

Heritage, Religion and Travel Network Conference

Theoretical and Empirical Journeys

www.heritagereigionandtravel.com

(Mersin Congress and Exhibitions Centre, Turkey 27th-29th May 2016)

Call for Papers

Around the globe and across a wide variety of religious traditions, heritage has become central to our understanding of landscape, space and time. Heritage sites attract hundreds of millions of visitors each year, often as a form of pilgrimage to sacred destinations. Their popularity has provoked a burgeoning interest in both 'sacred' and 'secular pilgrimage' as a legitimate focus of academic enquiry and on tangible and intangible heritage more broadly.

This unique conference seeks to build on four decades of research on the relationship between Heritage, Religion and Travel and to advance new theoretical and empirical perspectives concerning this relationship. It also offers an interdisciplinary space for debate. Hence, and not coincidentally, the conference will be hosted in the ancient city of Tarsus in Turkey – a country that could be defined as at the crossroads of history, i.e. between east and west. It is a land deeply influenced by religious traditions and heritage of extraordinary variety and richness. It also has been the setting for the rise and fall of many cultures and entire civilizations. Drawing on the work of leading academics, we hope to evoke the depth and breadth of the importance of heritage and its connection to religion and new and old forms of travel and tourism.

The focus of the conference will be on re-assessing old and building new theoretical frameworks for the study of heritage, religion and travel, with particular emphasis on the study of pilgrimage and religious tourism.

Publication Opportunities

Heritage, Religion and Travel: Empirical and Theoretical Journeys, is pleased to announce that we will be able to offer authors the potential to publish their work in three separate series run by academic publishers (Ashgate, Routledge and Lexington books) on the topic of the conference. The Ashgate series editors include Dr. Dee Dyas (University of York), Prof. John Eade (Roehampton University/Toronto), Prof. Simon Coleman (University of Toronto) and Prof. Jas' Elsner (University of Oxford/Chicago). The Routledge series is edited by John Eade, Diogine Albera (University of Aux-Marseille), Ian Reader (Lancaster University), Alana Harris (King's College London) and Ellen Badone (McMaster University). The Lexington series is edited by Dr. Michael A. Di Giovine (West Chester University) and Prof. Noel B. Salazar (University of Leuven).

The quality of papers will be the guide to the potential for publication and submission is automatic with the acceptance of the paper's abstract. This is a great opportunity for new upcoming scholars as well as established authors to showcase their work. We expect wide-spread interest in this conference so please register ASAP for places are very limited! To register go to www.heritagereigionandtravel.com

We are open to the suggestions for thematic panels which may include, but are not limited to, the following themes:

Conference Themes

*** Heritage & Religious Traditions**

- Past, present and future of Heritage and its Religious meanings
- The relationship between Heritage and Spirituality
- Religious Tourism: old and new theoretical and empirical perspectives
- Heritage and Landscape: communalities and differences between place and space
- The framing of Heritage as Secular Cultural Symbolism
- Heritage and Politics of Identity
- Art, Heritage and Religious, Spiritual meanings
- Heritage and Memory
- Consumer Culture and Heritage sites
- Organizing bodies (UNESCO, WTO)
- Food as Sacred Objects, Food as Heritage.
- Heritage and the Oral Traditions
- The Mechanisms and Outcomes of Transitions from sites of Heritage to sites of Pilgrimage
- The Mechanisms and Outcomes of Transitions from sites of Religious Significance (Pilgrimage) to Heritage (Tourist) sites

*** Religion and Travel**

- Tourism and its discontents
- Contested sites: the Politics of site formation and maintenance
- Religion, Travel and the Media
- The Hermeneutics of Place and Space
- The Relationship between Religion and the Travel and Tourism Industry
- Religious Heritage of Minority Groups
- Religion, Heritage and Migration

