EDITORIAL

Dear colleagues and friends,

this issue of the newsletter is coming out in difficult times. We have failed: our application for a new Cluster of Excellence “Fragile Lifeworlds in Asia and Europe” did not pass the first round. The old Cluster continues for a little while, but in two years from now, the Humanities at Heidelberg University will be without a Cluster - a situation that none of us had really anticipated.

What will the future hold? Looking back at what has changed over the past ten years, we may be able to draw a lesson for what is going to come: over the past decade, a strong collaborative and interdisciplinary spirit has developed and this, along with the transcultural perspective, has become a trademark of Heidelberg’s Humanities. In this newsletter you will find many examples of how our research is continually taking us across multiple borders - of nations, regions and continents, but also far beyond the limitations of our own disciplines. It is this intellectually challenging, but at the same time highly productive environment, which many of us have grown accustomed to over the past decade that shall continue into the future.

To this end, while the Cluster project “Asia and Europe in a Global Context” is winding up, the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies will stay - as a central institute of Heidelberg University. With its five professorships in Transcultural Studies, cutting across the ordinary disciplines, it will continue as a hub for the transcultural, transdisciplinary dialogue in the Humanities, which we have only just begun to engage in, or so it appears.

With the remaining funding from the Excellence Initiative, which will last until October 2019, the HCTS shall provide a basis for new joint initiatives that may even go beyond Asia and Europe and that may carry the idea of the transcultural perspective even further than before. We have sown the seeds for such initiatives, we have discussed them in smaller or larger reading groups last semester - and even though these ideas did not win us the new Cluster this time, we know that they have been well-received - both by the evaluators, and by you. In our Transcultural Forays, we will therefore lend our support to more such ideas in order to make sure that what we have been building will not just stay alive but grow. In a way, we do not stand at the end right now, but actually at a new beginning.

Looking back, I am enormously grateful to both Axel Michaels and Joseph Maran for their service to the Cluster and the HCTS. Both have been there...
Lecture Series
“Oktoberrevolution 1917”

This semester’s lecture series “October Revolution 1917” takes place on Wednesdays from 6-8 pm at the Neue Universität in lecture hall 6 and started on Wednesday, October 25. The lecture series is organized by the ZEGK (Zentrum für Europäische Geschichts- und Kulturwissenschaften) in cooperation with the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies (HCTS), the Klangforum Heidelberg and the Karlstorkino. In addition to the lectures, an extensive framework program includes movies, concerts and an exhibition.

Acting Director Prof. Barbara Mittler will close the series with a talk about “Noch einmal zu 100 Jahren Roter Oktober: (Oktober-)Revolution und die Musik in China und der Welt” on February 2, 2018, from 6-8 pm. She also moderated a chamber music concert with Mithatcan Öcal and Xiulin Wang on October 27 during the festival “Musik der Diktaturen”, which was part of the lecture series’ framework program.

 NEWS

from the very early beginnings in 2005, when a Cluster “Asia and Europe” was not even the kernel of an idea. Both have spent uncountable hours working for the Cluster from its conception, throughout its infancy, and into maturity in the HCTS. They have been incredibly creative and resourceful all along. Looking towards the future, a warm welcome to Monica Juneja and Nikolas Jaspert, who have taken on the Directorate and will steer it into less troubled waters again, to be sure!

It has been a good ten years: so many of you have contributed immensely and constantly. Let us continue with enthusiasm, strengthen the structures we have built, and rekindle the spirits on our path to securing new resources! The state of Baden-Württemberg has reconfirmed that it will provide sustainable funding for all projects of the Excellence Initiative. The HCTS will build on this foundation and together with CATS, opening in about a year’s time, at the end of 2018, it will add new chapters to a story that once began with a Cluster “Asia and Europe”, but will certainly not end there!

As Woody Allen said in his speech to the graduate students: “Summing it up, it is clear the future holds great opportunities. It also holds pitfalls. The trick will be to avoid the pitfalls, seize the opportunities - and get back home by six o’clock.”

In this spirit, let’s not give up. Enjoy the read!

Sincerely
Barbara

Prof. Barbara Mittler
Acting Director

Dr. Oliver Lamers
Scientific Project Manager

“Transcultural Forays” initiated at HCTS

In April, the program “Transcultural Forays” was launched at the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies. Its goal is to provide a basis for scholars who would like to conduct their research in the transcultural environment developed at the Cluster “Asia and Europe” during two funding periods of the Excellence Initiative. “Transcultural Forays”, however, also seeks to be an umbrella under which researchers at the HCTS can expand their research into new areas that have not been touched upon at the Cluster.

In a first call for applications in spring, the HCTS encouraged researchers in an early career stage to conceptualize their own transcultural project in view of an individual third party funding application. Seven applications were selected for funding, three of which have started their research projects at the HCTS already (read more about that on pages 3-4).

The call was renewed in September. Further calls are currently planned – not only for early career researchers, but also generally for scholars dedicated to critically applying a transcultural perspective and extending it into new fields. “Transcultural Forays” thus continues in the spirit of the Cluster’s ten years of engagement with transculturality as a leading approach for state-of-the-art research in the Humanities and Social Sciences at Heidelberg University.
Dr. Eliane Ettmüller studied Political, Religious and Islamic Sciences at the Universities of Geneva, Complutense de Madrid and Heidelberg as well as at the Centro de Estudios Políticos y Constitucionales de Madrid. She worked as a scholar at the Facultad de Ciencias Políticas y Sociología at the Universidad Complutense in Madrid and at the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context”.

She spent several years in Cairo and cooperated with different NGOs, research institutes and universities in Egypt. Furthermore, she worked for the ICRC as a delegate in Jordan and Uruguay and as a Researcher at the HQ of the same organization in Geneva. During the climax of the refugee crisis in 2015/16, she was in charge of the emergency camp at Vordere Zollamtsstraße 7 in central Vienna, which was set up by the Austrian Red Cross with the aim to host up to 1500 people.

Dr. Eliane Ettmüller was the first one to start her project in “Transcultural Forays” in June 2017. We wanted to find out a little more about her research on “The Transcultural Ideology of Modern Jihad: A Response to the Fragile Lifeworlds in Europe and in the Post-Revolutionary Middle East?”

Dr. Ettmüller, how and when did you come up with the idea for this project?

I have been studying political Islam and Islamic extremist thought since 2004. This date is easy to remember because back then, I was in Madrid and worked for the Universidad Complutense as a young researcher and lecturer in political sciences. I always found it fascinating, how politics and religion played together, and how religion was able to form societies. On March 11, 2004, I lived near the Atocha station, where the al-Qaida attack took place. As one of the trains that were bombed went from the suburbs to the Universidad Autónoma, many students escaped the attacks thanks to the professors’ strike that had been announced for the same day. Years later, I shifted background in Islamic studies, years of field experience and the capacity to understand the necessary languages are hard to be found among the ones writing about this subject. This is the reason why I came back to the university – in order to conduct informed research, which shall contribute to the development of a counter-narrative to the extremist rhetoric and to the development of a prevention or deradicalization strategy.

Why did you chose “Transcultural Forays”?

