

## ANCIENT CENTRAL ASIAN NETWORKS

### Rethinking the Interplay of Religions, Art and Politics across the Tarim Basin (5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> c.)

The workshop will explore the dynamics of cultural transmission and communication in Eastern Central Asia during the second half of the 1st millennium CE. with an interdisciplinary approach, based on recent data acquired from archeological excavations and the analysis of visual and textual resources. "Central Asian networks" here denotes, both in their physical context (historical and geographical) and in a conceptual sense, connections established by means of religious ideas, political alliances (often sanctioned through familial relations) and economic interests.

A special focus is put on the inter-dynamics of the macro and micro level of these networks as exemplified by two major hubs, Khotan and Dunhuang, and the impact that their privileged channel of communication had in the exchanges across the Tarim basin. Throughout a large part of the 1st millennium these two centers have been closely interconnected — predominantly in being two of the most important strongholds of Buddhism in Central Asia and significant political centers. Both acted as place of encounters of people, cultural practices and religious ideas, giving rise to specific artistic and textual productions. This workshop will study several aspects of these networks, with an emphasis on the impact of politics and diplomatic strategies on the development of religious practices and artistic expressions in these areas.

## Tuesday, 24 June 2014

Location: FNO 02/40-46

- 15:30–16:15 **Registration**
- 16:15–16:30 **Welcome**  
Carmen Meinert (Ruhr-Universität Bochum), Erika Forte (Ruhr-Universität Bochum), Christoph Anderl (Ghent University)
- Session 1* *Chair:* Carmen Meinert (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)
- 16:30–17:15 **Tibetan Dominion over Dunhuang and the Formation of a Tibeto-Chinese Community**  
Tokio Takata (Kyoto University)
- 17:15–18:00 **From Khotan to Dunhuang: Manuscripts on the Southern Silk Road**  
Ursula Sims-Williams (British Library)
- 19:00 **Dinner**

## Wednesday, 25 June 2014

Location: FNO 02/40-46

- Session 2* *Chair:* Sven Bretfeld (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)
- 10:30–11:15 **Hindu "Mothers" in Khotanese Buddhist Painting**  
Ciro Lo Muzio (Sapienza Università di Roma)
- 11:15–12:00 **Khotanese Legends: Imagery and Topography**  
Erika Forte (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)
- 12:00–14:00 **Lunch**
- Session 3* *Chair:* Erika Forte (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)
- 14:00–14:45 **The Eight Guardians of Khotan Reconsidered: from Khotan to Dunhuang**  
Rong Xinjiang and Zhu Lishuang (Peking University)
- 14:45–15:30 **The Oxhead Mountain Tableau and "Auspicious Statues" Depictions in Yulin Cave 33**  
Christoph Anderl (Ghent University)
- 15:30–16:00 **Coffee break**
- Session 4* *Chair:* Christoph Anderl (Ghent University)
- 16:00–16:45 **Khotan between India and China**  
Desmond Durkin-Meisterernst (Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften)
- 16:45–17:30 **Conveying India to the Pamir and Beyond. On Divine Hierarchy and Political Paradigms from Buddhist Texts**  
Cristina Scherrer-Schaub (École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris)
- 17:30–18:00 **Discussion**
- 19:00 **Dinner**

## Thursday, 26 June 2014

Location: FNO 02/11

- Session 5* *Chair:* Carmen Meinert (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)
- 9:30–10:00 **Khotan and Dunhuang and the Dynamics of Cultural Transmission in Central Asia. Toward a Project Proposal**  
Erika Forte (Ruhr-Universität Bochum) and Christoph Anderl (Ghent University)
- 10:00–10:45 **Round table discussion**
- 10:45–11:00 **Conclusions and perspectives**
- 11:00–13:00 **Visit to the Botanical garden**
- 13:00 **Lunch**

## DIRECTIONS

### Public Transportation:

Take the U35 towards Bochum Querenburg (Hustadt) from Bochum Hauptbahnhof (Central Station) and get off at the stop »Ruhr-Universität«. From there you turn right and cross the pedestrian bridge keeping left while you pass the university library. The FNO building is on your left-hand side.

### By Car:

The quickest route is via the motorway junction Bochum/Witten, where the A43 and A44 meet. Simply take the exit Bochum-Querenburg, follow the signs "Ruhr-Universität" and then the (electronic) information boards.



## CONVENERS

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## ORGANIZATION

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