EDITORIAL

Dear colleagues and friends,

a little more than a year ago, we were unsuccessful with our application for a new Cluster in the Excellence Strategy. Since then, our main objective has been to further strengthen the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies (HCTS) as a central research institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences and continue to adhere to the standards of excellence set by its predecessor.

The continuous engagement and commitment of the HCTS members have made that effort a success. Since the last edition of our newsletter, exciting research activities, new initiatives, and international collaborations have been actively promoting the trademark of the HCTS – its transcultural perspective.

Prof. Brosius’s “Nepal Heritage Documentation Project,” for example, demonstrates the ample scope and outreach of the current research at the HCTS. Awarded a grant by the ARCADIA foundation for the project, she will be cataloguing endangered historical sites destroyed or damaged by earthquakes and urban change. We also issued a third call for applications within the Transcultural Forays initiative that continues to elicit a lively response. We are now supporting researchers in their scholarly endeavours with Publication and Activity Grants.

At the beginning of October, we welcomed a new class of Master’s students and our next batch of six doctoral students in the Graduate Programme for Transcultural Studies. The number of applicants has remained steady in recent years, underlining the unaltered strength of the HCTS and its attractiveness as a place for innovative research on transculturality.

Furthermore, our new HCTS Interactive Lecture Series started on May 28, fostering new and innovative formats. The highlight of this series will be the international workshop “Recalibrating Culture–Reconfiguring the (Trans-)

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Evening Chats with Perry Link during winter semester

Prof. Perry Link, professor emeritus of East Asian Studies at Princeton University, will be spending a year at the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies as an associate fellow. During the winter semester, he will offer a series of interactive evening chats. I am happy to announce that we will have several guest lectures by international speakers visiting the HCTS during this winter semester.

Over the past few months, we have been witnessing the advancing work next door at the Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies (CATS). The renovation of the main buildings is already in its final stage, and the library and media centre—the heart of CATS—only requires some finishing touches. We expect a vital stimulus to innovative collaborative enterprises in research and teaching from the synergetic effects of the new campus.

The upcoming winter term provides us with the opportunity to further sharpen the intellectual and institutional profile of the HCTS. Though many tasks lie ahead, there is reason to be optimistic given the major strides we have been able to make during the past year. I would like to thank Nikolas Jaspert, who greatly supported this effort in his first semester as acting director, and the entire team of the HCTS for their unstinting participation in the process of transition.

The step from a large, internationally renowned Cluster of Excellence to a smaller, but sustainable Centre for Transcultural Studies has been challenging and difficult at times. Excellence, however, is a project of many generations. It can be attained on any scale, large or small, and means learning with honesty from setbacks. I look forward to a semester full of inspiring activities and wish you all a pleasant read!

Best regards

Monica Juneja
Acting Director

Dr. Oliver Lamers
Scientific Project Manager

Arunava Dasgupta visited HCTS as Erasmus+ Fellow

From June 3 to July 2, architect and urban designer Prof. Arunava Dasgupta, head of the Department of Urban Design at the School of Planning and Architecture in Delhi, visited the HCTS as an Erasmus+ teaching fellow. He was hosted by the professorship of Visual and Media Anthropology and taught classes, tutorials, and workshops in close cooperation with Prof. Christiane Brosius.

Dasgupta’s visit was made possible through a Mobility scholarship awarded by the Erasmus+ programme SWAGATA, which consists of the University of Cologne, the University of Göttingen, and Heidelberg University, as well as their branch offices in New Delhi. The alliance facilitates collaborations between the Global South and North. With Prof. Brosius, Prof. Dasgupta seeks to build a network of South Asian partners in Higher Education to develop interdisciplinary approaches to teaching and researching on urban place making in South Asia.

Cultural,” which will take place at the HCTS on November 22–23, 2018. It is also my great pleasure to welcome Prof. Perry Link as an associate fellow at the HCTS. He will be spending a year in Heidelberg and will give a series of five interactive evening chats. I am happy to announce that we will have several guest lectures by international speakers visiting the HCTS during this winter semester.

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Chinese intellectuals have a traditional duty, for which there is no equivalent in the West: to worry, to “take responsibility for all under heaven,” to argue the question “What can we do with China?” In his 1992 classic Evening Chats in Beijing, an “utterly absorbing gem of a book” (Library Journal), Perry Link conveys the worries besetting China’s most prominent writers, journalists, scientists, professors, and officials. Link creates “an invaluable opening onto China’s best and brightest hearts and minds” (Kirkus Reviews), allowing the Chinese themselves to tell us what happened in Beijing throughout the Cultural Fever.

The first Evening Chat with Prof. Link took place on October 17, 2018 with the title “Freedom and Control on the Chinese Internet.”

The next dates are:
Thur., December 13, 2018
Wed., January 9, 2018
Wed., February 6, 2018

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NEWS

DAAD visiting professors at the HCTS

In summer semester 2018, the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies hosted eight international guest professors. The visiting program was financed by the DAAD, the HCTS, and the Toshiba International Foundation, and was coordinated by the professorship of Cultural Economic History.

Film studies expert Prof. Wada-Marciano from Kyoto University visited Heidelberg as the first DAAD visiting professor from May 8 to June 14, teaching a seminar on Asian Cinema. Another DAAD visiting professor from Kyoto University was the archeologist Prof. Satoshi Naiki, who stayed in Heidelberg from June 4 to August 2. Prof. Naiki gave a lecture on “Narrative Sets of Buddhist Reliefs Found at Thareli in the Gandhara Region.” He also taught a seminar on “Archaeological Analyses of Buddhist Culture in North-West India” as part of the Joint Degree Master Programme.

Historian Prof. Mayuko Sano, also from Kyoto University, who stayed in Heidelberg from July 6 to August 4, participated in the workshop “Transcultural Dimensions of Edo Japan” on July 13, where she talked about “Bakumatsu Diplomacy.” She also gave a the seminar on “The transcultural dynamics of Japanese diplomacy in the late 19th century as seen through the eyes of a British diplomat” during her visit to the HCTS. Moreover, from June to August, historian Dr. Christopher Gerteis from SOAS was a HCTS visiting professor with the professorship of Cultural Economic History. His guest lecture “Motorboats and Morals Education: Philanthropy, Education and the Cold War in Japan” took place on July 12 at the Karl Jaspers Centre.

During the winter semester, the professorship of Cultural Economic History is hosting religious and intellectual history scholar Prof. Hiroo Sato, former Dean of the Graduate School of Letters of Tohoku University, from October 26 to December 6, as well as Prof. Sochi Naraoka from the Faculty of Law at Kyoto University from October 31 to December 6. As the second Toshiba International Foundation Visiting Professor, environmental and science historian Prof. Akihisa Setoguchi will join the HCTS to teach an intensive seminar from December to February. Moreover, Prof. Lee Tae-Suk from Dankook University is spending her one-year sabbatical in Heidelberg from February 15, 2018 onwards, studying German influences on Korean literature.

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) funds the visiting professorships as part of its scholarship programs for MATS students to study at Kyoto University. The funds were acquired by Prof. Harald Fuess, the professor for Cultural Economic History at the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies. He is also a project professor in the Top Global University Program at Kyoto University.

Workshop, Autumn School, and Film Festival on “Active Ageing” in New Delhi

The DAAD-funded cooperation project “New Directions in ‘Active Ageing’ and ‘Age-friendly Culture’ in India and Germany” between Heidelberg University and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) hosted a workshop, an autumn school, and a film festival from September 19 to 26, 2018, in New Delhi. The workshop “Caring Relations, Caring For Ageing” by HCTS professor Christiane Brosius and Roberta Mandoki examined care-taking in the context of ageing in South Asia with an excursion to a senior care center. It took place at Jawaharlal Nehru University on September 19–25.

Guest Lecture
MOTORBOATS AND MORALS EDUCATION:
Philanthropy, Education and the Cold War in Japan

Christopher Gerteis (SOAS London)
organized by the Professorship of Cultural Economic History
July 12, 2018 | 4 pm
Karl Jaspers Centre, Room 212

Poster for the guest lecture by Christopher Gerteis in July 2018
RAFAL STEPIEN JOINS THE HCTS

Rafal K Stepieński, Ph.D. was awarded a Humboldt Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers and is spending two academic years 2018-2020 at the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies. We met him for an interview.

