Dear colleagues and friends,

the winter term started very well with the Cluster’s carefully prepared Annual Conference: over 200 scholars enjoyed high-level presentations and debated on “The Flow of Concepts and Institutions”. Renowned specialists presented their research and the participants shared inspiring thoughts and ideas about new approaches. Graduate students contributed to a stimulating and informative poster session, which was highly acclaimed by foreign scholars and Cluster members.

The Cluster’s Annual Conference presented the ongoing and dynamic development of its research into transculturality, which attracts young scholars. In July, the Summer School welcomed 30 young scholars from all over the world at the Karl Jaspers Centre. Moreover, Cluster conferences were held in the USA, China, Israel and other countries.

The following pages will illustrate and review the highlights of the last months. For further information concerning the Cluster and its ongoing research, please visit our homepage at www.asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de

We hope you will enjoy reading this Newsletter.

With best regards

Prof. Dr. Madeleine Herren-Oesch
Acting Director

Dr. Brigitte Merz
Scientific Project Manager

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Over 200 scholars from the Cluster and all over the world participated at the Cluster’s Second Annual Conference held from October 6 to 8, 2010. This year’s topic was “The Flow of Concepts and Institutions”. The conference was organised by Prof. Subrata Mitra, Dr. Antje Flüchter, and Dr. Jivanta Schöttli.

Keynote Lectures on “Liberty” and “Marxism”

Two renowned scholars held keynote lectures at the Annual Conference: British historian Prof. Quentin Skinner opened the conference with his talk on “European visions of liberty: a genealogy” and explained how the idea of liberty was understood over the course of time in the European region. Indian political scientist Prof. Sobhanlal Datta Gupta focused on “Marxism, modernity and revolution: the Asian experience” and emphasized the challenges posed by nationalism and different religions.

Poster Presentation by Graduate Students

More than 20 graduate students of the Cluster presented their individual research projects in a poster exhibition at the Annual Conference. Research project B12 “Rethinking Trends” was awarded a prize for the best poster presentation. The exhibition was coordinated by Oliver Lamers and Dr. Antje Flüchter.

Premiere of a Documentary Film on Afghan Diaspora

Indian filmmaker Deepali Gaur presented a documentary on the Afghan Diaspora in Germany. The film describes how Afghans experienced fleeing their home country and how their lives evolved as refugees. It was produced with support of the Cluster. A film portrait of Deepali Gaur, produced by the Chair of Visual and Media Anthropology, Prof. Christiane Brosius, is available on the Cluster’s website.

Further Reports on the Annual Conference

Scholars from around the Globe at the Summer School

Over 30 young scholars from 15 countries participated at this year’s Summer School on “Knowledge on the Move”. The programme combined lectures with seminars and workshops. The list of international speakers included Prof. Rivka Feldhay from Tel Aviv University and Prof. Hugh Shapiro from the University of Nevada. It was organised by Prof. Joachim Kurtz, Cluster Professor for Intellectual History.

Rector Bernhard Eitel welcomed Advisory Board

Prof. Bernhard Eitel, Rector of Heidelberg University, welcomed in June the Advisory Board which met to discuss the Cluster's development and future. The Advisory Board consists of Prof. Patrick J. Geary from the University of California, Los Angeles, Prof. Angela Leung from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Prof. Patricia Spyer from Leiden University, Prof. Christoph Wulf from the Free University Berlin, and Prof. Lord Colin Renfrew from the University of Cambridge.

Conference in Honour of Lothar Ledderose

On the occasion of the retirement of Prof. Lothar Ledderose, an international conference on East Asian Art was held at the Karl Jaspers Centre in July. Over 180 people participated at the conference titled “Living Legacies: The History of East Asian Art Reconsidered”. Prof. Lothar Ledderose worked for more than 30 years at the Institute of East Asian Art History, Heidelberg University. In 2005, he was awarded with the prestigious Balzan prize.

Panel Discussion on Art Practice in Asia and Europe

Research project D13 “Multi-Centred Modernisms” organised a public panel discussion on global entanglements in the arts. The event titled “Institutions, Markets, Publics - contemporary art practice in Asia and Europe” took place at the German-American Institute Heidelberg in July. It was organised by Prof. Monica Juneja and Franziska Koch.

Compact News

Meeting with SOAS experts

Prof. Axel Michaels, Matthias Arnold, Prof. Christiane Brosius and Franck Bernède visited the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London to discuss a possible collaboration on database-related research.

Academic Exchange

The Cluster now cooperates with the Research Center for Nonwritten Cultural Materials at the Institute for the Study of Japanese Folk Culture at Kanagawa University, Japan.

Film on Climate Change

Somnath Batabyal of research project C13 “Environmental Activism” shot a documentary film during the UN climate change conference in Copenhagen. The film “Don’t cut my head off” focuses on the politics of climate change.

Pinakothek presents Works

Niels Gutschow, coordinator of project D4 “Aspects of Authenticity”, contributed the documentation of twelve projects to an exhibition on architecture at the Pinakothek of Modernity in Munich.