One of my main hypothesis about the contemporary Islamic extremist ideology is that it has a transnational and transcultural nature. Whereas the transnationality of networks such as the so-called Islamic State and al-Qaida is more than obvious to any outside observer, the transcultural aspect is more subtle and more complex. From its early beginning to the present day, Islamic extremist thought was formed by people with different cultural backgrounds. Consequently, its spread and reception in various cultural contexts has become unproblematic and smooth.
However, this transcultural development process and its current flow have to be studied. Questions that will have to be answered are: What religious concepts are treated by extremist leaders and their followers? What are their controversies? What elements of the creed are recognized as universal and can therefore be understood as of a transcultural nature? Consequently, the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies provides the perfect setting for the study of such a topic.

At the same time, the Heidelberg Research Architecture has developed important tools for the groundwork and the archiving of digitalized research material, which will support the course of this study.

**How do you plan to conduct your research?**
Firstly, I will work with texts, pictures, videos and audios. Secondly, I will conduct research in different countries where I will interview or hold discussion with Islamic extremists inside and outside of prison.

---

**Dr. Michael Brown** started working on his project in “Transcultural Forays” in October 2017. He is an archaeologist, focusing on landscapes of the ancient Near East and Eastern Mediterranean. His project at the HCTS is called “Transcultural Perspectives on the Parthian Empire: The Mountain Fortress of Rabana”. It focuses on the exploration of the newly discovered Parthian fortress at Rabana in the Zagros Mountains of Iraqi-Kurdistan. Brown is currently also Visiting Scholar at Heidelberg University’s project „Rock Reliefs in Iraq-Kurdistan“.

**Dr. Giulia Pelillo-Hestermeyer** is lecturer for Media and Cultural studies at the Department for Romance Studies at Heidelberg University. Within “Transcultural Forays”, she started her project in October 2017. It is called “The Mediterranean as a Translingual Public Sphere” and focuses on the media production of a transnational media network (COPEAM) operating in the Mediterranean, which includes - but is not limited to - most national broadcasters of the region and promotes an inter-professional exchange in the audiovisual sector.

---

**Christiane Brosius and Nikolas Jaspert coordinate “Transcultural Studies”**

Profs. Christiane Brosius and Nicolas Jaspert were appointed the new coordinators of the project “Transcultural Studies”, which is part of the Institutional Strategy in the Excellence Initiative. They will coordinate and conceptually accompany the project, which consists of two Junior Research Groups. Their appointment is a significant step towards a conceptual conjunction with the Cluster “Asia and Europe in a Global Context”.

As coordinators, they will supervise Dr. Jenny Oesterle and Dr. Carsten Wergin as Junior Research Groups Leaders for the research groups “Protection in Periods of Political and Religious Expansion” and “The Transcultural Heritage of Northwest Australia: Dynamics and Resistances”. Thus, an important interdisciplinary and conceptual transition was achieved within “Transcultural Studies”, since its Junior Research Groups closely connect to the research areas of Prof. Brosius and Prof. Jaspert.

The interdisciplinary research project “Transcultural Studies” was founded as a part of the “Institutional Strategy” of the Excellence Initiative, setting the objective to test new career models in the Humanities. The main goal of the project is transgression of classical area studies as well as testing new methods of transcultural and interdisciplinary research. This has been achieved by expansion of cooperations within and outside the university. The HCTS combines the complementary work of the project “Transcultural Studies” and the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context” through the fusion of both institutions on a conceptual level.
Prof. Karin Zitzewitz was awarded a Humboldt Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers and is spending the academic year 2017/2018 at the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies. We met her for an interview.

**Prof. Zitzewitz, how are you today?**
I’m doing very well, thank you.

**How do you like living in Heidelberg?**
I am quite delighted to be living in Heidelberg. We live in a lovely neighbour- hood, surrounded by excellent bakeries and ample coffee. My family and I have been enjoying exploring the city in the weeks before the university has begun.

**You were awarded the Humboldt Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers. What was your first reaction when you got the news?**
I was quite excited, of course, and also grateful to the HCTS team, particularly Monica Juneja and Oliver Lamers, for helping me with my application. The fellowship is particularly meaningful to me because my father held the same one, back in 1979-80, in support of his research in Atomic Physics. We lived in Bielefeld, where I went to kindergarten. I was also quite honoured and pleased to be able to repeat the Humboldt experience, this time with my own family.

**Can you tell us a little about your research?**
I am working on a book about the changes seen in contemporary art in India and, to some extent, South Asia after the liberalization of the Indian economy. There were huge shifts in scale, in medium, and in the modes of address of art in the period I am concentrating on, which is roughly between 1991 and the onset of the Great Recession in 2007 and 2008. In the same period, the modes and scales of exhibitions, the discursive frameworks for art, and the material grounds for circulation were utterly transformed. To me, this raises a key methodological question, which is how one can write a history of art that plots the connections between changes in form and in infrastructure. I am mid-way through the manuscript and am looking forward to diving as deeply into this work as possible during my time in Germany.
Karin Zitzewitz joins the HCTS (continued from page 5)

Why did you chose the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies to conduct your research in Germany?
For many years, I have known and admired the work of members of the Center, particularly Monica Juneja and Christiane Brosius. Indeed, my first book, The Art of Secularism, built directly upon Monica’s writing on the attacks on M.F. Husain and Christiane’s study of Hindu nationalist uses of media. Having known their work, I began to pay close attention to the approach taken at HCTS to the study of culture in general, and particularly of visual and material culture. With so many faculty and students looking closely at the global circulation of visual forms, it seemed to me that the HCTS was a perfect place in which to write this project. I also thought that the South Asia Institute could provide a valuable set of resources for my work.

Do you have any plans for your year in Germany besides your research at the HCTS?
I look forward to plenty of travel in Europe over the coming year, with a healthy mix of work and play. I am happy to be giving talks at institutions around Europe, as well. But the main thing is to write and engage with the community here, including students working on similar research in the HCTS.

WELCOME TO THE CLUSTER

The Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies is hosting Dr. Anna Andreeva with her project “Buddhism, Medicine, and Gender in 10th–16th Century Japan: Toward a Transcultural History of Women’s Health in Premodern East Asia”. The project investigates the impact of Buddhist concepts, theories, and practices on the formation of knowledge about women’s bodies and women’s health in medieval Japan and is supported by a three-year grant by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

Dr. Lorenzo Andolfatto joined the Cluster in 2017 from the Department of Translation at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He is Postdoctoral Fellow at the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies in the framework of HERA project “Uses of the Past”, led by Joachim Kurtz, Professor for Intellectual History at the HCTS.

Dr. Elena Bernardini joined the Cluster in 2017 and is a guest lecturer for the MA Transcultural Studies. Her specialisation is video/installation art in India and her main interests are in the relationship between art and politics and art and globalisation. She has taught at SOAS, Goldsmith College and The Sotheby’s Institute in London.

Dr. Joseph Ciaudo is Junior Fellow at the Cluster with a Chiang-Ching Kuo Foundation Scholarship for one year. He is also an associate young researcher at the Institute of Eastern Languages and Civilizations (INALCO) and at the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS) in Paris. His current research project is entitled “Mapping the Concepts of Culture in Early Twentieth-Century China: Historical Semantics and Social Mobilization”.