Rafal, how are you today?
Great! I just had a meeting with my mentor at the HCTS, the professor of Buddhist Studies Michael Radich, and that is always a good thing. He somehow manages to combine frightening levels of erudition with deep personal generosity and affability, so I invariably feel simultaneously stimulated, reassured, and perplexed (in the most fruitful of ways) after discussing Buddhist thought with him.

How do you like living in Heidelberg?
Everyone knows that Heidelberg is beautiful, but I am finding it is also extremely liveable and convenient. Coming from Oxford, which is similarly sized, Heidelberg city also feels much less dominated by the university, which is a relief when away from work and just out and about. And we have not even had a chance to explore the environs yet… The only trouble is that for all my training in languages I don’t know a word of German. People are invariably accommodating to my English, but I really do feel embarrassed, so some serious language learning is planned.

You were awarded the Humboldt Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers. What was your first reaction when you got the news?
There are some plans you make or hopes you form that just feel right, and applying for the Humboldt Fellowship to work at Heidelberg was definitely one of those. So when I got the news that the application had worked out, I did not feel so much surprise as contentment; it felt like things had worked out aright; that this time at least the way was functioning in accord with its pattern (to adopt some Chinese parlance).

Can you tell us a little about your research?
I’m fascinated by belief, and particularly, in this project called “The Ethics of Empty Beliefs,” by the ethical import of beliefs. Is it ethical to believe? Does belief of any kind entail certain metaphysical presuppositions? And can one suspend all one’s beliefs? Based on my previous research on the Indian Buddhist Madhyamaka philosopher Nagarjuna (c. 150–250), I am investigating the philosophical positions and arguments regarding belief of his Chinese Sanlun heirs Sengzhao (374–414) and Jizang (549–623).

*Trans-riverine Trans-ports to Trans-cendence (on the Ganges), © Rafal Stepieński*
Rafal Stepien joins the HCTS (continued from page 4)

Why did you choose the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies to conduct your research in Germany? My research falls directly within transcultural intellectual history, and this in two ways. Firstly, given that the Chinese Sanlun school I study was a self-conscious descendant of Indian Madhyamaka, the linguistic and philosophical means by which Indian Buddhist texts and ideas were translated and transmitted into an identifiably Chinese vocabulary and “weltanschauung” will impact our understanding of the mechanisms through which such transfer and transformation between widely disparate cultural worlds did and does take place. Secondly, given that the Sanlun school’s full flourishing was contemporaneous with the establishment of Buddhism as a major institutionalized religion in China, the means by which adherents of this originally foreign but increasingly sinified system adopted and adapted indigenously Chinese forms of thought and practice from their Daoist and Confucian peers will meaningfully inform scholarly conceptions of inter-religious dialogue, cultural appropriation and assimilation, and enculturation and acculturation more broadly – all from the perspective of a distinctly non-Eurocentric case study. Given all this, I can literally think of no place on earth better suited to house this project than the HCTS.

Do you have any plans for your two years in Germany besides your research at the HCTS? There are several related research projects in Buddhist philosophy and literature that I am completing. Apart from that, I am very much looking forward to meeting with and learning from all the myriad people affiliated with the HCTS and Heidelberg University more broadly, as well as exploring the German academic landscape directly. And speaking of landscapes, I definitely plan to get away and travel as much as possible throughout the country - this is a moment I want to fill to the brim!

WELCOME TO THE CLUSTER

Dr. Rodney Ast is an associate fellow at the HCTS and a research and teaching associate at the Institute for Papyrology at the Centre for Ancient Studies of Heidelberg University. He currently is working on his project “The Temple Berenike,” which is hosted by the Centre for Ancient Studies. His research interests include Greek and Latin papyrology, paleography and textual criticism, the antiquity, Roman Egypt and North Africa, Greek and Latin language and literature, and digital humanities.

In June 2018, Dr. Natalia Bachour started working on her project “The human body as remedy out of a historico-cultural and medical perspective: Studies about the knowledge transfer in the Arabian medicine of Middle Ages and modern times.” It focuses on the culturally determined change of body perceptions and the procedures of sharing transcultural knowledge. Bachour is a scholar in translation studies, history of science and pharmacy, and acquired her PhD at Heidelberg University in the history of pharmacy.

Dr. Hui-Ping Chuang is associate fellow at the HCTS for the period of two years. She is a scholar of East Asian art history and Buddhist studies and started her research project “The stone sutra project of the Cloud Dwelling Monastery during the Jin Dynasty (1115–1234),” in June 2018. It aims at adding to the understanding of one of the largest epigraphic projects in world history. Her research is funded by a two-year grant of the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation (CCKF) in Taiwan.

Prof. Perry Link, professor emeritus of East Asian Studies at Princeton University, is spending a research sabbatical at the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies as an associate fellow. He is currently chancellorial chair for Teaching Across Disciplines at the University of California at Riverside. His project during his one-year stay is to finish a biography of Liu Xiaobo, the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize winner. He is also holding a series of evening chats at the HCTS throughout the winter semester.
Prof. Alan Mikhail from Yale University is one of this year’s winners of the Anneliese Maier Research Award of the Humboldt Foundation and will dedicate it to furthering contacts between American and European researchers, particularly in the field of environmental studies. He will be working at the University of Bamberg by invitation of the historian Cornell Zwierlein, but due to prior contacts between professor Zwierlein and colleagues from Heidelberg University (Jenny Oesterle, Nikolas Jaspert), joined initiatives are envisaged for 2019 or 2020.

Prof. Parul Dave Mukherji from Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi was a short term fellow in Global Art History at the HCTS. She is a scholar of Indian art historiography, Indian aesthetics, comparative aesthetics, gender in art history, art theory and globalization. She has been dean and professor at the School of Arts and Aesthetics at Jawaharlal Nehru University since 2006, and is associate professor at the Department of Art History and Aesthetics of the Faculty of Fine Arts of Maharaja Sayajirao University in Baroda.

GPTS 10

Theresa Deichert is a doctoral candidate in history of art and transcultural studies under the supervision of Prof. Monica Juneja. Her research examines strategies and practices in Japanese contemporary art that deal with the altered ecologies of the nuclear catastrophe of the Fukushima Daiichi of March 2011 and its surrounding exclusion zone.

Deichert holds a B.A. in Cultural Studies from Jacobs University Bremen, followed by a Postgraduate Diploma in History of Art from the Courtauld Institute of Art, and an M.A. with TJ Demos and Briony Fer in History of Art, from University College London. She has worked in visual arts communications and at a number of museums. Most recently, she concluded a two-year curatorial traineeship at the Institut Mathildenhöhe in Darmstadt.

Nina de Forest focuses on uncompetitive teaching methods and the role that emotions play in effective learning in her research. Her PhD project examines how the holistic education approach of Jiddu Krishnamurti (1895–1986) has travelled from India to Germany. She analyses how Krishnamurti’s education philosophy has been translated, in reference to cultural aspects as well as to local political agendas.

De Forest holds an MA in South Asian Studies (Heidelberg University) as well as an MA in Education and Sociology (Mannheim University). Before her affiliation to the HCTS, she gained seven years of cumulative experience as an educator working with teachers and students in Germany, India and Senegal, in both mainstream and alternative education systems.

For his research, Judhajit Sarkar focuses on the Progressive-Modernist conjuncture in three South Asian languages, namely Bangla, Hindi, and Urdu, from the 1930s to the 1950s. Some of the poets he is working on are Jibanananda Das, Subhash Mukhopadhyay, Gajanan Madhav Muktibodh, Faiz Ahmad Faiz, and Meeraji.

Sarkar completed his B.A. and M.A. in Comparative Literature at Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India. He has previously worked with Sahapedia: An Open Encyclopaedia of Indian Culture and Heritage as a research consultant and with Oxford University Press India as an assistant editor of school textbooks.
Julia May is a doctoral candidate in Japanese Studies and Transcultural Studies under the supervision of Prof. Hans Martin Krämer. Her research focuses on right-wing women's groups in Japan and Europe and how their transnational networking efforts initiate transformation processes within the nationalist spectrum.

