


REPORT



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**On top of Birjeganga Pass, which boasts one of the finest views in the Himalayas:
Geography students from Heidelberg with their teachers and Indian friends**

**Dr. Eckart Würzner, Lord Mayor of Heidelberg,
visits the South Asia Institute in New Delhi**

Muhammad Iqbal Fellowship returns to the SAI

Heinrich Zimmer honoured with ceremonial act

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"On top of the world" (cf. front cover) could indeed be our logo after a successful year with events galore. These have included teaching highlights some of which were geared to benchmarking career opportunities as at the Delhi workshop (inaugurated by the Lord Mayor of Heidelberg!) where BA student interns could gauge the challenges of Indian globalisation (p.3), or emerged from the MAHASSA excursion to international organisations in Geneva (p.5.); others have focussed on intensive language training in summer schools for Tamil and Urdu (p.6), as well as engaged in pedagogical experiments such as "workshopping" identity (p.5).

Academic research has received a boost with as many as 15 large-scale projects from the Heidelberg Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe" (p.10-11), only to be accentuated by the achievements of the SFB in ritual dynamics with its mammoth international conference last autumn (p.15). Economists have intensified and broadened their scope by mapping food markets in Dhaka (p.12), and by evaluating demographic transition as well as the effects of the NREGA in India (p.13,16). Whereas indomitable geographers have investigated seismological regions in North Pakistan (p.14), cultural historical and philological foci have ranged from research into bibliophile collections and rare manuscripts (p.18, 23), analysis of South Asian reform movements (p.18) to the acquisition of a seminal archival database (p.25), with political scientists excelling through their publications (p.23, 26) as well as their media savvy critical analysis of tumultuous South Asian scenarios (p.9).

Dynamism has been the hallmark of our international cooperation as well as of the faculty and staff body: besides honouring retired colleagues (p.16, 17), we have welcomed new ones (p. 20, 21), and have been privileged to commemorate our old icons, Heinrich Zimmer and Muhammad Iqbal (p.19, 24), in vicarious and substantial ways. Delighted as we are to share our news, we wish our readers in South Asia and elsewhere all the best for the coming year.

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The South Asia Institute

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India - a new destination for career fulfilment

Dr. Eckart Würzner, Lord Mayor of Heidelberg, opens internship workshop in New Delhi

On his trip to Asia, Dr. Eckart Würzner, the Lord Mayor of the City of Heidelberg, paid a visit to the branch office of the SAI in New Delhi. Since 1 March 2009 the office also serves as the liaison office of the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a global context: shifting asymmetries in cultural flows”.

Dr. Würzner was welcomed by his hosts Professor Marcus Nüsser and Manfred Hake who represented the SAI’s executive and administration. They briefed him on current developments in research on South Asia and on the academic exchange with India. Dr. Würzner mentioned the possibility of more intense future cooperation between city and university. Both sides expressed their interest in using the institute’s existing networks to advertise Heidelberg as a “science city” in South Asia. The strategic imperative for such a cooperation results from the continually growing importance of South Asia for German science, economy and politics. Accordingly, the University of Heidelberg wishes to impact on these new developments with its Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe”. Brigitte Merz, executive manager of the cluster, observed that research on processes of cultural exchange between Asia and Europe would greatly contribute to a sustainable Indo-German partnership.

Together with Christian-Matthias Schlaga, envoy of the German embassy in India, Dr. Würzner opened the two-days workshop „India - a new destination for career fulfilment“ on 3 April 2009 at the India International Centre in New Delhi. In the large audience of important Indian and international institutions were the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce, the Confederation of Indian Industries, the Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, the Max Planck Gesellschaft, the Centre for Science and Environment and prominent members of the media, politics, economy and development cooperation.

All participants had come to learn about potential interns from Heidelberg. Five students from Heidelberg presented their experiences as interns in India. In a lively dialogue with the participating institutions, ideas, opportunities and ex-



Top: Students as interns in India. - Photo: Enrico Fabian. Bottom: Prof. Dr. Marcus Nüsser (SAI), Dr. Eckart Würzner (City of Heidelberg), Manfred Hake (SAI) and Dr. Brigitte Merz (Cluster of Excellence) at the SAI branch office in New Delhi. - Photo: SAI

pectations were shared. One of the most important insights gained from the workshop is an understanding of the growing need for highly qualified professionals in India as a result of the ongoing integration of India into the world economy. Consequently, given that attractive career challenges on the Indian sub-continent are increasing, it is not very surprising to see a growing interest among young German graduates to start their career in India.

As a result of the workshop, a network of national and international leaders, including members from the academia, was created. The timing was superb: At pres-

ent, a large number of young people are looking towards Asia to profit from the new opportunities our globalizing world offers. The SAI accepts these challenges - and actively engages with them - an important contribution to a professional and comprehensive mentoring of students. All participants expressed their commitment to following the SAI’s initiative in forging lasting partnerships, thereby offering young German employees new perspectives in India.

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B.A. program at the SAI

B.A. South Asian Studies

B.A. History of South Asia

B.A. Cultural and Religious History of South Asia

B.A. Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures

M.A. program at the SAI

M.A. Health and Society in South Asia

M.A. Cultural and Religious History of South Asia

M.A. Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures

in preparation:

M.A. History of South Asia

M.A. Political Science of South Asia

Ph.D. programs at the SAI

Ph.D. programs are offered in Anthropology, Cultural and Religious History of South Asia, Geography, History of South Asia, International Economics, Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures, and Political Science of South Asia.

In addition, the Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe" offers a graduate program for "Transcultural Studies".

Exchange programs

The SAI offers students the opportunity to study at various partner universities in Europe and South Asia. For further information on studying abroad, please visit:

www.sai.uni-heidelberg.de

The class of 2008



Members of the class of 2008 at the seminar "Reflected practical experience" at Heidelberg University's seminar centre in Oberflockenbach.

- Photo: Manfred Hake

In 2008, the first class of B.A. students graduated from the SAI. The students had chosen geography, political science, and anthropology as their main subjects within the interdisciplinary program "South Asian Studies". According to the examination regulations, they had the opportunity to choose between the languages Hindi and Sanskrit. All of the students of the class of 2008 opted for Hindi, and most of them were able to apply their newly acquired language skills during their internships in South Asia.

The internship is a mandatory part of the curricular framework, allowing students to experience how the theoretical knowledge gained during their first four semesters can be transferred into practice during their fifth semester. Most of the students chose their internship placements in line with their main subjects.

The following organisations/institutions were chosen:

Sarmoli-Jainti Van Panchayat Community based on Nature Tourism Programme, Pithoragarh District, Uttarkhand, Export House, Indira Exports Private Limited, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, Manas, Clinical Center for Mental Health, New Delhi, FISME - Federation of Indian Micro and Small and Medium Enterprises, New Delhi, HARC - Himalayan Action Research Center, Naugaon, Uttarkhand, Indo-German Chamber of Commerce, Bangalore, S.J. Designs, New Delhi, and Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, New Delhi.

During the course "Reflected Practical Experience" from 25-27 April 2008, which students have to take upon their return, they were taught how to incorporate their theoretical and practical knowledge in a suitable application dossier. People who work in the South Asian region were invited to elaborate on their work experiences and to advise how graduates from disciplines taught at the South Asia Institute can plan a career path. One of the referees was Jürgen Clemens, former SAI staff member (Department of Geography).

After graduation most students chose to continue their studies in M.A. programs such as: Humangeography with emphasis on Tourism-Development and Destination-Management, International Business and Intercultural Management, Integrated Natural Resource Management, Textile Management, International Health, Modern South- and South East Asian Studies and Sustainable Tourism Management.

The decision to pursue further studies by the first year graduates goes to show that theoretical and practical contents of the B.A. courses in South Asian studies have not only established a solid basis for career opportunities but have also stimulated the students to continue engaging with their subjects.

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“Made in South Asia”: Workshopping identity

In the summer term 2009, Alexandra Schott and Justin Siefert will offer a special opportunity to all students participating in their history seminar(s) *Made in South Asia*: a workshop on identity!

The overarching topic of the seminar *Made in South Asia* is identity – its influence, development and construction. The seminar will commence with a joint theoretical section, after which it will be split into two seminars, each one exemplifying different case studies with regard to different dimensions of identity configurations.

The focus of the seminar *The Tools for Creating Identity* will be on conflict areas such as Sri Lanka and Kashmir. The

goal of this seminar will be to reveal the roots of these conflicts, which often involve the clashing of identities, by examining which methods and technologies are used in the creation and spreading of identities.

The seminar *The Parsis as ‘Cultural Markers’* will analyse how a single ethnic-religious minority can both exert a strong influence on the formation of a society, as well as affect historical events and developments.

The participants of the two seminars will be given an opportunity to present their results to one another. Based on this they will prepare a presentation for a wider public. For this purpose, as a

special bonus of the workshop, the students will be given the “once-in-a lifetime” opportunity to do a broadcast on a local radio channel, called Bermuda Funk, with the support of Timo Fenske. For an in-depth discussion there will also be guest-lectures by the historians Dietmar Rothermund and Tilman Frasch on related topics.

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Study excursion to Geneva, Switzerland

Students participating in the Master program Health and Society in South Asia traveled to Geneva, Switzerland from 13-16 April 2009 to partake in a joint study excursion with the students from the M.Sc. International Health course. The trip was organized and coordinated by Andreas Ruppel (Department of Tropical Hygiene and Public Health), Natascha Petersen (Course Coordinator MScIH), and Constanze Weigl (Course Coordinator MAHASSA).

The purpose of the excursion was to introduce the students to various international organizations, programs, and partnerships, and their work in the area of health. On the first day, the group visited the TDR (Special Program for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases), the UNHCR (the UN Refugee Agency), and The Global Fund (to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria). On the second day, the group visited the World Health Organization headquarters, which included a half-day presentation series focusing on various health-related topics, followed by a lively discussion and intriguing questions by all the students from both public health and medical anthropology perspectives. The day concluded with an introduction to the International Committee of the Red Cross as well as a guided tour of its museum, which documents the history of the organization, which dates back more than one hundred years.

A further objective of the Geneva visit was to enable the students to establish



MAHASSA study excursion participants at the World Health Organization headquarters
- Photo: Constanze Weigl

useful contacts with health professionals in view of their future careers. Students arranged - on their own initiative and based on their personal study interests - visits to other organizations (eg. UNAIDS) and individual interviews with various representatives.

Besides gaining new insights into the work of international health organizations, all participants immensely enjoyed the trip. Sightseeing in Geneva, an Eas-

ter egg hunt, and the excellent interaction of both groups (including the forging of new friendships) made the trip an unforgettable experience. A future study excursion to Geneva with MAHASSA students and in cooperation with the M.Sc. IH program is planned.

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Summer school “Intensive courses in spoken and written Urdu”

The Chair of Islamic Studies, Erfurt University, and the SAI will offer introductory, intermediate and advanced courses in Urdu during the summer 2009.

In the introductory course students develop speaking, reading, listening and writing skills, and acquire basic vocabulary as well as knowledge of the main grammatical structures and the conversational etiquette of Urdu. At the intermediate level, students expand their vocabulary, their knowledge of grammatical structures and develop fluency and confidence in dealing with communicative tasks. The advanced course is designed to develop communicative skills, grammatical accuracy and the ability to understand complex written texts. Special stress will also be laid on listening comprehension. The courses will be divided into the following modules, enabling the students to make choices according to

their own requirements and priorities:

1. Introductory Urdu (Phonetics, basic grammar and vocabulary, development of reading, writing, speaking and listening skills)
2. Grammar and pattern drill (intermediate and advanced levels)
3. Readings in Urdu prose (intermediate level; general texts, texts on India and Pakistan, texts on Islamic practices)
4. Readings in literary Urdu prose (advanced level)
5. Newspaper reading (intermediate and advanced levels)
6. Listening comprehension (intermediate and advanced levels; based on language cassettes, films, radio broadcasts, poetry recordings etc.)
7. Conversational practice (intermediate and advanced levels)

The instructors, Amtul Manan Tahir, Bushra Iqbal and Christina Oesterheld

have taught regular and intensive Urdu courses in Erfurt and Heidelberg. Participants who take part in the full program and pass the written tests will be awarded 6 ECTS or equivalent credits.

All participants of the beginners' course are requested to acquire a basic knowledge of the Urdu script prior to the course. For this purpose, we recommend: Richard Delacy, *Beginners Urdu Script* (teach yourself series), ISBN 0-340-86028-6.

Time: 3 - 21 August 2009. Venue: Erfurt University. Fee: 220 Euro (incl. teaching materials). Deadline for Application: 31 May 2009. Accommodation: Hostel on request. Contact: ines.scheidt@uni-erfurt.de

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Tamil summer school 2008



Haggling with merchants in the local language.

- Photo: Jonas Buchholz

“Tamil teriyumaa?” – “What, you know Tamil?” It was more than once that we were faced with astonished shopkeepers, waiters or fellow bus passengers when trying to make practical use of our skills acquired during the Tamil Summer School in Pondicherry. Teaching spoken Tamil is the aim of this course organised annually by the Pondicherry Institute of Linguistics and Culture (PILC). As Tamil is a diglossic language, a comprehensive knowledge of the language requires thorough training in the spoken idiom.

And where could you do that better than in a Tamil-speaking environment, particularly if it is in the lovely town of Pondicherry?

As in previous years, a number of students of Tamil from the SAI made their way to India to participate in the Tamil Summer School, which took place from 14 June to 23 August 2008. With six students from Heidelberg among a total of fourteen participants from different European and North American universities, the SAI was quite well represented. The

participants were grouped into a beginners and an intermediate course. Teaching was conducted by T. Parasuraman and G. Ravisankar, two PILC staff members, as well as S. Arokianathan from Pondicherry University. The lessons took place six days a week and included conversational exercises, spoken drill, grammar lessons as well as reading of dialogues and stories.