Dr. Takahiro Yamamoto took up the Assistant Professorship in Cultural Economic History. Before that, he was a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Research Fellow, affiliated with the Graduate Schools for Law and Politics at the University of Tokyo. He also served as a Global Perspectives on Society Teaching Fellow at New York University Shanghai.
SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS

Prof. Harald Fuess received a grant by the Korea Foundation, the Academy of Korean Studies, and the German Research Foundation (DFG) to further develop Korean Studies at Heidelberg University. He also received a DAAD-grant for a student exchange program with Kyoto University.

Dr. Lion König received a fellowship by the German Research Foundation (DFG) for postdoctoral research at St. Antony’s College at the University of Oxford. He is an Associate Researcher at the South Asia Institute, Department of Political Science, and the Cluster “Asia and Europe”, where he was member of project A1 “Citizenship”.

Dr. Roberta Tontini received a one-year scholarship from the Geschwister-Supp-Stiftung to pursue her work as a Postdoctoral Researcher. She was a doctoral candidate in the Graduate Programme for Transcultural Studies (GPTS) and a Postdoctoral Researcher after she completed her dissertation.

Lisa Lindkvist Zhang, doctoral candidate in the Graduate Programme for Transcultural Studies (GPTS), now holds a Confucius Fellowship to study at Fudan University during the academic year of 2017/2018.

ERIC Starting Grant for Lena Henningsen

JunProf. Lena Henningsen, former member of the Cluster “Asia and Europe”, was chosen to receive funding from one of the most significant European sources of support for junior researchers. The European Research Council (ERC) will support her project “The Politics of Reading in the People’s Republic of China (READCHINA)” with an ERC Starting Grant of nearly 1.5 million Euro. Lena Henningsen was project coordinator of project B12 “Rethinking Trends” at the Cluster “Asia and Europe” and Assistant Professor at the Institute of Chinese Studies at Heidelberg University, before she accepted a position as Junior Professor at the Institute of Chinese Studies at the University of Freiburg.

In her project “The Politics of Reading in the People’s Republic of China (READCHINA)”, that she will conduct at the University of Freiburg, Henningsen will investigate the intellectual, literary and societal transformation that has taken place in China since the 1940s. The study of reading habits provides new insight into the literary and political history of the country at that time. Rather than focusing on the great authors and political elites, the spotlight here is on the practices of ordinary people.

Awards for Svenja Nagel

Dr. Svenja Nagel, former doctoral candidate and Associate Member of the Cluster “Asia and Europe”, received the Manfred Lautenschlaeger Award for Theological Promise as well as the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities’ Academy Prize. She was honored for her dissertation on the spread of the Isis cult in the Roman Empire.

The Lautenschlaeger Award is an annual prize honoring ten young scholars from varying fields for their doctoral dissertation or first post-doctoral works. The prize is endowed with 3.000 Euros and further gives its winners the opportunity to organize a colloquium in any given year. The Academy Prize is endowed with 6.000 Euros and aims at supporting young scientific scholars in Germany. Academy members from the mathematical and natural science track alternate with those from the philosophical-historical track to nominate scholars.

Nagel’s dissertation in Egyptology is entitled Die Ausbreitung des Isiskultes im Römischen Reich: Tradition und Transformation auf dem Weg von Ägypten nach Rom. It analyzes the spread, adaptation, and transformation of the Egyptian goddess Isis in the Roman Empire.
AWARDS

**Dr. Amelia Bonea**, former member of the Cluster “Asia and Europe”, was awarded the 2017 Eugenia M. Palmegiano Prize in the History of Journalism by the American Historical Association for her book *The News of Empire: Telegraphy, Journalism, and the Politics of Reporting in Colonial India, c. 1830–1900*. The book is based on her PhD thesis, which she worked on at the Cluster as part of Junior Research Group B9 “Information Flows”. The prize will be awarded at the Association’s 132nd Annual Meeting in Washington, DC in January 2018.

**Profs. Jan and Aleida Assmann** were awarded the Balzan Prize for their groundbreaking research on “collective memory”. The International Balzan Prize Foundation awards four annual monetary prizes to people or organizations who have made outstanding achievements in the fields of Humanities, Natural or Cultural Sciences, as well as for endeavours for peace and the brotherhood of man.

In May, they were also awarded the Karl-Jaspers-Prize endowed by Heidelberg University, the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and the City of Heidelberg for their pioneering and unique work on the cultural memory and the archeology of literary communication.

**Sheba Chhachhi**, Delhi-based artist and Associate of HERA’s project SINGLE, received the second Thun Prize for Art and Ethics for her commitment to women’s rights and environmental awareness. The Indian photographer, installation artist and women’s rights activist investigates questions of gender, eco-philosophy, violence and visual cultures, with emphasis on the recuperation of cultural memory. The art prize, endowed with 25.000 CHF, aims at promoting artists who support a sustainable world.

Cluster member **Dr. Takuma Melber** won the second “Förderpreis 2017 für Militärgeschichte und Militärtechnik” for his dissertation *Zwischen Kollaboration und Widerstand: Die japanische Besatzungspolitik in Malaya und Singapur, 1942-1945*. The prize was presented by the Zentrum für Militärgeschichte und Sozialwissenschaften der Bundeswehr (ZMSBw).

The documentary movie “*The Cinema Travellers*” was awarded the “German Star of India - Best Documentary” at the Indian Filmfestival in Stuttgart, which took place from July 19-23. The movie by former short-term fellows **Shirley Abraham** and **Amit Madheshiya** already won several prizes in 2016. Depicting how travelling showmen brought the cinema to rural areas in India, the movie also sheds light on how such travelling cinemas are struggling to survive since the emergence of digitalization.

**Maksym Grinenko**, doctoral candidate in the Graduate Programme for Transcultural Studies (GPTS), was accepted into a ten-month advanced language program at the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies (IUC) in Yokohama. In addition, he was awarded the Yokohama Friends of the IUC stipend. The program, initiated by Stanford University, focuses on developing linguistic skills required to work with and compose specialist texts, deliver public talks and work in the Japanese academic, business and governmental spheres.

NEW POSITIONS

**PD Dr. Michael Falser**, former Project Leader of project D18 “Picturesque Modernities”, embarks on a position as “Professeur Invité” to France. Within the academic year 2017/2018 he will spend the winter term at the Centre Francois Georges Pariset (Art History) at the Université Bordeaux-Montaigne. In the summer term 2018 he will move on to the Department of Art and Archaeology of Sorbonne University in Paris, where he will teach courses on modern architectural history, cultural heritage and Asian art history at the Centre André Chastel, the Institut national d’histoire de l’art (INHA) and the Cluster of Excellence (Labex) “Écrire une histoire nouvelle de l’Europe”.

**Dr. Steven Ivings** accepted a position as a lecturer in Economic History at Kyoto University’s Graduate School of Economics in July 2017. Kyoto University is linked to Heidelberg through the HEKKSaGoN network, the Graduate School of Letters and the Graduate School of Economics. Steven Ivings was Assistant Professor in Cultural Economic History at the Cluster “Asia and Europe”.

