

3rd EST Symposium

The Emergence of Sacred Travel

Comparativism and the Study of Ancient Mediterranean Pilgrimage

Aarhus University, Denmark

17-19 May 2017

****Pre-announcement****



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.

Keynotes

Simon Coleman, Toronto: *Title TBC*

David Frankfurter, Boston: *Getting There: Reframing Pilgrimage from Process to Site*

Nicholas Purcell, Oxford: *Title TBC*

Ian Rutherford, Reading: *Greco-Roman Pilgrimage as Costly Signalling*

Speakers

Manuel Alvarez, Malaga: *Pilgrimage to the Herakleion at Gades: Sacrificing at the Edge of the World*

Matthew Dillon, New England: *The disorderly pilgrim in ancient Greece*

Isabel Köster, Colorado: *Thieving Pilgrims between Rome and the Middle Ages*

Jenn Cianca, Bishop's University: *The Thirdspace of Early Christian Pilgrimage: Developing a Sacred Landscape*

Csaba Szabo, Erfurt: *Roman healing sites as religious thirdplaces in the Danubian provinces: ancient and contemporary pilgrimage*

Panayiotis Andreou Christoforou, Oxford: *The Roman Emperor as a Place of Pilgrimage*

Amelia Brown, Queensland: *Pilgrimage and the Patron Gods and Saints of Seafaring in the Ancient Mediterranean*

Rebecca Sweetman, St Andrew's: *Pilgrims, piety and pragmatism: Roman sanctuaries and late antique churches in the Cyclades*

Florian Wöller, LMU: *Sacred Travel en miniature: Processions, Holy Space, and Urban Territory in Gregory of Tours*

Matthew Robert Anderson, Concordia: *Failed Connectivities: The Pauline collection and his final pilgrimage to the temple at Jerusalem*

Nicola Bergamo, Paris: *Pilgrimage to Monte Sant'Angelo and the Cult of Saint Michael during the Lombard period*

Naomi Koltun-Fromm, Haverford: *Late Ancient Jerusalem Mythologies: Pilgrims and the Dome of the Rock*

Yana Tchekhanovets, Jerusalem: *Jerusalem Agents: Armenian and Georgian pilgrimage to Byzantine Palestine*

Sara Terreault, Concordia: *"Existential Migration"? Fleeing the Centre in Medieval Celtic Christianity and Postmodern Peregrination*

Sarah Midford, La Trobe: *Tracing Ancient Footsteps: Contemporary Australian Sacred Travel to the Dardanelles*

Troels Myrup Kristensen, Aarhus: *Greek Religion and the New Mobilities Paradigm*

Anna Collar, Aarhus: *Roman Religion and the New Mobilities Paradigm*

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