NEWSLETTER – May 2009

Editorial

Dear colleagues and friends,

On October 20, 2008, our Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context” was officially opened with guest speaker Arjun Appadurai. Today, we are very pleased to send you the first issue of our newsletter. It will appear irregularly and inform you of the latest news, upcoming events, new publications and other developments related to the Cluster "Asia and Europe in a Global Context".

Enjoy reading!

Best regards,

Prof. Dr. Axel Michaels
Acting Director

Dr. Brigitte Merz
Scientific Project Manager

The following pages merely comprise a selection of news and events related to the Cluster. For further details/locations and latest information on our events, please refer to the Cluster’s website at www.asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de.

Lectures and Panel Discussions

May 12, 5 to 7 pm: Prof. Ron Inden (Chicago), “Paradise on Earth as a ‘Transhistorical’ Institution”.

May 14, 4 to 6 pm: Dr. Vivienne Lo (London), Dr. Mona Schrempf (Berlin) and Dr. Ananda Samir Chopra (Habichtswald Clinic, Kassel), "Do Asian medical systems lose their authenticity when practiced in Europe?".
June 8, 6.15 pm: Prof. Joshua Mostow (Vancouver), “National Erotics, Gender and the Representation of Sexuality in Heian Japan”.


June 18, 6 to 8 pm: Prof. David McMahan (Lancaster, PA), “Buddhism and Modernity”.

June 25, 6.15 pm: Prof. Yukio Lippit (Harvard), “Takahashi Yuichi: Towards a World History of Oil Painting”.

July 6, 4 to 6 pm: Dr. Rochona Majumdar (Chicago), “The Future of Postcolonial History?”

**Lecture Series**

Research area C "Health and Environment" has organised the lecture series “Transcultural Psychiatries". Download the complete programme (pdf, 1, 28 MB) from our Cluster website.

Sandeep Bhagwati, Canada Research Chair in Inter-X Art Practice and Theory at Concordia University Montreal, will stay in Heidelberg from June to July as composer-in-residence. He will give a lecture series on inter-traditional/inter-cultural composition organized by project B2 “Creative Dissonances”. More information will be available on our homepage soon.

**Workshops and Conferences**

May 18 to 20: Conference “Writing across the Borders“ organized by research area D “Historicities and Heritage”.

May 28 to 29: Authors conference in Seoul, “Citizenship and the Flow of Ideas between Europe and Asia” hosted by the Korean Sociological Association, esp. the Association of Political Sociology, and the Cluster’s project A1 “Citizenship as Conceptual Flow”.

June 10 to 20: Project B10 “Harbin” will hold an international summer school (June 10 to 16) and the international conference “Global Challenge and Regional Response” (June 17 to 20) in Harbin in cooperation with the School of Western Studies at Heilongjiang University, Harbin, and the German Historical Institute, Washington DC.

June 29 to 30: Taiwan Workshop organized by Research Area B “Public Spheres”.

July 23 to 25: "(Hi)Stories of Crises: ‘Crisis' as Key Concept and Narrative Pattern in the Perspective of Cultural Studies“, organized by project A6 “Cultures of Disaster” in cooperation with Historisches Seminar and Fränkisch-Pfälzisches Institut, Heidelberg University. Further information and programme …

**Workshop Series**

Project B8 “Rethinking Gender” has organised a series of four one-day workshops aimed at "Rethinking Gender, Sexuality and the Body in a Transcultural Art World“.

Please refer to the project homepage for further details.
The Cluster’s Summer School will take place at the Karl Jaspers Centre for Advanced Transcultural Studies, Heidelberg, from July 13 to 16. The Summer School is coordinated by Prof. Dr. Monica Juneja, Professor of Global Art History at the Cluster, and themed „Objects on the Move – Circulation, Social Practice and Transcultural Intersections“. Further information and programme …

On June 22 and 23, candidates for the next round of scholarship holders within the Cluster’s Graduate Programme for Transcultural Studies will present their envisaged projects in a poster session at the Karl Jaspers Centre.

Events recaptured …

April 16: Lord Prof. Meghnad Desai (London), Dr. Blandine Rippert (Paris) and Dr. Mohammad-Arif (Paris) discussed the topic “Terrorism, Global Linkages and the International State System“ at this semester’s jour fixe event organised by research area A "Governance and Administration".

April 30: German Art Historian and Theorist Prof. Dr. Hans Belting (Karlsruhe) discussed "Art History in a Cultural Perspective. New Questions about Ernst Gombrich’s Psychology of Art.“ with Cluster members Prof. Dr. Monica Juneja and Eva Zhang. The panel discussion was organized as jour fixe event by research area B “Public Spheres”.

