

### 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.

**CONVENER**

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## ORGANIZATION

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Käte Hamburger Kolleg "Dynamics in the History of Religions between Asia and Europe",  
Center for Religious Studies, Ruhr University Bochum



**RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM**

## COMPARISON IN THE STUDY OF RELIGION: METHOD AND METHODOLOGY

16 & 17 April 2015 | FNO 02/40-46

Convener: Oliver Freiberger



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## Comparison in the Study of Religion: Method and Methodology

Comparison is a common and fundamental activity in the academic study of religion but has rarely been discussed in view of its methodical design. This workshop is an attempt to start such a conversation. It raises the following questions: In which ways have scholars designed comparative studies? Which problems can be detected in existing studies? Which approaches are promising and should be pursued further? Which methodical components should a comparative study include? How is the methodical design related to the outcome of the study and, eventually, to its value for the study of religion?

The five speakers, all experienced comparativists themselves, will provide methodological analyses and evaluations of recent comparative works on religion. In so doing, they will apply a specific analytical framework that will be introduced at the workshop. The analyzed works thus serve as case studies for a general discussion about the comparative method, for which plenty of time has been set aside.

The goal of the workshop is to achieve a better understanding of what scholars of religion do when they apply the comparative method. It will contribute to creating stronger awareness of problems and pitfalls of comparison but also of its potential as a method in the study of religion – for assessing existing studies as well as for designing one's own.

### Thursday, 16 April 2015

09:30 - 09:45 **Welcome Addresses**

Volkhard Krech (Bochum, Germany)

09:45 - 10:45 **Introduction**

Oliver Freiburger (Bochum, Germany & Austin, TX, U.S.A.)

10:45 - 12:00 **Kimberley Patton, *Religion of the Gods: Ritual, Paradox, and Reflexivity* (2009)**  
Ingvild Sælid Gilhus (Bergen, Norway)

12:00 - 02:00 **Lunch**

02:00 - 03:15 **Mark Juergensmeyer, *Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence* (2003)**  
Karsten Lehmann (Vienna, Austria)

03:15 - 03:45 **Coffee Break**

03:45 - 05:00 **Kathryn McClymond, *Beyond Sacred Violence: A Comparative Study of Sacrifice* (2008)**  
Philippe Bornet (Lausanne, Switzerland)

05:00 - 06:00 **Discussion**

06:00 **Dinner**

### Friday, 17 April 2015

09:00 - 10:15 **David L. Weddle, *Miracles: Wonder and Meaning in World Religions* (2010)**  
Massimo Rondolino (Waukesha, WI, U.S.A.)

10:15 - 10:30 **Coffee Break**

10:30 - 11:45 **Wendy Doniger, *Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Ancient Greece and India* (1999)**  
Florence Pasche Guignard (Toronto, Canada)

11:45 - 12:30 **Discussion**

12:30 **Lunch**