May holds a B.A. in East Asian Studies and an M.A. in Japanese Studies and Political Science from Heidelberg University. From 2012 to 2013 she received a MEXT scholarship and studied at the Center for Japanese Language and Culture (CJLC) at Osaka University and from 2015 to 2016 she participated in the DAAD programme “International Partnership in Higher Education (ISAP)” as a DAAD-sponsored student.

Egor Novikov’s research project “Sacred Dirt of the ‘Enchanted Garden’: on the Experiences of Humanitarian Volunteering in Kolkata” started as a critical revision of the ethical grounds and effects of international humanitarianism. With his project, Novikov aims to reach beyond the common discourses of salvation and anti-suffering by focusing on humanitarian work as a source of valuable experiences and by involving a variety of epistemes and value regimes. His interest is aimed at the role of sanctioned transgression and the dialectics of dirt and purity in humanitarian practice.

Novikov acquired a B.A. in Philosophy and Journalism at Saint-Petersburg University and graduated in Social Anthropology from the Central European University in Budapest.

Pattrick Piel’s project “Chinese and Latin historiographers and envoys view of Nomadism” deals with the differences and similarities in the West’s and East’s perceptions of Nomadism, combining transcultural history with aspects of comparative history. Thereby, he considers questions such as: How did sedentary people in Europe and East Asia perceive the Nomadic life and peoples? Were there ‘quasi-universal’ approaches towards ‘nomads’ in two different areas of Eurasia? In this vein the project shall emphasize the development and differentiation of the discourses of the ‘nomadic other.’

Piel holds an M.A. in History from the University of Heidelberg and spent half a year in Taiwan studying at the National Chengchi University.

NEW POSITIONS

PD Dr. Dominik Collet, JRG Leader at the Heidelberg Center for the Environment (HCE) and associate member of the Heidelberg Center for Transcultural Studies, took up a position as professor for Environmental History at Oslo University in October. The newly created professorship will be located at the Department of Archaeology, Conservation, and History (IAKH).

Prof. Daniel König, former start-up professor of Humanities at the HCTS, accepted a call as professor of the History of Religions at Konstanz University. After he received the call, he was interim professor at the chair in the summer semester 2018 and is now taking up the position as a full professor. Daniel König was also awarded a Heisenberg fellowship by the German Research Foundation (DFG) in September 2017, which he rejected in order to accept the call.

AWARDS & GRANTS

The German Research Foundation (DFG) appointed PD Dr. Kerstin von Lingen, associate member of the HCTS, as a Heisenberg Fellow for her research project “Consumer Boycott as Female Ethics, 1800–1990,” which combines global history and anthropology with gender studies perspectives. It focuses in particular on analyzing female modes of protest and asks how they triggered the boycott to destabilize the existing global economic order linking Asia and Europe. The project overall argues that women’s activism played a crucial role in inaugurating new forms of ethical politics in the nineteenth century by developing the consumer boycott as a powerful tool.

The Heisenberg Programme at the German Research Foundation (DFG) rewards researchers with outstanding work and goals, and enables them to prepare for a senior academic role while continuing their research. Four different types of funding are available within the Heisenberg Programme, including the Heisenberg Fellowship.
AWARDS & GRANTS

Profs. Aleida and Jan Assmann received the 2018 Peace Prize of the German Book Trade. The Board of Trustees has thus chosen to honour two exceptional scholars who have inspired and complemented each other’s work for decades. The award ceremony took place on October 14, 2018, the final day of the Frankfurt Book Fair. The Peace Prize has been awarded since 1950 and is endowed with a sum of €25,000.

Dr. Michael Brown, postdoctoral researcher in Near Eastern Archaeology and at the HCTS, received joint Anglo-German funding for trial fieldwork in Iraq. This research is part of his Transcultural Forays project “Transcultural Perspectives on the Parthian Empire: The Mountain Fortress of Rabana,” which started in October 2017 at the HCTS. The grants include financial support from the Deutsche Orient-Gesellschaft (DOG), and the British Institute for the Study of Iraq (BISI). Upcoming fieldwork will involve participants from Heidelberg University and the UK working alongside heritage professionals from Iraqi-Kurdistan.

Maksym Grinenko, who is a doctoral candidate in the Cluster’s Graduate Programme, was awarded a grant in the Japanese Studies Fellowship Program of the Japan Foundation. The grant covers a nine-month research stay at the Graduate School of Economics at the University of Tokyo and began on September 1. The program provides foreign scholars in the field of Japanese Studies with opportunities to conduct research in Japan, with the aim of promoting Japanese Studies overseas.

Prof. Christian Henriot, former associate fellow and Humboldt Research Awardee at the Cluster “Asia and Europe,” received an ERC Advanced Grant — long-term funding for his project “Elites, networks, and power in modern urban China (1830–1949)” (ENEP-CHINA). The project will be hosted by the Institute of Asian Studies (IrAsia) at Aix-Marseille University, where Prof. Henriot is currently a professor of Contemporary History (China). It proposes a step-change in the study of modern China reliant upon scalable data-rich history.

Dr. Hyojin Lee, the lecturer for Korean language and studies for the professorship of Cultural Economic History at the HCTS, received a Korean Studies Grant from the Academy of Korean Studies. The research grant covers a one-year period for Dr. Lee to conduct research on her project on “Academic Interactions between Sweden and Korea in the 1920s: The First Asian Exchange Student Choi Yeongsuk” and began in May 2018. The Academy for Korean Studies offers various educational programs and research opportunities for scholars in Korean studies.

HCTS co-director Prof. Barbara Mittler received an Opus Magnum grant from the Volkswagen Stiftung for her book project “No Parallel? The Fatherly Bodies of Gandhi and Mao.” The book is based on research she conducted in cooperation with Prof. Sumathi Ramaswamy from Duke University and explores the visual trajectories of Mao’s and Gandhi’s global impact during their own days and into the present. The Opus Magnum grant aims at providing the space to work intensely on a research monograph and is awarded to professors from the humanities and social sciences.

Katharina Rode, doctoral student in the Graduate Programme at the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies, was granted a one-year scholarship by the Geschwister-Supp-Foundation for her dissertation project “Negotiating Imitation – Kawabata Gyokusho and Art-Making in Late-Nineteenth Century Japanese Painting.” The foundation supports transcultural research by scholars of the Philosophical Faculty at Heidelberg University.

Christiane Brosius awarded grant by ARCADIA Fund for Nepal Heritage Documentation Project (NHDP)

Prof. Christiane Brosius, the professor for Visual and Media Anthropology at the HCTS, was awarded a grant of €775,000 by the ARCADIA Fund to document endangered historical sites in Nepal. Over a test period of two years, four hundred temples, monasteries, and other building types will be documented and inventoried by a team of researchers in Heidelberg and Patan in Nepal.

In Heidelberg, the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies (HCTS) is leading the project in cooperation with the Heidelberg Academy of Science and Humanities, represented by Prof. Dr. Axel Michaels, and the Heidelberg University Library. In Nepal, the chief partners are the Saraf Foundation for Himalayan Traditions and Culture, the Department of Archaeology of the Government of Nepal, the Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust, and UNESCO Nepal. Read the interview with Prof. Brosius on the next page.
Prof. Brosius, please tell us about your new documentation project in Nepal!
The Nepal Heritage Documentation Project (NHDP) documents endangered monuments and, to a lesser extent, intangible cultural heritage of Nepal. In doing so, it responds to dramatic urban transformation and social change as well as natural catastrophes such as the 2015 earthquake. Generously supported by the ARCADIA Fund, we will document a wide selection of more than 400 monuments and monument clusters from the royal cities of Patan and Kathmandu during a pilot period of two years with sixteen specialists from the fields of architecture, anthropology, history, indology, and digital humanities from Heidelberg and Kathmandu. The monuments range from clusters of shrines and sacred buildings in the Newar monastic courtyards and individual and yet undокументed temples to the unique, much less “spectacular” architectural genre of the arcaded resthouses. Additionally, diverse historical documents, such as maps, inscriptions, photographs, and drawings, along with oral histories related to the built heritage and socio-religious use and practices around them, will be collected.

