



Sharing Sacred Spaces in the Mediterranean: Christians, Muslims, and Jews at Shrines and Sanctuaries (New Anthropologies of Europe)

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While devotional practices are usually viewed as mechanisms for reinforcing religious boundaries, in the multicultural, multiconfessional world of the Eastern Mediterranean, shared shrines sustain intercommunal and interreligious contact among groups. Heterodox, marginal, and largely ignored by central authorities, these practices persist despite aggressive, homogenizing nationalist movements. This volume challenges much of the received wisdom concerning the three major monotheistic religions and the "clash of civilizations." Contributors examine intertwined religious traditions along the shores of the Near East from North Africa to the Balkans.

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Review

"Promises to ignite new discussions and understandings of Islam in relation to the other great religious traditions of the West.... Allows the opening of larger questions and the beginning of a quest to regain a world that we wish we still had." ?Charles Stewart, University College London

"[T]his volume is an extremely timely and welcome arrival, addressing as it does a yawning gap in the literature.... In gathering an array of methodological perspectives and a range of different experiences, it brings to light a diversity of both commonalities and points of divergence in shared practices and spaces.... Sharing Sacred Spaces will spark debate, perhaps controversy, and hopefully further research into points of contact between the monotheistic religions, and others." ?Levantine Review

"[P]rovides a collection of essays describing 'shared spaces' used by Muslims, Christians and Jews, generally located around the Mediterranean Sea and dated to the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, but with some attention to other locations and periods as well. Overall, these essays shun architectural formalism and instead focus on narratives of space and place, as informed by function, tradition, gesture, paths of movement and personal interviews." ?International Journal of Islamic Architecture

"Overall, the chapters take a diversity of approaches, and at the same time portray the diversity and also complexity involved in the sharing of sacred spaces in this region." ?Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute

"Primarily anthropological in approach and methodology, this book will... be engaging and stimulating for geographers of religion. It shows the need for a diachronic perspective in the study of the tensions between sacred and secular spheres, for a wider geographical coverage of case studies, and for the further study of the neglected geographies of the sacred." ?Journal of Historical Geography

About the Author

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