

## Space of Secrecy – Secret in Contact Perspectives from the East and the West

This workshop aims to evaluate the concept of secret in a religious framework. Two main dimensions are in the focus of our “Bochumer Approach”: Contact and blank space. Secrets construct blank spaces that can be filled by unveiling the content (secret) on the one hand. On the other hand they refer to something unspeakable (e. g. mystery, antinomy). In this sense the unspeakable is determined by a frame hinting to the undefinable content. Such blank spaces have their own contact dimensions. E.g.: Sociologically they generate “insiders” and “outsiders” or furthermore they connect different groups by postulating to share the same “unspeakable” truths. This workshop will evaluate the functions and attractiveness of secrets as blank spaces and its special character as a type of contact.

**Thursday, 26 January 2012**

**Location: SH 1 / 187**

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| 14.00 h | <b>Introduction</b><br>Peter Wick, Bochum   |
| 14.30 h | <b>Blank Space in Art. Examples of its Application in Contact Dimension</b><br>Philipp Reichling, Bochum  |
| 15.15 h | <b>“Secret” in Early Jewish Mysticism</b><br>Beate Ego, Bochum  |
| 16.00 h | <b>Coffee Break</b>   |
| 16.30 h | <b><i>deipnon/symposion - sacramentum/mysterion.</i></b><br><b>Blank Spaces in the History of the Lord's Supper</b><br>Jan Schäfer, Bochum                              |
| 17.15 h | <b>Twofold Mystery Teachings of Daoism: “Mystery” and “Secret” in the Contact between Buddhism and Daoism in Early Medieval China</b><br>Frederike Assandri, Heidelberg |
| 18.00 h | <b>Departing for Dinner</b>   |
| 19.00 h | <b>Dinner (Yamas, Bochum)</b>   |

**Friday, 27 January 2012**

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| 09.00 h | <b>Secrecy and Power in Tantric Buddhism in Tibet and China - the Attainment of Supramundane and Mundane Accomplishments</b><br>Carmen Meinert, Bochum |
| 09.45 h | <b>The Meaning and Application of “Secret” in Daoism and in Chinese Esoteric Buddhism</b><br>Henrik Hjort Sørensen, Bochum                             |
| 10.30 h | <b>Coffee Break</b>  |
| 11.00 h | <b>Functions and Development of “what man cannot know” in a New Religious Movement of Korea</b><br>Andreas Müller-Lee, Bochum                          |
| 11.45 h | <b>Secrets in German Literature - Structure and Function</b><br>Harro Müller-Michaels, Bochum  |
| 12.30 h | <b>Mittagspause</b>  |
| 14.00 h | <b>Some Remarks on the Secret and the Revealed in Medieval Chinese Buddhists' Intra-Religious Negotiations</b><br>Jörg Plassen, Bochum                 |
| 14.45 h | <b>The Secret of Religious Language. Some Tentative Considerations</b><br>Knut Martin Stünkel, Bochum  |
| 15.30 h | <b>Pause</b>   |
| 15.45 h | <b>Final Discussion</b>  |
| 16.30 h | <b>End of the Workshop</b>   |

## Workshop Organisation

Licia Di Giacinto  
Andreas Müller-Lee  
Philipp Reichling  
Jan Schäfer  
Knut Martin Stünkel  
Peter Wick

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## DIRECTIONS

### *By plane or train:*

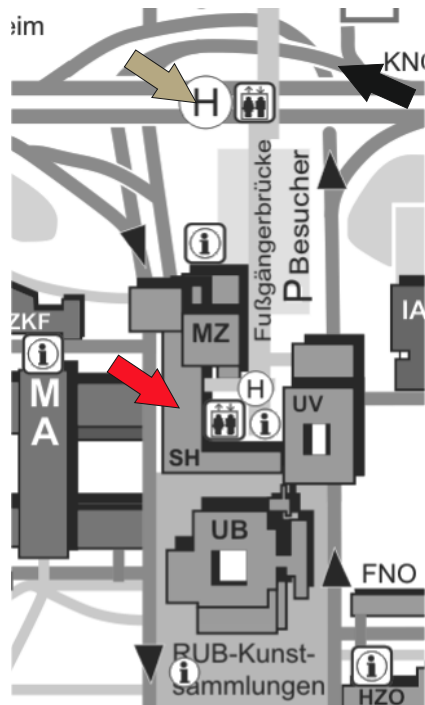
From Düsseldorf Airport via, or directly from, Bochum Hauptbahnhof (Central Station) take the U35 towards Bochum Querenburg (Hustadt) and get off at stop »Ruhr-Universität« (➔) (Ticket needed: Preisstufe A).

At the exit to the station turn right and walk about 100 m. Enter the Studierendenhaus (SH) building on your right (under sign for »Kulturcafé«). Go up one flight of stairs and follow signs to KHK »Dynamics in the History of Religions«.

### *By car:*

Motorway A 43, interchange »Bochum-Witten«, exit at »Bochum-Querenburg/Universität« (exit no. 19). Universitätsstraße direction Universität/Zentrum, exit at »Uni - Mitte« (➔), about 2 km. Free parking is sign posted.

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**Frontpage Illustration**  
Cupola of the Pantheon in Rome (Photo: Jan Schäfer)



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