

# Exploring the own West. Pilgrimage and travel in the Russian Empire in the 19th century

5th URIS-Workshop

Monday, 20 May 2019, 2.00 – 6.00 pm

Thanks to the development of modern infrastructure and other factors of socio-political change, geographical mobility in the Russian Empire intensified in the second half of the 19th century. An increasing number of travellers, pilgrims and tourists started exploring the own country. To which extent did travel in Russia differ from that in Western Europe? Did mobility facilitate the spatial integration of the polyethnic empire? Or did the encounter with «the Other» enhance feelings of regional and/or national belonging?

2.00 pm

## «Orthodox Pilgrimages in Late Imperial Russia: A Golden Age»

Lecture by Christine D. Worobec,

Distinguished Research Professor em., Northern Illinois University

The lecture will examine the surge in Eastern Orthodox Pilgrimages in Late Imperial Russia through the lens of modernization. A number of developments like the emancipation of peasants from serfdom in 1861, the dramatic growth of steamship and railway traffic, and the explosion of the religious press facilitated that modernization. Religious and socio-economic changes within monasteries that involved expanding services to the laity, the need for these institutions to be self-sustaining, the celebration of anniversaries of the founding of medieval religious institutions and the development of new saints' cults also fostered the tremendous growth in pilgrimages. Highlights will include discussion of the impact of these trends on pilgrimages to holy sites in Ukrainian and Belorussian areas, the centre, the far north, and the Holy Land.

3.30 pm

## Coffee Break

4.00 pm

## Roundtable Discussion

with Christine D. Worobec, Kateryna Dysa, F. Benjamin Schenk  
Chair: Anna Hodel Laszlo



*Pilgrims near Kievo-Pecherskaia Lavra*

## Venue

University of Basel, Petersplatz 1, 4051 Basel  
Main Building «Kollegiengebäude»  
Lecture Room 103, First Floor

## Contact and precirculated paper

Anne Hasselmann  
uris@unibas.ch