

PAIDEIA AND ECCLESIASTICAL AUTHORITY IN ELEVENTH-CENTURY BYZANTIUM: PSELLOS AND THE PATRIARCHS IN LETTERS AND FUNERAL ORATIONS

Michael Psellos (1018-c.1078) stands at the center of eleventh-century Byzantium – as court official, imperial advisor, philosopher, rhetorician, and monk. Drawing on Psellos' letters and funeral orations for the contemporary patriarchs Michael Keroullarios, Konstantinos Leichoudes, and Ioannes Xiphilinos, and employing intertextuality as a methodological tool, the talk examines how Byzantine education functioned in relationships between a public intellectual and ecclesiastical elites. It argues that Christian paideia functioned as a shared language through which Psellos communicated authority, friendship, praise, and disagreement in his relationships with the patriarchs of Constantinople.

Important Details:

- **Where:** The Catholic University of America
 - Conway School of Nursing Room 110
- **When:** October 22, 2026 at 5:00 PM EST

Speaker

Dr. Aleksandar Anđelović is a Byzantinist and a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute for Medieval Research, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, and a member of the Cluster of Excellence "EurAsian Transformations"



If you require any accommodations to participate fully, please contact Dominic V. Cassella at cassellad@cua.edu.

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