



Center for Democracy, Toleration, and Religion



In 2006, the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Columbia University received a large multi-year grant from the Henry R. Luce Initiative on Religion and Public Affairs to establish a Center for the Study of Democracy, Toleration, and Religion (CDTR) under the directorship of Professor Alfred Stepan, Wallace S. Sayre Professor of Government. Central to its mandate was the exploration of why and how inter-religious tolerance can be developed and sustained in heterogeneous societies, and why it breaks down. Professor Stepan established a vibrant CDTR which continued to get grants from the Luce Foundation. Professor Karen Barkey joined Professor Stepan as co-director of the Center in 2011.

In 2013, Barkey and Stepan were awarded another grant from the Luce Foundation, titled Religious Toleration and Plural Democracies encompassing three projects and three years. The first project explored Sufi Islam in the 21st century. The second project concerned Islam, Democracy, and Toleration in Muslim Nations and the third project suggested the study of sharing of sacred sites and the politics of pluralism. The grant was successfully completed and various book manuscripts are under preparation.

In the fall of 2016 Karen Barkey joined the University of California, Berkeley faculty, bringing CDTR to the Berkeley campus. CDTR is now located in Matrix, as one of its affiliated centers. It is also associated and functions in coordination with BCSR, the Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion, run by Professors Jonathan Sheehan and Mark Csikszentmihalyi and set in the Humanities.

Its mission under Matrix is to develop further a social scientific approach to the study of religion and to engage the topics of religious pluralism, religion and democracy and the study of religion and education. In each of these defined areas, CDTR has had tremendous successes raising funds and organizing workshops and publishing books in a series previously edited by Stepan and then by Barkey.



Director, Karen Barkey
barkey@berkeley.edu

Karen Barkey is faculty in Sociology with expertise in Comparative Historical Sociology, Political Sociology and Religion. Her main area of interest at this stage is in issues of coexistence and diversity in imperial settings as models for contemporary discussions. Her main project is on Shared Sacred Sites.



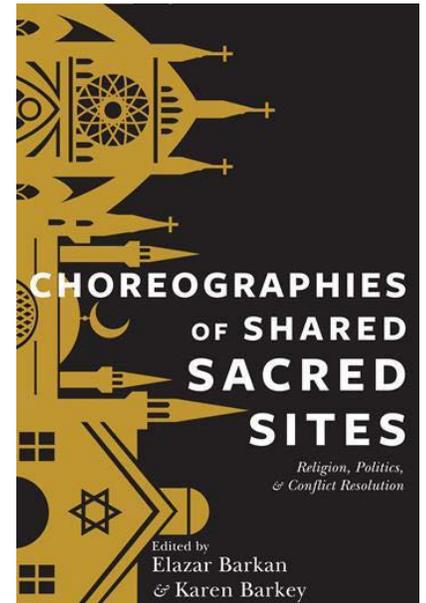
Democracy and Religious Pluralism

The Book Series at Columbia University Press published books on religion and democracy in Turkey, Senegal, Indonesia and now is publishing the last of this series on Egypt and Tunisia. These books reflect on the various entanglements of religion and democracy in Muslim majority countries. CDTR at UC Berkeley intends to continue this focus. We have already had a major international conference (with the help of HIFIS) on Religious Pluralism and Democracy in India, Pakistan and Turkey. Sudipta Kaviraj and Karen Barkey are now editing a conference volume from this event and will continue their working relationship on issues of religious diversity, democracy and secularism.

Shared Sacred Sites and the Politics of Pluralism

The book series at CU Press has published *Choreographies of Shared Sacred Sites: Religion, Politics, and Conflict Resolution*. (New York: Columbia University Press) edited by Barkan and Barkey.

We have also developed a new website, shredsacredsites.net, a collaborative website to where we have posted our work from our Digital Humanities project, to our ethnographic notes and also our Museum Project. We plan to expand on each of these parts of the website, especially as we develop new sites of research and we make agreements for new museum exhibitions. CDTR hopes to collaborate with Matrix and BCSR to organize an exhibition at the UC, Berkeley campus and beyond. The original exhibition (*Lieux Saints Partagés*) was organized at the MUCEM (Musée des Civilisations de l'Europe & de la Méditerranée) and is traveling to Thessaloniki, Istanbul, and New York City.



Future Plans and Looking Forward

CDTR plans in the next two academic years to expand research and sites to Morocco and post-Yugoslav countries, especially Macedonia and Bosnia where numerous sites are shared, but with also new forms of contestation emerging. For Morocco we plan to collaborate with Dionigi Albera and Manöel Penicaud from IDEMEC, CNRS in Aix-en-Provence, France. For the Bosnian and Macedonian research we plan to collaborate with Glenn Bowman and David Henig from University of Kent, Canterbury.

Questions? Please visit karenbarkey.com and shredsacredsites.net

