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**March, 11th 2021**

■ **Dear students of the International MA-Program Religious Studies,**

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and are very much looking forward to starting the summer semester 21 with you online on Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>!

■ We look forward to exploring religion, religions, and the dynamics of religious history from an academic perspective together with you. We will take an interdisciplinary approach to the phenomenon based on approaches from sociology, anthropology, philosophy, philology, history, area studies, and other fields of the humanities and social sciences. Additionally, we would like to support you in developing your personal profile. We offer a wide range of courses in terms of geographical region, epochs, and religious traditions so that you can set and develop your own individual focus.

As it was already a success in the last winter term, for this summer semester we will offer you an introduction event online

- **Start your studies virtually with us, online on Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

■ The online event on April 12<sup>th</sup> will take place from **2:00 to 4:00 p.m. (German time) via the platform 'Zoom'**. Below you will find the access data that you have to enter into your internet browser. Make sure, you have a stable internet connection:

**Zoom-Meeting 'Master Program Religious Studies - Welcome Meeting'**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87662450731?pwd=S2xwVUNMSmxzYnVGUHhwQU0xQ3Bidz09>**

**Meeting-ID: 876 6245 0731**

**Kenncode: Fh6CBA**

To make it a little easier for you to get started in Religious Studies, we have provided an introduction course with short podcasts and the most important information for first semester students on the teaching platform 'Moodle'. Please view these courses prior to the introductory session. The most frequently asked questions about studying are answered there.

To register for the Moodle course, please visit <https://moodle.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/m/login/signup.php?lang=en> and log in with your Ruhr-University LoginID. Students receive their LoginID automatically upon enrolment therefore it should be included in your enrolment documents.

As soon as you are logged in, you will find the field "Kurssuche" (Course search) on the right side. There, please search for [Religious Studies - Welcome and Information for New Students \(210065-Summer Term 2021\)](#) and register for the course. The password for this particular Moodle course is "**Religion**". If you are not enrolled as a student of the Ruhr-University, create an account on the following page: <https://moodle.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/m/login/signup.php?lang=en>

Please also check our homepage <https://ceres.rub.de/en/> for further information. It is helpful to familiarize yourself with the documents of the study program, which you can find on our homepage at <https://ma.ceres.rub.de/en/program/documents/>

In order to be always up to date about changes in the course catalogue, office hours of lecturers, events of the Student Representatives, and much more, you should subscribe to the mailing list: <http://lists.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/mailman/listinfo/relwiss-info> .

In addition to create at least somewhat of a "Campus-Feeling" for you, we organized a WhatsApp-Group for International Students. Here you can socialise, network or just chat a little with your fellow students: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/GQ7qqPle6aqF4Ov86Nqvjh>

As a result of the Corona crisis, the last two terms brought many new challenges for all of us - students and lecturers alike. In particular, the digitalization of the teaching and learning offerings and the resulting new approach to self-organized studies were issues that kept us all very busy and still do.

We have learned a lot from the last terms and are pleased to be able to offer you - as we hope - a completely full-fledged range of courses using all the media options available to the Ruhr-University (RUB). However, we cannot completely rule out the possibility that there will be difficulties again and again, just like last semesters. However, we are all working very hard to make it possible for you to have a complete course of study under these difficult conditions.

Because of Corona, you will still have to expect a primarily online-based course offering. Thus, this year's summer semester will still be different in many ways. Some course formats have changed, also excursions or practical elements of the studies still have to be postponed or replaced.

You can find out about current developments regarding teaching at the Ruhr-University during the Corona Pandemic on the following website:

<https://www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/en/faq-students-about-summer-semester-2021>

A word about the change of subject: Since Religious Studies is a non-restricted subject, quite a lot of students enrol in the subject each semester. If you have only enrolled because you are still hoping for a place in another subject, you do not need to attend courses in Religious Studies.

If you are either in doubt about your choice of subject or are not sure whether you will get a place in your desired subject in the coming semesters, it is recommended that you at least attend the compulsory courses in the subject Religious Studies.

If you have further questions or problems, please do not hesitate to contact the student assistants, Michelle Dieren, Sarah Rautert and Bernadette Ennemoser of our Study Counselling service. You can reach them by e-mail at [koordinationrelwiss@rub.de](mailto:koordinationrelwiss@rub.de).

The assistant of the CERES teaching unit and the Dean of Students, Susanne Göhre, is also happy to help you with advice and support. You can currently reach her by e-mail at [susanne.goehre@rub.de](mailto:susanne.goehre@rub.de) and by phone at 0234/32-28272. You can also reach Mrs. Göhre in person on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays during office hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Universitätsstraße 90a, 1st floor, room 1.08.

You can contact your Student Representatives (Fachschaftsrat) for Religious Studies, by e-mail at [religionswiss.fachschaft@googlemail.com](mailto:religionswiss.fachschaft@googlemail.com). On Facebook you will find your Student Representatives on the page "Fachschaft Religionswissenschaft der Ruhr-Universität Bochum" (<https://www.facebook.com/FSR.Relwiss.Bochum/>) as well as in the groups "RUB Religionswissenschaft SoSe 21" and "Religionswissenschaft in Bochum".

And now we wish you a good start into your first semester and look forward to getting to know you soon - virtually or in person!

With kind regards,



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