ABOUT THE AUTHORS AND EDITORS

Tahar Abbou has a Ph.D. in African Civilization and is Assistant Professor at the University of Adrar, Algeria. He is a Lifetime Member of the West African Research Association (WARA), Boston University, and a Member of the Laboratory of Algerian Manuscripts in Africa. His areas of interest are the ancient empires and kingdoms in West Africa, slavery (Trans-Atlantic and Trans-Saharan slave trade), the Gold Coast (pre-colonial and colonial periods), manuscripts, Sufism, and anthropological studies on the regions of Tuat, Gurara, and Tidikelt. abboutahar@hotmail.com

Sergiusz Anoszko (En: Siarhei Anoshka), born 1986 in Mahiloŭ, Belarus, graduated with degrees in history from the Arkadz Kuliashoŭ University in 2009 and Catholic theology from the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw in 2016. He worked as a history and civics teacher from 2009 to 2011. He has been a PhD student at the latter university since 2016, specializing in theology of religion. He has also handled classes on Oriental Churches, Theory and History of New Religious Movements, and Christology in the same university. His research interests revolve around theology, sociology, and new religious movements, particularly the Church of Scientology, the Bahá'í faith, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. anoshka@email.ua

Marie Baens Boncan graduated magna cum laude and top of the BA Organizational Communication Class of 2019 at the University of the Philippines Manila. She is currently completing an internship with the United Nations Development Programme where she works on the content creation and online management of all UNDP social media channels. Other than her academic and professional accomplishments, she advocates for several humanitarian causes. She has organized and participated in successful benefit projects for charitable organizations, one of them being The Heart at Play Foundation, which provides dance therapy to the special-needs community. With her experience growing up in a developing country and her overseas travels, she has developed an interest in development communication, intercultural studies, as well as social science research. Her future endeavors include pursuing further studies in international affairs. mbboncan@up.edu.ph

Lior Chen is a PhD student in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His areas of interest include anthropology of religion, sacred sites, structuring sacredness, and authenticity and the political aspects of pilgrimage sites. His PhD dissertation "A River Runs Through Them: The (Re)creation of Three Baptism Sites Along the Jordan River" examines the re-formation process of sacred places in the present era, in the Holy Land (nowadays referred as the State of Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and the Kingdom of Jordan). The study, supported by the Israeli Presidential Scholarship for outstanding doctoral students, focuses on three emerging baptism sites along the Jordan River. The sites serve as Christian pilgrimage sites but are developed, managed, and controlled by Israeli-Jewish and Jordanian-Muslim agents who compete over the identification of the site as the authentic place for visiting and baptizing. *liorchen6@gmail.com*

Megan Havard Rockwell is Assistant Professor of Spanish at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. She earned her BA from the University of Texas in Austin, and her MA and PhD from Washington University in St Louis. Her research interests include Medieval and Early Modern Iberian Literature and Culture, Pilgrimage Studies, and the Camino de Santiago. She has walked the Camino four times, including as director of a study away program for students in 2017. *meganhavard-rockwell@augustana.edu*

Scott P Libson is Librarian for History and Religious Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington. He completed his PhD at Emory University in 2016, where he was a George W. Woodruff fellow in the history department. He was a dissertation fellow at the Danforth Center on Religion and Politics at Washington University in St. Louis in 2015-2016. His research and writing explore the boundaries between religious and secular philanthropy during the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, focusing especially on fundraising for Protestant foreign missions. He has also published articles on early American Pentecostalism and short-term mission trips in the late 20th century. *splibson@indiana.edu*

Nesrine Mansour is a PhD candidate in Architecture at Texas A&M University. Originally from Tunisia, she holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Design and worked for four years investigating daylighting design. She has also participated in a project awarded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that experimented with passive daylighting systems. For her PhD, she is researching the interrelationship between religion, media, and architecture by empirically testing the spiritual experience in sacred virtual spaces through a focus on the correlation between light and sacred architecture in the virtual realm. Her interdisciplinary research integrates sacred architecture, communication and mass media, psychology, and digital technology in the digital religion phenomenon. nesserine@tamu.edu

