



IRTP
Institute for Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage

IJRT The International Journal
of Religious Tourism and
Pilgrimage



15th Annual International Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage (IRTP) Conference

26th – 29th
June 2024

Korpo | Nagu | Pargas, Finnish Archipelago Finland



ANNOUNCEMENT

The **International Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage Conference** (IRTP) organised by the Institute for Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage (IRTP) in conjunction with the International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage (IJRTP) and the Archipelago Tourism Department invites abstracts for their 15th International Conference to be held from **26th–29th June 2024** at the Archipelago City of Pargas, Finland.

The aim of the conference is to provide both empirical and personal insights into the changing nature of religion in society and to further the debate for both policy-makers and academics to consider these evolving challenges within the future development of faith tourism and pilgrimage. The main emphasis for acceptance at this event is based on participants presenting papers, which apply to the main themes of the conference.

ORGANISATION

HOSTED BY:

Archipelago City of Pargas, Tourism Department | www.VisitArchipelago.com
Archipelago Centre Korpoström | www.skargardscentrum.fi

Please check the conference website for further information, www.irtp.co.uk

ORGANISING COMMITTEE:

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Parichay Parivesh, Katharos Techie, IN

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CONFERENCE THEMES

The key themes of the conference include (but are not limited to) the following:

- ① Artificial Intelligence and Pilgrims Experience
- ① Artificial Intelligence Capabilities and Crowd Management
- ① Crowd Control and Crowd Dynamics for Religious Sites
- ① Environmental Impacts on Religious Sites
- ① Globalization / Impacts at Religious Sites
- ① Impact of COVID-19 on Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage
- ① Legal, Security and Safety issues for Pilgrims
- ① Pilgrimage and Religious Tourism Motivations
- ① Managing and Promoting Religious Sites
- ① Media and Cultural Challenges for Pilgrimage
- ① Mobilities, Pilgrimage, and Tourism
- ① Physical Environment and Sacred Tourist Destinations

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- ⦿ Pilgrimage as Process
 - ⦿ Pilgrimage Routes Modern and Ancient
 - ⦿ Pilgrimage, Spirituality, Religion and Tourism
 - ⦿ Political Challenges Facing Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage
 - ⦿ Promoting and Experiencing Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage
 - ⦿ Overtourism at Religious Sites
 - ⦿ Religious Cultural Heritage
 - ⦿ Religious Journeys and Economic Impacts
 - ⦿ Religious Tourism and Political Economy
 - ⦿ Risks and Conflicts of / at Sacred Sites
 - ⦿ Role of Ritual in Sacred Journeys
 - ⦿ Secular v Ritual Tourism
 - ⦿ Social Media and Information Technology for Pilgrimage
 - ⦿ Sustainability in Pilgrimage and Religious Tourism
 - ⦿ Sustainable Practices for Religious Tourism
 - ⦿ Terrorism, Migration and Religious Tourism
 - ⦿ Theory, Philosophy and Theology of Religious Tourism

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Vitor Ambrósio, Higher Institute for Hotel and Tourism Studies, Portugal
- Silvia Aulet University de Girona, Spain
- Yasin Bilim, Necmettin Erbakan University, Turkey
- Dino Bozonelos, California State University, San Marcos, USA
- Marko-Antonio Brkić Herzegovina University
- Stefania Cerutti, Università del Piemonte Orientale, Italy
- Jaeyeon Choe, Bournemouth University, UK
- Ruth Dowson, Leeds Beckett University, UK
- Siniša Dukić, University of Vitez, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Carlos Fernandes, Polytechnic university of Viana do Castelo, Portugal
- Warwick Frost, La Trobe University, Australia
- George Greenia, William & Mary University, USA
- Kevin Griffin, Technological University Dublin, Ireland
- Maureen Griffiths, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia

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- ⦿ Nour Farra-Haddad, NEOS Lebanon
 - ⦿ Stephen Haller, Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada
 - ⦿ Ahmed Jamal, Cardiff University, Wales, UK
 - ⦿ Tadeja Jere Jakulin, University of Primorska, Slovenia
 - ⦿ Muhsin Kar, Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Turkey
 - ⦿ Deša Karamehmedović, Herzegovina University, Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - ⦿ Maximiliano Korstanje, Universidad de Palermo, Argentina
 - ⦿ Jennifer Laing, La Trobe University, Australia
 - ⦿ Maria Leppakari, Archipelago City of Pargos
 - ⦿ Darius Liutikas, Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences, Lithuania
 - ⦿ Lucrezia Lopez, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain.
 - ⦿ Azmat Maksudnov Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University, Kyrgyzstan
 - ⦿ Frances McGettigan, Athlone Institute of Technology, Ireland
 - ⦿ Ian McIntosh, IUPUI Honors College, USA.
 - ⦿ Polyxeni Moira, University of West Attica, Greece
 - ⦿ Dane Munro, University of Malta
 - ⦿ Daniel H. Olsen, Brigham Young University, USA

