



COMMUNITY OF
LITHUANIAN PILGRIMS



INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS
TOURISM AND PILGRIMAGE
CONFERENCE



LCSS
Institute of
Sociology

13th Annual International Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage (IRTP) Conference

Programme



29th June – 2nd July 2022

Vilnius, Lithuania



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY



Instituto Politécnico
de Viana do Castelo



IRTP
Institute for Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage



Organisers

The **International Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage Conference** (IRTP) organised by the Institute for Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage (IRTP) in conjunction with the International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage (IJRTP), Community of Lithuanian Pilgrims (Lithuania) and the Institute of Sociology at the Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences (Vilnius, Lithuania).

The conference website for further information www.irtp.co.uk

Hosted by:

Community of Lithuanian Pilgrims,
Vilnius, Lithuania

<https://www.pilgrimai.lt>

**Institute of Sociology at the
Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences**

<https://www.lstc.lt/en>

Organised by:

Darius Liutikas, Community of Lithuanian
Pilgrims, and Institute of Sociology at the
Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences

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Razaq Raj, Leeds Beckett University

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Carlos Fernandes, Polytechnic Institute of
Viana do Castelo

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Kevin Griffin, Dublin Institute of
Technology

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The aim of the conference is to provide both empirical and personal insights into the changing nature of religion in society and to further the debate for both policy-makers and academics to consider these evolving challenges within the future development of faith tourism and pilgrimage.

Keynote speakers



**Gintaras Grušas, archbishop of
Vilnius, Lithuania**

**Title: Pilgrimage to Vilnius
as an Encounter with
Divine Mercy**

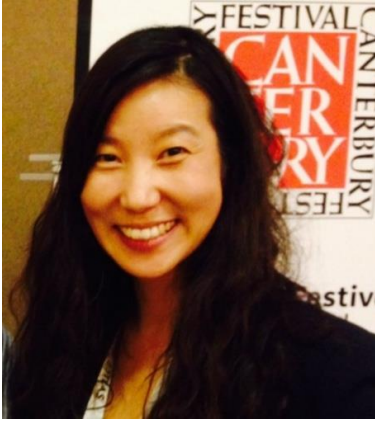
Grušas was born in Washington, D.C. He earned a BS degree in Mathematics and Information Science at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). Grušas began his preparation for the priesthood at the Franciscan University of Steubenville in Steubenville, Ohio. He then earned a Bachelor of Sacred Theology degree at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum). He was ordained a priest on 25 June 1994. He earned a Licentiate of Canon Law in 1999 and a Doctorate of Canon Law in 2001 from the Angelicum. From 2001 to 2003 he was rector of the seminary in Vilnius. In 2010 Pope Benedict XVI named him Military Ordinary of Lithuania and he was consecrated a bishop on 4 September. In 2013 Pope Francis appointed him Archbishop of Vilnius. In 2014 he was named a member of the Congregation for the Clergy. In 2016 – a member of the Secretariat for Communications. Since 2013 – President of the Bishops' Conference of Lithuania. In 2021 he was elected President of the Council of the Bishops' Conferences of Europe.



Vitor Ambrósio

Title: **Pilgrimages – material and immaterial constructions**

Ph.D., has been teaching at Estoril Higher Institute for Tourism and Hotel Studies (Portugal), since 1991. He also teaches in several Master and Doctoral programs from other Institutions. Prior to this he had worked as a travel agent promoter and tourist guide. His main research interest is Religious Tourism: his PhD Thesis is on Religious Tourism – The Development of Sanctuary Towns; he is the author of the book *Fátima as a Religious Centre for Incoming Tourism*; he is also the author of several book chapters and scientific articles on Religious Tourism.



Jaeyeon Choe

Title: Inclusive and Sustainable Spiritual Tourism Futures in Southeast Asia

Originally from Korea, Jaeyeon Choe obtained her PhD in Tourism Management with a minor in Cultural Anthropology from The Pennsylvania State University. She currently works at Swansea University, UK and is a Visiting Professor at Hue University, Vietnam. She is an Associate Editor of *Tourism Geographies*, and a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. After mindfulness research in the USA, Jaeyeon explored wellness and spiritual tourism in Southeast Asia, and is currently studying pilgrimage tourism in Wales. She keynoted at several tourism conferences in Southeast Asia. She recently co-edited a book, *Pilgrimage Beyond the Officially Sacred: Understanding the Geographies of Religion and Spirituality in Sacred Travel* (Routledge, 2020).