During the afternoons there were additional activities: lectures and demonstrations aimed at giving us a deeper understanding of Tamil culture covered subjects such as traditional music and dance. There were field trips which offered the opportunity to speak Tamil in a variety of situations – in temples, on markets as well as during discussions with students of Pondicherry University.

Not only the intensive lessons but also the mere fact of being in a place where you could hear Tamil spoken every day was a big help towards improving our skills in colloquial Tamil. For students of Tamil attending the Tamil Summer School was certainly a worthwhile experience – not only in order to make Indian shopkeepers smile appreciatively.

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Geographical excursion to Kumaon and Garhwal



Bridging the gap: landslide in the Gori Valley.

- Photo: Marcus Nüsser

A group of 18 geography students attended an excursion organized by Marcus Nüsser and Susanne Schmidt to Garhwal and Kumaon between 12 September and 8 October 2008. The excursion was generously supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

Topical foci of the excursion included human-environmental interactions and development processes in the central Himalayas. After our arrival we met with students and scientists from the Department of Geography at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi. The meeting which was organized by Harjit Singh and Milap Chand Sharma facilitated an exchange of information about academic studies and research projects. During the following days, we crossed the lowlands of Northern India in the direction of Tehri (Garhwal), where Hanna Werner from the SAI's Department of History had organized a guided tour of the Tehri dam. On our way from Tehri to Munsiari, our starting point for the tour in

the Himalayas, we had a two-day stay at Nainital where Prakash Tiwari (Kumaon University) provided an introduction into typical development processes of the hill station.

On our way to Munsiari, we observed current, and traces of historical, land use patterns, such as colonial use of Salforests, recent utilisation of widespread *Pinus-roxburghii*-forests, and other human-induced land cover changes. Moreover, the challenges of road constructions and the impact of landslides on the development of peripheral high mountain regions became evident. During the two-day stop in Munsiari, the students spent time with local families, observed and participated in their everyday life and got a deeper understanding of the culture.

Furthermore, Malika Virdi and K. Ramnarayan introduced us to the aims and management of the Sarmoli-Jainti Van Panchayat Community Based Nature Tourism Programme and showed us new plans for the construction of several

dams in the catchment of the Gori Valley. The comparison between a planned and a completed dam project enabled us to get deeper insights into the ecological, geomorphological and hydrological impacts as well as the socioeconomic consequences of such projects. During the second part of the excursion we organized a trek to the upper valleys of Ralam and Gori, one of the main trade routes between Tibet and India until the closure of the border in 1962. On the trek we investigated topics such as biodiversity, glacier retreat, and changing land use. Furthermore, we gained impressions of the local perception of the environment and how this perception can be seen as an entry point for the protection of natural resources.

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Pakistan - a leap in the dark



A wedding in the countryside.

- Photo: Jan Krabbe

Inspired by an invitation the Pakistani Ambassador had extended during the Urdu Summer School in 2007, a study trip to Pakistan had been planned for a long time. In 2008 plans had to be cancelled due to the deadly terrorist attack on Benazir Bhutto. This year, as conflicts emerged following the temporary deposition of the Sharif brothers, it didn't look very promising either, but we kept our hopes alive. These hopes were dashed on the day of our departure, when news arrived of the terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team. In the end, only three brave souls, who had already travelled to Lahore individually, were left to discover Pakistan on their own.

As a result, I spent most of my sojourn in Lahore and thanks to two extraordinary guides of the Alliance Française, whom I had met at the border, I got an extended tour of the city. They also facilitated unforgettable experiences: a dinner with an Afghan Pathan, tea with a mullah in Sheikhpura, and charity work - serving milk on the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad. Furthermore, I had the privilege to be invited to a wedding in the countryside. I was also witness to political protests, which took place right outside the hostel - an experience with tear gas in the bargain. Unfortunately, the sightseeing outside Lahore was rather sparse, although I did go to Taxila.

Despite some troubles, what remains is the memory of a very inspiring and exciting journey, especially instructive in terms of seeing with one's own eyes what is happening in Pakistan and how the western media deals with it. Unfortunately, media coverage on both sides is biased giving Pakistanis a wrong impression of what "the West" is, and painting an equally negative perception of Pakistan and its people. To offer just one example, on the day of the "bloody protests in Lahore" more people were injured (and killed) in accidents involving the flying of kites during the traditional Basant festival, than in the protests - a fact hardly mentioned in the media.

Pakistan is certainly one of the most unstable countries in the world. Nevertheless, if one is well informed and has a respectful attitude, one may feel quite safe at most places since the helpfulness and hospitality of the Pakistani people is overwhelming, extending far beyond what I had experienced in my previous travels to other countries. Among former tourists to India, we jokingly agreed that to a visitor Pakistan is a "better India" with regard to the comparatively smoothly running daily routine and the visibly more respectful behaviour towards us "Angrez".

It would be a dream to see a more peaceful and stable Pakistan one day to discover more of this wonderful country and take away most peoples' anxiety of a visit. I feel this is what people are desperately waiting for in Pakistan.

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South Asia: The most dangerous place to study?

When President Clinton called South Asia (and more precisely Kashmir) the most dangerous place on earth, he was referring to the nuclear capability that India and Pakistan had just demonstrated. South Asians may point to the fact that these weapons have been around for decades without their countries considered to be that great a danger.

Terrorist attacks, however, have become more frequent almost all over South Asia and the question arises as to whether or not the region has to be

avoided for travel, study, excursions or internships. After all, universities have a certain responsibility for their own members, and for the general public, which expects expert advice.

For decades one has been warned that the three most dangerous things for a traveller in South Asia are "traffic, traffic, traffic", and one has been advised to be careful with eating (especially meat and fish), drinking (water!) and sleeping (malaria). There is a list of members of the institute who not just caught all kind

of unpleasant illnesses, but actually died after having been bitten by the wrong kinds of mosquitoes or in traffic accidents. In recent years, some of us have been at places or close to where acts of terrorism were perpetrated shortly before or after, or close to such places at the time of the attacks. Hartals (general strikes) are a rather common phenomenon, and curfews and martial law could be experienced. But terrorist acts aimed at civilians are signs of a new, dubious kind of danger.



Although terrorist attacks might have increased in both frequency and scope, this had to be put into perspective. Europe has experienced its share of terrorism as well, and part of the problem is the unpredictability of where terrorists might strike next. There is certainly no easy answer as to how one should prepare for such eventualities. Local advice

is to be sought and followed, not least because our very being there burdens our hosts with additional responsibilities. There is no harm in staying away if you feel uneasy, as your uneasiness may make you more prone to accidents. The Lufthansa (or any other airline) is said to be the best antidote, as symptoms of fear often disappear in more comfortable en-

vironments. Given the vastness of South Asia and its tremendous diversity a closer look at the problems is always needed, and this is after all one of the main tasks of the SAI as a research institute on the region.

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The attacks that rocked India: science and the media

When the first news about the tragic events surrounding the terrorist attacks at several spots in Mumbai trickled through, it became clear that this was a somewhat different event from what had happened so many times before in the last couple of years - India's "26/11" created a veritable media hype. Hardly a day passed in the department of Political Science without a phone call from a newspaper, broadcasting company or research institute/foundation asking for an interview or participation in a panel discussion; the interviews given ran into double digits.

It seems to be the sad privilege of the political scientists, especially those with area expertise, to be the contacts of choice whenever something tragic like the Mumbai terrorist attacks happens

or a conflict escalates. Reporting to the media in the face of such an event and as a representative of a research institute dealing with South Asia is something of a double-edged sword.

On the one hand, reaction to ongoing events is definitely needed and should be part of the agenda of an institute dedicated to the region - it is good if the expertise available at the institute is made accessible to the public. On the other hand, one has to be fully aware that not much relevant background information can be squeezed into a 5-minute interview. In the case of the Mumbai attacks an additional reservation comes into play: the very nature of the attacks, their rationale, visible in the targets chosen and the orchestration, was meant to attract media

attention. Is contributing to the media coverage by giving interviews therefore playing into the hands of the perpetrators?

It all depends on the kind of reporting and whether the object of the media attention is also made part of subsequent teaching and research. If at least some background information and critical discussion is included in the interview and if a subsequent engagement with the root causes of the attacks and with the question of how to confront such an event takes place, it will be worthwhile to continue picking up the phone when the wires run hot again.

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Democratic transformation and civilian control of the military

This project, jointly led by professors Aurel Croissant (IPW) and Subrata K. Mitra (SAI), examines the relationship of democratic transformation and civil-military relations in seven new democracies in Asia. The research will be guided by three interrelated questions: How do new Asian democracies cope with the challenges of institutionalizing civilian control of the military? How successful are they and which factors lead to the observed differences in the scope and shape of civilian control? How do the patterns

of civil-military relations in these countries affect the quality and chances of democratic consolidation?

The project follows a qualitative, two-dimensional comparative approach: First, the development of civil-military relations in seven young democracies of Northeast Asia (South Korea, Taiwan; responsible David Kühn/IPW), Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand; responsible Paul Chambers/IPW) and South Asia (Bangladesh, Pakistan; responsible Siegfried O. Wolf/SAI)

will be analyzed in country studies and through an intra-regional comparison. In a second step, the results will be compared from an inter-regional perspective, linking the findings to the general theoretical contexts and the democratization literature. The project is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

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The South Asia Institute tries to react as quickly as possible to major events in South Asia. Press releases were issued on the Mumbai attacks or the state of emergency in Pakistan. Most recently, we covered the elections in India with a web dossier. Members of the SAI present their analysis on various issues regarding the elections. Mainly, the competing parties, their manifestos and chances of success are discussed, but there are also background articles on the politics of South Asia. In addition, we provide links to interviews and publications in which our scholars were actively involved.

Please go to www.sai.uni-heidelberg.de for the dossier on the Indian elections - and for other up-to-date information.

Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe”

We will continue to present the projects related to South Asia within the Cluster “Asia and Europe in a Global Context” in the coming issues of the SAI-Report. For up-to-date news, developments, project reports and events, please go to www.asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de.

B14 Religion on stage – traditional performances in new public spheres and media



Kuttiyattam theatre: Rama Chakya Ravana.
- Photo: Heike Moser

Healing rituals in Sri Lanka, Vedic sacrifices (*homa*) in India, the Sanskrit theatre Kutiyattam in Kerala, or traditional rituals at the Pashupatinatha Temple in Nepal are just a few contemporary examples for “religion on stage”. A project of the same name, directed by Axel Michaels

and William Sax, started in January 2009 at the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context”.

One aim of this project, which is located in Research Area B “Public spheres – public life and performance”, is to examine how new forms of transnational media have radically changed production, consumption and content of traditional religious performances, in both Asia and Europe. Today, such performances have become increasingly important for people and the societies concerned, and are often related to their cultural heritage. They are thought of as a kind of cultural revitalization, or are used to represent, or sell local culture to tourists and others. This process is influenced by international regulations and ideas about markets, copyright and cultural property. It seems that such per-

formances are often de-contextualized, and reappear, with remarkable additions and transformations, in new contexts and in non-traditional spaces such as television studios, folk festivals, tourist venues or the internet.

In our research we want to systematically and scientifically analyze the processes of asymmetrical changes in the public (re)presentation and “staging” of religion in Asia and Europe, looking at live performances, films, video and audio recordings, printed images, photographs, newspapers, magazines, the internet and virtual platforms. We aim to contribute to transcultural studies by identifying flows between Asia and Europe, taking a close look at “third spaces”, such as media, markets, tourism, and developing new tools for the storage and analysis of static and moving images.

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B4 Indian highway – an ethnography of Indian contemporary art in a transnational context

Bharti Kher or Subodh Gupta are only two of a number of famous Indian artists celebrated by international connoisseurs. They are representing Indian contemporary art, which has experienced a remarkable boom on the global art market in the first decade of the 21st century. Curatory shows, like “Indian Highway” (Serpentine Gallery / London and Astrup Fearnly Museum / Oslo April 2009) or the “Empire strikes back” (forthcoming at Saatchi-Gallery / London 2009), art-expositions with a focus on India (e.g. Arco Madrid February 2009) and auction-houses like OSIAN’s generate a rapidly growing infrastructure of experts of Indian art and audiences in countries outside South Asia.

Within the framework of the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context”, with one of its foci on public

spheres, comprising of political and cultural flows between Asia and Europe, the dissertation-project “Indian Highway – an ethnography of Indian contemporary art in a transnational context” seeks to place Indian contemporary art in relation to transcultural discourses on cultural identity and the creation of a globalised audience of experts and connoisseurs. With its focus on flows of artworks in a global context, the project is related to the research topics Visual & Media Anthropology and Global Art History. The dissertation is supervised by Christiane Brosius (Professor in the Cluster of Excellence).

Indian contemporary art, migrating along routes of transnational museums and galleries, plays an increasing role within global processes of transcultural exchange. These direct our attention

not only towards new kinds of mobility of images and the actors involved, but also towards Indian artworks as cultural products, which are loaded with notions of value and authenticity and are transformed between transcultural public spheres.

This ethnographical research will focus, among other issues, on the travelling exhibition “Indian Highway”, which demonstrates how Indian artists engage with complex issues of contemporary India such as environmentalism, religious sectarianism, globalisation, gender, sexuality and class. Methodologically multi-sited the project will analyze these artworks as items of social and transcultural interactions between Asia and Europe.

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B1 Gauging cultural asymmetries: Asian satire and the search for identity in the era of colonialism and imperialism

Portraying contemporary VIPs as puffed-up frogs in a pond; making fun of elderly hypocrit Vaishnavas who have their lecherous eyes focussed on 16 year-old girls; exploring the strange ways of city-life from the perspective of hillbillies; lampooning Christian missionaries, hardcore colonialists as well as alleged English experts on India; mocking only-English-speaking Indian gentlemen and England-returned professionals; exposing the irrelevance of shastric prescriptions for contemporary issues; insisting on the inappropriateness of smoking, especially by ladies: these are some of the topics that kept South Asian satirists busy until (and in many cases beyond) Independence.

