

## Religion Outside Text

Recently researchers in religious studies have been increasingly critical of earlier generations of scholars' tendency to study only those religions that had a strong textual tradition, and then to treat these "textual" religions as monolithic in nature. Spiritual practices and beliefs that fell outside such textually defined creeds and rituals, or which were related to these traditions but differed considerably from expected practices as set forth by "accepted" texts have often been dubbed as "deviant", "popular," "heretical", or "magical", sometimes by practitioners' contemporaries and sometimes by scholars of religion themselves.

This workshop seeks to focus specifically on religious customs or beliefs that are or were outside conventional definitions of "religion." Specifically, participants will explore the practices of co-opting, transfer, resistance, or transformation within these various forms of "religions outside religions" and, where relevant, the reactions to them.

### Thursday, 6 June 2013

- 9.45 **Welcome & Introduction**  
Alexandra Cuffel (Bochum)
- Panel 1: Defining/Defying Religion  
Chair: Nikolas Jaspert (Bochum)
- 10.00 **People without a Book. Descriptions of Paganism in the Medieval Islamic World**  
Anna Akasoy (New York, NY)
- 11.00 **Constructing a "Real Religion" in Modern Iraq**  
Eszter Spät (Budapest)
- 12.00 **Revenge of the Magicians**  
Jason Ananda Josephson (Williamstown, MA)
- 13.00 Lunch

### Panel 2: Visual Cultures

Chair: Alexandra Cuffel (Bochum)

- 14.30 **Reading Religion in Images: On What is Silenced by Texts**  
Jessie Pons (Bochum)
- 15.30 **Clothing as Material and Visual Cultural Production in the Study of African Diasporan Religions**  
Carol B. Duncan (Waterloo, ON)
- 16.30 **General Discussion**
- 19.00 Dinner

### Friday, 7 June 2013

### Panel 3: "Popular" Religious Practice

Chair: Adam Knobler (Bochum)

- 10.00 **Praying for Success on a Path to Awakening: Rethinking the Distinction between Popular and Monastic Buddhism in Contemporary Korea**  
Florence Galmiche (Bochum)
- 11.00 **The Anastenaria Festival in Greece**  
Evy Halând (Bergen/Athens)
- 12.00 Lunch
- Panel 4: Orality  
Chair: Adam Knobler (Bochum)
- 13.30 **Apologetic Church Histories of the Indian Syrian Christians: Oral or Written Genre?**  
Istvan Perczel (Budapest)
- 14.30 **General Discussion**
- 19.00 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.



## CONCEPTUALIZATION

Alexandra Cuffel (Ruhr University Bochum)  
Adam Knobler (Ruhr University Bochum)

## ORGANIZATION

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