

## The Center for Religious Studies

The Center for Religious Studies (CERES) is one of Germany's leading institutions in the field of the scientific study of religions (German: *Religionswissenschaft*). Being part of the fifth largest German university, students and researchers alike can benefit from the vast expertise of a particularly large number of subjects. Both the independence of the center within the university structure as well as its close cooperations with various historical, socio-cultural, and philological disciplines and area studies of Ruhr-Universität Bochum and beyond ensures an in-depth and wide-ranging scientific focus on religions.

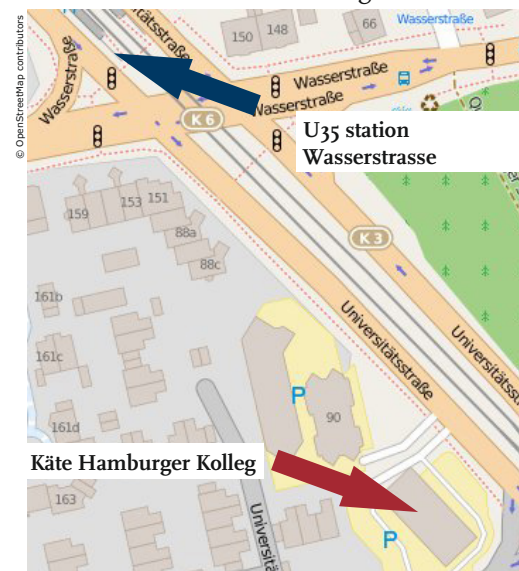


## The Käte Hamburger Kolleg

The Käte Hamburger Kolleg *Dynamics in the History of Religions between Asia and Europe* is the largest research project of CERES. It commenced its research activities under the direction of Prof. Dr. Volkhard Krech in April 2008. In addition to the visiting research fellows, numerous local scholars from Ruhr-Universität Bochum are involved in the institute's research programme, which brings together scholars from a wide range of academic disciplines. It's research programme focuses on the formation and expansion of religions, the mutual permeation of religious traditions and their densifications into the complex figurations called 'world religions.' Regionally, the research covers these phenomena in Europe and Asia. The academic goal is to establish and test a typology of contacts of religions and an overarching theory regarding the transfer of religions.

## 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. Continue this road for approx. 200 metres, until you reach *Universitätsstraße 90a*. Parking is possible in front and behind the building.

## CONVENERS

**Görge Hasselhoff** | [goerge.hasselhoff@udo.edu](mailto:goerge.hasselhoff@udo.edu)  
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## ORGANIZATION

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Käte Hamburger Kolleg *Dynamics in the History of Religions between Asia and Europe*, Center for Religious Studies, Ruhr-Universität Bochum



RUB

RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

# SUBTLE SUBVERSIONS: RESISTING COLONIALISM THROUGH RELIGION

THE IMPACT OF THE COLONIALIZATION PERIOD ON  
THE DEVELOPMENT ON A RELIGIOUS LANGUAGE

06, 07 & 08 June 2017 | CERES Conference Room *Ruhrpott*

Conveners: Görge Hasselhoff, Caleb Simmons & Knut Martin Stünkel

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PART I: THE IMPACT OF THE PERIOD OF COLONIALIZATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELIGIOUS LANGUAGE

The first day of the conference (6 June 2017) will focus on the impact of colonialization on the development of religious language.

The early period of colonialism confronted a militant Roman Catholicism seeking to convert indigenous peoples to the Latin Church with new linguistic challenges. Since failures of mission could no longer be overseen, problems of translating religious language became paramount in theoretical considerations. Reflections on language and theory of mission were closely connected.

The brutal exploitation of the colonized lands also triggered processes of reflection and alternative methods of mission, based on considerations on communication and translation. As it was not possible to refer to commonly shared conceptual and historical contexts, the reference to the senses as a medium of the recognition of God became more important.

In its first part the joint workshop intends to examine the influence of colonial encounters on the formation and development of religious language in both Europe and the colonies. It attempts to scrutinize if knowledge of non-European languages challenged and changed religious concepts and notions in the European language.

As the considerations on language evolved from European discussions in the wake of Humanism, Hebraism and the Reformation we intend to apply and further develop the more general results of our former workshops on 'Religious Language' (May 2012, June 2013, February 2014).

