

CALL FOR PAPERS

International Conference ‘Sacred Places. Sacredness – Open to Dialogue or Closed to Changes?’, Gdansk (Poland), 13-14 October 2022.

We are very pleased to announce that the Call for Papers for the International Conference “**Sacred Places. Sacredness – Open to Dialogue or Closed to Changes?**” hosted by the International Border Studies Center at the University of Gdansk is now open.

The aim of this conference is to investigate the issue of sacredness, its various meanings and definitions, the eventual possibilities of transferring sanctity, dialogue or conflict within the shaping of sacredness (mine vs the other’s). We want to discuss, in thought-provoking ways, the role played by archaeological, historical, sociological and anthropological research on sacredness.

The keynote lecture: Prof. David Warburton, *Sacred Places: Landscape and Architecture*.

The first day will be organized together with the Melammu Project, as the 16th Workshop of the Melammu Project (chairs: Krzysztof Ulanowski, Sebastian Fink)

Topics might include but are not limited to:

The different definitions of sacredness in the pre-monotheistic world. Did the results of these definitions provoke conflicts? What generated conflicts over sanctity?

What and who was sacred in the pre-monotheistic world?

Was the magical world also holy or only partially holy, who made decisions regarding what was sacred and/or magical?

The construction and deconstruction of sacred places

What kind of behavior is expected in a holy place in a given culture? Who and why does not stick to the rules?

Where was the border between the sacred and the magical in ancient Mesopotamia and Greece or elsewhere in the world?

Was it possible the transfer sanctity from place to place and from one civilization to another?

The second day is dedicated to the topic of sacred places in sociological/anthropological contexts (chairs: Monika Mazurek, Elżbieta Czapka)

In the history of mankind - regardless of time and culture - many places have gained the status of “sacred places”. We are interested in the continuity and change of the sacred places in the sociological and anthropological contexts. We take the following questions/topics as the departure points for our discussion:

How is the concept of sacred places defined in different perspectives, times and cultures?

For whom and why a certain place is sacred?

What generates conflicts regarding sacred places?

How do border changes and migrations affect sacred places?

Hidden sacred/non-sacred - old sacred places and their role today (Stonehenge, Wolin Island etc.)

Nature as god's manifestation (the alternative "sacred places")

Sacred places at the crossroads of cultures

Motivation of contemporary people to visit sacred places (e.g. pilgrimages)

The language of the conference is English.

We welcome proposals for 20-minute papers. Abstracts should not exceed 250 words and must be submitted by February 1st 2022 exclusively to krzysztof.ulanowski@ug.edu.pl (1st day); monika.mazurek@ug.edu.pl (2nd day)

Depending on the pandemic situation and potential limitations, the conference may take place online/hybrid or traditionally (face-to-face).

Important dates:

Deadline for abstract submission: February 1st 2022.

Notification of acceptance: February 15th 2022.