



## Course Schedule

### Winter Semester 2014/15

#### 1. Introduction to Transcultural Studies

*HCTS-Prof's* Tu, 11-13 KJC-212

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The concept of transculturality can be used both as a heuristic device (e.g. multi-perspectivity and multi-locality) and focus of study (e.g. cultural entanglements). It is embedded in a large and very heterogeneous landscape of theoretical and methodological approaches that come from various disciplines and cover different thematic, historical and geographic areas. Jointly conducted by the five Cluster chairs, this lecture class will discuss the contributions and limitations of inherited and current notions of transculturality. Focusing on the three study areas of the MA TS, and the respective fields of research of the lecturers, theories and methods will be tested, e.g. in explorations of global art and exhibition practices, appropriations of philosophical and religious ideas, and the relationship between patterns of consumption and the exchange of commodities. The goal of the course is to introduce students to diverse disciplinary perspectives enabling them to frame their own studies of transcultural phenomena and perspectives.

#### 2. Academic Writing in English

*Zara Barlas* Thu, 9-11 KJC-002

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This semester-long course offers concrete guidelines and practical strategies for composing and editing academic texts in English. It aims to educate students in the tried-and-true methods of essay writing (thesis development, paragraph construction and composition), which students will apply practically in writing and developing a research paper (10-20 pages of written prose which can be part of a student's MA thesis, or a paper for another course). The course is designed specifically for students who are not native speakers of English. The goal of the course is to prepare students for the following tasks: 1) Formulate a thesis statement and structure an essay; 2) Incorporate and convey the significance of examples; 3) Write analytically and clearly and 4) Articulate their ideas with stylistic and grammatical precision.

#### 3. Global, connected and entangled histories: Key methodological approaches

*Ana Carolina Hosne* We, 9-11 KJC-212

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Since the globalization process changed our ways of revisiting the past, historians adopted new approaches for doing and writing history; since then, 'global history' became a major field in the discipline. However, even though this approach refers to all history attempting to address a wide, universal prospect, what global history produced so far merits some reflection on the endeavors made by historians to achieve a universal narrative that transcends cultures. In turn, 'Connected' and 'Entangled' histories have both appeared as an attempt to go beyond



comparison, by seeking out the threads and intersections connecting the globe in different periods. The 'connected histories' in particular aim to leave behind those area-based historiographies that conceive areas as separate and comparable, proposing a strong focus on regional and local phenomena, previously blinded by nationalisms.

The aim of this course is partly theoretical, since the reflection and analysis of these methodologies is oriented to providing Master students with tangible, methodological tools for them to apply, thus transcending their solely intellectual comprehension.

### FOCUS: "KNOWLEDGE, BELIEF AND RELIGION"

#### 4. **Advanced Topics in Tibetan and Buddhist Studies**

*Birgit Kellner* Fr, 14-17 (biweekly) KJC-002

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Research seminar on selected topics for advanced students.

#### 5. **Approaching Tibet in the 20<sup>th</sup> century: encounters at the fringes of empires**

*Markus Viehbeck* Mo, 16-18 KJC-112

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Stimulated by global power politics as well as economic developments, the Eastern Himalayas emerged as an important space for encounters between people of varied interests and cultural backgrounds. While access to Tibet itself was heavily restricted, the influx of Tibetan population in the area provided an ideal environment for Tibetophiles of various sorts, and in this way attracted government officials, missionaries, academics, religious seekers, and many others alike. Focusing on a micro-historical approach, the seminar will follow the trajectories of a number of selected individuals in this area, thereby linking historical actors, their entanglements in complex networks, and the transfer and production of knowledge they initiated. In doing so, the seminar will highlight important concepts (e.g. cultural broker, contact zone) that can also be fruitfully employed in similar instances of colonial/postcolonial encounters and knowledge production.

