

Texture II (Scripture)

With this workshop, second in the KHK's series on 'Texture', we intend to scrutinize the concept of scripture with regard to its material and metaphorical topicality in religious studies. The project in general intends to overcome the shortcomings of current approaches trying to illuminate the phenomenon of 'text'. Script or scripture as a religious phenomenon has to be regarded in a twofold manner. On the one hand scripture consists of materialized signs, on the other hand it objectifies the act of writing. In both capacities scripture plays an important part in religious praxis.

The concept of scripture is underestimated if it is considered to be a mere medium of storing information. Holy scriptures do not only transport information but claim a religious dignity in themselves and display a religious activity of their own in determining a texture of human behavior. So the concept of scripture with regard to religion also contains processes of description (cosmologies), of prescription (commandments), of transcription (transformation/conversion processes) and of inscription (for example to carve something into something – not at last in the human body thus providing a good example of scriptural embodiment). As such, scripture denotes a fundamental human praxis which combines the cognitive and the material sphere.

Wednesday, 18 December 2013

Chair: Volkhard Krech (Bochum)

- 13:45 Coffee
- 14:00 **Welcome and Introduction**
- 14:15 **Kainszeichen: Urschrift**
Christoph Türcke (Leipzig)

- 15:45 Coffee Break
- 16:00 **As it is written... Writing and its reflection in the Torah of Moses**
Christian Frevel (Bochum)
- 17:30 **Reading and Writing as a Religious Praxis in a Muslim Urban Culture: Ilorin (Nigeria)**
Stefan Reichmuth (Bochum)
- 20:00 Dinner at Karawane

Thursday, 19 December 2013

Chair: Heiko Christians (Potsdam)

- 9:45 Coffee
- 10:00 **Letters as Embodiment of Power and Keys to Creation in Jewish Mysticism**
Alexandra Cuffel (Bochum)
- 11:30 **Practical Canons and Textual Practices in Southern Asian Buddhism**
Anne Blackburn (Ithaca, NY)
- 13:00 Lunch Break
- 14:30 **Medieval Daoist Texts and the Interaction of Daoism and Buddhism in Medieval China**
Gil Raz (Hanover, NH)
- 16:00 **Writing Scripture: Hamann – Hoffmann – Kafka**
Knut Martin Stünkel (Bochum)
- 17:30 **General Discussion**
- 18:30 End of Workshop

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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Picture: Los Lunas Decalogue Stone, Photographer: Brian Haines, 1997

RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

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Conveners: Knut Martin Stünkel, Volkhard Krech

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