One of the major questions is that of how the church and the wider ecclesial community react to the changes that are taking place under the influence of globalization and the formation of transnational communities - ranging from the by now fairly well-established migrant communities in the United States, Europe and Australia, the older - and sometimes much older - communities in the Middle East and India, to the very recent new additions to Syriac-Orthodoxy in Guatemala. The workshop will focus especially on the creation of new theologies and religious practices, by looking at the texts that undergird these changes, the main actors (clerical and lay), and by keeping an eye on the wider mostly ecumenical contexts in which these transformations and reinterpretation take place: the wider Oriental Christian world, the Orthodox world and Christianity more generally - including the ‘Wild ecumenism’ of lay participation in many different ritual traditions, and the divers world of the Pentecostal and Charismatic movements. We are happy that two distinguished speakers have agreed to take on the key note lectures during the afternoon: Dr. Maria Hämmerli (Fribourg University, Switzerland) who will speak about European Syriac Christianity in the wider context of Orthodoxy worldwide, and bishop Mor Polycarpos, the incumbent of the Syriac Orthodox diocese of the Netherlands.

If you plan to attend all or part of the day, please register with Mrs. Lidwien Burgers, at the latest Tuesday, January 27. Registration and participation is free, coffee and tea will be provided, lunch is available from various places at the university. All participants are welcome to join for drinks after the final lecture around 17.15 in the coffee room of the faculty. The Institute of Eastern Christian Studies organizes a one-day workshop in Nijmegen (Erasmusbuilding, 15thfloor) on the current developments in Syriac Christianity, especially regarding the Syriac Orthodox Church. A distinguished group of international and Dutch scholars will introduce us into the topic. One of the major questions is that of how the church and the wider ecclesial community react to the changes that are taking place under the influence of globalization and the formation of transnational communities - ranging from the by now fairly well-established migrant communities in the United States, Europe and Australia, the older - and sometimes much older - communities in the Middle East and India, to the very recent new additions to Syriac-Orthodoxy in Guatemala. The workshop will focus especially on the creation of new theologies and religious practices, by looking at the texts that undergird these changes, the main actors (clerical and lay), and by keeping an eye on the wider mostly ecumenical contexts in which these transformations and reinterpretation take place: the wider Oriental Christian world, the Orthodox world and Christianity more generally - including the ‘Wild ecumenism’ of lay participation in many different ritual traditions, and the divers world of the Pentecostal and Charismatic movements. We are happy that two distinguished speakers have agreed to take on the key note lectures during the afternoon: Dr. Maria Hämmerli (Fribourg University, Switzerland) who will speak about European Syriac Christianity in the wider context of Orthodoxy worldwide, and bishop Mor Polycarpos, the incumbent of the Syriac Orthodox diocese of the Netherlands.