## **CERES** PhD Colloquium Workshop Series:

19<sup>th</sup> September, 2019

Facilitators:

Percy Arfeen

Jessie Pons

RUB

Lilith Apostel

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## MATERIAL CULTURE: an Introduction (10:00 -11:00 am) <u>Percy Arfeen</u>

This session will offer a brief overview of the history of Material Culture as a discipline with a focus on the following themes:

What is Material Culture and why use it for research?

i)

- ii) 'Material Turn' in the study of religions
  iii) Approaching Material Culture theoretically and methodologically.
   Discussions will be based on the presentation and on the following texts:
- a) Woodward, Ian (2007). "The Material as Culture. Definitions, Perspectives, Approaches", in Ian Woodward Understanding Material Culture, Sage Publications: London, pp: 3-16
  - O'Toole, Paddy & Prisca Were (2008). "Observing Places: Using Space and Material Culture in Qualitative Research", *Qualitative Research*, Vol. 8 (5), pp: 621- 639

--- Coffee Break ----

## Mahāyāna: Perspectives from Art History (11:30 am- 01:00 pm) <u>Jessie Pons</u>

This session will explore some of the issues related to the emergence of Mahāyāna on the Indian subcontinent from an art historical perspective. The historical region of Gandhāra is connected with the earliest Mahāyāna manuscripts documented so far. These manuscripts written in Gandhari are dated to the turn of the Common Era and have compelled scholars to reassess the early history of Mahāyāna Buddhism and guestion the metahistorical Mahāyāna/Mainstream Buddhism distinction. This session will give attention to visual documents and revisit imageries which have often been characterised as Mahāyāna. It will engage with the twofold question: how can one trace the formation of Mahāyāna Buddhism and its entanglements with Mainstream Buddhism and to which extent? In preparation for this session, participants are

recommended to read very basic introductory sections from the following:

Freiberger, Oliver & Kleine, Christoph (2010). Buddhismus. Handbuch und kritische Einführung, Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht

- 1.1.3: "Die Ausbreitung des Buddhismus in Südasien" (pp. 45-51)
- 3.2: "Lehren des frühen Mahayana Buddhismus" (pp. 208-213)

---- Lunch Break ----

## Metaphor & Material Culture (02:00 – 03:30 pm) Lilith Apostel

This session plans to move away from 'core' Material Culture concepts discussed so far and shows its trans- disciplinary nature. Primarily, this session will combine Metaphor theories and Archaeology with an overview on Conceptual Metaphors and case studies based on Apostel's own research. This session will explore how metaphors can be identified in archaeological findings, particularly in the burial context.

Discussions will be based on the presentation, photographs of archaeological finds and on the following text:

Ortman, Scott G. (2000). "Conceptual Metaphor in the Archaeological Record: Methods and an Example from the American Southwest", American Antiquity, Vol. 65 (4), pp: 613- 645

--- Concluding Remarks ---