

The 2017 CESNUR Conference

HOLY LANDS AND SACRED HISTORIES IN NEW RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS



The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute
43 Jabotinsky Street, Jerusalem, Israel
2 - 6 July 2017

CESNUR



מכון ון ליר בירושלים

THE VAN LEER JERUSALEM INSTITUTE

معهد فان لير في القدس



MEIDA

THE ISRAELI NRM
INFORMATION CENTER

מפת קמפוס ון ליר בירושלים The Van Leer Jerusalem Campus Map



All the activities of the
CESNUR Conference are in the
Polonsky Academy Building
(Entrance trough Van Leer Building)

Floor 2: Conference rooms 204, 205, 207

Floor 1: Upper Foyer: information desk,
refreshments (open all day long, free for the
registered conference participants)

Floor 0: Cafeteria, lunches

Floor -1: Auditorium



Sunday July 2, 2017

**16:00-17:00 Registration and Refreshments
Upper Foyer Floor 1**



**17:00-19:00 Session 1
Opening Session, Plenary, Auditorium**

Welcome Greetings:

- Presiding and Introducing: Adam KLIN-ORON, MEIDA Center, Israel
- Massimo INTROVIGNE, CESNUR
- Shai LAVI, Director of the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute
- Boaz HUSS, The Goldstein-Goren International Center for Jewish Thought

**Holy Land and Sacred Histories:
Israel and the World**

Beholding New Jerusalems: Holy Lands, Holy Cities, Holy Grounds and Holy Hopes

Eileen BARKER (London School of Economics, London, United Kingdom)

Perceptions and Practices Related to Holy Lands and Sacred Histories and the (Re)Creation and Invention of Sacred Histories in New Religious Movements: The Case of the Twelve Tribes and Their Relation to Judaism

Bernadette RIGAL-CELLARD (University of Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France)

New Religious Movements in Israel: Global Aspects and Local Characteristics

Boaz HUSS (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel)

19:00-21:00 Banquet (Gray Courtyard, level 0)

Monday July 3, 2017

9:30-11:00 Session 2, Plenary, Auditorium
Holy City: Jerusalem in
New Religious Movements

Chair: Milda ALISAUSKIENE

*When “Jerusalem” Means Jerusalem. Christian Prophecy
Belief on the Ground in the Holy Land*

James D. TABOR (University of North Carolina, Charlotte,
USA)

*Is Nothing Sacred? Jehovah’s Witnesses and the Significance of
Bible Lands*

George D. CHRYSSIDES (University of York St. John and
Birmingham, United Kingdom)

Jerusalem. The Globalization of an Idea

J. Gordon MELTON (Baylor University’s Institute for Studies
of Religion, Waco, USA)

11:15-13:15 Session 3, 207

American Movements and Their Holy Land,
from Joseph Smith to the Twelve Tribes

Chair: J. Gordon MELTON

You Shall Be as Gods: The Mormon Sacred Story

Robert T. PTASZEK (The John Paul II Catholic University,
Lublin, Poland)

*A Temple in Torino: Exploring the Boundaries of Church and
State*

Michael HOMER (Utah State Historical Society, Salt Lake
City, USA)

Spiritism in the United States: A Growing Heterogeneity

Constance A. JONES (California Institute of Integral Studies,
San Francisco, USA)

*Spanking Bans and The Faith of Families: The Twelve Tribes in
the European Court of Human Rights*

Jean Swantko WISEMAN (Attorney, Vermont, USA)



Monday July 3, 2017

**11:15-13:15 Session 4, Auditorium
Holy Lands and Religious Pluralism in Israel I**

Chair: Shai FERARO

Between Spiritual Pilgrimage and Religious Tourism. The Construction of Sacred Space in Contemporary Kabbalistic Movements

Nicole BAUER (Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany)

Kabbala within Communities of Repentant in Israel

Anat FELDMAN (Achva Academic College, Beer Tuvia, Israel)

Is Lev Tahor a Destructive Cult?

Gabriel CAVAGLION (Ashkelon Academic College, Ashkelon, Israel)

**11:15-13:15 Session 5, 205
The Holy Lands of Scientology**

Chair: Bernadette RIGAL-CELLARD

The Role of the Spiritual Places in the Definition of Scientology as a Church

Frédéric-Jérôme PANSIER (University of Pantheon Sorbonne, Paris, France)

The Aesthetic Theory of L. Ron Hubbard and the Freewinds as a Mobile Holy Land

Massimo INTROVIGNE (CESNUR, Torino, Italy)

Respondent: Eric ROUX (Church of Scientology)