An astonishing amount of the booming literatures in modern South Asian languages during the colonial period fall under the broad heading of humour and satire. Largely underrated by prevailing literary history, much of this satirical output has never made it into being reprinted and has thus sunk into oblivion. It now has to be recovered from often scarcely available journals.

How to trace and evaluate this sudden boost in satirical production? A research group on Asian satire (part of Research Area B of the Heidelberg Cluster of Excellence and initiated by Hans Harder) has started working on these issues in July 2008. Among the seven individual projects spanning literary cultures from the Ottoman Empire to Japan, three are devoted to South Asia: Ph.D. candidates Swarali Paranjape, Chaiti Basu and Prabhath Kumar deal with Marathi, Bengali and Hindi satirical traditions respectively.

A fresh look at colonial satire and caricatures will lead us right into the medley of identity debates in colonial South Asia. It also evokes a surprisingly different history of literature; for though no less concerned with national themes than the “edifying” genres of the time, satire is a literary mode based on deformation, delocation and destruction. It will be a challenge to view the colonial experience from this angle.

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A1 Citizenship as conceptual flow: Asia in comparative perspective

“Citizenship as conceptual flow: Asia in comparative perspective” is a project led by Subrata K. Mitra within the Cluster of Excellence „Asia and Europe in a global context”. As part of Research Area A, which brings together a number of projects under its rubric governance and administration, “Citizenship as conceptual flow” seeks to compare strategies and processes of “turning” subjects into citizens. Both in terms of its formal features as well as its moral basis, citizenship is inextricably associated with Europe, be it in terms of the Roman conceptualization of *civitas*, the notion of territorial integrity embodied in the Westphalian state system or the principles of *liberté, égalité, fraternité*, promoted as the basic rights and identity of the citizens, by the French Revolution.

This project explores the transmigration of citizenship as a concept and an institution beyond its original European

homeland and the encounter with Asian categories – leading to the creation of hybrid forms. A range of thematic and country-specific studies are underway, including studies on the link between education, public buildings, neo-religious categories and citizenship-making, the importance of institutions, law and governance in setting incentives and disincentives encouraging citizens to become stakeholders in the main organs of the body politic. Cases drawn from South Korea, India and Europe investigate the role of cultural and historical heritage further. At the end of its first phase, the project aims to have established a database of secondary literature on a number of puzzles related to citizenship as well as generated primary material through interviews and primary data-collection.

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Focus on South Asia

A01 Citizenship as conceptual flow - Asia in comparative perspective

A03 The real fiction of unreal equality: networking the international system

A06 Cultures of disaster. Shifting Asymmetries between societies, cultures and nature from a comparative historical and transcultural perspective

A09 Cultural transfer as a factor of state building

B01 Gauging cultural asymmetries: Asian satire and the search for identity in the era of colonialism and imperialism

B03 Transcultural topographies of urban sensoriums and events

B04 Transcultural visuality learning group

B07 Traditional performances in new public spheres and media

B09 Asymmetries in cultural information flows: Europe and South Asia in the global information network since the nineteenth century

B11 Difference, danger and new urban imaginaries of the public

B13 Transcultural public spheres: Tamil-speaking Muslims in colonial Singapore

B14 Religion on stage: traditional South Asian performances in new public spheres and media

C02 Large Dams: contested environments between hydro-power and resistance

C03 Asymmetrical translations: mind and body in European and Indian medicine

C04 Making India a global healthcare destination: a social study of high-tech hospitals and neo-oriental spas

Bangladeshi-German team play: Analysing Dhaka's food markets

Mapping food markets in a megacity like Dhaka, which is a hardly planned, chaotically growing city, is a surprisingly challenging task, even when using Geographical Information System (GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS) devices.

Data available about markets in Dhaka was gathered from the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and the Department of Agricultural Marketing, Ministry of Agriculture. Taking a closer look at the collected data, the extent of the loss of governability in Bangladesh's capital became clear. One list, unfortunately out of date, contained plenty of information about markets, but none about their locations. By contrast, the DCC provided positions of markets, but no information beyond their bare names.

After having returned to Germany, all information was digitalized by students of the Universities of Bonn and Heidelberg and entered into a GIS database. Locations of (some) markets and mosques, the road network, waterbodies and the ward boundaries were read into a satellite image. Based on these data single maps for all 90 city wards were prepared. After having been sent to Dhaka, these maps were used by students of Dhaka University and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Planning to adjust the preliminary data to reality. They checked every landmark in order to distinguish wholesale from retail markets as well as food from non-food markets. Landmarks have been made by the city's administration for emerging shopping centres, the new areas intended for the upcoming middle class. Other points just turned out to be samples of the numerous kitchen markets of the megacity. Some of these were conglomerates of several markets. After having identified target markets concerning food wholesale, GPS waypoints were marked and interviews were conducted at each site.

Besides this broad mapping, more detailed research is currently being conducted on rice and fish markets. A market, as understood in this context, is not a place of anonymous transactions of *homines oeconomici*. It is a whole universe in itself, a social arena which comprises hundreds of people, connected by (mis)trust and kin. Kawran Bazar, for instance, in the heart of Dhaka, is one of



Five-Star Fish Market, Dhaka: As the authors explain, a market “is not a place of anonymous transaction of *homines oeconomici*. It is a whole universe in itself, a social arena that comprises hundreds of people, connected by (mis)trust and kin.”
- Photo: Markus Keck

the central hubs for raw food distribution. Day and night this market is frequented by thousands of customers who want to buy food either for direct consumption, or for business purposes. At that bazaar, a great number of markets are located; one of them is Five-Star Fish Market.

At night from 2 a.m. onwards, one truck after another comes to the market carrying frozen and fresh fish from various parts of the country in boxes, drums, and baskets. A business card is fixed at each load indicating the name and address of the respective businessman. The night labourers have to unload the fish and take it to the merchants' stalls, guarding the goods at their own risk until the owner personally arrives. Other workers unload pickups full of ice intended to keep the perishable goods fresh. Around 5.30 a.m., the selling starts; within an hour the market is full of din and bustle. Managers, auctioneers, weight men and fish collectors serve as sellers, organizing the sale. Customers, e.g. retailers, hawkers, street food vendors and restaurant owners compete for quality and good prices. Supported by their assistants, they scour the market in a rush to get back to their stores, restaurants etc.; due to the tropical

heat they must start selling immediately. When the rest of the city dwellers go to work, around 8.30 a.m., the main business at the fish market is over. By then exhausted workers look forward to taking a rest at one of the numerous small food and tea stalls at the market and to getting some sleep.

Markus Keck (SAI), Md. Shahidul Haque (Dhaka University) and Wolfgang-Peter Zingel (SAI) are currently conducting this research in collaboration with the Department of Geography of Bonn University (Benjamin Etzold and Hans-Georg Bohle) and the Department of Economics of Dhaka University (Shafique uz Zaman). The project “The megaurban Food System of Dhaka/Bangladesh” is part of the Priority Program “Megacities – Megachallenge. Informal Dynamics of Global Change”, funded by the German Research Foundation.

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Reviewing pastoralists

Anthropologists have long assumed that communities practicing transhumant pastoralism have a distinctive pastoral ideology. In addition to assumptions on ideology, interest in pastoralists has generally led to an one-sided concern with shepherds and pastoral activities. This is especially evident in studies focusing on human-environment relations.

But as Richard Tapper has pointed out, the practice of pastoralism does not necessarily imply a pastoral or nomadic ideology. Nor are human-environment relations restricted to pastoralism. It is time to broaden our view of pastoralist groups and the ways in which they engage with their environment.

In my doctoral project I am concerned with environmental relations among the Gaddi, an agro-pastoralist community living around the Dhauladhar range in Himachal Pradesh, India. On a conceptual level my aim is to bring the sheep back into the village. This means to focus on activities carried out in and from the village, thereby including the perspectives of women, children and non-shepherding men.

Far from denying a pastoralist identity, this research aims at broadening our view of how meaningful relations to the environment are established among the Gaddi. While pastoralism plays an important part in daily life as well as in identity construction, it is not the only activity



A flock of sheep and goats in the Dhauladhar range, Himachal Pradesh.

- Photo: Anja Wagner

connecting people to mountains. My findings show that in addition to transhumant movements and religious activities kinship is crucial for an understanding of the landscape of the Dhauladhar and its meanings.

Human-environment relations in high altitude communities have recently become a topic of interest at the department of anthropology. In another doctoral

project, Christoph Bergmann is working on the interplay of socio-cultural and natural resources among the Rang Shauka, also known as the Darma Bhotiya, in Uttarakhand.

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Demography and the allocation of risk

Industrial countries are now at the end of a transition from a high fertility-mortality regime to one of low fertility-mortality. This trend, which began in the early 1800s in Europe with a decline in mortality rates and was followed by a reduction of fertility rates, is known as demographic transition.

Historically, falling mortality rates were largely due to the control of infectious diseases and benefited mostly infants and children. Current improvements in longevity, in contrast, are due to better treatment and later incidence of chronic and degenerative diseases thus, almost exclusively, benefiting the old. While life expectancy has been extended and become relatively predictable, the behaviour of fertility patterns is still

puzzling. The main uncertainty relates to whether we are at the beginning of a prolonged phase in which fertility is below replacement levels or simply 'lost in transition', having reached the low point of a fertility cycle.

Treating fertility as exogenous, the first task at hand is to analyze the economic system's ability to deal successfully with this source of risk, as developed countries have now substituted markets and government intervention for the traditional extended family with its norms of mutual obligations. While the provision of income in old age by widespread pay-as-you-go pension schemes is threatened by the ageing of the population, these schemes do serve as a device for sharing macroeconomic and demographic risks

across generations. Germany, whose severe ageing problem casts doubt on the sustainability of its PAYG scheme, is one particular example.

The main uncertainty for most developing countries arises from the timing and speed of the transition. But in designing appropriate policy they can take advantage of international and historical experiences. Here, I shall concentrate on India, whose young population structure is representative of many developing countries and grants substantial flexibility in designing and implementing a satisfactory retirement system over the coming decades.

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South Asian cooperation: The SAARC Centres

The South Asian Association for Regional Development (SAARC) may be better known for its shortcomings than for its achievements but it is also unique as it comprises of countries, which were all shaped, more or less, by the same colonial power, i.e. the British Empire. This especially applies to its major three members India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. It is also unique as two of the association's members were engaged in several wars, are still competing over a disputed territory (Kashmir), blame each other for transnational terrorism and face each other as nuclear powers.

Until Afghanistan joined SAARC in 2007, all members had shared a border with India but not with any other member state. Moving from one capital to the other can be difficult for a lack of direct

flights; travel restrictions are imposed between India and Pakistan and hinder the visiting of neighbouring country even if invited by government run institutions (e.g. universities or research bodies). For good reasons the founding members of SAARC stated in their Charter "[B]ilateral and contentious issues shall be excluded from the deliberations" (article X(2)). There is a small central secretariat in Kathmandu with a secretary general and one director from each country. It has no political mandate of its own but the secretariat provides a forum for the difficult dialogue between the members of the association.

SAARC has, however, set up a number of centres that work in different fields and represent SAARC in their countries of residence. Special SAARC visas allow a

small number of specialists to move easily between the SAARC countries so that a growing number of them get to know the neighbouring countries. This is very important considering the fact that the generation of refugees which had fled in the wake of the partitions of 1947 (India and Pakistan) and 1971 (Pakistan and Bangladesh), respectively, which had an intimate knowledge of its country of origin has long since retired. The existence of "enemy property" of considerable size is one of the reasons why there are hardly any systematic attempts at studying neighbouring countries, thus giving only few people the opportunity for regular visits, field research and longer stays.

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Stability and instability in an earthquake-affected area in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (Northern Pakistan)



Large landslide in the Jhelum Valley (6 December 2008) - Photo: Marcus Nüsser

The earthquake which struck the Lesser Himalaya of northern Pakistan and India in October 2005, was one of the deadliest earthquake-disasters in South Asia's recent history. It caused more than 86,000 fatalities and left more than 4 million people homeless as more than 32,000 buildings were destroyed. In addition, the ground motion triggered several thousand landslides and produced extensive fissuring on the slopes, which ren-

ders them even more susceptible to future landslides. These will pose a major threat to local communities in the coming years, especially during snowmelt and monsoon season.

The relief agency Malteser International, which is implementing reconstruction projects in two earthquake-hit districts in Azad Jammu & Kashmir, is aware of the future risk that landslides pose to the development of the region. Therefore,

the organisation commissioned Marcus Nüsser to conduct a landslide susceptibility assessment in the project area.

The analysis of satellite imagery and observations made during a field trip of Marcus Nüsser to Muzaffarabad district in December 2008 showed that there is a close coexistence of stable and unstable slopes in the area. Based on characteristic instability factors such as slope gradient, bedrock lithology or land cover, a model was developed, which delineates those areas, which are most susceptible to future landslides.

This information is now passed on to the decision makers and development planners in the region who will use it to concentrate efforts on more detailed monitoring and to adjust land use regulations. The final objective is to reduce future risk through minimising the presence of people and valuables in landslide-prone areas. Thus, it is hoped that the research project will have direct positive effects for the people living in the earthquake-affected areas of northern Pakistan.

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New forms of research on rituals - a review



Transforming Heidelberg into the centre of research on rituals, the international conference “Ritual Dynamics and the Science of Ritual” was proof of the seminal potential of the traditional subject. Organized by the collaborative research centre SFB 619 “Ritual Dynamics” from 29 September to 2 October 2008, it was one of the most comprehensive conferences in the field of humanities and cultural science at Heidelberg University. As many as 600 participants from more than 15 disciplines discussed the future of research on rituals. More than 260 experts presented their research results in 22 panels, some of which spanned several days.