Tuesday, 6 June 2017

- 10:00 - 10:15 **Welcome Address**  
Tim Karis (Bochum)
- 10:15 - 10:45 **Opening**  
Görge K. Hasselhoff (Dortmund)  
Knut Martin Stünkel (Bochum)
- 10:45 - 11:45 **The Scholastica Colonialis and the Forming of Religious Language in 16<sup>th</sup>- and 17<sup>th</sup>-Century South America**  
Roberto H. Pich (Porto Alegre)
- 11:45 - 12:00 **Coffee Break**
- 12:00 - 01:00 **Protestant Reform and the Discovery of the New World**  
Görge K. Hasselhoff (Dortmund)
- 01:00 - 02:15 **Lunch**

- 02:15 - 03:15 **Are there Traces of Colonialism in David Gans?**  
Uri Kaufmann (Essen)
- 03:15- 04:15 **Land Ideology in 16<sup>th</sup>-Century and 17<sup>th</sup>-Century Sephardic Judaism**  
Wout van Bekkum (Groningen)
- 04:15 - 04:45 **Coffee Break**
- 04:45 - 05:45 **The Agendas of the First *conversos* on Israel and the Portuguese Empire (16<sup>th</sup> Century)**  
José Alberto Tavim (Lisboa)
- 05:45 - 06:45 **"Sometime am I all wound with adders who with cloven tongues do hiss me into madness." The colonial contact of religious languages in Shakespeare's *The Tempest***  
Knut Martin Stünkel (Bochum)
- 07:00 **Dinner**

PART II: SUBTLE SUBVERSIONS OF COLONIAL POWER THROUGH RELIGIOUS RITUAL, ART, AND PERFORMANCE

The second and third days of the conference (7-8 June 2017) will focus on the ways that colonized people "subtly subverted" their colonial overlords using religious expression (e.g.s ritual, text, music, etc.).

The "Subtle Subversions" workshop will focus on the interactions between colonized peoples and their colonizers in which religion and religious expression were sites through which resistance could be enacted. In contrast to some movements that directly confronted their colonial oppressors (i.e. through warfare), we are interested in the subtle ways that colonized peoples used religious rhetoric, performance, and artistic productions to articulate the world around them that inherently resisted foreign military or administrative control. Particularly, we will explore how these subtle subversions shaped the colonial worlds for both the colonized and the colonizers and the lasting legacy that these strategies have had in our understanding of the Religious Studies' taxonomies of "World Religions" and "Indigenous Religions."

Wednesday, 7 June 2017

- 10:00 - 10:30 **Opening**  
Caleb Simmons (Tuzcon, AZ/Bochum)
- 10:30 - 11:45 **Haka, Cibi, Kailao and Siva Tau: Ritual, Rugby, Imperialism and Traditional Pacific Chant**  
Adam Knobler (Bochum)

- 11:45 - 12:00 **Coffee Break**
- 12:00 - 01:15 **Resistance through Appropriation and Adaptation: the Creation of Pueblo Indian Catholicism**  
Andrea McComb-Sanchez (Tuzcon, AZ)
- 01:15 - 02:30 **Lunch**
- 02:30 - 03:45 **Voluntary Slaves to God: The Ends of Possessive Individualism in the Wake of Emancipation**  
Christopher Taylor (Chicago)
- 03:45 - 04:15 **Coffee Break**
- 04:15 - 05:45 **New Digital Tools for the History of Medicine and Religion in China**  
Michael Stanley-Baker (Berlin)
- 06:00 **Dinner**

Thursday, 8 June 2017

- 10:00 - 11:15 **What Shall We Do with the Folk Religion? The Religion of Peasants and Craftspeople in Northern Germany as a Means of Empowerment**  
Anna-Konstanze Schröder (Bern/Bochum)
- 11:15 - 11:30 **Coffee Break**
- 11:30 - 12:45 **Subversive Cartography: Mapping as an Articulation of Sovereignty in Colonial Mysore**  
Caleb Simmons (Tuzcon, AZ/Bochum)
- 12:45 - 02:00 **Lunch**
- 02:00 - 03:15 **Two Late 18<sup>th</sup> Century European Travelers' Images of Religion in China and Bengal, and their Subverted Gaze in Local Art and Encounter**  
Wim de Winter (Ghent)
- 03:15 - 03:45 **Coffee Break**
- 03:45 - 05:00 **Dancing/Self Discovery as Spiritual Path: A Tale of Two Modern Women Dancers in Postcolonial Indonesia**  
Helly Minarti (Jakarta)