#### 6. **Buddhism I: the arising and development of Buddhism on the Indian subcontinent**

*Birgit Kellner* We, 11-13 nUni HS05

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This is the first part of a two-semester introduction to Buddhism. The course introduces doctrines, practices and the socioreligious framework of Buddhism on the Indian subcontinent from a historical perspective, covering a timespan from the presumed life date of the historical Buddha (~ 480-400 BCE) until the disappearance of Buddhism from India approximately in the 13th century CE.



## 7. Buddhist philosophy in its sources: arguments on consciousness

*Birgit Kellner* We, 14-16 KJC-002

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The investigation of mind and consciousness (Sanskrit *citta*, *vijñāna*, *vijñapti*) is a main concern of theoretical traditions in Buddhism, owing to the conception of the path to liberation (*mokṣa*) as a transformation (or purification) of the mind. In early medieval India, reflections on consciousness took on new forms, as an emerging school of epistemology and logic founded by Dignāga and Dharmakīrti placed particularly strong emphasis on methods of argumentation, and embarked on defending Buddhist views against brahminical philosophers in an intellectual atmosphere of increasing hostility towards Buddhism. As a result, many claims – e.g. “the objects of experience are only consciousness; there are no external objects” – that were in earlier exegetical literature only justified through scriptural exegesis and in view of intra-Buddhist assumptions became the focus of general proof and argument. This seminar will be devoted to some of the main arguments on the nature and structure of consciousness that were formulated in this context. The textual basis will be selected verses from an encyclopedic late medieval summa of Buddhist thought: Sāntarakṣita's (ca. 725-788) “Compendium of Principles” (*Tattvasaṅgraha*) together with the commentary (*pañjikā*) by his disciple Kamalasīla.

## 8. ‘East’ meets ‘West’? Christian-Muslim Interaction in the Crusader States (1099-1291)

*Daniel König* Mo, 14-16 KJC-112

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By calling for the 'liberation' of the Holy Land in 1095, pope Urban II ushered in a period that would witness large-scale changes in the social, political, religious and economic landscape of the Middle East. The First Crusade led to the establishment of several crusader principalities ruled by Christian elites from Western Europe. Of shorter or longer duration, the crusader principalities witnessed intensive interaction between the local Jewish, Christian and Muslim population on the one side, Western European immigrants on the other side. In an article published in 2001, Marie-Luise Favreau-Lilie discussed the question if the crusader states represented 'multicultural' or a 'persecuting' societies. The course will approach this question from a wider angle: A short introduction to the crusading movement will be followed by various sessions on different aspects of Christian-Muslim interaction in the crusader states on the basis of legal and historiographic sources. These will provide insight into various forms of Christian-Muslim relations in different localities and social strata, enabling us to trace how these relations developed from the conquest of Jerusalem in 1099 to the loss of the last crusader stronghold Acre in 1291.



## 9. The Arabic-Islamic Expansion and its Impact on the West. Expansion, Reaction, Receptions

*Daniel König* Tu, 14-16 KJC-112

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Please register for the course by writing an e-mail to [daniel.koenig@asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:daniel.koenig@asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de)!

The Arabic-Islamic expansion of the 7th to 9th century considerably changed the geopolitical landscape of the Mediterranean. In three steps and on the basis of contemporary sources (in translation), the course will deal with the expansion as such, contemporary reactions to it, as well as with its later reception in Western Europe. Beginning with an overview on the forces that triggered the expansion, the course will follow the Arab conquest of North Africa, the Iberian Peninsula, as well as parts of the Frankish realm and the Apennine Peninsula including several islands of the western Mediterranean. Then it will turn to the social, political, economic, religious and linguistic effects brought about by the establishment of Arab elites in great parts of southern and southwestern Europe. Finally, it will discuss if later Western European descriptions and interpretations of the expansion and its effects do justice to this historical period and its legacy.

