



THE ECHO OF ANCESTORS: THE REEMERGENCE AND CLAIMS OF 'ANCIENT' RELIGIONS IN EUROPE

April 3rd and 4th, 2025, University of Strasbourg
MISHA, Salle Europe

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

April 3rd:

9:00 – 9:30 | Welcoming Address and Opening Remarks

- Mélanie Schmitt, University of Strasbourg, Head of the DRES Research Centre

9:30 – 10:45 | Session 1

- Kaarina Aitamurto, University of Helsinki: *European Slavic Native Faith and Social Recognition*
- Fredrik Gregorius, Linköping University: *The Many Faces of Heathen Spirituality*

10:45 – 11:00 | Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:15 | Session 2

- Michael Strmiska, SUNY Orange: *Arguing with the Ancestors: Making the Case for a Paganism without Racism*
- Kerem Görkem Arslan, University of Strasbourg: *Crossroads of Neo-Paganism: The Claims of European and Turkic Neo-Pagan Movements in Turkish Society*

12:15 – 14:00 | Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:30 | Session 3

- Efstathios Kessareas, University of Erfurt: *Hellenic Polytheism in Contemporary Greece: Hellenicity/Greekness as an Apple of Discord*
- Michal Puchovský, Slovak Academy of Sciences: *The Joys and Sorrows of Being a Pagan: Legal, Social, and Political Recognition of Modern Paganism in Slovakia*

15:30 – 15:45 | Coffee Break

15:45 – 17:15 | Roundtable Discussion: Societal Impact

Moderator: Kerem Görkem Arslan

Speakers: Kaarina Aitamurto, Jenny Butler, Rasa Pranskevičiūtė-Amoson, Michael Strmiska, Anne-Laure Zwilling

17:30 | End of Day



April 4th:

09:00 – 10:15 | Session 4

- Eva Arnaszus, University of Bremen: *Legitimizing Religion: How Romuva is Discursively Constructed in Lithuanian Parliamentary Debates*
- Scott Simpson, Jagiellonian University: *Recognition of Rodzimowierstwo in Poland in Theory and Practice*

10:15 – 10:30 | Coffee Break

10:30 – 11:45 | Session 5

- Jenny Butler, University College Cork: *'And Ancient Ireland Knew It All': Ancestors, Antiquity and Contemporary Irish Paganism*
- Rasa Pranskevičiūtė-Amoson, Vilnius University: *The Old Baltic Faith Romuva Movement and State Recognition*

11:45 – 13:30 | Lunch Break

13:30 – 14:15 | Book Overview: *Druidism, Tengrism, Taaraism: Current Reactivations of Ancient Spiritualities and Religions, From Identity to Politics.*

- Anne-Laure Zwillling, CNRS

14:15 – 14:45 | Concluding Remarks: Future Directions for Research on Religious and Spiritual Movements in Europe

- Samim Akgönül, University of Strasbourg

15:00 | End of Workshop

Organizing Committee: Kerem Görkem Arslan, Samim Akgönül

Scientific Committee: Kerem Görkem Arslan, Samim Akgönül, Anne-Laure Zwillling