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Special Issue: ***Pilgrimage: Motivation and Identity in the Abrahamic Faiths***

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Table of Contents

Academic Papers

Motivation for Muslim Travellers to the Holy City of Jerusalem <i>Razaq Raj</i>	1
Day Tripping in Jerusalem: The Curious Case of How Russian Orthodox Christians Became the Short-Term Tourists in the Holy Land <i>Dino Bozonelos</i>	12
Religious Pilgrimage: Experiencing Places, Objects and Events <i>Reverend Ruth Dowson</i>	24
Jewish Tourism to Malta: A Nostalgic Pilgrimage? <i>Vincent Zammit</i>	39
A Shared Pilgrimage Road in Israel and Palestine: From Utopia to Reality <i>Vitor Ambrósio</i>	48
Pilgrim's Motivations: A Theoretical Approach to Pilgrimage as a Peacebuilding Tool <i>Silvia Aulet</i>	59

Editorial

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The papers in this Special Publication are drawn from the Institute for Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage's (IRTP) International Research Seminar, entitled *Pilgrimage: Motivation and Identity in the Abrahamic Faiths* which was held at the Swedish Theological Institute, Jerusalem, from 22-25 January 2020. This International Research Seminar was supported and hosted by the Swedish Theological Institute, Jerusalem.

This workshop explored the idea of identity and Abrahamic Faith through the lens of pilgrimage, and in particular examined the common and dissimilar motivations of visitors to holy sites in places such as Jerusalem. Arising from that, this issue provides an overview, discussion and critical comparison of various aspects of the Abrahamic religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. These monotheistic religious belief systems play an important contribution in the religious tourism of the Middle East and all around world. Jerusalem is a city of great religious and spiritual importance for all three Abrahamic faiths and thus, a growing number of visitors from the Abrahamic religions have been coming to Jerusalem to visit the sacred sites.

As a unit the papers indicate in a very definite manner that religious visitor's motivations have the potential to bring the different faith communities together in the future. Mindful of that, this special issue is a timely assessment of the increasing linkages and interconnections between shared sacred Holy Sites in Jerusalem and thus, it explores key learning points related to sacred sites in Jerusalem and elsewhere. A key strength of this special issue is the presentation of current and diverse research insights on a variety of aspects related to enhancing religious tourism experience in the various Abrahamic Faiths.

The aim of the special issue therefore, is to provide both empirical and personal insights into the changing nature of religion in society and further important insights into Abrahamic Faiths and their linkage to Holy Sites in Jerusalem for pilgrims, secular visitors, and academics. The Journal issue considers these evolving challenges within the current and future development of Abrahamic faiths and their related pilgrimages

Maria, Razaq & Vincent.