Dear colleagues and friends,

I am glad to open this letter with great news. The Cluster has submitted a cohesive proposal for a second funding period to the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) in Berlin. It outlines our interdisciplinary and transcultural research approach and emphasizes our advanced focus on the “Dynamics of Transculturality”. Moreover, it reviews some of our structural achievements at Heidelberg University.

Starting this winter term, the M.A. Transcultural Studies will be offered at Heidelberg University. The new programme has been initiated by the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context” and we are proud of how much attention it received from students around the globe. We also welcome the third round of doctoral candidates in our Graduate Programme.

A highlight of the past months was our third Annual Conference on “Frontiers of Knowledge”. In sessions covering related topics to health, the environment and the history of science, the programme brought scholars from various disciplines together. In addition, there will be a lecture series on “Global Philosophies” which I cordially invite you to. The exact dates and much more information can be found in this newsletter.

I wish you all a pleasant read and an exciting winter term.

Kind regards

Prof. Dr. Axel Michaels
Acting Director

Dr. Alexandra Heidle
Scientific Project Manager
Annual Conference 2011 on “Frontiers of Knowledge”

Scholars from the Cluster and around the globe attended the Annual Conference 2011. From October 5 to 7, they discussed the theme “Frontiers of Knowledge: Health, Environment and the History of Science”. The conference was organised by Research Area C “Health & Environment” which is chaired by Prof. Harald Fuess.

Opening Keynote Lecture by Kaushik Sunder Rajan

The Annual Conference was opened with a keynote lecture by Prof. Kaushik Sunder Rajan (University of Chicago) on “Property, Rights, and the Constitution of Contemporary Indian Biomedicine”. Referring to the exemplary case of a patent on the anti-cancer drug Gleevec, he traced how intellectual property regimes drive the re-institutionalisation of pharmaceutical development in India.

Janet Hunter spoke on Marketing Operation

Prof. Janet Hunter (London School of Economics) gave a keynote lecture on “Market Operation after the Great Kantō Earthquake of September 1923”. Focusing on the great earthquake of 1923 in Tokyo and Yokohama, she examined how markets function in the immediate aftermath of major disasters.

Panel Sessions, Podium Discussions, Poster Exhibition

In total, nine panel sessions and four podium discussions were organised during the Annual Conference. The topics ranged from “Ancient Medicine”, “Changing Conceptions of Knowledge”, “Seascapes and Shipping”, to “Travelling Technologies”. A poster exhibition presented the latest developments of the Heidelberg Research Architecture.
M.A. Transcultural Studies has started

The first round of MA students is being welcomed at the Karl Jaspers Centre

More than 20 students from various countries have enrolled at Heidelberg University for the new M.A. Transcultural Studies. The programme has been initiated by the Cluster and most courses are taught by our professors. The two-year full-time programme is one of the first of its kind. Students can choose among the three study foci “Society, Economy and Governance”, “Knowledge, Belief and Religion”, and “Visual, Media and Material Culture”.

Next Round of Graduate Programme

The third round of the Cluster’s Graduate Programme for Transcultural Studies (GPTS) has begun in early October. Eight doctoral candidates were selected from more than 170 applicants. The new graduates come from various countries including India, China, Russia, the Ukraine and several European countries. The GPTS is chaired by the Cluster's Co-Director Prof. Madeleine Herren-Oesch.

New Collaborative Research Centre led by Markus Hilgert

The German Research Foundation (DFG) has approved to fund a large-scale Collaborative Research Centre on “Material Text Cultures. Materiality and Presence of Writing in Non-Typographic Societies.” It was conceptualised and is led by Prof. Markus Hilgert, who also coordinates a research project at the Cluster. The aim of the new centre is to develop new methodological instruments for interpreting texts from culture historical perspectives. Visit www.materiale-textkulturen.de.

Films on Ritual Dynamics

Seven short films cast a light on a variety of rituals practiced in different historical and contemporary cultures and explain the development of theoretical approaches in the science of rituals. The films were produced by DFG Science TV (www.dfg-science-tv.de/en) in cooperation with the Cluster-affiliated collaborative research center 619 “Ritual Dynamics”.

