

UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ

Faculty of Catholic Theology



# DIÁKRISIS

Two Guest Lectures by Rev. Prof. Marcelo Singh Mesconi

**Tue 14 May 2024**

15:15-16:45 | SR 47.23

The Art of Discerning I:  
The New Testament and  
the Patristic Tradition

**Wed 15 May 2024**

15:15-16:45 | SR 47.22

The Art of Discerning II:  
The Monastic Tradition

Department for Ecumenical Theology, Eastern Orthodoxy and Patristics



# DIÁKRISIS

The theme of discernment found notable developments (not only) in Christian antiquity. The diákrisis (διάκρισις) is, especially in the desert, “the” virtue and art par excellence; the only one which can assure (spiritual) survival.

Without it, nuns and monks, as some examples show us, fell in deep traps and lost everything. The same applies to all Christians. Learning how to ponder and distinguish God’s will from false roads and temptations is essential for Christian life.

In these two lectures, Professor Singh Mesconi will focus upon this difficult art, charism but also progressive learnt competence, delving into its biblical basis and further development in the general Patristic tradition but also in the experience of the desert.

Both of them point to the need of an experienced person, who leads us in the art of precious art of sifting, of separating the wheat from the chaff, the will of God from deceptive appearances.

## Marcelo Singh Mesconi

Catholic Priest of the Archdiocese of Salta (Argentina) since 2011. In 2018, he obtained the degree of Licentiate in Theology and Patristic Sciences, at the Pontificio Instituto Patristico Augustinianum (Rome), and later, in 2021, the Doctorate in Theology and Patristic Sciences at the same institution. He is currently Head of the Escuela Universitaria de Teología y Filosofía (University School of Theology and Philosophy) at the Universidad Católica de Salta (Catholic University of Salta) where he also teaches Introduction to Patrology and Theological Anthropology. In the field of Patristic Studies he has devoted himself to the 5th century monasticism, focusing especially on Diadochus of Photike, Evagrius Ponticus, the Pseudo-Macarius and Syriac literature.