QuotationFinder 0.5 released

A new version of QuotationFinder, a tool for text comparison, is now available for download. The QuotationFinder project, part of the Heidelberg Research Architecture, is developing a Java program for the comparison of one text to another text or a textual corpus.
News

India's Ambassador inaugurated Heinrich Zimmer Chair

India’s Ambassador to Germany, His Excellency Sudhir Vyas, inaugurated the Heinrich Zimmer Chair for Indian Philosophy and Intellectual History on June 28, 2010. Rector Prof. Bernhard Eitel gave a welcoming speech, and Cluster Co-Director Prof. Axel Michaels and South Asia Institute Director Prof. Marcus Nüsser introduced the first holder of the Chair. Subsequently, Prof. Dhruv Raina held his inaugural lecture about “The Impossible Dream of Needham’s Indian Apostle”.

Conference on “Governance & Bureaucracies” in Beijing

Research project A4 “Bureaucracies” held a conference at the Tsinghua University in Beijing, China, in September. Under the title “Migrating Ideas of Governance and Emerging Bureaucracies between Europe and Asia since the Early Modern Era”, the conference focused on the transfer and transformation of notions, ideas, and practices of efficient administration. It was organised by Dr. Susan Richter.

Conference on “Religion & Violence” in Jerusalem

Research project D1 “Historicizing Violence” organised in September a conference at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel. Under the title “Religion and Violence in Transcultural Contexts. Historicizing Traumatic Experiences from the Middle Ages to Modern Times”, the scholars discussed the entanglements of religion and violence. The project is coordinated by Prof. Susanne Enderwitz and Prof. Melanie Trede.

Conference on “Images of the Other” at the KJC

Research project D3 “Images of Alterity” held an international conference on “Images of the Other in Medieval and Early Modern Times” at the Karl Jaspers Centre for Advanced Transcultural Studies (KJC) in June. Scholars from around the globe discussed prejudices and the role of images. The conference was organised by Prof. Lieselotte E. Saurma and Dr. des. Anja Eisenbeiß.

Selected Past Events

Workshop on Imperial China

In September, Prof. Joachim Kurtz and Dr. Martin Hofmann held a workshop on “Paratexts in Late Imperial Chinese Book Culture”.

Workshop on Science

In September, Amelia Bonea and Paul Fletcher, members of Junior Research Group B9 “Information Flows”, organised a workshop on “Pre-Colonial and Colonial Perspectives on Science and Technology in South Asia”.

Conference on Asian Pop

In August, Dr. Oliver Seibt, Michael Fuhr and Patrick Frölicher from research project B2 “Creative Dissonances” and Maria Grajdian from research project D11 “Hidden Grammars” held a conference on Asian pop music with the title “Lock’n’Loll is here to stay: Stereotyping, Domesticating and Inventing Popular Musics in/of Asia”.

Workshop on Healthcare

In July, research project C4 “Making India a Global Healthcare Destination” held a workshop on “Transnational Healthcare in Asia”. The project is coordinated by Dr. Laurent Pordié.

Workshop on Heritage

In May, a workshop on “Archaeologising Heritage? Local Social Practise vs. Global Virtual Reality” was organised by Dr. Michael Falser, coordinator of project D12 “Heritage as a Transcultural Concept”, and Dr. Michael Winckler, Institute of Scientific Computing.
People

Deputy Speaker of Junior Researchers

David Mervart has been elected as Deputy Speaker of the Junior Researchers in the Cluster’s Steering Committee. He is Assistant to the Chair of Cultural Economic History.

New Cluster Members

Markus Viehbeck joined the Cluster as Assistant Professor in Buddhist Studies. He is currently completing his PhD in Tibetology and Buddhist Studies at the University of Vienna, where he was also employed as a researcher at the Department of South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies.

Jonathan Samuels joined the Cluster as Tibetan Lecturer and Research Fellow, associated with the Chair of Buddhist Studies. He spent 20 years in Tibetan communities in India and holds the highest degree in Tibetan monastic education. He currently is completing his PhD (Oxford).

Tina Schilbach became co-coordinator of research project B11 “New Urban Imaginaries”. In her research, she focuses on social change, aspirational modernity and everyday life in urban China.

Susanne Töpfer joined research project C1 “Medical Systems”. She replaces Prof. Friedhelm Hoffmann who accepted a call to the Chair of Egyptology at the Ludwig-Maximilian-University in Munich.

Dr. David Picherit joined research project C4 “Making India a Global Healthcare Destination” as Postdoctoral Researcher. He specializes in migration, labour, and rural developments.

Kaja Müller-Wang became one of the coordinators of research project HRA5 “Modern Chinese Scientific Terminologies” which is part of the “Heidelberg Research Architecture”.

Chung-Yam Po became a member of research project C12 “The Asian Sea” which is coordinated by Prof. Harald Fuess.

