

WORKSHOP

## Modernity and the Construction of Sacred Space

March 4-5, 12:00-6:00 CET

ONLINE: WebEx

To attend please register with Aaron French to receive the WebEx link: [aaron.french@uni-erfurt.de](mailto:aaron.french@uni-erfurt.de)

We invite people to attend “Modernity and the Construction of Sacred Space,” an online workshop organized by the Religious Studies Department at the University of Erfurt in cooperation with the SpatioTemporality Research Erfurt (ERZ). These presentations will revisit the question of “sacred space” from an interdisciplinary perspective, focusing on religion, space, architecture, and esotericism during the emergence of the modern period. How are religious ideas—especially those related to “sacred” or “holy” space—transformed and transmitted across geographical and cultural boundaries, and how are sacred sites and buildings integrated into modern societies? These themes and more will be discussed in this international workshop.

*Schedule of Presentations – all times CET*

### FRIDAY, MARCH 4

#### Opening Remarks and Introductions

Aaron French (Universität Erfurt) and  
Katharina Waldner (Universität Erfurt)  
12:00-12:15

#### Section 1 – Secularity and Sacred Space

Ansgar Martins (Hebrew University Jerusalem)  
“The Hotel Foyer as a Negative Church:  
Siegfried Kracauer and the Sacredness of  
Profane Spaces”  
12:15-12:45

Karen Swartz (Åbo Academy University)  
“The Corporate Branding of Sacred Space: A  
Case Study concerning Anthroposophy in  
Sweden”  
12:45-1:15

*15 minutes for questions*

**15 MINUTE BREAK 1:30-1:45**

#### Section 2 – Modernity and Sacred Space

Jean de Dieu Tumushire (Universität Zürich)  
“For the Step Up and Updating of the  
Architecture’s Sacred Space in Rwanda”  
1:45-2:15

Aikaterini-Iliana Rassia (Universität Erfurt)  
“Panagia Mesosporitissa in Eleusis: A Modern  
Sacred Space Resonant of the Mysteries”  
2:15-2:45

Krzysztof Nawratek (University of Sheffield)  
“Sacred Space does not Exist. Evangelical  
Churches in Belo Horizonte, Brazil”  
2:45-3:15

*15 minutes for questions*

**1 HOUR BREAK – 3:30-4:30**

### **Section 3 – Sacred Space and Society**

Shujuan Li (University of Arizona); Alden Stoner (Nature Sacred); & Esther Sternberg (University of Arizona)

“Sacred Gardens as Healing Spaces”

4:30-5:00

Paul Ivey (University of Arizona)

“The Architecture of the Church of the New Jerusalem: Correspondences and Debates on Sacred Space”

5:00-5:30

*15 minutes for questions*

## **SATURDAY, MARCH 5**

### **Section 4 – The City and the Sacred**

Aaron French (Universität Erfurt)

“Bruno Taut: Architect as Modern Spiritual Builder”

12:00-12:30

William Redwood (Independent, formerly Dept. of Anthropology, University College London)

“Magical London: Making Sense of Sacred Multiplicity”

12:30-1:00

*15 minutes for questions*

**15 MINUTE BREAK 1:15-1:30**

### **Section 5 – Creating Sacred Space in Western Esotericism**

Andrea Franchetto (Stockholm University)

“Temporary and Imaginal Sacred Space in the Textual Transmission of Modern Ritual Magic. The Temple of Abramelin (15th-20th century)”

1:30-2:00

Tancredi Marrone (Masaryk University Brno)

“Sacred Settings”

2:00-2:30

Andrej Kapcar (Masaryk University Brno)

“Spatial Occultism: Placement and Spaces of Occult Ritual Practice within Pop Culture”

2:30-3:00

*15 minutes for questions*

**1 HOUR BREAK – 3:15-4:15**

### **Section 6 – Space and the Modern Sacred**

Aurosa Alison (Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3)

“The Unspeakable Space in Le Corbusier: Catharsis, Aesthetics, Atmosphere”

4:15-4:45

Barbara von Orelli-Messerli (Universität Zürich)

“Heinrich Wölfflin and Sacred Space: A Possible Approach”

4:45-5:15

*15 minutes of questions*

### **Closing Remarks and Reflections**

Katharina Waldner (Universität Erfurt),

5:30-6:00