Polgaswatte Paramananda is Deputy Editor in charge of the compiling of a dictionary in Sinhala. He is Visiting Lecturer on Research Methodology of the Pali and Buddhist Department of the University of Sri Jayawardenapura, where he finished his BA Sinhala Language and Literature degree with honors in 1977. He has a PhD in Folkloric Lexicography from the University of Huazhong in China, apart from two Master's degrees and a Diploma of Buddhist Studies. *prevpolgaswatte@yahoo.com*

Alison T Smith is Assistant Professor in the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina. She teaches French, Spanish, and Women's and Gender Studies, and her research explores the intersections of these fields with film, literature and pedagogy. Her recent publications include articles and book chapters on pilgrimage studies. Dr Smith has over 30 years of experience in teaching, and has also directed many study abroad and service learning programs in Europe and Latin America. tsmith22@citadel.edu

Sarah Traylor is a PhD candidate in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at The Ohio State University. Her current project explores the motif of pilgrimage in contemporary German literature. Her research interests include pilgrimage, wanderlust, modernity, and ecology. *traylor.50@osu.edu*

Irena Weber, sociologist and anthropologist, is Assistant Professor of social sciences and humanities in tourism at the Faculty of Tourism Studies – Turistica, University of Primorska. She obtained an MA from the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Ljubljana and a PhD from the Faculty of Arts of the same university. She did non-degree postgraduate research at the SOAS University of London on a British Council Grant and was Visiting Scholar at San Diego State University in 2015. Her research interests include anthropology and sociology of tourism, Mediterranean, cultural heritage, cultural mobility, anthropology of space, culinary tourism, film and literary tourism, qualitative methodology, childhood studies, and art and tourism. She has conducted fieldwork in Central America, the United States, Southeast Asia, Istria, and Montenegro. irena.weber@fts.upr.si

Adrian D Wesolowski is a PhD Candidate at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology within the International Max Planck Research School for Anthropology, Archeology, and History of Eurasia (IMPRS ANARCHIE) and at the Institute of History of Warsaw University. His research interests include the study of fame, history of culture in the 18th and 19th century, and historical dimensions of modern humanitarianism. wesolowski@eth.mpg.de

Chadwick Co Sy Su, editor-in-chief of *The Reflective Practitioner*, is Assistant Professor of Organizational Communication and Philippine Arts at the University of the Philippines Manila's College of Arts and Sciences, where he handles courses ranging from Statistics to Spanish. His attempts to fuse his research interests, teaching, and interest in travel have led to him being among the College's Outstanding Teachers for the last six years, apart from taking him to Europe and Asia for conferences, paper presentations, and publications. *ccsysu@up.edu.ph*

Australian anthropologist **Ian S McIntosh** is this issue's Guest Editor and the founder of the Sacred Journeys project, which brings pilgrimage and religious tourism scholars together from across the world for an annual conference. He has co-edited two volumes on pilgrimage, *Pilgrimage in Practice* and *The Many Voices of Pilgrimage and Reconciliation*, and authored three books on Aboriginal Australian religion, including *The Whale and the Cross, Aboriginal Reconciliation and the Dreaming*, and *Between Two Worlds: Essays in Honour of the Visionary Aboriginal Elder David Burrumarra*. Dr McIntosh is Adjunct Professor in the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy and the IUPUI School of Liberal Arts. He is the director of international partnerships at IUPUI, and the founder of both the Indianapolis Spiritual Trail and the Australian heritage group, Past Masters International. *imcintos@iupui.edu*

Kenneth Rey O Recio, managing editor of *The Reflective Practitioner*, is Instructor of Communication at the University of the Philippines Manila. He is working towards his MA degree in Communication at the University of the Philippines Diliman. His research interests include gossip, social media, and the indigenous peoples. *korecio@up.edu.ph*