

ENTER 2018 eTourism Conference
“Digital tourism: engagement, content, and networks”
Jönköping (Sweden), 24-26 January 2018

www.enter2018.org

Special session:

ICT for tourism at sites of religious heritage

Session chairs: Silvia De Ascaniis & Lorenzo Cantoni

Within ENTER2018, a thematic session is organized on the topic of “ICT for tourism at sites of religious heritage”. The session follows up on two panels devoted to similar topics, organized within previous ENTER conferences. At ENTER 2015, held in Lugano (Switzerland), a thematic panel launched the discussion on the role and opportunities given by ICT to promote and develop religious and pilgrimage destinations as well as to enhance tourists’/pilgrims’ experience; it gave birth to a special issue published by the *International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage* (<http://arrow.dit.ie/ijrtp/vol4/iss3/>). At ENTER 2017, held in Rome (Italy), a thematic session focused on pilgrimage as a proper tourism category, aiming at investigating the role of ICTs in the modern pilgrimage experience; contributions to the session will be published in a special issue of the journal *Church, Communication and Culture* (<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rchu20>), to appear in late 2018.

The panel organized within ENTER 2018 will particularly focus on tourism at places that are recognized as part of the cultural heritage and have a strong connection with religion. Such places might have a long history rooted in religious traditions or they might represent modern answers to spiritual needs. Also, they might be still used for worshipping practices, hence being mainly religious tourism destinations, or they might have lost their primary worshipping function and be used for different purposes, thus attracting visitors driven by different reasons.

ICTs can provide destinations of religious heritage with a range of relevant services and experiences, from increasing access to information by interested people, to improving their experience and understanding once at the destination, from better connecting both locals and visitors to such heritage, to dis-intermediating some relationships and educating relevant stakeholders. The panel aims at presenting contributions from international scholars and practitioners, which report results of studies or discuss cases that can contribute to investigate the topic.

To take part in the session, **an abstract of about 1’000 words** is requested, describing the issue or the case that will be presented during the conference.

The deadline to submit proposals is **December 10th, 2017**. Notifications of acceptance will be sent by **December 22nd**.

Contributions might be considered for publication in the form of academic papers in the above mentioned special issue of *Church, Communication and Culture*, or in other publication outlets.

To submit proposals or to request further information on the thematic session, please write to Dr. Silvia De Ascaniis, USI – Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano (Switzerland): silvia.de.ascaniis@usi.ch



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