- ⦿ Emese Panyik, Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Portugal
- ⦿ Danijel Pavlović, Singidunum University, Serbia
- ⦿ Elisa Piva, Università del Piemonte Orientale, Italy
- ⦿ Lluís Prats, University of Girona, Spain
- ⦿ Razaq Raj, Leeds Beckett University, UK
- ⦿ Amos Ron, Ashkelon Academic College, Israel
- ⦿ Xose Manuel Santos Solla, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain
- ⦿ Anna Trono, University of Salento, Italy
- ⦿ Shin Yasuda, Teikyo University, Japan
- ⦿ Vincent Zammit, Malta
- ⦿ Måns Broo Åbo Akademi University, Finland
- ⦿ Maria Engberg, Novia University of Applied Sciences, Finland

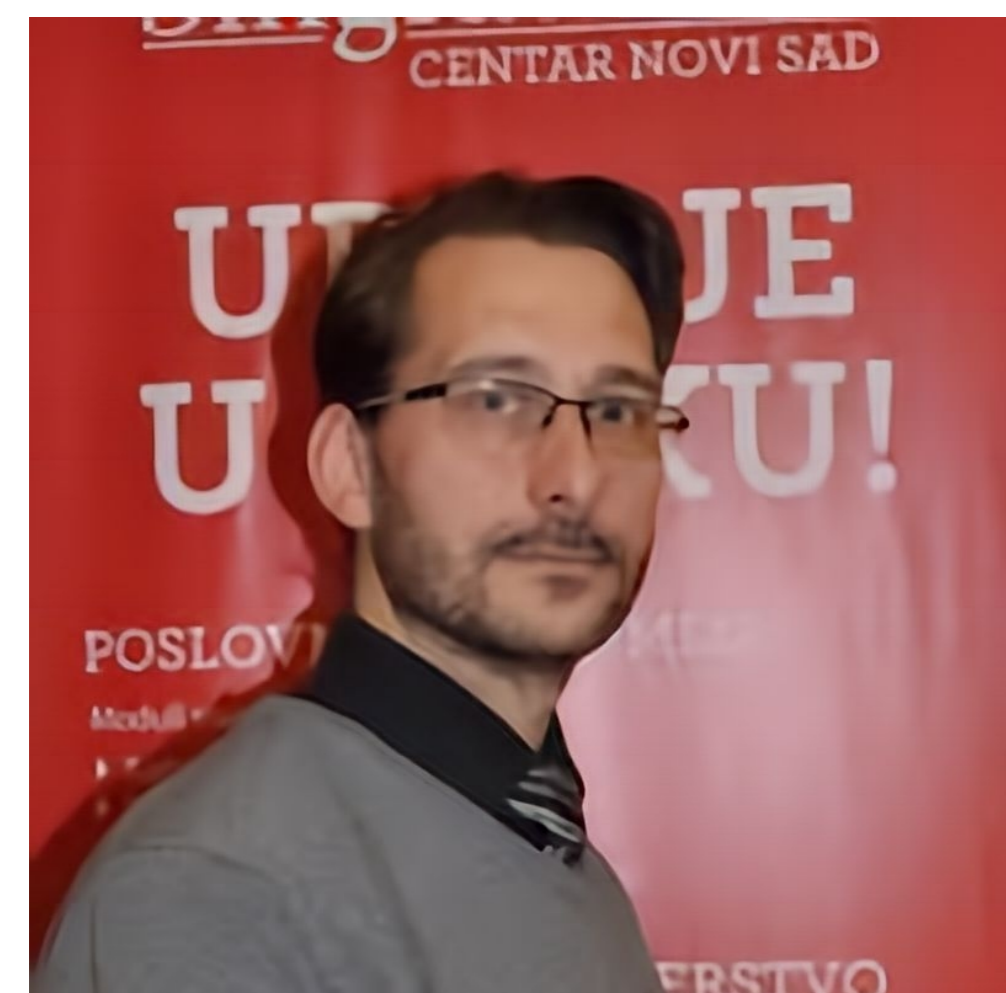


KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Polyxeni Moira, is Professor in Sociology of Tourism at the Department of Tourism Management, University of West Attica in Greece. She was also a Visiting Professor at the University of Ioannina, Harokopeion University, University of Aegean, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and the Hellenic Open University. She holds a PhD in Sociology from Panteion University of Political and Social Sciences, Greece.

She has published 20 scientific books (“Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage”, “Marine Tourism”, “Cruise Tourism”, “Industrial Heritage Tourism”) in the field of tourism and articles in more than 50 international and Greek journals. Her research interest includes Sociology of Tourism, Consumers Behavior in Tourism, and Religious Tourism.



