

This research explores the Sheikh Safi al-Din Ardabili's Shrine in northwestern Iran, a UNESCO World Heritage site from the 14th to 18th centuries. It examines how the religious atmosphere, created by architecture, objects, and space, may have been experienced by both past and present visitors. The study also considers the historical context and available data to interpret these experiences.

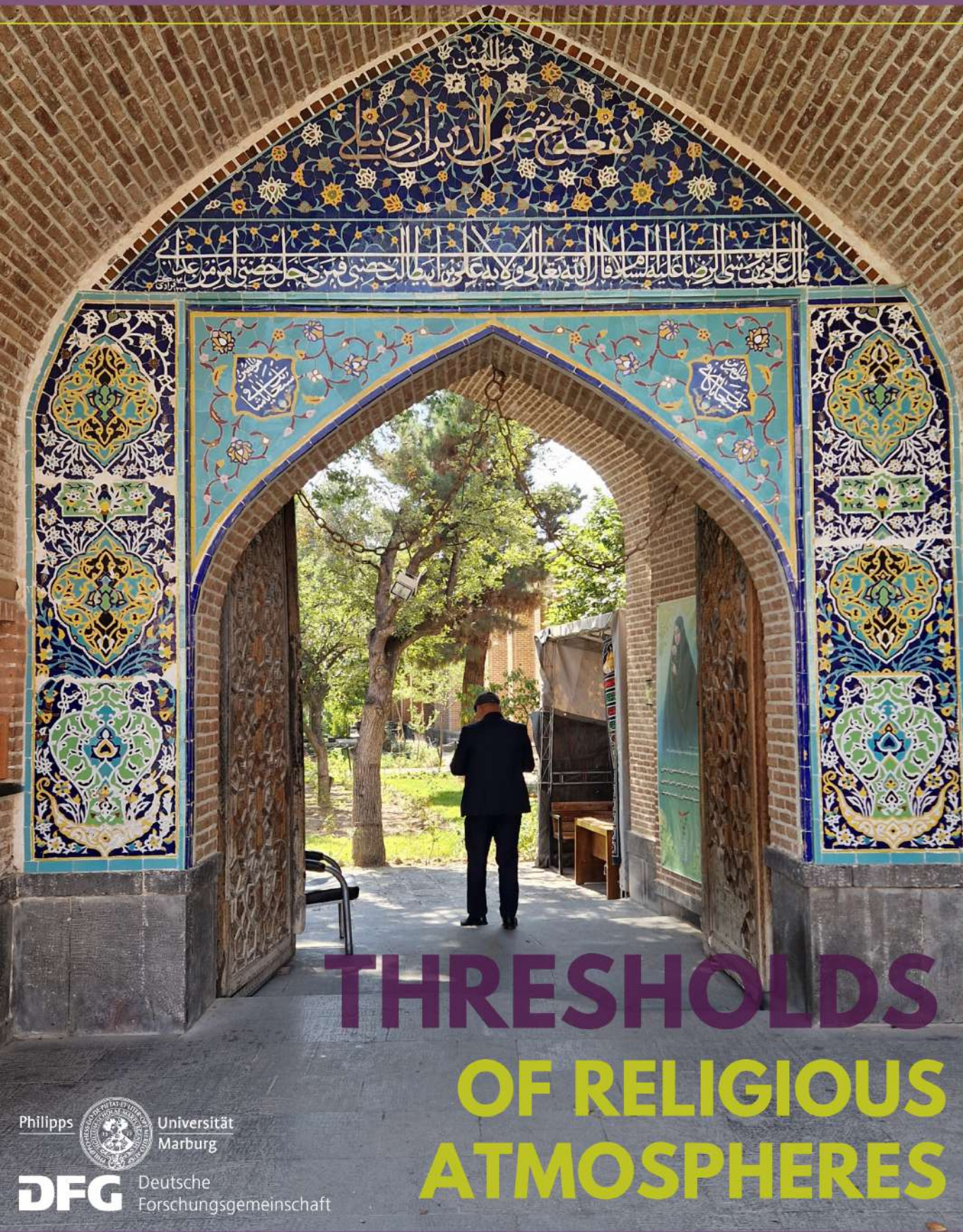
SPACE. The shrine's architecture, especially its gateways and transitional spaces, creates spatial and atmospheric experiences. Focus is placed on the passage from the outside to the Sheikh's grave, particularly the arrangement of doors, which frame bodily and emotional interactions, altering perceptions. This aspect explores how the spatial design of these areas might influence experiences, while considering the historical context.

ACTION. Rituals around the doorways, such as pilgrimage, kissing the doors, making sacrifices, and both individual and group presences, all contribute to the production and reproduction of religious atmospheres. These actions transform the doorway into a site where sensory experiences merge with spirituality, shaping relationships between individuals, the collective, and transcendence.

IMPRESSION. The arrangement of doors, inscriptions, colors, architectural features, and intermediate spaces like gardens contribute to the religious atmosphere. The interaction of these elements with visitors' actions shapes their perception and experience of the space. The emotional and sensory effects of these elements may vary, as the perception of atmosphere is influenced by a range of dynamic factors.



Ramina Rezvan
Study of Religions



supervisor: Bärbel Beinbauer-Köhler
mentors: Beate Böhlendor-Arslan | Constantin Willems

THRESHOLDS OF RELIGIOUS ATMOSPHERES