• **Pilgrimage, Landscape and Heritage**

- Perspectives on Pilgrimage as a Spiritual Journey
- Pilgrimage and Territorial Boundaries
- Pilgrimage in Memory and Narratives
- The Centrality of Heritage for Pilgrimage
- Relationship between Religion and the Travel and Tourism Industry
- Pilgrimage and Nature (ecological perspectives of movement and sacred places)
- The Hermeneutics of Place
- Literature as a focal point for Pilgrims and Travelers
- Religious Tourism and/or Secular Pilgrimage
- The Diversity of Cultural/National/Linguistic/Artistic representations in Pilgrimage Sites
- Historical sites and Modern sites
- Gender, Ethnicity and other Identity Issues

• **The Sacred & The Secular: Contesting and/or Re-affirming Religion**

- The Relationship between Religion and Culture in the formation of Sacred Places and Landscapes
- The Sociology and Anthropology of Religion and their importance for the study of Heritage, Religion & Travel
- Secular Societies and their Religious Heritage: Past, Present and Future
- To Go on a Pilgrimage or to Walk on a Pilgrimage Trail?
- Secular Lands, Sacred Journeys: The Dichotomies of Culture, Religion and Politics

• **Theoretical & Methodological Perspectives**

- Tangible and Intangible Heritage
- Theoretical Perspectives on the Study of Heritage, Religion and Tourism
- Empirical & Methodological Perspectives on the Study of Heritage, Religion and Tourism
- Liminality as a central Concept in the Study of Heritage and Tourism
- The Social Sciences and the Study of Heritage, Religion and Travel
- Religion, Consumerism and the making of Tourist Spaces

- Globalization and the expansion of Tourism in the 21st Century
- Travel and Tourism: Past, Present and Future
- Visiting Places from Home: The Internet and Virtual Travel
- The Meaning of Tourism for Tourists and Hosts
- Movement and the Limits to Freedom: Barriers and Contradictions
- Methodological Challenges in the Study of Heritage, Religion and Travel
- The Semiotics and/or Hermeneutics of Heritage Travel
- Other types of Travel (air, sea, rail, walking)

Keynote speakers:

Prof. Dr. John Eade - University of Roehampton/University of Toronto

Prof. Dr. Ian Reader – Lancaster University

Dr. Avril Madrell - University of the West of England

Prof. Maria Coroucli – Universite Paris Ouest Nanterre

Program committee:

Dr. J. Eduardo Chemin (Çağ Üniversitesi, Turkey)

Prof. Dr. John Eade - University of Roehampton (U.K.)/ University of Toronto (Canada)

Submission details:

Abstracts (up to 350 - words in Word doc.), with contact details and affiliation, should be submitted to the following e-mail address: Chemin@cag.edu.tr by **Dezember 15, 2015**. You will be informed about acceptance or non-acceptance of your proposal by **January 15, 2016**.

Registration fee

On or before January 15th 2016 (early bird): € **50 (170 TL)**

Regular Fee (after early-bird deadline – January 15th 2016): € **75 (250 TL)**

Graduate Students presenting papers: € **50 (170 TL)**

Co-authors or accompanying person: € 50 (170 TL)

Please note: All bank transaction costs are to be paid by the author

Registration fee covers:

- Conference proceedings (backpack with book of abstracts)
- Welcome reception (drinks and snacks)

- All meals during the conference hours

- Refreshments and snacks during session breaks
- Excursion with Tourist Guide

- Reception and Dinner

Payment Method:

In EURO (€) (for academics from outside of Turkey) to be made to the following account number:

SWIFT CODE: 6070

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Çağ Üniversitesi (Mesep Oti)

Yenice Mahç Cemal Gırsel Bul. 142 D

Tarsus/Mersin

In Türk Lirası (TRY) (for academics from Turkey) to be made to the following account number:

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*we kindly ask you to send us confirmation of your payment via e-mail:

WE WELCOME YOU WARMLY TO MERSIN IN 2016!!!!