



## DOCTORAL TRAINING WORKSHOP

### THE BALKANS. SPACES, SOCIETIES, HISTORY

II<sup>nd</sup> summer school. Thessaloniki 18-22 September 2023

### RELIGION AND POLITICS : BETWEEN *RES PUBLICA* AND PRIVATE PRACTICES (South-Eastern Europe, post-soviet countries and Eastern Mediterranean)

#### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

This workshop proposes, in connection with the Greek field, to reflect on the articulation between religion and politics, on the place of religion in the public space. Located at the interface between the post-Soviet space and the Eastern Mediterranean, Greece today constitutes a particularly rich field of observation in which the configurations observed at the local level are articulated with political and geopolitical stakes. The modern and contemporary history of Greece also offers numerous examples of the challenges and effects of the tensions between the "public thing" (*res publica*) and private practices. The objective of the workshop will be in particular to show the importance of observing the contemporary in order to construct valid tools of interpretation for the older periods.

These tools are first of all those of an anthropology, necessarily historical, of the religious in Southeast Europe and those of social and cultural history. The objective of the workshop is also to set up a multidisciplinary dialogue. The contribution of professionals (museums, cultural programmers, artists, writers, journalists) is also envisaged. Our goal is to generate new research that emphasizes the comparative aspect.

Four themes are proposed and will give rise to theoretical presentations, research reports as well as field visits and meetings with local interlocutors.

#### Theme 1 : Circulations, migrations, practices

We will observe how the social sciences take up a salient feature of the religious fact in South-East Europe, namely the diversity of confessions and the variability of beliefs and practices. This theme also takes into account movements at several levels; it questions the dimension of "living together" and the phenomena of syncretism, conversion, and at the same time the logics

of exclusion or forced conversion. The separation between the public and private spheres will be examined through an analysis of the practices and visibility of cults. Attention will also be paid to "neo-religions" and their establishment.

#### Theme 2: Figures of exemplarity (heroes, martyrs, saints)

We will work on their identification in historical time, on the modern and contemporary evolutions of national and "secular" heroes, martyrs (for example: the "martyrs of communism"); national saints; national appropriations of saints common to Christianity; neo-saints and neo-martyrs. We will be interested in the ambivalence: sacred 'heroes' for some - 'villains' for others. A second objective is to highlight the conditions and devices (political, symbolic, etc.) that allow the emerging cult of a hero, martyr or saint to "take hold" and assert itself, to settle and radiate within a society.

#### Theme 3: Crises, turning points, wars

We will deal with turning points or moments of rupture that allow us to approach political and societal transformations in a new light. This is the case of political changes that sweep away a "dominant religion" to impose another. Another group of interrogations that can illustrate this perspective are the socio-political ruptures opened with the establishment of communist regimes through the enterprises of forced secularization, then by their erasure. From inter-imperial conflicts to wars of national emancipation, to "revolutions" or coups d'état, we will question the impact of the forms of change of political order on the institutional frameworks of religion.

#### Theme 4: Institutions and territories

Finally, the training aims to explore the articulation between changes of order or regime and the profound socio-cultural transformations that accompany them, and the processes as well as the upheavals affecting the institutional frameworks of the religious life of communities. Seemingly similar historical processes, which lead to the destruction of institutional religious frameworks and/or the creation of new ones, are juxtaposed; they are to be placed in a broader comparative horizon and new perspectives of interpretation. The structuring of tourist activity around religious buildings and events shows how much these elements still mark the landscapes and representations of Mediterranean, Eastern European and Balkan territories.

The working sessions will be conceived as places of interdisciplinary discussion across geographical spaces. Each session will combine, on a specific theme, a conference focused on theoretical and methodological contributions with presentations by young researchers. The program will be completed by excursions and evening activities.

The summer school will welcome from Monday 18 to Friday 22 September 2023 about fifteen PhD and M2 students in history, art history, geography, anthropology, sociology, political science and literature. The working language will be English but a passive knowledge of French will be appreciated. Transportation costs must be covered by their educational institutions; accommodation and meals will be provided by the organizing institutions.

Applications should be made online via the [Missions de l'EFA](#) platform before **February 28, 2023** and include:

- an application form
- a CV
- a letter of motivation
- one reference
- a short description of the thesis (3,000 signs)

The selection of participants will be published in mid-March. They must commit themselves for the whole duration of the training.

Organizing partners: École française d'Athènes, École française de Rome, CETOBAC (UMR 8032 CNRS/EHESS), Aix-Marseille University (Institut SoMuM, UMR 7303 TELEMMe AMU-CNRS), Università degli studi di Trieste, Lab "Culture, Borders, Gender" (Thessaloniki University).