



**How to arrive at the Fondazione Giorgio Cini**

From San Zaccaria Monumento, Train Station,  
Piazzale Roma: Vaporetto line N. 2, every 12 minutes

**Info**

Fondazione Giorgio Cini  
Centre for Comparative Studies of Cultures  
and Spiritualities  
civilta.comparate@cini.it | www.cini.it



# Embodying Modern “Scientific” Medicine and “Religious/Spiritual” Healing

## *A Comparative Perspective on Non-Voluntary Spirit Possession and Exorcism*

13—15.12.2018

International Conference

Organised by

Fondazione Giorgio Cini  
Isola di San Giorgio Maggiore, Venezia

Andrea De Antoni Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto  
Francesco Piraino Fondazione Giorgio Cini



## Thursday, 13 December 2018

09:30—10:00 | Opening Remarks

**Francesco Piraino** Fondazione Giorgio Cini  
and **Andrea De Antoni** Ritsumeikan University

10:00—11:30 | Keynote Lecture

**Beings Without Bodies:**  
Contemporary Catholic Exorcism  
and the Discourse of Evil

**Thomas Csordas** University of California San Diego

11:30—11:50 | Coffee Break

11:50—12:50

**Embodied Alienation:**  
The Politics of Medicalized Involuntary  
Possession in Nicaragua

**Maria D. Venegas** University of Pittsburgh

12:50—14:30 | Lunch Break

14:30—15:30

**Between Obsessive Compulsive  
Disorder and the Devil's Whispers:**  
Reconfiguring Islamic Healing and  
Psychiatry in Contemporary Egypt

**Ana Vinea** University of Michigan

15:30—16:30

**Living with Spirits:**  
Interactions between Humans  
and Non-Humans

**Marta Camilla Wright** University of Bergen

16:30—16:50 | Coffee Break

16:50—17:50

**Metaphors of Air and Embodied  
Social Change in North India**

**Akanksha Awal** University of Oxford

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## Friday, 14 December 2018

10:00—11:00

**Fragile Beings:**  
Care, Practice, and the Path of Spirit  
Possession

**Miho Ishii** Kyoto University

11:00—11:20 | Coffee Break

11:20—12:20

**When Ancestral Shrines Turn  
into 'Physicians' Consultation Rooms:**  
Bodily and Sensorial Approaches to Spirit  
Possession Practices in Northern Zimbabwe

**Olga Sicilia** University of Vienna

12:20—14:30 | Lunch Break

14:30—15:30

**"She's Coming out Dead or Alive":**  
*Sufi* Jinn Extraction and Scientific  
Healing in the Qadiri-Rifa'i Tariqa

**Melinda Krokus** Marywood University

15:30—15:50 | Coffee Break

15:50—16:50

**Modern Eastern Orthodox Stances  
on Spirit Possession and Exorcism:**  
Tradition and Innovation

**Yuri Stoyanov** University of London

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## Saturday, 15 December 2018

10:00—11:00

**Disembodying Spirits:**  
Moving from Wild to Cultivated  
Channeling

**Adam Klin-Oron** The Van Leer Jerusalem  
Institute, Israel

11:00—11:20 | Coffee Break

11:20—12:20

**Disclosing Experiences of Spirit  
Possession:**  
An Analysis of Testimonials about  
Spirit Possession Published on Japanese  
Spiritual Healers' Websites

**Birgit Staemmler** University of Tübingen

12:20—14:30 | Lunch Break

14:30—15:30

**Where I End and You Begin:**  
Steps to Comparing Entanglements  
of Spirit Possession and Biomedicine

**Andrea De Antoni** Ritsumeikan University

15:30—15:50 | Closing Remarks

**Francesco Piraino** Fondazione Giorgio Cini  
and **Andrea De Antoni** Ritsumeikan University