

Symposium for Pilgrimage Studies, Williamsburg, Virginia, November 8-9, 2024:

Comparing Pilgrimage: Layers of Meaning and Motion

Call for Papers

The Institute of Pilgrimage Studies invites abstracts especially for these encouraged themes.

Comparative Pilgrimage: We encourage papers and panels comparing and contrasting pilgrimage sites (within a region/culture or across different cultures) or the experiences and approaches of different pilgrims at any one pilgrimage site.

Connective Practices: We encourage papers and panels that incorporate research on pilgrimage that embraces the value and connection of all living things.

Digital Forces: We encourage papers and panels that explore the impact of technology and digital forces on pilgrimage structures and individual and group experiences of pilgrimage.

Layering of Old Sites: We encourage papers and panels that explore how pilgrimage sites have been developed over time, drawing from traditional and revised meanings.

Student Integration and Connection: We encourage papers and panels that explore course designs that use pilgrimage practices to foster integrative learning, student well-being, and promote connection to the natural environment.

Pilgrimage and Environmental Change: We encourage papers and panels that explore the impacts of climate change on pilgrimage sites and practices, the environmental effects of pilgrims upon sacred routes and sites, and the importance of the natural environment in the allure and experienced meaning of many major pilgrimage sites.

Pilgrimage in South Asia: We encourage papers and panels that explore how pilgrimage is central to religious life in South Asia, the meanings and purposes of pilgrimage in South Asian traditions, and how pilgrimage practices in South Asia are similar to and different from those in other parts of the globe.

Saints and Sainthood: We encourage papers and panels that explore on how saints and sainthood impact pilgrimage and its layers of meaning, and how pilgrims may relate to, be inspired by, remember, or honor the saints associated with the sacred sites they visit.

Tourism and Pilgrimage: We encourage papers and panels that explore the relationship between tourism and pilgrimage, including research that addresses how neoliberal capitalism shapes meaning and practice in experiences of pilgrimage.

Therapeutic Meaning: We encourage papers and panels that explore the connections between walking pilgrimage and physical, spiritual, relational, and emotional health.

Other: We encourage papers and panels that explore topics related to *Comparing Pilgrimage: Layers of Meaning and Motion*

We encourage submissions of papers involving research to a sacred center or travel for transformation from a broad range of disciplines and perspectives including religious studies, anthropology, literature, art history, health, classical studies, history, sociology, theater, and dance. Faculty who design curricula to channel a pilgrimage trip into a fully mentored academic experience are especially welcome, including their student participants. Individual presentations will last no more than 20 minutes, with time for discussion between papers.

Contributors who assemble three-to-four participants as an integrated panel discussion will receive a \$100 discount on the Symposium registration fee if they attend as presider of that session.

Abstracts of 500 words from faculty, independent researchers, graduate and undergraduate students may be [submitted here](#) by **June 20th 2024**. Undergraduate students should provide the name and email of a faculty mentor. Students may propose to either present papers or participate in a poster session.

Faculty, independent researchers, and graduate students are encouraged to apply for the [Greenia Fellowship](#) will be announced at the Symposium.

Notification of acceptance of Symposium papers will be sent by Mid-July 2024.