniloae's and Father Dumitru Popescu's apologetic contributions, as well as their relevance within the contemporary context.

##### **II. Widening that research domain referring to the relationship between theology and science as reported to the national and international context**

1. The present times preoccupations and perspectives concerning the relationship between theology and science within the actual context.
2. The ideological factor - a main and decisive factor in making the dialogue between theology and science meet.
3. The ecclesiastic approach of the relationship between theology and science.

##### **III. Making the patristic landmarks concerning the relationship between theology and science real**

1. Landmarks of the patristic apologetics capitalized in the present times.
2. Actualization of the ecclesiastical conscience grounded in the spirit of Tradition and in the contemporary relationship between theology and science.

#### **IV. Strengthening an inter-discipline relationship between theology, philosophy and science in the domain of epistemology.**

1. Premises of the relationship between theology and science in the contemporary epistemological context.
2. Epistemological implications of the relationship between theology and science materialized in basic domains of research

#### **V. To create an inter-discipline perspective of the relationship between theology, philosophy and science in the domain of cosmology.**

1. The vision of the cosmos as expressed in the theology of creation grounded in the ecclesial Tradition
2. The current scientific cosmology - an interface in the dialogue between theology and science

#### **VI. To encourage the research in the domain concerned with the relationship between the State and the Cults, as well as to strengthen the responsibility of a dialogue in the international context which reunites different religious, cultural and scientific traditions.**

1. Religious freedom in a national and international context
2. The exigencies of the inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue in the present international context.
3. The religious training in the national and European context

#### **VII. To approach certain acute and urgent realities of the contemporary world from the point of view of the ecclesial apologetics.**

1. The implications of consumption and globalization in the contemporary world
2. The implications of technology in the personal and community life of the present computerized society

Due to the specific character of the preoccupations and researches improved in the course of time, there appeared various disciplinary and inter-disciplinary subjects correlated to theology: *Fundamental Theology or Apologetics*. Being a distinct subject approached in the frame of my already achieved researches, I insisted upon two major aspects: the assumption of the ecclesial outlook within apologetics and, capitalization and updating of the apologetic conscience in direct relationship with the basic scientific research, taking into account the philosophical thinking within the cultural context of the contemporary world, influenced - at the same time - by a lot of ideological tendencies.

The emblematic research activity I have devoted to, in the latest years, was to thoroughly study and advance into the domain concerned with the relationship between theology and science.

I have been preoccupied by the above mentioned aspects for more than twenty years, and I have often presented them in the studies I have written. Ever since the time of my being a student in the Polytechnic University in Timișoara, due to the

serious studies of the theoretical physics and special, higher mathematics (which extended in a more elaborated form my high school preoccupations in physics and mathematics) I dedicated myself to solving problems connected with critical scientific situations which, ultimately, opened ways towards a philosophic and theological interpretation.

## **B. Plans for how to continue and improve my scientific and academic career**

The course on *Fundamental Theology (Apologetics)* - maintained in delivering my degree in theology - will continue to thoroughly study the ecclesial apologetic outlook, updated within the context of the contemporary scientific research and philosophic interpretation. In my capacity of coordinator of the *Orthodox Apologetics* manual I finalized two volumes connected with this manual that which represent a comprehensive and real course- support.

Within the course *A Dialogue between Theology and Science in the Contemporary Context* delivered in my MA and in the courses I attended in the Doctoral School, I will continue to actualize certain themes of interest concerning the relationship between theology and science in the present-day contemporary world.

On April 5, 2012 I signed a collaboration agreement between the Romanian Patriarchy, the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University in Iași and the University of Bucharest with regard to the support, evolution and implementation of certain research and training projects concerning the dialogue between science, philosophy and theology. In my capacity of a director of the Center for Dialogue and Research in Theology, Philosophy and Science, in Bucharest - as a signatory party of the agreement - I involved myself in implementing those measures meant to consolidate the inter-discipline research in the domain of the relationship between theology, philosophy and science.

In future, alongside with my everyday activity in the Center (meetings and debates referring to inter-discipline themes from the domain of the relationship between theology, philosophy and science, and reuniting professors from various universities), I intend to elaborate a project including two aspects: training and research. The project is meant to extend the area of the dialogue between theology, philosophy and science.