



**EUCLID UNIVERSITY**  
**SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY**  
**INSTITUTE FOR INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE AND DIPLOMACY**

**FACULTY PROFILE / VITAE:**

**PR. LAURENT CLEENEWERCK**

**BIOGRAPHICAL OVERVIEW / SUMMARY**

Laurent (Laurence) Cleenewerck (born 1969) is a professor of International Administration and Theology for EUCLID / Euclid Consortium as well as a published author and an ordained presbyter of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople (2004) currently assigned as acting-rector at St. Innocent's Orthodox parish in Eureka, California (OCA-DOW, since 2007).

He is also serving as extension faculty at Humboldt State University (OLLI Extension) (courses: "Economics: Key Concepts and Current Issues" / "Relativity, Quantum, Physics and Beyond" / "Of Temple and Mysteries").

Since 2010, he has served as Academic Advisor of the St Gregory Nanzianzen Theological Institute, a institution of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Mexico (Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople).

**PERSONAL INFORMATION AND EDUCATION**

Cleenewerck was born in Montpellier, France and spent part of his childhood in Old Greenwich, Connecticut. After earning a Baccalaureat C (Sciences) in 1986, Laurent

graduated from two national programs and from the University of Montpellier, France (Institut d'Administration des Entreprises) in 1989 with degrees in Computer Science, International Affairs, Finance (undergraduate BTS and DPECF, representing 80 US credits / 120 ECTS each) and Business Administration (European MS certificate). He further received a Licentiate from the St. Sergius Institute (Paris, France) and was awarded a Doctorate in Applied Sciences *honoris causa* by the Université Libre Internationale (Brussels, Belgium) for his work in the field of bioethical reflection and diplomacy. In 2002-2004, he also pursued further studies at St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary (MDIV) and at the Ukrainian Catholic University (Master in Ecumenical Studies, 2010).

In addition, Cleenewerck has received several professional certifications in the field of Information Technologies, notably UnixWare Certified Engineer, Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer, Microsoft Certified Trainer and Certified Technical Trainer.

The Cleenewerck family currently resides in Northern California (2010).

## **PROFESSIONAL LIFE**

Cleenewerck is currently professor of international administration and theology for EUCLID and extension faculty for HSU. He is also engaged in public lecturing, ministry, as well as further writing and research. Prior to 2004, he held managerial and technological positions in Paris and California while being active with various international organizations, notably in the field of refugee assistance and bioethics (Republic of Lomar Foundation, Human Bioethics Treaty Organization). He is still a Board member for EUCLID / IOSD (International Organization for Sustainable Development).

Although retired from non-academic public activities, Pr. Cleenewerck is a member of several professional and academic associations, including the International Society of Ecological Economics, the North American Patristic Society and the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training.

## **SCIENTIFIC, DIPLOMATIC AND EDUCATION WORK**

Pr. Cleenewerck's dual-major focused on hard sciences and international relations, with lasting effect on his work. After holding technical positions at IBM and Neurones in the early 1990s, he relocated to Silicon Valley, California and pursued pioneering work in applying Internet technologies to social programs. He was one of the co-founders of the Republic of Lomar Foundation, a visionary effort to renew the concept of the Nansen Passport which lasted until 2002. In 2003-2004, he also served as Secretary-General of the Human Bioethics Treaty Organization, a non-governmental organization dedicated to inter-religious and non-religious bioethical reflection.

His epistemological approach heavily relies on the primacy of the scientific method of inquiry, critical thinking and dialectical confrontations. Like Pr. John Polkinghorne and Pr. William Lane Craig, Pr. Cleenewerck is convinced that the convergence between science and theology provides for new avenues of dialogue, reflection and apologetics. He considers diplomacy an essential human activity with great applicability to all aspects of human life, especially religious dialogue. He is currently working on a collaborative effort to publish a popular-level presentation of a comprehensive theory of Digital Physics. His interest in computational Matrix mathematics, Fourier algorithms and holograms is also expressed in his theological work (see below).

## **RELIGIOUS DIPLOMACY / THEOLOGICAL WORK**

Cleenewerck's main ideas are presented in his comprehensive study of the historical and theological causes of the current separation between Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy (*His Broken Body – Understanding and Healing the Schism between the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches*). Like John Zizioulas, he is an advocate of Eucharistic ecclesiology which he articulates as Holographic ecclesiology. He is a proponent of non-partisan ecumenical dialogue with the ideal of a return to the basics of pre-Nicene orthodoxy. His theological approach is influenced by the writings of Pavel Florensky with whom he shares a non-analytical acceptance of antinomies and a preference for a personalized experience of truth. In 2007-2009, Pr. Cleenewerck also served as editor of the EOB (Eastern Orthodox Bible) and to this day as acting rector of St. Innocent Orthodox parish in Eureka, CA.

He is also engaged in dialectical public debates and interested in constructive dialogue between Christianity and Islam.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY (BOOKS AND PUBLISHED ACADEMIC PAPERS)**

- ☑ "Quo Vadis Pacta Sunt Servanda?: Addressing the terminology of MOU and Treaty in order to draw a distinction between binding and non-binding instruments in International Law" (with Dr. Robert Rodriguez et al.)
- ☑ "Maximal care considerations when treating end-stage heart failure patients: Ethical and procedural quandaries in management of the very sick" (with Dr. Ernst Schwarz et al.) in the *Journal of Religion and Health*
- ☑ "The recovery of Eucharistic and Holography Ecclesiology as a promising avenue of ecumenical dialogue and broader mutual recognition" (*Journal of Ecumenical Studies*)

- ☑ Japan on the Edge, with Roberto Rodriguez (Euclid University Consortium Press, 2007)
- ☑ EOB: The Eastern Orthodox Bible – New Testament (Editor), 2008
- ☑ His Broken Body (Euclid University Consortium Press, 2007)
- ☑ A Handbook of Basic Bioethics: an HBTO Guide (Editor), 2004

## **PAST AND CURRENT AFFILIATIONS**

- Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training
- North American Patristics Association
- International Society for Ecological Economics
- International Debate Association

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

Fluently spoken languages: French, English  
Other languages: Spanish, Koine Greek  
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