



PILNET (Pilgrimage Studies Network) of EASA

University of Zadar, Department of Ethnology and Anthropology

University of Roehampton, Department of Social Sciences

PILNET 2019 Workshop, Zadar 4th-6th September 2019

Approaching Pilgrimage: Methodological Issues Involved In Researching Routes, Sites and Practices

Pilgrimage sites and practices are highly complex, multivocal and multi-layered. This diversity has produced literature that covers almost every aspect of the social and cultural contexts within which pilgrimage sites and practices exist and are created and (re)created, i.e. politics, tourism, migration, place-making, heritage, etc. Nevertheless, at the beginning of the anthropology of pilgrimage scant attention was directed towards methodological issues involved in the study of contemporary pilgrimage. In their seminal work *Image and Pilgrimage in Christian Culture* (1978), Victor and Edith Turner mention personal experience as one of the important aspects of pilgrimage research, but they don't problematize their approach towards pilgrimage. During subsequent debate the focus was on questioning the *communitas* model (Eade and Sallnow 1991) and it was only from the mid-1990s that pilgrimage researchers started to discuss their different approaches and methodological issues related to experience and reflexivity (Dubisch 1995; Frey 1998). Recently, pilgrimage research has drawn on the more-than-representational approach through the exploration of the sensorial, emotional, affective experience of pilgrimage (Reader 2005; Maddrell et al. 2014).

Pilgrimage studies has always been influenced by developments within anthropology and related disciplines, but there has been little discussion about the potentiality of pilgrimage studies to offer new insights to other fields. Moreover, so far there has not been a gathering of pilgrimage studies researchers to discuss the methodological approaches and issues involved in studying pilgrimage. Forty years on from the publication of *Image and Pilgrimage in Christian Culture*, we want to rectify this lacuna through this Pilgrimage Studies Network workshop. We want to create a facilitative environment for the discussion of the different approaches towards pilgrimage but also, more importantly, we would like to set the stage for future pilgrimage research. That is why we are inviting pilgrimage scholars with diverse and innovative methodological approaches towards pilgrimage sites and practices to apply.

Invited speakers:

John Eade (University Roehampton and Toronto University)

Simon Coleman (Toronto University)

Ian Reader (Manchester University)

Dionigi Albera (Aix-Marseille University)

Practical information

Applications should be sent to Mario Katic on makatic@unizd.hr by March 15th 2019, the decision about the accepted applications will be by March 31st 2019.

The number of the participants will be limited. The final decision regarding the application will be made by the organizers John Eade and Mario Katic, and invited speakers Simon Coleman, Ian Reader and Dionigi Albera.

The application should consist of a short sketch of the applicant's academic work and an abstract of the proposed paper. The abstract's main focus should be on the methodological approach of the research, the issues raised by the approach and the new ideas that it could generate. The length of the abstract should be between 500 and 1000 words. The main criteria for accepting the proposed papers will be the relevance and innovation in researchers' approaches towards pilgrimage research. The accepted participants will be requested to send drafts of their paper by August 31st. Most of the selected papers will be published after the workshop.

There will be a fee for participation in the workshop of 60 Euros that will cover daily lunch, coffee breaks and a field excursion.

Accommodation and travel costs will not be covered.