---

Newsletter Autumn 2017
PD Dr. Kerstin von Lingen, former Junior Research Group Leader at the Cluster, accepted a position as Guest Professor at the University of Vienna. For one year, she will be teaching and researching at the Department of Contemporary History with a focus on the research area “Dictatorship, Violence and Genocide”. Lingen was given this position due to the research she conducted with her Junior Research Group on allied war crimes trials against Japanese in the aftermath of the Pacific War, and the impact of decolonization during this process of reframing post war order.

Julia Poerting, doctoral candidate in Junior Research Group C15 “Agrarian Alternatives”, has accepted a position as Research Associate at the Department of Geography at the University of Bonn. She is part of the research group of Prof. Nadine Marquardt (Social Geography) and Prof. Julia Verne (Development Geography). She took up the new position in August 2017.

Dr. Armin Volkmann left the Cluster in August to take up a new position at the Staatsmuseen Berlin, where he will work as a project member for “museum4punkt0”. Since 2013, Armin Volkmann was Junior Research Group leader of “Digital Humanities and Cultural Heritage” at the Cluster “Asia and Europe”.

Dr. Deepra Dandekar joined the Max-Planck-Institut für Bildungsforschung in Berlin. There, she will work as a researcher at the Center for the History of Emotions, within a project focusing on “Migration and Exclusion: Refugees to India after 1947”. From 2012 to 2015, she was a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Cluster “Asia and Europe”.

Dr. Matthias Schumann is now Postdoctoral Researcher at the International Consortium for Research in the Humanities at Erlangen University. At the Cluster, he has worked on his dissertation “Between Science and Superstition: Spirit-Writing Organizations in Early Republican China and their Quest for Legitimacy” under the supervision of Prof. Joachim Kurtz.

APPOINTMENTS

Prof. Hannah Baader from the Forum Transregionale Studien replaced Prof. Monica Juneja in teaching while Juneja held a fellowship at the Forum in the summer term of 2017. Hannah Baader is Scientific Project Leader of the research program “Art Histories and Aesthetic Practices” at the Forum and Senior Research Scholar at the Kunsthistorisches Institut of the Max-Planck-Institute in Florence.

Prof. Andrea Bréard was Interim Professor for Sinology at Goethe University Frankfurt during the summer semester of 2017. Now, she is Professor for History of Science at the Université Paris-Sud (Orsay). She has been a Research Associate at the Cluster since 2013.

From spring 2018 onwards, Dr. Cathrine Bublatzky will be Honorary Research Fellow at the Anthropology Department at the University College London (UCL). During her stay, she will be participating in the activities at the department and will be conducting research on Iranian photographers in the United Kingdom.

During the summer term, she was guest lecturer at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Tübingen and gave a seminar on Anthropology and Photography.

PD Dr. Michael Falser was Visiting Researcher at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research at Cambridge University during the Easter Term 2017. He gave a presentation on Cold War heritage politics in South and South East Asia at the Annual Conference of the Institute's Heritage Research Group, entitled “Heritage and Revolution. First as Tragedy, then as Farce?”. Additionally, Michael Falser gave a lecture in the institute's seminar series on “Archaeological Heritage and Museums”.

Yale University invited Prof. Harald Fuess as Visiting Professor in East Asian Studies during the fall semester of 2017 to pursue a multi-year tri-continental academic collaboration on Japanese history in a global context. In the third of a series of major international conferences, Prof. Fuess gave a presentation on the Meiji Restoration. The conference “The Meiji Restoration and Its Afterlives: Social Change and the Politics of Commemoration” took place at Yale University from September 14-15.
Dr. Susann Liebich was a Resident Fellow at the Stout Centre for New Zealand Studies at the Victoria University of Wellington. She was in Wellington for three months to undertake archival research into the experiences of maritime mobility in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. During her stay, she worked on a chapter for a forthcoming collection on the History of Reading, tentatively entitled “Mobile Texts, Mobile Readers and the Condition of being at Sea”. Susann Liebich is member of research project MC 12 “Floating Spaces”.

PD Dr. Kerstin von Lingen, former Junior Research Group Leader at the Cluster “Asia and Europe”, won a spot in the prestigious “Research Hub for German Studies” program at the University of Cambridge. After her successful nomination for the program, she worked with Dr. Barak Kushner from the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Cambridge on the project “Germany as a Role Model? Contested Memory Politics After the Second World War in Japan and Germany” until the end of July 2017.

Prof. Joachim Friedrich Quack was elected a new foreign member of the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts (KADK). KADK is a leading academy in Scandinavia in the fields of architecture, design, and conservation.

Prof. Sumathi Ramaswamy was elected next president of the American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS). She will replace the current president, Prof. Philip Lutgendorf, on July 1, 2018. Sumathi Ramaswamy is also Anneliese Maier Research Award Winner 2016.

Cluster member Dr. Davide Torri was invited to join the Centre for Himalayan Studies (CEH) at the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) in France as Postdoctoral Research Associate. The CEH aims to increase the knowledge on societies in the Himalayan and Tibetan regions and on their relationship with the natural environment. Researchers are contributing from disciplines such as ethnology, history, philology, agronomy and geography.

From May 15 to June 15, 2017, Prof. Rudolf Wagner was Distinguished Visitor at the Hong Kong Baptist University. As “2017 HKBU Institute of Creativity Distinguished Visitor-cum-Jao Tsung-I Academy of Sinology Distinguished Scholar in Residence”, Prof. Wagner held a series of public talks and postgraduate seminars, including a public lecture on “China in the Development of the Concept of Just Governance in Eurasia, 600-1800”.

Sijia Cheng will be Visiting Predoctoral Fellow at the Max-Planck-Institute for the History of Science in Berlin during 2017 and 2018. Sijia Cheng is doctoral candidate in the Graduate Programme for Transcultural Studies and Sinology at Heidelberg University, supervised by Prof. Joachim Kurtz.

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

The workshop “Playing Development Roles: The Political Ecology of Performance in South Asian Agricultural Development” took place on April 27-28 at the Karl Jaspers Centre. It was organized by Dr. Andrew Flachs, Volkswagen Postdoctoral Fellow, and Junior Research Group C15 “Agrarian Alternatives” and sought to connect the complicated forces shaping farmer identity to direct environmental management.

Dr. Davide Torri, member of the Cluster “Asia and Europe”, co-organized the workshop “Shamanism and Eco-Cosmology. A Cross-Cultural Perspective”, held at Panteion University in Athens on April 27-28. The workshop brought together twelve scholars working with indigenous groups in India, China, Nepal, Pakistan, Malaysia, Siberia and Amazonia, and was jointly organized with colleagues from Panteion University, the University of Venice Ca’Foscari in Italy, and University College Cork in Ireland.
From May 19-21, Prof. Harald Fuess, Professor of Cultural Economic History at the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies, organized the international conference “Korea in Global History: The Long Nineteenth Century and the Foreign Powers”. The conference was held at the Karl Jaspers Centre in Heidelberg and focused on the long nineteenth century as a key transformative period in global history for its accelerated engagement between Europe, America, Asia and Africa.

