

July 2015

Issue 3(i) Editorial

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Recommended Citation

(2015) "Issue 3(i) Editorial," *International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage*: Vol. 3: Iss. 1, Article 2.

doi:<https://doi.org/10.21427/D7ZX4Q>

Available at: <https://arrow.tudublin.ie/ijrtp/vol3/iss1/2>

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Editorial –Update on Recent Activities

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Current Issue

This current issue of the Journal contains a wonderful mix of research undertaken in seven countries, on four continents. Emeka Okonkwo presents a paper on religious pilgrimages in Sukur Kingdom in Nigeria, while Darius Liutikas explores visits to the Lithuanian Calvaries and Estela Marine-Roig uses online reviews to elucidate views of the Basilica of La Sagrada Familia. Using research undertaken in southern California Razaq Raj and Dino Bozonelos examine American Muslim experience and consumption of the Hajj ritual. Basing her reflective paper on her personal west of Ireland experience, Rosemary Power writes of modern pilgrimage while Stefania Cerutti and Elisa Piva apply event management theory to two Italian religious tourism cases. Mehdi Ebadi presents a case study of Khāled Nabi, in Northeastern Iran, a relatively little known site other than to Turkmen pilgrims. The final paper by Silvia Beltramo discusses medieval architecture and religious tourism in northern Italy

Journal Update

The last 18 months have been rather exciting and busy for our Journal, getting 3 issues (Issue 1, Issues 2(1) & 2(2)) published, with 8, 7 and 7 papers respectively. In total a phenomenal 12771 full paper downloads have occurred, with over a thousand downloads each month between March and June 2015.

During the Editorial Board Meeting at our Conference in Girona in June, we decided on a number of updates for the Journal:

- First, we are introducing a ‘Case Study’ category for papers. This should encourage contributions from authors whose paper may not be very theoretical or academic, but nonetheless provides interesting insights and original research, suitable for our readers.
- Secondly, we will be publishing lists of reviewers on a periodic basis. It is important to maintain anonymity regarding the review process, but it is also important to acknowledge the generosity and altruistic effort of our reviewers. You will find the

list of our reviewers at the end of this Editorial piece.

- Thirdly, we have updated our policy on Special Issues, and welcome potential editors to contact us with their suggestions and ideas.
- Finally, we had an interesting discussion on what exactly constitutes a contribution for the Journal, and because we have quite a lot of freedom to produce our issues, due to the digital nature of this project, we can welcome contributions in creative formats. It has been suggested for example, that a photographic or video based contribution would be acceptable. We haven’t tested the logistical parameters of this idea, but always welcome innovative ideas and suggestions. All such contributions, irrespective of format, will be subjected to double blind review.

Future Special Issues

In order to facilitate maximum outputs for conference participants, we announced our publication ideas to the delegates in Girona. Basing our plans primarily on the conference sessions, we have identified 10 themes around which teams of invited guest editors are building publication opportunities. Some of the editors are working on special issues for the Journal, while some are developing proposals for books in our Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage book series with CABI publishers.

The following are the themes currently being developed:

- A Tool for Development (Regional)
- Conflict & Challenges
- Events (& Festivals)
- Experience / Impacts
- Motivation and Behaviour
- Routes / Trails
- Telling the Story (Guiding and Interpretation)
- Theology & Theory
- New Technology
- Politics of Tourism Representation

If you are interested in offering a paper / chapter under any of these themes, please contact us and we will point you in the right direction.

Very Brief Conference Report

Our 7th Annual Conference in Girona 10-13 June 2015 was a resounding success. With the increase in numbers, the organising committee was a little anxious in the run up to the event. However, even with 70 papers being presented, we believe we managed to maintain the warm, friendly, collegial and even familial atmosphere, for which our previous events have been praised. Much of this was wonderfully facilitated by the local team under the guidance of Lluís, Silvia and Dolores

We don't plan to overload the Journal with conference details, but are in the process of developing a bespoke conference archive on the same digital platform as the Journal, and will inform people in due course. The conference programme, book of abstracts, draft papers, powerpoint files and photographs will all be lodged on this system.

We hope that by the time you are reading this, our newly revised conference website (<http://irtp.co.uk/>) will be working. This site will provide all details for our 8th Conference in Konya, Turkey 1-4 June 2016.

Please enjoy the papers in this issue, and we look forward to hearing what you think, and working with you in the future,

Kevin and Razaq

List of Reviewers

The following is a list of our reviewers who have undertaken 'blind reviews' on our behalf over the past year and a half. Without the altruistic support of the following, the Journal could not be published.

Alan Clarke
 Alexandra Drule (Tirca)
 Amaia Makua
 Anna Trono
 Anna Trono Prof
 Ashley Schroeder
 Babu George
 Bagri, Sc
 Casper Jacobsen
 Charlie Mansfield
 Craig Webster
 Daniel H Olsen
 Darius Liutikas
 David R. Vaughan
 Dino Bozonelos
 Elizabeth Ifeyinwa Benson
 Ericka Amorim
 Erik H Cohen
 Ernest Azzopardi
 Fiorella Dallari
 Frances McGettigan
 Graham Busby
 Hadil Faris
 Ian D. Rotherham
 Jaeyeon Choe
 Joan Carles Llurdés
 John R Winton
 Jonathan R Edwards
 Katia Rizzello
 Kelli Malone

Kevin Burns
 Kevin J Wright
 Kiran Shinde
 Lorenzo Bagnoli
 Lorri Pennington Gray
 Lucrezia Lopez
 Maaïke de Jong
 Marcia Cappellano Dos Santos
 Maria Teresa Simone-Charteris
 Matthew Lee Smith
 Maureen Griffiths
 Maximiliano E Korstanje
 Michael Di Giovine
 Mushin Kar
 Nicolas Montironi
 Nigel Bond
 Nigel Morpeth
 Noelle O'Connor
 Noga Collins-Kreiner
 Olga Lo Presti
 Peter Tarlow
 Peter Wiltshier
 Rana P.B. Singh
 Razaq Raj
 Rita Capurro
 Romeo Hanxhari
 Rose Aslan
 Sanaya Anna Maria Rodrigues
 Shaul Krakover
 Shin YASUDA
 Silvia Aulet Serrallonga
 Silvia Beltramo
 Tally T Korman
 Veena Sharma
 Vincent Zammit
 Vitor Ambrósio
 Xose Santos
 Yasin Bilim

Some Images from 7th Annual Conference in Girona



