



**Center for
Religious
Studies**

CENTRAL
EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITY

DOCTORAL CONFERENCE



SACRED LOCATIONS SPACES AND BODIES IN RELIGION

June 13-15, 2019

University of Szeged

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Building

6722 Szeged, Egyetem utca 2

Spaces and bodies carry religious meanings. In history as well as in contemporary society, territories are organized through religious markers, creating hierarchies of sanctity or oppositions between spaces that are appropriated or unappropriated through religious symbolism. Borders between groups have been understood as religious in nature and expressed in normative terms, such as the sacred and the profane. Not only countries, states, cities, neighborhoods, national and ethnic groups, but even our own bodies are canvasses on which religious meanings can be painted through items of clothing or ritual. Conversely, spatial and corporeal representation underpins patterns of religious belonging and imagination. Such orders of space have been subject to constant negotiation and redefinition, both by those involved in religion-based distinctions and differentiations in their everyday lives and by the scholars analyzing the spatial aspects of religion. What is the consequence of giving a religious meaning to a physical space or a physical representation to a religious idea? Can religion only serve the purpose of separation and distinction, or is it equally employed for the blurring, mixing, or negation of differences between groups or between individuals and their environment? What justifications have been used in order to legitimize the existence of religiously framed differentiations and border-making? The conference invites contributions on the conceptualization, interpretation, management or instrumentalization of religion with regard to space, geographical or personal.

Program

Panel 1

Symbols and Sacred Places

Panel 2

Religion, Motion, Space

Panel 3

**Bodies – Meeting Places of
Transcendent and Immanent**

Panel 4

Politics of Space

Panel 5

Bodies and Rituals

Panel 6

Sacred Buildings and Arts

Panel 7

Sacred Space and Community