

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### Muslim Pilgrimage in Europe

Workshop at the University of Bergen, 3–4 October 2013

There has been an increasing interest in pilgrimage and pilgrimage-like travelling during the last decades, both in practical terms and in academic research. Within European pilgrimage, most attention has been given to time-honoured Christian pilgrimage sites and traditions. In spite of Islam's long history in Europe, very little research has been done on Western-European Muslims' pilgrimage to Mecca. Nothing much has been written on pilgrimage traditions in the older European Muslim communities in the Baltic, Poland and Finland, and even the Balkans. There is evidence of a growing research interest on the topic, though, as evidenced for example by several recent studies on *shared* pilgrimage sites in France, and especially in the Balkans.

For a two-days' workshop on Muslim pilgrimage in Europe, we invite papers discussing historical and contemporary Muslim *hajj* and non-*hajj* pilgrimage, whether *from* Europe to pilgrimage sites outside Europe, pilgrimage *within* Europe, or travel to pilgrimage sites *in* Europe from outside. Connecting pilgrimage to every day social, political and cultural processes, we welcome multiple approaches to the study of pilgrimage. In addition to visits at pilgrimage sites, we invite examinations of the pilgrim's motivation and preparation, the travel and the return. We are interested in the *communitas* aspect of pilgrimage as well as individual's experiences, and the effects of the journey on its participants as well as on those left behind. Pilgrimage may not simply involve the actual travel of people to a sacred site. Studies suggest pilgrimage may be performed by proxy, and as spiritual pilgrimage, sometimes substituting pilgrimage and sometimes complementing it. At the workshop we will explore these and other issues to discuss continuity, revitalization, and innovation in Muslim pilgrimage in Europe, to compare local and trans-continental Muslim pilgrimage sites and practices, and study the connections between them.

Submissions to the following topics, but not exclusively, are welcomed:

Pilgrimage from Europe to Islamic pilgrimage sites outside Europe  
Islamic pilgrimage sites and patterns within Europe  
Pilgrimage voices: narratives of pilgrimage  
Pilgrimage "by proxy"  
Pilgrimage literature for the European market  
Muslim religious tourism in Europe

The deadline for abstract submissions is April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013. Abstracts (max. 300 words, English) should be sent to:

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The University of Bergen will host the workshop and provide accommodations.