May 7 to 9: Project D1 “Historicizing the Experience of Violence without Frontiers“ held a workshop entitled "Between Parallel Society and Integration: Diasporas and Transcultural Agency in the Eastern Mediterranean in the Late Middle Ages and the Early Modern Era“ in cooperation with Heidelberg University’s subproject “Transcultural Studies“ also funded by the German Excellence Initiative.

May 7 to 10: “Modernity’s Classics“ was the topic of a four day conference organised by Prof. Dr. Rudolf Wagner, co-director of the Cluster „Asia and Europe“, and Prof. Sally C. Humphreys (Michigan).

People News

Dr. Christiane Brosius, PD accepted the offer to become Professor of Media Anthropology at the Cluster. She has been Assistant Professor at the Department of Anthropology, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University, since 2002. Christiane Brosius held various fellowships, amongst others with Ford Foundation spent at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Harald Fuess will be Professor for Cultural Economic History at the Cluster "Asia and Europe" from summer 2009 teaching for the Centre for East Asian Studies and the History Department. Before taking up his post in Heidelberg, he taught modern Japanese history at the
University of Sheffield in the United Kingdom and Sophia University in Japan. Other employers include the Boston Consulting Group in Frankfurt and the German National Institute for Japanese Studies in Tokyo.

**Prof. Dr. Monica Juneja** has taken up her assignment as **Professor of Global Art History** at the Cluster in January this year, a position that sets precedence in the German academic landscape. Before her assignment in Heidelberg, she was Visiting Professor at Emory University, Atlanta, USA. She has been Professor at the Department of History, University of Delhi, India and has held teaching assignments at the Universities of Hannover, Heidelberg, Bielefeld and Halle/Saale.

**Dr. Joachim Kurtz** accepted the offer of Heidelberg University to become **Professor of Intellectual History** at the Cluster. He is currently Associate Professor of Chinese at Emory University, Atlanta, and a research group director at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin. He held visiting positions at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, and the Centre Chine, EHESS, Paris. Joachim Kurtz will start his assignment in Heidelberg in summer 2009.

**Awards and Honours**

**Prof. Dr. Markus Hilgert**, speaker of research area D "Historicities and Heritage", has been elected full member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts. The academy is a transnational and interdisciplinary association dealing with Europe related issues and topics comprising more than 1200 full members from 23 countries.

**Prof. Dr. Axel Michaels**, Acting Director of the Cluster, has accepted his nomination for a Joint Advisory Committee that will be newly established by the German Research Foundation and the Department of Science and Technology (India). The founding institutions expect from this committee new impulses and discussions on scientific-political issues as well as support concepts.

**Prof. Dr. Barbara Mittler**, speaker of research area B „Public Spheres“ was appointed new member of the German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. The Leopoldina is the world’s oldest continuously existing academy for medicine and natural sciences with a tradition of over 355 years and more than 1300 members all over the world. Since 2008, it has been Germany's National Academy of Sciences and has the duty to provide science-based advice to both politics and society and to carry out a representative function in international academy organizations and bodies.

In addition, **Prof. Barbara Mittler** won the Henry Allen Moe Prize in the Humanities bestowed annually by the American Philosophical Society. The Henry Allen Moe Prize in the Humanities honours the best academic paper in the humanities presented at a meeting of the American Philosophical Society. Prof. Barbara Mittler receives the 2009 Prize for her paper "Popular Propaganda? Art and Culture in Revolutionary China".
**Dr. Heike Moser**, member of project B14 “Religion on Stage”, won the Ernst-Waldschmidt-Award. The award is bestowed by the Ernst Waldehsmidt Foundation at the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation since 1988. It honours outstanding scientific research in the area of Indology, particularly in Waldschmidt's special areas of expertise (Buddhism, Indian and Central Asian Archaeology and Art). The award especially intends to support young German scholars working in the field of Indology and is endowed with 5,000 Euro.

**Public Relations**

**Press Clippings**

The culture programme of **Südwestdeutsche Rundfunk** featured an interview with **Prof. Dr. Markus Hilgert** in SWR2 Impuls (April 21) on his research related to the 'world's oldest library'. Daily newspaper **Hamburger Abendblatt** (January 29) as well as science journal **Wissenschaft Aktuell** (January 28) published articles on cuneiform writing based on interviews with **Prof. Dr. Markus Hilgert**, speaker of research area D "Historicities and Heritage".