Conference programme

Venue: The conference venue is **Domus Maria Hotel** in Vilnius.

Address: Aušros Vartų st. 12, Vilnius 01303

Location: <https://domusmaria.com/location/>

WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE 2022 (Grand Hall-Lectorium)

16:00-18:00	Conference Registration and Welcome
19:00-21:00	Conference Reception

THURSDAY 30 JUNE 2022 (Grand Hall-Lectorium)

9:30-10:00	Registration
10:00-10:20	Welcome speeches Darius Liutikas , <i>Community of Lithuanian Pilgrims and Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences</i> Razaq Raj , <i>Leeds Beckett University</i> Kevin Griffin , <i>TU DUBLIN</i> Carlos Fernandes , <i>Polytechnic Institute of Viana do Castelo</i>
10:20-11:00	Keynote speech by Archbishop of Vilnius Gintaras Grušas <i>Pilgrimage to Vilnius as an Encounter with Divine Mercy</i> Chair: Darius Liutikas
11:00-11.10	Coffee Break
11.10 – 12.45	Session 1 Chair: Carlos Fernandes Bernadette Flanagan , <i>Motivation, pilgrimage and religious tourism</i> Stephen Haller , <i>Pilgrimage and Paradigm Shifts: the risk of identity change</i>

	<p>Eli Avraham, <i>Destinations' Image Recovery Strategies for the Covid-19 Tourism Crisis</i></p> <p>Eleanor O'Keeffe, <i>The globalisation/domestication of pilgrimage under Covid-19? A case study from the UK</i></p> <p>Mutangala Marc Marie, <i>Implication of Covid-19 for Religious Sites: Religion and technological innovation in online</i></p>
12:45-13:30	Lunch
13:30-15:00	<p>Session 2 Chair: Bernadette Flanagan</p> <p>Jonathan Wooding, <i>Pilgrimage-Tourism in Wales as an Expression of the Cult of Saints</i></p> <p>Elzbieta Bilaska-Wodecka, Antoni Życzkowski, <i>Changes in the structure of visitors at the Marian Sanctuary in Wambierzyce</i></p> <p>Hilda Kramarekova, Alfred Krogmann, Henrich Grezo, Peter Ivanič, Lucia Petrikovičová, <i>The potential of the European Cultural Route of St. Cyril and Methodius</i></p> <p>Isilda Leitão, Carlos Fernandes, <i>Conceptualising heritage routes for tourism: the Way Miracle of the Roses</i></p>
15:00-15:40	<p>Keynote speech by Vitor Ambrosio <i>Pilgrimages – material and immaterial constructions</i></p> <p>Chair: Razaq Raj</p>
15:40-16:10	Coffee Break
16:10-17:40	<p>Sessions 3 Chair: Jonathan Wooding</p> <p>Ruth Dowson, Daniel Olsen, <i>Events, church and the public square</i></p> <p>Jaffer Idris, Jabar Yaqub, <i>The Hajj vs Tourism Dilemma</i></p> <p>Razaq Raj, Kristel Kessler, <i>Towards a potential development of a prophets trail in the sultanate of Oman</i></p> <p>Pascal von Beuningen, <i>Finding a definition of Shinto in the world of travel information sources</i></p>
19:00-21:00	Joint dinner for those who wish (participants pay for themselves)

FRIDAY 1 JULY 2022 (Grand Hall-Lectorium)

