

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

# Spaces, Landscapes and Social Lives of the Cross in Medieval Armenia and Georgia



6 NOVEMBER 2023  
7 NOVEMBER 2023

UNIVERSITY  
OF FRIBOURG

MIS 2029  
(SALLE DE CINÉMA)

SNSF PROJECT  
CULTURAL INTERACTIONS IN  
THE MEDIEVAL SUBCAUCA-  
SIAN REGION: HISTORIOGRA-  
PHICAL AND ART-HISTORICAL  
PERSPECTIVES

**6 NOVEMBER 2023**

**MIS 2029**

- 09h00 Greetings and Introduction: Michele BACCI and Gohar GRIGORYAN  
Opening: Prof. Dr. Franz MALI, Vice-Rector, University of Fribourg  
H.E. Andranik HOVHANNISYAN, Ambassador of Armenia to the Swiss Confederation  
H.E. Revaz LOMINADZE, Ambassador of Georgia to the Swiss Confederation

**Chair: Michele BACCI**

- 09h30 Peter S. COWE (Los Angeles)  
The complex profile of the cross in seventh-century Armenia  
10h00 Zaroui POGOSSIAN (Florence)  
The veneration of True Cross relics in medieval Armenia: the seventh-century turning point  
10h30 Coffee/tea break

- 11h00 Erik THUNØ (New Brunswick)  
Heavenly crosses and their hovering angels in medieval Georgia

- 11h30 Ekaterine GEDEVANISHVILI (Tbilisi)  
Under the sign of the cross: The Georgian façade decoration and its historical and religious contexts

- 12h00 Annette HOFFMANN (Florence) and Gerhard WOLF (Florence)  
Wood – Vine – Hair. A material approach to Saint Nino's cross

12h30 Lunch

**Chair: Gohar GRIGORYAN**

- 14h30 Thomas KAFFENBERGER (Fribourg) and Patrick DONABÉDIAN (Aix-Marseille)  
Iconic ornaments – façade crosses in the Caucasus and beyond.  
Part I: the Georgian perspective. Part II: the Armenian perspective  
15h30 Annalisa MORASCHI (Brno, Paris)  
The cross on the gorge: a sacralization of the landscape in thirteenth-century Armenia?  
16h00 Coffee/tea break

**Chair: Natalia CHITISHVILI**

- 16h30 François PACHA MIRAN (Paris)  
Sign of Victory: images of the cross in Syriac manuscripts (12<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup> centuries)  
17h00 Alexandre VARELA (Fribourg)  
Cross, relics, monasteries and *furtum sacrum*: Relationships between Syriacs and Armenians around the Holy Cross in Tûr Abdîn (South Eastern Turkey)  
17h30 End  
19h00 Dinner

# 7 NOVEMBER 2023

## MIS 2029

09h20 Greetings

### **Chair: Alexandre VARELA**

09h30 Michele BACCI (Fribourg)

The holy sites of the cross in Palestine: Armenian and Georgian perspectives

10h00 Daniel GALADZA (Rome, Vienna)

The worship of the cross in the liturgies of Jerusalem

10h30 Nazénie GARIBIAN (Yerevan)

The 'Story of Vatchagan' and the cult of the cross in Early Christian

Artsakh/Karabakh and Caucasian Aluania

11h00 Coffee/tea break

### **Chair: Sofia ZOITOU**

11h30 Hamlet PETROSYAN (Yerevan)

The principles of organization of open-air sacred space in Armenian Christianity  
and the *khachkar*

12h00 Gohar GRIGORYAN (Fribourg)

Cross as apotropaic weapon of Christ

12h30 Lunch

### **Chair: Manuela STUDER-KARLEN**

14h30 Sipana TCHAKERIAN (Paris)

From K'asał to Bolnisi Sioni (and beyond): the joint development of cross-be-  
ring, four-sided stela monuments in Late Antique Armenia and Iberia

15h00 Zaruh Hakobyan (Yerevan)

Emperor Heraclius, the True Cross and the early medieval stelae. Memorial co-  
lumns and free-standing crosses in Armenia and Georgia

15h30 Coffee/tea break

### **Chair: Thomas KAFFENBERGER**

16h00 Igor DORFMANN-LAZAREV (Sofia)

The veneration of the cross and religious blending in the South Caucasus in the  
twelfth-thirteenth centuries

16h30 Manuela STUDER-KARLEN (Bern)

Images around the cross: Depicting the Passion cycle in Georgian churches  
(thirteenth-fourteenth centuries)

17h00 Final discussion & Conclusions: Michele BACCI, Gohar GRIGORYAN and Vesna ŠĆEPANOVIĆ

17h30 End

19h00 Dinner



#### ORGANISATION: CHAIR OF MEDIEVAL ART

MICHELE BACCI, NATALIA CHITISHVILI, GOHAR GRIGORYAN, THOMAS KAFFENBERGER, VESNA SCEPANOVIC

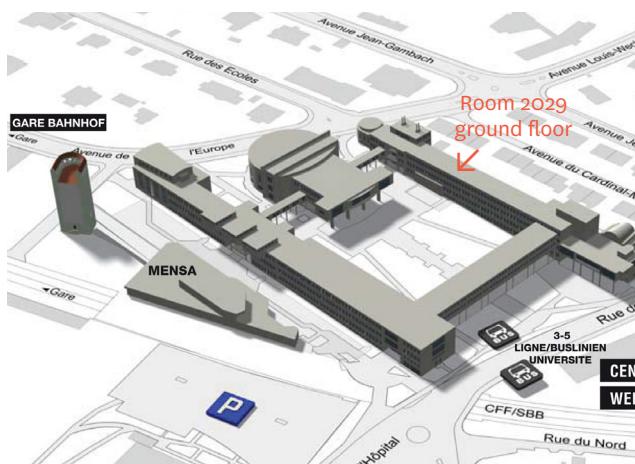
#### SUPPORTED BY

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#### INFORMATION AND CONTACT



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#### IMAGES

On cover page:

*Khachkar* (cross-stone), 14<sup>th</sup> century, Noravank, Armenia. Photo: Hrair Hawk Khatcherian

Above:

Pilgrim crosses on the walls of the flight of steps to the St Helena Chapel, Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem. Photo: Michele Bacci