



CALL FOR PAPERS

An International Seminar on

Faith in Practice

Comparative Pilgrimage in Islam & Christianity

14-21 April 2020 --- Mashhad, Iran

فراخوان چکیده مقاله برای سمینار بین المللی

ابعاد چندرشته‌ای زیارت در اسلام و مسیحیت

الهیات، تاریخ، علوم اجتماعی، سیاست، اقتصاد، ادبیات، هنر، و معماری

مهلت ارسال چکیده مقالات (صرفاً به زبان انگلیسی): شنبه ۳۰ آذرماه

In the history of religions, pilgrimage is a religious practice just as old as faiths themselves. There are a number of general elements shared among different pilgrimages in world religions – including, for instance, pious acts of journeying with the intention to visit a sacred shrine, place, or person. However, pilgrimage has always transcended its presumably ritualistic aspect where world religions have historically understood, embodied, and practiced markedly different corporeal, spiritual, legal, ethical, economic, and social dimensions of pilgrimage. In our contemporary world, pilgrimage has increasingly become a sociocultural institution with significant salience and distinctive features of religious representation. Many of the golden routes regarded as sacred by different world religions have been preserved and even developed; and their historical sites are still destinations for acts of pious and spiritual worship. At the same time, however, traditional forms of pilgrimage in major world religions have undergone various processes of change, partly in light of multiple forces for transformation within modernity and postmodernity.

Following the successful seminars in *Graz2019*, the present exchange program between Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Iran and the University of Graz, Austria is scheduled to be held in April 2020, in the Holy City of Mashhad. Indeed, *Mashhad2020* seeks to provide a forum for the investigation and discussion of topics revolving around the umbrella term 'pilgrimage' particularly in comparative perspectives of Islam and Christianity. We thus hope to bring together professors, researchers, and students from multiple areas of scholarship in theology and the study of religion to discover, discuss, analyze, and present various theoretical and practical issues in relation to the nature and dynamics of pilgrimage in Islam and Christianity, and their implications particularly for contemporary Iranian as well as European societies. We also aim to provide a platform for intercultural encounter, interdisciplinary discussion, and academic dialogue over common concerns and questions at personal and institutional levels; and to create new opportunities for future research and teaching cooperation among the participant individuals and institutions.

The main themes and perspectives of the program include, but are not limited to,

1. Theology of pilgrimage in Christianity/Islam
2. Pilgrimage in Christian/Islamic history
3. Textual resources for pilgrimage in Christian/Islamic traditions
4. The Christian/Islamic spirituality and ethics of pilgrimage
5. The arts and literature of pilgrimage among Christians/Muslims
6. The sociopolitical dynamics of pilgrimage in Christianity/Islam

The working language of the seminar is English. The whole program will involve not only academic activities but also several cultural events and visits in Mashhad.

Please send your abstract proposals for presentation and participation to:

Iran	Austria
Rasool Akbari akbari.iru@gmail.com	Prof. Dr. Gunda Werner Gunda.werner@uni-graz.at

● **Abstract Submission Deadline:**

21 December 2019 (Notification of acceptance will be issued on 15 January 2020).