

## **Redefining Exactness in Late Byzantine Astronomy**

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According to his own testimony, the Byzantine historian, hagiographer, and astronomer Nikephoros Gregoras (d. *ca.* 1360) presented to emperor Andronikos II a proposal for a calendar correction related to the calculation of the date of Easter. According to Gregoras, despite having understood and accepted his arguments, the emperor decided against the implementation of the reform in order to avoid confusion and disagreement.

The importance of calculating the date of Easter for the liturgical needs of a medieval Christian society, such as the Byzantine one, is self-evident. Correspondingly, the need for relevant mathematical expertise and the interest in the subject on behalf of the late Byzantine scholars comes as unsurprising. Gregoras's discussion concerning the correction of the date of Easter and his reform proposal, however, present an example of the intersection of late Byzantine astronomical and liturgical conceptions of time and their socio-political implications. Thus, based on Gregoras's discourse, the present contribution problematizes the relationship between time as a mathematical category, subject to accurate or inaccurate reckoning on behalf of the astronomers, on the one hand, and sacred time as a liturgical category, on the other, and seeks to explain why the late Byzantine scholars were engaged in improving the parameters of the computus, despite the lack of perspective for the implementation of the corrections they proposed.