

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

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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

FORMATIVE EXCHANGES IN THE ISLAMICATE WORLD: ZOROASTRIANISM, MANICHAISM, AND ISLAM IN CONTACT

5-6 June 2019 | CERES Conference Room *Ruhrpott*
Conveners: Kianoosh Rezanian & Eduard Iricinschi

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of Education
and Research

Formative Exchanges in the Islamicate World: Zoroastrianism, Manichaeism, and Islam in Contact

The two-day workshop on *Formative Exchanges in the Islamicate World: Zoroastrianism, Manichaeism, and Islam in Contact* invites scholars to discuss issues of religious interactions and mutual influence between Zoroastrianism, Manichaeism, and Islam on the Iranian plateau, and in Western and Central Asia to the middle of the second millennium CE. At the same time, it urges scholars to analyze religious discourses and practices shared by Zoroastrianism and Manichaeism in the Islamicate world, few centuries after Mani's own lifetime.

The 2019 "Formative Exchanges" workshop continues the approach initiated by the two previous similar meetings held at the Käte Hamburger Kolleg in Bochum (2017 and 2018), which invited scholars to identify and analyze major building blocks of religious encounters. These common platforms of religious interactions include: highlighting geography and landscape as key features in shaping religious encounters; negotiating expressions of materiality in religious settings; underlying shared associations between mythological vocabularies and social or ritual practices across various religions; shared ritual skills and ritual specialists; religious expressions of survival and accommodation techniques, such as commercial exchanges, medical care, and ritual meals; and cosmologies as texts informing ethics, rituals, and politics.

The conveners of the 2019 "Formative Exchanges" Workshop ask their guests to analyze the ways in which Islamicate literacy provided the means of adapting, translating, and adopting Zoroastrian and Manichaean texts. At the same time, they invite the scholars to extend their investigation to the literary contexts in which these texts were produced (the literature of religious disputations) and also to their *Sitz im Leben* (polemical encounters). In analyzing the ways in which religious identities were shaped by the above description of series of literary codifications and redescriptions, the 2019 workshop encourages scholars to treat transformation, hybridization, and adaptation as various outcomes of religious encounters. To discuss these formative interactions of religions on the move, the organizers invite scholars to investigate primary sources in Middle Persian, Parthian, Greek, Latin, Coptic, Syriac, and Arabic, which describe religious contacts in the Mediterranean world and Western Asia until the middle of the second millennium CE.

Wednesday, 05 June 2019

10:00 - 10:15 **Welcome Address**

Alexandra Cuffel & Kianoosh Rezaia (Bochum)

10:15 - 10:30 **Introducing the First Issue of Formative Exchanges (The 2017 Formative Exchanges Workshop) in the *Entangled Religions* Journal**
Kianoosh Rezaia & Eduard Iricinschi (Bochum)

_____ **Session 1:**

Re-Describing Manichaeism

Chair: Flavia Ruani (Paris)

10:30 - 11:30 **Manichaean Anthropology between East and West: The Evidence from Islamicate Sources**
Paul Dilley (Iowa City, US)

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

11:45 - 12:45 **The Religion is like the world Ocean' (Azandname, 4.2): 'Formative Religion' as a Propaedeutic Concept for the History of Late Antique Manichaeism**
Eduard Iricinschi (Bochum)

12:45 - 02:00 **Lunch**

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Formative Reactions: Manichaeism, Zoroastrianism, & Islam

Chair: Zara Pogossian (Bochum, team member JewsEast)

02:00 - 03:00 **(Re)Forming Cosmologies in Contrast: The Zurwān-Myth as a Zoroastrian Reaction to Manichaean Dualism and Islamic Monotheism**
Kianoosh Rezaia (Bochum)

03:00 - 04:00 **The Macrocosm-Microcosm Analogy in Manichaeism, Zoroastrianism and Early Islamic Gnosis**
Adrian Pirtea (Berlin)

04:00 - 04:30 **Coffee break** ➤

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Formative Religious Contacts: Zoroastrianism and Islam (1)

Chair: Barbara Roggema (Bochum, team member JewsEast)

04:30 - 05:30 **The Islamization of Iran as Seen through Zoroastrian Responses**
Christian Sahner (Oxford)

05:30 - 06:30 **Narrating Against Time: Histories of the Vanquished in the *Zarātusht nāma* and 'Alī nāma**
George Warner (Bochum)

06:30 **Dinner**

Thursday, 06 June 2019

_____ **Session 4:**

Formative Religious Contacts: Zoroastrianism and Islam (2)

Chair: Yukiyo Kasai (Bochum, team member BuddhistRoad)

09:45 - 10:45 **Two Remarks on the History of Doubt in Late Antique and Early Islamic Zoroastrianism**
Götz König (Berlin)

10:45 - 11:45 **Some Aspects of Zoroastrianism as Presented in the Muslim Heresiographical Literature**
Mehdy Shaddel (Leiden)

11:45 - 12:15 **Coffee break**

12:15 - 01:15 **The Tale of Jesus' Needle: Heavenly Ascension and Its Cosmological Articulations in Early Islamic Persian Lore**
Mohsen Zakeri (Bochum)

01:15 - 02:30 **Lunch**

02:30 - 04:00 **Concluding Remarks & Discussions**