

## Constructions of Devotion across Islamic Lands

Studies on devotion and religious life in the Islamic world have traditionally been based on the opposition between scholars ('ulama') and Sufis, or mystics, especially at historical moments when these latter were able to monopolize the religious popular sphere, wresting it from the hands of scholars whose primary concerns were the establishment of orthodoxy and orthopraxis. Indeed, Islamic juridical texts clearly show how the ulama' tried to forbid certain sufi practices because they were divergent from the norms they themselves sanctioned as "orthodox devotion."

We are interested in how political and dynastic powers, scholars and Sufis endeavoured to construct an ideal of religiosity and devotion through images, both poetic and otherwise, across Islamic lands, in dialogue with the other religions present in those areas. In addition to legal and doctrinal treatises, works on asceticism and prayer manuals, we will study the representation of religion in artistic works and architecture. Even if artistic representations in religious contexts in Islam do not habitually produce icons and images of living beings, we contend that concepts such as purity, closeness to God, heaven, destiny, love, etc., are produced and represented both in texts and artifacts.

## Wednesday, 9 October 2013

- 14:30 **Welcome**
- 15:00 **Introduction**  
Cynthia Robinson (Ithaca, NY), Ana Echevarría (Madrid), Amalia Zomeño (Madrid)
- 15:30 **How Sufism Was Built: Imagining the Ascetic-Mystical Tradition in Islam**  
Alexander Knysh (Ann Arbor, MI)
- 16:30 Coffee Break
- 17:00 **Sufi Practices, Legal Orthodoxies in the Pre-Modern Islamic West: Balance and Perspectives on a Misleading Dichotomy**  
Delfina Serrano (Madrid)
- 18:00 **Discussion**  
Dinner at Cafe Tucholsky (Bochum City)

## Thursday, 10 October 2013

- 9:00 **The "Most Beautiful Names of God" in Islamic Books of Devotion (15th-16th Centuries)**  
Xavier Casassas (Salzburg)
- 10:00 Coffee Break
- 10:30 **The Ritual Visualization of the Saint in Jewish and Muslim Mysticism**  
Paul Fenton (Paris/Bochum)
- 11:30 **Representations of Devotion and Piety in the Biographies of Nasrid Sufi Khatibs: Revisiting the Sufi-Maliki Orthodox Divide**  
Linda Jones (Barcelona)
- 12:45 Lunch at Beckmanns Hof
- 14:30 **Rites of Rajab from Early Islam to the Mamluk Era: Transformations of Ritual in Changing Historical Contexts**  
Daniella Talmon-Heller (Beersheba)
- 15:30 **Constructing Devotions in the Morisco Sacromonte Writings**  
Gerard Wiegers (Amsterdam/Bochum)
- 16:30 Coffee Break
- 17:00 **Shi'i Legal Reactions to Popular Devotional Practices in the Safavid Period**  
Robert Gleave (Exeter)
- 18:00 **Discussion**  
Dinner at Thai Palace (Bochum City)

## Friday, 11 October 2013

- 9:00 **Nasrid Religiosity in al-Bunnāhi's "al-Maqāma al-Nakhliyya" (SLE Árabe 1653)**  
Cynthia Robinson (Ithaca, NY), Bárbara Boloix (Washington, DC)
- 10:00 Coffee Break
- 10:30 **Building the Parameters of Devotion: Architecture and Community in Medieval Anatolia**  
Sarah Wolper (Durham, NH)
- 11:30 **Monuments in Words: Logics of Devotion in Persianate Guides to Shrines**  
Shahzad Bashir (Stanford, CA)
- 12:30 **Conclusions**  
Lunch at Beckmanns Hof

## 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

Ana Echevarría (UNED, Madrid) | ana.echevarria@rub.de  
Cynthia Robinson (Cornell University, Ithaca, NY)  
Amalia Zomeño (CSIC, Madrid)

## ORGANIZATION

Gwendolin Arnold  
Ruhr-Universität Bochum  
Käte Hamburger Kolleg »Dynamics in the History of Religions between Asia and Europe«  
FNO 02 / 35  
Universitätsstr. 150  
44801 Bochum  
Phone: +49 234 32-23341  
Email: gwendolin.arnold@rub.de

© Ruhr-Universität Bochum, KHK



RUB

## RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

## CONSTRUCTIONS OF DEVOTION ACROSS ISLAMIC LANDS

9–11 October 2013 | FNO 02/40-46

Workshop organized in cooperation with the  
Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (Madrid)



SPONSORED BY THE



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research