



# Tracing the Jerusalem Code: The Significance of Jerusalem in Western Christianity

Oslo, MF School of Theology, Gydas vei 4, 0302 Oslo  
December 9-11, 2015

Throughout the entire Christian history, the idea of Jerusalem, earthly and celestial, has been formative to the Christian Church and produced a fundamental structure of literary and visual religious language. In Western Christianity, this *topos* has been so influential that it may be described as a code to Christian culture. A new research project hosted by MF Norwegian School of Theology aims to explore the structuring significance of Jerusalem in Scandinavian history. Through a creative, interdisciplinary and cross-period investigation of literal and visual sources and with the changing idea of Jerusalem as a lens, we want to develop new theoretical perspectives on the history of Christianity in Scandinavia. In order to posit the Scandinavian case, we have invited international scholars to a broader exploration of the formative impact of Jerusalem on identity constructions and legitimation strategies in diverse religious and political traditions.

Register for the conference by contacting [Joar.Haga@mf.no](mailto:Joar.Haga@mf.no)

By registering you will receive conference materials, coffee, tea and snacks.

Prices including all meals: NOK 2000,-

Prices without meals: NOK 300,-

## Conference programme

### Wednesday December 9

0930-1300

Optional pre-conference excursion: Traces of Jerusalem in Norwegian culture: A visit to Norsk Folkemuseum with lunch at the HL-center Studies of Holocaust and Religious Minorities.

Those who wish to attend should notify [Kristin.B.Aavitsland@mf.no](mailto:Kristin.B.Aavitsland@mf.no) before December 1.

1330 Registration, coffee. Venue: MF, Auditorium 4

1400 Words of welcome from Vidar L. Haanes, rector of MF Norwegian School of Theology

### **Session 1: Introductory papers**

Chair: Victor P. Tschudi

1445 Kristin B. Aavitsland. *The Jerusalem Code: The Concept and the Project*

1515 Eivor Andersen Oftestad. *The Jerusalem Code in Early Modern Universal History*

1545 Discussion

1615 Coffee and snacks

### **Session 2: The Jerusalem Code: Crusades and Concepts of Salvation History**

Chair: Eivor Andersen Oftestad

1645 Damien Kempf. *In the flesh, and in the Spirit: The Jerusalem Code after the First Crusade*

1715 Kurt Villads Jensen. *Bringing Jerusalem back home to Scandinavia in the Middle Ages*

1745 Greg Reichberg. *The Crusades Relativized in Journet's Theology of History*

1815 End of program

## **Thursday December 10**

0900 Coffee

### **Session 3: Situating and transferring Jerusalem**

Chair: Kristin B. Aavitsland

0930 Erling Sandmo. *In the Middle of Time: Jerusalem in Early Cartography*

1000 Chris Wood. *The Ass of Verona*

1030 Coffee and snacks

### **Session 4: Jerusalem as Model**

Chair: Joar Haga. 20 min papers allow discussion after each

1100 Øystein Ekroll. *Reflecting the Light: Was the cult of St Olaf of Norway modelled on Jerusalem?*

1130 Lauren Mulholand. *'The mirror which was given in common to us all'. Tracing Jerusalem in Occitania, 1150-1300*

1200 Irina Chernetsky. *San Giovanni and the Idea of Florence as a New Rome and a New Jerusalem*

1230 Lunch

### **Session 5: Tracing the Code Travelling in the Holy Land**

Chair: Line Bonde

1400 Unn Falkeid. *The Burden of Nothingness. Birgitta of Sweden's Jerusalem Visions*

1430 Maria Husabø Oen. *'Apparuit ei Christus in eodem loco...': The Significance of the Earthly Jerusalem for the Transmission of Divine Truth*

1500 Coffee and snacks

1530 Marianne Ritsema van Eck. *Tracing the Franciscan Jerusalem Code (ca. 1480-1650)*

1600 Ragnhild J. Zorgati. *Network and Code in Frederika Bremer's 'Travel to the Holy Land' (1865)*

1630 End of program

### **Friday December 11**

0900 Coffee

### **Session 6: The Political Jerusalem Code: Early modern examples**

Chair: Otfried Czaika

0930 Joar Haga. *The New Jerusalem in Denmark? Exporting Structures of Halle Pietism*

1000 Rolv Nøtvik Jakobsen. *Johann David Michaelis and the historical quest for Palestine and Israel in Scandinavian context in the 18th Century*

1030 Jørgen Sejersted. *Ludvig Holberg's History of the Jews (1742)*

1100 Coffee and snacks

### **Session 7: The Code and the City**

Chair: Arne Bugge Amundsen

1130 Rana Hisham Issa. *This is the New Jerusalem: Rhythms of the Secular in the Geo-Historical Literary Narratives about the City*

1200 Trond Bakkevig. *The Jerusalem Code in Western Christianity in Light of Jewish and Muslim Understanding of Jerusalem*

1230 Concluding remarks

1300 Lunch and end of conference