

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



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, Auditorium**

**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



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# NOVA RELIGIO

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*Nova Religio* presents scholarly interpretations and examinations of emergent and alternative religious movements. Original research, perspectives on the study of new religions, literature reviews, and conference updates keep scholars well informed on a wide range of topics including: new religions; new movements within established religious traditions; neo-indigenous, neo-polytheistic and revival movements; ancient wisdom and New Age groups; diasporic religious movements; and marginalized and stigmatized religions.

## FREE SAMPLE ISSUE

For the rest of 2017, get free access to a special issue on New Religions in Eastern Europe (20.3, Feb. 2017) at [nr.ucpress.edu](http://nr.ucpress.edu).

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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**

Chair: 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 Tây 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*

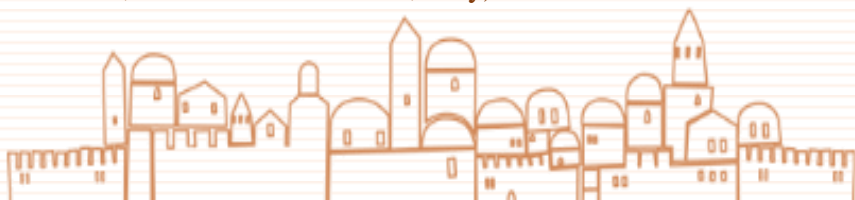
Rachel WERCZBERGER (The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, Jerusalem, Israel)

*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 FEFFERMAN (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)



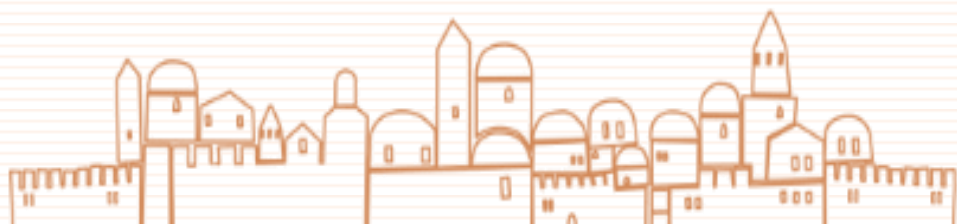
**13:00 Buses depart for the field trip  
(only for the registered participants)**

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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