



The 11th Conference on Jewish Studies
CISMOR series of online lectures - Academic year 2021

Theme

**Pilgrimage Through the Ages:
In Religious and Non-Religious Context**

The coming conference for the academic year 2021-2022 is to be conducted in the form of a series of four lectures and a workshop, and would offer a view on the essential components of pilgrimage in several periods of time and in different religious contexts. Each lecture will offer an analysis of the way pilgrimages were conducted, in which way their purposes were understood, and what could scholars learn from it.

The conference will be conducted online (the platform of zoom), lectures will be held on different days, and timed according to the location of the scholars.

The time and themes of the lectures

- 1) Ora Limor, The Open University of Israel (English)
“*Loca Desiderata*: Sacred Space and Holy Land Pilgrimage in Christian Culture”
October 23, 2021 (Saturday) 16:00-17:30 (Japan)// 10:00-11:30 (Israel)
- 2) Okamoto Ryosuke, Hokkaido University (Japanese)
“Pilgrimages in a Secular Age”
November 7, 2021(Sunday) 13:00-14:30 (Japan)
- 3) Daniella Talmon-Heller, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel (English)
“Pilgrimage in Islam”
December 19, 2021 (Sunday) 16:00-17:30 (Japan)// 9:00-10:30 (Israel)
- 4) Ada Taggar Cohen, Doshisha University (English)
“Pilgrimage in the Ancient Near East: The Hittites and the Hebrew Bible”
February 26, 2022 (Saturday) 16:00-17:30 (Japan)

The Conference on Jewish Studies is held bi-annually since 2004 and published as CJS
See: <http://www.cismor.jp/jp/series/judaic/>



Lectures' abstracts:

- 1) Prof. Ora Limor, The Open University of Israel (English)
“*Loca Desiderata*: Sacred Space and Holy Land Pilgrimage in Christian Culture”

In the first half of the fourth century, when the Roman Empire came under Christian rule, people started to flock to the Holy Land to see with their own eyes the venerated places of the Bible. The pilgrims desired, mainly, to visit and touch the sites of Jesus' life and Passion, where he, his mother the Virgin Mary, and his disciples operated. The pilgrimages had a significant impact on the Holy Land in general and on Jerusalem in particular. The flow of pilgrims, who came from near and far, has continued unabated until today and become a colorful component of the Jerusalem landscape. With time, pilgrimage became the focal point of a theological debate on the importance of geographical places and of wandering per se. It also gave birth to the genre of *Itineraria* literature—our main source of information about the pilgrimage movement and its destinations—and inspired diverse artistic expression as well.

- 2) Prof. Okamoto Ryosuke, Hokkaido University (Japanese)
“Pilgrimages in a Secular Age”

In secularized society, faith and pilgrimage are not necessarily linked. Why do non-believing pilgrims go to holy places? In this presentation, I will consider the pilgrimage to Santiago in Spain as a pioneering model for secular pilgrimage, as well as power spots and anime holy sites in Japan.

- 3) Prof. Daniella Talmon-Heller, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel (English)
“Pilgrimage in Islam”

Pilgrimage to Mecca, a Qur'anic commandment incumbent on every Muslim who is capable of making the trip, is one of the five "pillars" of Islam. The visitation (*ziyara*) of other sacred sites – ranging from the tomb of the Prophet Muhammad in Medina to rural shrines dedicated to almost anonymous local saintly figures - became an extremely popular feature of religious life in Muslim societies, especially those under the influence of Sufism. While some Sunni scholars criticized these customs, attacking both their theological underpinning, dubious sources and specific practices, Shi'i scholars endorsed visits to the tombs of the imams and members of their families as venues for intense devotion to the house of Ali. The lecture will present various models of Islamic pilgrimage, as well as the literary genres that document it, encourage it or argue against it.

- 4) Prof. Ada Taggar Cohen, Doshisha University (English)
“Pilgrimage in the Ancient Near East: The Hittites and the Hebrew Bible”

Pilgrimage in the Ancient Near East shares its religious, political, and economic components with any later historical and cultural pilgrimages. This lecture will offer a detailed description of the Hittite royal pilgrimages in relation to their Capital Ḫattuša (16th-12th centuries BCE), and will compare it with the status of Jerusalem the Capital of Judea, as a pilgrimage objective in the 9th to the 7th centuries BCE.