



## ALTERITAS - Interazione tra i popoli

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### ***Simple twists of faith. Changing beliefs, changing faiths: people and places.***

#### **Alteritas International and Multidisciplinary Project Miscellany and Round Table (2016)**

The change in worship of polytheistic societies or the change of faith in the monotheistic ones, is a phenomenon studied by specialists of different historical, archaeological, anthropological or historical-religious disciplines, but never seen in a multidisciplinary perspective as a unitary phenomenon. By studying the interactions between people and trying to identify and describe the elements of exchange and knowledge of the Other, Alteritas now wants to deal with a religious phenomenon that involves both people and places, both the modern and the ancient world.

For individuals a change of faith or voluntary switching to another religion is sometimes a strategy that accompanies the process of integration as a result of migration, and it is upon these processes, in particular, that we intend to dwell. The assumption of the faith / confession / worship of the host society at the expense of the original one is a process that accompanies a change of identity, with the perspective of being welcomed in a new context and having the same opportunities. Religion or beliefs, like the language, the customs and habits of daily life, becomes an element of a negotiation of personal identity. The religious practice of the country of origin may be abandoned, modified, or denied, jealously preserved and passed on from father / mother to son / daughter, by virtue of parameters such as the representativeness of the original group in the new society, the willingness to intermarry, the reception of the new world.

Similarly, some places of worship are intended not only to accommodate different rites simultaneously, but also present the succession of different cults in different historical periods. In the ancient world there are known cases of multi belief sanctuaries, where people of different origins and different beliefs came together, where the individual communities of foreigners could practice their rites in private spaces, contiguous to those of the rite of the majority. This practice is observed up to the contemporary age, where simultaneous celebrations of rites are more indicative of a culture accustomed to interaction and permeability. These places can become an expression of a collective "polyphonic" identity instead of a uniform and selective one.

As a form which has been tested and aimed at encouraging critical comparison between scholars, Alteritas seeks to collect contributions from different disciplines in a single volume, to be published by the end of 2015 after the establishment of a pre-print that will be made available to authors even before the final publication. The book will then be presented in a panel discussion to be held in the spring / summer 2016.

Contributions of approaches from literary studies, the social sciences, history, anthropology, archaeology, religious studies and geography, which demonstrate reflection on the subject, are



welcomed. Scholars are invited to participate who wish to compare their own perspective in a multidisciplinary context and with a diachronic perspective.

**Possible topics:**

Multifunctional sanctuaries  
Change of cult in mono cult sanctuaries  
Change of faith and integration  
Voluntary conversion  
Family relations in conversion  
Questions of identity  
Relations between generations.

The book, with an ISBN and subject to peer-review, will be permanently published in print and e-book formats edited by Alteritas.

**The project schedule comprises the following dates:**

- November 20, 2014: Sending of the proposal (abstract)
- December 29, 2014: Selection of proposals
- July 30, 2015: deadline for submitting paper
- December 29, 2015 sending of proofs
- February 28, 2016 pre-print
- End of June 2016: roundtable
- Fall 2016: printing of book.

**Scientific and organizational board**

Simona Marchesini, Alteritas, Verona  
James Nelson Novoa, Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Alfredo Buonopane, University of Verona  
Mariaclara Rossi, University of Verona  
Silvia Carraro, Alteritas, Verona  
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Dionigi Albera, Musée des Civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée, Marseille  
Paul-André Turcotte, Association Française pour la Formation et la Recherche en Sciences Sociales (AFFRESS), Chatrenton le Pont  
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