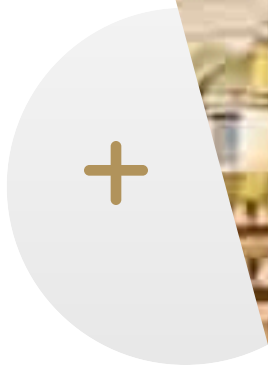


Call For Abstracts

16th Annual International Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage (IRTP) Conference

Università degli Studi di Palermo
Palermo, Sicily, Italy

25-28 June 2025

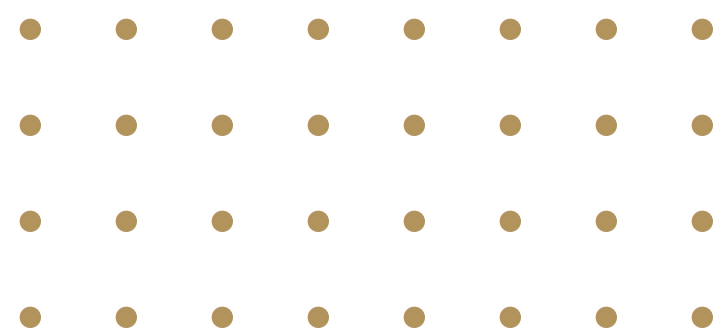


Announcement

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), University of Palermo and the Observatory on Tourism for Islands Economy (OTIE) invites Abstracts for their **16th International Conference to be held from 25th–28th June 2025**

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:

- ❖ **The University of Palermo (UNIPA)**
<https://www.unipa.it/mobilita/en/useful-information/about-palermo-university/>
- ❖ **Observatory on Tourism for Islands Economy (OTIE)**
www.otie.org
- ❖ **Please check the conference website for further information,**
www.irtp.co.uk



Organising Committee:

✦ **Afshin Moafi**

✉ _secretariat@otie.org

✦ **Carlos Fernandes**, Polytechnic
University of Viana do Castelo (Portugal)

✉ cfernandes@estg.ipv.pt

✦ **Kevin Griffin**, Technological University Dublin

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✦ **Prof. Rossana Salerno**

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✦ **Giovanni Ruggieri**, OTIE and University of
Palermo

✉ giovanni.ruggieri@unipa.it

✦ **Razaq Raj**, Leeds Beckett University

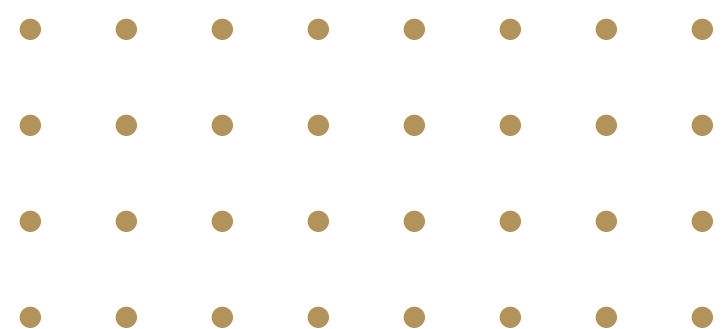
✉ r.raj@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

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✉ parichay.parivesh@katharostechie.in

✦ **Maria Luisa Bonomolo**

✉ _secretariat@otie.org



Conference Themes

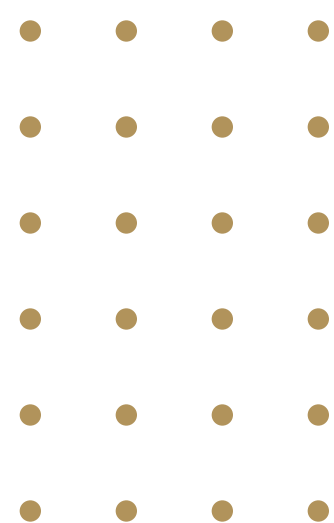


- ❖ Artificial Intelligence Capabilities and Pilgrims Experience
- ❖ Crowd Control and Crowd Dynamics for Religious Sites
- ❖ Critical Perspectives on Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage
- ❖ Environmental Impacts on Religious Sites
- ❖ Faith and Gastronomy in Religious Tourism
- ❖ Gastronomy in Religious Tourism
- ❖ Globalization / Impacts at Religious Sites
- ❖ Islands Association with Spiritual Healing and Wellness Practices
- ❖ Legal, Security and Safety issues for Pilgrims
- ❖ Pilgrimage and Religious Tourism Motivations
- ❖ Managing and Promoting Religious Sites
- ❖ Media and Cultural Challenges for Pilgrimage