What makes this project interesting for Heidelberg, and the new CATS?
The project is an amazing opportunity for the HCTS, in partnership with the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences, to combine many interests and expertises here in Heidelberg: it is a synergy of our regional competences in Nepal, our long-standing interest in cultural heritage – both tangible and intangible – and the strong Digital Humanities that we have built up over the past years in the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe.” We also test forms of collaboration with partner organisations such as the Saraf Foundation for Himalayan Traditions and Culture, but also UNESCO Nepal and the government of Nepal's Department of Archaeology. For the first time, new documentation and existing repositories of endangered cultural heritage will be systematically brought together and made available to an international and local public, all open access through ARCHES, an online database, very much along the lines of the University Library's publication and digitization policies!

Can you tell us a bit about the work of the different experts involved?
The trick is to bring architects, historians, philologists, artists, and anthropologists together in a fine-tuned way, engaging them all around selected sites and buildings, thus contributing their view on it, by means of architectural drawings and floor-plans, detailed artistic studies of sites, research on historical contexts, studies of inscriptions and other documents, and oral histories of local stakeholders and heritage experts. The experts conduct joint field visits and discuss the material together, thus contributing to a multiperspectival “thick” documentation of each monument or site complex selected. Axel Michaels has conducted research on Newar rituals and texts for around 30 years now, while I have been studying contemporary art, architecture, and urban transformation in Kathmandu Valley for about eight years. Our team in Heidelberg brings together experts from information technology and digital humanities. In my view, Nepal and Heidelberg constitute a “dream team.”

What is most exciting about this project to you personally?
That is difficult to say in a nutshell. But I guess it is the trans- and interdisciplinarity of the project, the fact that we have managed to assemble a unique and fantastic team of local and highly committed professionals from the fields of architecture, history, anthropology, and philology, from digital humanities and computing. We will not just “parachute” in but the open access character of the documentation, and the training we provide and develop jointly with our colleagues in Nepal, will hopefully impact the ways in which one can – and must – rethink cultural heritage as a transcultural resource, and to do so collaboratively. The connection between scholarly documentation and the engagement with preservation and conservation is promising and quite unique. We are grateful to ARCADIA for enabling this work, which will hopefully grow into a longer project, if conducted successfully.

How can the project strengthen Asian and Transcultural Studies at Heidelberg?
With this expertise, we can enhance the international visibility of the CATS as well as Cultural Heritage studies – we want to contribute to critical and applied teaching in the newly built master of Cultural Heritage studies, possibly with exchange partners in London or Leiden.
APPOINTMENTS

PD Dr. Michael Falser, associate member of the HCTS, will take on the position of interim professor of Global Art History during the winter term 2018/19 at the HCTS. He will substitute for Prof. Monica Juneja, who has taken on the position of Acting Director for one semester. During the last academic year Falser was a visiting professor at the universities of Bordeaux-Montaigne and Paris-Sorbonne. As interim professor he will teach two seminars, one on cultural heritage as a transcultural concept and one on global architectural histories.

Dr. Till Knaudt will take on the position as interim professor of Cultural Economic History at the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies during the winter term 2018/19. He will substitute for Prof. Harald Fuess, who is a Marsilius Fellow during that time. Knaudt has been a research assistant and assistant professor at Heidelberg University's Institute for Japanese Studies. As interim professor he will teach two seminars, one on capitalism and labor in modern Japan, and one on “1968” and new left students in Japan.

PD Dr. Kerstin von Lingen, associate member at the HCTS, has been appointed as interim professor for Modern History for the winter semester 2018/19. She will be taking over the professorship that focuses on the 19th and 20th centuries and is based at the Department of History of Heidelberg University. Dr. Lingen was a visiting professor at the University of Vienna during the academic year 2017/2018 at the Department for Contemporary History (Institut für Zeitgeschichte).

Dr. Takuma Melber was a guest lecturer at Osaka University for the period from May 25 to June 9. The position was granted in the scope of the International Study and Training Partnerships (ISAP) programme and financed by the DAAD, ISAP, and Osaka University. Dr. Melber also participated at the Asian Conference on Asian Studies (ASAC), that took place from June 1 to 3 in Kobe, Japan. He was invited by Prof. Haruko Satoh from the Osaka School of International Public Policy to give a talk in the panel “Fearful Futures: Rescuing Asian Democracy.”

Prof. Axel Michaels, founding director of the Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies (CATS) and former co-director of the Cluster “Asia and Europe,” was elected as a new member to the board of trustees of the Portheim-Stiftung. The foundation is the supporting organization of the Heidelberg Museum of Anthropology (Völkerkundemuseum VPST) and is composed of eight committee members. Eckart Würzner, head mayor of Heidelberg, is its chairman.

RESEARCH

Dr. Anna Andreeva was based at the Nichibunken International Research Centre for Japanese Studies as visiting research fellow in Kyoto. There, she gave a lecture on “Buddhist Expertise on Embryology, Childbirth, and Women's Health in Medieval Japan.” Her talk was part of the 230th Nichibunken Evening Seminar on Japanese Studies on September 6.

The Graduate School of Letters at Kyoto University invited Prof. Harald Fuess to conduct a research project on the sesquicentennial of the 1868 Meiji Restoration during the summer of 2018 in Kyoto. He also participated in a Japanese Studies summer school program at Kyoto University and gave lectures at the two other HeKKSaGOn-Partner Universities in Japan: Tohoku University and Osaka University.
This volume narrates the story of a transition center for refugees in Vienna converting into a “house of possibilities.” It gives insight into the circumstances under which many people came together in the centre of Vienna. During the so-called European refugee crisis in September 2015, the empty building of the former Ministry of Finance was opened overnight in order to host up to 1500 people. The book offers a collection of textual and visual contributions by many people who lived and worked at the centre. In addition to the texts and photos by various authors, original documents such as meeting minutes, letters, emails, and course and class contributions are interwoven to illustrate the entire process in its complexity. The authors take the reader on a tour through the house and examine the situation of the refugees from different points of view. They also encourage rethinking and commitment on a personal and institutional level.


The volume offers an analysis of Australian colonial modernity and is based on thorough research into an archive of important, yet under-examined modern Australian periodicals. Thus, it makes a significant contribution to the scholarly literature on magazines and middlebrow culture in the interwar period.

Thomas Maissen, Barbara Mittler: Why China did not have a Renaissance – and why that matters

The publication presents a dialogue between Profs. Barbara Mittler and Thomas Maissen, who focus on periodisation as a historical phenomenon and refer to concepts of historical progress and decline. By engaging in the case of the “Renaissance,” the authors discuss whether periodisation schemes invariably reveal specific social and cultural predispositions.

Tonio Hölscher: Visual Power in Ancient Greece and Rome. Between Art and Social Reality

The volume analyses Greek and Roman visual culture, which was an essential part of ancient social, religious, and political life. Appearance and experience of beings and things was of paramount importance. With an emphasis on public spaces, the author investigates the ways in which these spaces were used, viewed, and experienced in religious rituals, political manifestations, and social interaction.

Iwo Amelung, Joachim Kurtz: Reading the Signs: Philology, History, Prognostication. Festschrift for Michael Lackner

The publication honors the 65th birthday of Prof. Michael Lackner, who has studied a broad range of issues in China’s past and present for over 40 years. The volume comprises essays from friends, collaborators, colleagues, and students dedicated to the three fields of research in which he has made his most lasting contributions: philology, the histories of science and thought, and the study of prognostication.
SELECTED ARTICLES

Anna Andreeva:

Eliane Ettmüller:

Monica Juneja:

Michael Radich:

BOOKS AND EDITED VOLUMES

Anna Grasskamp, Monica Juneja:
EurAsian Matters: China, Europe, and the Transcultural Object, 1600–1800
The volume examines the mutually constitutive relationship between the materiality of objects and their aesthetic meanings. Its approach connects material culture with art history, curation, technologies, and practices of making. A central dimension of the case studies collected here is the mobility of objects between Europe and China and the transformations that unfold as a result of their transcultural lives.

