

Dynamics of Religion: Past and Present

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Panel Call for Papers

Military Pilgrimage: Practices and Discourses

Panel conveners: John Eade, Universities of Roehampton and Toronto

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The anthropology of pilgrimage has emerged as a well recognised sub-field of Anthropology with a significant body of literature that has addressed a wide range of pilgrimage phenomena. Recent research and publications have sought to move beyond debates concerning *communitas* and contestation (see Turner and Turner 1978; Eade and Sallnow 1991; Morinis 1992) towards explorations of movement, gender, ethnicity, visualisation, secular and spiritual pilgrimage, political and economic processes, and the relationship between pilgrimage and tourism (Walter and Reader 1992; Coleman and Eade 2004; Badone and Roseman 2004; Hopgood 2005; Margry 2008; Albera and Couroucli 2012; Bowman 2012; Jansen and Notermans 2012; Reader 2013; Fedele 2013; Eade and Katić 2014; etc).

Nevertheless, some important gaps remain and one of them is military pilgrimage. Although pilgrimage places have always been connected to nationalism, politics and military from the Middle Ages (Crusaders) to contemporary practices (like Australian pilgrimage to Gallipoli or Western to memorials from the First and Second World War), focus on this form of pilgrimage has been neglected in pilgrimage research. At Lourdes, one of Europe's most visited Christian shrines - military pilgrimage has been a long established feature and with the collapse of the Iron Curtain and the advance of globalisation the international military pilgrimage to Lourdes has grown significantly with delegations from Poland, Slovakia, Croatia, Ukraine, Canada and the USA as well as from W. Europe. Military pilgrimages are also happening in these European and N. American countries, viz. the Polish military pilgrimages to JasnaGora and Lichen, Croatian military pilgrimage to Marija Bistrica, etc.

Through this panel we want to contribute to research on this still neglected form of pilgrimage. Our goal is to gather scholars and case studies from around the world in trying to access practices and discourses connected to Christian and non-Christian military pilgrimage in local and global contexts at national and trans-national levels. We want to observe military pilgrimage in synchronic and diachronic perspective and in relationship to politics and nationalism, as well as to individual pilgrims and/or different (secular and religious) agents connected with the establishment and organisation of different military pilgrimages.

Abstracts (up to 300-words in Word doc.), with contact details and affiliation, should be sent to John Eade (j.eade@roehampton.ac.uk) and Mario Katić (makatic@unizd.hr) by **September 7th 2014.**