



Jerusalem: Religious, National, and International Dimensions

Dar al-Kalima University's 16th International Conference

Introduction

Jerusalem, the religious epicenter of the three monotheistic religions and the geographic nexus of the mappa mundi, is now again the center of attention in an escalating political struggle in the Middle East. The move of the US embassy to Jerusalem in May 2018 stands as a clear statement of acclaimed ownership of the city. Following this, a renewed sense of urgency and importance has been added to the cause of reaffirming the Holy City as an inclusive city for two nations and three religions. .

At this conference we are looking at the social and symbolic meaning of Jerusalem from religious, national, and international perspectives. The aim of the conference is to investigate the diverse dimensions of the city and the challenges facing this cosmopolitan city. While the importance of the city for Jews is highlighted, its importance for Christians and Muslims in general and for Palestinian Christians in particular is often ignored. This conference does not claim the right of any religious primacy – it defies the reductionist narratives of either/or and invites a nuanced debate on the present significance of Jerusalem.

The conference will take place in Bethlehem, Palestine, on November 22-25, 2018. It will consist of four days of lectures, dialogues, and collaboration and includes several tours to the Holy City for exposure to the realities on the ground. The objective is to gather an international and interdisciplinary group of scholars and experts involved with sociocultural, theological, political, historical, and legal aspects of contemporary Jerusalem. We invite participants of all scholarly, denominational, and national backgrounds. The program will be conducted in English.

Following its academic and contextual traditions, Dar al-Kalima University College of Art and Culture has planned the conference on the city of Jerusalem. This event is part of a series of academic programs launched in 2005 on the topic of “Shaping Communities in Times of Crisis: Narratives of Land, Peoples and Identities”.

Title

Jerusalem: Religious, National, and International Dimensions

Aim

To spark an international and interdisciplinary dialogue on religious, national, and international narratives and identities connected to contemporary Jerusalem



Goals

- Exploring the city of Jerusalem in its religious, national, and international dimensions
- Investigating the narratives and identities connected to contemporary Jerusalem
- Analyzing the complex interaction of religion and local politics
- Exposing the political commitments and agendas shaping the local social landscape
- Addressing the challenges facing a diverse and cosmopolitan Jerusalem

Themes

- National and international perspectives of Jerusalem
- Religious perspectives of the Holy City
- Religious diversity in Jerusalem
- The Palestinian Christian community in Jerusalem
- The intertwining of religion and politics
- Church-state relations in Jerusalem
- Cultural and intellectual life in Jerusalem
- Muslim-Christian-Jewish relations in the city
- Palestinian-Israeli relations within Jerusalem
- Demographic shifts in Jerusalem in recent years
- Sociocultural relationships between Christian communities of Jerusalem
- Jerusalem in Christian thought and practice
- Jerusalem pilgrims and pilgrimage
- The modern religious and political history of Jerusalem
- Colonialism and religious power politics
- State and national legitimating strategies
- Religious real estate in Jerusalem
- The cultural heritage discourse in Jerusalem

**** Papers are in English and in Arabic**

Call for Papers

We invite the submission of papers on original and unpublished research on any of the related topics. Please note the following:

- Papers are to be submitted through this e-Mail address: conference@daralkalima.edu.ps
- The only accepted format for submitted papers is Microsoft Word document

More below ↓



****Kindly mark your calendars with the following dates:**

- September 30th, 2018: paper/panel submission deadline (Max 500 Words)
- October 10th, 2018: paper accept/reject notification
- October 20th, 2018: Announcing the conference's program
- November 22nd – 25th, 2018 : Conference final dates
- January 15th, 2019 : full paper submission deadline

Logistics

- For scholars who will be presenting papers, the organizers will provide accommodations and meals during the days of the conference (3 nights). Scholars are expected to pay or fundraise for their airfare.
- For other participants a participation fee of USD \$300 is expected.

For any extra inquiries please contact us at: conference@daralkalima.edu.ps