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 Universitätstraße 90a.

Public Transportation: Take the U35 CampusLine 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 Universitätstraße 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

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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INTERRELIGIOUS RELATIONS IN EARLY SOUTHEAST ASIA: ENCOUNTERING BUDDHISTS, BRAHMINS AND INDIGENOUS RELIGIONS

16–17 January 2020 | CERES Conference Room Ruhrpott
Conveners: Jessie Pons & Patrick F. Krüger

Cover © Ingo Rose
Over the last two or three decades, scholarship on Southeast Asia has largely contributed to the reappraisal of the process of ‘Indianisation’ of the region. Though not standardized and having changing meaning according to Indian and Western academic cultures, this paradigm can be broadly understood as the diffusion and adoption of Indian cultural values to Southeast Asia from the first few centuries following the turn of the Common Era onwards. Critical of this Indicentric model, scholars have proposed alternative approaches to the study of interactions between South and Southeast Asia which have oscillated between that of externalist influence, that of the local or autonomous specificity or than which have focused on the circulatory dynamics of transfer of cultural, religious, diplomatic and economic values through maritime trade routes across Asia.

Against the framework of these second-order reflections, the workshop will investigate different levels of relationship between Hindu, Buddhist and non-Indic religions during ancient and early medieval times. It will examine issues related to the multi-directional transfer of mythologies, belief-systems, practices and material culture between the Indian sub-continent and what is commonly referred to as Southeast Asia. In this respect, it aims at shedding further light on the agencies in the spread of religious concepts and material objects, the dialectics between their received and assigned or reinterpreted meaning, and the modifications brought about by their adoption and/or adaptations.