## 10. From Codex to Database: Problems at the intersection of Digital Humanities and Book History

*Duncan Paterson* Th, 11-13 KJC-212

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The printed book in its current form (the codex) has formed the basis of European humanist research since the manuscript cultures of the Renaissance and before. In this seminar we will discuss theoretical approaches and examples from current scholarship that combine material aspects of historical and literary sources with the analysis of their content. The course aims to highlight two periods in particular: The global ascendance of print cultures in early modernity, with examples drawn from East Asia (China) and Europe, and the contemporary content revolution of the digital age.

The beginning of the class aims to discuss core questions from the fields of media studies, social, and cultural history as they pertain to written sources. Students are then expected to apply these questions to selected manuscript and selected print materials from within their own fields of research. Two workshop type sessions will provide further materials to students from local collections. These sessions will be held at the rare books reading room in the UB. The final segment of the seminar will address recent developments for digital texts, such as hyper-textual narratives, databases repositories, and markup strategies.

## 11. Himalayan Conceptions of the Afterlife

*Davide Torri* We, 13-15 KJC-212

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The seminar will explore conceptions related to the afterlife among Himalayan cultures. Theories about death and the post-mortem have a pivotal role in religions of the Himalayan



cultural area, where multiple conceptions and influences can be seen interacting with each other, giving rise to complex patterns characterized by processes of incorporation, glossing over, dialogic exchange and mimetic appropriation. Through the analysis of selected case-studies, the students will deal with rituals and theories about death and the afterlife, ranging from shamanic worldviews (and related rituals and beliefs) to the Tibetan Buddhist "Book of the Dead".

## 12. Insiders and Outsiders: Producing political institutions in late 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century China

*Pablo Blitstein* We, 11-13 KJC-212

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How were modern political institutions imagined and produced in late 19th and early 20th century China? Which actors took part in this production? And how did they take part in it? In this course, we will attempt to show that Chinese political institutions in the late 19th and early 20th century were as much the work of insiders - of those who belonged to the old institutions - as the work of outsiders - of those who never reached the summit of power or who did not even live in China. We will follow men of letters, men of arms, businessmen and shopkeepers, university professors and journalists, and try to see how each of them contributed to both imagine and set new political institutions. As we will see, these institutions are the result of entangled networks - of men, of books, of objects - that lead us well beyond the political borders of China, both to Europe and to the Americas.

## 13. Introduction to Onomastics

*Sara Uckelman* We, 9:30-11 KJC-002

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Onomastics is the study of names, both of persons and places. Names provide us with a wealth of data ranging from linguistic to sociological. Understanding how people were named and how naming patterns developed and changed over time and in different cultures helps illustrate social and economical relationships between groups of people. The names themselves provide important linguistic information about dialects, vernacular languages, etc. The study of onomastics is particularly important for anyone who is working with historical material and primary sources, since these can often refer to the same person by different names, sometimes even in the same source, and thus it is important to understand the origin and functions of names in order to determine when two references are to the same person or not.

The purpose of the class will be to introduce the student to historical onomastics. We will introduce different categories of name elements, and survey their development and change over time, focusing on material from Europe from the Roman Empire on; the Middle East after the development of Islam; and pre-modern China and Japan; with an occasional excursus into other cultures. One of the important questions that we will seek to understand is: What information about an individual can you extra from the person's name alone?



#### 14. Maps and Meanings: Interpretations of Spatial Knowledge

*Helena Jaskov* Mo, 11-13 KJC-112

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Maps are complex representations whose meanings are not solely spatial but also cultural and social in nature.

Moreover, cartographic meaning does not lie latent in the map, waiting to be retrieved by a passive "map percipient", but is created by the cognitively active reader functioning within specific discourses. The meaning of any given map will thus vary between readers, over time, and between discourses.

This seminar offers an introduction to theoretical approaches in the study of historical maps with a focus on their readings across cultures.

#### 15. Reading Tibetan newspapers: Tharchin's "Tibet Mirror"

*Markus Viehbeck* Fr, 14-17 (biweekly) KJC-002

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Published from 1925–1963, Tharchin's Me long (Tibet Mirror) has become famous as the first influential and wide-spread Tibetan language newspaper.