Nikolas Jaspert, Sebastian Kolditz:
Entre mers – Outre-mer: Spaces, Modes and Agents of Indo-Mediterranean Connectivity
The volume focuses on connections between seas and imaginations of lands “beyond the sea,” aspects of transmarine connections, their regulation, and mental expansion in an Indo-Mediterranean context. Themes range from ancient Egypt and Indo-Mediterranean connectivity to geographic imagination and the Western routes “Entre mers,” the plurality of medieval Outre-mers and early modern patterns of controlling and prohibiting maritime space.

Susan Richter:
Verfolgter Unglaube. Atheismus und gesellschaftliche Exklusion in historischer Perspektive
In the face of the present growing worldwide persecution of non-religious people the volume explores the history of persecution and social exclusion of atheists and nonbelievers in Europe and Asia. It casts a glance at societal interactions with atheism from the Middle Ages to today and follows questions such as: Where are the roots of the defamation of “godless people”? Was there any theological or legal basis for condemning “deniers of God”?}

Michael Hockx, Joan Judge, Barbara Mittler:
Women and the Periodical Press in China’s Long Twentieth Century. A Space of their Own?
The volume examines the relationship between Chinese women’s periodical press and global modernity in the late 19th and 20th centuries. The essays are transdisciplinary reflections from scholars who work on periodicals outside of the Chinese context. They encourage readers to rethink stereotypes about lived womanhood in modern China, and to reconsider the nature of Chinese modernity in a global context.
HABILITATION PUBLISHED

Kerstin von Lingen:
Crimes against Humanity. Eine Ideengeschichte der Zivilisierung von Kriegsgewalt 1864–1945

The volume traces the path of international humanitarian law and addresses the normative account of the concept of crimes against humanity from an intellectual history perspective. At the focus of the analysis is the development of "Crimes against Humanity" as a judicial tool for judging mass atrocities against civilians. Besides, this tool is reflected within the discourse of strengthening human rights and the duty of humanitarian intervention.

DISSECTATION PUBLISHED

Johanna Beamish:
Im Transit auf dem Ozean – Schiffszeitungen als Dokumente globaler Verbindungen im 19. Jahrhundert

The book, published with Campus Verlag, analyses transit experience of passengers aboard intercontinental vessels by examining newspapers written and edited aboard ship. The newspapers not only deal with everyday issues, but simultaneously reflect on the place of departure and mirror the expectations of the passengers: These historical actors were caught between the worlds and formed global connections through their movement across the globe, while at the same time meticulously chronicling their own global transit experiences.

OPEN ACCESS

Priya Paul Collection in open access format

The Priya Paul Collection of Popular Art is a web archive comprising over 4,200 images from Indian contemporary as well as popular art and advertisement. The collection was digitalized and catalogued at the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context” and mainly consists of old posters, calendars, postcards, commercial advertisements, textile labels, and cinema posters. The archive is one of the finest collections of such items in India.

The project initiative was coordinated by Prof. Christiane Brosius, Prof. Sumanthi Ramaswamy of Duke University, and filmmaker and author Yousuf Saeed from New Delhi. They were supported by Matthias Arnold and Eric Decker from the Heidelberg Research Architecture (HRA).

The whole set of metadata was published as open access research data in 2016 via the HeidiICON image database. Access was initially restricted to members of Heidelberg University via contact with the project, but the whole Priya Paul Collection is now available to the public in HeidiICON.

OPEN ACCESS

“OpenDACHS” introduced at the CATS and HCTS

The Digital Archive for Chinese Studies (DACHS) comprises a collection of website resources and was launched by the Institute for Chinese Studies in 2001. Its main goal is to capture and archive relevant websites before they are deleted, shut down, or otherwise become inaccessible or change their content. DACHS thus serves as a citation repository for authors and publishers and enables them to follow public discourse on certain subjects.

With additional funding from the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies (HCTS), the DACHS service is currently expanding into a citation repository for graduate students and researchers at the HCTS and CATS. This “OpenDACHS” project is a collaboration by the HCTS and the Centre for East Asian Studies and was presented to the GPTS students at the HCTS on July 24, 2018.

The OpenDACHS team presented the project, its history, and a number of sample cases. They also talked about different scenarios in which the platform can be relevant for the student’s research, as well as workflows that early-adopters can already use to make sure online resources they are citing are re-usable and sustainable.
Symposium “Messias-Zarathustra-Laozi-Buddha”

The symposium took place on May 12 at Frankfurt University and was organised by the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies in cooperation with Frankfurt University. Under the heading “Messias-Zarathustra-Laozi-Buddha: Prophetengestalten im globalen Kontext,” it addressed the role of the prophets in a global context and provided the scientific context to the concert “King of Kings” by the Frankfurt choir Junge Kantorei.

Scholars from interdisciplinary fields such as philosophy, theology, religious studies, and musicology came together to discuss the meaning of prophetism within diverse traditions and the reinterpretation of Händel’s “Messiah” within the composition of “King of Kings.”

Jonathan Hofman from the Junge Kantorei gave an introduction to “King of Kings,” together with Cluster Director Prof. Barbara Mittler and former Director of the Musikwissenschaftliche Seminar Heidelberg, Prof. Silke Leopold. Prof. Mittler also gave a talk on “Höhere Kraft ist kraftlos. Nicht-Wissen, Autorität, Prophetie und Weissagung zwischen Chan und Dao.” In her talk, she focused on Taiwanese composer CHEN Cheng-wen’s interpretation of Händel’s Messiah. CHEN, jointly with Ali Gorji from Iran, provided the new “Messiah”-based compositions for “King of Kings.” Both composers participated in the final round-table that took place prior to an open rehearsal of the concert. Further speakers at the symposium were Prof. Frederek Musall, Dr. Elke Morlok, and Prof. Hartmut Leppin. The “King of Kings” concerts took place at Frankfurt University on May 20 and at Heidelberg University on May 21, where Prof. Barbara Mittler gave an introduction to the concert.

HCTS Lectures by Barbara Beßlich and Magdalena Orosz

Prof. Barbara Beßlich, director of the Institute of German Studies at Heidelberg University, and Prof. Magdolna Orosz, professor for German Literary Studies at the Eötvös-Loránd University in Budapest, were HCTS Tandem Fellows and jointly worked on the research project “Conceptions of Mitteleuropa in early 20th century German, Austrian and Hungarian literature.” In the scope of their project, they each gave an HCTS lecture.

With respect to the uncertainty of what is actually meant by the term “Mitteleuropa,” their project focused on the diversity of Europe’s historical and spatial regions that leads to manifold classifications by historians, cultural historians, or literary historians with respect to the different aspects of this region. Therefore, Profs. Beßlich and Orosz aimed to examine how different writers conceptualise Mitteleuropa in times of political turmoil.

The first project presentation of the Tandem Fellowship took place on May 24. Prof. Beßlich talked about “Europa als Ersatz. Vielvölkerstaatsverlust und kontinentale Kompensationsidee bei Hugo von Hofmannsthal.” She took a closer look at the author Hugo von Hofmannsthal, who developed “Die Idee Europa,” the idea of Europe, during the First World War. Therein, Prof. Barbara Beßlich showed that the concept of “Mitteleuropa” (Middle Europe) is very ambiguous, both from a geographical as well as from a temporal point of view.

On July 12, Prof. Magdolna Orosz talked about “(Central) Europe as Memory and Promise. A Quest for a Lost World by Stefan Zweig and Sándor Márai.” Her lecture reflected the notion of “(Central) Europe” coined in the last decades, e.g. in cultural studies, and focused also on some spatial and historical shifts in its interpretation. Prof. Orosz analysed some texts from Zweig and Márai to demonstrate how social, political, and cultural phenomena appear in literary works showing the shock and the vanishing hope of European intellectuals in the inter-war period.
Cluster General Meetings

On April 19, the HCTS held its first General Meeting of the summer semester 2018 at the Karl Jaspers Centre.

Prof. Nikolas Jaspert welcomed Prof. Michael Radich, the new professor for Buddhist Studies, Camille Simon, the new lecturer in Tibetan Language, and Radich’s assistant professor Ruixuan Chen. Then, Jaspert announced new projects in the Transcultural Forays Programme and introduced the new HCTS Tandem Fellows, Prof. Magdolna Orosz and Prof. Paola Zamperini, as well as HCTS associate member Dr. Ivan Sablin. In the second part of the General Meeting, Dr. Anna Andreeva, Dr. Cathrine Bublatzky, and Dr. Ivan Sablin presented their new projects at or associated with the HCTS.

