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.

Public Transportation: Take the U35 CampusLinie towards Hustin 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.

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 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.

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RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM
DIGITALIZATION AND RELIGIOUS CONTACT
14 - 15 November 2019 | CERES Conference Room Ruhrpott
Convener: Giulia Evolvi
Religion in contemporary Europe is undergoing dynamic and compelling changes: for example, migrations are transforming the religious landscape, creating the need for minorities to enter in public debates; discrimination and racism compel scholars to reflect on the role of media and free speech; the risk of radicalization of certain minorities is an urgent social and political issue. These changes often regard contacts between religious groups, involving minorities that have to confront mainstream religious and different religious traditions that coexist in the same environment.

Digitalization has a central impact on these religious changes. As digital media became increasingly pervasive in the European public sphere, interpersonal relations and cultural actions are inevitably conditioned by the presence of the Internet. Religious groups address each other and frame their identities through digital spaces, which are often intertwined with physical spaces.

However, scholars still need to find compelling methods and theories to address the ethical and social consequences of digitalization on religious groups and religious contact. How can they collect data about digital religion and analyse them? Which framework can better capture the role of the Internet in relation to religious contact? What kind of impact does digitalization have on religion, and how can it be analyzed?