



**Institute for
Pilgrimage Studies**

**Fall 2025 Symposium
William & Mary
School of Education
November 7-8, 2025**

**“Changing Meanings of
Pilgrimage: Contested Definitions,
Competing Perspectives”**

Friday, November 7

Registration and Coffee: 8:00 am – 12 noon, Concourse, 1st Floor

Session 1, 10-11:45, Dogwood Room

“Pilgrimage and Social Justice” Moderator: John Riofrio

André Brouillette. *Pilgrimage as Social Movement and Resistance: Selma (1965) and Beyond*

Sadie Yates. *Walking to the Wound: Pilgrimage on The Migrant Trail*

Brian Bouldrey. *By Land, By Sea: Retracing two Underground Railroad Routes back to the South*

Session 2, 10-11:45, Holly Room

“Revisiting Creative Works and Pilgrimage” Moderator: Joanna Homrighausen

Zachary Catalan. *The Medieval Poet-Musicians as Pilgrims: Reimagining the Traditions*

Sarah McElroy Mitchell. *Look, Think, Wonder: Object Encounters and the Pedagogy of Pilgrimage*

Joanna Homrighausen. *Letters of the Romans: Remembrance of People Past as Art, Pilgrimage, and Sacred Memory*

Lunch - 11:45 – 1 pm, box lunch, Concourse First Floor

Session 3, 1-2:45, Rm: Dogwood Room

“Pilgrimage Experiences as Shaped by and Shaping Politics”

Panel Moderator: Susan Dunn-Hensley

Susan Dunn-Hensley. *Pilgrimage and Politics in Early Modern England*

Sharenda Barlar. *Psalms of Exile and Pilgrimage along the Camino de Santiago*

Pawel Plichta. *The Heritage of Religious Mobility. Pilgrimages to Gietrzwałd (1877–2027)*

Session 4, 1-2:45, Holly Room

“Creative Voices and Pilgrimage” Moderator: David Hair

Henry Skatvold. *The Pilgrim and The Artist; Connections Through Liminal Space*

Ephriam Cooper. *Deepening Perceptions of “Musicking” within Civil Rights Pilgrimage*

Alison Crocetta. *No Separation*

Session 5, 3-4:45, Dogwood Room

“Politics and Identity” Moderator: Ben Boone

Kerry Adams. *Walking Between Worlds: Cross-Border Pilgrimage between San Xavier del Bac, Arizona and Santa Magdalena, Sonora*

Boheng Zhang. *On the Road to Mecca: Self, Nation, and Mobility*

John Moore. *Black African Giants in the Saint James’s Eve Procession of Cabezudos y Gigantes*

Jonathan Pitts. *Tracing Island Wisdom: Memory, Personal Narrative, and the Nature of Pilgrimage*

Session 6, 3-4:45, Holly Room

“Evolving Understandings: Traditional and Unconventional Sacred Paths”

Moderator: Lisa Signori

Carlos Mentley. *Food Pilgrimage: Food is a Sacred Destination*

Alison Smith. *Serendipity, the Sacred, and the Monkey Puzzle Tree*

Lisa Signori. *On the Trail to the Black Virgin: The Voie de Rocamadour*

5:00 pm

Featured Speaker, Matoaka Woods Hall, First Floor

Professor Edward Wright-Ríos, Vanderbilt University

“Devotion in Motion: Dynamic Tradition and Lived Religion”

6:30-8:00 pm

Welcome Reception with heavy *hors d’œuvres*

Saturday, November 8 - Registration and Coffee from 8:00 am, Concourse, 1st Floor

Session 7, 8:30 – 10:15, Dogwood Room

“Panel: A Pilgrimage to Save the World” Moderator: Steven Rindahl

Steven Rindahl. *History and Practice as a Unique Pilgrimage*

Lisa Landry. *Seeking Peace for Others, Experiencing Peace for Self*

Brittany Wooten. *Lives Changed –PMI (Le Pèlerinage Militaire International) Pilgrim Success Stories*

Kevin Smith. *Pilgrims to Lourdes: Planning and Logistics of the American PMI Delegation*