The second General Meeting of the summer semester took place on July 19. Prof. Nikolas Jaspert welcomed the new HCTS fellows Dr. Natalia Bachour and Dr. Hui-Ping Chuang. He also announced that in 2019 and 2020, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) will fund two doctoral scholarships each year. The grants provide young foreign scholars with an opportunity to carry out research and continue their higher education at the HCTS.

Jaspert also reported on the decision for a new Maria Sibylla Merian Centre at Beida in China, with which Heidelberg University will be affiliated as partner. Dr. Björn-Ole Kamm from Kyoto University then introduced the newly established Joint Degree Master in Transcultural Studies (JDTS) Programme with Kyoto University’s Graduate School of Letters and the HCTS.

Prof. Christiane Brosius, the professor for Visual and Media Anthropology at the HCTS, gave a presentation on her new project, the “Nepal Heritage Documentation Project,” which was awarded a grant of €775,000 by the British ARCADIA fund.

WeberWorldCafé: “Transoceanic Cultures”

On October 26, the Weber World Café “Transoceanic Cultures: The Sea in Past and Present” took place at the HCTS. The cafés provide an interactive and interdisciplinary format for discussions between experts and participants, and this one was curated and organized by HCTS fellow Dr. Susann Liebich and HCTS associate member Dr. Johanna Beamish.

Oceans are key arenas of mobility, both in past and present times. They connect far-away shores and form specific “Ocean Worlds.” But how do such transoceanic worlds form and what holds them together? At the Weber World Café, oceans were discussed, on six thematic tables with respective hosts, as connectors and transregional spaces. Experts from history, archaeology, art history, cultural studies, and literary studies covered a wide array of chronologies and geographical regions.

The Weber World Café (WWC) is an alternative event format. Twice a year it invites people from different regions and disciplines to come together and discuss one central topic in a café-like atmosphere. The WWC at the HCTS was a cooperation between the Max Weber Foundation–German Humanities Institutes Abroad, the Forum Transregionale Studien and the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies (HCTS).
**HCTS Stadtgespräche continue**

The HCTS Stadtgespräche series was initiated in 2017 at the HCTS and facilitates a platform for exchange between representatives of the city, researchers, and the wider public. It addresses questions relevant to Heidelberg and its citizens and commonly features discussions, film screenings, concerts, or talks amongst other events.

On May 17, the third HCTS Stadtgespräch took place at the Heidelberger Kunstverein. The event “Notes for a Structure We Cannot See” featured a performance and roundtable with the Pakistani artist Naiza Khan, who explores ways to reimagine spatial histories amidst the everyday violence of postcolonial globalization.

The other roundtable participants besides Naiza Khan were Prof. Monica Juneja, the HCTS professor of Global Art History; Prof. Karin Zitzewitz, Humboldt Research Fellow at the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies; and Prof. Henry Keazor, professor at the Institute of Art History at Heidelberg University.

On July 27, the Stadtgespräch “Flüchtlingsbetreuung: Ehemalige Heimleiter/innen berichten aus den Krisenjahren 2015 und 2016” took place at the Karl Jaspers Centre. It was organized by Dr. Eliane Ettmüller and comprised a book presentation of her co-edited volume “Flüchtlingsunterkunft Vordere Zollamtsstrasse 7, Wien Mitte. Ein Massenquartier wird zum Haus der Möglichkeiten.” For the Stadtgespräch, Ettmüller invited colleagues who had also worked extensively with refugees during the European Refugee Crisis in 2015. Kira Schmidt Stiedenroth, Felix Kugele, and Eliane Ettmüller talked about their work as heads of refugee houses in Düsseldorf and Vienna and Karin Harather gave insight into her project of designing spaces with students and refugees in the Austrian capital.

**HCTS Lecture by Paola Zamperini**

On July 25, the latest HCTS lecture took place as part of the Tandem Fellowship that Prof. Paola Zamperini holds at the HCTS together with Prof. Barbara Mittler. Prof. Zamperini’s talk was titled “Will the (Disciplinary) Twain Ever Meet? Thinking Sex East and West.” Paola Zamperini is an associate professor for Chinese Literature at the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at Northwestern University.

In her lecture, Prof. Zamperini engaged in a transcultural conversation about studying and teaching sex and pornography in a global context. Drawing from her experience as a scholar and a teacher posed at the intersections of early modern Chinese literary studies, gender and sexuality studies, and feminist theory, she discussed the fraught relationships between disciplines in the context of Euro-American academia, in order to open up a conversation about ways to move beyond disciplinary divides and hierarchical and one-directional trajectories between academic fields.

Her talk was an ouverture to events taking place in the winter semester, when Prof. Zamperini will be organizing two workshops around the topic.
The HCTS Interactive Lecture Series “Recalibrating Culture – Reenvisioning the (Trans-)Cultural – C’est quoi la (trans-)culture?” started in May and will continue until December 2018, with a symposium on November 22–23, 2018 as its highlight. It is supported through an Activity Grant in the Transcultural Forays Programme and is organized by HCTS co-director Prof. Barbara Mittler and Prof. Philipp Stoellger from the Theology Department.

The lecture series introduces key players from various disciplines and fields who are engaged in re-envisioning a new phenomenology of (trans-)culture from different angles. Its goal is to reconsider the (trans-)cultural in response to post-culturalisms, neo-naturalisms or neo-materialisms, post-humanisms, and techno-sciences, all of which argue against an anthropocentric approach to both culture and nature. The series already featured renowned scholars like Prof. Markus Gabriel, Gisèle Sapiro, Friedrich Balke, Prof. Claire Farago, Prof. Donald Preziosi, Prof. Burkhard Liebsch, Prof. Steven Connor, Prof. W. J. T. Mitchell, and Prof. Antoine Hennion.

**Prof. Mittler, what makes the Interactive Lecture Series a new and innovative format?**
The lectures are of a normal length, about 30 to 45 minutes, but the time for discussion is much longer than usual – more than two hours. The audience members come prepared, as they are offered readings by the speaker beforehand and have the opportunity to bring their own readings as responses. We thus practice something we call “reading-in-conjunction,” as specialists from different fields and different regions work with and interpret the same text.

**What was your incentive to create the HCTS Interactive Lecture Series?**
We were interested in rethinking, expanding, and at the same time theorizing the transcultural perspective that we have been developing in the Cluster and the HCTS for many years.

**How does the focus on “Recalibrating Culture” connect to the transcultural approach at the HCTS?**
The question of how and whether a new and more inclusive understanding of “culture,” not bound by nation-state borders or myths of origins, that is by “authentic traditions,” and not considered purely human-made, can be achieved has been at the heart of our discussions as the Cluster comes to an end and the HCTS needs to define its theoretical base. Our discussion builds, of course, on the work that has been done at the Cluster and the HCTS over the past eleven years. What we are trying to do is an important stocktaking and of building a theoretical framework from the many important individual studies that have come out of the Cluster and the HCTS so far.

**There have been talks by different international lecturers invited to the HCTS in the scope of the series. What are your impressions in terms of the interaction between lecturers and auditorium?**
Each lecture and discussion was slightly different, depending on the speaker, but also the audience and their reactions. The idea to bring in one’s own materials could be picked up a bit more forcefully, as we do expect speakers to revise their papers in response to the transdisciplinary and transregional input they have received here.

**What is the main goal of the upcoming workshop?**
The workshop’s aims are the same as those of the lecture series, but the workshop is an attempt to draw in young scholars from outside of Heidelberg, and so it also offers travel grants to a select group of young scholars from India, China and Taiwan, and the US and elsewhere to participate in our discussions.

