CHAIR
Philippe Denis (South Africa)

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Zlatka Antova (Bulgaria):

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Mauro Passos (Brazil):
“Ties and bindings in the Feast of the Círio de Nazaré – Meaning and images”

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Michaela Raggam-Blesch (Austria):
“Ruptured lives and identities: Persecution and survival of women and men of ‘half-Jewish’ descent during the Nazi regime in Vienna.”

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Yi Liu (China):
“The Soul of Fundamentalism: Christianity and Islam in Chinese Memory”
Ties and bindings in the Feast of the Círio de Nazaré –Meaning and images.

Mauro Passos
(Brazil):

Abstract: What does the celebration of the Círio de Nazaré (a huge candle procession in honor of the Virgin in Belém do Pará, Brazil) mean? A rare moment to experience the sacred? Devotion to the Virgin of Nazareth? More than a religious tradition, it is a festivity of the people. It is a religious manifest laden with emotion, devotion and penance. There is a strong alliance between the Saint and the people, on one hand; on the other hand, the human communion and social solidarity constitute an important reference to the identity of the paraenses (people from Pará). Herein it is reported and analyzed the testimony of several people about the significance of this religious expression. Legend and reality mingle in the people’s religious imaginary, and the Feast of the Círio acquires a historical, anthropological and mythical dimension. The oral testimonies taken report the traditions present in the event that actually comprises several feastings that meet and help drawing the profile of the Pará’s people, and their identity and identifications. Thus, actually a set of functions draws the Círio’s meaning. Catholic symbols mark their place, but they are adapted to the situation, because the Círio de Nazaré is an invented tradition.