9:30-10:40	<p>Session 4 Chair: Ruth Dowson Janis Bikse, Mahendar Reddy Gavinolla, <i>Perspectives on holy springs as a religious tourism resource: a comparative study on Eastern Europe and India</i> Michael Strmiska, Rūta Stankuvienė, <i>Representation of cultural memory: the case of international cultural route 'Balts' Road'</i> Darius Liutikas, <i>Sacred Places in Lithuania: Geographical Analysis of Shrines</i></p>
10:40-11:00	<p>Coffee Break</p>
11:00-11:40	<p>Keynote speech by Jaeyeon Choe <i>Inclusive and Sustainable Spiritual Tourism Futures in Southeast Asia</i> Chair: Kevin Griffin</p>
11:40-12:00	<p>Publisher presentation Daniel Lungu, <i>CABI Book Series on Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage</i></p>
12.00-13.50	<p>Session 5 (Virtual presentations) Chair: Vitor Ambrosio Dane Munro, <i>Me, myself and I: The end of the age of entitlement – a glimmer of hope</i> Polyxeni Moira, Dimitrios Mylonopoulos, Spyridon Parthenis, <i>Management of Covid-19 health crisis at religious and pilgrimage sites: the case of Greece</i> Dimitrios Mylonopoulos, Polyxeni Moira, Spyridon Parthenis, <i>The cooperation of national authorities, local government and religious leaders in the management of religious tourism and pilgrimage</i> Ricardo Nicolas Progano, <i>COVID impacts on Japanese temple stays: Findings from 2020-2021 fieldwork</i> Maria da Graça Santos, Margarida Franca, <i>Experiences and repercussions of COVID-19 on Pilgrimage and Religious Tourism in Portuguese Marian sanctuaries</i> Yasin Bilim, <i>A comparative analysis of secular and religious</i></p>

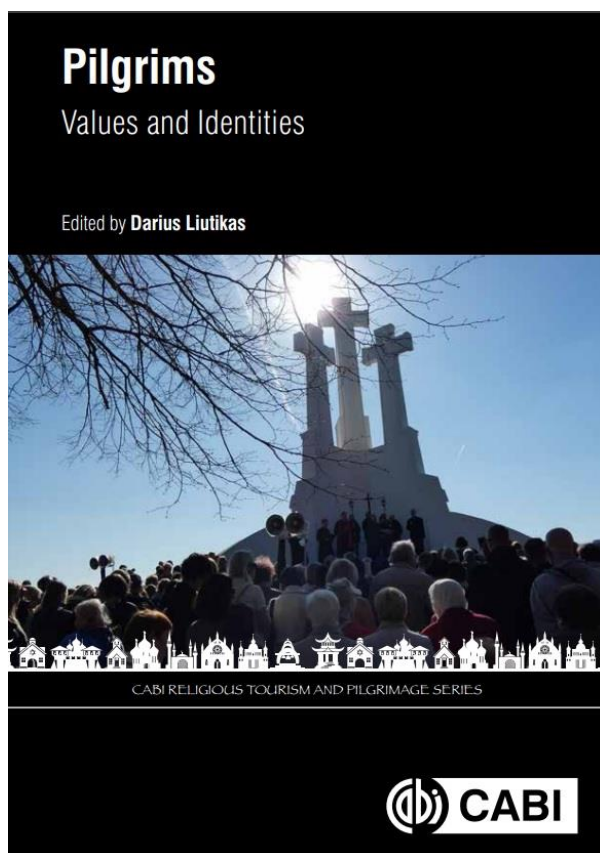
	<i>tourists for developing different marketing strategies</i>
13:50-14:30	Lunch
14:30-16:20	<p>Session 6 (Virtual presentations) Chair: Jaeyeon Choe Pierre Fournie, <i>Competitive Intelligence for Sacred Sites</i> Maria Carmen Pardo López, <i>Developing pilgrimage tourism in LATAM: Lessons learned from the Camino de Santiago</i> Donatella Privitera, Antonietta Ivona, <i>From food to religion. Impact at religious sites</i> Subhash Pillai, <i>Indian Perspective on Religion and Religious Tourism: Globalization with a Heart</i> Mujde Bideci, Caglar Bideci, <i>Conceptualising place attachment in pilgrimage destinations</i> Silvia Aulet, Guilherme F. Rodrigues, <i>Interpreting religious sites in tourism</i></p>
16:20-16:40	<p>Closing Speeches Next Year Conference Presentation (Virtual)</p>
16:40-17:00	Coffee Break
17:00-19:00	Excursion in Vilnius Old City (on foot)
20:00-23:30	Gala Dinner (Restaurant Steakhouse LOKYS, Stikliu str. 8/10, Vilnius)

SATURDAY 2 JULY 2022

9:30–18:30	Field trip including lunch (The Hill of Crosses and Šiluva)
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Publications

The conference organisers have an impressive track record of successfully publishing papers from their events. Following review, suitable papers that are submitted according to the deadline, will be published in the International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage (IJRTP) and selected for inclusion as chapters in forthcoming book in the organisers' Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage Book Series with CABI publishers.



