

GRUPO DE ESTUDIOS ARABES (GEAR-DEFIHIS) – ILC SEMINARIO

Mass Pilgrimage and the Modern State:
Heteropraxis and heterodoxy
in the Shaping of Sacred Space

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This paper focuses on heteropraxis and heterodoxy as they have become embedded in the annual mass pilgrimage to Sabarimala in South India, which involves a multiplex of Hindu and Muslim sacred places. It will explain how the modern secular state and religious agencies become involved in the negotiation of religious difference and scandal, and the impact this has on the shaping of the pilgrimage landscape. The paper will include a comparative perspective drawn from research on the annual hajj to Mecca.