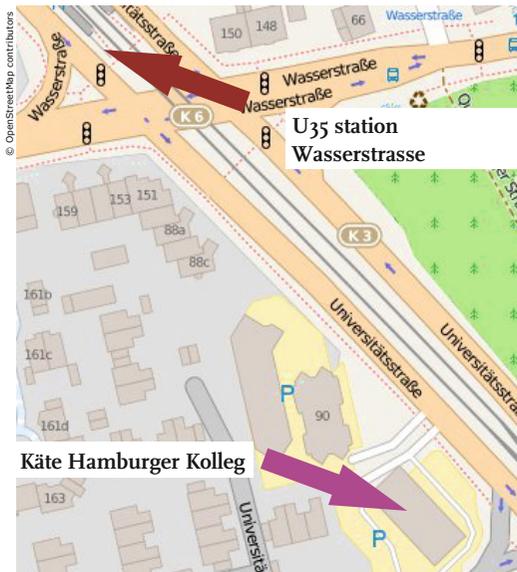


DIRECTIONS

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

Prof. Dr. James W. Watts | jwwatts@syr.edu

ORGANIZATION

Alexandra Redel, M.A. | ceres-coordination-office@rub.de | Phone +49 234 32-23341

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

Cover:
Ceremony in Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre, 2014
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RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

**SEEING, TOUCHING, HOLDING,
 AND TASTING SACRED TEXTS**

7 & 8 April 2016 | CERES | Conference Room *Ruhrpott*

Conveners:
 James W. Watts

SPONSORED BY THE



Federal Ministry
 of Education
 and Research

SEEING, TOUCHING, HOLDING, AND TASTING SACRED TEXTS

Attention to the iconic dimension of sacred texts requires consideration of how all the human senses become engaged in ritualizing scriptures. This symposium focus specifically on ritualizations of scriptures' iconic dimension that affects the senses of sight, touch, and taste or, at least, kiss, both directly and in the imagination.

Many religious and secular rituals display books in addition to, or in place of, reading them. Display engages the sense of sight very differently than does reading. Ritualized display demonstrates and emphasizes a book's religious, spiritual, political or intellectual value and legitimizes the religious tradition and the people who associate themselves with it.

Touching gets associated with reading scriptures, but touching often also plays a role in utilizing the scripture as an amulet. Furthermore, the sight of touching a book can carry considerable social force: holding a scripture publicly expresses religious identity and touching scriptures in oath ceremonies emphasizes the gravity of the oath.

Eating and consuming texts is a ubiquitous analogy for internalizing the contents of texts by reading and memorization. Sometimes ceremonies of drinking and eating explicitly evoke textual consumption. The idea of textual consumption reflects a widespread tendency to equate humans and written texts by their interiority and exteriority: books and people both have material bodies, yet both seem to contain immaterial ideas. Books thus physically incarnate cultural and religious values, doctrines, beliefs, and ideas.

The workshop aims to further research on issues like these by bringing rich ethnographic description into dialogue with historical accounts of origins and change.

Thursday, 7 April 2016

- 09:00 - 09:15 **Welcome Address & Introduction**
James W. Watts (Syracuse, NY/Bochum)
- 09:15 - 10:00 **Scripture's Iconic Touch**
James W. Watts (Syracuse, NY/Bochum)
- 10:00 - 10:45 **Physiological Engagements with a Scriptural Guru: Ritualized Transactions between the Sikhs and Guru Granth Sahib**
Kristina Myrvold (Kalmar)
- 10:45 - 11:00 **Coffee Break**
- 11:00 - 11:45 **Infusions and Fumigations: Therapeutic Aspects of the Quran**
Katharina Wilkens (Munich)

- 11:45 - 12:30 **On Instant Scripture, Swallowing Scrolls and Proximal Texts: Some Insights into the Sensual Materiality of Texts and their Rituality in the Hebrew Bible and Beyond**
Christian Frevel (Bochum)

12:30 - 02:15 **Lunch**

- 02:15 - 03:00 **Engaging all the Senses: On the Function of Multi-sensory Uses of Scripture in Jewish Religion**
Marianne Schleicher (Aarhus)

- 03:00 - 03:45 **Seeing, Touching, Holding, and Tasting Tibetan Buddhist Texts**
Cathy Cantwell (Oxford/Bochum)

03:45 - 04:15 **Coffee Break**

- 04:15 - 05:00 **Affect Theory and Iconic Books**
Dorina Miller Parmenter (Louisville, KY)

- 05:00 - 05:15 **Response**
Sajida Fazal (Bochum)

- 05:15 - 05:40 **General Discussion on Sensing Books**

06:00 **Dinner**

Friday, 8 April 2016

- 09:00 - 09:45 **The Veneration of the Script and the Cult of the Book: Reflections on what Happened between the Scholarly Realms of Early China and Early Medieval China**
Licia di Giacinto (Bochum)

- 09:45 - 10:30 **Neo-Confucian Sensory Readings of Scriptures**
Yohan Yoo (Seoul)

10:30 - 10:45 **Coffee Break**

- 10:45 - 11:30 **My living books, my wisdom, my knowledge': Mani's Revelation and Manichaean Religious Literacy**
Eduard Iricinschi (Bochum/Erlangen)

- 11:30 - 12:15 ***Noli me tangere?* The Evidence of Physical Contact on Western Gospel Books**
David Ganz (Zürich)

12:15 - 01:45 **Lunch**

- 01:45 - 02:30 **Sensing Scripture: What Artists' Books Can Teach Us About Sacred Texts, and Vice Versa**
S. Brent Plate (Clinton, NY/Madrid)

- 02:30 - 03:00 **Concluding Discussion**