Concept Outline

This conference brings together different disciplinary orientations (history, anthropology, religious studies, literary studies, heritage and museum studies) to examine claims of authenticity and construction of religious and political identity through competing narratives on religious and symbolic sites. It pays particular attention to the ways in which discursive traditions in multi-religious contexts influence constructions of the past, perceptions of history, and social interactions, as they relate to symbolic spaces and sites. Part of the agenda is to examine both the intersection and interdependence of religious and historical narrations in knowledge production, identity formation and belonging. The aim is to formulate questions and devise methodological tools which would allow for comparison both temporally and across regions.

Sponsored by
Leibniz-Forschungsverbund Historische Authentizität
Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO)
Contested religious spaces - Narratives as Evidence: De-Centering and Re-Authenticating Pasts for the Future

Conference, 30 November 2020 – 1 December 2020
Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33
14129 Berlin

Convenors
Abdoulaye Sounaye (ZMO)
Heike Liebau (ZMO)

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Monday, 30 November 2020

10:00–12:00  
Welcome & Panel I: Appropriations of Public Spaces: Contestations about Pasts

Tsypylma Darieva (ZoiS, Berlin): Claiming the City? Faith-based Activism and Narratives of Plurality in Post-Socialist Batumi (Georgia)

Anandita Bajpai (ZMO, Berlin): Fallen and Hidden Icons: Statues as Contested Sites of Memory-making in India

Annegret Roelcke (Berlin): Prophet’s Companion, French Orientalist, Ottoman Historian or Turkish Saint - Contesting the Name of Eyüp’s Cemetery Hill

14:00–16:00  
Panel II: Identity Constructions: Re-authenticating (Historical and Religious) Narratives

Stanislau Paulau (IEG, Mainz) African Zion: (Re-)Narrating Sacral Pasts in Neo-Solomonic Ethiopia

Annika Törne (Armenian-Slavonic University, Yerevan, Armenia): Semiotic Struggles for Sovereignty of Meaning in Symbolic Places of Memory

Jürgen Heyde (GWZO, Leipzig): Mystic Reality. An Armenian Traveler Visits the Great Mosque in the 17th Century and Discovers the Hagia Sophia

Reflection on the Day
Tuesday, 1 December 2020

10:00–12:00 Welcome & Panel III: Remoboko: PhD Students Present

**Adejoke Adetoro** (Remoboko: University of Ibadan, Nigeria): Mosque-Cross Controversy and the Politics of Religious Aesthetics at the University of Ibadan

**Mahamadou Bello Adamou** (Remoboko: Abdou Moumouni University of Niamey, Niger): La Gestion de l'Espace Religieux par deux Associations Antagonistes sur les Campus de l'Université Abdou Moumouni de Niamey (UAM)

**Vincent Favier** (ZMO, Berlin): A Light in Dark Times: the Dazzling Birth of Islam

14:00–16:00 Panel IV: Politics of Religious Experience: Sites, Space and Time

**Deepra Dandekar** (ZMO, Berlin): Sufi Dargahs as Contested Archive of Religious Experience in Maharashtra

**Peter Lambertz** (Marie-Curie fellow, IARA, KU Leuven, Belgium): Defying the Pentecostal Quarantine: Spiritual Movements and the Politics of Ancestral Re-Attachment in Kinshasa, DR Congo

Conceptual Discussion: Narrating Pasts for Futures: Religious and Historical Evidences

Introductory Statements by **Indra Sengupta** (GHI, London) and **Ulrike Freitag** (ZMO, Berlin)