

# Transcendence in the Small Gestures of Life

Attention and Care for Nature and Humans in  
Religious Traditions

Fondazione Giorgio Cini



Sunrise over Lake Leanemaa at Orkjärve Nature Reserve, Estonia [Public domain, Wikimedia Commons]

Conference

2 — 3 October 2025



CENTRO STUDI  
DI CIVILTÀ E SPIRITUALITÀ  
COMPARATE  
fondazione ONLUS  
GIORGIO CINI



**easa**  
European Association of Social Anthropologists  
Association Européenne des Anthropologues Sociaux



**CREAa**  
Centro di Ricerche Etnografiche  
e di Antropologia applicata  
"Francesca Cappelletto"



UNIVERSITÀ  
di **VERONA**

Dipartimento  
di **SCIENZE UMANE**

The conference is organized jointly by the Centre for Comparative Studies of Civilisations and Spiritualities (Fondazione Giorgio Cini), the Muslim Worlds Network of the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), and the Centro di Ricerche Etnografiche e Antropologia applicata "Francesca Cappelletto" (CREAa) of the Department of Human Sciences of the University of Verona.

# Tuesday, 2 October 2025

Fondazione Giorgio Cini | Venice, Island of San Giorgio Maggiore

09:30 – 10:00

Welcome greetings

- **Francesco Piraino** (Fondazione Giorgio Cini)
- **Lili Di Puppo** (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg / KU Leuven)
- **Fabio Vicini** (University of Verona)

10:00 – 11:00

Panel: Disarticulating Transcendence in the Everyday

- **Paolo Sartori** (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna)  
Historicising The Religion of the Inarticulate: The Spirituality of Labour in Socialist Uzbekistan
- **Burcu Kalpaklıoğlu** (University of Amsterdam)  
Women's Sense of their *Hak*, Divine Justice, and Economies of Divorce in Istanbul

Chair: Francesco Piraino (Fondazione Giorgio Cini)

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee break

11:30 – 12:30

Panel: Everyday Care and the Sacred

- **Mahiye Seçil Dağtas** (University of Waterloo / Balsillie School of International Affairs)  
The Afterlives of Catastrophe: The Everyday Rhythms of the Sacred in Post-Earthquake Antakya
- **Stefan Williamson Fa** (University of Cambridge)  
Food Encounters: The “Throwntogetherness” of Food, Faith, and Care in London

Chair: Fabio Vicini (University of Verona)

14:30 – 15:30

Panel: Experiencing Subtle Forms of Transcendence

- **Maria Louw** (Aarhus University)  
Pilgrimage in Stillness
- **Paige Scanlon** (Harvard Divinity School)  
Clapping Toward Clarity: How Nuns Use Tibetan Buddhist Debate as a Practice of Care

Chair: Lili Di Puppo (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg / KU Leuven)

# Friday, 3 October 2025

Fondazione Giorgio Cini | Venice, Island of San Giorgio Maggiore

10:00 – 11:00

Panel: Nature, Body, and Transcendence

- **Roshan Iqbal** (Agnes Scott College)  
Embodied Rituals and Transcendence in Women's Bathhouses
- **Alba Siguero Lizano** (Complutense University of Madrid)  
From Being in Nature to Being Nature: The Sensory Dimension of Eco-Spiritual Political Ontologies

Chair: Lili Di Puppo (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg / KU Leuven)

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee break

11:30 – 12:30

Panel: Transcendence and Beauty in Pilgrimage

- **Kholoud Al-Ajarma** (University of Edinburgh)  
Pilgrimage as Ecological Awakening: Islamic Ethics of Care during and after the Hajj
- **Khando Langri** (Stanford University)  
Circumambulating Exile: Beauty, Care and Adornment in Tibetan Refugee Daily Practices of Kora

Chair: Fabio Vicini (University of Verona)

14:30 – 16:00

Plenary