

Call for Papers

The 9th International Seminar on Ritual and Traditional Theater (Performing Arts) (2023)

Addressing long-standing controversies surrounding "the types of performing arts in Iran" and the type commonly referred to as "ritual" and "traditional", requires answering fundamental questions regarding the dominant approaches and their assumptions. Therefore, the following questions are considered to be the main issues of the present call for papers for the year 2023. Papers might address any of the following questions; in other words, each question can be the starting point for a research paper through which the author tries to reach well-founded conclusions.

1. Why is what we call "ritual" and "traditional", indigenous and original? Or why is it not? How can its indigenous roots be proven or traced?
2. How can we break free from the biases of the Cambridge Ritualists, also known as the Cambridge Group of Classical Anthropologists, particularly James G. Frazer's view in the discussion of "the types of performing arts in Iran" and gain different perspectives and obtain different results?
3. What are the alternative views and approaches to the Cambridge Ritualists' and how can they be used to carry out research into the origins of performing arts in Iran?
4. What benefits do comparative studies regarding cultures and countries whose local and indigenous performing arts are of regional as well as global value offer?

5. What are the dominant theories and approaches in Ta'ziyeh research? To what extent have they been successful in defining Ta'ziyeh and its origin? How can alternative theories and approaches to Ta'ziyeh be measured and evaluated?

6. What is the role of rituals in our everyday life in the contemporary era? Can rituals guarantee our cultural authenticity?

7. What is the future of "ritual" and "tradition" in the technological world?

We invite researchers to participate in and contribute to our seminar. Please send an abstract of no more than 300 words accompanied by a brief biography to irtf.seminar@theater.ir by July 30th 2023. The notification of acceptance of abstracts submitted will be sent via email in Mid-August. Full papers will be due August 23rd. Accepted articles will be presented at the 9th International Seminar on Ritual and Traditional Theater (Performing Arts) and the researchers will receive a certificate of participation. The two- day Seminar is a part of the Ritual and Traditional Theater Festival which will be held from September 28th to October 3rd 2023. Contributions can be in two formats: research articles of around 5000 words in the form of on-site or virtual presentation, and proposals for discussion panels. After the final evaluation, the selected presented articles will be considered for publication in a special issue of the scientific-research journal "Theater Quarterly".