

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 and continue this road for approx. 200 metres, until you reach *Universitätsstraße 90a*. Parking is possible in front and behind the building.



CONVENER

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ORGANIZATION

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RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

THREADS OF TRADITION: TEXTILE METAPHORS

28 - 29 October 2019 | CERES Conference Room *Ruhrpott*

Convener: Volkhard Krech & Esther Voswinckel Filiz

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Threads of Tradition - Textile Metaphors

The word *text* derives from lat. *texere*, to weave. Letters often consist of or are arranged in lines, and the Latin word *linea*, we learn from anthropologist Tim Ingold, is related to a thread made from flax, *linum*. »If *line*«, Ingold assumes, »began as a *thread* rather than a trace, so did text begin as a meshwork of interwoven threads.« In different parts of the world, religious tradition is called a »thread«: in Chinese, for example, the word for »canon« is related to the vertical threads of a woven cloth.

While *networks*, *fabric*, *fringes* and many other textile metaphors are prominent in the metalanguage of the social sciences (think e.g. of Geertz' definition of man as an »animal suspended in webs of significance he himself has spun«), the wide range of textile practices and textile metaphors in religious communication has so far only rarely been dealt with in its own right. The aim of this workshop is therefore to shed light on textile aspects of religion by focusing both on threads and textiles as vital elements in religious practices and on textile terminologies in religious texts. The workshop will start with the guest lecture by Tim Ingold (Chair of Social Anthropology, University of Aberdeen). He will also be present during the sessions of the following day.

Recommended Reading: Ingold, Tim (2010): Transformations of the Line: Traces, Threads and Surfaces, *Textile*, 8:1, 10-35.

Monday, 28 October 2019

06:15 - 06:30 **Welcome Address & Introduction**
Volkhard Krech (Bochum)

Guest Lecture at the Käte Hamburger Kolleg

06:30 - 07:45 **GATHERING LEAVES: THE TREE AND THE BOOK**
Tim Ingold (Aberdeen)

08:00 **Dinner**

Tuesday, 29 October 2019

Session 1: Threads of Tradition

10:00 - 10:40 **“Collecting Thread Ends”. Some Introductory Remarks**
Esther Voswinckel Filiz (Bochum)

10:40 - 11:20 **Binding Threads and Expanding Threads: Trails of the Serpent in Islamic and Christian Interchange from the Eleventh to the Thirteenth Century**
Sara Kuehn (Vienna)

11:20 - 11:35 **Coffee Break**

11:35 - 12:15 **The Threads which bind and divide. Some Preliminary Observations to the Metaphorism of Zoroastrian Girdle**
Kianoosh Rezania (Bochum)

12:15 - 12:50 **Sacred Threads: Yezidi *dezis* in Northern Iraq**
Eszter Spät (Budapest)

12:50 - 01:00 **Threads of Tradition: Roundtable Discussion 1**

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

Session 2: Text & Textile

02:00 - 02:40 **A Never Ending Story: Canon and Apocrypha in Confucianism and the Power of a (Textile) Metaphor**
Licia Di Giacinto (Bochum)

02:40 - 03:20 **Linen Books as Textile Metaphors in Ancient Italy**
Mareile Haase (Toronto)

03:20 - 03:50 **Coffee Break**

03:50 - 04:30 **Textile Metaphors**
Volkhard Krech (Bochum)

04:30 - 05:00 **Final Discussion**