

## The Center for Religious Studies

The Center for Religious Studies (CERES) is one of Germany's leading institutions in the field of the scientific study of religions (German: *Religionswissenschaft*). Being part of the fifth largest German university, students and researchers alike can benefit from the vast expertise of a particularly large number of subjects. Both the independence of the center within the university structure as well as its close cooperations with various historical, socio-cultural, and philological disciplines and area studies of Ruhr-Universität Bochum and beyond ensures an in-depth and wide-ranging scientific focus on religions.



## The Käte Hamburger Kolleg

The Käte Hamburger Kolleg *Dynamics in the History of Religions between Asia and Europe* is the largest research project of CERES. It commenced its research activities under the direction of Prof. Dr. Volkhard Krech in April 2008. In addition to the visiting research fellows, numerous local scholars from Ruhr-Universität Bochum are involved in the institute's research programme, which brings together experts from a wide range of academic disciplines. Its research programme focuses on the formation and expansion of religions, the mutual permeation of religious traditions and their densifications into the complex figurations called 'world religions.' Regionally, the research covers these phenomena in Europe and Asia. The academic goal is to establish and test a typology of contacts of religions and an overarching theory regarding the transfer of religions.

## 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. Continue this road for approx. 200 metres, until you reach *Universitätsstraße 90a*. Parking is possible in front and behind the building.



## CONVENER

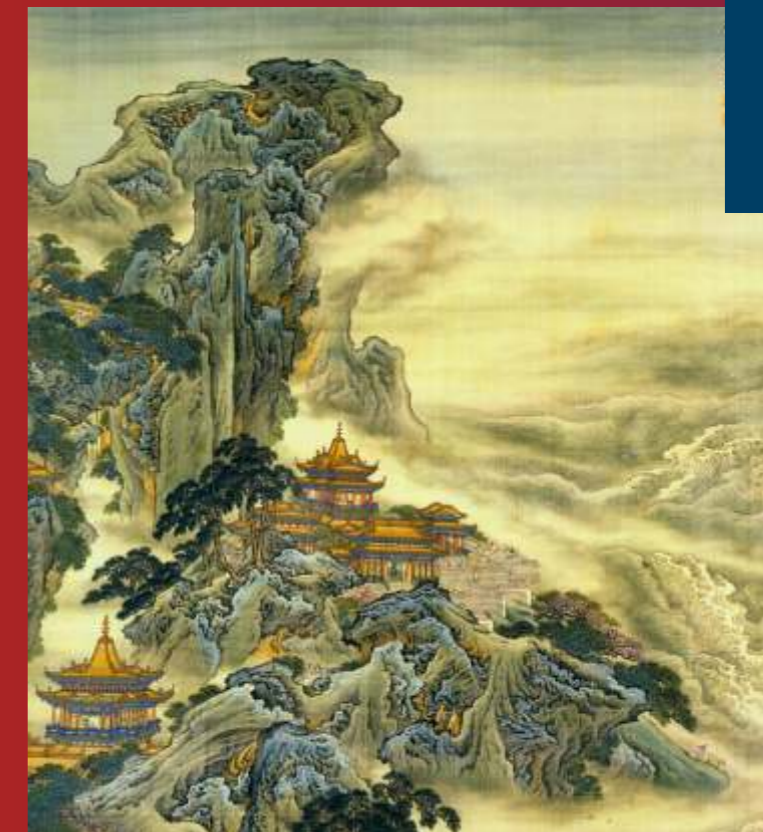
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## ORGANIZATION

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

RUB



RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

# THE TRANSCENDENCE/ IMMANENCE DISTINCTION IN THE STUDY OF RELIGIOUS CONTACTS BETWEEN ASIA AND EUROPE

06—08 September 2017 | CERES Conference Room *Ruhrpott*  
Convener: Volkhard Krech

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## THE TRANSCENDENCE/IMMANENCE DISTINCTION (*TID*) IN THE STUDY OF RELIGIOUS CONTACTS BETWEEN ASIA AND EUROPE

The Käte Hamburger Kolleg *Dynamics in the History of Religions between Asia and Europe* devoted the academic year 2016-2017 to the scrutiny of the role of the transcendence/immanence distinction (henceforth, *TID*) in cases of interreligious, intrareligious, and intersocietal contacts.

At the basic level the *TID* indicates a spatial relation, i.e. a transgression of borders, thus establishing a threefold structure of 'there' and 'here' and the 'border' mediating between the two (the process of interrelation) as a dynamic process. The *TID* is associated with (1) spatial metaphors, and with (2) ideas of movement (transgressing). The dichotomous structure of the *TID* enables its basic function as mediation. It does so via contrast, enabling the transformation of unspecific (absolute) complexity into specific complexity. As such, the distinction indicates the (processing) unity of contraries or even contradictions. The concept consists of a binary (dichotomous), but interrelating, distinction that introduces the idea of interplay as well as of process. This internally processing basic unity, seen as interplay, leads to assertions guided by a religiously meaningful *TID*.

