

**International Scientific Conference:**

**Religious and Pilgrimage sites –  
Conservation challenges**

**The conference promoters:**

- International Scientific Committee for Theory and Philosophy of Conservation and Restoration (TheoPhilos)
- International Scientific Committee on Places of Religion and Ritual (PRERICO)
- Romualdo Del Bianco Foundation
- International Institute Life Beyond Tourism

**Venue and date:**

**28th February- 1 March, 2019; Florence (“Andrzej Tomaszewski Amphitheatre” at Auditorium al Duomo, Via dei Cerretani 54)**

*Organized by:*



**ICOMOS**

International Committee on Theory and  
Philosophy of Conservation and Restoration

*In collaboration with:*



**MOVEMENT**



**LBT**

**Istituto Internazionale LBT**  
by FONDAZIONE ROMUALDO DEL BIANCO



## 1. Topic of the conference

'Places of religion and pilgrimage' are sites with specifically high sensitivity, carrying tangible as well as high non-tangible significance.

Some are still in use for religious practices, while others are archaeological ruins or places no longer used for their original function. In some religions they still have religious significance, in others they do not, but continue to carry religious importance.

Some of these sites are mainly places of memory, where structural significance is of secondary importance, many others have buildings which meet several criteria of historical, architectural, social and other significance.

Many important sites of religious meaning serve regularly as places of religion and ritual, to some there is regular pilgrimage, yet many are at the same time tourism attractions.

Very few active religious sites are managed by cultural heritage authorities – most are managed by religious authorities.

All the above issues make sites of religious and ritual significance a specific category, with big challenges to the conservation community.

Both scientific committees, TheoPhilos and PRERICO have never discussed these issues and the coming conference is the first opportunity for both.

Three different areas need to be discussed for theoretical and practical purposes:

- Definition of the religious and Pilgrimage sites, from the perspective of heritage protection - is it a category worth specific ethics, rules and consideration? Does it require different conservation considerations and Practices?
- Specific theoretical and practical challenges facing the conservation and users communities regarding religious and pilgrimage sites.
- Tourism to religious and Pilgrimage sites – conflicts of functions, respecting the different uses and users. Conservators' challenges.

## 2. Purpose and scope of the conference

The International Scientific Committee for Theory and Philosophy of Conservation and Restoration in collaboration with the International Scientific Committee on Places of Religion and Ritual and the Fondazione Romualdo Del Bianco-Life Beyond Tourism is organizing the International conference entitled **Religion and Pilgrimage sites –Conservation challenges** (Florence 28<sup>th</sup> February- 1st March 2019).

The aim of the conference is to discuss the notion of *Religious and Pilgrimage sites* and in particular, the forms of their protection, conservation, management and interpretation.

According to the topic of the conference the presentations should lead to conclusions, which can be used to develop the theory and practice of conservation, protection and interpretation of sites of religion and pilgrimage.

The conference will be organized as three thematic sessions.

1. Cases of conservation/ protection of religious and pilgrimage sites, looking at specific challenges, including issues of Integrity, Authenticity, non-tangible values and users.
2. Definition of the place of religion and pilgrimage, from the perspective of heritage protection. Can such places fall within typological groups having common characteristic features and conservation ethics/philosophy?
3. Tourism to religious and pilgrimage sites – how to handle potential conflicts between users and function? Is it the conservators' role? Responsibility? Can conservation have impact on this challenge?

### 3. Paper submission

Papers proposals should be sent in summary form up to 2 pages (summary developed in the form of separate subsections or bullet points will facilitate the understanding of the ideas of the paper).

Proposals for papers should include nomination of which of the three thematic session to which they refer.

Please send the paper proposals up to **December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018** to the following addresses: [isctheory@gmail.com](mailto:isctheory@gmail.com)

Scientific reviewers from both committees will select the papers to be presented at the conference - the conference materials will be published as the reviewed monograph.

Authors of papers will be notified of the reviewers' decisions up to **January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019**.