HRA and IT News

HRA launches Online Portal

“Heidelberg Research Architecture” (HRA) has launched an extensive online portal. It features information about and access to various projects, digital resources and acquired databases. In total, 17 projects, 16 digital resources and 19 acquired databases are presented on the new online portal. HRA is advised by a board of Cluster researchers chaired by Birgit Kellner, Professor of Buddhist Studies.

Film on Lytton Commission

80 years ago, a detonation at the railway in Shenyang gave the pretext for the Japanese invasion of Manchuria. An annotated version of a Japanese film showing investigations by a team of the League of Nations is now available on the HRA portal. Students of Heidelberg University’s History Department, scholars of the Cluster and HRA specialists analyse the film by using the film annotations database pad.ma.

Sharepoint introduced

The Cluster’s IT Department has successfully introduced the latest version of “Sharepoint”. Hundreds of researchers can now use the multi-purpose platform for efficient collaboration and may benefit from its manifold features.

Films on Ritual Dynamics

Visit the new HRA portal at www.hra.uni-hd.de
People

Niels Gutschow wins Fukuoka Arts and Culture Prize 2011

Prof. Niels Gutschow, coordinator of project D4 “Aspects of Authenticity”, has been awarded the Fukuoka Arts and Culture Prize 2011. He is the first German to receive this prestigious prize. It honours an individual’s or a group’s outstanding achievements in preserving and creating the unique and diverse cultures of Asia.

Laurent Pordié at French Centre for Scientific Research

Dr. Laurent Pordié has accepted an offer by the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) in Paris. The coordinator of project C4 "Making India a Global Healthcare Destination" will become a permanent Senior Researcher at the largest fundamental research organisation in Europe.

Roland Wenzlhuemer defended his Habilitation

PD Dr. Roland Wenzlhuemer, leader of junior research group B9 "Information Flows" and project B17 "The Nation State and Beyond", successfully passed the habilitation process in Modern History. The title of his habilitation thesis is “Transforming Global Spaces: The Telegraph, Communication and Globalization in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century”.

Eliane Ettmüller completed her PhD as first graduate

Eliane Ettmüller is the Cluster’s first Ph.D. student to complete her PhD. She is a member of project B1 “Asian Satire” and wrote her thesis on satirical writing from Egypt.

Bosch Foundation hires Oliver Radtke

Oliver Radtke has been appointed Project Manager for China by the “Robert Bosch Stiftung”. He was a student of the Cluster’s Graduate Programme for Transcultural Studies.

Careers Service

United Nations in Geneva

The United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) has invited two of the Cluster’s doctoral students. Eleonor Marcussen of project A6 “Cultures of Disasters” and Yujie Zhu of the Graduate Programme will be interns at UNOG from November 2011 to January 2012. The joint internship programme is chaired by the Cluster’s Co-Director Prof. Madeleine Herren-Oesch.

University of Chicago

The Cluster welcomed applications for two student lectureships at the University of Chicago, USA. The student lectureships are open to advanced graduate students of the Cluster wishing to acquire teaching experience in a field broadly related to the discipline of history.

Kanagawa University, Japan

Doctoral student Sonja Hotwagner of project B1 “Satire” was granted a research fellowship at Kanagawa University, Japan. She is the first selected student of the short-term exchange programme between the Cluster and the Kanagawa University’s Research Center for Nonwritten Cultural Materials.

University of Cambridge

Ronald Chung-Yam Po from project C12 “The Asian Sea” was awarded an Erasmus scholarship for two semesters at Cambridge University. He will attend selected seminars at the Department of East Asian Studies.
People

Heinrich Zimmer Chair for Heeraman Tiwari

Prof. Heeraman Tiwari is the second holder of the Heinrich Zimmer Chair for Indian Philosophy and Intellectual History. His main areas of research are Indian Philosophy of Language and India’s Intellectual History.

The Heinrich Zimmer Chair is awarded by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and is jointly integrated into the Cluster “Asia and Europe” and the South Asia Institute of Heidelberg University.

“Enlightenment in Dialogue” with Rudolf G. Wagner

The Cluster’s Co-Director Prof. Rudolf G. Wagner was one of the key speakers in the lecture series “Enlightenment in Dialogue” at the National Museum of China. The lecture series runs from spring 2011 to spring 2012. It provides an academic accompaniment to the exhibition “The Art of the Enlightenment” which attracts a lot of attention in both China and Western Europe.