Prof. Christiane Brosius, Laila Abu-Er-Rub and Prof. Holger Schulze from the Sound Studies Lab organized the symposium “OUT OF SPACE?”, which took place at the Department of Arts and Cultural Studies at Copenhagen University from June 21-22 as an innovative format of ‘think-spaces’ to investigate locations that allow the emergence of new cultural practices and how those practices constitute locations. Referring to Aby Warburg’s concept of “Denkräume”, the conference brought together Media Anthropology, Sensory Ethnography, and Sound Studies. Researchers from Heidelberg presented their topics, using experimental paper formats.

On July 8, the symposium “Looking Both Ways. Bildpolitiken zeitgenössischer Künstlerinnen aus dem Nahen Osten und in der Diaspora” took place at the Marta Herford Museum in Herford. It was organized and conceptualized by the interdisciplinary working group “Kunstproduktion und Kunsttheorie im Zeichen globaler Migration”, for which Dr. Cathrine Bublatzky currently acts as co-speaker. She gave a talk on “‘Looking both ways’: Kunst der politischen Teilhabe am Beispiel von Künstlerinnen aus dem Iran” at the symposium.

Prof. Nikolas Jaspert and Prof. Bernd Schneidmüller organized the conference “Migration and Persistence – Medieval Discourses”, which took place from July 27-29 at the Universitätsbibliothek of Heidelberg University and the Karl Jaspers Centre. The event brought together international scholars from the United Kingdom, Germany, Norway, Israel, Austria, Estonia, and the United States and aimed at discussing the discourses resulting from processes of migration during the mediaeval millennium.

Feng He, Graduate Student at the Cluster “Asia and Europe”, organized a panel for the Second Conference of the European Association for Asian Art and Archaeology (EAAA) with Prof. Kitty Zijlmans from Leiden University on August 25. During this panel, he gave a presentation on “Trans-Media Display and Everyday Encounter: The Transcultural Agency of a Chinese Painting Motif”, which is based on the methodological chapter of his dissertation. The conference was held in Zurich from August 24-27.

From September 29-30, the interdisciplinary arts and media conference “China Rising? India Shining? – The Art of Comparison” took place at Duke University, USA. It was organized by Prof. Sumathi Ramaswamy and focused on the two “Asian” giants and fast-growing global economies China and India in the same comparative framework. Prof. Christiane Brosius gave a lecture on artistic engagements with urban ecologies, Prof. Monica Juneja talked about the role of images in the context of nation-building and iconography and Profs. Barbara Mittler and Sumathi Ramaswamy gave a joint presentation titled “Déjà Vu? Gandhi and Mao in Gigi Scaria’s No Parallel (and Beyond)”. 
On Friday, April 14, several scholars from the Cluster “Asia and Europe” and further institutes of Heidelberg University participated in the workshop “Labor and Citizenship in the Twentieth Century”, at Kyoto University. This kick-off workshop was related to the collaborative research project “Entangled Pasts in a Global Present: Gender, Labor and Citizenship”, led by Prof. Harald Fuess and Prof. Yoko Nagahara from Kyoto University. The team from Heidelberg consisted of researchers and young scholars including: Dr. Takuma Melber, Andreas Eichleter, Dr. Steven Ivings, Maksym Grinenko, Dr. Till Knaudt, and Dr. Hyojin Lee. The project’s second workshop entitled “Gender and Race in Global History” will be held in Heidelberg in December 2017.

Prof. Barbara Mittler and Laila Abu-Er-Rub participated in the International Conference “Chinese Women in World History” at the Institute of Modern History at Academia Sinica in Taiwan from July 11-14. Barbara Mittler talked about “Foreign Women, Chinese Media and the Occidental Gaze”, and Laila Abu-Er-Rub’s presentation focused on “Single Women and Their Representation in India and China” during a panel chaired by Prof. Paola Zamperini.

Aida Murtić, doctoral candidate at the Cluster, participated in the international conference “Cities on the Move: Turkey and Yugoslavia in the Interwar Period”, organized by the University of Basel. She was part of the panel “Čaršija and City Centre as Showcases of ‘Oriental’ Tradition and ‘European’ Modernity” and gave a presentation about the transformation of the Ottoman bazaar in Sarajevo in the time of interwar Yugoslavia on September 14.

On September 21, Prof. Axel Michaels participated in a panel discussion that focused on the academic and personal life of German Indologist Heinrich Zimmer, who was also the testamentary executor of Hugo von Hofmannsthal. The discussion was part of a conference organized by the Hugo-von-Hofmannsthal-Gesellschaft at the Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften and also included author Katharina Geiser and literary scholar Elsbeth Dangel-Pelloquin.

Dr. Cathrine Bublatzky gave a lecture on “Another Country. Art and Archivism” at the Anthropology Department of the University College London on June 16. The talk took place in the course of the conference “Engaging Refugee Narratives: Perspectives from Academia and the Arts”, which focused on the importance of engagement with the narratives not only of refugees, but also the many others whose lives are in transition.

Swetlana Torno, doctoral candidate at the Cluster, gave a talk at the 18th Annual CESS Conference at the University of Washington, Seattle, which took place from October 5-8. She presented her paper “Mothers in Sorrow: On the Interrelations of Love, Care and Aging in Tajikistan”. The conference, the largest on the topic of Central Asia, was organized by the Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS).
**KEYNOTES**

On April 27, **Prof. Monica Juneja** held the keynote lecture “Where does Art belong? The Travails of a Migrant Concept” within the lecture series “The Politics of Comparison. Relation – Circulation – Translation” at Aarhus University Conference Center in Sandbjerg. The keynote lecture was part of a Spring School, which was organized by the University of Copenhagen and Aarhus University.

On May 6, **Prof. Axel Michaels** held the keynote lecture “Nepal und seine Stellung in der Welt” at the “Nepaltag 2017: 50 Jahre Brücken bauen”. The event was organized by the Deutsch-Nepalesische Gesellschaft e.V. and took place from May 5-7 at the Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum in Cologne.

On June 23, **Dr. Andrea Hacker** held the keynote lecture “Ein Angebot, das man nicht ablehnen kann. Warum Wissenschaftler Open Access wählen” at the Jahrestagung 2017 of the Southwest chapter of the Association of German Librarians (VDB Südwest) at Freiburg University. With a view to the fundamental question of why we write and for whom, the keynote argued that researchers have three major motivations to publish in open access: because it is required - either legally or by funding instruments, because it is useful to do so - since it brings visibility, and because ethically it is the right thing to do.

**LECTURES**

**Prof. Joseph Maran** gave the “Michael Ventris Memorial Lecture” at the University of London on May 17. His lecture “Tiryns. From the Rise of Its Palace to the Post-Palatial Resurgence” dealt with three centuries in the history of the palatial center of Tiryns. The Memorial Lecture aims at celebrating Michael Ventris’ contribution to contemporary understanding of Mycenaean Greece by inviting leading excavators to present their fieldwork in Greece with a special emphasis on new discoveries at palatial centers.

