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 winter semester 20/21 with you offline on October the 26th or online on October the 27th!

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.

This semester, for the first time, we offer you an introduction event online as well as offline at our premises.

So, you have the choice whether you want to

- Participate in the **face-to-face introduction event on Monday, October the 26th, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** (address: Universitätsstr. 90a, 44789 Bochum - ground floor - room Turfan - room number 0.13)

or whether you would rather like to

- **Start your studies virtually with us, online on Tuesday, October the 27th, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.**

The online event on October the 27th will take place from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. via the platform 'Zoom'. Below you will find the access data that you have to enter into your internet browser with a stable internet connection:
Zoom-Meeting ‘Religionswissenschaft – Einführung für Erstsemester’ (Religious Studies – Introduction for New Students)
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89563158331?pwd=ZH3qJ6bVVwdG1GdXlOfiQ2hjdz09
Meeting-ID: 895 6315 8331
Kenncode: 53KQ5

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'.

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-Winter Term 2020/21) 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/GQ7qqPle6aqF4Ov86Nqvj

The summer semester 2020 brought many new challenges for all of us - students and lecturers alike - as a result of the Corona crisis. 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 semester 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 semester. However, we are all working very hard to make it possible for you to have a complete course of study under these difficult conditions.
We will offer one or the other face-to-face course in observance of all regulations set by the Ruhr-University concerning the operation under Covid19 conditions. However, you can expect a different winter semester with still mainly online-based courses. 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-winter-semester-202021

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 and Sarah Rautert, of our Study Counselling service. You can reach them by e-mail at 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 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. On Facebook you will find your Student Representatives on the page "Fachschaft Religionswissenschaft der Ruhr-Universität Bochum" ([https://www.facebook.com/FSR.Relwiss.Bochum/](https://www.facebook.com/FSR.Relwiss.Bochum/) as well as in the groups "RUB Religionswissenschaft WiSe 20/21" 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,

Dr. Jens Schlamelcher - Studiendekan -