In this reading class, we are going to translate and analyze selected articles from this publication, focusing on the depiction of European Tibetophiles in the Tibetan public sphere.

#### 16. Sites of Knowledge in Asia and Europe

*Joachim Kurtz* Th, 13-16 KJC-112

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Scholars from many disciplines have argued that "all knowledge is local." But what can we learn from scrutinizing the specific sites where diverse forms of knowledge are generated, stored, taught, and circulated? This seminar will address this question by looking into a broad array of locations implicated in the knowledge economies of early modern Asia and Europe. Focusing on places implicated in circulations of knowledge in and between Asia and Europe—ranging from courts, schools, academies, temples, and observatories to print shops, bazaars, roadhouses, ports, and ships—our aim will be to determine how and to what extent places can shape practices such as the gathering and interpretation of data, the generation and propagation of concepts and theories, as well as the modes and media of dissemination and display.

Designed for the MA in Transcultural Studies, the seminar can also be taken by students pursuing the MA in Chinese Studies. For them, an additional hour of class devoted to close readings of sources on sites of knowledge in early modern China is mandatory.



## 17. Small Things, Big Issues. Gift Exchange in Anthropology

*Lina Pranaityte-Wergin* Mo, 14-16 KJC-002

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Exchange of material and immaterial items has proven to be central to the organization of social life. In anthropological analyses it is not merely the object of exchange that is emphasized, but what that object produces, what relationships and institutions a gift displays. This course provides theoretical and methodological examples of how a particular cultural practice can influence a wide range of fields; i.e. how exchange of items, favours or services taken as a central empirical notion provides enough data for the analysis of local economies and cultural practices, establishments of transcultural economic and political dynamics, as well as the development of Western academic thought and its conceptualization of the 'other'. At the beginning of anthropology gift exchange in particular has been exemplified in studies of the non-Western, non-monetary economies and clan-based societies. In doing so, it was frequently compared to the presumable 'other': money-governed exchanges in a class-based market economy, which basically incorporates Western European countries.

In this seminar we will discuss the gift and the riddles its exchange have created for scholars. While theoretically traveling across Europe and Asia, the students will be introduced to the relations and distinctions of various forms of exchange. Discussions will include current debates in regards to gift alienability and inalienability in 'Western industrial settings and among Indian Jains, notions of blat in post-soviet contexts, Guanxi in China and the importance of gifts in Japan. Why does the maintenance of social relationships remain so important for the manifestation of groups and societies? Can we make friends without gifts or favours?

## 18. The Magic of Modernity: Transcultural Perspectives on Religion and Media

*Cora Bender* Th, 9-11 KJC-212

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This course addresses the role of media in the formation of the religious, starting from the assumption that new media have facilitated an unforeseen return of religious practice on global scale. It looks at how people use media: What role do media play in people's individual religious experience, in the communicative every-day religious practice, and in the formation of religious communities - especially those with a political background? In order to be able to reconstruct the relations between religion, media, and politics in a given setting, we will analyse the various regional and global processes of circulation. We will pay especially close attention to new anthropological studies focusing on the materiality of religious forms, their circulation, alienation and re-appropriation. The ultimate goal of the course is to attain a deeper and more complex understanding of the relationship between religious, political and media practice in the age of globalization.



## 19. The Sadhu and the Christian Hermit: Visual Concepts of Asceticism in India and Europe

*Corinna Forberg* Fr, 9-13 (biweekly) KJC-002

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Ascetic life forms are known since the Bronze Age Indus Valley Civilization and have since been developed in different cultures mostly in a religious context. The willingness to renounce the world and devote one's life to God or another higher purpose has been particularly high on the Indian subcontinent where Hindu, Jain, Buddhist and Muslim communities have established organized ascetic life forms. Even in Europe, especially ancient Greece, asceticism was widespread. The cynics were considered to be extreme practitioners who - philosophically motivated- consciously placed themselves on the margins of society. With the spread of Christianity and its monasticism practiced from the beginning, asceticism became established throughout Europe.

