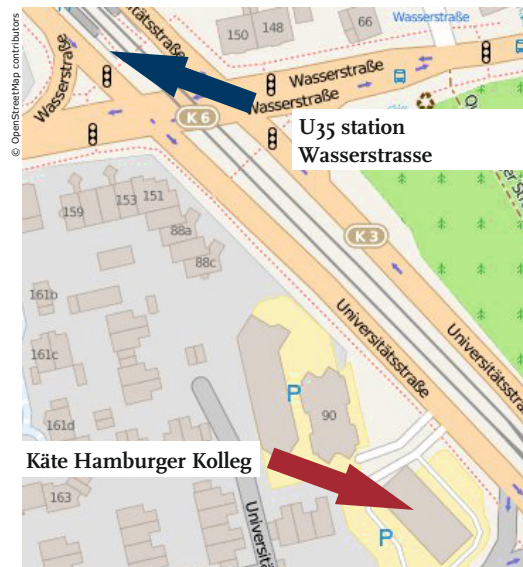


DIRECTIONS

Public Transportation: Take the U35 CampusLinie towards *Hustadt* from the center of Bochum or Hauptbahnhof (central station) and get off at the station *Wasserstraße*. From there turn right and cross the street, then left cross the crossroads passing by the copy shop at the corner and continue for approx. 200 metres until you reach Universitätsstraße 90a.

By Car: The quickest route is via the motorway junction Bochum/Witten, where the autobahns A43 and A44 meet. Simply take the exit Bochum-Querenburg, follow the signs to *Bochum Zentrum* to the crossroads of *Universitätsstraße* and *Wasserstraße*. Take a u-turn left and continue this road for approx. 200 metres, until you reach *Universitätsstraße 90a*. Parking is possible in front and behind the building.



CONVENERS

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Cover: Zâr Ritual in Iran, © Ahmad Bazmandegan

RUB

RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

ZÂR AND POSSESSION RITUALS: A COMPARATIVE VIEW. HISTORICAL, ETHNOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL ASPECTS

02 & 03 February 2017 | CERES Conference Room *Ruhrpott*

Conveners:

Alexandra Cuffel, Shahrokh Raei, Kianoosh Rezania

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ZÂR AND POSSESSION RITUALS: A COMPARATIVE VIEW. HISTORICAL, ETHNOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL ASPECTS

This workshop proposes to examine Zâr and other spirit possession rituals, in religiously and geographically comparative contexts, in both its present and historical manifestations. The performance of possession rituals, and specifically Zâr, is not restricted to a specific religious tradition since, for example, it has been performed by Jews in Maghreb as well as by Muslim in Iran. Geographically, the phenomenon, or a series of related phenomena which fall under the broad designation of “Zâr”, is widespread throughout a variety of regions of Africa, parts of Asia, and later in Europe, and the Americas. Moreover, it has been attested in different historical periods.

Although Zâr has been studied closely in different geographical domains by ethnographers, it has been rarely been the subject of systematic, comparative studies. The workshop aims to fulfill this desideratum. For this workshop, we bring together the specialists of Zâr and similar forms of spirit possession, who have studied these rituals in different chronological, religious, and geographical regions in order to explore their historical connections and social aspects.

Thursday, 02 February 2017

02:15 - 02:30 **Welcome Address**

Volkhard Krech (Bochum)
Kianoosh Rezaia (Bochum)

Panel Session 1

Chair: Alexandra Cuffel (Bochum)

02:30 - 03:30 **Generating Efficacy through Ritual Ambiguity. Mediating Trance across graduated Publics**

Martin Zillinger (Köln)

03:30 - 04:30 **Iconic Images of Zâr Spirits as “Vehicles of Ideas”. Visual Representations and cultural Translation in the material Culture of Egyptian Zâr-Amulets**

Thobias Mörike (Erfurt)

04:30 - 05:00 **Coffee Break**

Panel Session 2

Chair: Stefan Reichmuth (Bochum)

05:00 - 06:00 **Spirit Possession, Gender and Power from Morocco to Palestine among early modern Jews and Muslims**

Alexandra Cuffel (Bochum)

06:00 - 07:00 **The Red Wind of Sennar: Zar, Burei and Tombura, in Central Sudan**

Susan Kenyon (Indianapolis)

07:00 **Dinner**

08:30 **Film Screening**

Friday, 03 February 2017

Panel Session 3

Chair: Kianoosh Rezaia (Bochum)

09:30 - 10:30 **A Possession Cult in Change. Some cultural and ethnographic Aspects of Zâr Ritual in Southern Iran**

Shahrokh Raei (Freiburg)

10:30 - 11:30 **Connectivity in Motion: Spirit Possession in Zanzibar and Southern Iran**

Sara Zavaree (Köln)

11:30 - 12:00 **Coffee Break**

Panel Session 4

Chair: Shahrokh Raei (Freiburg)

12:00 - 01:00 **The Zar-Bori Complex. A(nother) Contribution to the History of the Zar**

Richard Natvig (Bergen)

01:00 - 02:00 **Lunch Break**

02:00 - 03:00 **General Discussion: Summary and Further Perspectives**