On June 2, **PD Dr. Michael Falser** held a lecture at Sorbonne University in Paris on “L’écaille européenne existe-t-elle?”. The lecture was part of the Laboratoire d’excellence “Écrire une histoire nouvelle de l’Europe”. His talk was commented on by Jean-Sébastien Cluzel, researcher in Japanese Art History at the Research Unit CREOPS - Centre de Recherche sur l’Extrême-Orient of Paris-Sorbonne University.

On June 6, **Prof. Monica Juneja** gave a public lecture on “Alternative, Peripheral or Cosmopolitan? Modernism and the Challenge of Globality” at the Centre Allemagne d’Histoire de l’Art in Paris. Her lecture focused on recent studies that look at Modernism not as a quintessential European phenomenon, which then “spread” to the rest of the world. Instead, these studies argue for an expanded definition that includes the artistic experiments of modernist artists in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Senior Professor and former Cluster Director **Prof. Rudolf Wagner** gave a lecture entitled “The Last Stand of the Cultural Revolution: Film, Society, and Politics” at Hong Kong University on June 7. Wagner’s talk focused on the movie “Chunmiao”, which stands for a movie genre dealing with the Cultural Revolution in China. During his talk, Wagner compared “Chunmiao” to its ‘rectification’ in 1975, and also to the resulting development of various routines that were later incorporated into other movies.

On July 6, **Dr. Cathrine Bublatzky** gave a talk about “Fiction in Documentary Photography and its ‘Making of Iran’” at the Institute for Cultural Inquiry in Berlin. The lecture was part of the exhibition and international symposium “Imaging a ‘Middle East’”, which focused on new forms of Orientalisms in images and media production.

On July 11, Cluster member **Dr. Takuma Melber** gave a lecture on “Der Pearl Harbor-Angriff aus japanischer Perspektive”. With a strong focus on Japanese sources, the lecture shifted perspectives away from Western literature on the Pearl Harbor narrative. It took place as part of the monthly Colloquium of the International Research and Documentation Centre for War Crimes at Marburg University.

On September 28, **Prof. Harald Fuess**, Professor of Cultural Economic History at the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies, gave a lecture at Yale University with the title “Industrial Ruins as Cultural Heritage”, which was organized by the Council on East Asian Studies (CEAS).

**Prof. Barbara Mittler**, Acting Director of the Cluster “Asia and Europe”, gave two lectures at the Chao Center for Asian Studies at Rice University in Houston, Texas. As part of the “Transnational Asia” lecture series, she talked about “Fantastic Skills but no Knowledge? – ‘Authenticity’ and the Practice of ‘Western Classical Music’” on October 2, and “Young Diva, Go East - The Making of an Operatic Tradition in China” on October 3.
Cluster’s Open Access Book Series in HTML

The Cluster’s open access book series “Heidelberg Studies in Transculturality” is now equipped with an interactive HTML version and recently published its second volume with Heidelberg University Publishing (HeiUP).

Former Cluster members Prof. Philipp W. Stockhammer and Dr. Corinna Forberg edited “The Transformative Power of the Copy. A Transcultural and Interdisciplinary Approach”, which offers a fresh perspective on the copy and the practice of copying. These two topics, although the focus of much academic discussion in recent decades, have been underrepresented in the discourse on transculturality.

“I am delighted with the publication of this volume,” says Dr. Andrea Hacker, Managing Editor at the Cluster. “The research is highly relevant and is presented beautifully in two different digital formats – PDF and HTML. Particularly the latter showcases the added value that books in the Humanities and Social Sciences gain from our innovative display.” She continues to explain: “Reading is no longer a strictly linear experience. The two-dimensional display allows the reader to interact with supplementary information such as table of content, illustrations, references and information about the authors. This makes our series something rather special. The nice thing is that the traditional way of publishing is not excluded: all our volumes are available for purchase as hard- and softcovers.”

New Issues of the E-Journal “Transcultural Studies”

In 2017, two issues of the E-Journal were published by the Cluster’s publication office, both of which continue to explore novel interdisciplinary formats. The April issue offered two individual contributions alongside a themed section called “Transcultural Studies: Areas and Disciplines”. The individual essays follow the global linkages that shaped the literary and artistic worlds of Taishō era Japan and sustained the proliferation of street art in Post-“Arab Spring”-Egypt and therefore exemplify and embrace the potential of transcultural studies.

The September issue features five essays that are closely related to and based on contributions to the workshop “Transregional Crossroads of Social Interaction”. This workshop of the BMBF-funded Crossroads Asia Competence Network took place at Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient in Berlin in March. The essays explore emerging notions of identity and belonging in South-Central Asian borderlands. The later issues also contains, for the first time, a “Report from the Field”, dedicated to the oeuvre of Muhamed Kafeđzić.

Transcultural Studies is a peer-reviewed, open-access journal committed to promoting research on transculturality and is hosted by heiUP.

Book on Japanese Occupation in Malaya und Singapur

“Zwischen Kollaboration und Widerstand: Die japanische Besatzungspolitik in Malaya und Singapur, 1942-1945” is the title of Dr. Takuma Melber’s dissertation, which he published with the Campus Verlag in September 2017. In the study on Japan’s occupation, he focuses on forms of military and political collaboration, military Chinese-Communist resistance to occupation, and the emergence of excessive violence. His book not only includes material by Allied intelligence services and the view of the victims, but also uses Japanese sources, especially with a strong focus on the perspective of the occupiers. For his dissertation, Takuma Melber won the second “Förderpreis 2017 für Militärhistorische Forschung” presented by the Zentrum für Militärhistorische Gesellschaft und Sozialwissenschaften der Bundeswehr (ZMSBw).
**Books by Nicolas Jaspert**

Prof. Hans Martin Krämer published *Religious Dynamics under the Impact of Imperialism and Colonialism* with Dr. Björn Bentlage, Prof. Marion Eggert and Prof. Stefan Reichmuth. The volume offers insights into a formative period in the modern history of religions and a wide range of translated source texts from Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. How the original authors thought about their own religion, its place in the world, and its relation to other religions, presents insight into the challenges of an age dominated by imperialism and colonialism.

Prof. Nikolas Jaspert co-edited *Locating Religions. Contact, Diversity and Translocality* and *Die Kreuzzugsbewegung im römisch-deutschen Reich (11.-13. Jahrhundert)*. The volumes were published with Brill in 2017 and Thorbecke in 2016 respectively. *Locating Religions* is an innovative contribution to religious studies, picking up concepts developed in the wake of the so-called ‘spatial turn’. The articles in this volume present important findings from a series of settings within and between Asia and Europe where religions often tend to locate (or translocate) themselves beyond their original setting. *Die Kreuzzugsbewegung im römisch-deutschen Reich* examines medieval transmediterranean entanglements between the Roman-German Empire and Palestine.

**Book on Historical Disaster Experiences**

Prof. Gerrit Jasper Schenk edited the volume *Historical Disaster Experiences. Towards a Comparative and Transcultural History of Disasters Across Asia and Europe*, the first study of its kind. The book was published within the Cluster’s book series “Transcultural Research” and discusses the experiences of natural disasters in different cultures from Europe across the Near East to Asia. It focuses on the pre-industrial era and on the question of similarities, differences and transcultural dynamics in the cultural handling of natural disasters.