Conference Themes

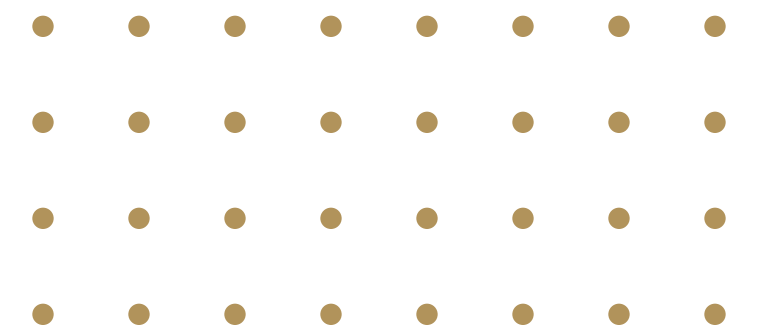
- ❖ Mobilities, Pilgrimage, and Tourism
- ❖ Physical Environment and Sacred Tourist Destinations
- ❖ Pilgrimage, Spirituality, Religion and Tourism
- ❖ Pilgrimage and Spiritual Journeys
- ❖ Political Challenges Facing Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage
- ❖ Overtourism at Religious Sites
- ❖ Religious Commemoration and Remembrance
- ❖ Religious Cultural Heritage
- ❖ Religious Tourism and Political Economy
- ❖ Risks and Conflicts of / at Sacred Sites
- ❖ Role of Ritual in Sacred Journeys
- ❖ Spiritual Reflection and Cemeteries



Conference Themes

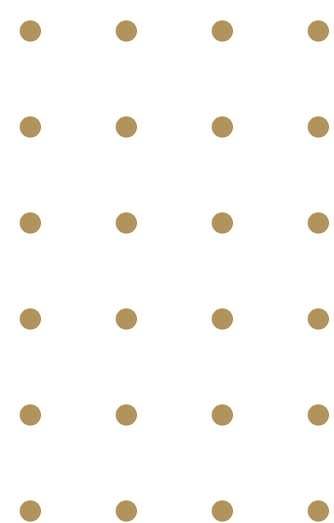


- ❖ Secular vs Ritual Tourism
- ❖ Social Media and Information Technology for Pilgrimage
- ❖ Sustainability in Pilgrimage and Religious Tourism
- ❖ Sustainable Practices for Religious Tourism
- ❖ Terrorism, Migration and Religious Tourism
- ❖ Theory, Philosophy and Theology of Religious Tourism



Scientific Committee

- ❖ **Vitor Ambrósio**, Higher Institute for Hotel and Tourism Studies, Portugal
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- ❖ **Silvia Aulet** University de Girona, Spain
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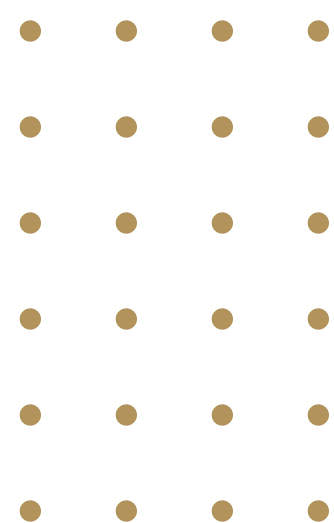
Scientific Committee

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- ❖ **Maureen Griffiths**, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia
- ❖ **Dian Mohammad Hakim**, Universitas Islam Malang, Indonesia
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- ❖ **Isilda Leitao**, University Nova de Lisboa, Portugal
- ❖ **Darius Liutikas**, Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences, Lithuania
- ❖ **Frances McGettigan**, Athlone Institute of Technology, Ireland



