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.

Cover: © British Library Board, Extract from “Mani with Shāpūr” by anonymous artist, folio 404b, Agra (India), 1610-1620, Mughal Period (British Library, London, Add. 5600)

FORMATIVE EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE SASANIAN EMPIRE AND LATE ANTIQUE ROME

ZOROASTRIANISM, MANICHAEISM, AND CHRISTIANITY IN CONTACT

01 & 02 June 2017 | CERES Conference Room Ruhrpott
Conveners: Eduard Iricinschi & Kianoosh Rezania
This workshop will explore formative dynamics of contacts, interactions, and exchanges that took place in the Sasanian and Roman Empires between Zoroastrianism, Manichaeism, and Christianity at multiple levels. The participants will investigate the cognitive, ritual, and material scope of religions represented as “minorities” within larger ethnic and ideological landscapes, such as Christians and Manichaeans in the Persian Empire, or Manichaeans in the Roman Empire. Also, they will enquire into how the subsequent reactions from the political, ethnic, and religious “majority” of the Persian and Roman Empires led not only to various manners of accommodation or rejection of religious minorities by the religious establishment, but also to the transformation of these majorities themselves as a result of religious contacts, influences, and borrowings.

Thursday, 01 June 2017

02:00 - 02:30 Welcome Address & Opening Remarks
Volkhard Krech, Kianoosh Rezania & Eduard Iricinschi (Bochum)

02:30 - 04:00 Opening Keynote Speech
Chair: Volkhard Krech (Bochum)
Mazdeans and Christians in Front of the End of the World: The Circulation of Eschatological Speculations in Late Antiquity
Antonio Panaino (Bologna)

04:00 - 04:30 Coffee Break

>>> Session 1: Defining Religion between the Sasanian Empire and Late Antique Rome
Chair: Carmen Meinert (Bochum)

04:30 - 05:00 The Co-Formation of the Manichaean and Zoroastrian Religions in Third Century Iran
Jason BeDuhn (Flagstaff, AZ)

05:00 - 05:30 ‘Religion’ in Late Antique Zoroastrianism and Manicheaeism: Developing a Term in Counterpoint
Kianoosh Rezania (Bochum)

05:30 - 06:00 Discussions

07:00 Dinner

Friday, 02 June 2017

>>> Session 2: Religious Identities and Literacy Matters: Landscape & Representation in Contact
Chair: Max Deeg (Cardiff/Bochum)

09:00 - 09:30 The Environmental, Urban and Architectural Matrices of Roman-Sasanian Identity Formation and Exchange
Matthew Canepa (Minneapolis, MN)

09:30 - 10:00 Visual Catechism in Third-Century Mesopotamia: Reassessing the Pictorial Program of the Dura-Europos Synagogue in Light of Mani’s Book of Pictures
Zsuzsanna Gulácsi (Flagstaff, AZ)

10:00 - 11:00 Discussions

11:00 - 11:15 Coffee Break

>>> Session 3: Women, Fire, and Dangerous Heretics: Martyrdom and Propaganda between the Sasanian and the Roman Empires
Chair: Alexandra Cuffel (Bochum)

11:15 - 11:45 The Literary Portrayal of Christian Heretics in Sasanian Iran: Manichaeans in the Syriac Acts of the Persian Martyrs
Flavia Ruani (Ghent)

11:45 - 12:15 Female Martyrs and Male Authors between Rome and Iran
Richard Payne (Chicago)

12:15 - 01:15 Discussions

01:15 - 02:30 Lunch Break

>>> Session 4: Taking Charge of Fate: Cosmology and Medicine in the Sasanian Empire and Late Antique Rome
Chair: Adam Knobler (Bochum)

02:30 - 03:00 The Teaching of the ‘Two Principles’ (dō bun) and the Motif of Light and Darkness in Late Antique Iran
Götz König (Bochum)

03:00 - 03:30 ‘God bears witness that I have been sick for three months’ (P. Kellis Copt. 82): Affliction and Therapy in Manicheaeism
Eduard Iricinschi (Bochum)

03:30 - 04:30 Discussions

04:30 - 05:00 Coffee Break

05:00 - 06:30 Final Discussions & Conclusions
Moderated by Eduard Iricinschi & Kianoosh Rezania (Bochum)