

The *Center for Religious Studies* at Central European University cordially invites applications to its Second Doctoral Conference in Religious Studies entitled:

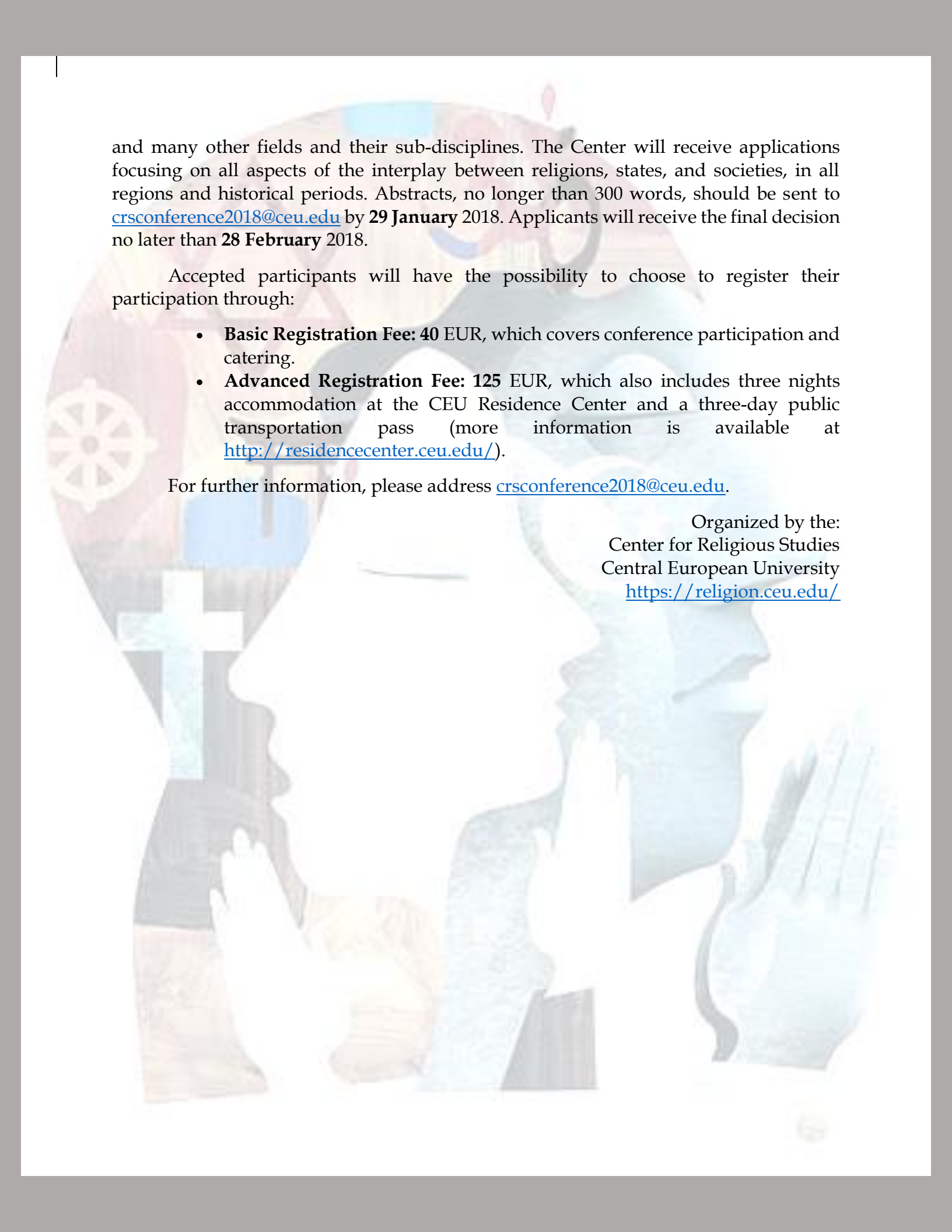
The Sacred in Conflict: Disagreements between and within Religions

June 28th-30th 2018

Throughout mankind's history, certain group conflicts have been understood as religious in nature and were expressed in normative terms such as the true and the false, the traditional and the revealed, the orthodox and the heterodox, the sacred and the profane or the sacrilegious. All such distinctions are problematic as descriptive categories, because they have been subject to constant negotiation and boundary work, both by participants in the conflicts and by scholarship. Since disputes on divergent religious beliefs and practices intersect in intricate ways with other fields of human activity (such as politics, culture or social relations), they form, as some might say, co-constructed conflicts. Disagreements arise between different religions, but can also erupt -within various branches of the same faith, and the dissociation of external and internal adversaries often appears linked. Religiously motivated confrontation has continuously shaped people's ideological landscapes and everyday realities, often causing deeply rooted conflicts, violent clashes, and ferocious infighting, which can persist throughout centuries. No less frequently, however, the rich corpus of diverse religious beliefs has encouraged societies to elaborate exegetical compromises or to admit plurality and toleration as a necessity, or even as a virtue. Tracing the historical, social, and theoretical implications of religious disagreement and the diversity of belief is presently an important task for academic research. Which motivations inform the justification for religious beliefs of individuals and groups? What manner of duties do believers assume in the face of impending conflicts? What justifies religious institutions? What is the role of the orthodox-heterodox binary in inter- and intra-confessional disagreements?

The *Center for Religious Studies* welcomes applications from all fields of humanities and social sciences including:

- Anthropology
- Economy
- History
- Law
- Philology
- Philosophy
- Political sciences
- Psychology
- Sociology

The background features a stylized illustration of three people in profile, facing right, holding hands. The person on the left is dark-skinned, the middle is light-skinned, and the right is medium-skinned. Overlaid on this are various religious symbols: a white cross on the left, a blue wheel (Dharma Chakra) on the left, a blue crescent and star on the top left, a blue Star of David on the top left, and a blue Om symbol on the top right. The overall color palette is muted, with blues, greys, and earthy tones.

and many other fields and their sub-disciplines. The Center will receive applications focusing on all aspects of the interplay between religions, states, and societies, in all regions and historical periods. Abstracts, no longer than 300 words, should be sent to crsconference2018@ceu.edu by **29 January** 2018. Applicants will receive the final decision no later than **28 February** 2018.

Accepted participants will have the possibility to choose to register their participation through:

- **Basic Registration Fee: 40 EUR**, which covers conference participation and catering.
- **Advanced Registration Fee: 125 EUR**, which also includes three nights accommodation at the CEU Residence Center and a three-day public transportation pass (more information is available at <http://residencecenter.ceu.edu/>).

For further information, please address crsconference2018@ceu.edu.

Organized by the:
Center for Religious Studies
Central European University
<https://religion.ceu.edu/>