**Book on Religious Dynamics**

Prof. Hans Martin Krämer published *Religious Dynamics under the Impact of Imperialism and Colonialism* with Dr. Björn Bentlage, Prof. Marion Eggert and Prof. Stefan Reichmuth. The volume offers insights into a formative period in the modern history of religions and a wide range of translated source texts from Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. How the original authors thought about their own religion, its place in the world, and its relation to other religions, presents insight into the challenges of an age dominated by imperialism and colonialism.

**New Book on Pashupati Area by Axel Michaels**

Prof. Axel Michaels and Dr. Govinda Tandon published “Paśupatiksetra – A Historical Inventory” with Himal Books. The book features the fieldwork by Axel Michaels in the periods between 1982 and today. It includes numerous maps and photos that present the spatial situation of the early 1990s in the Pashupati Area, providing a view on the recent developments and changes in this area in the past decades. Besides this, the authors added more historical images to the maps as well as remarks on renovations and alterations that took place.

**Book on Reformation Movement**

Dr. Susan Richter co-edited the volume *Herrschaft und Glaubenswechsel. Die Fürstenreformation im Reich und in Europa in 28 Biographien*, published by Universitätsverlag Winter. The volume is a collection of biographies, which focus closely on the aspects of denominational-political action of European monarchs. From a European perspective, the volume offers examples of initiatives and strategies by the secular powers to enter into a symbiosis with Lutheranism, or to reject the new doctrines in a targeted manner.
Book on Religious Entanglements

Three former members of the Cluster, Prof. Joachim Friedrich Quack, Prof. Christian Witschel and Dr. Svenja Nagel, edited the volume *Entangled Worlds: Religious Confluences Between East and West in the Roman Empire. The Cults of Isis, Mithras, and Jupiter Dolichenus*. The book was published with Mohr Siebeck within the series “Orientalische Religionen in der Antike” and deals with the expansion of these so-called oriental cults in the Roman Empire. It originated from an international conference organized by project D7 “Oriental Cults” at the Internationales Wissenschaftsforum Heidelberg in November 2009.

Book on Monarchies and Transculturality

Former Cluster member Dr. Milinda Banerjee co-published the book *Transnational Histories of the ‘Royal Nation’* with Palgrave. The volume, which Banerjee edited with Charlotte Backerra and Cathleen Sarti, focuses on intellectual, legal, socio-political, religious, performative, aesthetic, and memory cultures and demonstrates the centrality of monarchic concepts in the emergence of globally entangled nationalist modernities. It further offers historical depth to an understanding of monarchic forms as globally mobile tools that were crucial for the emergence of nationalism.

Book on Waterscapes in Asia

Dr. Ravi Baghel and Lea Stepan, with Dr. Joseph K.W. Hill, published a new volume on water knowledge in Asia. The book *Water, Knowledge and the Environment in Asia. Epistemologies, Practices and Locales* was published with Routledge. By using a carefully chosen selection of case studies in a variety of locations and across diverse disciplines, the book demonstrates commonalities and differences in everyday water practices around Asia, while challenging both romantic presumptions and Eurocentrism. It builds upon the workshop “Epistemologies of Water in Asia” organized by the Interdisciplinary Research Group “Waterscapes”.

New Catalog on Indian Paintings and Miniatures

Prof. Monica Juneja, along with Petra Kuhlmann-Hodick, edited the catalog *Miniaturgeschichten. Die Sammlung Indischer Malerei im Dresdner Kunstsammlung Dresden. Die Sammlung Indischer Malerei im Dresdner Kupferstich-Kabinett*, accompanying the exhibition “Stories in Miniatures” at the Residenzschloss Dresden.

The catalog was published by the Staatliche Kunstsammlung Dresden with Sandstein Verlag and offers a representative selection of the Dresden inventory, which was enriched by the recent donation of a Shahnama manuscript from Kashmir. The exhibition presents this inventory in the context of loans from Mumbai, London, Paris, Vienna, Amsterdam, and Berlin. Eleven essays in German and English discuss the background of, and provide insights into, the fascinating world of Indian paintings. These paintings were produced in a workshop in Golconda in South India for a market of avid collectors in European cities like Amsterdam, Paris, and London.

Monica Juneja also curated the exhibition “Stories in Miniatures”, which was on display in the Kupferstich-Kabinett at the Residenzschloss in Dresden from March 3 to June 5, 2017. The exhibition was prepared in cooperation with the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalya Museum in Mumbai.
Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies
Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context”

PUBLICATIONS

Book on Early Modern Europe
Prof. Susan Richter, Dr. Sebastian Meurer and Michael Roth published the volume *Konstruktionen Europas in der frühen Neuzeit. Geographische und historische Imaginatio*...nien.* It is available for download at Heidelberg University Publishing (HeiUP) and features articles in both English and German. The volume reflects the results of the conference “Rethinking Early Modern Europe in a Global Perspective”, which was organized by the Chair for the Early Modern Period of the Department of History in September 2015 and supported by the Cluster.

Book on War Crime Trials in Post-War Asia
PD Dr. Kerstin von Lingen edited the volume *Debating Collaboration and Complicity in War Crimes Trials in Asia, 1945-1956.* It examines the nexus between war crimes trials and the pursuit of collaborators in post-war Asia and was published as part of the book series “World Histories of Crime, Culture and Violence” with Palgrave Macmillan in September 2017. It reflects, in particular, the results of an international symposium entitled “Rethinking Justice? Decolonization, Cold War, and Asian War Crimes Trials after 1945”, which was held in Heidelberg in October 2014.

Susan Liebich co-edited Issue of “Transfers”
Dr. Susann Liebich recently co-edited a special issue of “Transfers: International Journal of Mobility Studies”, which focused on the interconnections of print culture and mobility across the Pacific in the early twentieth century. The contributors explore the ways in which print culture was part of the practices, experiences, mediations, and representations of travel and mobility and interlink the emergence of mass travel, mass print, and mass consumption. Susan Lieblich also contributed to the issue by introducing the special section on “Print Culture, Mobility, and the Pacific, 1920-1950”.

ARTICLES

Prof. Christiane Brosius published the article “Reading the City Through Art”. It was issued in the latest India International Quarterly *The Contemporary Conundrum* and analyzes how art can help us exploring urbanization processes and the rapid change many of India’s metropoles have undergone since the new millennium in managing populations, traffic, nature, housing, and work.

Prof. Monica Juneja published the article “Beyond Man and Woman. The Body as a Stage” in the latest issue of Heidelberg University’s science magazine *Ruperto Carola*, which focused on the topic “Man and Woman” in its latest issue. In her article, she analyzed painted portraits of men and women from the North Indian Mughal courts during early modern times.