**How can the Lecture Series and the Workshop “Recalibrating Culture–Reconfiguring the (Trans-)Cultural” foster the role of the HCTS as central research institute for the Humanities in Heidelberg?**
The Lecture Series brought speakers from many very different fields – like musicology, art history, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, history – to Heidelberg, and each of the audiences for the lecture series was, therefore, quite different both in scope and in reach. Every time, it was a good, but different, mix of early career scholars, students and more advanced scholars. The language of the lectures, German, English or French, also determined who would come to participate. We have a couple of “evergreens” but also many people who seem to have come only for a particular lecture, because it is in their field of interest. This way, I think, the series may have achieved its goal of opening the HCTS to an audience far beyond the regular HCTS crowd.
Guest Lectures at the HCTS

The professorships at the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies organized various guest lectures throughout the summer semester and hosted renowned scholars from all over the world.

On June 26, Nada Raza gave a guest lecture “From Kochi-Muziris to the Heart of Sharjah: Coastal Biennials and the Lure of Maritime Pasts” at the HCTS. She is a research curator at the Tate Research Centre: Asia, with a particular focus on South Asia; the talk was organized by the professorship of Global Art History. Raza’s lecture dealt with the inaugural Kochi-Muziris Biennial, which in 2012 claimed its site, Fort Cochin in Kerala, as a heterogeneous, free space with a cosmopolitan history, allowing a blurring of conventional ethno-linguistic boundaries.

Another biennial model in the region was established in Sharjah. Expanding from a small international exhibition into a powerful commissioner and funder of artistic production across the region, the Sharjah Biennial Foundation is an influential force in what is known as MENASA: the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia, with the Gulf as its ostensible centre. The lecture dealt with questions such as: How might this play of contemporary art and deep historical time, and of geographical shifts and recentering, affect the construction of the biennial model across the Indian Ocean littoral?

On July 12, historian Dr. Christopher Gerteis from SOAS University of London gave a lecture on “Motorboats and Morals Education: Philanthropy, Education and the Cold War in Japan.” Gerteis was a HCTS visiting professor with the professorship of Cultural Economic History from June to August 2018. His lecture examined how Sasakawa Ryōichi used his philanthropic gambling empire to reshape the social conscience of young people and promote the re-introduction of morals education for Japanese youth.

The lecture focuses on how Sasakawa put his philanthropic empire behind the effort to promote morals education for children not seen in state schools since 1945 through privately funded television programming.

On July 17, Prof. Joseph Dennis, a historian of late imperial China from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, talked about “Songs to Encourage the Cessation of Litigation,” the so-called xisongge. By focusing on this genre, Prof. Dennis first argued that xisongge songs were an important way for magistrates to shape public discourse over the role of law in Chinese society. He discussed the role of litigation in the operation of Chinese society and governance. The lecture was organized by the professorship of Intellectual History.

On July 19, the professorship of Buddhist Studies organised a lecture by Prof. Ben Brose from the University of Michigan. Prof. Brose specialises in the history of religion in China and talked about “Modern Reinterpretations of the Journey to the West,” one of the best-known early Chinese novels. His talk reconsidered basic assumptions about the history and function of this book to argue that the Journey to the West served an important ritual and liturgical function before and after it was reconceived as a work of secular literature.

On July 20, Prof. Sheldon Garon, a historian from Princeton University, gave a guest lecture “On the Transnational Destruction of Cities: What Japan and the U.S. learned from the Bombing of Britain and Germany in the Second World War.” The event was organized by the professorship Cultural Economic History. The focus of the lecture lied on the aerial bombardment of Britain, Germany, and Japan in 1940–45. Thereby, Garon spotlighted the role of transnational learning in the construction of the “home front” among all the belligerents. The event was organised by the professorship of Cultural Economic History.

Dr. Satoshi Naiki, who was a DAAD visiting professor from Kyoto University at the HCTS from June 8 to July 27, gave a lecture on “Narrative Sets of Buddhist Reliefs Found at Thareli in the Gandhara Region.” It took place on Thursday, June 14 and focused on the narrative panels found at Thareli, an archaeological site in Pakistan excavated by a Kyoto University Expedition in the 1960s. During his time at the HCTS, Dr. Naiki also gave a seminar on “Archaeological Analyses of Buddhist Culture in North-West India” as part of the Joint Degree Master Programme in Transcultural Studies between the Kyoto University Graduate School of Letters and the HCTS.
**LECTURES**

On May 7, **Prof. Christiane Brosius** participated in the Studium Generale lecture series at Heidelberg University as a commentator. She reflected on the talk “Die Zukunft städtischer Vergangenheit: Bedeutung und Schutz urbanen Kulturerbes in Asien” by Prof. Dr. Frauke Kraas from Cologne University. The topic of the lecture series was “Die Stadt von Morgen. Zukunftsfragen der Gesellschaft.”

On June 28, **Dr. Eliane Ettmüller** gave the lecture “Frauen im Kampf für das Kalifat. Einblicke in die von Frauen propagierten Aspekte der dschihadistischen Ideologie” at Furtwangen University. The lecture was part of the Studium Generale lecture series at Furtwangen University.

On May 3, **Dr. Takuma Melber** gave a book presentation on his dissertation “Zwischen Kolaboration und Widerstand: Die japanische Besatzungspolitik in Malaya und Singapur, 1942–1945” organized by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Potsdam. After the presentation, he engaged in a discussion about the differences between occupation, collaboration, and resistance with Dr. Peter Lieb from the Centre for Military History and Social Sciences of the German Bundeswehr, and Prof. Dr. Sönke Neitzel, the professor for Military History and Cultural History of Force at Potsdam University.

**Prof. Michael Radich** spoke about “A Triad of Anomalous Buddhist Scriptures from 5th-Century China” at Heidelberg University’s South Asia Institute on Monday, April 23, from. In his talk, Prof. Radich used self-created computer techniques in order to analyze errors for example in translations or dating of problematic Chinese Buddhist texts.

**Dr. Davide Torri** gave two lectures in Taiwan; one, titled “Indigenous Nepal. Religions, Landscapes and Identities,” at the Department of Ethnology of National Chengchi University in Taipei on April 17, and one, titled “Between the Buddha and the Drum. Buddhism and Shamanism among the Hyolmo People of Nepal,” at the Ethnology Institute of the Academia Sinica on April 21.

On 21 May, **Dr. Takahiro Yamamoto** gave a talk at the International History of East Asia Seminar held at the Oxford China Centre at the University of Oxford. His lecture was titled “Connecting Japan and the Pacific: Benjamien Pease, Thomas Glover, and the Bonin Islands, 1871–1876.”

**CONFERENCES ORGANIZED**

**Dr. Lorenzo Andolfatto** co-organized the workshop “Translating Science Fiction, Translation in Science Fiction: Chinese and English.” It took place at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) on June 1. Andolfatto also gave a talk on “The Productive Distortion of Looking Backward: On the Hybridization of Languages and Discourses through Translation in Early Modern Chinese SF” during the workshop.

**Prof. Christiane Brosius**, the HCTS professor of Visual and Media Antropology, co-organized the ninth International Conference on Urban and ExtraUrban Studies “Spaces & Flows,” which took place at the Marsilius Kolleg from October 25–26. The conference, in which the HCTS was one of the cooperation partners, aimed to address the changing shape of human spaces and the social, economic, and informational flows that connect these spaces. Its 2018 conference had a special focus on “Mobilities in the Global North and South: Critical Urban and Global Visions,” and took a closer look at mobilities and urban spatialities in the social sciences.

The conference consisted of a diverse range of interactive formats, ranging from plenary sessions to garden conversations, talking circles, workshops, and focused discussions. Keynote speakers were Melissa Butcher (University of London), Timothy J. Cresswell (Trinity College), and Jason Henderson (San Francisco State University).

HCTS associate member **PD Dr. Michael Falser** conceptualized and, with Dany Sandron and Elinor Myara Kelif, organized the international conference “The Cultural Heritage of Europe @ 2018. Re-assessing a Concept – Re-defining its Challenges,” which took place from June 4–5 in Paris at the National Institute of Art History (Institut national d’histoire de l’art, INHA). During this conference, Falser also presented his thoughts on “Angkor Wat – a transcultural history of heritage?”
WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

Dr. Eliane Ettmüller was invited by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung as a speaker to the 32nd Asia-Pacific-Roundtable held in Kuala Lumpur from May 7-9. On the panel “Future-Proofing against Violent Extremism,” she talked about “Women Calling for Jihad: the Strategic Importance of Female Extremist Propaganda” jointly with Dr. Rommel Banlaoi from the Philippines Institute for Peace, Violence, and Terrorism Research, and Dwi Rubiyanti Kholifah, country director for the Asian Muslim Action Network Indonesia.