Monday July 3, 2017

**15:00-16:15 Session 6, Plenary, Auditorium
New Research on/from Israel**

Chair: Boaz HUSS

A Holy Tomb within a Mosque: Contesting Perceptions of an Islamic Sacred Place in Israel

Kobi PELED (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva, Israel)

“The House of the Messiah” Out There: Holy Place and Practices of Embodiment among Chabad Hasidim

Yoram BILU (The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel)

**16:30-18:30 Session 7, Auditorium
Around the Temple:
Holy Places and Contested Spaces in Israel**

Chair: Marianna RUAH-MIDBAR

Rewriting Individual Sacred Histories: Cultivating Wild Channeling

Adam KLIN-ORON (The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, Jerusalem, Israel)

Scotland and Freemasonry: The East and the Solomonic North

Stewart CLELLAND (University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, Scotland)

Feeling the Sacred: The Temple Mount and the Reconfiguration of the Jewish “Holy”

Tomer PERSICO (Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel)

Contemporary Political Challenges of Hebrew Theonomy in the Political Theology of Christian Reconstructionism

John R. POTTENGER (University of Alabama, Huntsville, USA)



Monday July 3, 2017

16:30-18:30 Session 8, 207

**Holy Lands and Sacred Histories in
Eastern European New Religious Movements**

Chair: Eileen BARKER

*Is there any Difference Between the Construction of a
Global and a Local Religious Leader? The Analysis of the
Cases of Shri Shri Ravi Shankar and Povilas Žekas*
Milda ALISAUSKIENE (Vytautas Magnus University,
Kaunas, Lithuania)

Pokaini Sacred Grove in Latvia – Invention of a Tradition
Agita MISANE (University of Latvia, Riga, Latvia)

*Krakow as a Power Center: New Mythologies of the City in
Contemporary Spiritual Movements*
Malgorzata Alicja DULSKA and Karolina Maria HESS
(Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland)

*The Thousand Year Reign and New Jerusalem in Michal
Hydzik's 'Apocalypsis. What Awaits Us?' An Example of
Eschatological Beliefs of Polish Pentecostal Church*
Jan MIKLAS-FRANKOWSKI (University of Gdansk,
Gdansk, Poland)

*Searching for New Jerusalem: The Sacred City in Russian
NRMs*
Ksenia KOLKUNOVA (St Tikhon's Orthodox University,
Moscow, Russia)

16:30-18:30 Session 9, 205

**Glastonbury: A Holy Land in Contemporary
Paganism and Goddess Spirituality**

Chair: James R. LEWIS

*The Avalonian Nexus – Understanding Glastonbury as
Arena for the Exchange of Views and Ideas Between
Goddess Feminists and British Wiccans and Pagans During
the 1970s – 1980s*

Shai FERARO (Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel)

*“Great Goddess Rising” : Re-writing Religion, Gender and
Secularism in Modern Britain*

Ruth LINDLEY (University of Birmingham, Birmingham,
United Kingdom)

*From the Holy Land of Christianity to the Sacred Place of
Spirituality*

Eriko KAWANISHI (Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan)

Tuesday July 4, 2017

9:15-11:15 Session 10, Plenary, Auditorium
From CESNUR 2016 to CESNUR 2017:
What Exactly Do Yeosu, Korea and Jerusalem
Have in Common?

Chair: J. Gordon MELTON

*Daesoon Jinrihoe and the Yeosu Cultivation Temple Complex:
An Introduction*

Massimo INTROVIGNE (CESNUR, Torino, Italy)

*Holy Acts in the Holy Land – Gongbu as a Ritual Exclusive to
Daesoonjinrihoe’s Yeosu Central Headquarters Temple
Complex*

Jason GREENBERGER (University of the West, Rosemead,
USA) and Gyungwon LEE (Daejin University, Pocheon City,
Korea)

*The Meaning of “Resolution of Grievances for Mutual
Beneficence” and the Sacred Place in Daesoon Thought:
Focusing on Its Religious Hierophany in Relation to
“Harmonious Union of Divine Beings and Human Beings”*
Taesoo KIM (Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea)

*Daesoon Jinrihoe: An Introduction and Survey of the Group’s
Membership*

James R. LEWIS (University of Tromsø, Tromsø, Norway)

11:30-13:30 Session 11, 204

Holy Lands and Religious Movements in Korea I

Chair: Gyungwon LEE

*Korean Jerusalem and Korean Jesus: A Comparative Study of
Korean New Religions*

Shin AHN (Paichai University, Daejeon, Korea)

*International Moral Association (IMA): A Chinese New
Religious Movement in Modern Korea*

David William KIM (Australian National University,
Canberra, Australia)

The Split of the Sacred History in Unification Movement
Jongsuk KIM (Korean Academy of New Religion, Seoul,
Korea)



