

2017

## Vol. 5(i) - Editorial - List of Reviewers ~ Conference Calls ~ Report on Annual Conference

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## Editorial - List of Reviewers

### List of Reviewers

The following is a list of the reviewers who have undertaken 'blind reviews' on our behalf for Volumes 3 & 4. Without the altruistic support of the following, the Journal could not be published.

- Aaron Tkaczynski
- Abdus Sattar Abbasi
- Ágnes Raffay
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## Conference Calls

### **The International Conference on Niche Market Formation for Faith-Based Tourism: Issues and Policies in Faith-based Tourism Travel Business**

**Malta 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

This International Conference is organised by Malta Tourism Authority, the University of Malta, the Dublin Institute of Technology (Ireland) and the Leeds Beckett University (United Kingdom). This conference provides a platform for various tourism and hospitality academics, practitioners, researchers and students in presenting and discussing the various topics related to **Niche Market Formation for Faith-Based Tourism**.

Faith-Based Tourism is here used as an umbrella term for religious tourism, pilgrimage, secular pilgrimage, cultural tourism with interest in religion etc).

The conference will focus on a broad range of topics related to Niche Market Formation for Faith-Based Tourism. The scientific committee welcome papers and offers to lead interactive workshops on various themes

This conference has two main objectives: The first day is a presentation of position papers to the stakeholders of Maltese tourism, such as hotel and restaurant entrepreneurs, service providers, site owners/managers, the Church, event organisers, heritage managers etc. Goal: to give a practical account on the advantages of independent niche forming for faith-based tourism, growth projections, the relationship to 'normal' tourism, the importance of getting organised and cooperation, setting up of NGOs, modern technologies in marketing and sales. Position papers apply to this part of the conference. Position papers will be published prior to the conference.

The following two days are meant for academia to bring cutting edge research in faith-based tourism into a wider global perspective and at the same time focussing on the small island reality of Malta. Extended abstracts will apply to this part of the conference.

The principle of this conference will be that position papers and extended abstracts (both of a 1000 words) shall be published prior to the conference to give the stakeholders time to get acquainted with the topic. Local media will be also engaged in discussing the

topic of faith-based tourism. During the conference, the essence of the papers will be explained in greater detail by the speakers.

#### ***Organising Committee:***

Prof. Godfrey Baldacchino, Mr Leslie Vella, Prof. Comm. George Cassar, Dr Dane Munro

#### ***Scientific Committee***

Prof. Comm. George Cassar, Dr Razaq Raj, Dr Kevin Griffin, Dr Dane Munro

#### ***Important Dates:***

The conference proceeds will be published in the International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage. Full papers will only be considered for publication if the author(s) have presented them to the conference in Malta.

Submission of position papers and extended abstracts:	15 June 2017
Notification of Abstract Acceptance:	1 July 2017
Conference Registration Deadline:	10 July 2017
Full Paper Submission:	1 Sept. 2017

#### ***Contact Details***

<https://www.facebook.com/events/275134032913801/>

### **Sacred Journeys: Pilgrimage and Religious Tourism 4th Global Conference**

**October 26-27, 2017, Indiana University (IU)  
Gateway – Beijing, China**

The latest research indicates that more than 400 million people embark annually on traditional pilgrimages in Saudi Arabia, India, Japan, and elsewhere, with the numbers steadily increasing. Pilgrimage is one of the most ancient practices of humankind and is associated with a great variety of religious and spiritual traditions, beliefs and sacred geographies. These include the small-scale 'walkabout' of Outback Australian Aborigines in search of their own and their country's spiritual renewal, the Sufi journey to the Mausoleum of Sidi Shaykh in the Algerian West Sahara, or to Lourdes in France, which welcomes over five million Catholic pilgrims each year in search of healing or deliverance.

For some, pilgrimage is prescribed, as with the Hajj, one of the Five Pillars of Islam. In other settings, pilgrimage is more akin to religious or heritage tourism, as in China, where millions of people visit imperial mountains like Tai Shan or cultural sites such as Huang Shan (Yellow Mountain). Adoration by influential poets, painters, and philosophers over thousands of years has turned this latter site into a modern-day place of pilgrimage of international repute. One question that might be addressed at this conference is whether the overdevelopment of such significant places poses a threat to their sustainability.

Anthropologist Victor Turner once wrote that every tourist is part pilgrim, and every pilgrim is part tourist. Tourists and pilgrims are often described as being at either end of a continuum, with the former representing the leisure/pleasure seeker and the latter seeking communion with a deity. While Confucius described tourism as a fruitful practice that was good for the promotion of one's virtues, the objective of pilgrims is often spiritual in nature. Some pilgrims will seek a vision of the deity, perform penance, obtain blessings, ask for children or cures, or pray for a long life or avert calamities, etc.

