



CALL FOR PAPERS

The Emergence of Sacred Travel: Comparativism and the Study of Ancient Mediterranean Pilgrimage

3rd EST Symposium

17-19 May 2017

Aarhus University, Denmark

This will be the third and final major symposium, organised under the auspices of the collaborative research project “*The Emergence of Sacred Travel (EST): Experience, Economy, and Connectivity in Ancient Mediterranean Pilgrimage*” funded 2013-2017 by a Sapere Aude grant from the Danish Council for Independent Research (www.sacredtravel.dk), and directed by Troels Myrup Kristensen.

The symposium provides a comparative, cross-disciplinary platform for the discussion of ancient pilgrimage. Focus on the act of pilgrimage is reshaping our understanding of the interconnections between the religious traditions of the Mediterranean Basin by linking Jewish pilgrims to the Jerusalem Temple with the theoretic interdynamics between major Greek sanctuaries, the power of healing shrines to attract travellers on simultaneously sacred and medically-motivated journeys in Greek, Roman, and other cultural contexts with the explicit 'pilgrimage' traditions of Christian or Muslim holy centres or healing places.

Bridging traditional chronological and disciplinary divisions, the symposium seeks to compare and contrast 'Classical' traditions of sacred travel (set wide to include continental Europe, the Mediterranean, Near East and North Africa during the first millennium BC-AD) with both earlier and later forms of pilgrimage. By acknowledging the emergence of sacred travel within this long-term trajectory, we get a clearer picture of the phenomenon's later historical development, including Islamic Hajj, Medieval travel to the Holy Land and contemporary traditions of pilgrimage, as well as discovering what structural, social or experiential similarities and differences can be drawn out. By actively seeking scholarly interactions from different disciplines – prehistoric, Classical and medieval archaeology, human geography, theology and religious studies, history, and literary studies – and with a variety of theoretical perspectives – sociological,

phenomenological, economic – the symposium aims to illuminate the emergence, place and endurance of pilgrimage as a form of religious behaviour.

Confirmed keynote speakers

- Simon Coleman, Chancellor Jackman Professor of Religion and Anthropology, University of Toronto, Canada.
- David Frankfurter, William Goodwin Aurelio Chair in the Appreciation of Scripture and Professor of Religion, Boston University, USA.
- Nicholas Purcell, Camden Professor of Ancient History, University of Oxford, UK.
- Ian Rutherford, Professor of Greek, University of Reading, UK.

Proposals

We are particularly interested in comparative papers that bridge traditional disciplinary and chronological boundaries. Please send title and abstract (max. 300 words), and a brief CV to Troels Myrup Kristensen by 1 October 2016. The organisers will review proposals and respond by mid-October.

Accepted speakers will be given 30 minutes for their presentations, followed by 15 minutes of discussion. Accommodation, lunches during the symposium, and conference dinner will be funded by the organizers. Speakers will need to provide their own transportation to Aarhus.

Following the conference, accepted speakers will be invited to contribute to a dynamically-structured, dialogic volume based on the symposium, to be published as part of the *Aarhus Studies in Mediterranean Antiquity* series (Aarhus University Press).

Organisers: Troels Myrup Kristensen (tmk@cas.au.dk) and Anna Collar (klaacollar@cas.au.dk), both Department of History and Classical Studies, Aarhus University.