Both in India and Europe pictorial representations of the remote hermit, mendicant monks and contrite penitents were popular. The contact between European travelers and Indian ascetics, which can be detected since the conquest of Alexander the Great, was not without resonance. The goal of our seminar is to trace, on the one hand, the developments of visual concepts of asceticism in India and Europe and to pursue, on the other hand, the reactions of European artists to images and reports of Indian ascetics. With the help of detailed image analysis and careful research, we will focus on the cultural, religious and social context of the image and knowledge transfer.

## 20. Women in Pre-Modern East Asia: Religion, Politics, Daily Life

*Anna Andreeva* We, 16-18 KJC-112

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This course will focus on the social history of women and cultural history of gender in pre-modern East Asia. To facilitate a historically situated transcultural reading of gender, on the one hand, the course seminars will require a detailed consideration of major theoretical works on gender, religion, and practice of everyday life. Specific case studies, on the other hand, will investigate how the social norms, political structures and religious paradigms shaped the everyday lives and experiences of women in different contexts. Drawing on the historical, visual, and literary sources from China, Korea and Japan dating before the 19th century, the case studies will also discuss what problems, doubts, and choices women living in diverse cultural and geographical contexts of pre-modern East Asia had, and how they responded to the specific sets of social, cultural and historic conditions they found themselves in.



## FOCUS: "SOCIETY, ECONOMY AND GOVERNANCE"

### 21. Biographic Approaches in Transcultural Studies

*Sophie Roche* Tu, 9-11 KJC-112

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In this seminar we will study the biographic method and its capacity for researching cultural interconnectedness. The course is based on examples such as for instance diplomats, academics, travelers, Islamic scholars and women. We will look at the biographic turn in history and the discourses on biography and life history in social anthropology through analytical texts as well as primary sources like biographies, travel logs, autobiographies and diaries.

### 22. Global Economic History of Europe and Asia

*Harald Fuess* Mo, 11-13 KJC-212

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For a long time historians have debated the issue why the industrial revolution originated in Northwestern Europe when other parts of the world at various times seem to have reached stages of economic development variously described as proto-industrialization or industrious revolution, which could have almost enabled them to reach the next step of an economic breakthrough. Moreover, much debate has been going on every since about the issue of what so-called late developing nations or regions need to do to catch-up with what has become known as the first world. In the meantime the hopes, expectations or fears are all about Asia taking over world economic leadership and changing the European and even American economic and political hegemony, which seems to be facing a gentle but almost inevitable relative decline. This class will review the classical and current arguments for the occurrence of global economic development in such an asymmetrical but entangled fashion while introducing the perspective of cultural economic history with its emphasis on cultural norms and practices into our interpretation of how economic cultures change over time and place.

### 23. Globalization, Labor and Gender in East Asia

*Jaok Kwon-Hein* We, 16-18 KJC-002

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In this course, we explore men's and women's roles as productive and reproductive laborers in globalizing East Asian economy. Our goal is to understand how globalization interacts with local, national and international institutions and how this phenomenon is gendered especially in labor market. At the same time, we will look at how the actors are responding to globalization's effects. With theoretical reviews on the gender-based labor segregation, we will look at a series of empirical studies of contemporary East Asian societies with a focus primarily on the gendered nature of globalization.



## 24. Global Legal Issues in a Comparative Perspective

*Christian Förster*    Blockseminar    KJC-212/112

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The seminar deals with selected issues that on a global scale ask for legal solutions. In order to find those it is crucial to take into account historical, social and economic implications as well as the political relationships between different countries. We will for example look at “Nuclear Energy” that in the US-American/Japanese context developed from a devastating weapon of mass destruction to an indispensable power source that again lead to the catastrophe of Fukushima. Another possible topic is the “Importance of State Borders” with often conflicting effects like “keeping apart what belongs together” (East-/West-Germany, North-/South-Korea) or purposefully limiting state influence (Russia/Ukraine). A full list of all topics available will soon be published on the Cluster-Homepage. Each topic is to be presented by two students each of whom will take a different approach (as regards time, place, focus etc.) to attain a more "in-depth" analysis.

