

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.



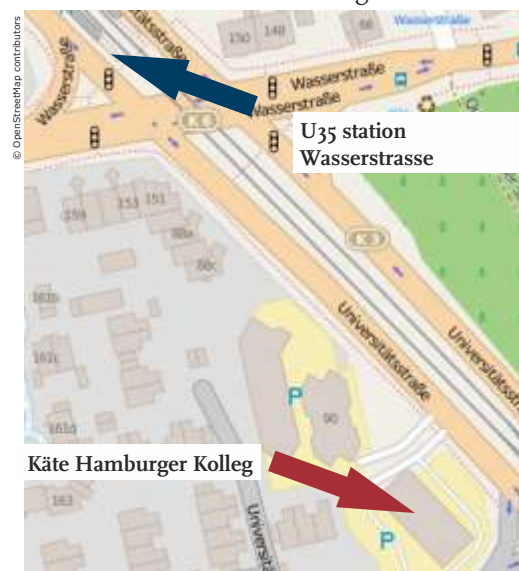
Käte Hamburger Kolleg

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 scholars from a wide range of academic disciplines. It's 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.



CONVENERS

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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

RELIGION, MEDIA, AND MATERIALITY

INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES ON RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY

17-19 January 2018 | CERES Conference Room *Ruhrpott*

Conveners: Giulia Evolvi & Jessie Pons

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Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Religion, Media, and Materiality: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Religious Authority

Religious practice necessarily involves the use of media to bridge the gap between immanence and transcendence. Scholarship has been increasingly interested in the relationship between religion and media and how material and immaterial objects become entangled in religious belief-systems and practices. In this respect, the issue of authority emerges as paramount.

The workshop aims at exploring the interplay of authority, religion, and media. It will include scholars from different disciplines –religious studies, media studies, art history, philology – presenting a wide range of case studies from different geographical and historical contexts, focusing both on authority as discussed *within* specific religious communities and as negotiated *between* different religious groups. In particular, the workshop assumes a material approach to investigate the following topics: Religion authorizing media, Media authorizing religion, Mediated representations of religion.

Wednesday, 17 January 2018

03:00 - 03:45 **Welcome Address & Introduction**
Jessie Pons (Bochum)
Giulia Evolvi (Bochum)

>>> **Session 1: Religion Authorizing Media I**
Chair: Giulia Evolvi (Bochum)

03:45 - 04:15 **Authority and Transcendence: Analyzing Prayer Apps**
Tim Karis (Bochum)

04:15 - 04:45 **Decoding Facebook's Internal Desire Machines: Rhizomatic Principles, Mimetic Rivalry, and the Magician State**
Eduard Iricinschi (Bochum)

04:45 - 05:30 **Response & Discussion**
Giulia Evolvi (Bochum)

05:30 - 06:00 **Coffee break**

>>> **Keynote Speech**

06:00 - 07:15 **Materiality and Transcendence. Religious Matters in Plural Configurations**
Birgit Meyer (Utrecht)

07:30 **Dinner**

Thursday, 18 January 2018

>>> **Session 1: Religion Authorizing Media II**
Chair: Jessie Pons (Bochum)

10:30 - 11:00 **The Construction of Orality in Written Texts: Notes from Early Imperial China**
Licia Di Giacinto (Bochum)

11:00 - 11:30 **Sound as a Medium: Aesthetic and Religious Experience According to al-Ghazālī**
Ines Weinrich (Münster)

11:30 - 11:45 **Coffee break**

11:45 - 12:15 **Illuminated Biblical Narratives in the Ashkenazi Liturgical Domain: The Case of Isaac's Sacrifice**
Sarit Shalev-Eyni (Jerusalem)

12:15 - 01:00 **Response & Discussion**
Martin Radermacher (Bochum)

01:00 - 02:30 **Lunch**

>>> **Session 3: Media Authorizing Religion**
Chair: Martin Radermacher (Bochum)

02:30 - 03:00 **The Haptic Space: Media Aspects of Walkable Models of the Jain Cosmos**
Patrick Felix Krüger (Bochum)

03:00 - 03:30 **Donors, Monks, and the Buddha: the Essential Role of Art in "the" Spread of Buddhism**
Antonio Amato (Bochum)

03:30 - 03:45 **Coffee break**

03:45 - 04:15 **Russian Orthodox Clergy and Laity Voicing Dissent Online: The Case of *ahilla.ru***
Hanna Stähle (Passau)

4:15 - 04:45 **Negotiating Yezidi Religious Authority in the Digital Era**
Khanna Omarkhali (Bochum/Göttingen)

04:45 - 05:30 **Response & Discussion**
Jessie Pons (Bochum)

05:30 - 06:00 **Coffee break**

>>> **Keynote Speech**

06:00 - 07:15 **Envisioning the Buddha: The Origins of Buddhist Image Use in Early South Asia**
Robert DeCaroli (Fairfax, VA)

07:30 **Dinner**

Friday, 19 January 2018

>>> **Keynote Speech**

09:30 - 10:45 **Mediated Imaginaries of Modernity and its Discontents: Materialities and Practices of Religion in Contemporary Circulations of Authenticity, Meaning, and Identity**
Stewart Hoover (Boulder, CO)

10:45 - 11:00 **Coffee break**

>>> **Session 4: Mediated Representations of Religion**
Chair: Ivan Sablin (Bochum)

11:00 - 11:20 **Religious Authority and the Internet: Towards a New Framework**
Frederik Elwert (Bochum)

11:20 - 11:40 **The Celtic Connection: Religious Authority in Neo-Pagan Forums**
Giulia Evolvi (Bochum)

11:40 - 12:00 **Decomposing Authority. On Christian Web Boards**
Anna Neumaier (Bremen)

12:00 - 12:15 **Coffee break**

12:15 - 12:35 **Authorization Processes in Salafist Online Forums**
Samira Tabti (Bochum)

12:35 - 01:20 **Response & Discussion**
Susanne Stadlbauer (Bochum/Boulder, CO)

01:20 - 02:30 **Lunch**

02:30 - 03:30 **Final Discussion**