

# 15th Annual International Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage (IRTP) Conference June 26–28, 2024

Korpoström, Finnish Archipelago Finland

Overall Programme

For session content, see next pages

Wed 26th	11.00-14.30	Registration Restaurant	13.00-14.00	LUNCH Meet the Publishers: Chat with Kevin, Razaq & Carlos about publishing in books / journal. <i>Upstair Exhibition Hall</i>
	14.30-16.00	Opening of Conference / Welcome Session Benjamin Donner, Maria Leppäkari, Kevin Griffin, Razaq Raj, Carlos Fernandes and Darius Liutikas Conference Organising Committee		
	16.15-17.00	Keynote Speaker ~ Minna Opas ~ <i>Exhibition Hall</i> ~ Chaired by Benjamin Donner		
	17.00-18.00	Round Table Discussion ~ <i>Exhibition Hall</i> ~ Barriers and Opportunities in Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage~ Chaired by Razaq Raj		
	18.00-20.00	Dinner and networking with friends and Colleagues		
	20.20	Transportation departs for Hjalmars Bed&Breakfast and Hotel Strandbo		
Thurs 27th	9.00-9.30	Registration, arrival / morning coffee / mingle		
	9.30-11.00	Session A:		
	11.00-11.30	Coffee		
	11.30-13.00	Session B:		
	13.15-14.30	Lunch		
	14.30-15.15	Keynote Speaker ~ Danijel Pavlovic ~ <i>Exhibition Hall</i> ~ Chaired by Carlos Fernandes		
	15.15-16.00	Round Table Discussion ~ <i>Exhibition Hall</i> ~ The Complexities of Modern Religious Pilgrimage and Tourism Chaired by Kevin Griffin		
	16.00-16.30	Coffee		
	16.30-18.00	Session C:		
	18.30	Dinner		
20.20	Transportation departs for Hjalmars Bed&Breakfast and Hotel Strandbo			
Fri 28th	9.30-11.00	Session D:		
	11.00-11.45	Keynote Speaker ~ Polyxeni Moira ~ <i>Exhibition Hall</i> ~ Chaired by Darius Liutikas		
	11.45-12.00	Coffee		
	12.00-13.30	Session E:		
	13.30-14.30	Lunch		
	14.30-15.30	Closing ceremony – Presentation IRTP conference 2025 Kevin Griffin, Razaq Raj, Carlos Fernandes, Darius Liutikas		
	15.30-16.00	Coffee, all luggage to the bus		
	16.00-18.00	Transportation (EVERYONE) to Pargas, hotel Kalkstrand		
19.30 -23.00	Gala Dinner ~ Pargas ~ including <i>Institute for Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage (IRTP) Annual Awards &amp; Conference Best Paper Awards</i>			
Sat 29th	10.00-17.10	Field trip to Själö (Seili) Island. Please note that you need to register and pay for the field trip separately from the conference. If you have not registered but want to come, please notify the registration personnel on Wednesday upon registration! Depart at <b>10:00</b> from Hotel Kalkstrand Return time <b>17:10</b> (approximate). See full program on <a href="http://www.visitparainen.fi/irtp-excursion-day">www.visitparainen.fi/irtp-excursion-day</a>		

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**Korpoström, Finnish Archipelago Finland**  
**26 – 28th June 2024**

**27 June**  
**09.30-11.00**

**Session A**

**Religious Tourism and Globalisation. Challenges of Religious Tourism in a Global World**

**Darius Liutikas and Razaq Raj**

*Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences, Lithuania; Leeds Beckett University, UK*

**Does Tourism Profane the Sacred (experience)? The Case of the Religious Festival d'Agonia in Viana do Castelo, Portugal**

**Goretti Silva and Carlos Fernandes**

*Polytechnic University of Viana do Castelo, Portugal*

**Spiritual Wanderings in the 'Garden of the Virgin' - Mount Athos**

**Dimitrios Mylonopoulos, Polyxeni Moira, Kyriakos Tselegidis**

*University of West Attica, Greece*

**The Devotion to Saints and Blessed in the Roman Catholic Church - Victims of the Nazi Era and the Second World War (1933-1945)**