## 25. Japanese and East Asian Law in a European Context

*Christian Förster*    Th, 14-16    KJC-212

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The lecture examines several key aspects of East Asian civil law – with a special focus on Japan – set against “our” European frame of reference. It is divided into three parts, starting with a historical look at the development of European and Asian law from the beginning of the “codification phase” at the start of the 19th century to the status quo. The legal systems covered in this way are Germany, France and Great Britain on the European side in contrast to Japan, China and South Korea on the Asian part. Next to be viewed is the Western law’s impact on Eastern societies. The second part deals with basic rules and principles of modern civil law as reflected in legal text and juridical decisions. The third part concentrates on the increasingly problematic issue of production of nuclear power after the Fukushima-incident as an example for the necessity of world-wide regulation of global issues.

## 26. Migration in Empire & Aftermath

*Steven Irvings*    Mo, 9-11    KJC-112

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This seminar explores the social and economic impact of migration and its causes from 1800 to the present day across a range of geographical areas. The issues covered in the course include colonial, postcolonial, free and forced migrations, as well as migrant integration, diaspora identity and the impact on both the host and sending societies. The course gives students a historical appreciation of migration which is both transnational and transcultural. Migration is an issue which invokes a lot of controversy and emotion, in this course emphasis will be placed on building students ability to use empirical analysis to objectively assess the role of migration in various historical and socio-economic settings.



## 27. Readings in Contemporary Japanese Political Economy

*Steven Irvings* Tu, 9-11 KJC-112

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This seminar covers a range of issues in the contemporary Japanese political economy including its recent economic history, Abenomics, defense, industrial and energy policies, the ageing population, Japan in the global economy and many more. The seminar discussion is based on one or two main weekly readings (usually an academic journal article or book chapter in English) and several newspaper articles (mostly in Japanese) related to each topic which students are required to read before each class. The course aim is for students to gain an in depth knowledge of Japan's political economy, develop their critical reading skills and to provide an opportunity to improve their Japanese.

## 28. Small Things, Big Issues. Gift Exchange in Anthropology

*Lina Pranaityte-Wergin* Mo, 14-16 KJC-002

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See number 17 above.

## 29. Social and Cultural Transformations in Modern Korea in Global and Transcultural Perspective

*Stefan Knoob* Fr, 9-11 KJC-112

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*The course will be taught in English - the English course announcement will follow soon.*

Der Kurs wird in englischer Sprache unterrichtet und beschäftigt sich mit den schlagartigen und rasanten Veränderungen in der Gesellschaft und Kultur auf der koreanischen Halbinsel, zunächst während der Kolonialzeit und dann nach der Teilung in beiden Staaten.

Der Fokus liegt dabei nicht so sehr auf politischer Geschichte als auf sozialen und kulturellen Umwälzungen und Veränderungsprozessen.

In den ersten 6 Sitzungen erarbeiten wir uns zunächst einen Überblick über den Weg Koreas durch das 20. Jahrhundert. Danach wird das Seminar Themen wie Agrargesellschaft, Demographie, Industrialisierung, Modernität, Nationalismus, Erziehung, Familie und Geschlechterrollen etc. behandeln.

## 30. The Arabic-Islamic Expansion and its Impact on the West. Expansion, Reaction, Receptions

*Daniel König* Tu, 14-16 KJC-212

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See number 9 above.