Danijel Pavlović is an associate professor at Singidunum University, Serbia. His main area of research includes tourism destination competitiveness, the business of travel agencies and tour operators and religious tourism. He is a member of the Serbian Marketing Association; The Coordination Commission for Inspection Supervision - and the Sectoral Council for the Trade, Hospitality and Tourism Sector (NOKS) - The agency for Qualifications, Government of the Republic of Serbia; and a member of the Editorial Board of International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage (IJRTP), regional editor for Europe of the Journal of Islamic Tourism (JIT) and a member of the SITCON Conference Scientific and Organising Board.



Dr Minna Opas is Professor of Study of Religion (fixed-term), University of Turku, Finland. She is Director of the Centre for the Study of Christian Cultures (csccl.utu.fi) and co-editor in-chief of Temenos: Nordic Journal of Comparative Religion. She is interested in questions related to the anthropology of Christianity and indigenous religions and cultures.

IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract submissions:	15th February 2024
Notification of Abstract Acceptance:	28th February 2024
Conference Registration Deadline and submission of extended abstract:	15th May 2024
Full Paper Submission:	15th September 2024

FEES

There is no presentation fee for those who are selected to deliver papers. Costs will be kept to a minimum and will be approximately **€250.00** (which includes tea and coffee, lunches and Gala Dinner). Accommodation recommendations will be provided, with preferential rates organised in a number of nearby hotels and hostels. For any questions related to the fee, accommodation and transport, please contact the Archipelago City of Pargas, visit@pargas.fi or through the online chat on www.visitarchipelago.com.

For all payment details please see: www.irtp.co.uk

PUBLICATIONS

The conference organisers have an impressive track record of successfully publishing papers from their events. Following review, suitable papers that are submitted according to the deadline, will be published in the International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage (IJRTP) and/or selected for inclusion as chapters in forthcoming books in the organisers' Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage Book Series with CABI publishers.

Conference Abstracts (extended abstracts) will be available online at <https://arrow.dit.ie/irtp>

CONFERENCE LOCATION

The Finnish Archipelago Sea in the southwest of Finland is situated in the Baltic Sea and comprises the area west of Hanko peninsula, south of Turku, the former capital of Finland, and stretches all the way to the autonomous and demilitarized Åland Islands halfway between Finland's and Sweden's mainland. Of the over 40,000 islands in the region, around 350 are inhabited all around the year, while some 5000 islands have summer cottages on them.



The **Archipelago National park** stretching out all the way to the southernmost skerries and lighthouse islands is of outstanding beauty and protects the sensitive biotopes and is a habitat for wild animals and like seals, sea eagles and many species of wading birds. The culture and way of life in the numerous island villages and communities is modern but exceptional in its dependence on the ferries and long routes to schools, work and services for many.

The conference takes place in the Archipelago City of Pargas, south Finland's largest city by area and the only city totally situated on islands outside mainland Finland. Get here by using the numerous daily flights to Helsinki-Vantaa airport from where the area is reachable in just over three hours by train and bus. Alternatively, use Turku airport from where

the area is reachable in under two hours by bus. The area has good roads and good traffic conditions - renting a car at one of the airports to get around provides a lot of possibilities to take in sights. We will publish detailed information about accommodation and transportation on the conference webpages.

The official languages in Finland are Finnish and Swedish, with Swedish being the majority language in the archipelago area. English is widely spoken.

- 🕒 **Border control:** Schengen-area (SBC) and EU country
- 🕒 **Local currency:** euro
- 🕒 **Electricity:** 230V
- 🕒 **International dialling prefix:** +358
- 🕒 **Emergency number:** 112

The Archipelago Trail is a 250 km ring route, accessible by bicycle, car or foot using the numerous bridges and ferries connecting the main islands, and is the best known touristic route in Finland. Through projects like the St Olav Waterway, the St Olav Pilgrimage route has been developed to take pilgrim hikers through the archipelago, on foot, by kayak and with sailing vessels on their way towards Norwegian Trondheim.

The conference will take place on the island of Korpo (Finnish: Korppoo), connected with mainland Finland by bridges and free car ferries with four departures per hour. As the villages and services are small in scale, accommodation will be arranged around the area with transportation arranged to the main conference facilities.



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DETAILS

FORMAT OF ABSTRACTS

Please provide the following information in your Abstract:

- ⦿ A clear and precise **title** for your paper.
- ⦿ The name(s), institutional **affiliation** and **email** address for **all** contributing authors.
- ⦿ A list of **five keywords** that describe the research.
- ⦿ A concise abstract – **max. 300 words** – in good English, which provides an overview of your proposed paper.
- ⦿ 3 key **bibliographic references** at the end of the abstract.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Submit your paper via the link on the conference website at: www.irtp.co.uk