Tasveer Ghar

On behalf of project HRA9 “Satellite of Networks”, coordinated by Prof. Christiane Brosius, the Cluster-related project Tasveer Ghar announces the following short-term fellows on the theme “Circulation of Popular Images and Media in Muslim Religious Spheres”: Abeer Gupta, Amit Madheshiya, Shirley Abraham, Fiza Ishaq, Annapurna Garimella, Arshad Amanullah, Noman Baig, and Yogesh Snehi.

Webmaster

Eric Decker takes on the new position as webmaster of the Cluster while continuing his work for the Heidelberg Research Architecture.

Awards & Appointments

Marcus Nüsser

Prof. Marcus Nüsser, deputy speaker of research area C “Health & Environment”, was nominated to become a lifelong member of the Association for Comparative High Mountainous Studies.

Laurent Pordié

Dr. Laurent Pordié, coordinator of project C4 “Making India a Global Healthcare Destination”, was offered a Visiting Appointment by the University of Chicago.

Somnath Batabyal

Somnath Batabyal, PhD (London), member of project C13 “Environmental Activism”, was appointed Post Doctoral Research Associate by the School of Oriental and African Studies, London.

Harald Fuess

Cluster Professor Harald Fuess held a Visiting Professorship at the University of Tokyo in summer.

Christiane Brosius

The Goethe Institute invited Cluster Professor Christiane Brosius to Shanghai as an expert on Indian mega cities.

Ravi Baghel

Ravi Baghel from the Graduate Programme and project C2 “Large dams” was accepted as a research fellow of the “Earth System Governance Project”, a core project of the “International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change”.

Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context” Newsletter Autumn 2010
New Book Series started by Monica Juneja

Prof. Monica Juneja, Cluster Professor for Global Art History, has started a new book series on “Visual and Media Histories”.

The first volume has just appeared in print: “Barefoot Across the Nation. Maqbool Fida Husain & the Idea of India” was edited by Prof. Sumathi Ramaswamy from Duke University, who is also involved in the research projects B4 “Transcultural Visuality” and HRA2 “Global Heroes”.

The book was published by Routledge in 2010.

New Book edited by Axel Michaels and Christoph Wulf

Prof. Axel Michaels and Prof. Christoph Wulf (FU Berlin) have edited a new book on “Images of the Body in India: South Asian and European Perspectives on Rituals and Performativity”. It was published in India by Routledge in 2010.

Selection of Further Publications


Selected Articles

Baghel, Ravi; Marcus Nüsser

Brosius, Christiane

Falser, Michael

Falser, Michael

Mitra, Subrata

Noordam, Barend

Pordié, Laurent
Lecture Series on Global Concepts

The Cluster’s lecture series in the winter term 2010/11 focuses on “Global Concepts? Keywords and Their Histories in Asia and Europe”. In seven panel discussions, three scholars come together to discuss the usability of particular concepts for transcultural studies. The lecture series is organised by Prof. Monica Juneja, Prof. Joachim Kurtz, and Dr. Susan Richter. It takes place at the Karl Jaspers Centre, room 212.

Launch of LONSEA Database at International Conference

Research project A3 “Networking” will launch a new database on October 21 at the Prinz Carl Palais, Kornmarkt 1, in Heidelberg. The event will take place in the context with an international conference on “Networks in Times of Transition” from October 21 to 22 at the Karl Jaspers Centre. The LONSEA database provides information on the global networking of international organisations related to the League of Nations system. The project is coordinated by Prof. Madeleine Herren-Oesch.

Workshop on “Spaces in-between” in New Delhi, India

Research project B11 “New Urban Imagineries”, coordinated by Prof. Christiane Brosius, is organising a workshop on “Spaces in-between: from non-place to shared space in developmental cities”. It will be held at the Max Mueller Bhavan in Delhi from October 19 to 23. Prof. Brosius will also hold a lecture on “New Delhi on Stage” in Mumbai on Oct. 26, 2010.

Selection of Further Conferences during the Winter Term

- Nov 05 – 07: International Symposium on “Imagining the Feminine in East Asian Religions and Medicine” at the Karl Jaspers Centre.


- Dec 09 – 10: Conference on “Environmental activism in a globalised world” by project C13 “Environmental Activism” at Jamia Millia Islamia University, Delhi.

Lecture Series

28th October 2010
Culture / Civilization:
Paul Geyer, Andrew Sartori, Joseph Maran

11th November 2010
History / Politics:
Koichiro Matsuda, Luise Schorn-Schütte, Hans Harder

25th November 2010
Canons / Classics:
Sally Humphreys, Birgit Kellner, Rudolf Wagner

09th December 2010
Public / Private:
Monica Juneja, Dorothy Ko, Ulrike Weckel

13th January 2011
Art / Science:
Raphael Rosenberg, Dhruv Raina, Melanie Trede

20th January 2011
Law / Liberty:
Hans-Jürgen Lüsebrink, Monika Steinbach-Kirloskar, Harald Fuess

27th January 2011
Rationality / Emotion:
Christoph Wulf, Angelika Messner, Martina Kessel

Venue
Karl Jaspers Centre
Vößstraße 2, Building 4400
Room 212

More on the Website
For further information and events visit www.asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de.