## 31. The Treaty Port Press

*Harald Fuess* Mo, 14-16 KJC-212

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*Further information forthcoming.*



## FOCUS: "VISUAL, MEDIA AND MATERIAL CULTURE"

### 32. The world in a glass-case – museums of art, ethnography and industry in Japan, India and Europe

*Monica Juneja, Melanie Trede* Tu, 16-18 KJC-212

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Although the institution of the modern museum was born in the European metropolis, it has since its inception asserted itself as an infinitely varied global form that has taken roots in different localities of the world and shaped by specific regional, national and transcultural forces. While the museum's emergence outside of Europe was undoubtedly bound up with its European story, the seminar avoids a narrative which looks at museums in Asia as variants of an established "norm". Its focus is three-fold: (a) to examine the specific constellations of actors, sites and historical processes within which museums in India, Japan and Western Europe took shape responding to the contingencies of nation-building, citizenship and heritage, (b) to investigate the social, political, and material aspects of sites of display, which preceded the modern museum and to identify its remnants, and (c) to analyze the classifications of museums into art, ethnographic and museums of industrial arts (Kunstgewerbe).

By taking a closer look at modalities of collection, of exhibiting and practices of spectatorship at sites in three different regions of the world, we adopt both a comparative and a connected approach to an institution that has revealed a capacity to reinvent itself in myriad ways. The time frame covered by the course spans the early nineteenth century to the present. It allows us to trace the changing formations of a modern museum-scape from large, generally state-sponsored "national" museums to an infinite variety of forms in the present ranging from the globally visible mega-projects such as the Calcutta MOMA, the Maitreya Buddhist museum all nurtured through the flows of global capital and which often draw on other regimes such as those of the theme park or religious shrine. At the other end of the spectrum we will turn our attention to local or regional initiatives such as the boom of Prefectural Museum built in Japan in the 1980s and 1990s, and the Asia Art Museum in Fukuoka undertaken in response to political initiatives to reframe art discourses, or smaller institutions responding to the identity needs of communities prompted by their concern to inscribe memories, such as the Mongol Invasion Memorial Museum in Fukuoka, or museums created by individuals and rich entrepreneurs as cultural capital of their company (e.g. Bridgestone Museum in Tokyo).

### 33. Actions, Happenings, Performances from the 1950s to 1970s: Creatively crossing borders in the shadows of the Cold War?

*Franziska Koch* We, 11-13 KJC-002

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The aftermath of WWII and the ensuing Cold War era, marked by political and economic divisions between the states of the Eastern and Western blocs as well as the nations of the so-called Third World, witnessed the rise of a new experimental art scene not only in Western Europe and the US, but also in Asian countries like Japan. Artists organized in loose groups such



as "Fluxus", "Gutai", "Zero" and in the framework of neodadaist performance and music festivals stirred public interest as they introduced forms of collaborative, multi-media based and interdisciplinary artistic expression such as the happening.

The seminar explores how artists pursuing innovative forms of action as well as performative practices, who shared the trauma of WWII, reflected on contemporaneous political and cultural demarcations, while their approaches were often based on (utopian) ideas of globally accessible artistic communication and transmission. We will study introductory texts, followed by the work of prominent artists (e.a. Joseph Beuys, Nam June Paik, Jackson Pollock, Yoko Ono, George Maciunas or Charlotte Moorman) as well as artist groups (e.a. the Japanese Gutai, the transatlantic Fluxus network, the entanglements of Asian avant-garde calligraphers and American/European painters). A one-day excursion to the exhibition "Beuys, Brock, Vostell" at the ZKM Karlsruhe will allow us to study relevant works in-situ. The seminar is based on strong elements of team work to jointly elaborate basic background knowledge. We will use peer-to-peer teaching to exercise presentational skills and to achieve better results in your term paper.