Tuesday July 4, 2017

11:30-13:30 Session 12, 205

**Metaphysical Jerusalem: Swedenborg and
Christian Science on the Holy Land**

Chair: George CHRYSSIDES

*Heaven on Earth: The Geography of the Holy Land in
Swedenborg's Theology*

Andy DIBB (Bryn Athyn College of the New Church, Bryn
Athyn, USA)

*New Jerusalem: Mary Baker Eddy's Interfaith View of
Social Justice Activism*

Shirley PAULSON (University of Birmingham,
Birmingham, United Kingdom)

*Sacred Sites and Their Metaphysical Significance in
Christian Science*

Susan SEARLE (Independent Scholar)

*Jerusalem and the Gentiles: Understanding the Spread of
the Spread of Christian Science Beyond the USA*

Robin HARRAGIN (Independent Scholar)

11:30-13:30 Session 13, 207

Case Studies I

Chair: Rachel WERCZBERGER

*Ana and Mia – Subtle Deification Processes Amongst High-
Demand Eating Disorder Communities*

Zoe ALDERTON (The University of Sydney, Sydney,
Australia)

Iyengar Yoga for Women in Changing Times

Agi WITTICH (The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel)

*The Sacred History of Ayahuasca from Brazil to Italy. The
Italian Santo Daime Organization Stella Azzurra and Its
Friendship with Science*

Stefano BIGLIARDI (Foundation for Interreligious and
Intercultural Research and Dialogue - FIIRD, Geneva,
Switzerland)

*France's "Brainwashing" Law / Loi About-Picard: Case
Studies of Applications of Abus de Faiblesse in the "War on
Sects", 2001-2016*

Susan J. PALMER (Concordia University, Montreal,
Canada)



Tuesday July 4, 2017

Guided Tours to Religious Sites in Jerusalem

Pre-registration is required!



Tour #1: Sacred Spaces on Mount Zion

Starting point: Jaffa Gate 16:00

Guide: Eran Tzidkiyahu

Tour Coordinator: Rachel Werczberger, 052-3751397

Tour #2: A Gateway to the Old City of Jerusalem

Starting point: Jaffa Gate 16:00

Guide: Clara Ungar

Tour Coordinator: Asher Binyamin, 054-7684871

Tour #3: A Gateway to the Old City of Jerusalem

Starting point: Jaffa Gate 16:00

Guide: Beni Salzberg

Tour Coordinator: Boaz Huss, 052-3757614

Tour #4: The Interplay of Faith and Place in 19- 20th Century Jerusalem

Starting point: 10 Betsal'el Street (next to Mensa restaurant)

Guide: Hava Schwartz

Tour Coordinator: Adam Klin-Oron, 054-6222755

NOVA RELIGIO

THE JOURNAL OF ALTERNATIVE AND
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Wednesday July 5, 2017

9:00-11:00 Session 14, 204

Holy Lands and the Esoteric Milieu

Chair: Malgorzata Alicja DULSKA

The Earth as the Elohim's Promised Land. Jean Sendy's Joyous Esotericism

Stefano BIGLIARDI (Foundation for Interreligious and Intercultural Research and Dialogue - FIIRD, Geneva, Switzerland)

A Century of Reiki Practice: From Sacred One-ness to Many-ness

Liad HOROWITZ (Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel) and Jojan JONKER (Independent Scholar, The Netherlands)

The Place Beyond Space and Time – on the Ritual Circle in British Traditional Wicca

Joanna MALITA-KRÓL (Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland)

The Reception of Shambhala Myth in the Contemporary Agni Yoga Movement

Przemyslaw SIERADZAN (University of Gdansk, Gdansk, Poland)

Mandarom, a Holy City in France

PierLuigi ZOCCATELLI (CESNUR, Torino, Italy)

9:00-11:00 Session 15, 205

Falun Gong: Ideology, Practices, Controversies

Presiding and Introducing: James R. LEWIS

Self-contradictions in Li Hongzhi's Statements about Illness
Yan CAO (Wuhan University, Wuhan, China)

Scientific, Para-scientific or Pseudo-scientific? – A Critical Analysis of Falun Gong's "Science" Discourse
Chengjun WANG (Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, Wuhan, China)

The Essence of Falun Gong's "Killing Devils"
Yong FANG (Wuhan University, Wuhan, China)

The Construction of the Image of Cult and Anti-cult Communication in the Context of Cross Cultural Communication – Based on Textual Analysis of the New York Times

Wang SONGMAO and Lui WEIZHEN (Wuhan University, Wuhan, China)



Wednesday July 5, 2017

9:00-11:00 Session 16, 207

Case Studies II

Chair: Liselotte FRISK

The Naqshbandi: Place, Pilgrimage, and Purification in a New Sufi Order in the New Turkey