The conference assembled all internationally renowned ritual experts with the aim of reassessing the traditional subject in view of the latest research. Its outcomes will be pathbreaking for a future transcultural, interdisciplinary and multi-methodical research approach and will lay the foundations for new developments in ritual science. The convention was marked by a broad range of disciplines and exhibited a corresponding diversity of methods. It embraced a tremendous variety of topics in terms of cultural geography and spanned a time horizon from the antiquity to the present.

Up to 150 scientists joined the lively discussions in the panels, repeatedly elaborating to what extent the definitions of rituals are subject to the respective culture. The plenary discussion on 1 October made it more than clear, how broadly the term ritual can be defined. If we want to stop regarding rituals as more or less arbitrary phenomena, we have to determine the exact conditions, modes and functions of ritual actions in different cultures of the present and past. A crucial insight gained from the conference is

the conclusion that there cannot be “one single” model for rituals and that interdisciplinary collaborations are the key to research on rituals. This also includes the development and use of creative research methods; an aspect in which the SFB 619 has lived up to its reputation as a pioneer in research on rituals. The conference affirmed and successfully enhanced the SFB 619’s interdisciplinary approach. The conferences’ outcomes will be summarized in ten conference transcripts, to be published by the end of 2009 by Harrassowitz Publishing House.

The conference was met with great interest by the media and public, since its unprecedented supporting program brought research out of its ivory tower. Already on the first night of the conference, the general public was invited by the radio channel SWR2 Forum and the SFB 619 to join the discussion titled “Why we do need rituals”. On the second night, renowned Egyptologist Jan Assmann’s lecture on “Ritual and Magic” at the Auditorium of the Neue Universität was packed. On 1 October, soprano Evelyn Tubb and lutenist Anthony Rooley afforded their audience an experience of a contemplative ritual amidst our hectic times. More than anything else, the introduction of ritual testimonies in different museums and collections as well as in public space, and the guided tour “Heidelberg in Rituals” through the city’s Old Town were able to make evident that, despite their differences, rituals all over the world root in the basic human need for coherence, order and meaning. One of Heidelberg’s mayors, Dr. Joachim Gerner, expressed his particular gratitude for the SFB 619’s commitment. He emphasized that making science accessible for everyone is a great challenge nowadays and that being able to understand the

rituals of other cultures creates the basis for a peaceful intercultural dialog in our globalized world.

The scene of the conference will reverberate throughout 2009 in form of the special exhibitions “Ritual and World Order”, showing illustrations from medieval scripts at the University Library and “Following the Footsteps of the Gods” with exhibits from the Indian state of Orissa at the J.& E. Portheim Foundation’s Museum of Ethnology.

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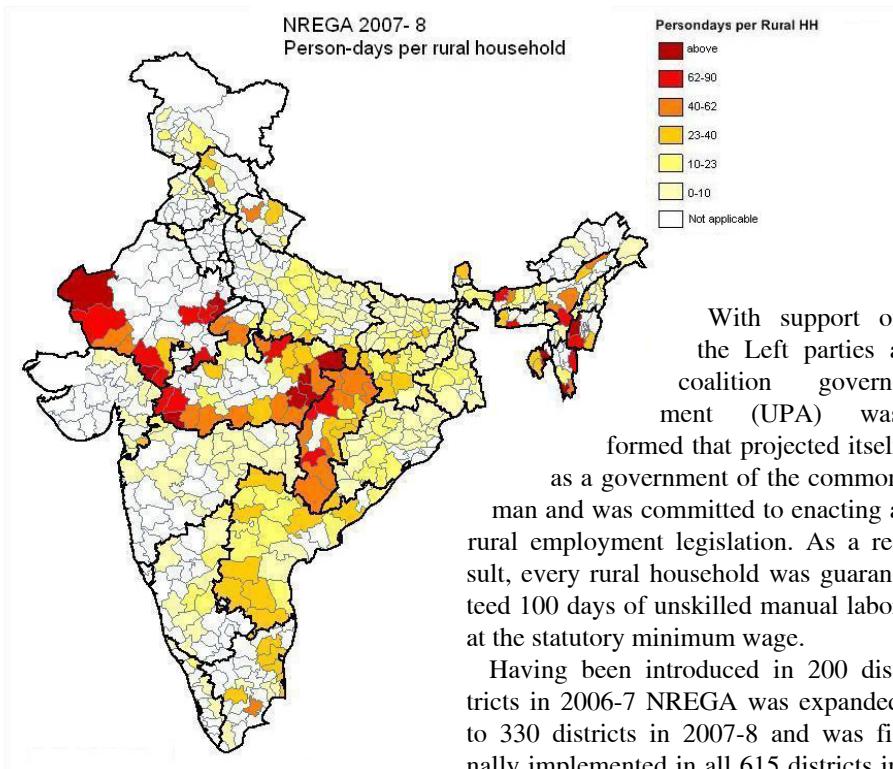
Update: Approval for hird project period

The Collaborative Research Center 619 Ritual Dynamics has received final approval for funding of its third project period by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

Founded in 2002, SFB 619’s third project period will expire in June 2013.



Employment guarantee in India



The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) is considered to be the flagship program of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) to fight poverty in rural India.

While India belongs to the club of the fastest growing countries, it is ranked number 128 out of 177 countries in the UN Human Development Index 2008. Approximately 40 percent of India's population live below the global poverty line (\$1.25 per day). Focusing on their plight the Congress Party of India led by Sonia Gandhi won the 2004 elections.

With support of the Left parties a coalition government (UPA) was formed that projected itself as a government of the common man and was committed to enacting a rural employment legislation. As a result, every rural household was guaranteed 100 days of unskilled manual labor at the statutory minimum wage.

Having been introduced in 200 districts in 2006-7 NREGA was expanded to 330 districts in 2007-8 and was finally implemented in all 615 districts in 2008-9. Costing rupees (Rs.) 160 billion (Euro 2.5 billion) NREGA employed 34 million households over the year 2007-8, which - assuming a household-size of five - is equivalent to the population of Bangladesh.

For the first two years of NREGA we notice that states like Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh have done relatively well compared to similarly poverty-stricken states like Bihar and West Bengal. Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh provided for 68 and 52 person-days per rural household in 2007-8 whereas Bihar and West Bengal achieved just 7

and 8 person-days per rural household, respectively (see map and Drèze, Oldiges in Frontline issues 14/2007 and 04/2009). Official data as well as independent surveys indicate that disadvantaged groups like women and scheduled castes/tribes are the main beneficiaries of NREGA as their shares of NREGA employment in 2007-8 were 42% and 56% respectively. The average wage per day varied between Rs. 59 in Rajasthan and Rs. 124 in Haryana.

Thus, despite the conclusion that NREGA is needed throughout India it has not been a success everywhere: funds are often misused or simply siphoned off. The state of Orissa for instance, was under severe suspicion of embezzlement in 2007. In Jharkhand, implementing agencies (Gram Panchayats) are not in place at all. Rajasthan on the other hand with its history of local workers' campaigns shows that NREGA can be made transparent and accountable. Although workers here also have to fight for the correct functioning of the program, workers in other parts of India are not even aware of the existence of NREGA.

After three years of NREGA much remains to be done before NREGA can make a difference in every village. At the same time it has been shown that whenever people are employed on NREGA works, the income received does change their lives.

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Professor emeritus Dr. Bruno Knall turns 85

Many readers may remember Professor Knall as a teacher who was able to put across his ideas on development economics in a straight-forward manner without complicating the subject with the sophisticated jargon of his discipline. In addition, he was also a good organizer and highly capable manager of the department of economics at the South Asia Institute and motivated his staff to explore ever new



Prof. em. Bruno Knall

avenues in different academic areas relating to various Asian countries.

Professor Knall specialized in Nepal, which he was very fond of and visited frequently. Over the years, many of his collaborators there became his close friends. As time goes by, many of them will look back on their acquaintance with Bruno Knall with

fondness, knowing that he is someone special.

Although Professor Knall is practically unable to communicate as a consequence of the stroke he suffered several years ago, when I read him the Vice Chancellor's congratulatory letter in honour of his 85th birthday, I had the distinct impression that he had grasped the message. Bruno Knall celebrated his 85th birthday on 22 February 2009 at the nursing home at Gundelsheim in which he is very well looked after.

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Professor emeritus Clive Bell

At the beginning of his career, it seemed rather unlikely that Clive Laurence Bell, professor emeritus of development economics at the SAI, should ever become an economist. A native of Epping, near London, Bell started out as an apprentice for an aircraft manufacturer and subsequently enrolled as a student of aeronautical engineering at the University of Cambridge. He became aware of economics as an academic discipline



Prof. em. Clive Bell

only towards the end of his undergraduate studies, fueled by a fascination with the mathematical methods that were rapidly conquering this social science at the time. The 22-year old engineer-to-be was attracted by the idea that social phenomena could be analyzed using rigorous formal models. He has followed this approach faithfully at all stages of his subsequent career, be it as a representative of the World Bank or as a professor in the classroom.

After completing his engineering studies, he took economics as a major and graduated with a bachelor's degree from Cambridge University in 1966. A lecture on economic growth sparked his interest in the economic problems of low-income countries. The idea that the situation of these economies could be improved through the application of insights obtained from economic theory, appealed to him and so he enrolled in a graduate program in development studies at the University of Essex. After graduating with a doctorate in 1976, he worked as a research economist at the World Bank in Washington, DC. He also worked as part-time lecturer at Johns-Hopkins University for several years, after which he fully switched to academia in 1986 and became a professor of economics at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. Clive Bell became aware of the German academic landscape when he accompanied a group of American students on a year of study in Regensburg in 1991. He visited the University of Regensburg again in 1993 and eventually moved to

Heidelberg to work at the SAI in 1995. Due to his academic and practical experience, he was an ideal candidate for the chair of development economics.

Clive Bell deserves to be called a pioneer of development economics, the branch of economics concerned with low-income countries. While the core fields of economics, such as market equilibrium analysis, growth theory and public finance, had already moved towards

adopting formal methods common in mathematics and physics, during the 1940s and 50s, development economics was dominated by narrative, often ideologically influenced approaches up to the 1960s. Similarly, empirical research and data analyses in the field of development economics were lagging behind the rapidly evolving methodological standards in other fields of applied economics, such as labor economics. Clive Bell was one of the first researchers who helped improve this state of affairs. For example, inspired by field observations in India, he applied game-theoretic concepts of Nobel Laureate John Nash to tenancy contracts in agriculture. He also published numerous articles on poverty, economic growth, project planning, and credit in developing countries. Triggered by a research project at the World Bank, his focus has shifted more and more to the economic and demographic implications of HIV/AIDS over the past decade.

Since the start of his appointment in Heidelberg, Clive Bell has contributed crucially to the quality, visibility and international character of the SAI. He is a co-founder of the European Development Research Network (EUDN). Several of his former students have become researchers, university professors, or high-level professionals in international organizations like the World Bank. In the summer of 2008, Clive Bell retired from the position which he held for thirteen years. He remains faithful to Heidelberg, however, as he and his family continue to reside in beautiful Handschuhsheim.

Staff news

Lena BEHRENDENES took up an appointment as *Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin* in the project "Large dams: Contested environments between hydro-power and resistance" within the Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe in a Global Context".

Together with Prof. Dr. Harry Falk (FU Berlin), Dr. Martin BRANDTNER acted as academic advisor to the production of a documentary film on the emperor Ashoka and also appeared in an interview in the film. "Ashoka – Der Krieger Buddhas" was broadcast as part of the series "Great India" in Arte and will be shown again on ZDF in a few months time.

Christiane BROSIUS completed her habilitation in the Faculty of Behavioural and Cultural Studies, Heidelberg University, and received the *Venia Legendi* in Cultural Anthropology. She has accepted the new position as professor of Visual & Media Anthropology at the Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe in a Global Context", Heidelberg University.

Axel MICHAELS has accepted the nomination to the Joint Advisory Committee of the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the Indian Department of Science and Technology. Members of the committee will contribute significantly to discussions of Indo-German scientific policies.

Volker OBERKIRCHER took up the position as public relations officer in the central administration.

Felix OTTER took up the position of an *Assistent* at the Department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures.

Daniel RITTLER took up a position as *Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter* in the Department of International Economics.

Birgit TAVASZI took up an appointment as secretary in the Department of Geography.



The Nawal Kishore collection at the SAI Heidelberg

In 2006 the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan started a post doctoral fellowship program for university teachers. I was granted one of the one-year research fellowships, which I started on 31 October 2008 at the department of modern South Asian Languages at the SAI. My research focuses on the life and works of Allama Muhammad Iqbal's German acquaintance Hans Hasso von Veltheim. Along with research on Hans Hasso, I have been able to broaden my area of research to include pieces of other Urdu literature and history as well.

At the SAI, I discovered that a few years ago the library had received a huge collection of rare classical books of Urdu literature. These uncatalogued books, packed into four boxes, were lying in the basement of the library. Due to special interest shown in my research by my advisor Christina Oesterheld, the Librarian Nicole Merkel and the head of the department, Hans Harder, I was allowed access to these books.

Munshi Nawal Kishore Press, established in 1856, was the most important publishing house in all of India during that period. It published thousands of books on a variety of themes ranging from medicine and literature to religion and philosophy in Urdu, Hindi, Arabic and Persian. A few years ago Ulrike Stark, a research associate at the Modern Languages Department of the SAI, received a donation of books from the descendants of Munshi Nawal Kishore residing in Lucknow. The main focus of her habilitation thesis "An Empire of Books" (Delhi: permanent black, 2007), was on Hindi and Urdu publications of Nawal Kishore Press until 1895.

