

## Eurasian Visions and Entanglements

### Geopolitics and Religions, Past and Present

This workshop aims at offering an overview of the various visions about Eurasia which have been articulated and disseminated in past and present times alike. It is about ideas, conceptions, ideological schemes or socio-political programs with regard to a common Eurasian space and its implications, usually as terrain of identification or confrontation between religious and political (imperial and/or national) identities and legitimations. In different historical situations, "Eurasian" geographical and geopolitical spaces have been seen or conceived as mediums, channels and messages for political, cultural and religious influence. Later, in modern memory, these past paths of mission, spaces of communication or areas of expansion have also become core-elements of "invented history" for actual religious, political or social purposes. It is thus about a history of multi-faceted contacts and/or expansion and a (partially "invented") memory of this history. In this broader context, various forms of entanglement between Europe and Asia will be also examined, even if they were not associated with a specific Eurasian vision. The workshop will address this wide topic on the basis of selected case-studies. The issue of Eurasia from the perspective of a comparative civilisational analysis will be also a central point of reference during the workshop.

### Tuesday, 29 January 2013

14.00 – 14.15 **Welcome Address and Introduction**  
Volkhard Krech (Bochum)

*1<sup>st</sup> Session: Chair: Vasilios N. Makrides (Bochum/Erfurt)*

14.15 – 15.15 **Religions and Empires in Eurasia: Alliances, Entanglements, Conflicts**  
Otto Kallscheuer (Bochum/Sassari)

15.15 – 16.15 **Eurasian Unity and Civilizational Divisions: Reflections on Macrohistorical Patterns**  
Johann P. Arnason (Melbourne/Prague)

16.15 – 16.45 **Coffee Break**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Session: Chair: Otto Kallscheuer (Bochum/Sassari)*

16.45 – 17.45 **Byzantium Beyond Byzantium: The Greek Orthodox Church in the Muslim World**  
Johannes Pahlitzsch (Mainz)

17.45 – 18.45 **Iranian Identity between Persian Nationalism and Shi'ite Messianism**  
Katajun Amirpur (Hamburg)

19.30 **Dinner**

### Wednesday, 30 January 2013

*3<sup>rd</sup> Session: Chair: Heiner Roetz (Bochum)*

9.00 – 10.00 **China and Eurasia: The Perspective of a Medieval Daoist**  
Licia Di Giacinto (Bochum)

10.00 – 11.00 **Trans-Arabian Sea Allegiances: The Geopolitics of the Saint Thomas-Christian Resistance to European Colonialism**  
Istvan Perczel (Bochum/Budapest)

11.00 – 11.15 **Coffee Break**

*4<sup>th</sup> Session: Chair: Stefan Reichmuth (Bochum)*

11.15 – 12.15 **"Eurasian Ideas" in the Ottoman and Turkish Foreign Policy**  
Markus Koller (Bochum)

12.15 – 13.15 **On the Edge of Monotheism: Turkic Muslims Squeezed Between Civilizations in the Heart of Eurasia**  
Chris Hann (MPI Halle)

13.15 – 14.30 **Lunch**

*5<sup>th</sup> Session: Chair: Ines G. Županov (Bochum/Paris)*

14.30 – 15.30 **Contextual Universalisms: Gandhi's and Ambedkar's Transversal Discourses across Indian and Western Ethics**  
Martin Fuchs (Erfurt)

15.30 – 16.30 **The Idea of Pakistan in the Thought of Iqbal: Poetry and Politics**  
Jan-Peter Hartung (Bochum/London)

16.30 – 16.45 **Coffee Break**

*6<sup>th</sup> Session: Chair: Istvan Perczel (Bochum/Budapest)*

16.45 – 17.45 **Geopolitics and Religions in Russian Thought – the Case of Eurasianism**  
Stefan Wiederkehr (Berlin)

17.45 – 18.45 **Dimitri Kitsikis and his Geopolitical Theory about the "Intermediary Region" between East and West**  
Vasilios N. Makrides (Bochum/Erfurt)

19.30 **Dinner**

## 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.



## CONFERENCE CONCEPTION

Otto Kallscheuer  
Vasilios N. Makrides

## CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

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## RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

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29 – 30 January 2013 | FNO 02/40-46

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IN THE  
HISTORY OF  
RELIGIONS

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of Education  
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