



12.–13. FEBRUARY 2026



RUHR UNIVERSITY
BOCHUM,
MAIN CAMPUS,
GABF 04/711

WORKSHOP

SEEING THE LIGHT: ZOROASTRIANS IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD

WORKSHOP-PROGRAMM

Thursday, 12.02.2026

- 9:00 *Arrival and Networking*
- 9:30 **Ted Good**, *Welcome Address*
- 9:45 **Iris Colditz**, *Being a Zoroastrian Among Muslims*
- 10:45 *Coffee Break*
- 11:00 **Christian Sahner**, *Non-Muslim Religious Life in the Caspian Provinces of Northern Iran During the Early Middle Ages*
- 12:00 *Lunch Break*
- 13:30 **Ted Good**, *A Zoroastrian Theory of Religion*
- 14:30 **Thomas Benfey**, *Ibn al-Muqaffa', the Book Pahlavi Corpus, and Sasanian Political Thought: A Reevaluation*
- 15:30 *Coffee Break*
- 16:30 **Andrew D. Magnusson**, *The Making of a Prophet: al-Dīnawārī's Biography of Zoroaster*
- 17:30 *End of First Day*
- 19:00 *Dinner*

Friday, 13.02.2026

- 9:00 *Morning Coffee*
- 9:30 **Götz König**, *A Mean for the Interpretation of Religious Textual Zoroastrian and Non-Zoroastrian Tradition: The nigēz ī weh-dēn*
- 10:30 *Coffee Break*
- 10:45 **Yusef Saadat**, *Axw the lord of Mind*
- 11:45 *Lunch Break*
- 13:00 **Mihaela Timuş**, *The Eye, a Window of the Soul: Galenic Ophthalmology in a Polemical Context*
- 14:00 **Hanif Amin-Beidokhti**, *Light Upon Light: Suhrawardian Illuminationism and Its Zoroastrian Resonances*
- 15:00 *Coffee Break*
- 16:00 *Final Discussion*
- 17:00 *End of Workshop*
- 18:00 *Get-Together and Networking*



What's it all about?

The project “Arcs of Time: Zoroastrian Philosophical Anthropology” (AOT) has two goals: the first is to critically analyze how Zoroastrian thinkers theorized human psychophysical composition and its relation to human history, and the second is to integrate scholars working on Zoroastrian Middle Persian literature and scholars working on Arabic literature, since these Zoroastrians writing in Middle Persian were contemporaries with many well-known authors writing in Arabic. The “Seeing the Light” workshop is designed to achieve the second goal. Participants are invited to explore the manifold ways Zoroastrians intersect with the wider Islamic world. This includes the critical inheritance of Greek and Avestan thought; the ways the Sasanian state was remembered by Zoroastrians and Muslims, Persians and Arabs; and also the ways local communities interacted apart from the central seats of power. We hope to foster dialogue on the historical setting, the philosophical issues, the concrete debates, and the sociopolitical structures beneath the texts.

How to get to the Ruhr University Bochum campus

Public transport

From Bochum Central Station, you can easily reach the Ruhr University by taking the U35 underground line (CampusLinie), which has its own stop. The U35 (towards Bochum Hustadt) runs every 5 minutes on weekdays and takes just under 10 minutes from the main station to the university.

By car

The parking lots and garages at Ruhr University are free of charge and open around the clock.

Address for navigation devices

Ruhr University Bochum

Universitätsstraße 150

44801 Bochum

By bike or on foot

The campus is easily accessible by bike or on foot. From the west via Max-Imdahl-Straße, from the north via the Uni-Center, from the east via Lennershofstraße or Am Hochschulcampus, and from the south via Lottental.