

# Religions on the Move: Materiality and Migration

International Workshop at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies of Religions  
University of Marburg, 10-11 November 2016

This is an invitation for senior as well as junior scholars and colleagues to join the first international workshop at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies of Religions (ZIR) from 10-11 November 2016 at the University of Marburg, Germany. It will be dedicated to the topic "Religions on the Move: Materiality and Migration."

Religions as well as cultures are constantly undergoing changes, and it seems particularly fruitful to trace their interdependence from various perspectives and disciplines. In our workshop, the focus will lie on the dynamics of religions and thus follow a comparatively new critical approach. The phenomenon can be seen as based on material sources like objects, but also represented in the fields of architecture as well as social practices. Material is not only a static phenomenon and cannot only be seen as symbols and signs, and employed in ritual use. It can also be seen as means of reshaping other phenomena, such as migration. We would thus be particularly interested in the dynamic ascriptions and changing techniques by which "material things" are shaped and created.

In this context, the topos of migration has made us aware of physical movements and personal encounters: people are on the move in the same way as the objects they use. While travelling, their worldviews and cultural practices are changing as well.

In our workshop, we are going to focus on material sources, objects, as well as the fields of architecture and media - *materiality* is thus understood in a rather general way. The term *migration* shall make us aware of the spatial dimension as such, since it encompasses bodily and physical, as well as intellectual journeys. The workshop will take place in context with the 2016 Annual Research Lecture of the University of Marburg's ZIR (Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies of Religions), a centre that embraces about 15 different disciplines from the Study of Religions and Protestant Theology, Social Sciences, and Literatures. This year, an internationally highly acclaimed specialist on material religion, Prof. Dr. David Morgan, has been invited for the Annual Research Lecture on November 10<sup>th</sup> 2016. Former speakers in this series have included Prof. Dr. Hans-Ulrich Gumbrecht (Stanford University), and Prof. Dr. Karen King (Harvard University) as well as well-known German colleagues. For the workshop, a number of nationally and internationally qualified scholars have been invited whose aim it will be to shed fresh light on different perspectives of a topic that is currently being discussed in the fields of social sciences as well as the study of religions.

The workshop is scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and is organized by ZIR (Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies of Religions) at Philipp University of Marburg, Germany.

Since the number of participants will be limited, we would ask for **registration by 15 October 2016** via e-mail to [relwiss@staff.uni-marburg.de](mailto:relwiss@staff.uni-marburg.de). There will be no conference fee. Manuscripts will be circulated among participants before the workshop starts.

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## Schedule

**Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016, 6:15 p.m.:**

Auditorium (*Alte Aula*) of the Old University

### **Annual Research Lecture**

Prof. David Morgan, Ph.D. (Durham, NC)

### **Technologies of the Sacred:**

### **Situation and Recalcitrance in the Production & Destruction of Sacrality**

The lecture will be followed by a wine reception in the cloister of the Old University.

**Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2016:**

Department of the Study of Religions, Landgraf-Philipp-Str. 4

09:15 – 09:30 a.m.: Opening of the conference and welcome addresses.

09:30 – 10:30 a.m.: Recap with Prof. David Morgan, Ph.D. (Durham, NC)

10:30 – 11:00 a.m.: Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:00 a.m.: Crispin Paine (London):

*Gods and Roller-coasters: How Theme-Parks are Joining  
Museums as a Locus for Religion and for Modernity.*

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.: Dr. Ekatarina Teryukova (St. Petersburg)

*Migration of Collections: a Case Study of Muslim Relicts from  
Dagestan Mountain Village Chokch.*

Response: Prof. Marianna Shakhnovich (St. Petersburg)

*Panbabylonism, Travelers and Russian Life of Ancient Oriental  
Artifacts.*

01:00 – 02:30 p.m.: Lunch

02:30 – 03:30 p.m.: Prof. Dr. Ute Verstegen (Erlangen)

*People and Objects on the Move – On 'Artifact Biographies' and  
Other Theories of Mobility in the Current Archaeological Debate.*

03:30 – 04:30 p.m.: Prof. Dr. Alexander-Kenneth Nagel (Göttingen)

*Silencing Diversity? Governing Religious Diversity through  
'Rooms of Quiet'*

04:30 – 05:00 p.m.: Coffee Break

05:00 – 06:00 p.m.: Closing discussion and end of conference

06:00 – 07:00 p.m.: Guided tour of the Museum of Religions