

The session put on by CAREE as part of the AAR conference will be held in the conference's first time slot – **Saturday, November 19, from 9:00-11:30 a.m.** It will be held in the Convention Center, Room 113 B. The session is identified as A19-9 in the AAR program (p. 133). CAREE's session is one of the "Special Topics Forums." The following is the description in the AAR conference program.

**“Quo Vadis Eastern Europe?” Sponsored by AAR and
Christians Associated for Relationships with Eastern Europe.**

This session raises the question of the direction in which contemporary Eastern Europe (a term which we use to include former socialist countries of Europe, including the Soviet Union) is developing. Connecting the roots with the present, the presenters are exploring the relationships of nationalism, religion, and civil society as well as ecumenical and interreligious relationships.

The specifics of the session are as follows:

“QUO VADIS EASTERN EUROPE?”

Moderator: Paul Mojzes, Rosemont College

Ines A. Murzaku, Seton Hall University

“The Basilian Monks of Grottaferrata and the Pursuit of Christian Unity”
The paper will articulate the intricate religious and political circumstances that gave rise to the movement of the Orthodox faithful of mid- and southern Albania to unite with the Catholic Church during the last decade of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century. This occurred at a time when the return of an exclusivist ecclesiology was ruling in the West. Special attention will be given to the Basilian missions to revive the country's Byzantine Catholic tradition.

Walter Sawatsky, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary

“Teaching About the Other – Inter-Church Dialogue for Russian/Ukrainian
Christianity”

The paper will examine the conflicts between Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant communities in Russia and Ukraine since 1988 in light of what the schools and press appear to be teaching about the other churches, comparing that with the rise of global Christian consciousness in the West.

Gerald Shenk, Eastern Mennonite University

“Cordoba and Sarajevo: Contrasts in Religious Separation and Tolerance”
Recent studies of Medieval Spain (Menocal) and of contemporary Bosnia (Velikonja) invite comparisons between two very different chapters of strong Muslim influence in Europe. The interpretation of Islam, Judaism, and Christianity in various combinations, including both political power and

disenfranchisement, suggests that conditions of toleration are more complex than merely external constraints of a strenuous secularism.

James Payton, Redeemer University College
“Ottoman Millet, Religious Nationalism, and Civil Society”

The paper will examine the close interrelationship between nationality and religion, nurtured and fomented over centuries, in the southern regions of former Yugoslavia and the challenges faced in developing civil society in the present.

Leslie Muray, Curry College
“The Legacy of Vilmos Apor and Jozsef Cardinal Mindszenty in Contemporary Hungary”

The paper will explore the legacy of Vilmos Apor and Jozsef Mindszenty in contemporary Hungary. Apor, who took an unequivocal anti-Nazi stand during World War II, and who was killed by a Russian soldier when he put his body in front of a woman about to be raped, has been beatified. Mindszenty, the staunch anti-Nazi, anti-Communist, “legitimist” Cardinal and Prince Primate, had a social conscience that has been ignored in the West. He has also been put forward for canonization.