Dear colleagues and friends,

spring has finally arrived in Heidelberg and together with the blooming of nature our Newsletter comes in a new shape. On the right sidebar, you find its contents, which are divided into four sections: News, People, Publications and Events. Each page offers compact news on the right side and more detailed information on activities on the left.

The most important news, however, is that research at our institution is flourishing. In total, the Cluster employs and funds 146 academic researchers, 29 scholarship holders in the Graduate Programme and 158 student assistants in 73 research projects. Around 250 books are in the making and we hope that many will be published within the next two years. Besides, our Cluster projects organize conferences and lectures, and some of our researchers receive prestigious awards.

On the following pages, the highlights of the last six months are reviewed. For further information about the Cluster and our research work, please visit our homepage at http://www.asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de/

We wish you an interesting read and a pleasant summer.

Best regards

Prof. Axel Michaels
Acting Director

Dr. Brigitte Merz
Scientific Project Manager

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News

The Cluster organizes a Summer School in July 2010

The Cluster’s Summer School 2010 will take place at the Karl Jaspers Centre from July 25 to 29. Under the theme “Knowledge on the Move: Circulation, Domestication and Transcultural Reconfigurations”, students will examine the multifaceted encounters between Asian and European knowledge. The Summer School is coordinated by Joachim Kurtz, Cluster Professor of Intellectual History.

The Cluster’s short film portraits

The Cluster has produced a series of short films which were devised under the supervision of Prof. Christiane Brosius, in her capacity as Professor for Visual and Media Anthropology. In these films, selected Cluster members describe their projects and experiences. Among the interviewed researchers are Franck Bernède, Manik Man Bajracharya, Deepali Gaur Singh, Amit Madheshiya and Shirley Abraham.

New version of QuotationFinder available

In March a new version of QuotationFinder became available. The Java programme facilitates comparisons between texts, and can also be used to find intertextual references such as citations, plagiarisms or innuendos. It is developed by the Cluster’s “Heidelberg Research Architecture”.

Indian Government funds permanent guest professorship

The Indian Government granted funds for a Guest Professorship of Indian Philosophy and Intellectual History. Dhruv Raina from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, became the first holder of the “Heinrich Zimmer Chair”.

The Cluster cooperates with renowned universities

Memoranda of Understanding were signed with the University of Zurich, Switzerland (University Research Priority Programme “Asia and Europe”), Kansai University, Osaka, Japan (Institute for Cultural Interaction Studies), and Kanagawa University, Japan (Research Center for Nonwritten Cultural Materials).

Compact News

Collection of Sanskrit texts

A searchable collection of lemmatized Sanskrit texts was launched in March by Dr. Oliver Hellwig (Research Project C10). The Digital Corpus of Sanskrit is a project of the Cluster’s “Heidelberg Research Architecture” (HRA).

Anthropology slides digitalized

Over 22,000 slides showing rituals and everyday life scenes from India were digitalized as part of the HRA. The slides are incorporated in the Cluster’s image database and available via HeidICON.

BBAW visited the Cluster

A delegation of the Berlin Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW) visited the Cluster in April. The members of the research group “Image Cultures” met with Prof. Melanie Trede, Prof. Monica Juneja and Prof. Christiane Brosius.

Short film produced by DFG

The German Research Foundation (DFG) produced a short film about the Cluster. It introduces the Cluster’s core objectives and research approaches. Watch it on the Cluster’s homepage.

Portrait in the NZZ

The “Neue Zürcher Zeitung” published in its weekend edition a comprehensive article about Co-Director Prof. Madeleine Herren-Oesch. The author described her as a “Helvetic Cosmopolitan”.

People

Cluster Professor Monica Juneja

Prof. Monica Juneja gave her inaugural lecture at the Alte Aula at Heidelberg University. Her appointment as Germany’s first Professor of Global Art History marks a paradigm shift in art history research.

Cluster Professor Birgit Kellner

Birgit Kellner accepted Heidelberg University’s offer to become Cluster Professor of Buddhist Studies. Before, she worked as an Assistant Professor at the Department of South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies of the University of Vienna, Austria.

Graduate Programme

Dr. Kerstin von Lingen joined the Cluster as Lecturer in the Graduate Programme and Library Manager. She succeeds Dr. Nic Leonhardt, who left the Cluster to take up a research position at Munich University.

IT-Department

Peter Gietz left his position as IT-Manager of the Cluster at the end of March 2010.

Public Relations

Dr. Alexander Häntzschel joined the Cluster as Public Relations and Press Officer. He replaces Iris Mucha, M.A.

Liaison and Conference Officer

At the end of March, Sabine Urbach, M.A., Liaison and Conference Officer, went on maternity leave. Her replacement, Christiane Niemeyer, M.A., is running the department together with Andrea Placzková, M.A.

Research Area C

Charlotte Kroll, M.A., joined the Cluster as Assistant Coordinator of Research Area C “Health and Environment”. Anna Andreeva, PhD, became a research fellow of project C11 “Medicine and Religion” in April.

Visual and Media Anthropology

Alexander Ebinger, M.A., joined the Cluster as Academic Assistant for eLearning and Didactic Media at the Chair of Visual and Media Anthropology.

Awards

Niels Gutschow

Prof. Niels Gutschow, coordinator of project D4 “Aspects of Authenticity”, has 2009 been conferred with the “DAI Literaturpreis” by the Federation of German Architectural and Engineering Associations.

Marcus Nüsser

Prof. Marcus Nüsser, project leader of C2 “Large Dams” and C8 “Large Dams and ‘Clean Development’” has been offered the Chair of Human Geography at Göttingen University.

