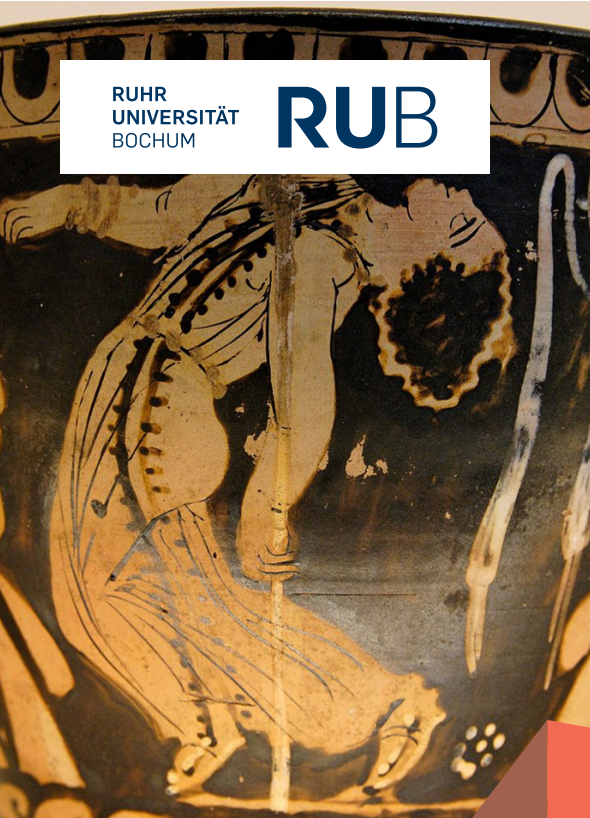


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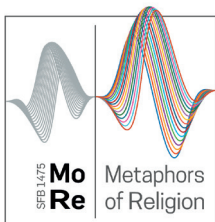
RUB



3–4 JULY 2025



CERES Building,
Universitätsstr. 90a,
Room "Ruhrpott" (4.13)



WORKSHOP

Em-bodying Emotions and Deities

What is the workshop about?

Metaphors of being “ridden” by anxiety, “overwhelmed” by sorrow or “carried away” by “enthusiasm” indicate a curious resemblance between metaphors for emotions, and expressions for spirit or deity possession.

In religious traditions as far apart as Himalayan Hinduism and Haitian Voudoun, the beings that “come over” or “enter” the human body are referred to as riders of their human vehicle, or as “Divine Horsemen” (Maya Deren). In ancient Sanskrit texts, the “entering” (āveśa) of a human person can as much refer to an emotion as to a deity or demon (see Frederick Smith 2006, *The Self Possessed*). Arguably, both emotions and spirits/deities are hard to “grasp” by words and concepts, and even harder to control. To talk and think about such forces and entities which are “beyond our reach”, we need metaphors which construct similarities – for instance, by implying that emotions and deities alike “enter”, “ride” or otherwise “drive” the human body.

This workshop examines phenomena such as possession and enthusiasm not only through bodily symptoms or sociopolitical agency, but also through their conceptual implications: They define the body and the immaterial aspects of the self by defining, shifting, or opening the boundaries that make up the “inner” and “outer” worlds.

PROGRAM

Thursday, 3 JULY

09:30 Arrival

10:00–11:00 Introduction to the CRC 1475 “Metaphors of Religion” and the Workshop Question
Gerrit Lange (Ruhr University Bochum)

11:00–11:30 Coffee Break

Session 1: Dancing and Being Danced

11:30–12:30 What Metaphors Make Possible: Āttam and Piṇam as Idioms of Divine Becoming in South Indian Ritual Worlds
Sona Prabhakaran (Heidelberg University)

12:30–13:30 Repossessed: Further Research and Thoughts on Possession as Experience and Metaphor
Frederick M. Smith (University of Iowa)

13:30–15:00 Lunch Break

Session 2: Riding and Being Ridden

15:00–16:00 “Me monto”: Dual Agency and Literality in Getting onto and Surrendering to Spirits in Puerto Rican Brujería
Raquel Romberg (Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg)

16:00–16:15 Coffee Break

16:15–17:15 Islamic Demonology: Between Riding and Being Ridden
Tobias Nünlist (University of Zurich)

from 18:30 Dinner

Friday, 4 JULY

09:30–10:00 Arrival

Session 3: Inviting and Driving out: Illness, Holyness, and Madness

10:00–11:00 “It Runs in the Blood”: Jinn Possession According to Raqi Exorcists
William Sax (Heidelberg University)

11:00–11:30 **Coffee Break**

11:30–12:30 “So that You May Become Uncrazed”: Conflicting Perceptions of Divine Madness in Vedic Literature
Per-Johan Norelius (Uppsala University)

12:30–13:30 Purity and Possession: Balinese Concepts of Self, Trance-Possession and Emotions
Annette Hornbacher (Heidelberg University)

13:30–15:00 **Lunch Break**

15:00–16:00 Emotions, Agency and Control in Akkadian Texts from Ancient Mesopotamia
Ulrike Steinert (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz)

16:00–16:15 **Coffee Break**

16:15–17:15 Final Discussion

from 18:30 **Dinner**



DIRECTIONS TO CERES

Public Transport

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 A448 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.



Contact

Organisational issues:
sfb1475-coordination@rub.de

How do you get to CERES?
Justa scan the QR code!
<http://u.osmfr.org/m/1013691/>

