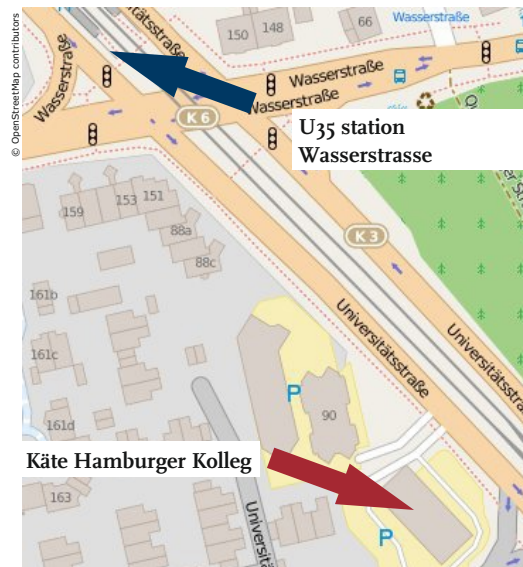


## DIRECTIONS

**Public Transportation:** Take the U35 CampusLinie towards *Hustadt* from the center of Bochum or Hauptbahnhof (central station) and get off at the station *Wasserstraße*. From there turn right and cross the street, then left cross the crossroads passing by the copy shop at the corner and continue for approx. 200 metres until you reach Universitätsstraße 90a.

**By Car:** The quickest route is via the motorway junction Bochum/Witten, where the autobahns A43 and A44 meet. Simply take the exit Bochum-Querenburg, follow the signs to *Bochum Zentrum* to the crossroads of Universitätsstraße and Wasserstraße. Take a u-turn left and continue this road for approx. 200 metres, until you reach Universitätsstraße 90a. Parking is possible in front and behind the building.



## CONVENERS

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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-Universität Bochum

Cover:  
Sancal tuhui 三才圖繪 [Assembled Images of the Three Realms],  
ed. by Wang Qi 王圻 (fl. 1565) and Wang Siyi 王思義.  
Taipei: Chengwen, 1970 [= 1607 edition]. (vol. I, p. 527)



RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

# MEDIA OF SCRIPTURE – SCRIPTURE AS MEDIA

10 & 11 December 2015 | CERES Conference Room *Ruhrpott*

Conveners:

Christian Frevel & Knut Martin Stünkel

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Federal Ministry  
of Education  
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## MEDIA OF SCRIPTURE - SCRIPTURE AS MEDIA

Our interdisciplinary workshop is intended to scrutinize the role of scripture and scripturality in the emergence and the stabilization of religious tradition. Its basic aim is to gain criteria for inter- and intrareligious comparison of traditions (*tertium comparationis*) via the examination of the function of texts with regard to performance, transmission and validity. By taking for granted that there is a relation of 'scribability' and orality that goes beyond the media question and endures in any tradition even if it is written down or casted in an sophisticated system of scripturality, we would like to examine to which tradition-related challenges scripturality or/and orality might be a suitable response. This is not to force the crisis-paradigm in the birth and shaping of tradition too much, but rather meant in the broadest sense as any stimulation or reaction to a particular situation.

In the workshop we will hear papers on religious traditions from different geographical areas between Europe and East Asia and from diverse epochs. Guiding questions we would like to discuss in a comparative manner are:

- 1.) What is the role of orality and scripturality in a tradition-building process and how are they related to each other in this process? (Does scripturality promote or hamper the permanent (re-)invention of tradition? What is the variance potential of orality compared to 'scribability'/scripturality? Does orality in- or exclude variance?)
- 2.) What is the function of orality or scripturality (and the dynamic relation of both) within tradition? How are the modes presented and reflected within tradition? (This might address the question of authority, particularly with regard to phenomena of 'second level orality', i.e. the transformation of scriptural traditions into oral ones for reasons of higher authority of orality. It may also throw some light on the recursive processes connected to the concept of tradition)
- 3.) How do orality and scripturality influence the logic of the stabilization (or destabilization) of a tradition? (Which one is considered to be more efficient, which one might endanger tradition, how are they related to ritualization processes? In which (performative) contexts are orality and textuality engaged and is there a specific efficiency of each mode?)

### Thursday, 10 December 2015

- 02:00 - 02:15 **Welcome Address**  
Christian Frevel (Bochum)
- 02:15 - 03:45 **Introduction: Against The Container Theory of Scripture**  
Knut Martin Stünkel (Bochum)
- 03:45 - 04:00 **Coffee Break**
- 04:00 - 05:30 **Scripturality and Revelation Media in Early Medieval Chinese Religions**  
Grégoire Espeset (Paris)
- 05:30 - 07:00 **Media Controversies in Zoroastrian Inter-Religious Debates of the Early Islamic Period**  
Kianoosh Rezania (Göttingen/Bochum)

### Friday, 11 December 2015

- 10:00 - 11:30 **Modes of Communication between Gods and Men - The Historical Development of Ancient Near Eastern 'Texts' in Regard to Divination and Worship**  
Rosel Pientka-Hinz (Bochum)
- 11:30 - 01:00 **From Orality to Scripturalization: A Weberian View on the Emergence of Early Christian Literature**  
A. K. Petersen (Aarhus)
- 01:00 - 02:00 **Lunch Break**
- 02:00 - 03:30 **Performing and Translating Scriptures: Interpretative Authority, Linguistic expertise, and Communal Identity**  
James Watts (Bochum/Syracuse)
- 03:30 - 04:15 **General Discussion:  
Summary and Further Perspectives**