Keynote Lecture by Joachim Kurtz

Cluster Professor Joachim Kurtz gave the keynote lecture at the 13th International Conference on the History of Science in East Asia. In his lecture, Prof. Kurtz focused on “De-modernizing Chinese Logic” which is one of his main research fields. The conference took place from July 25-29 in Hefei, China, and was organised by the International Society for the History of East Asian Science, Technology, and Medicine.

Administrative Staff

Dr. Alexandra Heidle is the Cluster’s new Scientific Project Manager. In July 2011 she succeeded Dr. Brigitte Merz, who now manages the Max-Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin. Previously, Dr. Heidle was Managing Director of the Collaborative Research Centre 619 “Ritual Dynamics” which is affiliated with the Cluster.

Patrick Zerner started to work as a consultant in the Finance Office in October. He succeeds Mariko Shimazu, who received a position at the United Nations University in Bonn.

Björn-Ole Kamm became Coordinator of research area C “Health & Environment” as successor of Charlotte Kroll. He is also pursuing his PhD at the Cluster, supervised by Prof. Harald Fuess.

Christoph Bertolo and Anne Scheuing have formed the Cluster’s film team which produces films about Cluster members and their research.

Selected Activities

Antje Flüchter

Dr. Antje Flüchter, Leader of Junior Research Group A9 “Cultural Transfer”, was one of the key speakers at the conference “Handling Diversity. Medieval Europe and India in Comparison (13th-17th Centuries CE)” which took place in Berlin from September 9 to 11.

Monica Juneja

Monica Juneja, Professor of Global Art History, held lectures in Salzburg, Leeds, and Berlin. The Cluster Professor of Global Art History spoke at the Salzburg International Summer Academy of Fine Arts, the School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies at the University of Leeds, and at the “Akademientag 2011” of the Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities in Berlin.

Christiane Brosius

Christiane Brosius, Professor of Visual and Media Anthropology, took part in a dialogue with installation artist Koken Ergun at the international photo festival “The Eye is a Lonely Hunter” in Mannheim on October 11, 2011. Dr. Brosius and Koken Ergun discussed the themes of Ergun’s artistic work.

Harald Fuess

Harald Fuess, Professor of Cultural Economic History, gave his inaugural lecture on July 13. He spoke on cultural transfer of consumption and capitalism to Japan.
Publications

“Transcultural Turbulences” opens Book Series

The proceedings of the 2009 Annual Conference “Flows of Images and Media” are now available in print. “Transcultural Turbulences - Towards a Multi-Sited Reading of Image Flows” was edited by Prof. Christiane Brosius and PD Dr. Roland Wenzlhuemer, who also organised the 2009 Annual Conference.

The book is the first volume in the Cluster's book series “Transcultural Research – Heidelberg Studies on Asia and Europe in a Global Context”. The series is published by the publishing company Springer and edited by the Cluster’s Directorate and the Publication Office.

New Book by Philipp Stockhammer on Hybridization

The historicity of transcultural flows and concepts of hybridization are the topic of a new book edited by Dr. Philipp W. Stockhammer, former member of project D2 “Materiality and Practice”. “Conceptualizing Cultural Hybridization. A Transdisciplinary Approach” was published in 2011 by Springer and is part of the Cluster's book series “Transcultural Research. Heidelberg Studies on Asia and Europe in a Global Context”.

New book by Project D1 on Historicizing Violence

“Historicizing the ‘Beyond’: The Mongolian Invasion as a New Dimension of Violence?” is a new book by project D1 “Historicizing Violence”. It was edited by Frank Krämer, Katharina Schmidt, and Julika Singer, and released in July 2011 by Universitätsverlag Winter. It is the first book of the new book series “Heidelberg Transcultural Studies” initiated by Prof. Susanne Enderwitz, Prof. Melanie Trede and Prof. Stefan Weinfurter.

Book by Hans Harder on Satire in Colonial Bengal

Prof. Hans Harder’s new book “Verkehrte Welten: Bengalishe Satiren aus dem Kolonialen Kalkutta” was published by “Draupadi Verlag”. The publication explores how Bengali writers used satirical modes of writing to voice alternative views on British-ruled Bengal. Prof. Hans Harder coordinates projects B1 “Satire” and B13 “Tamil-Speaking Muslims”.

