

**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.



**CONVENERS**

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**ORGANIZATION**

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RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

**DECOLONISING NATIONAL AND RELIGIOUS CULTURE: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON RUSSIA'S IMPERIAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE**

17 - 18 October 2019 | CERES Conference Room *Ruhrpott*

Conveners: Jesko Schmoller & Knut Martin Stünkel

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## Decolonising National and Religious Culture: New Perspectives on Russia's Imperial History and Heritage

At the present moment, Russian national identity seems to solidify around the celebration of Slavic civilisation, Orthodox Christianity, conservative values and a new imperial consciousness. In this emerging image of the nation, little recognition is given to the ethnic and religious minorities with their respective histories and traditions. Although newer studies exist that take a critical view of the colonial past and the (post-)colonial present, certain pre-conditions are taken for granted, thus rarely causing scholars to engage with questions about the political responsibility for the ethnic minorities, their rights and possibilities or the imagination and (re-)making of the land and its peoples.

In the framework of this conference, we wish to focus on instances of contact between different ethnic and religious groups and particularly between Orthodox Christianity on the one hand and Islam, but also Buddhism and animistic traditions on the other, as these situations capture the clash of contrary outlooks, the negotiation of culture and history and the struggle for the right to define specific territories. The papers to be presented reflect upon constellations of ethnic and religious contact both in contemporary times and the Soviet period; yet in some instances they also conjure the Tsarist imperial past.

### Thursday, 17 October 2019

01:00 - 01:15 **Welcome Address & General Introduction**

Jesko Schmoller (Perm)

01:15 - 01:30 **Introduction to the Online-Journal *Entangled Religions***

Julia Heinig (Bochum)

01:30 - 02:15 **Contact and the Question of Space: The Case of Siberia**

Knut Martin Stünkel (Bochum)

#### **Session 1: Altar & Throne**

Chair: Tim Karis (Bochum)

02:15 - 03:15 **The Concept of *Holy Rus'* and the Burden of Russian Empire-building**

Alexander Zabirko (Bochum)

03:15 - 03:45 **Coffee Break**

#### **Session 2: Red Empire and the Return of Religion**

Chair: Licia Di Giacinto (Bochum)

03:45 - 04:45 **Gender, Modernity and Islam in the Soviet Campaign for Emancipation of the 'Woman of the East' in the 1920s**

Yulia Gradszkova (Stockholm)

04:45 - 05:45 **A Spiritual Perestroika: Religious Contact in Late Soviet Parliaments, 1989—1991**

Ivan Sablin (Heidelberg)

06:00 **Dinner**

### Friday, 18 October 2019

#### **Session 3: Post-Soviet Difference and Emerging Local Cultures**

Chair: Eduard Iricinschi (Bochum)

10:00 - 11:00 **The Multiple Faces of Sufism in the Volga-Ural Region**

Lili Di Puppò (Moscow)

11:00 - 12:00 **Early 21<sup>st</sup> Century Literary Images from the Margins of the 'Russian World'**

Mirja Lecke (Bochum)

12:00 - 01:30 **Lunch**

#### **Session 4: Adapting Religion and Colonialism in the Plural**

Chair: Percy Arfeen (Bochum)

01:30 - 02:30 **Religious Resurgence among Sakha (Yakuts) in the Context of Immigration of Muslim Workers from Central Asia**

Zoia Tarasova (Cambridge)

02:30 - 03:30 **Constructing *Russkii* Islam: Discursive Strategies of Russian Muslim Converts**

Gulnaz Sibgatullina (Leiden)

03:30 - 04:00 **Coffee Break**

04:00 **Final Discussion**