I am trying to carry forward the research initiative of Ulrike Stark by focusing on Urdu, Persian and Arabic books. So far I have been able to find a number of rare books in this collection, dating back to the 19th century. The oldest book available is Singhasan Battisi Nazam (1871), a poetic tale. The most important

and rare books are the published versions of unique Persian/Urdu *dastan* literature (epics, tales). The collection also includes school textbooks, published during the colonial period, and Quranic commentaries, novels, translations (from Persian, Arabic and English to Urdu), histories, Indian mythologies, works on Urdu linguistics and poetics, as well as poetry collections in such diverse genres as mathnavi, ghazal, and marthiya.

This collection of Urdu, Persian and Arabic books of Munshi Nawal Kishore is probably the largest single collection of its kind. I am currently preparing an annotated index along with an introduction which will give an overview of the individual books and monographs. I hope that this work will act as a valuable research tool for the scholars of Urdu literature and print culture in South Asia.

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Indian Ismailis: In search of a missing link

In October 2008, I joined the Department of History as a recipient of a DAAD doctoral scholarship. My research focuses on Indian Ismailis (the Bohras and Khojas, important merchant communities from western India) in the later 19th and early 20th century. In contrast to the general tendency among scholars working on the history of Islam in South Asia to present a picture of a monolithic Muslim community seamlessly permeated with religious nationalist forces, my research

is influenced by the idea of specificities at different levels. Not considered by the average Sunni Muslim to be one of them in the said period, the eventual accommodation of the Bohras and the Khojas within the broader Islamic rubric hinged decisively upon the instrumentality of their leaderships and the gradual marginalization of their non-Islamic socio-cultural traits.

In a nut shell, the study explores the nuanced historical trajectory of shifting

identities and the translation of conceived visions of identity into reality against the backdrop of the politico-historical context, thereby foregrounding the idioms as well as the ideological and functional mechanisms that made this accommodation possible – in short the missing links instrumental in forging the consensus.

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Islamic reform movements in South Asia

I joined the History Department on a doctoral research grant offered by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan in collaboration with the German Academic Exchange Service in April 2005. My doctoral dissertation, entitled "Questioning the Authority of the Past: The Ahl al-Quran Movements in the Punjab", explores various aspects of Islamic reform movements in South Asia in the period following the Indian revolt of 1857. This contribution to the literature on Islamic reform in South Asia is a

pioneering study of a hitherto relatively unknown group called the Ahl al-Quran ('the people of the Quran') and their relevance to the discourse on South Asian Islam's disputative engagements with the concepts of modernity, reform, rationality, individual self and related themes. In my study, I have shown that Ahl al-Quran's version of Islam develops out of the elision of historical precedence and connectivity with the authority of the past. Its proponents denounce – or at least critically question – the relevance

or historicity of the *Hadith* (sayings of Prophet Muhammad), question the findings of classical exegetes and jurists, and lay emphasis on the Quran as the only divine source worthy of guidance for Muslims. The study, hence, explores the plurality of religious traditions within South Asian Islam, and deconstructs the inhibitory notion of a monolithic Islamic tradition.

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Honouring Heinrich Zimmer



Dr. Lukas Rauch, Heinrich Zimmer's son, at the ceremony in honour of his late father.

- Photo: Volker Oberkircher

On 20 November 2008 Heinrich Zimmer was honoured with a ceremonial act in which the reading room of the SAI's library was named in his memory. Zimmer had been Professor of Indology at Heidelberg University until he was forced to leave Germany in the wake of the seizure of power by the Nazis.

More than 40 guests attended the ceremony, among them Zimmer's last living son. The speakers talked about Zimmer's life and works - and painted an image of a scholar who in his search for truth looked well outside the usual borders of conventional scientific approaches.

Professor Jörg Riecke, a specialist in German literature (Heidelberg University), told the audience that Zimmer had started his studies with art history and German before arriving at Indian philology. After his doctorate and habilitation, Zimmer left Greifswald to accept a tenure at Heidelberg University. According to Jörg Riecke, his time in Heidelberg was very enriching - both in an academic and personal sense.

When Zimmer first met Christiane von Hoffmannsthal, who was a student at Heidelberg University, he told her: "Instead of roman languages, one should

rather study something proper, for example Sanskrit." She followed his advice, and the professor and his student got to know each other better while studying Sanskrit - and ended up marrying.

On a more academic level, Zimmer valued influences from different subjects to enrich his scientific approach. He moved increasingly towards the philosophical search for truth and probed further and further away from his actual field. This suited his true personality better. According to Riecke, Zimmer "was not talented for isolated observation far from reality". Instead, he exchanged ideas with such luminaries as C.G. Jung, Karl Jaspers or Alfred Weber.

This fruitful exchange was the main reason why Zimmer stayed longer in Germany than was advisable. He had already been under observation from 1933 onwards due to his "non-Arian kin relations" - soon this led to further problems.

Gestapo intervention made students stay away from his lectures, even though they had always come in large numbers to listen to the gifted speaker. Zimmer, whose pay depended on the number of listeners to his lectures, soon needed new

sources of income. He therefore started editing volumes of the opus of his father-in-law, the famous poet Hugo von Hoffmannsthal. But when the university revoked his licence to teach, he fled Germany - initially to England, then onwards to the USA.

At the beginning, it was not easy for him to gain ground in the new environment, as Zimmer's son Dr. Lukas Rauch remembered. But thanks to Zimmer's books on popular issues such as Yoga, he soon became known to a wider audience and things started to look brighter. Unfortunately, in 1943, he fell ill with pneumonia and died unexpectedly at the age of 52 - just when he had started to come into fame. After his death, many of his books became standard works.

Axel Michaels commented: "Today, we may read some things differently - but it is still stimulating!"

The executive director of the SAI, Gita Dharampal-Frick, explained that Zimmer "has contributed decisively to the dismantling of western prejudices about India", and she was very happy to mention that the Indian government is considering to establish a Heinrich Zimmer Chair at the SAI.

Zimmer was never able to visit India in his lifetime, but the current importance of India would be a late confirmation of his belief in the future significance of India. Joachim E. Fischer was sure: "Heinrich Zimmer would have been jubilant to hear about the Cluster of Excellence 'Asia and Europe' in Heidelberg." For Zimmer did not just think across national borders, but also across disciplines. According to Fischer, Zimmer's legacy is "the spur to think beyond the limits of the subjects." For that, he will be remembered by all those searching for knowledge at the SAI's library in the Heinrich Zimmer Reading Room.

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Monica Juneja, new professor of global art history

Since January 2009 Prof. Monica Juneja is the new holder of the chair for Global Art History at the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context” at Heidelberg University. The field is a new one and it is only beginning to be approached by a number of academic institutions worldwide; in Germany the project is unique, thus far. Art history, according to Prof. Juneja, has so far been one of the disciplines most firmly rooted in hermetic and regionalised analytic frameworks. Being intimately tied to a variety of projects of identity formations, especially nationalistic ones, this is not astonishing. It does however preclude insights into the kinds of cultural dynamics and entanglements that lay beyond what can be grasped through essentialising discourses of cultural purity and originality.

The pluralising approach, which Prof. Juneja in collaboration with her various colleagues in the Cluster of Excellence upholds, has two objectives. It seeks to deconstruct homogenising conceptions of cultural production and practice, identifying specific actors, their rootedness in artistic styles, epochs, regions and identificatory attributions, but also to get beyond these frameworks and investigate the formation of art and visual practices as a polycentric and multivocal process. Starting in the ancient past, objects of art, travelling artists and other forms of art



Prof. Monica Juneja - Photo: private

distribution have always created an open public sphere of shared meanings and forms of articulation, only contingently limited by territorial and cultural formations that crystallised with the formation of nation states.

Against this background Prof. Juneja’s project goes further to explore the potential of conceptualising visual practices as mutually constituted through negotiations between multiple centres of production – through engagements

between the local and the canonical. The Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe” is uniquely suited to pursuing a research and teaching agenda that locates the European and the non-European in a common field and would help evolve a non-hierarchical conceptual framework and language that historicises difference without essentialising it.

Educated at Delhi University, with a dual specialisation in European as well as Indian art history, followed by research in France and Germany, Prof. Juneja has a long-standing interest in transcultural dynamics. She has held teaching positions in Delhi, Vienna, Hannover and at Emory University in Atlanta. Her research and writing have focused on the nexus between shifting configurations of power and the disciplinary trajectories of art history. All these factors make her uniquely suited to fill the chair of Global Art History. Her connections to the SAI – where she gave some introductory courses in Indian history four years ago – and to its leading representatives as well as to the platform of the Cluster of Excellence with its various interdisciplinary links throughout the university will undoubtedly contribute to making Prof. Juneja’s work even more fruitful.

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New representatives at the SAI’s branch offices



Doris Hillger - Photo: Enrico Fabian

Two new representatives head the SAI’s branch offices in India and Nepal. Doris Hillger takes over from Peter Braun at the branch office New Delhi, Pratibha Khanal re-established the branch office in Kathmandu, which had been vacant for more than one year.

For both, living and working in South Asia is some sort of a home-coming. Pratibha Khanal was actually born in Nepal and still has family there. Even though she spent most of her life in Germany, she felt right at home as she had managed to retain good connections to family and friends in Kathmandu. Doris Hillger has seen India from many different perspectives – as a tourist, as a language student, and as a researcher. She is also very confident about getting along well

and has good reasons for optimism, saying: “The red thread in my India experiences is that you are never alone - which is not particularly surprising in the midst of more than a billion inhabitants - and there will always be a helping hand when you are in trouble.”

Nevertheless, both will face a lot of work during the next years. Pratibha Khanal had to start by connecting the loose threads: reviving the SAI’s contacts with partners at Tribhuvan University, with research institutions and non-governmental organizations, but also raising awareness that the branch office was open again for visitors from all academic and non-academic fields.

For Doris Hillger, the job will start with setting up a completely new func-



tion of the branch office as it will also serve as liaison office for the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe”. Hillger knows that even though the SAI has been in Delhi for a long time and can draw on existing institutional links, the cluster is a new structure which needs to be brought to attention in India, and needs academic partners working on similar issues to facilitate exchange and build a network. To do so, it will be necessary to look beyond Delhi. As she observed: “There are many upcoming academic centres all over the country, and tracing them, sorting out the ones that could be interesting partners for the SAI and the cluster, and building links will be among the more challenging tasks.” She also hopes to integrate

the branch office into a potential German science centre.

For both, a number of tasks are similar as all branch offices provide a number of vital tasks for the institute: Supporting local research projects of the members of the SAI, organizing events with program partners, administrating fellowships, obtaining literature, brokering internships for the SAI’s students, to name just a few. The SAI wishes both of our representatives the best of luck - and we hope that they will indeed always find a helping hand when they need it!

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Prathiba Khanal - Photo: Enrico Fabian

Conference on high mountain research



The conference was opened by our rector Prof. Dr. Bernhard Eitel

- Photo: Lars Stöwesand

The Department of Geography of the SAI organized the 18th annual conference of the Working Group on High Mountain Research (Arbeitskreis Hochgebirge) in January 2009. In recognition of the growing importance of high mountain areas as a habitat for about 10 % and as a resource space for more than 50 % of the world’s population, the working group was founded to serve as a platform for interdisciplinary high mountain research. To fulfil this requirement, this year’s conference was entitled “Interdisciplinarity as a challenge to high mountain research”. It aimed at discussing opportunities and limitations of interdisciplinary research cooperation.

The three-day symposium from 23-25 January 2009 was attended by more than 120 participants who presented and

discussed a wide array of topics from the perspectives of the natural and social sciences. These included the reconstruction of glacial dynamics in different high mountain areas and the impact of climate change on the availability of water resources. The changes in climate and political environment were addressed with regard to their impact on regional land use patterns. Furthermore, the topics of natural hazards and human risk perception were debated against the background of changing high mountain environments. The thematic sessions were complemented by a special lecture which was delivered by Professor Peter Bärtsch of the Institute of Sport Medicine (University of Heidelberg). His talk focused on high altitude medicine and the impact of altitude and hypoxia on the physical

constitution, topics which are of special interest to anyone involved in high mountain research.

The discussions during the conference showed that further efforts are required to overcome gaps between the distinct approaches, perspectives and perceptions of the different disciplines. The participants agreed that interdisciplinary exchange is mutually enriching and that further cooperation is essential taking into account the immense problems arising from the complex human-environment interactions in mountainous regions.

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Developing security - securing development

The discussion of failing and failed states has reached South Asia, implicitly posing the question whether international (i.e. military) intervention should not bring to an end damages to third, especially neighbouring countries, restore order and restart development. Security and development are obviously intertwined: National security is a precondition for economic and social development, and vice versa. The following questions thus arise: Is there a trade-off between national security and economic development? Is economic and social development possible without national security and how much security does development need?

Economists look at security, if at all, as a (pre-)condition for development, assuming that security is part of what they perceive as exogenous institutional conditions or refer to as the “(non-)economic framework”. A political scientist or a security expert might see it the other way round, i.e. view development, or rather economic and social well-being as a precondition for national – internal and external – security. Identifying the reasons of failure

is a precondition for any development. It is difficult, however, to “develop” countries that have been suffering from internal strife, so that international intervention had to be brought in for the purpose of (re-)establishing a kind of order where the state had failed.

International interventions in Afghanistan, Kosovo and Chad, where the Austrian Army is involved, were discussed at a conference organized by the Federal Defence Academy in Vienna in October 2008. Afghanistan only recently has come to be considered part of South Asia (again) after the country joined the South Asian Association for Regional Development (SAARC) in 2007.

