

1. Workshop at the University of Religions and Denominations in Qom (Iran) - from 27.09. to 29.09.2013 on the topic:

“On Holy Places. The Veneration and the Commemoration of the Dead, Tomb Rituals in Imamat Theology and in Comparative Perspective“.

This Title of the Workshop refers to special sacred tombs and Shrines. We will visit on our tour holy sites of the 8th Imam, but also tombs of famous poets and scholars who are an Iranian feature, including Zoroastrian Shrines and a Jewish tomb in and around Yazd. We want to talk about our impressions and observations and discuss them. We would like to know more about Shiite theology, religious practice and traditions concerning this special tombs or Shrines in history and today.

Which people are venerated at these tombs? Why are they or the places holy?
It's important that we try to develop a comparative perspective on these issues.

Main papers wich are supposed to be presented and the professors who are going to write and present them:

- 1.) Prof. Dr. Hans Hafner (University of Potsdam)
Memory, Visualization, Anticipating as a Key Theme in Christian Theological Discourse
- 2.) Dr. Hans Michael Haußig (University of Potsdam)
Some Observations on Jewish Burial Practices
- 3.) Ulrike Kollodzeiksi (University of Potsdam)
Cultural Transfer and the Use of Oriental Forms on German Graves
- 4.) Prof. Dr. Catherina Wenzel (University of Frankfurt am Main)
Preliminary Observations on the Very Long Sarcophaguses of Constantly Growing Dead Prophets (Mausoleum of Khoja Daniyar in Samarkand and other Arabian Tombs)
- 5.) Vladislav Serikov (University of Frankfurt am Main)
Indian Stupas and the Buddhist Cult of Relics
- 6.) Dr. Emdat Turan (URD, Qom)
The Theology of Imamah and its relationship with pilgrimage
- 7.) Dr. Mahdi Lakzaee(URD, Qom)
Sacred Healing
- 8.) Dr. Saeed Montazery (URD, Qom)
The issue in Zoroastranism
- 9.) Dr. Mehrab Sadeghnia (URD, Qom)
The social and cultural meaning of Death Rituals
- 10.) Dr. Naeemeh Pourmohammadi (URD, Qom)
Care and Love in Rituals of Death

Frankfurt and Potsdam students will write an essay on any one topic that has to do with the excursion to Iran. These essays we will bring together in a travel guide. In addition, they will contribute their impressions and questions. We will choose some of them to speak about in Qom.

The morning of the 28.09. and the afternoon of the 29.09. will be dedicated for discussion, so Qom students are going to make themselves ready to interact with Frankfurt and Potsdam students and to answer their questions.

Creativity!

Some active and artist Qom students are going to hold exhibitions for photos and movies related to the topic "death rituals". So we can come together to discuss intensively and will get a good exchange. Frankfurt and Potsdam students will take a photo competition on this subject.

2. Concerning the Seminars at URD in Qom

From the 30.09. (8. Mehr) to 02.10. (10. Mehr) in URD at Qom following courses are offered to the students in Religious Studies:

1.) Mrs. Prof. Dr. Catherina Wenzel / Mrs. Modler-El Abdaoui (together)

Goethe University Frankfurt/ Main:

Concerning Theory of Rituals

(9-12 a.m. including 30 minutes break)

2.) Mrs. Zofia Nowak: Potsdam University:

Bible and the Traditional Jewish Interpretation in Midrash

(2-5 p.m. including 30 minutes break)

3.) Mr. Dr. Karsten Schmidt: Goethe University Frankfurt/ Main:

Buddhist Thought / Problems of Understanding

(9-12 a.m. including 30 minutes break)