**Elzbieta Bilaska-Wodecka**

*Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland*

**The Challenges of Developing a Muslim Walking Tour in Budapest - A Multidisciplinary Analysis**

**Tamara Ratz**

*Kodolányi János University, Hungary*

**27 June**  
**11.30 – 13.00**

**Session B**

**Pilgrims' Perceptions about Environmental Sustainability of the Camino de Santiago**

**Monica Cortés, Goretti Silva, Carmen Pardo**

*Next International Business School / IPVC, Madrid, Spain*

**Potential for the Strategic Development of Religious Tourism Products in Vodnjan**

**Danijel Pavlovic, Dejan Veselinov, Marija Bratia, Anaelina Maria Stankovia**

*Academy of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness, Belgrade, Serbia*

**Decentering Religious Tourism; Faith Travel Outside of the European Context**

**Dino Bozonelos**

*California State University, San Marcos, USA*

**Financial Flow and Governance in Islamic Tourism: Analysing Travel Saving Accounts for Religious Tourism**

**Shin Yasuda**

Takasaki City University of Economics, Japan

**Apo Dios [Supreme God], Karurua [Soul], and Atang [Offering]: A Contemporary Study on the Influence of Indigenous Beliefs and Impact of Spanish Christianity on Ilocano Spirituality in the Philippines**

**Jerome Ong**

University of the Philippines Manila, Philippines

**27 June  
16.30 – 18.00**

**Session C**

**Walking on the Camino Paths: A Spiritual and Biopsychosocial Journey**

**Ofra Walter**

*Tel Hai Academic College, Israel*

**The Story of St Olav - The Power of Place Storytelling in Social Media**

**Maria Engberg, James Simpson**

Novia University of Applied Sciences, Finland

**Interpreting Nature and History in Relation to Old Pilgrim Routes: case of St. Olav's Way (Scandinavia)**

**Tomasz Duda**

University of Szczecin, Poland

**Problems of Protection and Integrity of Religious-cultural Landscapes in Greece**

**Polyxeni Moira, Dimitrios Mylonopoulos, Paraskevi Kakaroucha**

*University of West Attica, Greece*

**Stimulation of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage at a 'Forgotten' Marian Shrine**

**Isilda Leitao and Carlos Fernandes**

*Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal; Polytechnic University of Viana do Castelo, Portugal*

**28 June  
09.30-11.00**

**Session D**

**Student Internships in Religious Places**

**Vitor Ambrósio, Miguel Brito, Carla Braga**

*ESHTE and CiTUR, Portugal*

**Exploring festival's sacred and folkloristic elements using autoethnography**

**Pascal von Beuningen**

*Hiroshima University, Japan*

**Creation and Use of the Sacred Landscape. Pilgrimage as the catalyst of landscape transformation**

**Darius Liutikas**

*Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences, Lithuania*

## **Linkages Between Pilgrimage, Vedic astrology, and Travel Experiences**

**Mohit Vij, Anu Vij, Amitabh Upadhya, Bommuluri Bhavana Rao**

*Liwa College, Abu Dhabi, UAE; EM Normandie Business School, Métis Lab, Dubai, UAE; Symbiosis International University, Dubai, UAE; School of Law, UPES, Dehradun, India*

## **Improving Visitor's Experience in Sacred Sites: The Case of Montserrat**

**Silvia Aulet**

*University of Girona, Spain*

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**Session E**

**12.00 – 13.30**

## **Travelling Through the World's Religions**

**Silvia Aulet, Dolors Vidal, Lluís Coromina**

*University of Girona, Spain*

## **Hospitality & Generosity in Religious Tourism & Pilgrimage: The Case Study of the Holy City of Karbala During Arbaeen**

**Kevin Griffin, Hadil Faris**

*TU Dublin, Ireland and Hotel Services Manager & Independent Researcher, UK*

## **Economy Of Religion: Reflection Analysis in The City of Aparecida (Sp)**

**Gilson Garofalo**

*Pontifical Catholic University of Sao Paulo, Brazil*

## **Gastronomic Heritage and Religious Tourism in Bangladesh**

**Md Javed kawsar, Michael evans, Rashed Khan**

*University of Salford, UK*

## **Impact of Hindu Pilgrimage on the Christian Church in India**

**Chilkuri Vasantha Rao**

*United Theological College, Bangalore, India*