As the “American” war in Afghanistan more and more spills over to Pakistan and, by way of terrorism, also to India, the discussion whether India should involve herself in the various conflicts in neighbouring countries has grown in intensity. India once intervened in Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Bhutan on the invitation of the respective governments; it was instrumental in ending the carnage

in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), gave diplomatic support to Vietnam’s intervention in Cambodia, and found itself allied with the Soviet Union when its troops invaded Afghanistan. For the last twenty years India has been complaining about Pakistan’s involvement in the many acts of violence in Kashmir. India has so far resisted all attempts to internationalize the Kashmir question, but has also resisted the demand by its more radical and nationalist elements to intervene in Pakistan itself.

Beyond all historical and legal aspects, the question how a country can develop in the absence of security and how security can be (re-)established and bring forward development needs attention. East Pakistan has also been a tragedy considering the fact that intervention was left to the neighbouring state (similarly to the case of Cambodia) instead of being taken up by the international community.

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The SAI’s partner universities in New Delhi

The SAI is cooperating with three Universities in New Delhi.

The University of Delhi (DU) is one of the leading Universities in India – and with more than 200,000 students also one of the country’s largest (the University of Heidelberg, by comparison, can boast no more than 27,000). Established in 1922, it originally comprised only three colleges, whereas today there are 79 colleges and fourteen faculties with a total of 86 academic departments. Academic life is centred on the two campuses situated in North and South Delhi respectively, with a large number of the colleges and academic centres scattered all over the city. Affiliated with DU are the Centres of Advanced Studies in Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, Economics, and Sociology. The Memorandum of Understanding provides for two scholarships each year for students of DU in order to participate in the International Summer School of German Language and Culture at the University of Heidelberg. Om

Prakash, professor of economic history at the Delhi School of Economics, served on the International Academic Advisory Board of the SAI.

The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), which was founded in 1969 by an Act of Parliament, has the stated aim to promote democracy, social justice, secularism, and international understanding – both in India and in other so-called ‘third world countries.’ The exceptionally high proportion of foreign students is proof of this, as is the excellent teacher-student ratio of 1:10. Prominent faculty members and alumni include Romila Thapar, Bipan Chandra, and Sudipta Kaviraj. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed in May 2004, covering, among other things, joint research activities and the exchange of faculty and students.

In April 2009, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the South Asia Institute and the Jamia Millia Islamia, the third partner university of the South Asia Institute in New Delhi.

Founded in Aligarh in 1920 in the wake of the Khilafat movement and in defiance of the pro-British colonial education establishment, the Jamia Millia was the child of Islamic activism and the Independence Movement alike; the founding committee included Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and Muhammad Iqbal, the famous Urdu poet who studied German in Heidelberg (see page 24). In 1925, the Jamia Millia shifted to Delhi, where it developed into one of the country’s most innovative educational institutions. By 1962, it was ‘deemed to be a university’ by the UGC and in 1988, it was officially recognised as a central university by an Act of Parliament. Prominent faculty members include Dr. Zakir Husain, President of the Republic of India from 1967 to 1969.

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Working with manuscripts in Tamilnadu

Within the framework of the European Consortium for Asian Field Study (ECAFS), Thomas Lehmann, Lecturer for Tamil, Department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures, has been on leave since October 2008 from the South Asia Institute for the period of one year to work at the Pondicherry Centre of the Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO). During this time he is supervising the "Cankam Project" conducted by the Pondicherry Centre of the EFEO.

The "Cankam Project" consists of the following interrelated sub-projects: (1) the search for and identification of manuscripts of the Classical Tamil Cankam literature in manuscript libraries and the digitisation of these manuscripts, (2) the preparation of critical editions of the Cankam texts based on the newly

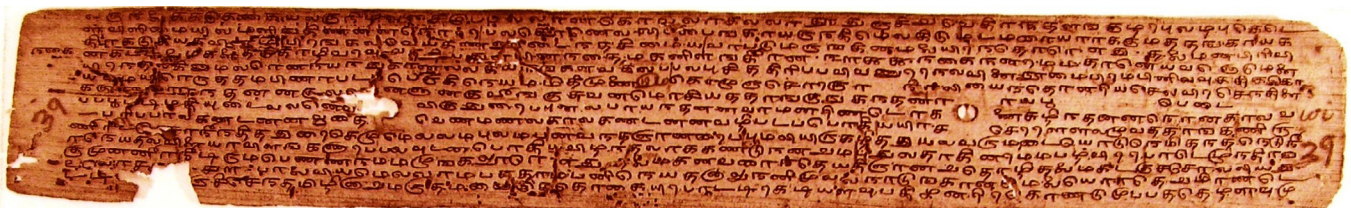
acquired, and so far disregarded manuscripts, the already published editions of the Cankam texts and the widely scattered quotations found in Tamil grammatical and poetological literature; and (3) the preparation of annotated English translations of the Cankam texts, which take into account the various text variations given in the critical editions and which discuss lexical and grammatical difficulties and peculiarities, along with word indices. The project is managed by Eva Wilden (EFEO Paris/University of Hamburg) and Jean-Luc Chevillard (CNRS, Paris).

Within the Cankam Project Thomas Lehmann is currently arranging a search for locating Cankam manuscripts in various manuscript libraries, shaivite monasteries and other institutions throughout Tamilnadu. This search has now been

extended to institutions outside Tamilnadu, in particular to the National Library in Calcutta. At the Pondicherry Centre itself Thomas Lehmann is reading and analyzing manuscripts of the Cankam text Ainkurunuru together with the manuscriptologist T. Rajeswari. Furthermore, in order to arouse interest by indologists to the study of classical Tamil, he is conducting the yearly seminar on Classical Tamil in Pondicherry in August together with Eva Wilden. This one-month seminar offers the opportunity to read, analyze and discuss Classical Tamil texts with both traditional Indian and western linguistic scholars.

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An enemy alien's witness of partition

Imagine: A Pakistani professor of history attends as a visiting fellow in Heidelberg a session of a working group of students, teachers and others interested in his country, and listens to a lecture of an elderly gentleman, who was once the commanding British officer in the professor's home town, more than half a century ago; and was engaged as an artillery man in one of the more daring actions of the raj in the tribal belt where Americans are now

trying to hunt down the masterminds of 9/11. Then the presenter of the talk turns out to have been an "enemy alien", i.e. an Austrian/German citizen who as a Jew had to flee his home country, became a British citizen and later returned to work in Germany. Finally, the oldest professor in the auditorium turns out to have been from the same neighbourhood in Vienna. This shows us how interwoven the fates of people around the globe can be. Pe-

ter Leighton-Langer read from his field notes in German short hand at the South Asia Institute and typed his account of Partition before he died. "In die Freiheit entlassen?" is available in the South Asia Virtual Library (savifa), a hard copy has been donated to the library of the SAI. A translation into English is planned.

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New series in South Asian and Comparative Studies

Published by the New Delhi-based Sanskriti, the newly launched Heidelberg Series on South Asian and Comparative Studies will address the social, political and economic issues of South Asia, the cultural space, religions and identities of the region, and the heritage and memories that underpin them all. The series is not, however, exclusive to South Asia because in the age of globalization, instant communication and cultural flow,

few ideas though they may originate in a specific location, remain confined to it for very long. As such, the series also welcomes comparative studies, as well as global issues that have significance for South Asia as well. Drawing primarily on the Heidelberg Papers in South Asian and Comparative Politics – an internet-based journal located at the University of Heidelberg – which was set up a decade ago with a similar mission, the series will

also act as a platform for new scholarship emerging from conferences and universities in South Asia and in other parts of the world as well. State and Foreign Policy in South Asia, edited by Jivanta Schoettli and Siegfried O. Wolf, will be the first volume.

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Iqbal Fellowship returns to Heidelberg



Pakistan's ambassador to Germany, S.E. Shahid Kamal, and Gita Dharampal-Frick, Executive Director of the South Asia Institute, exchange gifts for the SAI's library. - Photo: Manfred Hake

It's official: After nearly ten years, the Allama Iqbal Professorial Fellowship returns to the SAI. On 17 November 2008, the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Germany, S.E. Shahid Kamal, was welcomed at the Bel Etage in the Old University and signed the agreement in an official ceremony. Heidelberg University was represented by Senni Hundt, Vice-Chancellor of Heidelberg University, and Gita Dharampal-Frick, Executive Director of the SAI.

"The Allama Iqbal Professorial Fellowship is essentially a grant for guest professors from Pakistan," explains Manfred Hake, Executive Secretary of the SAI. "For each two year period, one guest professor will work on Pakistan studies." Funded by the Government of Pakistan, the fellowship includes financial resources for living expenses, research and teaching.

One aim of the fellowship is to intensify the co-operation between Heidelberg University and universities in Pakistan

with a focus on Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures, Political Science and Geography, but also in the natural sciences. For students from Heidelberg, this will be an invaluable opportunity to exchange views with professors from Pakistan and to take part in their teachings and research. Manfred Hake concludes: "This grant is a real enrichment for the SAI."

The fellowship is named after Muhammad Allama Iqbal, the poet-philosopher and politician born in 1877 in Sialkot, in present day Pakistan. 100 years ago, he stayed in Heidelberg to study German. "My time in Heidelberg was a wonderful dream", he once said. It is thus not surprising that one of the streets in Heidelberg right at the river Neckar is named after the national poet who laid the foundation for German-Pakistani friendship.

The fellowship had once before been awarded to the SAI in 1979 before being moved to the Humboldt-University in Berlin in 1999. During those years

in Heidelberg, the fellowship had been highly successful: "Five fellows have worked at the SAI - all of them first class scientists whose work was highly efficient," Manfred Hake remembers.

The SAI would like to link up with this tradition - chances are good: "There are very good relations between the SAI and Pakistan", Hake explains. "We expect a close and successful co-operation with Pakistan - and many good results!"

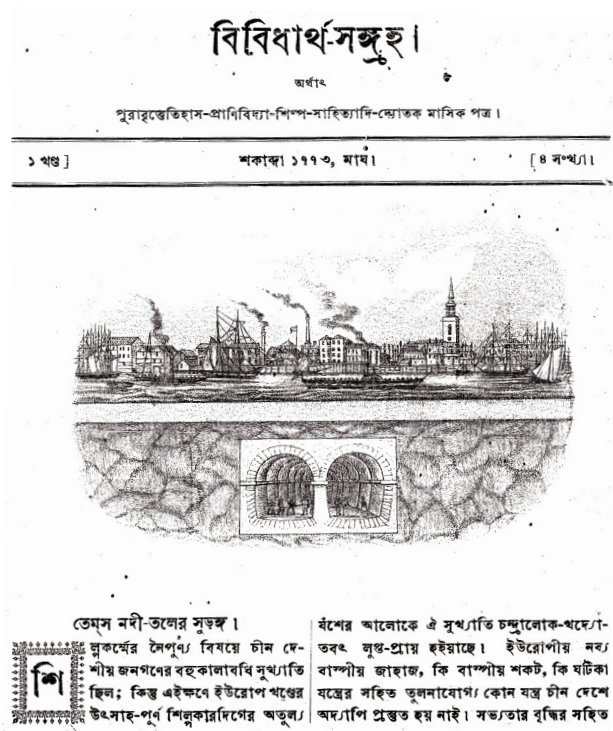
Pakistan's Ambassador to Germany, S.E. Shahid Kamal, is also delighted that the fellowship returns to Heidelberg. "Heidelberg University is a great university, one of the best. We are very proud that the fellowship is established at the SAI. And we are looking forward to a lively cultural exchange with the university Allama Iqbal always associated with the best of feelings."

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The Hitesranjan Sanyal Memorial Archive

Huge textual database on colonial Bengal online on SAVIFA



Front page of the Bengali journal *Bibidhārtha Samgraha* 1,4 of month Māgh, 1773 Shaka (1860), displaying the Thames Tunnel in London.

Colonial Bengal is known for its cultural vibrancy. This vibrancy did not remain concealed to colonial intellectuals in Calcutta, who eventually started to celebrate themselves as a Bengal Renaissance; nor is it alien to modern scholars who continue to investigate colonial Bengal so as to understand colonialism and the genesis of contemporary South Asia. The saga of Bengal as India's motor to modernity and the défilé of "Renaissance" luminaries such as Rammohan Ray, Ishwarchandra Bidyasagar, Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay, Swami Vivekananda, Rabin-dranath Tagore etc. is too well known to need repetition, and too established to go without revision.

The point is that the material calling for examination and re-examination is nothing less than spectacular. It has been claimed that the so-called Bengal Renaissance is the most fertile and best-documented period of any colonial society, not only in South Asia, but worldwide. However this may be, colonial Bengal did produce an amazing amount of Bengali writing, starting from the very beginning of the 19th century and thus

preceding other South Asian regions, usually by several decades.

While the few canonical authors of the period have never ceased to be republished, the bulk of this literary output lies in the pages of the numerous journals of those times. The thematic range of this production is enormous and provides material to literary scholars, historians, sociologists, political scientists, linguists, anthropologists etc. alike. Access to these journals, however, has so far been difficult not only for non-Bengali scholars, but even for researchers working on the spot in Calcutta. Brittle condition of manuscripts, restricted availability at libraries and the lack of one central location have added up to make any systematic study quite tiresome.

The Hitesranjan Sanyal Memorial Archive is a huge collection of textual and visual materials mainly focussing on colonial Bengal. Starting in 1993, the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta (CSSSC) has undertaken the task of microfilming and digitising a huge amount of textual sources, including all the major journals of colonial Bengal. This unique collection also extends to rare Bengali books, Assamese journals and books, as well as visual art and popular culture (such as specimens of historical Bengali advertising).

A Memorandum of Understanding between the CSSSC and the South Asia Institute at Heidelberg University has made possible that the textual part of this collection will from now on be made available online on the Heidelberg-based SAVIFA database. This is hoped to be a significant step towards facilitating access to these materials and thereby stimulating further research.

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Lectures & conferences

Dieter Conrad Lecture: "The changing face of Ayurveda in Modern India: hybrid science for hybrid people" by Mark Nichter, University of Arizona. 12 June 2009, 5 pm, Heidelberg University, Neue Uni Hörsaal 1.

