Summary:

From Another Perspective: The Caminho das Missões

This thesis is a study of a Brazilian pilgrimage path called Caminho das Missões. The main theme of the work is the relationship between pilgrimage and tourism activities, which come to the fore in a peculiar way on the Caminho das Missões. The pilgrimage is run by a travel agency and presented to the public as a tourism project. This agency uses discourses and practices of pilgrimage and tourism at the same time. The agency’s dual mobilization of the discourses and practices of both activities is unusual, allowing the researcher to contest the apparent dichotomy between pilgrimage and tourism. It is also argued, within this work, that a re-evaluation of the definition of pilgrimage is needed. The new definition must consider not only the pilgrim's view, but also other perspectives of participants that take part in a pilgrimage. This thesis dialogues with theorists who study anthropological theory, anthropology of religion and anthropology of tourism. It discusses modernity, post-modernity, secularization, secularism, spiritualization, religious, non-confessional and secular pilgrimage and tourism.

Key words: modernity, post-modernity, anthropology of religion, pilgrimage and tourism