Hatice MESCIOGLU (Karabuk University, Karabuk, Turkey) and Clyde FORSBERG (American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)

Affect and Spirit: The Pre-Discursive in Afro-Caribbean Religions

Stephen D. GLAZIER (Yale University, New Haven, USA)

The Film Noah (2014) as an Intersection Between Alternative Spiritualities and Popular Culture

Marianna RUAH-MIDBAR and Lila MOORE (Zefat Academic College, Safed, Israel)

New Jersey: The New Jerusalem? Locating the Five Percent Nation

Barbara PEMBERTON (Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, USA)

9:00-11:00 Session 17, Auditorium

Holy Lands and Asian Religious Movements I

Chair: Agita MISANE

Practical Theology in the Church of Almighty God

Holly FOLK (Western Washington University, Bellingham, USA)

NRMs in Post-Maoist China: The Case of the Church of Almighty God

J. Gordon MELTON (Baylor University's Institute for Studies of Religion, Waco, USA)

The Birth of an NRM. The Great Way of Maitreya

Edward A. IRONS (Hong Kong Institute for Culture, Commerce and Religion, Hong Kong)

Krishnamacharya Yoga Mandiram: The Temple of Moving Breath

Matylda CIOLKOSZ (Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland)

The Return of the Sacred Land in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Menahem MERHAVY (The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel)



Wednesday July 5, 2017

11:15-12:45 Session 18, 207

Holy Lands and Asian Religious Movements II

Chair: Massimo INTROVIGNE

Orthodoxy and Lineage: The National Ideology of I-Kuan Tao, Tientijiao and Weixin Shengjiao in Taiwan

Hsin-Fang Fiona CHANG (National Cheng Chi University, Taipei, Taiwan)

Holy Sites Within New Religions in the Chinese Diaspora: Influencing the Practices and Lives of Followers of Weixin Shengjiao

Marit HAIGHTON and Hsiu-Yi LIU (National Cheng Chi University, Taipei, Taiwan)

Holy Land and Sacred City: How Esoteric Explanations of the City of Tâi Ninh Rewrite this Vietnamese Town as Both the New Jerusalem and the New Rome

Christopher HARTNEY (University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia)

11:15-12:45 Session 19, Auditorium

Holy Lands and Religious Pluralism in Israel II

Chair: Adam KLIN-ORON

Renewing the Present, (Re)turning to the Past: New Age Judaism in Israel and the Reconstruction of Jewish Antiquity

Rachel WERCZBERGER (The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, Jerusalem, Israel)

Reinventing Sectarian Judea in Essene New Religious Movements

Anne S. KREPS (University of Oregon, Eugene, USA)

Ecumenical and Interreligious Carmel (CEI) and the Holy Land

Cristiana DOBNER (Monastery of St. Mary of the Mount Carmel, Concenedo di Barzio, Italy)



Wednesday July 5, 2017

11:15-12:45 Session 20, 205

**Christians and Christian Symbols
and/in Holy Lands**

Chair: PierLuigi ZOCCATELLI

The American-Swedish Colony: A Religious Community in Jerusalem

Liselotte FRISK (Dalarna University, Falun, Sweden)

A Shattered Sacred Story: The Rise and Fall of the Bride of Christ within the Charismatic Congregation Knutby Filadelfia, Sweden

Sanja NILSSON (Dalarna University, Falun, Sweden)

A New Maronite Diocese in Jerusalem: Birth or Rebirth?

Mouna GHOSSAIN-ZAITER (Bordeaux University, Bordeaux, France)

Holy Lands in Unification Tradition

Dan FEFERMAN (Unification Theological Seminary, Barrytown, USA)

11:15-12:45 Session 21, 204

Holy Lands and Religious Movements in Korea II

Chair: Jason Paul GREENBERGER

A Religio-Comparative Study of Eastern Learning

Chongsuh KIM (Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea)

The Discourses of Making the Sacred Places in Korean New Religions – Feng shui, Prophecy, Myth, and Doctrine

Ingyu PARK (Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea)

A Prophet Like Moses in Korea? The Rise and Future of a Korean New Religious Movement

Gang-Hyen HAN (International Academy of Neo-Humans Culture, Bucheon City, Korea)



**13:00 Buses depart for the field trip
(only for the registered participants)**

The field trip will take us to old and new religious sites in the North of Israel: Safed, Acre, Galilee, and Haifa.

Co-organized by:

- Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR)
- The Israeli Information Center for New Religious Movements (MEIDA)
- The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute
- The Goldstein-Goren International Center for Jewish Thought (Ben-Gurion University)
- International Society for the Study of New Religions (ISSNR)



Organizing Committee:

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