

Mensšíková, Tereza; Trtílek, Jan

Editorial

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Dear readers,

filled with great pleasure, we present you with a new issue of Sacra which holds the proud title of being the first fully international and English written issue in the history of the journal. The path to its publication was not an easy one and was deeply intertwined with the organization of the International Religious Studies Doctoral Conference ROAR – Resistance to Order and Authority in Religion which took place in October 15–17, 2020, partly on the premises of the Central European University in Budapest, partly on the Zoom online platform.

The ROAR conference was a fruit of a collaboration between students of three institutions – Department for the Study of Religions at the Masaryk University, Center for Religious Studies at the Eötvös Loránd University, and Center for Religious Studies at the Central European University. It hosted five panel sessions comprising seventeen speakers and two keynote speaker sessions. The panels focused on various topics ranging from different historical forms of religious resistance to religious authority, how the religious and/or national identity can be used as a means of resistance, to probes into daily life of counter-cultural religious movements. The opening keynote lecture was presented by Michael F. Strmiska (State University of New York) on the theme of Paganism and Pluralism in Eastern Europe: Past, Present, Future. The closing keynote lecture was presented by Aleš Chalupa (Masaryk University) who spoke on the Macro-historical Aspects of the Christianization of the Roman Empire: From a Subversive Sect to the Foundation of the Christian Empire.

The idea of approaching doctoral students from foreign universities with the aim to inspire them to publish their papers in Sacra was born in the mind of one of the co-organizers of the conference and our editor Jan Trtílek. Thanks to his effort, email inboxes were set in motion and led to the creation of two studies, two scholarly essays, and profiles of the three universities that participated in the conference.

The first text we present is the study of Dissident Ecclesiologies in Early Fourteenth Century Languedoc by Andreas Kofinakis from Department of History & Archaeology, University of Athens in Greece. In his text, Kofinakis uses the existing knowledge of the Languedoc Beguin heretics to comment on Lester R. Kurtz's sociological approach to heresy. The second article from the pen of Yevgeniy Davydov, with formal affiliation to Comparative History at Central European University, focuses on the Leo Tolstoy's Critique of Socialism in the Context of his Religious Ideas. Davydov presents series of arguments that challenge the image of Tolstoy as a socialist and analyze Tolstoy's relationship towards religion. The next two texts fall into the category of Short Essays and Comments and combine the scholarly and popular form. The first essay authored by Marco Gabbas from the Cold War History Research Center at Corvinus University of Budapest focuses on the analysis of writings by the Colombian Catholic priest Camilo Torres Restrepo. In his text titled Camilo

Torres, Liberation Theology, and Marxism *Gabbas looks at the figure of Camilo Torres from the complexity of his identities and follows Torres' grounding in the liberation theology. The second essay, authored by Attila Miklovicz, a graduate student from the Department of Religious Studies at Szeged University of Sciences, discusses the link between Scientology and Physical Violence based on the analysis of the media coverage in Hungary, and a brief insight into the works of L. Ron Hubbard. Finally, the issue concludes with a series of university profiles written by its representatives, providing essential information about the universities and the departments, their goals and future directions.*

This issue of Sacra represents a long-term quest for student international cooperation in the field of religious studies throughout the Europe and, thus, pursues not only the scientific but also the very human endeavor for collaboration.

On behalf of the entire editorial board of Sacra, we wish you pleasant reading.

Tereza Menšíková and Jan Trtílek