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- ❖ **Dane Munro**, University of Malta
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- ❖ **Danijel Pavlović**, Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Belgrade, Serbia
- ❖ **Elisa Piva**, Università del Piemonte Orientale, Italy
- ❖ **Lluís Prats**, University of Girona, Spain
- ❖ **Giovanni Ruggieri**, OTIE and University of Palermo, Sicily, Italy
- ❖ **Razaq Raj**, Leeds Beckett University, UK
- ❖ **Amos Ron**, Ashkelon Academic College, Israel



Scientific Committee



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- ❖ **Xose Manuel Santos Solla**, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain
- ❖ **Anna Trono**, University of Salento, Italy
- ❖ **Shin Yasuda**, Teikyo University, Japan
- ❖ **Vincent Zammit**, Malta
- ❖ **Goretti Silva**, Polytechnic Institute of Viana do Castelo, Portugal
- ❖ **Prof. Rossana Salerno's**

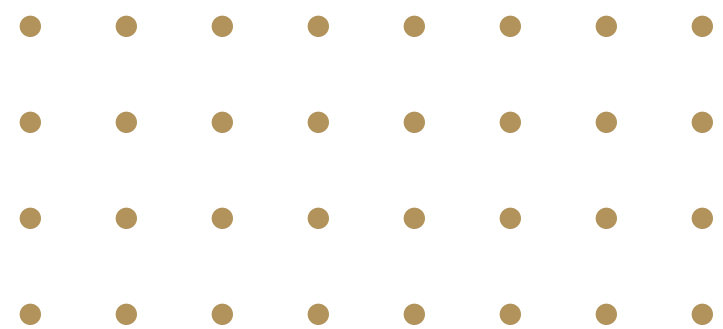


Keynote Speakers



Darius Liutikas (PhD), is a senior scientific researcher at the Lithuanian Centre for Social sciences (Vilnius, Lithuania). Research interests include modern and traditional pilgrimage, sociology of tourism, anthropology of tourism, forms of mobility, sacred places and sacred spaces, and geography of religions.

He has published around 50 articles and book chapters in Lithuanian and international academic journals. He has prepared and published 6 books. He participated in more than 50 international scientific conferences as guest speaker or speaker.

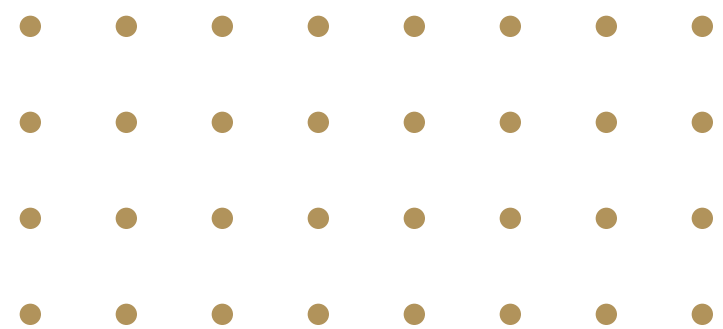


Keynote Speakers



Giovanni Notari SJ is a multidisciplinary Jesuit, currently Director of the Pedro Arrupe Institute for Political Education in Palermo, a centre of excellence that deals with training and research in the political and social field. His vast academic experience sees him as a theologian, sociologist, clinical pedagogue, and university lecturer in cultural anthropology and sociology of religious processes.

P. Notari is also a recognized expert in designing and evaluating training processes, particularly interested in public policies' role in promoting social justice and democratic renewal. In its activity, it is distinguished by the attention to the valorisation of intercultural and interreligious dialogue, central elements in the mission of the Jesuits, especially in local and global contexts in transformation.

