Center for Iconographic Studies - University of Rijeka
Department of Art History, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Split
The Department of Education, Cultural Heritage and Tourism, University of Macerata

in collaboration with

COST project: CA18129 - Islamic Legacy: Narratives East, West, South, North of the
Mediterranean (1350-1750)

are pleased to announce

CALL FOR PAPERS

for the Fifteenth International Conference of Iconographic Studies

Iconography and Religious Otherness

that will take place in

Rijeka (Croatia), June 10 - 11, 2021

Deadline for paper proposals: **January 15, 2021**

The creation of Otherness is a process by which a dominant group (*Self, Us*) constructs one or more outer groups (*Them, Others*) by assigning them different features and attributes, real or imagined. This continuous process was not only directed towards the outside, but also towards the inside, that is, towards dissident groups. With the recent political challenges, Otherness has become a highly relevant and frequently discussed topic among scholars from different disciplines, predominantly philosophy, anthropology, sociology, but also including literature (philology), art history and others. The aim of this conference is to put together scholars who would discuss and reconsider the concept of Otherness from an iconographic and iconological point of view. Scholars are invited to present proposals on different topics related to the construction of otherness in iconography i.e. the visualization of the Religious Other throughout all historical periods.

The themes may include, but are not limited to:

o Otherness in Antiquity and in the late ancient Mediterranean (4th-9th centuries). This might include the interaction of Christianity with the previous monotheistic and polytheistic religions in the Mediterranean (notably Judaism, Manichaeism, paganism, Zoroastrianism). How did these cults influence the building of images of more recent religions and how did such images fit into their vision of history?

o Visual strategies in Christian-Muslim encounters

o Art and conversion. How were images used as a mechanism for the conversion of the religious other: the image of the "converso" versus images for conversion

o Which sources (textual, iconographic) have been used to build and represent Otherness: exotic, oriental and other distant places?

o Images of religious dissent (heresy towards orthodoxy)

o Mental images of the Other

o How did political power participate in the process of building Religious Otherness?

o Otherness and the construction of the concept of race. Ethnic and regional diversity and its reception in visual culture

o Monstrosity and deformity as a visual expression of Otherness (mappa mundi)

o Visual evidence of social transgressions: breaking norms and rules in the creation of religious Otherness

o Theoretical approach to the perception of the Other

o Otherness in secular visual culture and marginal iconography

o Otherness in contemporary art and visual culture

Paper proposals should be submitted electronically to cis@ffri.hr by **January 15, 2021**

A paper proposal should contain:

1. **short CV with full name, institution, affiliation, address, phone number, e-mail address**
2. **title**
3. **abstract (maximum 2 pages – 500 words)**

Deadline: January 15, 2021
Invitations to participate will be sent out by email before February 15, 2021

There is NO registration fee

Administration and organizational costs, working materials, lunch and coffee breaks during conference, closing dinner as well as all organized visits are covered by the organizers.

In case of the corona pandemic the conference will be held online.

The presented papers will be published in the thematic issue of IKON – Journal of iconographic studies in May 2022.

Please contact us for any additional information
Contact person:
Antonia Zurga
Center for Iconographic Studies
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
University of Rijeka
Sveucilisna avenija 4, 51 000 Rijeka, Croatia
E-mail: cis@ffri.hr
web page: http://ikon.ffri.hr