



**CEES**  **CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE  
IN ESTONIAN STUDIES**



**NATURE AND CULTURE IN THE RITUALS, NARRATIVES AND BELIEFS**  
*The 14th Annual Conference of the Centre of Excellence in Estonian Studies* and  
*The 5th International Conference in the series*  
**Balkan and Baltic States in United Europe: History, Religion, and Culture**



## **Workshop**

### **SACRED SITES AS SITES OF PROBLEMS**

**September 19. Monday.**

**17:00 – 18:30**

**19 сентября. Понедельник.**

**17:00 – 18:30**

Convenor **Kristel Kivari** (University of Tartu),  
**Elo-Hanna Seljamaa** (University of Tartu),  
**Tõnno Jonuks** (Estonian Literary Museum)

#### **Estonian Literary Museum, Tartu, Estonia**

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Estonian+Literary+Museum/@58.373895,26.7155176,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x46eb371feb131e9:0xe45379e05185d36d!8m2!3d58.3738922!4d26.7177062>

Sacred sites outside of defined religious frameworks function as a nexus of many voices of vernacular; be they places of perceiving transcendental touch of nature, walking on the pathways of saints or historical figures, celebrating the calendar feasts, or commemorating the events in history. These voices are seldom in line with each other.

Various management of public space and nature often needs to rely on sufficient sources and data to define the place as significant and meaningful. The frameworks of recognition and protection have their socio-political background and tools for operating.

Considering all that, sacred sites function as great arenas for debating over the nature of sacrality, legitimacy and traditions of various practices. Their ability to raise more questions than give answers makes the theme good for problem-centered research.

Thus, the roundtable poses a rhetorical question: what are the problems of sacred sites? How the problems point to the contexts and motivations of various actors? The convenors of the roundtable offer various case-studies from Estonia to illustrate the discussion and expect the participants to contribute with the ideas and examples of their own culture.