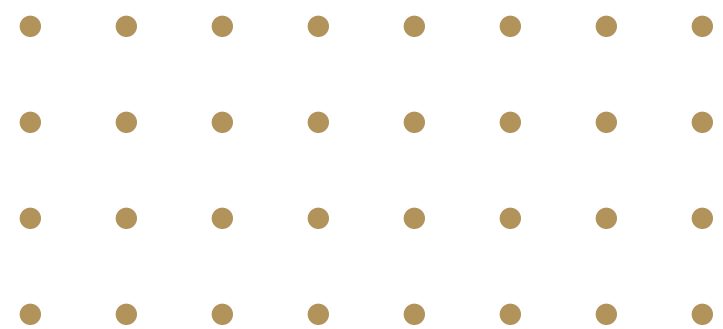


Keynote Speakers



Paolo Giuseppe Caucci von Saucken is an Italian historian, essayist, and academic, considered one of the world's top authorities on the Camino de Santiago. Born in Ascoli Piceno in 1941, he built an academic career of extraordinary depth, graduating in Law and Modern Letters at the University of Florence. He has held important positions as a full professor of Spanish Literature at the University of Perugia and lecturer at the University of Santiago de Compostela, the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED) in Madrid, and the Pontifical Lateran University. He held courses on the main medieval pilgrimage routes, such as the Via Francigena and the Roman streets.

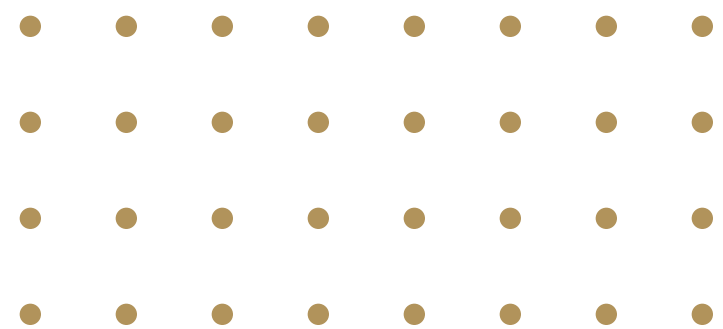
Currently, the rector of the Confraternity of Saint James of Compostella, Caucci von Saucken, plays a key role in protecting and promoting Christian pilgrimage.



Keynote Speakers



Goretti Silva PhD in Tourism from Bournemouth University, scholar and researcher in Tourism at the Polytechnic University of Viana do Castelo. The main topics of interest are sustainability and tourism development, religious tourism and nature and outdoor tourism. Member of the Centre for Tourism Research, Development and Innovation (CITUR). Coordinated and was a team member for several projects, both at national and international levels, including EU-funded projects, over the last few years. In addition to academia, she has started her business in the tourism sector, Fábrica do Chocolate, Hotel |Restaurante| Museu | Viana do Castelo (in operation since 2014, www.fabricadochocolate.com).



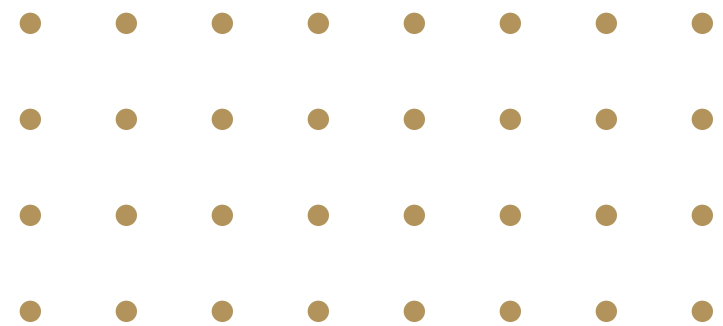
Important Dates

15 February 2025 — Abstract Submission

28 February 2025 — Notification of Abstract Acceptance:

15 May 2025 — Conference Registration Deadline
and submission of extended
abstract:

15 September 2025 — Full Paper Submission:



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 **€275.00** (which includes tea and coffee, lunches and Gala Dinner).

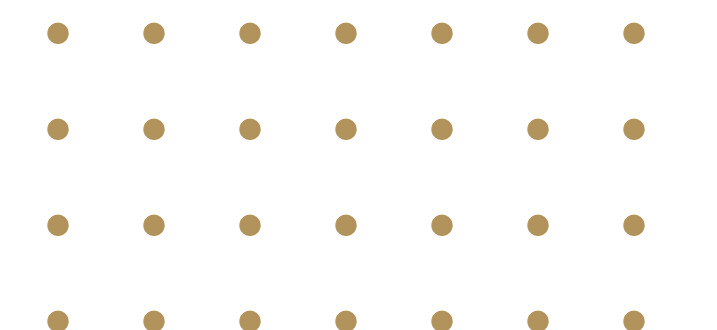
Accommodation recommendations will be provided, with preferential rates organised in a number of nearby hotels and hostels.

