



ICONS: THEOLOGY IN COLOURS

## St. John Damascene's theology of the image

**By Andrew Louth**

Professor of Patristic and Byzantine Studies  
at the University of Durham, England  
and the priest of the Russian Patriarchate

Wednesday 11 November at 15.00 in room 110 (building 1441)

Andrew Louth has taught at Durham since 1996, and previously taught at Oxford and the University of London. Professor Louth is the author of *Greek East and Latin West: The Church AD 681-1071* (2007), *The Origins of the Christian Mystical Tradition: From Plato to Denys* (1981, 2007), *St. John Damascene: Tradition and Originality in Byzantine Theology* (2002), *Maximus the Confessor* (1996), *Denys the Areopagite* (1989), *Discerning the Mystery: An Essay on the Nature of Theology* (1983) and many other books and articles.

St John Damascene was the first and foremost to respond to the challenge of Byzantine iconoclasm. He drew on a defence of icon veneration already developed in the seventh century in dispute with Judaism, but developed his defence of icons and their veneration into a full theology of the place of images in human understanding, not least of God. This has implications both for the nature of theology, and also the nature of human understanding, which will be explored in the lecture.



The Research Group of the Priority Area: Theme 1 (The discursive fights over the religious texts in antiquity)

and the Department of Systematic Theology are organizing the series of lectures on the topic: Icons: Theology in Colours