For additional information please send the questions to: [isctheory@gmail.com](mailto:isctheory@gmail.com).

We encourage the submission of paper proposals, and we invite you to participate in the conference.

### Observers

This meeting falls under the Memorandum of Understanding signed in Paris, 4th March 2013, by ICOMOS and the Fondazione Romualdo Del Bianco of Florence, which recognizes special conditions for organizing the annual meetings of all the ICOMOS ISCs in one of the Foundation's venues, in Florence.

Besides, accomplishing with the 18th ICOMOS General Assembly Resolution n, 42/2014, the Fondazione Romualdo Del Bianco and the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee Theory and Philosophy of Conservation and Restoration (Theophilo) are pleased to invite Observers to attend this international conference.

Renowned specialists and experts from all over the world will deliver reports at the conference. The participation of external Observers (young researchers and scholars

in particular) is welcome and a special section of the program will be just dedicated to Q&A; this will provide an extraordinary opportunity for upgrading skill and knowledge in conservation and restoration and for extending professional and scientific contacts.

#### 4. Accommodation

The delegates are kindly invited to use the “**VivaFirenze**” **Best Practice Reservation Portal** <http://www.vivafirenze.it/en> that is a practical application of the Life Beyond Tourism philosophy by the Romualdo Del Bianco Foundation. You can choose among over 200 accommodation facilities to get the option that better suits you in terms of prices (the same hotel fares as in the other international reservation portals), location, category, etc.

This is a way to better know how the [Life Beyond Tourism Model](#) operates on the territory and for the territory interpreting and communicating it to the visitors; indeed, booking your stay with [VivaFirenze](#) you contribute to support (**without any extra-costs for you**) a crowdfunding campaign for 4 special restoration projects in Florence – which you can also do with the Model on your territory.

**You are not supposed to face any difference in price as compared to other web-sites (read the following note)**, if it happens, please advise the hotel, doing so you will help them to use better the Life Beyond Tourism Model, to which they adhere in a voluntary way. For this reason, the reservation portal <http://www.vivafirenze.it/en> has been selected by the Organizing Committee as the official one.

**N.B.:**

*The accommodation structures in the portal <http://www.vivafirenze.it> joined the portal in order to contribute to support the heritage of the territory, thanks to which they operate. Their membership is voluntary and determined by a true sharing of Life Beyond Tourism values.*

*Any differences of price with other portals is nothing but a human error, and in that case, you are kindly invited to inform the hotel and [customer.support@vivafirenze.it](mailto:customer.support@vivafirenze.it) in order to guarantee the prompt correction.*

*We thank you in advance for your attention and prompt communication because also this is a form of valorisation and support of the heritage of the territory where <http://www.vivafirenze.it> operates.*

In 2019 the crowdfunding campaign will focus on the following 4 special restoration projects:

- **Stories in the woods**

The aim of the project is to create a free and accessible thematic itinerary within the **Monte Ginezzo Regional Forestry Agricultural Complex in Cortona**. Cortona is one of the most famous tourist resorts of Tuscany and the province of Arezzo. Its mountain territory is untouched, but almost unknown.

- **Facto, Tuscany Creative Factory**

The project wants to offer artists and creative spaces to imagine, design, experiment, create, share by providing a welcoming structure in the heart of Montelupo Fiorentino, the city of ceramics. A place designed for anyone who needs to express their inner world and their potential.

- **The Medicean Aqueduct of Pisa and its territory**

Project for the recovery and enhancement of the Medicean Aqueduct - commissioned by Cosimo I de' Medici to supply the city of Pisa with the water of Monte Pisano, currently in an advanced state of degradation - with an environmental requalification of the neighboring areas

- **Tosca's bells on the way of the springs and the ancient wash houses**

Project aimed at the realization of hydraulic intervention works and reconstruction of the ancient washtubs built numerous along the various springs that characterize this place. The wayfarers who travel the wash-house route - one of which was built near the bell tower - will be able to listen to the double of the four bells installed in the bell tower of the church of the village of Bargecchia, whose sound was inserted by Giacomo Puccini in the opera Tosca.