Frankfurt Book Fair

Please mark your calendars for the next Frankfurt Book Fair from 14-18 October 2009. The South Asia Institute will have a booth in the International Centre in Hall 5.0. On Sunday, 18 October 2009, 1 pm, the SAI will organize a panel discussion on "South Asia - space of unlimited possibilities?"

SAI joins ECAF

On 8 January 2009, the South Asia Institute joined the European Consortium for Asian Field Studies (ECAF). Conceived in the spirit of the EU policy to develop an integrated European Research Area, ECAF is a unique alliance of more than forty leading European and Asian institutions active in the field of Asian studies.

The ECAF Consortium was founded in 2007 at the initiative of the French School of Asian Studies – Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO).

Its principal aim is to provide field access and study facilities to European scholars through the sharing of a network of twenty-three research centres already existing across Asia and to encourage joint interdisciplinary research programs in the humanities and social sciences.

At a time when Asia is developing into one of the most influential regions in the world, ECAF will act as a forum for enhanced Euro-Asian dialogue and will encourage the exchange and dissemination of knowledge about Asian societies and civilizations.

For further information, please visit

www.ecafconsortium.com



SAVIFA: Table of contents for subscription

Savifa, the Virtual Library South Asia, which is hosted by the South Asia Institute, has introduced a new service on its webpage:

Our free E-Toc-Alert service informs regularly about new contents of 83 academic journals with a focus on South Asia. On publication of a new issue, subscribers will receive an e-mail containing a table of contents as well as information on access and library holdings within Germany.

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Nicole Merkel

merkel@sai.uni-heidelberg.de

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Subrata K. Mitra: Politics of Modern South Asia. London: Routledge, 2008.

This timely collection, spanning decades of research on South Asia, brings together the most important articles published in refereed journals on the themes of:

- (1) The State and Institutions
- (2) The State and Society
- (3) The State and the Economy and
- (4) The State and International Politics.

The main objective of the essays in this compendium is to introduce students to

modern politics in South Asia. The six decades of post-independence experience of modern politics in South Asia is replete with cross-currents of this encounter between an alien modernity and indigenous tradition. The issue of 'modern politics of South Asia' has, in consequence, sparked off heated academic debates, generating important scholarly contributions, and pointing in the direction of a complex autonomous field. Each volume seeks to report on Western

modernity at work, its contestation by concepts and institutions indigenous to the community, the re-use, refraction, and finally, re-conceptualisation of alien categories and their integration within the paradigm of the modern state and the economy, and finally, the resolution of this conflict in terms of the emergence of a critical indigenous modernity.

Mitra, Subrata K. 2008: *Politics of South Asia*. London: Routledge.

Publications and research projects

Anthropology

Projects

- The concept of stress and stress-relief in a transcultural perspective: an ethno-epi-

demiological study. (William Sax; Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe")
- Healing practices, health explanatory models and the articulation of identity of the Narikorava (Vagri) in Tamil Nadu

(Gabriele Alex)

- Public, private and virtual places: South Indian youth and their meeting grounds (Gabriele Alex)

- The Tamil diaspora in Germany



(Gabriele Alex)

- Agency and Territorial Rituals in India (Christiane Brosius, Karin Polit; Ritual Dynamics A4)
- Ritual Healing and Modernity in Western Kenya. Ph.D.-project (Ferdinand Okwaro)
- Ritual healing and its critics (William Sax; Ritual Dynamics A5)
- Assymetrical Translations: Mind and Body in European and Indian Medicine (William Sax; Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe" C3)
- Archiving Mothers and Fathers of the Nation in Europe and Asia: Developing a Digitized Prototype of Braided Pictorial Histories. (Christiane Brosius; Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe")
- Difference, Danger and New Urban Imaginaries of the Public in Asia and Europe (Christiane Brosius; Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe")
- Eurasian Popular Muslim Iconography (Christiane Brosius; Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe")
- Rituelle Spektakel in Garhwal, North India (Karin Polit)
- Youth in South Asia (Karin Polit)
- Women, Islam and reproductive health behaviour: fertility and contraception in a low-income community in New Delhi. (Constanze Weigl)
- Sex work in Kathmandu: Discourses around Gender, Self-Perception and Sexuality. Ph.D.-project. (Lisa Caviglia)
- Ayurveda - Medical System or Wellness Commodity? Practice, Images, and Processes of 'Cultural Translation' in an Ayurvedic Resort in Kerala, South India. Ph.D.-project. (Christoph Cyranski).
- Religion on stage. Traditional South Asian Performance in New Public Spheres and Media. (William Sax, Axel Michaels, Eva Ambos, Silke Bechler; Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe" B14)

Publications

Christiane Brosius

- *India's Middle Class. New Forms of Urban Leisure, Consumption and Prosperity*. New Delhi, London, New York: Routledge, 2009.
- "The Gated Romance of India Shining: Visualising Urban Lifestyle in Images of Residential Housing Development." In Moti Gokulsing and Wimal Dissanayake, eds., *Popular Culture in a Globalised India. A Reader*. London: Routledge,

2009: 174-191.

Christoph Cyranski

- "HIV/AIDS und ‚traditionelle‘ Medizin in Indien - Dynamiken des Spannungsfelds von globaler Epidemie und lokalem Handeln." M.A. thesis at the University of Heidelberg. Published online in W. Sax & G. Alex, eds., *Health and Society in South Asia Series, Vol. 2*. Heidelberg: Savifa, 2008. (Link: <http://archiv.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/savifadok/volltexte/2008/194/>)

Ulrich Oberdiek

- Anthropological Abstracts. Cultural/social anthropolog from German-speaking countries. Vol. 4. 2005, Berlin 2007; Vol. 5. 2006, Berlin 2008.
- "Das Feld von Going native." *Sociologia Internationalis* 45, 2007: 201-228.

Karin Polit

- *Good Women: Practices of Gender and Agency among Dalit Women in the Central Himalayas*. Orient Limited: Hyderabad, India, 2009. [in print]
- "Staging Ritual Heritage: How Rituals Become Theatre in Uttarakhand, India." In Christiane Brosius and Ute Hüsken, eds., *Ritual Matters*. Routledge: New Delhi, 2009. [in print]
- "Performing heritage through rituals, the case of Uttarakhand." In Bent Flemming Nielsen, Bent Holm and Karen Vedel, eds., *Religion, Ritual, Theatre*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2008.
- "Pilgrimages: Hinduism Gender and sexuality." In *Encyclopaedia of Gender, Religion and Sexuality*. 2008.

Johannes Quack

- (edited with William Sax and Jan Weinhold) *Ritual Efficacy?* New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- (edited with William Sax) *Ritual Efficacy*. Special Issue of *Journal of Ritual Studies*.

William Sax

- *God of Justice: ritual healing in the central Himalaya*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.
- (edited with Johannes Quack and Jan Weinhold) *Ritual Efficacy?* New York: Oxford University Press. 2009.
- „I have no one!' Ritual Healing and Family Relationships in Garhwal." In Caterina Guenzi and Ines Zupanov, eds., *Purusartha 27, Divins remèdes. Méde-*

cine et religion en Inde. 2008.

- "Ritual and Theatre in Hinduism." In Nielsen, Bent Flemming and Bent Holm and Karen Vedel, eds., *Religion, Ritual, Theatre*. Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 2009: 79 - 105.

Constanze Weigl

- "Welche Faktoren beeinflussen indische Musliminnen bei der Entscheidung über Empfängnisverhütung und Abtreibung?" In Thomas Eich, ed., *Reproduktionsmedizin bei Muslimen: säkulare und religiöse Ethiken im Widerstreit?* Beiträge eines wissenschaftlichen Kolloquiums am Interfakultären Zentrum für Ethik in den Wissenschaften (IZEW) der Universität Tübingen am 20.Juni 2008. Link: www.heceas.org, 2009.

Classical Indology

Projects

- Modelling the Pāṇinian System of Sanskrit Grammar. Ph.D.-project. (Anand Mishra).
- The Vedic Sacrifice in Transcultural Public Spheres (Silke Bechler, Cluster Asia and Europe B14 and GPTS)
- Religion on Stage: Traditional Performances in New Public Spheres and Media (Axel Michaels, William Sax, with Eva Ambos, Silke Bechler, Cluster Asia and Europe B14)
- Life-cycle rituals in Nepal (A. Michaels with N. Gutschow, Chr. Zotter, A. Mishra and K. Gögge; Ritual Dynamics A2)
- Editio princeps of the so-called Wright chronicle (Axel Michaels)
- Pūjā flowers in Nepal. A study of the Puśpacintāmanī (Astrid Zotter)
- The Initiation ritual (vratabandha) among the Indo-Pārbatīya in Kathmandu (Christof Zotter, Ritual Dynamics A2)
- Śālikanātha Miśra's Dīpaśikhā and the Ritual Theory of Pūrva-Mīmāṃsā (Oliver Lamers)

Publications

Axel Michaels

- (with Niels Gutschow) *Growing Up – Hindu and Buddhist Initiation Rituals among Newar Children in Bhaktapur, Nepal*. With a Film on DVD by Christian Bau. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag (Ethno-Indology; 6), 2008.



- "Rituale und ihre Handbücher: Beispiele aus Nepal." In: *Jahrbuch der Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften für 2007*, Heidelberg: Akademie der Wissenschaften, 2008: 104-106.

- "Ich bin Kopf." In: W. Marschall, P. von Wyss-Giacosa and A. Isler (eds.), *Genauigkeit – Schöne Wissenschaft*. Bern: Benteli, 2008: 159-166. (Festschrift Michael Oppitz).

Anand Mishra

- "Simulating the Pāṇinian System of Sanskrit Grammar." In: Gerard Huet, Amba Kulkarni, Peter Scharf, eds., *Sanskrit Computational Linguistics* (Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence 5402), Heidelberg: Springer, 2009: 127-138.

- "Modelling the Grammaticle Circle of the Pāṇinian System of Sanskrit Grammar." In: Amba Kulkarni, Gerard Huet, eds., *Sanskrit Computational Linguistics* (Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence 5406). Heidelberg: Springer, 2009 40-55.

Development Economics

Projects

- Economic growth and premature adult mortality: the long-run economics of AIDS (Clive Bell)

- Dealing with natural shocks in a nomadic economy: the case of winter droughts in Mongolia (Natsagdorj Enkhjargal)

- The economic effects of HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia (Anastasios Koukoumelis)

- Selected aspects of the economics of an aging population (Jochen Laps)

Publications

Clive Bell

- (with H. Gersbach) "Child Labor and the Education of a Society." *Macroeconomic Dynamics*, 13, March 2009, 220-249.

- (with H. Gersbach) "The Macroeconomics of Targeting: The Case of an Enduring Epidemic." *Journal of Health Economics*, 28, January 2009, 54-72.

Geography

Projects

- Land use and landscape changes in the northwestern Himalayas (Northern Paki-

stan) (Marcus Nüsser)

- Semi-arid areas in transition: livelihood security, socio-ecological variability and the role of development interventions in East Africa (Marcus Nüsser)

- Food security in Ladakh (Jammu and Kashmir, India) between subsistence-oriented resource utilisation and socio-economic transformation (Juliane Dame)

- Forest councils (van panchayats) in the Uttarakhand-Himalayas, India: community forestry between local utilization strategies and external influences (Martin Gerwin)

- Repatriation of internally displaced persons in Nepal (Lars Stöwesand)

- Water scarcity and availability in Ladakh: Fluctuating glaciers and challenges for irrigation systems (Northern India) (Susanne Schmidt)

- Glacier response to regional climate change in the Nanga Parbat Region (Northern Pakistan) (Marcus Nüsser & Susanne Schmidt)

- International labour migration from Nepal (Elvira Graner)

- Education and gender in Nepal (Elvira Graner)

- Large dams: contested environments between hydro-power and resistance (Marcus Nüsser and Gita Dharampal-Frick; Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe" C2)

- Landslides in Azad Kashmir: Strengthening of disaster risk reduction at community and district levels in hazard-prone areas of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan (Marcus Nüsser)

Publications

Marcus Nüsser

- "Zwischen Isolation und Integration: Ressourcennutzung und Umweltbewertung im pakistanischen Himalaya." In: *Geographische Rundschau* 60 (12), 2008: 42-48.

Marcus Nüsser and Martin Gerwin

- "Diversity, Complexity and Dynamics: Land Use Patterns in the Central Himalayas of Kumaon, Northern India." In: J. Löffler and J. Stadelbauer, eds., *Diversity in Mountain Systems*. Sankt Augustin (= Colloquium Geographicum 31), 2008: 107-119.

Juliane Dame and Marcus Nüsser

- "Development Paths and Perspectives

in Ladakh, India." In: *Geographische Rundschau - International Edition* 4 (4), 2008: 20-27 & supplement.

Christoph Bergmann, Martin Gerwin, Marcus Nüsser and Willam Sax

- "Living in a High Mountain Border Region: The Case of the ‚Bhotiyas‘ of the Indo-Chinese Border Region." In: *Journal of Mountain Science* 5 (3), 2008: 209-217.

Elvira Graner

- "Integration versus Fragmentation. Nepalese Labourers in the Global Economy." In: *Die Erde* (139 / 4), 2008: 207-226.

- "Governance and Health Policies in Nepal." *Readings in Governance & Development* (12), 2008.

Susanne Schmidt

- "Die reliefabhängige Schneedeckenverteilung im Hochgebirge – ein multi-skaliger Methodenverbund am Beispiel des Lötschentals (Schweiz)." In: *Bonner Geographische Abhandlungen* 123: 166pp, 2009.

Susanne Schmidt, Bernhard Weber and Matthias Winiger

- "Analyses of seasonal snow disappearance in an alpine valley from micro- to meso-scale (Loetschental, Switzerland)." In: *Hydrological Processes*, Vol 23,7, 2009: 1041-1051.

