Dracula tourism as pilgrimage?

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Abstract

This article is about Dracula tourism in Romania and how it may be seen as pilgrimage. The author approaches this connection especially through the place myth of Transylvania and through the status Transylvania has in Western popular culture. The subject is approached purely from a ‘Western’ point of view, that is, in this article Romania, although a member of the EU and NATO, is treated not as part of the West but part of the East. This is due to the fact that in Western popular culture Romania and especially Transylvania have always been portrayed as the Other in relation to the West. Western popular culture plays a significant role in Dracula tourism.

Keywords: Pilgrims and pilgrimages, Dracula, Count (Fictitious character), Transylvania, Romania, Tourist trade, Voyages and travels, Popular culture, Ritual, Implicit religion, Sacred space, Mythology, Romanian, Media and religion, Popular literature
Dracula tourism is a type of cultural tourism involving travel to sites associated with Dracula and his real or imaginary travels. There is Dracula Tourism in Transylvania, Romania and in the United Kingdom. The most famous Dracula Tourism places to visit in Romania are: Bran Castle ("Castelul Bran"), considered to be the home of Dracula. The City of Sighisoara, where you can visit the house in which Vlad the Impaler was born. Light, Duncan, Dracula tourism in Romania Cultural identity and the state, from Annals of Tourism Research vol. 34 issue 3 July 2007. p. 746-765. Romania Tourism: Dracula Legend. http://romaniatourism.com/dracula-legend.html.