For any questions related to the fee, accommodation and transport, please contact the **Observatory on Tourism for Islands Economy (OTIE)**

Info@otie.org

For all payment details please see:

www.irtp.co.uk



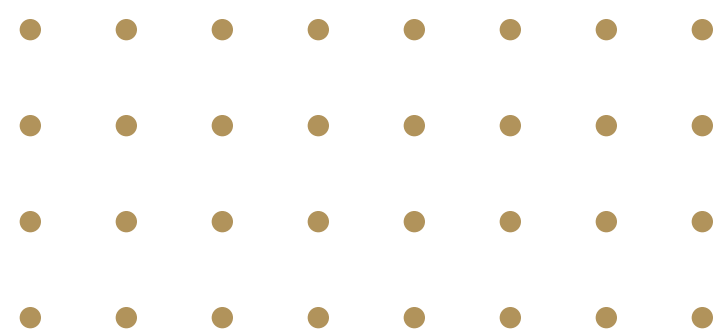
Publications

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>



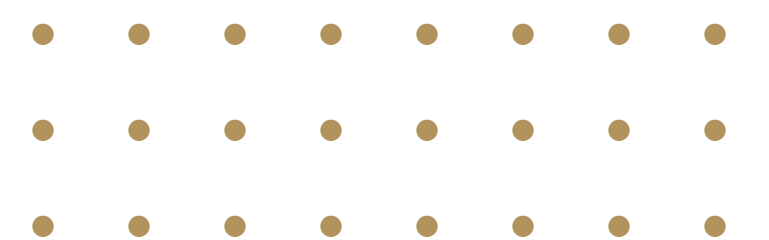
Conference Location

University of Palermo

The University of Palermo is quite integrated with the City (Palermo) and the overall Region: Sicily. The University fosters the collaboration with the city and the Sicily Region by connecting also special events such as the Graduation Day organizing this event, which celebrate the Unipa students, in some special places in the city center and historical monuments.

About Palermo

Palermo, the capital city of Sicily, is located in the heart of the Mediterranean Sea. Built and grown over the course of centuries, Palermo conveys a range of diverse cultures and traditions, from the Fenicians to the Romans, Arabs, Normans and Spanish-French people, until the recent unification within the Italian kingdom. Nestled in La Conca d'Oro (the golden shell) and roughly embraced by Monte Pellegrino and Capo Zafferano, Palermo was declared "the most beautifully situated town in the world" by Oscar Wilde – rightly, in many people's eyes.

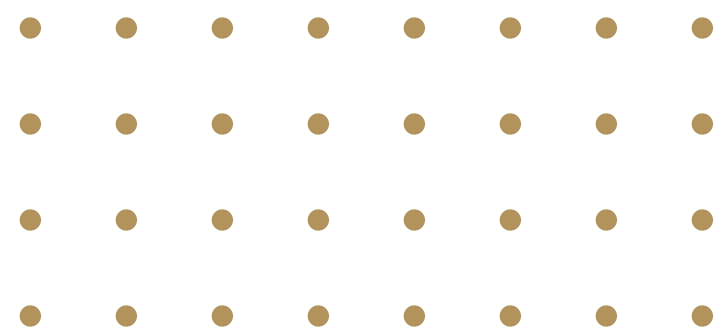


Conference Location

Moving from the city center to the more recent **quarters of Palermo**, in via Ruggero VII and via Libertà, you will encounter very interesting shopping areas enriched by the presence of the two main city theatres, Politeama Garibaldi and Massimo, the largest opera theater in Italy and one of the largest in Europe. Built between 1875 and 1891, it can accommodate more than 1,380 spectators.