Daily newspapers **Frankfurter Rundschau** and **Giessener Allgemeine** reported on the 'Ensemble Modern' performance of a Chinese Opera created by Finnish composer Peter Eötvös. It was followed by a discussion of this transcultural event with **Prof. Dr. Barbara Mittler**, speaker of research area B "Public Spheres".

**Dr. Gerrit Schenk**, leader of the junior research group A6 "Cultures of Disaster" was interviewed on pre-modern alarm systems for the journal **Bevölkerungsschutz** of the Swiss Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport.

The Cluster’s press information on this year's **Summer School** was taken up by news agency **Deutscher Depeschendienst (ddp)**. Besides local newspapers that reported on the Summer School, the Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts Baden-Württemberg features it on its study guide web portal (www.study-guide-bw.de).

**Prof. Dr. Rudolf Wagner**, co-director of the Cluster, has written an article on transculturality and the Cluster's research endeavour for **Heidelberg University’s research magazine**. The article is illustrated with visuals collected by project HRA “Mothers and Fathers of the Nation” and just appeared recently.

**Interested in reading more?** You can access all articles in the press area of our Cluster homepage.

**Further Activities**

**Prof. Dr. Gita Dharampal-Frick**, deputy speaker of research area D “Historicities and Heritage” represented the Cluster and the South Asia Institute in a panel discussion at the Conference “Menschen bewegen” of the Federal Foreign Office.
Prof. Dr. Madeleine Herren-Oesch, co-director of the Cluster, talked about the Cluster and its special requirements in administrative matters at this year’s study trip to Heidelberg (May 14 to 15) of HUMANE, the Heads of University Management & Administration Network in Europe.

Invitations of Cluster members (until July 2009)

Dr. Antje Flüchter, leader of junior research group A9 “Cultural Transfer as a Factor of State Building”:

Prof. Dr. Monica Juneja, Professor of Global Art History at the Cluster:

Cornelia Knab, Maya Okuda and Christiane Sibille in collaboration with Ines Prodöhl (GHI Washington) presented a panel about "The challenge of border-crossings: transnational cooperation in the interwar period" at the World History Conference "Out of Bounds: Exploring Global Connections" at Northeastern University.

Prof. Dr. Axel Michaels, co-director of the Cluster:

Dr. des. Susan Richter, leader of the junior research group A4 “Fascination of Efficiency”, Nicolas Schillinger and Peter Trummer held talks at the workshop “Being an Official: The Sale of Public Offices and its Effects in Comparative Perspective” at Harvard University.

Prof. Dr. William Sax, speaker of research area C "Health and Environment”:
- May 19: "From Divine Kingdom to Hindu Nation: an Alternative Path into Modernity" at Cardiff University.

Prof. Dr. Rudolf Wagner, co-director of the Cluster:
- March: P’an Huang-chih Lectures at National Chengchi University, Taipei.

1. 如何搞運動？– 北京五四運動的社會活動形式和政治方向中的國際成分
   (How to do a „movement”? Transnational elements in form of social action and in the political orientation of the Peking May Fourth Movement 1919)
2. 政治宣傳文化的興起 – 民國時期，各國家，各社團，各媒體推销不同觀點的新策略
(The rise of political propaganda – the new strategies used by different states and groups during the interwar period to promote their agendas)

3. 多語環境 - 晚清民國時期在華的外文報刊
(A multilingual environment – foreign-language newspapers published in China during the late Qing and Republican periods)


**New Publications**

**Monographs**


**Articles**

Juneja, Monica: „Konversion als Widerstand? Räume des Selbst zwischen den Kulturen“, in Andreas Bähr, Peter Burschel and Gabriele Jancke (Eds.), Räume des Selbst. Transkulturelle Perspektive der Selbstzeugnisforschung (Selbstzeugnisse der Neuzeit), Cologne / Weimar / Vienna, 237-51.


Peer-Review Articles

Other

Miscellaneous
Prof. Dr. William Sax, speaker of research area C “Health and Environment“, was appointed to Jawaharlal Nehru University's Institute for Advanced Studies, India, during winter 2009/10.

Representative office in India opened: Doris Hillger has recently taken up the assignment to represent the Cluster and the South Asia Institute at their new combined representative office in New Delhi, India.
If you would like to receive further information on the Cluster "Asia and Europe in a Global Context" or wish to submit any suggestions, please contact

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Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in our newsletter is as accurate as possible at the time it is sent. However, we cannot guarantee, that subsequent changes have not been made. For details related to scheduled events, please check our website or contact us directly.

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