NETWORKING

The chair cooperates with several institutions, either on individual research projects (e.g. Amsterdam Centre for Globalisation Studies, Open University in Milton Keynes, Goethe-Institut Delhi), or on teaching and the eHumanities (Institute of Cultural Anthropology and Development at Leiden University, Iwandwa House at the University of Bayreuth, and University College London), or in the context of transregional research networks on Art and Transculturality or on Urban Spaces.

At the core of our teaching philosophy lies the aim to convey various theoretical and methodological approaches, to be research-based and allow for international exposure. Thus, existing and new teaching collaborations are nurtured and expanded, e.g. with universities in Berlin, Munich, and Bayreuth, in Leiden, Amsterdam, and Delhi.

Research and teaching profit from the chair’s commitment to the eHumanities and close cooperation with the Heidelberg Research Architecture (HRA) as well as from the substantial collections of audio-visual materials and the multimedia databases.

CONTACT

Prof. Dr. Christiane Brosius
Chair of Visual and Media Anthropology

Cluster of Excellence
“Asia and Europe in a Global Context”
Heidelberg University
Karl Jaspers Centre for Advanced Transcultural Studies
Voßstraße 2, Building 4400
69115 Heidelberg, Germany
E-Mail: brosius@asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de

Office Management
Brigitte Berger-Göken
Phone: +49 6221 54 4097
Fax: +49 6221 54 4490
E-Mail: berger-goken@asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de

Visit the chair of Visual and Media Anthropology online
www.asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de/en/vma

Information on the Cluster “Asia and Europe”
W: www.asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de
F: www.facebook.com/ClusterAsiaEurope
Y: www.youtube.com/ClusterAsiaEurope

Cover: popular poster vendor, Delhi 2005
Pictures by Christiane Brosius (cover and inside), Michael Miethe (portrait)
VISUAL AND MEDIA ANTHROPOLOGY

Visual and Media Anthropology is the field of one of the five professorships at the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies, an initiative by the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context” at Heidelberg University. The chair ‘Visual and Media Anthropology’ is held by Prof. Dr. Christiane Brosius.

Key themes in research and teaching at this chair are anthropology of contemporary art, urbanisation and transcultural studies, with a particular focus on the production, dissemination, and perception of media and images. As much as their producers and consumers, the media and images themselves are seen as particularly fruitful data and resources for the study of global and local contexts, for a better understanding of social, economic, and cultural change, practices, and conflict. Research fields are as diverse as youth cultures, urbanisation processes, gender, ageing, and migration; performance and museum studies, film and the arts. The current focus lies on regions such as South Asia, East Asia and Europe, but initiatives including South East Asia are in the planning.

Research-based and interdisciplinary teaching is central to the chair. We offer courses in the M.A. Transcultural Studies, often jointly with colleagues from Chinese Studies, Art History, or Religious Studies. We also hold seminars at the Institute of Anthropology and the South Asia Institute. This ensures that students gain deeper knowledge of and learn to apply theories, methods, and different media technologies. Fieldwork projects, teamwork, and excursions are essential to a successful course and professional career.

CHRISTIANE BROSIUS

Prof. Dr. Christiane Brosius holds the chair of Visual and Media Anthropology since 2009. She is a member of the directorial board of the Institute of Anthropology and Associated Professor at Heidelberg University’s South Asia Institute.

C. Brosius is also Speaker of Research Area B “Public Spheres” and coordinates several research projects at the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe”. Academically trained in Frankfurt/Main, Oxford (Brooks University), and London (SOAS), her background is in Cultural and Social Anthropology, Art History and Art Education. After gaining her doctorate from the Europa-University Viadrina (Frankfurt/Oder), Brosius habilitated at Heidelberg University.

She has published widely on themes related to economic liberalisation, urbanisation, and the middle classes in India, Hindu nationalist media and rituals, and is currently writing a monograph on imaginaries and contestations of romantic love and urban youth in South Asia. Her ongoing research activities explore contemporary art in India and Nepal, and gender and urban space in Delhi. She is also actively engaged in the eHumanities, with ‘Tasveer Ghar. The House of Pictures’, a digital network of South Asian popular visual culture (www.tasveerghar.net), and ‘Archives of the Everyday’ (with Leiden University and UCL).

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

A number of research projects are associated with the chair, for instance, ‘Aging in a Transcultural Context’, which explores intergenerational relations and old-age institutions in Nepal and India, and ‘Rethinking Art’, which studies South Asian art networks. A grant from the Humanities European Research Area funds the project ‘Creating the ‘new’ Asian woman: entanglements of urban space, cultural encounters and gendered identities in Shanghai and Delhi’.

Research by other colleagues at the chair focuses on exhibition practices in a global context (Cathrine Bublatzky) and on gender and representation in fashion and advertising in India (Laila Abu-Er-Rub). An international research network investigating ‘Urban Spaces beyond the West’ (coordinated by Marie Sander) is currently in the making.

Activities and events organised by the Chair include:

- “Flows of Images and Media”, the first annual conference of the Cluster (2009)
- Summer School “Seeing Matter(s): Materiality and Visuality” (2012)
- Workshops such as “Being Young in South Asia” (2011) or “Mind the Gap: Inbetween spaces in Asian Cities” (Delhi 2011)
- Talks by invited artists and filmmakers such as Kesang Tseten, Sophie Ernst or Bani Abidi
- Student field excursions (Venice Biennale, documenta Kassel)
- Student film screenings at the Museum of Anthropology, Heidelberg
- The Cluster’s annual conference “Cultural Brokerage: Creativity, Display and Performance” (2014), including an exhibition on Muslim popular culture and spaces (curated by graduate students of the Cluster)