

# WORDS WITH GREAT POWER AND COLLABORATION: TOWARDS AN OPEN-SOURCE METHODOLOGY IN THEOLOGY

Emil M. Mărginean  
Independent researcher

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## Abstract

*In an era of open-source software, the place of theology in the world needs a shift towards a more participatory approach. The great advantage of participatory theology is that it contributes to a more inclusive and global discourse by benefiting from the local forms of expression, allowing people of God to get involved in a distributed community of researchers dealing with contemporary theological issues. Brainstorming sessions, international collaboration and online communication are the future tools of an open-source-oriented theological methodology (Orthodox Collaborative Theology). Who is going to be the beneficiary of such an open-source initiative (OCT)? The world. Modern-day theological endeavors, in order to remain connected with the pre-existing tradition of the Church, should always aim to use words with great power, as the seal of the Spirit who works for the life of the world.*

**Keywords:** theological research, open-source methodology, digital media, Orthodox Collaborative Theology, OCT

## Reaching the world

One of the main questions of conducting theological research in an era of social media could be the following: "Is there any way for contemporary theologians to become 'influencers' in today's society?" Theological 'influencers', 'bloggers,' 'YouTubers,' or 'Instagrammers,' are those theologians who have knowledge and social influence and are able to change the world for the better. The first step for successful communication is to

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<sup>1</sup> Crystal Abidin, "Communicative intimacies: Influencers and Perceived Interconnectedness", in *Ada: A Journal of Gender*, 2015, 8, pp. 1-16.