

## 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.



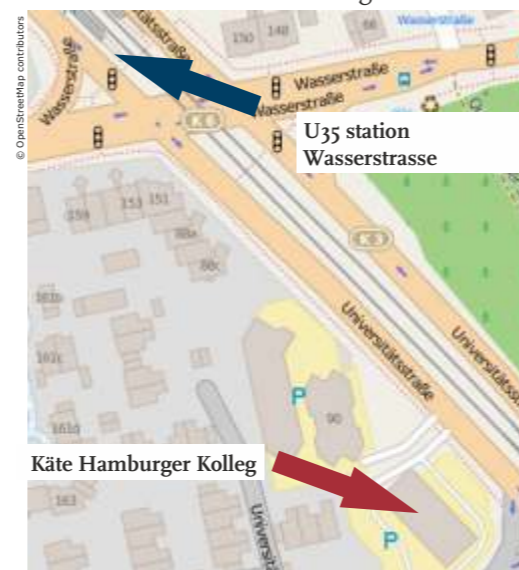
## The Käte Hamburger Kolleg

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 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

Giulia Evolvi | [giulia.evolvi@rub.de](mailto:giulia.evolvi@rub.de)  
Eduard Iricinschi | [eduard.ircinschi@rub.de](mailto:eduard.ircinschi@rub.de)  
Marianna Ferrara | [marianna.ferrara@uniroma1.it](mailto:marianna.ferrara@uniroma1.it)

## ORGANIZATION

[ceres-coordination-office@rub.de](mailto:ceres-coordination-office@rub.de) | Phone +49 234 32-23341

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



RUB

RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

# RITUAL, NORMATIVITY, AND REPRESENTATION: NEW METHODS AND THEORIES IN THE STUDY OF RELIGIOUS CONTACTS

9-10 May 2019 | CERES Conference Room *Ruhrpott*

Conveners: Giulia Evolvi, Marianna Ferrara & Eduard Iricinschi



SAPIENZA  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



## Ritual, Normativity, and Representation: New Methods in the Study of Religious Contacts

The workshop brings together young and established scholars from the Käte Hamburger Kolleg of the Center for Religious Studies (CERES) at Ruhr Universität Bochum and the Department of Storia, Antropologia, Religioni, Arte, Spettacolo (SARAS) at Sapienza University of Rome.

For two days the two teams of researchers will discuss how they explored and developed new methods and theories in the study of religious contacts. The exploration of “ritual,” “normativity,” and “representation,” as major themes in the study of religious contact, will provide avenues of interpretation common to the two European schools in the study of religion. The participants will investigate not only how religious contacts are experienced and documented, but also the ways in which they also become subject to embodiment and stigmatization through representation and norms, on one hand, and through ritual practices and discourses about rituals, on the other hand.

The KHK team will present the work of its four Focus Groups (“Knowledge,” “Experience,” “Media,” and “Action”) in establishing and testing methodology of religious contact. Each presentation is expected to entail both a theoretical part and a case study illustrating its chosen methodological perspective. The team from Sapienza University will present its own explorations in the study of religion as representation, ritual, and means of negotiation between politics and practices, as they are documented in the last years’ issues of the journal *Studi e Materiali di Storia delle Religioni*: “religion as a colonial concept,” “the gods of the others, the gods and the others,” “art and history in the religious traditions of India,” “religions in movement,” “defining religious minorities,” and “contacts on the move.” The participants from both schools choose historical and contemporary case studies of religious contacts documented in Asia and/or Europe and the Mediterranean.

## Thursday, 09 May 2019

- 10:00 - 10:15 **Welcome Address**  
Kianoosh Rezaia (Bochum)
- 10:15 - 10:30 **Introduction**  
Giulia Evolvi, Marianna Ferrara & Eduard Iricinschi (Bochum)
- 
- Panel 1: Ritual & Action**  
Chair: Kianoosh Rezaia (Bochum)
- 10:30 - 11:15 **Daoism and Ritual: The (Early) History of a Complex Relationship**  
Licia Di Giacinto (Bochum)
- 11:15 - 12:00 **Representing Rituals in a Dialogical Context: Anthropologists, Native Fieldworkers, and the Reconstruction of Religion in the United States (1898-1937)**  
Sergio Botta (Rome)
- 12:00 - 12:15 **Coffee break**
- 12:15 - 01:00 **Panel Discussion**
- 01:00 - 02:30 **Lunch**
- 
- Panel 2: Normativity & Knowledge**  
Chair: Kim de Wildt (Bochum)
- 02:30 - 03:15 **Model Forms in Situations of Religious Contact**  
Knut Martin Stükel (Bochum)
- 03:15 - 04:00 **Peace and the Subversion of Order in Aristophanes's Works: A Mythological Pattern**  
Alessandro Saggioro (Rome)
- 04:00 - 04:30 **Coffee break**
- 04:30 - 05:15 **The God Aššur Through Legitimacy and Negotiation During the Assyrian Hegemony**  
Marinella Ceravolo (Rome)
- 05:15 - 05:45 **Panel Discussion**
- 06:00 **Dinner**

## Friday, 10 May 2019

- 
- Panel 3: Normativity, Tradition & Experience**  
Chair: Jessie Pons (Bochum)
- 10:00 - 10:45 **Virgins, Serpents, and Traveling Heroes: Gender, Embodiment, and Trans-human Entities in the *Acts of Philip***  
Eduard Iricinschi (Bochum) ➤

10:45 - 11:30 ***Les Mages Hébraïses: Jewish Receptions of Syriac Traditions Related to the Evangelical Magi and to Thomas the Apostle***  
Margherita Mantovani (Pisa)

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

11:45 - 12:30 **Representation of Jewish(-Christian) Ritual Practices in Early Christianity: The Case of the *Gospel of Thomas***  
Andrea Annese (Rome)

12:30 - 01:00 **Panel Discussion**

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

---

**Panel 4: Representation & Materiality**  
Chair: Maren Freudenberg (Bochum)

02:30 - 03:15 **Islam in Contemporary Europe: Networked Representations and (Hyper)Mediated Materialities**  
Giulia Evolvi (Bochum)

03:15 - 04:00 **Transnational Critiques of Islam in the Arabic Online-Media: A Methodological Approach to the Analysis of Religious Online-Communication**  
Samira Tabti (Bochum)

04:00 - 04:15 **Coffee Break**

04:15 - 05:00 **“Ruling is not proper for Brahmins”: The “Civic” and the “Religious” according to Catholic Missionaries to Early Modern India**  
Marianna Ferrara (Bochum/Rome)

05:00 - 05:30 **Panel Discussion**

05:30 - 05:45 **Coffee Break**

05:45 - 06:30 **Final Roundtable & Planning of Future Cooperation**

06:30 **Dinner**

## Saturday, 11 May 2019

11:00 - 12:30 **Exploring Future Cooperation between CERES (RUB) and SARAS (Sapienza)**  
Marianna Ferrara & Alessandro Saggioro (Rome)  
Giulia Evolvi & Eduard Iricinschi (Bochum)

12:30 - 02:00 **Lunch**

02:00 - 06:00 **Visiting the Römisch-Germanisches Museum, Cologne**