Session 8, 8:30 – 10:15 Holly Room

“Motives and Meaning” Moderator: Nicol Nixon Augusté

Nicol Nixon Augusté. *The Italian Way: Women, Pilgrimage, and the Jubilee Year*

Jay Steele. *Pilgrimage as an Oblate Community*

Kristof Avramsson. *Crossing-Over or Becoming: Sustainable Fashion as Pilgrimage*

Session 9, 10:30 – 12:15, Dogwood Room

“Pilgrimage, Healing, and the Therapeutic” Moderator: André Brouillette

Emma Bleasdale. *Health and Human Healing: A Theological Reframing through the Lens of Pilgrimage*

Zachary Beckstead. *The Rise of Therapeutic Language in the Modern Pilgrim’s Path*

Lourdes Noemí Jiménez. *A Salvific Journey: Pilgrimage Through Hospice Caregiving*

Session 10, 10:30 – 12:15, Holly Room

“Layering Sacred Sites” Moderator: Michael Cronin

Ian McIntosh. *In Search of the Sacred in the Pilgrimages of Paul Brunton and Olaf Stapledon*

Nichole Lariscy. *Sampling the Complex Layers of Contemporary Pilgrimage in Ireland*

Cole Thornton. *The Climate of Pilgrimage: Landscape Architectural Methodology and the Camino de Santiago*

Meg Muthupandiyen. *Walking Hadrian’s Wall with the Ghosts of Goethe and de Tocqueville/Or, How Sites of Antiquity Offer Pilgrimages to Possible Futures*

Lunch - 12:15 – 1:30 - box lunch, Concourse, First Floor

Session 11, 1:30 – 3:15, Dogwood Room

“Digital Forces” Moderator: Brennan Harris

James Gehrke. *Walking the Ancient Way in a Digital World: The Virtual Pilgrimage of the Via de la Plata (Camino de Santiago)*

Andrew Davis and Kyle Sweeney. *Capturing the Camino: Simulation and Immersion through Virtual Reality*

Gabrielle Arterburn. *Thru-Hike or Pilgrimage? Meaning and Motivation through the Lens of YouTube on the Camino de Santiago, 2019*

Session 12, 1:30 – 3:15, Holly Room

“Theoretical Perspectives” Moderator: Jim Barber

Daniel Olsen. *A Curvilinear Attempt at Straightening Out the Pilgrim-Tourism Dichotomy*

Mark Minster. *Pilgrimage Is Metabolism: Lessons from Shikoku and Santiago*

Kip Redick. *Transactionality and Its Absence in Pilgrimage*

Session 13 1:30 – 3:15 Location TBD

“Camino Family” Moderator: Annie Hesp

Annie Hesp. *Family Ties: The Uses of Setting, Dialogue, and Metaphors in First-Person Camino Narratives Written by Parents and Their Adult Children.*

Maryjane Dunn. *It’s a miracle! Family dynamics of 12th-century pilgrims*

Lynn Talbot. *Camino Angst: “Will I Find a Camino Family?”*

Kathleen Jenkins. *Digital Kinship and Sacred Others*

Session 14, 3:30 – 5:15, Dogwood Room

“Camino Layers” Moderator: Kip Redick

Anne Born. *Joseph Bedier’s Treasure Map: Americans Collecting Churches on the Camino*

Christianna Soumakis. *So Much Farther, So Much Better: Walking with a Relic of Phil Volker*

Jennifer Elsdon. *From Saint James to Dr. John de la Howe: A peregrino’s deliberate encounter with a complicated past and hopeful present in South Carolina’s Backcountry*

Session 15, 3:30 – 5:15, Holly Room

“Mapping Routes” Moderator: George Greenia

Armando Miguélez. *Via König (siglo XV) del Camino de Santiago*

James R. Thobaben and Jason Horstman. *Providing Pilgrimage: Mapping Routes Acceptable for Doctrinally Orthodox Protestants*

Tom Poynor. *The Fool’s Journey: Mapping the Arcana of the Tarot onto a Franciscan Pilgrimage*

5:30 – 6:00 Refreshments & Student Presentations, Matoaka Hall, First Floor

Student Poster session

Maggie Munday Odom & Casey Weisman from Northwestern University

Walk Along: A New Musical

Closing Banquet 6:00 – 8:00, Matoaka Hall

Morning Walk on Sunday am from 9-11-see folder insert for details and sign-up information.