Today, apart from such religious motives, people will visit sacred sites out of curiosity or simply for peace of mind in their fast-paced existence. Some hope to validate their knowledge of ancient practices, while still others know something is missing in their lives, something not found in the materialism that the world offers as a cure-all. The religious tourism industry refers to the development of religious or spiritual sites as tourist destinations, attracting pilgrims for the purposes of worship, and also non-religious people, for sightseeing, heritage, and cultural practices. In this conference, speakers may address any aspect of this growing phenomenon.

This conference is the fourth in the series on sacred journeys, with the first two held at Oxford University's Mansfield College and the third in Prague. As in previous gatherings, we will explore the practice of pilgrimage and religious tourism in global perspective from every conceivable angle, including the similarities and differences in the practice in Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, Taoism, and other traditions, and secular pilgrimage. The impact of the internet and globalization, pilgrimage as protest, and pilgrimage and peace building, etc. are potential topics, as is the concept of the internal pilgrimage and the journey of self-discovery. The experiential, practical,

historical, and psychological aspects of the sacred journey are central to our exploration, and we encourage all those seeking to participate to consider their work in this larger frame. From the perspective of religious tourism, we seek papers discussing both theory and practice, motivations, media and technology, culture and heritage, the management of sacred sites, cultures as tourist products, tourism and commodification of culture, etc.

### ***What to Send, What to Keep in Mind, and Who to Send to***

Proposals in English should address the aforementioned themes, as well as related ones. Proposals with a maximum of 300 words in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) format should be submitted by email no later than June 1, 2017. They should include:

- 1-Author(s)
- 2-Affiliation
- 3-Email address
- 4-Title of Proposal 5-Body of Proposal
- 6-Keywords (up to 10)

Times New Roman 12 should be used for the entire proposal, without any footnotes, special formatting, characters, or emphasis. The subject line of the email should read: **Sacred Journeys 4 Proposal Submission**. Proposals (and correspondence) should be sent to

- Dr. Ian S McIntosh of Indiana University—Purdue University Indianapolis ([imcintos@iupui.edu](mailto:imcintos@iupui.edu)) and
- Prof Chadwick Co Sy Su of the University of the Philippines Manila ([ccsysu@up.edu.ph](mailto:ccsysu@up.edu.ph)).

We acknowledge receipt and respond to all proposals submitted, which are then reviewed by at least two members of the conference committee. Upon approval of the proposal, a draft paper (maximum of 5000 words) is requested by September 15, 2017. Final papers will be considered for a special issue of the International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage.

Registration fees are as follows: USD100 for international participants, USD50 for Chinese participants, USD50 for international students, and USD25 for Chinese students.

***Conference sponsors:***

Indiana University; IUPUI School of Physical Education and Tourism Management; IUPUI Department of Religious Studies; University of the Philippines Manila Department of Arts and Communication.

***Venue***

***Indiana University (IU) Gateway – Beijing, China***  
Office B601D, 6th Floor, Block B CERNET Tower,  
Tsinghua Science Park, Building 8 No. 1  
Zhongguancun East Road, Haidian District, Beijing  
100084 P.R. China

## Conference Report ~ Konya 2016

The 8th International Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage Conference took place in Necmettin Erbakan University Faculty of Tourism in Konya, Turkey. The conference provide both empirical and personal insights into the changing nature of religion in society and debate for both policy makers and academics on the future development of faith tourism and pilgrimage management.

### Sessions

A range papers were presented at the conference by international participants from 21 countries, who engaged in lively and engaging academic discussion over the course of four days. The papers presented, were classified under seven main themes including:

- Theology and Theory
- Challenges
- The Value of Pilgrimage
- Women and Pilgrimage
- Islamic Tourism
- Development
- Management Issues

### Keynote Papers

Three Keynote Papers were presented:

**Professor Dallen J. Timothy**, from Arizona State University, USA, talked about *Political Boundaries and Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage Routes*

**Frances McGettigan**, Athlone Institute of Technology, Ireland presented a paper on *Awe and Wonder in Contemporary Tourism*

**Sevde Düzgüner**, assistant professor at Marmara University in Istanbul, Turkey, presented a paper entitled *Religious Tourism For Religious Tolerance Within Modern Society*

### Cultural Activities

Throughout the conference, delegates were treated wonderfully by the local hosts, and were introduced to a range of Turkish treats.

On the first day delegates were taken to Mevlana Museum which houses the tomb of Jelaleddin Rumi (1207-1273), known to his followers as Mevlana (or Rumi), a Muslim poet and mystic and one of the great spiritual thinkers and teachers of all time.

On the final day the group travelled to Catalhoyuk (Çatalhöyük) to view the large Neolithic and Chalcolithic settlement which dates from 7500 BC to 5700 BC (see below).

On the closing night of the event, delegates were treated to a display of Whirling Dervishes at the Mevlana Kültür Merkezi (Sema Area).

The following pages contain some photos (mostly thanks to Sin Yasuda) of the event.



Some Images from 8th Annual Conference in Konya, 2016