The main purpose of this conference is to summarize the results of the research carried out in Bochum during the last twelve months. It will do this, during September 6-8, 2017, through presentations given by invited keynote speakers as well as by current and former KHK fellows.

The conference will include both specific case analyses of the relevance of the *TID* for particular examples of religious contacts, and also theoretical reflections on the role of this theme within religions East and West. The participants to the conference will reflect on the thematic complexity and analytical challenges, encountered during the year-long research on the theme of "*TID* in Religious Contacts," along the lines of four analytical fields: (a) Knowledge; (b) Experience; (c) Ritual; and (d) Materiality.

### Wednesday, 6 September 2017

- 04:00 - 04:45 **Arrival**
- 04:45 - 05:00 **Welcome Address**  
Volkhard Krech (Bochum)
- 05:00 - 07:00 **Keynote Address**  
**Immanence and Transcendence: The China Debate**  
Heiner Roetz (Bochum)
- 07:00 **Dinner**  
**Feinkost Di Vita | Claudius-Höfe 16 | 44789 Bochum**

### Thursday, 7 September 2017

- 09:30 - 10:00 **The Transcendence/Immanence Distinction: An Introduction**  
Knut Martin Stünkel (Bochum)
- Session 1: Knowledge**  
Chair: Kianoosh Rezania (Bochum)
- 10:00 - 10:30 **How to Communicate with Transcendence? The Limits of Prayer in the Abbey Engelberg**  
Tim Weizel (Bochum)
- 10:30 - 11:00 **When 'Going Beyond' is not Transcendence – Some Reflections on Buddhist Concept(s) of Transcendence**  
Max Deeg (Cardiff/Bochum)
- 11:00 - 11:15 **Coffee Break**
- 11:15 - 12:15 **Responses & Discussion**  
Magnus Schlette (Heidelberg)  
Walter Young (Bonn/Oxford)
- 12:15 - 12:30 **Coffee Break**
- 12:30 - 01:00 **The Absence of Differentiation as a Constitutive Characteristic of the Religious Representation of Transcendence**  
Kianoosh Rezania (Bochum)
- 01:00 - 01:15 **Photoshoot**
- 01:00 - 02:30 **Lunch**
- Session 2: Action**  
Chair: Carmen Meinert (Bochum)
- 02:30 - 03:00 **A Reconsideration of H.S. Nyberg's Shamanistic Interpretation of the Old Avestan Texts in the Light of their Modern Understanding**  
Götz König (Bochum)
- 03:00 - 03:30 **The Missing Scenes: Transcendence/Immanence in Theatrical Spaces of Belief**  
Maryam Palizban (Berlin)
- 03:30 - 03:45 **Coffee Break**
- 03:45 - 04:45 **Responses & Discussion**  
Christophe Nihan (Lausanne)  
Gerard Wiegers (Amsterdam)
- 04:45 - 05:00 **Coffee Break**

### Session 3: Materiality

Chair: Jessie Pons (Bochum)

- 05:00 - 05:30 **Stones Matter Too: Stone Images and the *TID* in South Indian Hindu Traditions**  
Caleb Simmons (Tuscon, AZ/Bochum)
- 05:30 - 06:00 **Architectural Transcendence between Evidence and Pretention**  
Beate Löffler (Duisburg/Bochum)
- 06:00 - 06:15 **Coffee Break**
- 06:15 - 07:15 **Responses & Discussion**  
James Watts (Syracuse, NY)  
Monika Zin (Munich)
- 08:00 **Dinner**  
**Restaurant Mutter Wittig | Bongardstr. 35 | 44787 Bochum**

### Friday, 8 September 2017

- 09:30 - 11:00 **Keynote Address**  
**Experience and Appraisal in the Process of Transcending: Using the Inventory of Non-Ordinary Experiences to Operationalize and Test the *TID* as *tertium comparationis***  
Ann Taves (Santa Barbara, CA)
- 11:00 - 11:15 **Coffee Break**
- Session 4: Experience**  
Chair: Heiner Roetz (Bochum)
- 11:15 - 11:45 **Transcendence, the Other, and Specialness. Searching for Building Blocks of 'Lived Religion's'**  
Anna-Konstanze Schröder (Bern/Bochum)
- 11:45 - 12:15 **Transcending Sleep in Mythological Narratives**  
Eva Kocziszky (Veszprém/Bochum)
- 12:15 - 01:30 **Lunch**
- 01:30 - 02:30 **Responses & Discussion**  
Ophira Gamliel (Bochum)  
Ksenia Pimenova (Paris)
- 02:30 - 02:45 **Coffee Break**
- 02:45 - 04:00 **Final Discussion**  
Chair: Volkhard Krech (Bochum)