Sandra Bärnreuther

PhD student and C4 project member Sandra Bärnreuther was nominated for a Fulbright scholarship to study at New York University. Recently, she won an award by the South Asia Institute for her M.A. thesis on “Birth in Ladakh”.

Philipp Stockhammer

Dr. Philipp Stockhammer, (Research Project D2) received the Walter-Witzenmann-Preis for his dissertation on “The Pottery of the Post-Palatial Period from the Lower Town of Tiryns”. The price is awarded annually by the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

Haifen Nan

Haifen Nan (GPTS) has been nominated with the "Chinese Government Award for Outstanding Self-Financed Students Abroad 2009". The prize was established by the Chinese Government in 2003 for outstanding self-financed PhD students abroad.
New publications by Cluster members

A number of books and articles have been published by Cluster members. Although they focus on different subjects, all follow the Cluster’s concepts and make use of the key terms including transculturality, flows and asymmetry.

Christiane Brosius’ new book on India’s Middle Class
Cluster Professor Christiane Brosius has written a book on “India’s New Middle Class – New Forms of Urban Leisure, Consumption and Prosperity”. It examines the complexities of lifestyles of the upwardly mobile middle classes in India in the context of economic liberalisation in the new millennium. It was published by Routledge India in early 2010.

Hans Harder has edited a book on literary history
Prof. Hans Harder, coordinator of the research projects B1 and B13, has edited a book titled “Literature and Nationalist Ideology: Writing Histories of Modern Indian Languages”. It was published by Social Science Press in New Delhi, 2010.

Michael Falser has co-edited a conference volume
Dr.-Ing. Michael Falser, member of research project D12, has co-edited the conference volume "Conservation and Preservation. Interactions between Theory and Practice - In Memoriam Alois Riegl (1858-1905)". It presents the proceedings of a conference held in memory of the Austrian art historian Alois Riegl in Vienna in 2008.

Roland Wenzlhuemer has edited a special issue of HSR
Dr. Roland Wenzlhuemer, Junior Research Group Leader, has edited a special issue of the journal "Historical Social Research", titled "Global Communication: Telecommunication and Global Flows of Information in the Late 19th and Early 20th Century".

Booklet about the art at Karl Jaspers Centre
Prof. Friedemann von Stockhausen, artist and professor at the Braunschweig School of Art, has published a booklet titled “Third Spaces”. It explains his artworks that are exhibited at the Karl Jaspers Centre in Heidelberg. The booklet is available for a small fee from Ina Chebbi, Head Office, room 111.

Selected Articles

Flüchter, Antje:

Hoffmann, Friedhelm; Quack, Joachim Friedrich:

Juneja, Monica; Siebenhüner, Kim:

Pordié, Laurent:

Saurma-Jeltsch, Liselotte:

More on Refbase

The Cluster’s bibliographical database contains over 3,400 entries: http://kjcf-s-cluster.kjc.uni-heidelberg.de/refbase/
Events

Annual Conference 2010: October 6-8, Heidelberg

The Annual Conference 2010 will take place from October 6 to 8. This year’s theme is “The Flow of Concepts and Institutions”. The event is organized by Research Area A “Governance and Administration” under the supervision of Prof. Subrata K. Mitra with the support of Dr. Antje Flüchter and Dr. Jivanta Schöttli. The keynote speech will be given by Prof. Quentin Skinner.

Conference: “Images of the Other” by D3

Project D3 is holding a conference on “Images of the Other in Medieval and Early Modern Times” from June 17 to 19 in room 212. The opening speech will be given by Prof. Suzanne Akbari from Toronto University.

Workshop: “Modernity’s Classics”, Part 3

The third round of the Workshop “Modernity’s Classics” will take place from June 25 to 27 in room 212. It is convened by our Co-Director Prof. Rudolf G. Wagner and Prof. Sally Humphreys (Michigan).

Conferences have been held around the globe

In Istanbul, Turkey, project A7 “Ottoman Empire” organized in December a workshop on “The Well-Connected Domains: Ottoman History in a Transcultural Perspective” in collaboration with Sabanci University.

In New Delhi, the Cluster held in February 2010 a workshop on “Border Crossing in Asia and Europe”. It was organized in cooperation with Zuerich University and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts.

In New Delhi, India, project B4 “Transcultural Visuality” held in February a workshop on "Icons: Spectacle and Affect" at the Max-Mueller-Bhavan.

In Beirut, Lebanon, project A6 “Cultures of Disaster” held in March a conference on “Hybridity of Historical Disasters. Nature, Society and Power”. It was organized in cooperation with the Orient Institute Beirut.

Lectures & Seminars

June 10, 4 to 6 pm, Room 212
Prof. Julia Adeney Thomas (University of Notre Dame, Indiana): “Environmental History: Global Controversy and Local Practices”.

June 14, 6 to 8 pm, Room 212
Prof. Shukla Sawant (Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi): “Modernism and its Isms: The Indian Response”.

June 28, 6 to 8 pm, Room 212

July 7, 4 to 6 pm, Room 212
Dr. Martin Dusinberre (Newcastle University): “The Silk Road of the Sea: Transcultural East Asia in a Japanese Hometown, 1607-2007”.

July 9, 4 to 6 pm, Room tba
Osamu Saito (Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo): “Early Modern Living Standards: A Japanese Perspective on the Great Divergence”.

July 19, 8 to 10 pm, DAI
Final panel discussion of D13 lecture series: “Institutions, Markets, Publics – Contemporary Art Practice in Asia and Europe”.

More on the Website

For further information and events visit: www.asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de.