#### **34. EurAsian Objects: Art and Material Cutlruue in Global Exchange, 1600-1800**

*Anna Grasskamp* We, 15-17:30 KJC-212

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This seminar is dedicated to the study of artifacts in EurAsian exchange, traded through the Silk Road or transported on board of ships, as well as early modern objects that display a combination of "Asian" as well as "European" material, technical or stylistic features. Examples range from Japanese and Chinese woodblock prints that integrate Western one-point perspective to images of "the East" in European travelogues, from Ming dynasty porcelain re-framed by European cabinets of curiosity to English clocks within the contexts of Quing imperial collecting, from paintings made in Sino-European cooperation to pictorial reframings of the world in early modern Japanese, Chinese and European maps. Class participants will familiarize with pivotal figures as Jiao Bingzhen, Giuseppe Castiglione and Shiba Kokan, discuss transcultural workshop productions and learn about early modern trade, tribute bearing and gift exchange. Through concepts as *histoire croisées* students engage with issues of historiography and learn to critically engage with the disciplinary boundaries of (Art) History as well as scholarship on (early modern) globalization.

#### **35. Maps and Meanings: Interpretations of Spatial Knowledge**

*Helena Jaskov* Mo, 11-13 KJC-112

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See number 14 above.



### **36. Methods in Visual and Media Ethnography**

*Cathrine Bublatzky* Th, 11-13 KJC-112

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In this seminar we will discuss methods for researching visual and media cultures. Basing on theories and methods of Visual and Media Anthropology the main questions for this seminar are 'How to conduct research on visual material and media? And how to analyse and approach visual data in academic writing?' In the first part we will discuss relevant concepts of visual and media cultures such as the social life and agency of visual objects, the circulation and distribution of popular media and material cultures as well as the discussion on socio-cultural practices of perception, 'seeing' and consuming in relation to concrete casestudies. In the light of writing culture debate (James Clifford) and visual material studies we will explore academic practices of collecting, archiving, analysing as well as writing on visual material. As a relatively new discipline of what is called 'Digital Humanities' and to what the Heidelberg Research Architecture (HRA) at the Cluster of Excellence contributes to with a digital research environment for students and scholars (e.g. photo-wiki; HyperImage (image annotation platform), this second part of the seminar focuses also on different ways of ethnographic writing about visual cultures. This seminar prepares students with a particular interest in visual and media cultures for research-based seminars and projects (e.g. for their MA thesis) and allows them to engage with visual cultures that are part of research fields such as migration and urban studies, youth cultures or visual art studies.

### **37. Site Specific Art in the Context of the Spatial Turn**

*Samantha Schramm* Blockseminar KJC-112

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The seminar investigates site specific practices in art from the 1960s until today in the context of spatial theories. Especially since the "spacial turn" of the 1980s, the geographic space is addressed as cultural location, also raising questions about the mediality of space and forms of transitions between different social and cultural locations. It will be addressed during the seminar, how far these theoretical notions of space can be discussed in relation to site specific art. Already movements of Land Art or Environmental Art in Europe and the United States, have stressed a phenomenological perception of the site and intensified the relation between work and viewer. This expanded notion of sites also leads to artistic practices in which a critique of the museum as ideological and "Western" site is stressed and in which artists also referred to prehistoric sites as inspiration. Especially since the 1980s and in contemporary artistic practices, the site is negotiated as a discursive space that is shaped by social conditions, knowledge and transcultural debates. In addition, a new notion of space emerges in the context of web-based artistic projects: their study demands for a new notion of public and private, local and global, but also raises questions about the site as collective space. During the seminar, theories of space like those of Marc Augé, Homi K. Bhabha, Mochel de Certeau, Edward Soja and Doreen Massey will be discussed in relation to site specific art in Europe, North and South America and Asia by



different artists such as Ai Weiwei, John Ahearn, Cao Fei, Mark Dion, Group Material, Ken Goldberg, Tadashi Kawamata, Lin Yilin, Richard Long, Ana Mendieta and Song Dong.

**38. The Magic of Modernity: Transcultural Perspectives on Religion and Media**

*Cora Bender* Th, 9-11 KJC-212

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See number 18 above.

**39. The Sadhu and the Christian Hermit: Visual Concepts of Asceticism in India and Europe**

*Corinna Forberg* Fr, 9-13 (biweekly) KJC-002

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See number 19 above.