

Antagonistic Tolerance: Competitive Sharing of Religious Sites in the Balkans & Turkey

Robert M. Hayden

Professor of Anthropology, Law and Public & International Affairs and Director of the Center for Russian & East European Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. He is well known as an expert on the contemporary Balkans, and has also done extensive research in and on India. Professor Hayden is Principle Investigator on the Antagonistic Tolerance project.

“Antagonistic Tolerance” describes long-term interaction over long periods, between Self – and Other –defining communities who live intermingled but not intermarrying. The model predicts long periods of peaceful interaction and even religious syncretism when dominance of one group over the other is clear but periods of violence when dominance is threatened. The Antagonistic Tolerance model sees ethno-religious conflict as due neither to supposed “ancient hatreds” nor to the machinations of political entrepreneurs, but rather as a form of contestation between self-distinguishing groups that is usually peaceful but sometimes violent, with both conditions predictable when relative dominance is known.

Suggested reading: Robert M. Hayden, “Antagonistic Tolerance: Competitive Sharing of Religious Sites in South Asia and the Balkans.” *Current Anthropology* 43 (April 2002), 205-219.

Co-sponsored by the Middle East Institute

Thursday, October 29th

PLEASE NOTE TIME: 6-7:30pm - 1219 IAB

