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## Introduction

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## Welcome to Our First *Special Publication*

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### Dr. Kevin A. Griffin

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When we set up the *International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage*, our aim was to establish an internationally recognised publication which would act as a vehicle for publishing high quality articles in the broad areas of religious tourism and pilgrimage. The thematic and disciplinary boundaries of our Journal are very wide, and over the years we hope to publish articles from a broad collection of authors, covering diverse themes and topics.

From the outset we have had high hopes of being able to offer groups of authors the opportunity to produce a Special Publication on a topic or theme which is related to our overall subject area. In planning for this, we hoped that potential guest Editors would tackle topics which would 'stretch' the Journal, and present material which would be of interest, and add to the extant literature. We are delighted to say that this Volume does just that, in presenting challenging and engaging papers on a very sensitive topic, and doing so to the highest academic standard.

When we were initially approached by Maximiliano Korstanje with a proposal to produce an edition based on terrorism and terrorism-tourism, we were somewhat taken aback, but could immediately see the merit of the project. Over a very short period of time, Max and his

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co-authors produced their papers, and we hope that you like their body of work.

The various authors in this volume have been working in this general area for some time, and through collaboration and some coordinated effort have produced this set of papers, which they hope will be useful in an evolving dialogue, which they are prompting with this publication.

As to the 'thorny' question - is this Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage? Having discussed the matter extensively, we are more than happy that there is sufficient connection between our overall aims and the overall content of these papers to merit their inclusion in our Journal. Yes, some of the papers are somewhat tangential to our overall *raison d'être*, but in their entirety, they form an interesting set of papers, which position the researchers to the fore in their chosen subject area. Because of their overall standard and questioning approach, we are happy to publish these papers in our Journal, and even more so because they throw down a challenge to other authors to stretch the boundaries of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage, to reflect on challenging issues and to explore new areas of academic discourse.

Enjoy

Kevin & Razaq

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## Endorsement

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### David L. Altheide

Emeritus Regents' Professor, Arizona State University

We are all virtual tourists in a digitized global age when Facebook and other social media transform borders into personal video-scapes of desire and dread. This special issue offers a striking international perspective on tourism in an age of terrorism. The essays illuminate the important distinction between an action, like a terrorist attack, and the reactions and meanings that we give to it. Part of the reaction is mobilizing cultural fear mechanisms, including risk discourse, national identities, and narratives of threat and impending danger

that can promote more social control, and limit behaviour - especially travel by tourists. Ironically, we have known for decades that contacts with other cultures and situations can lubricate social relationships, challenge cultural biases, and promote kindred identities. These papers take us a step further toward these goals by distinguishing the relevance of religion, region, and culture for prescribed and proscribed tourism in a digital age.