

CALL FOR PAPERS

Interdisciplinary approaches to the study of sanctuary foundation legends in early modern history (1450-1750)

EuARe – European Academy of Religion

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Hagiographic narratives containing the foundational legends of places of worship serve as a privileged observatory for comprehending historical-devotional dynamics and constitute a valuable source for cultural and social history. The accounts of miraculous events on which is based the history of a sanctuary—such as the miraculous weeping of an image, the apparition of the Virgin, the rediscovering of relics or ancient icons, etc.—are often followed by a list of miracles, generally healings, with the description of rituals and practices. These hagiographic traditions, documented in ‘official’ hagiographic records, collected by local erudite people, or portrayed in pictorial cycles, result from the accumulation of historical information, hagiographic *topoi*, witnesses’ testimonies, and folkloric traditions. While historiography has extensively studied medieval foundation legends, those from the early modern period, often tied to the prevailing Marian cult, still necessitate substantial research.

This panel, part of the activities of the PNRR project ITSERR (Italian Strengthening of the ESFRI RI RESILIENCE), aims to enrich the reflection on the foundation legends of sanctuaries composed—and whose narration is staged—during the early modern period (1450-1750). Among the areas in which we are most interested are: the analysis of legends from a comparative perspective; historical-medical and devotional dynamics; legends as a source for the history of the landscape, animals, and natural elements; magical-folkloric practices and beliefs; the relationship between texts and images.

Proposals may encompass the examination of foundation legends in the form of hagiographic texts and/or images (such as cycles of paintings, painted panels, etc.) within a global perspective not only limited to Italy and Europe, but also open to Latin America and Asia. Given the interdisciplinary nature of the proposal, scholars from diverse research fields, including history of religions, history of Christianity, modern history, history of medicine, folk studies, art history, material history, cultural history, are particularly encouraged to participate.

Interested scholars can send a short proposal including a title, an academic biography, and a 300-word abstract to **marco.papasidero [at] unipa.it** by 15 February 2024. The email address is also available for further information.