On October 2, Dr. Eliane Ettmüller also participated in the congress “Mind the Gap: Radicalization and De-Radicalization in Theory and Practice” at the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in Berlin. She was part of the panel “The Future of Radicalization and De-Radicalization” along with Joe Whittaker from the International Center for Counter-Terrorism The Hague and Swansea University, Dr. Kate Coyer from the Central European University, and Lasse Lindekilde, from Aarhus University.

Juneja also participated in the international conference “Burckhardt. Renaissance – Internationale Tagung zum 200. Geburtstag von Jacob Burckhardt” held at the University of Basel from May 24–26. Her talk was titled “To read Culture Through Art. Burckhardt in the 21st Century.” The event was organized by the university’s Department of History and Department of Art History.

From June 22 to 23, Prof. Juneja participated in the Royal Historical Society’s 2018 Symposium “The Future of History: Going Global in the University.” The event was hosted by the Oxford Centre For Global History and took place in the Ashmolean Museum and Bodleian Library. Prof. Juneja gave a talk about “The languages of global art history – why concepts matter.”


Prof. Monica Juneja talked about “The Hunter and the Squirrel: Writing Art History in a Post-Anthropocentric Mode” at the conference “Eco Art Histories: Genealogies, Methodologies, Practices, Horizons.” The conference was held at the University of California, Berkeley, from May 4–5 and was organized by the university’s Department of History of Art.

Aida Murtić participated in the international conference “Imperial Cities: The Tsarist Empire, the Habsburg Empire and the Ottoman Empire in Comparison.” It was held in Moscow from April 26–27, and hosted by the German Historical Institute Moscow. As a participant in the panel “Modernisation,” Murtić presented the paper “Reconfiguring the urban and the monumental: (Bi)imperial modernisations in Sarajevo.”

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

On October 11, PD Dr. Michael Falser gave the keynote address “Who owns the past? Angkor Wat: From jungle find to global icon” at the Dhakira Cultural Heritage Center of NYU Abu Dhabi. Falser’s presentation argued for a new conceptual approach to read “cultural heritage” within a connected, global history and discussed the multiple lives of Angkor Wat from its ‘discovery’ to its status on UNESCO’s World Heritage List. The address was part of the Dhakira Seminar Series.
Heidelberg Graduate Student Workshop at HCTS

The Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies hosted the Graduate Student Workshop “Eurasian Connections” at the Karl Jaspers Centre on May 25-26. It was organized jointly by HCTS professor Harald Fuess and Prof. Patrick Heinrich from the Ca’ Foscari University of Venice. The workshop’s participants were selected from the HCTS’s strategic partner universities: the Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, Yale University, the University of Cambridge, KU Leuven, Kyoto University, and Tohoku University.

In their call for papers, the organizers invited abstracts of ongoing or recently concluded works in Eurasian Studies that include transnational perspectives and approaches, such as the symbolic exploitation of the ancient Silk Road for the new belt and road initiative, transcultural contacts and communication, political cooperation or confrontation, and cultural work and attitudes.


On Friday, May 25, Prof. Daniele Brombal from Ca’ Foscari University of Venice gave a keynote address on “The Belt and Road Initiative,” which was introduced and chaired by Prof. Anja Senz. On Saturday, May 26, the workshop was concluded with a roundtable featuring Prof. Rudolf Wagner (Heidelberg University), Prof. Paolo Biagi (Ca’ Foscari University of Venice), Prof. Hiroyuki Eto (Tohoku University), and Prof. Patrick Heinrich (Ca’ Foscari University of Venice).

The HCTS and Ca’ Foscari University of Venice called for applications for a scholarship in their Double Doctoral Degree Program in Asian and Transcultural Studies. The program focuses on Eurasia and/or the Mediterranean and employs a transcultural approach to study these regions in a way that transcends notions of historically fixed geographical, ethnic, or linguistic borders. One doctoral student is given the opportunity to spend at least six months at the Faculty of Asian and North African Studies in the upcoming academic year.

This year’s GPTS Job Market, the final selection process for the Graduate Programme in Transcultural Studies, took place on June 6. Fourteen candidates were selected out of 94 international applicants and were invited to the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies to present their doctoral projects – first in panels, and then in individual talks with the selection committee, the HCTS professors and further researchers working at the HCTS. In 2018, the GPTS granted six scholarships for a duration of three years for graduate students to work on their doctoral projects at the HCTS. The six fellows are Theresa Deichert, Nina de Forest, Julia May, Egor Novikov, Patrick Piel, and Judhajit Sarkar.

On Saturday, May 26, Dr. Franziska Koch and Hyojin Lee, PhD, gave a student’s workshop at the Department of Chinese Studies on “Exchanging Views on Korea Transformations of Art and History.” The joint block session of two Korea-related MA-Transcultural Studies seminars aimed at communicating knowledge and information about Korean studies. It consisted of two lectures and nine student presentations on modern-contemporary Korean history and art in a total of four sessions, with more than thirty students attending from diverse academic backgrounds. Prof. Lee Tae-sook from Dankook University joined the event as a commentator.

Ca’ Foscari University of Venice

STUDIES

MATS-students visit the Lindenmuseum’s Hawaii exhibition

On May 2, students of the Master Programme for Transcultural Studies (MATS) visited the special exhibition “Hawai‘i – Königliche Inseln im Pazifik” (Hawai‘i – royal islands in the Pacific) at the Lindenmuseum in Stuttgart. The field trip was part of the seminar “The Pacific – a history of an ocean” taught by MATS coordinator and lecturer Dr. Takuma Melber in the course of the MATS-Programme in the summer semester 2018.

The exhibition is the first broader exhibition in Germany with an exclusive focus on Hawaii. It presents life and culture of native Hawaiians from the 18th century until today and goes beyond prevailing Hawaiian stereotypes. Its focus is on Hawaiian history, starting with “the (European) discovery” of the Hawaiian Islands. As such, the first part of the exhibition retells the story of British explorer James Cook, who set foot on Hawaii in 1778. Diverse objects taken by Cook during his voyage are displayed. Also Hawaiian exhibits from the collection of Augustin Krämer (1865–1941), who was the first director of the Lindenmuseum and visited Hawaii in the late 1890s, are presented. Most Hawaiian objects presented were taken from around a dozen diverse collections from all over Europe.

The curator of the exhibition, Dr. Ulrich Menter, a political scientist by training who has been doing research on Hawaii for many years, gave the student group a guided tour.

HCTS welcomes new Master’s students

A new generation of students has arrived at the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies to pursue an M.A. in Transcultural Studies. Orientation days took place on October 10–11 at the Karl Jaspers Centre, introducing students to the programme’s structure, regulations, and study foci.

53 candidates were selected out of 88 applications from more than 25 countries. The two-day event started with a welcome address by scientific project manager Dr. Oliver Lamers. MATS programme coordinator Dr. Takuma Melber gave a general introduction to the Heidelberg Center for Transcultural Studies, the aims, structure, and regulations of the M.A. Transcultural Studies, as well as an overview of the first semester and an outlook on the student’s two years of study in Heidelberg. At the end of the first day, the new students had the opportunity to attend an informal get-together with, and organized by the MATS-Fachschaft.

On the second day of the Orientation Days students met the HCTS professors, who introduced their professorships and research, followed by a final session and Q&A with the programme’s Focus Advisors Jennifer Pochodzalla, Dr. Ruixuan Chen, Dr. Takahiro Yamamoto, and Dr. Catherine Bublatzky.

The M.A. Transcultural Studies is a two-year full-time programme. At the end of their first semester, students choose one of the following three study foci for specialization: “Knowledge, Belief and Religion,” “Society, Economy and Governance,” or “Visual, Media and Material Culture.” The third semester may be used as a mobility window (e.g. study exchange or research internship) or for further specialization in various research fields, while the fourth semester is spent writing the master’s thesis.