History

Previous Conferences

2003 – Fátima, Portugal

2009 – Nazaré, Portugal

2011 – New Norcia, Australia

2012 – Maynooth, Ireland

2013 – Malta

2014 – Veszprém, Hungary

2015 – Girona, Spain

2016 – Konya, Turkey

2017 – Armeno, Italy

2018 – Santiago de Compostela, Spain

2019 – Belgrade, Serbia

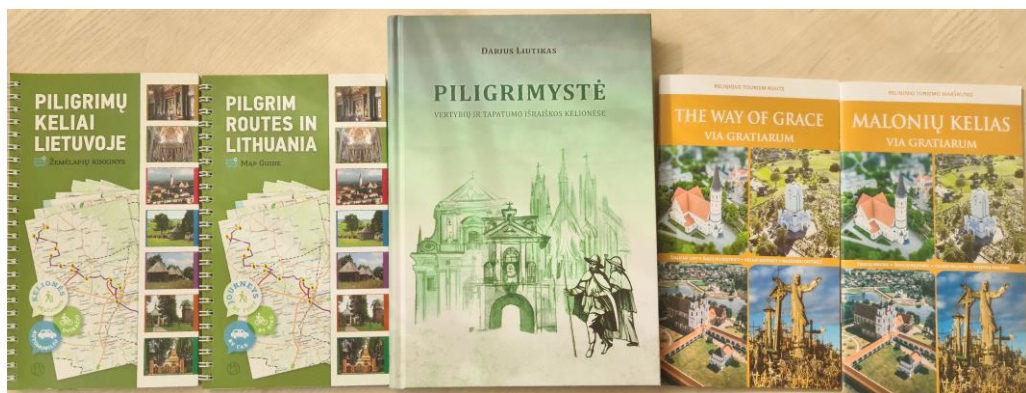
2021- Braga, Portugal

About Hosts

Community of Lithuanian Pilgrims

The Community of Lithuanian Pilgrims was established in 2004. The aims of the organization are to consolidate Christian pilgrims in Lithuania, to take care of the natural and cultural heritage of the sacred sites of Lithuania and to organize pilgrim journeys. The Community of Lithuanian Pilgrims organizes various projects associated with pilgrimage and sacred places of Lithuania and publishes various publications for pilgrims. The most significant projects include organization of woodcarver contest-exhibition "Saints and pilgrims" (4 events had been held since 2009), and various publications as the monograph of D. Liutikas "Pilgrimage. Manifestation of Values and Identity in the Journeys" (2009), the four-disc album "Prayers and Hymns of Vilnius Verkiai Calvary" (2010), documentary "Pilgrimage sites in Lithuania" (2012), map guide "Pilgrim Routes in Lithuania" (2014) and religious tourism route "The Way of Grace" (2021).

For information on current projects and pilgrimage places of Lithuania visit www.pilgrimai.lt.



Institute of Sociology (LCSS IS)

Institute of Sociology (LCSS IS) is a branch of the State Research Institute – the Lithuanian Center for Social Sciences, a public legal entity operating as a state budget institution and carrying out long-term research and experimental (social, cultural) development, important to the State, society, international cooperation or economic operators. It is a venue for the training of doctoral students in Sociology. Five departments of the Institute of Sociology – the Department of Labour Market Research, the Department of Ethnic Studies, the Department of Regional and Urban Studies, the Department of Social Change and Inequality Studies and the Department of Social Policy Research – implement Long-term Research and Development Programme of the LCSS funded by the state budget, as well as national and international research projects funded by the Research Council of Lithuania, the European Union, and other international bodies and organizations, including industry and business entities. The Department of Regional and Urban Studies research includes the main trends and specific characteristics of regional and urban development. The current research in the field of tourism is being carried out during the project ‘Transformations and perspectives of the tourism sector after the COVID 19 pandemic’ (2021-2023). This project has received funding from European Regional Development Fund under grant agreement with the Research Council of Lithuania.

Website for more information: <https://www.lstc.lt/en>



Map of Vilnius