Susanne Schmidt and Marcus Nüsser

- "Glacier changes in the Nanga Parbat Himalayas: a re-photographic survey between the 1930s and now." In: *Geophysical Research Abstracts*, Vol 11, EGU2009-5801, 2009.

Poster

Juliane Dame

- Gerste und Kartoffelchips: Neue Akteure in der landwirtschaftlichen Produktion in Ladakh, Nordindien. 18. Jahrestagung des Arbeitskreis Hochgebirge, 23.-25.01.2009. Heidelberg.

Marcus Nüsser, Susanne Schmidt und Thomas Lennartz

- Stability and instability in an earthquake-affected area in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (Northern Pakistan). 18. Jahrestagung des Arbeitskreises Hochgebirge,



23.-25.01.2009. Heidelberg.

Susanne Schmidt and Marcus Nüsser

- Glacier Changes and Water Availability in Ladakh (Northern India). 18. Jahrestagung des Arbeitskreis Hochgebirge, 23.-25.01.2009. Heidelberg.
- Glacier and landscape changes in the Nanga Parbat Himalayas: a re-photographic survey between the 1930s and now. 18. Jahrestagung des Arbeitskreis Hochgebirge, 23.-25.01.2009. Heidelberg.

History

Projects

- Cataloguing and evaluation of the Gandhi Seva Sangh Archive (Gita Dharampal-Frick)
- Evaluation of Board's Collection, 1784-1858 (Gita Dharampal-Frick)
- Large dams: contested environments between hydro-power and resistance (Gita Dharampal-Frick; project leader: Marcus Nüsser; Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe" C2)
- Nationising the Dynasty: Asymmetrical Flows in Conceptions of Government (Gita Dharampal-Frick; Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe" A5)
- Ritual transfer between South Asia and the West (1500-2000) (Gita Dharampal-Frick & Martin Brandtner)
- Shifting cultural asymmetries through political cartoons: A study of Indian Punch magazines (1877-1947) (Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe" B1; Gita Dharampal-Frick; project leader: Hans Harder)
- "South Asian Modernity: A Network of Historical and Contemporary Studies" (SAM) (Gita Dharampal-Frick)

Publications

Inayatullah Baloch

- "Balochistan Question and proposed conference of all political parties". In *Daily Jang*. London, Karachi, Lahore: Jang Group, 23.07.2008 and 24.07.2008.
- "Foreign Policy Of Baluch National Movement". Quetta: the B.S.O. limited, 2009.

Gita Dharampal-Frick

- "1857-1907-1947: Drei indische Jubi-

läen aus der Perspektive von 2007". In Michael von Hauff, ed., *Indien. Herausforderungen und Perspektiven*. Marburg: Metropolis-Verlag, 2009: 9-30.

- "Interrogating Caste and Race in South Asia", In Manfred Berg and Simon Wendt, eds., *Global Dimensions of Racism in the Modern World*. Oxford/New York: Berghahn Books, 2009: 25pp.
- "Reclaiming 9/11 through Satyagraha." *ICFAI University Journal of History and Culture*, Vol. II/4, October 2008: 7-13.

Ali Usman Qasmi

- "Towards a New Prophetology: Maulvi 'Abdullah Chakrālavi's Ahl al-Qur'an Movement." *The Muslim World*. Volume 99/1, January 2009.

International Economics

Projects

- Trade in Tasks: Its motives, strategies and success, with empirical research on India (Jella Kandziora)
- Harmonization of systems and international competition – with a comparison of EU and WTO regulations (Daniel Rittler)
- Coordination of National Competition Policies (with a Case Study of the EU), (Zuzana Zdeneková)
- Foreign Direct Investment, Optimisation of Business Location and Multilateral Investment Agreement, with Empirical Research on South-East-Asia and India (Paul Brandeis)
- Where to invest in Africa: Macroeconomic factors and the specific situation of its industries (Jelena Tihonova)
- Food systems in the Megacity Dhaka (Markus Keck and Wolfgang-Peter Zingel)
- International intervention and development (Wolfgang-Peter Zingel)

Publications

Markus Keck

- (with B. Etzold, H.-G. Bohle & W.-P. Zingel) "Informality as agency. Negotiating food security in Dhaka." *Die Erde* 140 (1), 2009 (in print).
- (with B. Etzold, H.-G. Bohle & W.-P. Zingel) "Reis für die Megacity. Nahrungsversorgung von Dhaka zwischen globalen Risiken und lokalen Verwun-

dbarkeiten." *Geographische Rundschau* 60 (11), 2008: 28-37.

- DFGScienceTV: *Reis auf Reisen*. Online: <http://dfg-science-tv.de/projekte/die-5-millionenstadt.html>; 10.06.2008.

Marco Veselka

- *Dynamischer Wettbewerb und Unternehmensstrategien: Modellierung, Messkonzepte und empirische Analyse der taiwanesischen Industrieentwicklung*. Marburg: Metropolis-Verl., 2008.

Wolfgang-Peter Zingel

- (with Clemens Spiess) *Länderportrait Indien: Absatzmarkt, Konkurrent, Kooperationspartner - Indien im Spannungsfeld von Wirtschaftsboom, Weltmachtstreben und sozialer Misere*. Düsseldorf: DGB Bildungswerk, 72 pp, 2009.
- (with B. Etzold, M. Keck & H.-G. Bohle) "Informality as agency. Negotiating food security in Dhaka." *Die Erde* 140 (1), 2009.
- "Wirtschaft und Umwelt: Indische Lösungsansätze zu einem nicht nur indischen Problem." In: Michael von Hauff, ed., *Indien. Herausforderungen und Perspektiven*. Marburg: Metropolis, 2009:133-155.
- (with M. Keck, B. Etzold & H.-G. Bohle) "Reis für die Megacity. Nahrungsversorgung von Dhaka zwischen globalen Risiken und lokalen Verwundbarkeiten." *Geographische Rundschau* 60 (11), 2008: 28-37.
- "Land of contrast." In: *India: Land of contrasts*. at&sdisplay. The International AT&S Magazine. Issue 02, 2008. Leoben: AT&S Austria Technologie & Systemtechnik. pp. 11-12.
- "Forschung und Praxis. Internationale Wirtschafts- und Entwicklungspolitik: Oskar Gans 65." In: *Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung*, Heidelberg, Nr. 121, 27. Mai 2008, Feuilleton, p. 15.

Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures

Projects

- Court ritual in the Jaipur state (18th century to 1949) (Ritual Dynamics, sub-project B5) (Monika Boehm-Tettelbach, Jörg Gengnagel)
- Gauging Cultural Asymmetries: Asian Satire and the Search for Identity in the



Era of Colonialism and Imperialism (Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe" B1) (comprising projects on colonial Marathi, Hindi, and Bengali literature by Swarali Paranjape, Prabhat Kumar, and Chaiti Basu, respectively)

- The Heidelberg Hindi Database (Monika Boehm-Tettelbach, Claus Peter Zoller)
 - Critical edition and annotated translation of the classical Tamil text Ainkurunuru (Thomas Lehmann) (within project "Re-edition and annotated translation of the Cankam literature of classical Tamil" at the Ecole Francaise d'Extrême-Orient, Pondicherry)

- Introduction to the history of Tamil poetics with special emphasis on porulakkanam or the thematic structure of poetry (Thomas Lehmann)

- The notion of "good" literature in Hindi. Literary criticism of the post-independence era (after 1947) (Anuradha Bhalla)

- Revivalism in post-colonial India: studies in Vastuvidya. PhD project. (Felix Otter; supervisor: Rahul Peter Das, Halle University)

Publications

Hans Harder

- „Shrine Veneration vs. Reformism, Bengal vs. Islam: Some Remarks on Perceptual Difficulties Regarding Bengali Islam“. In: Hugh van Skyhawk (ed.), *Sufi Traditions and New Departures on the Subcontinent. Recent Scholarship on Continuity and Change in South Asian Sufism*. Islamabad: Taxila Institute, 2008.

- „Rabindranath Tagore: Übersetzen und (Miss-)Verstehen zwischen den Kulturen“. In: Translation as Cultural Praxis. Yearbook 2007 of the Goethe Society of India. New Delhi, Mosaic Books, 2008; 74-91.

- „Kabitar ami o kabir ami“ [„The poem's self and the poet's self“, in Bengali]. *Desh Patrika* (Kolkata), Bai samkhyā, 2. Februar 2008; 63-66.

Monika Horstmann

- *Der Zusammenhalt der Welt: Religiöse Herrschaftslegitimation und Religionspolitik Maharaja Savai Jaisinghs (1700-1743)*. (Khoj 8). Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2008.

Christina Oesterheld

- „In Pursuit of Qurratulain Hyder – (Partly) a Detective Story.“ *Annual of Urdu Studies* 23 (2008): 196-201.

Torsten Tschacher

- „Zwischen 'Rasse' und Religion: Debatten über Islam und Ethnizität unter tamilischen Muslimen in Singapur.“ In: Manfred Hutter, ed., *Religionsinterne Kritik und religiöser Pluralismus im gegenwärtigen Südostasien*, Frankfurt a.M.: Peter Lang Verlag, 2008: 175-191.

- „Circulating Islam: Understanding Convergence and Divergence in the Islamic Traditions of Ma'bar and Nusantara.“ In: R. Michael Feener & Terenjit Sevea, eds., *Islamic Connections: Studies of South and Southeast Asia*. Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2009: 48-67.

- „Rational Miracles, Cultural Rituals and the Fear of Syncretism: Defending Contentious Muslim Practice among Tamil-speaking Muslims.“ *Asian Journal of Social Science* 37(1), 2009: 55-82.

Political Science

Projects

- Demokratische Transformation und zivile Kontrolle des Militärs. Ein Vergleich junger Demokratien in Nordost-, Südost- und Südasiens (Pakistan und Bangladesh). (Subrata Mitra, Siegfried Wolf)

- Citizenship as Conceptual Flow: Asia in Comparative Perspective. (Subrata Mitra, Clemens Spiess, Jivanta Schöttli)

Publications

Subrata K. Mitra

- "The Non-linear Modernity of South Asia." An introduction to Subrata Mitra, ed., *Politics of Modern South Asia: Critical Issues in Modern Politics*. London: Routledge, 2008: 1-8.

- "When Area Meets Theory: Dominance, Dissent and Democracy in India." *International Political Science Review* 29(5), 2008: 557-578

- "Die ‚Neuheit‘ Europas von der Peripherie betrachtet: Die indische Wahrnehmung des ‚neuen Europa‘ der multipolaren Welt." In Thomas Meyer and Johanna Eisenberg, eds., *Europäische Identität als Projekt: Innen-und-Aussensichten*.

Verlag fuer Sozialwissenschaften: Wiesbaden, 2009: 187-209.

- (co-author) "Jagannatha Compared: The Politics of Appropriation, Re-use and Regional State Traditions in India." *Heidelberg Papers in South Asian and Comparative Politics*, no. 37, The Department of Political Science, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg, 2008.

Clemens Spiess

- (together with Wolfgang-Peter Zingel) Brochure *Länderportrait Indien. Absatzmarkt, Konkurrent, Kooperationspartner? Indien im Spannungsfeld von Wirtschaftsboom, Weltmachtstreben und sozialer Misere* for the DGB-Bildungswerk/German Trade Union Organisation, IG-Metall and Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation (March 2009, link: <http://www.nord-sued-netz.de/de/materialien-downloaden/aktuelle-brosch-uren/index.php>)

- Entries ‚Government of India Act‘, ‚Stammes- und Bauernaufstände/Tribal and peasant risings‘ and ‚Periyar (E. V. Ramaswamy Naicker)‘ for the Lexikon zur Überseegegeschichte/Lexicon on Overseas History of the Gesellschaft für Überseegegeschichte/Society for overseas history (submitted, forthcoming 2009)

[Lexikoneintrag, forthcoming]

- Research-Study on *Tradition und Wandel. Die deutsch-indischen Kulturbeziehungen*. Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e.V. (ifa)/Institute for Foreign Relations and Robert-Bosch-Foundation (May 2009, link: <http://www.ifa.de/pub/synergiestudien/>).

Library

Projects

- Digitisation of the appr. 22.000 slides by the late Prof. Dr. Günther Dietz Sontheimer and description in HeidIcon (<http://heidicon.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/>) (Cluster of Excellence „Asia and Europe“ RE)

- Acquisition and cataloguing of appr. 1.500 South Asian films and documentaries on DVD (Cluster of Excellence „Asia and Europe“ RE)

- Digitisation of the documentaries by Günther Dietz Sontheimer (Cluster of Excellence „Asia and Europe“ RE)



Publications

Robby Geyer and Nicole Merkel

„Südasiens digital: Savifa -- Die virtuelle

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Karl Jaspers Centre for Advanced Transcultural Studies
Heidelberg, Germany, July 13 to 16, 2009

SUMMER SCHOOL 2009

Objects on the Move



annual salary

The tulip came to Europe in the middle of the 16th century. Grown in diverse colours and shades, the flower quickly became a luxury good and status symbol. Prices for the most sought-after bulbs rose steadily and the situation eventually culminated in the period of "tulip mania". At their peak in the 1630s, contract prices for tulip bulbs reached levels that were several times higher than what most people earned in a year. While it remains contested if "tulip mania" really was an economic or speculative bubble that burst soon after its peak, one thing was certain, as scholar Dr. Anne Goldgar explains: "A whole network of values was thrown into doubt." (Dr. Anne Goldgar, *Tulipmania*, Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, p. 18)

In what ways do meanings and interpretations change when objects move between cultures? What are the implications of such cultural flows for concepts, ideas and practices? Whom do objects speak to (if they can)? These and many other questions will be analysed and discussed in this summer school.

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