For these reasons, the reservation portal [www.vivafirenze.it](http://www.vivafirenze.it) has been selected by the Organizing Committee as the official one for the Conference.

## 5. Registration fees

<b>ICOMOS Theophilo &amp; PRERICO REGISTRATION FEES</b>	
<b>Registration fee for ICOMOS Members, for Romualdo Del Bianco Foundation Experts and for Members of the Foundation's Life Beyond Tourism Movement</b>	<b>€ 70</b> <b>Attendance in 2 Days Academic Sessions (February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019) with coffee break</b> (Welcome Wine Tasting and Farewell Dinner EXCLUDED, to be booked and paid separately)
<b>Registration fee for Non Members ICOMOS and Romualdo Del Bianco Foundation</b>	<b>€ 130</b> <b>Attendance in 2 Days Academic Sessions (February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019) with coffee break</b> (Welcome Wine Tasting and Farewell Dinner EXCLUDED, to be booked and paid separately)
<b>Student Auditor Daily Fee</b>	<b>€ 30</b> <b>Attendance in 1 Day Academic Session with coffee break</b> (visits excluded) (Welcome Wine Tasting and Farewell Dinner EXCLUDED, to be booked and paid separately)
<b>Standard Auditor Daily Fee</b>	<b>€ 70</b> <b>Attendance in 1 Day Academic Session with coffee break</b> (visits excluded) (Welcome Wine Tasting and Farewell Dinner EXCLUDED, to be booked and paid separately)
<b>OPTIONAL DINNERS</b>	
<b>Typical Tuscany Welcome Wine Tasting</b>	<b>€ 30</b> Selection of Tuscany flavors and wine
<b>Conference Dinner</b>	<b>€ 40</b> Typical Tuscany menu

For additional information please send the questions to:  
[icomos.theory@fondazione-delbianco.org](mailto:icomos.theory@fondazione-delbianco.org)

## 6. Tentative program

**VENUE** of the conference depends of the number of participants: up to 35-40 persons would be [Palazzo Coppini](#) (see the [Inside View](#)); for more than 40 persons [Auditorium al Duomo](#) should be booked.

**Wednesday, 27th, 2019:**

Arrival

*Typical Tuscany Welcome Wine Tasting (\*)*

**Thursday, February 28 2019:**

08:30 - 09:30 Registration of the Participants

09:00 - 12:30 Conference - Morning Session

14:30 - 18:00 Conference - Afternoon Session

18:00 - 19:00 Observer discussions

*Conference Dinner (\*)*

(Coffee Station open from 10:30 till 16:30)

**Friday, March 1st, 2019:**

08:30 - 09:30 Registration of the Participants

09:00 - 12:30 Conference - Morning Session

14:30 - 17:00 Conference - Afternoon Session

17:00 - 18:00 Observer discussions

*(Coffee Station open from 10:30 till 16:30)*

**Saturday, March 2nd, 2019:**

Free day in Florence

(\*) not included in the fee, to be paid separately

**Symposium “Heritage as a Builder of Peace” (2-3 March 2019)**

Participants in the conference are invited to attend the 21<sup>st</sup> General Assembly and International Symposium of the Romualdo Del Bianco Foundation titled “**Heritage as a Builder of Peace**”, and also present an abstract (deadline 15<sup>th</sup> December 2018). The event is scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2019.

Special conditions of participation are reserved to the participants from ICOMOS.

Please, write to the Secretariat of the Foundation ([secretarygeneral@fondazione-delbianco.org](mailto:secretarygeneral@fondazione-delbianco.org)) to get more information how to attend and present a paper or visit <https://www.lifebeyondtourism.org/events/21-general-assembly-frdb/>.

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ICOMOS ISC Theory of Conservation

ICOMOS ISC Places of Religion and Ritual

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