In the very **close neighbourhoods of Palermo**, the small village of Monreale hosts the Cathedral, a unique architectural jewel, built according to the Bizantine style and astonishingly enriched with golden mosaics, representing the main episodes of the Holy Bible.

The **Foro Italico**, a sea side marina walk populated by Palermo citizens, separates the city center from the sea side, reaching the gate of the city harbour the third largest commercial harbour in Italy. Here you can enjoy a walk, eating ice Palermo also offers wonderful options for enjoying beaches and bathing and swimming in the crystalline water of the city's most popular beach of Mondello, 30 minutes from the city centre by city buses.



Travel Information

How to reach Palermo city centre from Palermo airport:

BY CAR

Palermo airport is connected to the city centre by the A29 highway (about 35 km, i.e. 40–45 min driving).

BY TRAIN

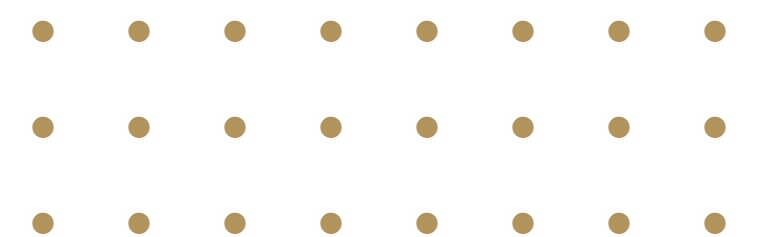
The Trinacria Express connects Palermo central station directly with the terminal.

BY BUS

From Palermo central station (or Piazza Politeama) to the airport and vice versa: Autolinee Prestia e Comandè. Buses every 30 min. Trip duration 45–60 min.

BY TAXI

To reach the center you can ride a taxi or a shared taxi (cheaper option).



How to get to Palermo, Sicily

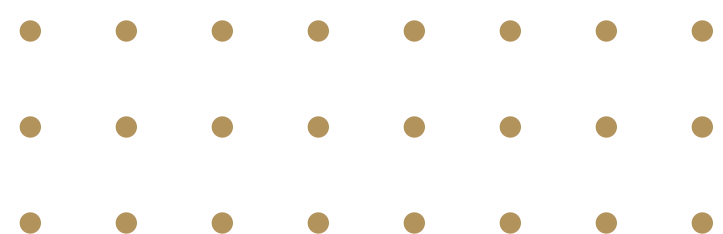
By plane, Here's How long it would take to reach Palermo from certain major cities:

Rome	50 Minutes	New York	9 Hrs
Milan	1 Hr. 35 Minutes	London	3 Hrs
Paris	2 Hrs. 20 Minutes	Doha	4 Hrs
Barcelona	1 Hr. 50 Minutes		

Transport Connections for Palermo

The international airport of Palermo, known as Falcone-Borsellino (also known to some as Punta Raisi) is about 30 km from the heart of the city. Daily flights to Palermo Airport:

- ✦ Rome
- ✦ Milan
- ✦ Naples
- ✦ Bologna
- ✦ Turin
- ✦ Venice
- ✦ Bergamo
- ✦ Pisa
- ✦ Islands of Lampedusa and Pantelleria
- ✦ Verona

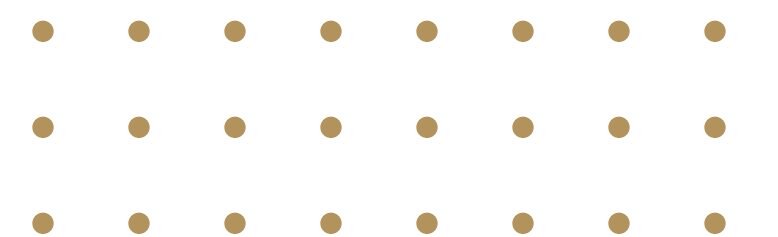


Abstract Submission Details

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.



Abstract Submission Details

Please use 12-point Arial font, single-spaced, making sure to spellcheck and proofread your abstract before submitting.

Abstracts will be subjected to blind review by a minimum of two referees from the Scientific Committee.

Submission Process

Submit your paper via the link on the conference website at:

www.irtp.co.uk

