

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.



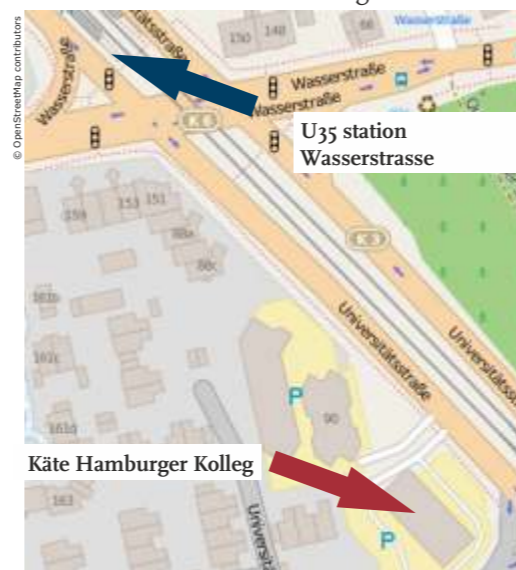
The Käte Hamburger Kolleg

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

Jessie Pons | jessie.pons@rub.de
Patrick F. Krüger | patrick.krueger@rub.de

ORGANIZATION

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

PICTURE CREDIT: VASU ŚILĀPA a, from Maholi, Government Museum Mathura, Uttar Pradesh. Red Sandstone (photo: Jessie Pons).



RUB

RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

MATHURĀ: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF INTER-RELIGIOUS ENCOUNTERS IN ANCIENT INDIA

25 - 26 July 2019 | CERES Conference Room *Ruhrpott*
Conveners: Jessie Pons & Patrick F. Krüger

SPONSORED BY THE



Federal Ministry
of Education
and Research

Mathurā: The Archaeology of Inter-Religious Encounters in Ancient India

The aim of this workshop is to examine the interaction between Buddhism, Jainism, Hinduism and cults associated to *nāgas* (snake deities) and *yakṣas* (nature spirits) at Mathurā (Uttar Pradesh, India) during Antiquity and Late Antiquity (ca. 2nd century BCE-6th century CE). Although various sites across the Indian subcontinent have yielded what are considered the first anthropomorphic depictions of Buddhist, Jain and Hindu gods, evidence for the use of the human form to represent and/or embody the main divinities among the three religious traditions at the turn of the Common Era is only combined at Mathurā. This workshop offers to systematically explore issues related to the interaction between these traditions on the one hand and to the formation of their respective imageries on the other. In this respect, the workshop will concentrate on four thematic foci.

1 The Practical Settings and Modalities of Encounters

2 Visual and Textual Descriptions of the Main Gods

3 Pilgrimage

4 Social Dimension of the Artistic Production

Draft version as of 2019-06-13

Thursday, 25 July 2019

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

Alexandra Cuffel (Bochum)

10:15 - 10:45 **Introduction**

Patrick F. Krüger & Jessie Pons (Bochum)

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

Session 1:

Settings & Modalities of Encounters (I)

Chair: Jessie Pons (Bochum)

11:00 - 11:45 **Encounters within the Pāli Vinaya**

Claire Maes (Bochum/Austin)

11:45 - 12:30 **References to other Religious Groups in Early Buddhist Texts**

Andrea Schlosser (Munich)

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

01:00 - 02:15 **Lunch**

Session 2:

Settings & Modalities of Encounters (II) & Pilgrimage

Chair: Marianna Ferrara (Bochum/Rome)

02:15 - 03:00 **Mapping Mathurā: Inter-Religious Sharing and the Development of Ritual Practices**

Robert DeCaroli (Fairfax)

03:00 - 03:45 **Individualized and Localized *nāga* Stories in the Chinese Buddhist Travelogues**

Max Deeg (Cardiff)

03:45 - 04:15 **Coffee break**

04:15 - 05:00 **Anguiped Figures, Dragon-legged Animals and Sea-monsters, from Hellenism to Indian Art**

Olivier Bordeaux (Paris)

05:00 - 06:00 **Discussion & Sources Analysis**

06:00 **Dinner**

Friday, 26 July 2019

Session 3:

Social Dimension of the Artistic Production

Chair: Monika Zin (Leipzig)

10:00 - 10:45 **Representing the Discourse of Pleasure - The *kamaloka* Scenes in Mathurā Reliefs**

Seema Bawa (Delhi)

10:45 - 11:30 **Deities, Devotees, Donors: Women in Mathurā within Ends of the Spectrum of the Visible World**

Charlotte Schmid (Paris)

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

11:45 - 12:30 **Abundance, Fertility and Child Protection – Key Mathurā Representations and Their Iconography**

Agnieszka Staszczyk (Krakow)

12:30 - 01:15 **Discussion**

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

Session 4:

Visual & Textual Descriptions of Gods

Chair: Percy Arfeen (Bochum)

02:30 - 03:15 **The Visualization of the Dharma. New Perspectives of the Origin and the Meaning of the Jina Image and the Beginning of Jain Image Worshipping**

Patrick F. Krüger (Bochum)

03:15 - 04:00 **The Making of a God: The Role of Mathurā in the Development of Sūrya Cult and Iconography**

Marion Frenger (Bonn)

04:00 - 04:30 **Coffee break**

04:30 - 05:45 **Panel Discussion & Sources Analysis**

06:00 - 07:00 **Dinner**

07:00 - 08:30 **Final Round Table**

Planning the Future of “Archaeologies of Encounters”