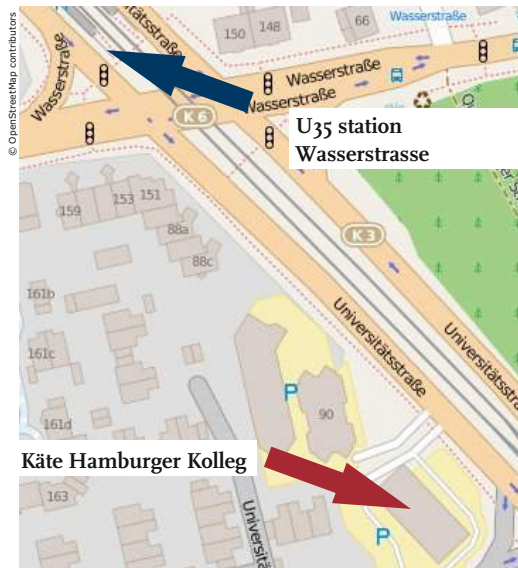


DIRECTIONS

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.



CONVENER

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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

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Thresholds of Transcendence between Western Christianity and the “Wisdom of the East”

23 June 2017 | CERES Conference Room *Ruhrpott*

Convener: Beate Löffler

IN COOPERATION WITH



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THRESHOLDS OF TRANSCENDENCE BETWEEN WESTERN CHRISTIANITY AND THE "WISDOM OF THE EAST"

Historically, the architecture of Christian churches was understood to provide a threshold between immanence and transcendence, with liturgy as the gatekeeper. Today a large section of the population seems to be ignorant regarding the role of liturgical performance. In contrast, the buildings themselves became perceived as enabling the grasp of transcendence. This is not limited to religious spaces and places of worship anymore but got extended to museums and places of remembrance. It even started to impact on the spatial staging of leisure facilities.

This phenomenon might be caused by the change in religious practices due to secularisation. It might as well be caused by the closer contact of diverse faiths and ideologies in a globalizing world that facilitated the exchange of concepts and practices and blurred the lines provided by traditional teachings and institutions. While religious bodies might struggle with or profit from these shifts, they arguably provide a creative playground for designer and architects. The workshop aims to come to a basic understanding regarding potential roles of built spaces as a means to experience or divine transcendence. Researchers with backgrounds in various religious studies on one hand and neighbouring fields with interest in 'civil religions' are invited to inform about the traditional and modern practices (written, performed and built) to mark the threshold between immanence and transcendence, both in Asia and Europe. Some of the possible questions are:

- Where does the religion see the threshold between immanent and transcendent experience, if at all?
- How is this threshold mediated? Did/do the practices of mediation shift? Where?
- How does the religious teaching address the immanent allusions of transcendence, esp. buildings and figurative representations?

- Does a building or artefact assume or obtain inherent sacred character or not?
- Do shifts in religious practice impact on the relationship between teaching, liturgy and artefacts? In which respect?

Friday, 23 June 2017

10:00 - 10:15 **Welcome Address**

Tim Karis (Bochum)

10:15 - 10:45 **Introduction: Places of Worship as Mediators of Transcendence?**

Beate Löffler (Bochum/Duisburg)

10:45 - 11:30 **Liturgy: Remarks on Christian Understandings and Developments in the Twentieth Century**

Martin Radermacher (Bochum)

11:30 - 11:45 **Coffee & Tea Break**

11:45 - 12:30 **Indian Dance - Between Secular and Sacred Stages**

Sandra Schlage (Bonn)

12:30 - 02:30 **Lunch**

02:30 - 03:15 **On the Idea of Sacred Space in Buddhism**

Jonas Gerlach (Düsseldorf)

03:15 - 04:00 **Religious Cocktails in Art and Architecture** (*in German*)

Johannes Stückelberger (Basel/Bern)

04:00 - 04:30 **Coffee & Tea Break**

04:30 - 05:15 **Portraying the Threshold between the "Here" and "There" in Eastern Han Funerary Culture**

Licia Di Giacinto (Bochum)

05:15 **Final Discussion**