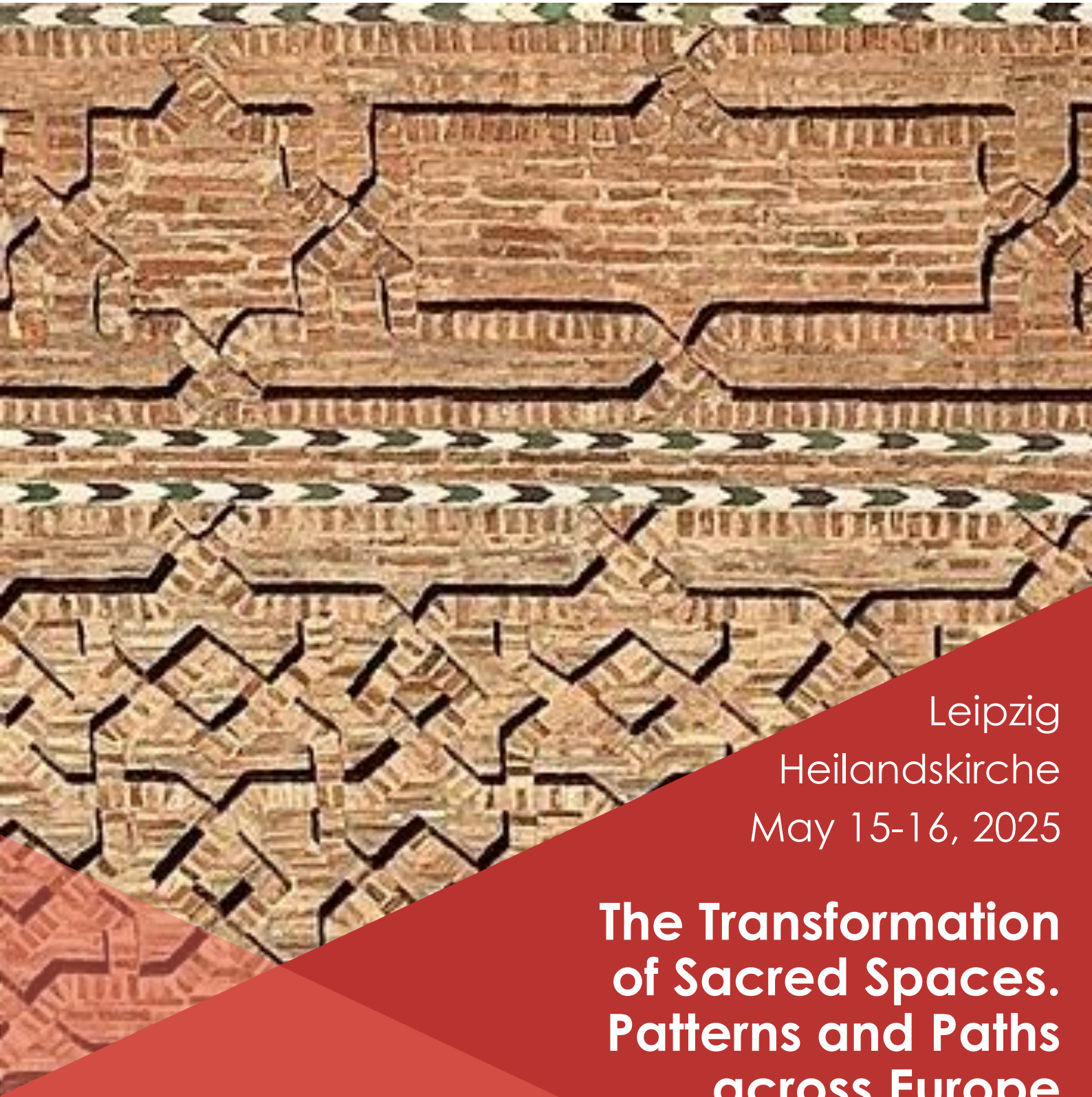




UNIVERSITÄT
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Leipzig
Heilandskirche
May 15-16, 2025

The Transformation of Sacred Spaces. Patterns and Paths across Europe

Annual Conference of the DFG-Research Group 2733 TRANSARA

Thinking about the adapted reuse of church buildings, some binary differentiations seem self-evident:

“Protestant churches are more easily used cooperatively because they are connected with a different understanding of sacrality than Catholic churches.”

“Secularization is connected with a continuing loss of sacred spaces.”

“In the cities, successful transformation is more likely because of a variety of stakeholders present.”

However, the work of the last years in the research group illustrates a complication of confessional, religious, and urban-rural binaries that initiated our comparative endeavor with the selection of the two research areas in East and West Germany.

Effects of minority-/majority-confession came into view as well as differences in building culture. Not only did the economic capital appear as a cross-sectional dimension, but also potential for tourism, engagement cultures, and guiding images of the church.

The conference aims to develop a more complex web of transformation paths and patterns and situate it in the European context. Emerging propositions from the inner-German ecumenical comparison will be discussed in relation to perspectives from academic research and experiences in church practice / religious heritage preservation in different parts of Europe.

Please register by April 20th, 2025.

For more information see:



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