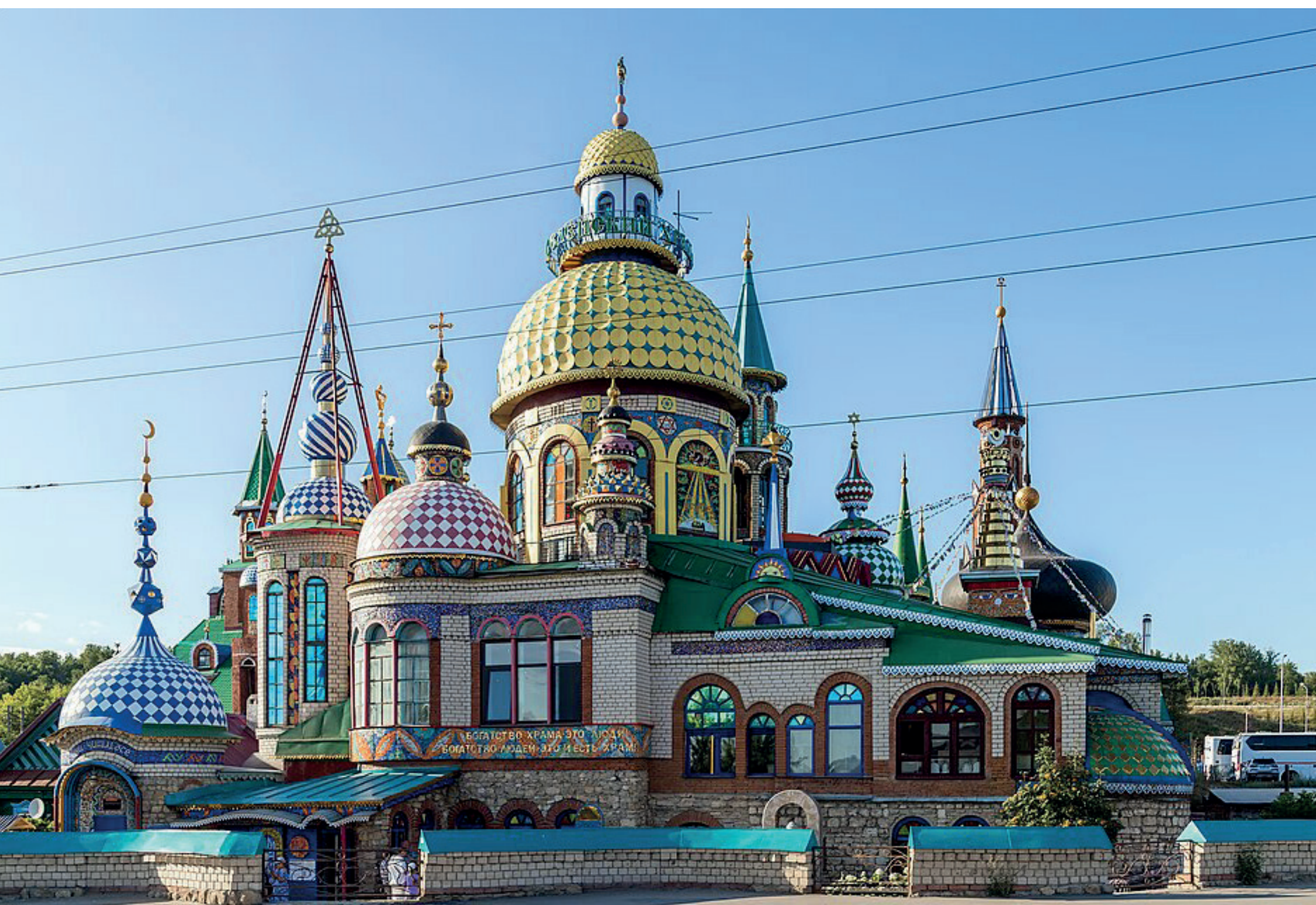




Conversions in Central and Eastern Europe

The Politics of Religion and Nonreligion across the 20th Century

An interdisciplinary encounter & book presentation with **Matteo Benussi** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice), **Gašper Mithans** (Science and Research Centre Koper), **Heléna Tóth** (Bamberg University)

Monday, 19 October 2026, 14.30–16.30

Aula Geymonat, 1st floor — Palazzo Malcanton Marcorà

This interdisciplinary volume explores religious conversion and nonreligion in twentieth-century Central and Eastern Europe. It examines how emerging nations, inheritors of empire, and socialist projects mobilized religious politics to build consent while destabilizing the communities they sought to govern. Drawing on archival research and fieldwork, the book traces the interplay of collective and individual identities and brings state-driven atheization into the study of conversion. It considers conviction-driven, coercive, strategic, and nonreligious shifts within wider processes of state formation, social engineering, and political power.

About the speakers

Matteo Benussi — Sociocultural anthropologist at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, specializing in religion, ethics, and politics in Eurasia.

Gašper Mithans — Senior Research Fellow at the Science and Research Centre Koper. His work focuses on religion-state relations in interwar Yugoslavia.

Heléna Tóth — Senior Instructor in European History at Bamberg University. She researches the cultural and social history of socialism in Central and Eastern Europe.

Free admission — Seminar valid for DEA/ACEL internship credits.

Lab DEA — Laboratorio demo-etno-antropologico
Anthropology, Arts and Performance

Coordinators
 Jasmine Pisapia
 jasmine.pisapia@unive.it)
 Matteo Benussi
 matteo.benussi@unive.it