Transcultural Visuality Workshop Series No. 2

"Icons: Spectacle and Affect"

New Delhi, Goethe-Institute/ Max Mueller Bhavan (3 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, 110001 New Delhi)

February 17-21, 2010

Abstract:

The Transcultural Visuality Learning group at the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context” meets annually in workshops in which core members and invited guests, including both senior scholars in the field and doctoral students, explore new territories of transculturality in/of visual culture with respect to theories and methods, within and beyond their own research fields and disciplines. Through a combination of presentations and collaborative readings, the group attempts to enrich scholarly debates on the role of visuality and visual culture in the context of transcultural flows and asymmetries between Asia and Europe, and within Asia and Europe. One anticipated outcome of our project are visual essays co-authored by two or more members of the group. We also hope to develop joint or exchange teaching projects where ideas aired during the workshops are developed in a curricular and pedagogical context.

This year’s workshop is focused on the emotional relationship of image beholders with images in various (cross-) cultural, religious and historical contexts. With Dario Gamboni and Tapati Guha-Thakurta as keynote speakers and other invited guests from India and abroad, we hope to have four fruitful days of reflecting on stimulating readings and discussions around the "work" of images and emotions. Topics to be discussed include: concepts and types of iconoclasm (e.g. the French revolution as an "iconoclastic event," or the exhibition project ‘Iconoclash’); aspects of cross-cultural iconoclasm; icons and political power; and art and heritage, spectacle and affect. Each session centers on a discussion of texts and images presented by group members, and guest participants.

Public Keynote Talks:

February 17th, 7 p.m.:  
**Dario Gamboni** (Geneva): *Recycling Neolithic Urns and Vinyl Records: Transcultural Aspects of Iconoclash* (abstract)

February 19th, 7 p.m.:  
**Tapati Guha Thakurta** (Calcutta): *Durga Puja Tours and Travels: Vignettes From A Contemporary Urban Festival* (abstract)
Participants:

Christiane Brosius
Barbara Mittler
Sumathi Ramaswamy
Kajri Jain
Monica Juneja
Thomas Maissen
Kavita Singh
Melanie Trede
Paola Zamperini

Guests:

Patricia Spyer
Cathrine Bublatzky
Patrick Frölicher
Roos Gerritsen
Franziska Koch
Laila Abu-Er-Rub
Sandra Müller
Programme:

**Wednesday 17th  Part I: Icons-Iconoclasms-Iconoclash**

9:30-10:00 Introduction
Welcome by Sumathi Ramaswamy & Christiane Brosius & Barbara Mittler
Introduction to Workshop themes, readings and programme, including screening of Gigi Scaria video by Kavita Singh & Kajri Jain

10:00-12:00 Concepts and Types of Iconoclasms


Introduced by Graduate Students & Dario Gamboni

11:00-11:15 Tea


Introduced by Sumathi Ramaswamy

12:00 – 13:00 Across Cultures of Iconoclasm 1

Gruzinski – chapter 2, ‘War’

Introduced by Kavita Singh & Thomas Maissen (overview of Christian iconoclasms)

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00–15:15 Across Cultures of Iconoclasm 2


Davis ‘Reconstructions of Somanatha,’ Lives of Indian Images, Princeton 1999 pp 189-221

Introduced by Monica Juneja

15:15-15:30  Tea

15:30-17:30  Across Cultures of Iconoclasm 3


Introduced by Christiane Brosius & Patricia Spyer

17:30-  Wrap-up Discussion for the Day

19:00  Keynote by Dario Gamboni

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Thursday 18th  Part II: Icons and Political Power

9:30-11:00 Theories of Iconic & Political Power

Taussig on defacement

Mondzain on territoriality

Introduced by Kajri Jain

11:00-11:15 Tea
11:30- 13:00 Icons and Iconoclasm Across Cultures

Gamboni Chapter 3 ‘The Fall of the ‘Communist Monuments’
Barmé *Shades of Mao* 3-73 & 128-134.
Introduced by Barbara Mittler and Sumathi Ramaswamy

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00 Excursion:
14:30 Qutb Minar
16:00 Birla Kanan
17:30 Devi Art Foundation

Friday 19th Part III: Icons—Art, Heritage, Spectacle and Affect

9:30-11:30 Iconoclasm and Heritage 1

Gamboni Chapter 11 “Embellishing Vandalism’, Gamboni Chapter 13 ‘Modern Art and Iconoclasm’

Gamboni “World Heritage: Shield or Target?” Conservation:
The Getty Conservation Institute Newsletter, vol. XVI, no. 2 (2001), pp. 5-11 online at 
http://www.getty.edu/conservation/publications/newsletters/16_2/feature.html
Introduced by Patricia Spyer and Alexander Henn

11:30-11:45 Tea
11:45-13:00 Iconoclasm and Heritage 2


Introduced by Monica Juneja

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-16:00 Icon and Affect

Bauman Liquid Love
Nussbaum on cultures and understanding from Upheavals of Thought. The Intelligence of Emotions

Introduced by Paola Zamperini and Christiane Brosius

Pinney on corpotheretics
Introduced by Sumathi Ramaswamy and Melanie Trede (or Kajri Jain)

16:00-16:30 Tea

16:30-17:30 Icon and Spectacle

Tapati Guha Thakurta, “From Spectacle to Art” and “Our Gods, Their Museums”
Introduced by Kavita Singh and Catherine Bublatzky

17:30- Wrap-up Discussion for the Day

19:00 Keynote by Tapati Guha Thakurta

Saturday 20   Part IV: Icon–Spectacle and Affect (Presentations)
9:30-11:00 Presentation Session 1: Icon, spectacle and affect

Roos Gerritsen: ‘Cut the Cutout Culture!’ Chennai’s Movie Icons and the Politics of Spectacle

Patrick Frölicher: The war of the dancing images: an iconoclash in Punjabi music videos

11:00-11:15 Tea

11:15-12:45 Presentation Session 2: Icon, spectacle and (trans?)nation

Catherine Bublatzky & Franziska Koch: Indian Highway

Paola Zamperini: Visual narratives of the nation in the Olympics and the PRC’s 60th anniversary parade

12:45-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 Final Discussion

Where do we go from here? How do we present our findings? What will we do at the next workshop? What about joint projects and teaching? Who will form “work teams” and what will they produce? Please refer to the project website for your information and come up with ideas how we can improve it: http://www.asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de/en/research/b-public-spheres/b4.html!

15:30 Excursion

Akshardham