

This thesis deals with the subject of pilgrimage, movement or journey in general. The area of the study is the Hispanic culture. The study of pilgrimage has challenged anthropology so that the anthropology of pilgrimage and mobility has become an interesting and progressive field of study of our discipline. The non-instrumental and ritualized movement has an important role in all religious as well as secular traditions. The purpose of this study is to relate pilgrimage with other forms of movement such as travelling, tourism and ethnography, and to challenge the borders between religious and secular motion. It is used the notion of the rite of passage to stress the position of the traveler that moves from his normal, everyday life and enters the unknown, other world. Pilgrimage embodies the opposition of stasis and movement, of static and dynamic, of known and unknown, of regular and irregular, of ordinary and extraordinary. The aim of the study is to emphasize the significance of sacrifice – an important part of pilgrimage – which generates psychic and social power. In pilgrimage there is an implicit understanding of the ideas such as reciprocity, symbolic exchange, and the sacred that is the source of power. The pilgrims return renewed, transformed, they have been empowered. Journeying to the sacred is a physical but also a spiritual, symbolic and metaphorical image. The journey is a personal experience, pilgrimage with a personal goal but also the journey of life itself.