Nepal Panel contributes to “Material Religion”
The latest issue of the peer-reviewed journal *Material Religion. The Journal of Objects, Art and Belief* contains a themed section on cultural heritage in the wake of the Nepal earthquake in 2015. The section features articles by members of the Cluster “Asia and Europe”, who participated in the panel on Nepal held at the Cluster’s 2016 Annual Conference: Prof. Axel Michaels and Manik Bajracharya, Dr. Katharina Weiler, Dr. Davide Torri, and Marlène Harles and Sheelasha Rajbhandari. The themed section was compiled and edited by Prof. Christiane Brosius and is dedicated to Dr. Dina Bangdel, who had also participated in the Nepal panel and had wanted to contribute to the current issue of the journal. She passed away on July 25, 2017.
**EVENTS**

**Follow-up to the Annual Conference 2016**

On April 24, the follow-up event to the Cluster’s 2016 Annual Conference took place at the Bode-Museum in Berlin under the heading “A Conversation: Negotiating Cultural Heritage. Making, Sustaining, Breaking, Sharing”. Prof. Monica Juneja, Prof. Barbara Mittler, and Prof. Inga Mai Groote participated in the conversation, which was convened by the Forum Transregionale Studien, the Cluster „Asia and Europe”, the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (DAI) and the Max Weber Stiftung. As a new cooperation partner, the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz joined the event.

The follow-up to the Cluster’s Annual Conference “Making, Sustaining, Brekaing. The Politics of Heritage and Culture” focused on cultural heritage from different perspectives such as architecture, artworks, crafted objects, texts, music, as well as sites, places, sounds, and tastes. Furthermore, the event concentrated on cultural goods which are reference points for narratives of heritage and community.

One part of the event was a WeberWorldCafé which included nine round tables and provided space for a conversation between the speakers and the audience. The follow-up was concluded by a panel discussion chaired by Dr. Hannah Baader with Dr. Ralph Bodenstein (DAI Berlin), Prof. Monica Juneja, Prof. Stefan Weber (Museum für Islamische Kunst, Berlin), and Prof. Gerhard Wolf (KHI Florenz/Art Histories, Berlin).

**Shalong in Honor of Rudolf Wagner**

In honor of Prof. Rudolf G. Wagner, former Co-Director at the Cluster “Asia and Europe”, a Shalong discussion was held on May 12 to celebrate his 75th birthday. It took place at the Karl Jaspers Centre.

The shalong – Chinese for salon – started with a welcome by Prof. Axel Michaels and a gratulatory greeting by Prof. Gerrit Kloss, the Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy. The event brought together eminent scholars, including the Egyptologist Prof. Jan Assmann, the Japanologist Prof. Hans-Martin Krämer and the Sinologist Prof. Michael Lackner, who were introduced by Prof. Barbara Mittler. The scholars presented their reflections on Rudolf Wagner’s book *Reenacting the Heavenly Vision: The Role of Religion in the Taiping Rebellion*. Their presentations were followed by a response from the author, Prof. Wagner, himself, and a discussion with the guests of the shalong. The festive event was rounded off by words from Prof. Monica Juneja and a reception.

Prof. Rudolf G. Wagner is former Co-Director of theCluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context: Shifting Asymmetries in Cultural Flows”. Furthermore, he is Senior Professor of Chinese Studies at Heidelberg University. His book, which was discussed in the shalong focuses on the transcultural phenomenon of the Christian-inspired Taiping Rebellion in the mid-19th century, which almost made the Qing-Empire collapse.

**Visit and Lecture by Fabian Drixler**

On July 11, Prof. Fabian Drixler, Professor of History at Yale University, gave a guest lecture on “Fractal Vulnerability: Japan in the Volcanic Winters of the Early Modern World” at the Karl Jaspers Centre as part of his visit to the Cluster in the summer semester. His lecture dealt with volcanic winters, which have emerged as a vibrant new genre of global history since during these winters an eruption briefly changes the climate of an entire hemisphere.

Fabian Drixler stayed at the Cluster “Asia and Europe” until the end of the summer term. During his weeks at the Cluster, he was working on an article manuscript on “The Lost History of Azuma: Alternative Japanese Nations in the Meiji Restoration” and continued to work on his current book project, tentatively entitled “Fractal Inequality: Japan in the Volcanic Winters of the Early Modern World”.

Prof. Drixler’s stay as Visiting Fellow was part of an intensified collaboration between the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Yale University, negotiated by Prof. Harald Fuess.

---

**Image:** Fabian Drixler during his lecture
**EVENTS**

**Next Generation Global Workshop in Kyoto**

From September 28-29, the 10th Next Generation Global Workshop (NGGW) “Delineating Borders in a Borderless World” took place at the Faculty of Letters at Kyoto University.

The workshop invited 17 young researchers working on relevant subjects at partner institutions in France, Germany, India, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, the United States, and Vietnam. Among the presenters were three M.A. students in Transcultural Studies at Heidelberg University: Datong Qiu, Rashaad Eschack, and Yan Li.

Former Cluster Members Dr. Björn-Ole Kamm and Dr. Steven Ivings, both at Kyoto University now, also participated in the workshop.

**New GPTS and MATS Students at the Cluster and HCTS**

In October, the Cluster “Asia and Europe” and HCTS welcomed six new doctoral students to its Graduate Programme for Transcultural Studies (GPTS) and a new generation of students who pursue a Master in Transcultural Studies.

The candidates in the Graduate Program were selected from among more than 90 applications from over 28 countries, based on an in-depth written application and individual interviews. They now have the chance to conduct their doctoral research at the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies for three academic years and will receive a monthly scholarship.

This year’s group of new M.A. students consists of 42 candidates who were selected out of more than 100 applications that were received from almost 40 countries. The M.A. Transcultural Studies is a two-year full-time programme at the HCTS. It has started in 2011 and has attracted growing interest from around the world. Its third semester can be used as a mobility window for a study exchange or research internship.

**Jour Fixe with Prof. David L. Howell**

The Cluster held its first Jour Fixe in the summer term 2017 on May 18. Prof. David L. Howell from Harvard University gave a talk about “How Green Was My Night Soil: Thinking with Excrement about Nineteenth-Century Japan”.

The lecture focused on excrement as a hot commodity in the cities of nineteenth-century Japan. The widespread use of night soil as an organic fertilizer meant that residents of cities such as Tokyo and Osaka could sell their waste rather than simply dispose of it. Thanks to this trade, pre-twentieth-century Japanese cities enjoy a reputation of having been remarkably green spaces in which residents lived in salubrious harmony with nature.

In his presentation, Prof. David Howell argued that the night-soil economy offers a novel way to situate late Tokugawa and early Meiji Japan into the broader history of the nineteenth-century world, while at the same time challenging the tendency to essentialize the “greenness” of early modern Japanese cities.

**Jour Fixe with Prof. Harish Naraindas**

The second your fixe in the summer term took place on June 29 and was held by Prof. Harish Naraindas, Professor of Sociology at Jawaharlal Nehru University. His lecture was entitled “Is Medical Tourism Transcultural Hypogamy?”.

In his talk, he claimed that the epithet medical tourism, which is of recent provenance, tacitly subscribes to a particular and narrow understanding of ‘medicine’, namely the Anglo-American variant of biomedicine. Unlike its Continental European counterpart, this variant does not countenance the Kur (spa/termas) as medical therapy.

In this context, Naraindas’ talk not only suggested that the epithet medical tourism needs careful scrutiny, and is to be situated as part of a longer genealogy and larger canvas to include all kinds of transnational, transcultural and transregional medical travel. He also made a plea for re-examining the kind of morality play that the epithet engenders.