SPEAKERS

Directorate
Prof. Joseph Maran
Prof. Axel Michaels
Prof. Barbara Mittler

Steering Committee
Acting Director
Research Area Speaker Prof. Diamantis Panagiotopoulos
Professor Prof. Monica Juneja
Researcher Dr. Kerstin von Lingen
Scientific Project Manager Dr. Oliver Lamers

Research Area Speakers
A Governance & Administration:
Prof. Diamantis Panagiotopoulos
B Public Spheres: Prof. Christiane Brosius
C Knowledge Systems: Prof. Joachim Kurtz
D Historicities & Heritage: Prof. Monica Juneja

Professorships
Buddhist Studies: Prof. Birgit Kellner
Cultural Economic History: Prof. Harald Fuess
Global Art History: Prof. Monica Juneja
Intellectual History: Prof. Joachim Kurtz
Visual and Media Anthropology:
Prof. Christiane Brosius

Dr. Oliver Lamers
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OVERVIEW

The Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context” is an interdisciplinary network of researchers at Heidelberg University. The Cluster was founded in 2007 and extended in 2012 as part of the Excellence Initiative by the German federal and state governments. The initiative is run by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the German Science Council (Wissenschaftsrat). In 2017, the Cluster will be merged into the permanent Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies (HCTS).

About 200 scholars examine the processes of exchange between cultures, ranging from migration and trade to the formation of concepts and institutions. A central question is in which dynamics the transcultural processes between and within Asia and Europe develop. These complex historical relationships are of great relevance for the global transformations of our time.

The Cluster is located at the Karl Jaspers Centre for Advanced Transcultural Studies in Heidelberg, Germany, and has a branch office in New Delhi, India. Among its international partners are Chicago University, Oslo University, Zurich University, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Kyoto University.

STRUCTURE

The Cluster’s more than 60 research projects are divided into four research areas. Interdisciplinary Research Groups and a Network enable collaboration between scholars across the areas.

A: Governance & Administration
B: Public Spheres
C: Knowledge Systems
D: Historicities & Heritage

Five professorships deepen the expertise:
- Chair of Buddhist Studies
- Chair of Cultural Economic History
- Chair of Global Art History
- Chair of Intellectual History
- Chair of Visual and Media Anthropology

Start-up professorships and Junior Research Groups create career paths for young scholars.

The M.A. “Transcultural Studies” and the Graduate Programme for Transcultural Studies offer a structured, interdisciplinary curriculum and enable individual research projects.

The Heidelberg Research Architecture supports efficient collaboration by providing research infrastructure, knowledge management and database development.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Aim of the Cluster is to enhance the understanding of the multi-layered interactions between and within Asia and Europe. The researchers achieve this by establishing the concept of transculturality as a basic approach in the humanities and social sciences.

First, the scholars analysed shifting asymmetries in cultural flows. Built on this foundation, they explore in the second funding period, in which dynamics transcultural processes develop.

Thus the Cluster sets out to:
- establish the dynamics of transcultural interaction as a field of research with institutional grounding and international impact;
- explore the analytical potential of transculturality on the empirical, conceptual and methodological levels;
- strengthen the links between the Asian studies, humanities and social sciences at Heidelberg’s comprehensive university;
- increase the transcultural research potential by creating career paths for young scholars and by working with Asian institutions and scholars rather than just on Asia.