Issue of Revue d’Anthropologie by Laurent Pordié

An issue of the Revue d’Anthropologie des Connaissances titled “Asian Therapeutic Knowledge and Globalisation” was edited by Dr. Laurent Pordié of project C4 “Making India a Global Healthcare Destination”.

New Films

Barbara Mittler

A film portrait presents Prof. Barbara Mittler and her research on Chinese propaganda art in the 20th century. Prof. Mittler is Speaker of the Cluster’s Research Area B “Public Spheres” and Director of the Institute of Sinology.

Roland Wenzlhuemer

A film portrait introduces PD Dr. Roland Wenzlhuemer and his research on telecommunications and globalisation in the 19th century. He is the leader of junior research group B9 “Information Flows” and B17 “The nation State and Beyond”.

Caricature Workshop in Egypt

A film about Caricatures and Satire in Egypt was shot during a scientific workshop held in March 2011. The workshop was organised by members of project B1 “Satire” in collaboration with Fayoum Art Center.

Further Films

Visit www.asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de/en/films
New Issue of the E-Journal “Transcultural Studies”

The second issue of the Cluster’s E-journal “Transcultural Studies” is available online. It features articles by Rudolf G. Wagner, Hiroyuki Suzuki, Atsushi Shibasaki, as well as a themed section on “Byzantium Beyond its Eastern Borders”. “Transcultural Studies” can be found at www.transculturalstudies.org

New Book by Joachim Kurtz on Chinese Logic

Prof. Joachim Kurtz’s most recent publication “The Discovery of Chinese Logic” offers a new perspective on the formation of modern academic discourses in East Asia. Released in 2011, the book is the inaugural volume in Brill’s series “Modern Chinese Philosophy”.

Susan Richter on Heidelberg’s First Female Professor

Dr. Susan Richter and her junior research group “A4 Bureaucracies” have compiled the book “Zwischen allen Welten - Die Lebenserinnerungen der ersten Heidelberger Professorin Gerta von Ubisch”. Published in July 2011 by Jan Thorbecke Verlag, the book takes a close look at the life of the first female professor at Heidelberg University.

Selection of Further Publications

- Moser, Heike; Brückner, Heidrun; de Bruin, Hanne (eds.). Between Fame and Shame – Performing Women / Women Performers in India. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2011.

Selected Articles


Further Publications

Visit www.asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de/en/publications
Joint Public Lecture by the Cluster Professors

About 260 people attended the joint public lecture by the five professors of the Cluster on May 25. “Where is the border between Asia and Europe?” was the central question of discussion. Prof. Joachim Kurtz, Prof. Harald Fuess, Prof. Birgit Kellner, Prof. Monica Juneja, and Prof. Christiane Brosius gave insights into their respective research fields, ranging from Intellectual History, Cultural Economic History, Buddhist Studies, and Global Art History to Visual and Media Anthropology. The opening speech was given by Prof. Rudolf G. Wagner. Prof. Madeleine Herren-Oesch moderated the discussion.

World Press Photo Exhibition and Stunde der Universität

More than 100 people came to the Karl Jaspers Centre on May 19. In the “Stunde der Universitäet”, talks on the exchange between Asia and Europe were given by Cluster Professor Harald Fuess and Dr. Ananda Samir Chopra, a member of project C3 “Mind and Body”. Subsequently, the “World Press Photo Exhibition” was opened by Prof. Christiane Brosius. It presented Amit Madheshiya’s photo series on travelling cinemas in India which received the “World Press Photo Award”.

Japan Days at Heidelberg University

Heidelberg University organised the “Japan Days” at the end of April. Some of the main events were hosted by the Cluster “Asia and Europe”. Prof. Harald Fuess, Prof. Melanie Trede, Dr. David Mervart and Saikawa Takashi contributed their expertise in different sessions.

Conference “Kulturerbe – Denkmalpflege: transkulturell”

About 100 scholars participated in a conference on transculturality in heritage studies, (global) art history and building conservation, organised by project D12 “Heritage as a Transcultural Concept” (Chair of Global Art History) and the Arbeitskreis für Theorie und Lehre der Denkmalpflege.

Lecture Series

Transcultural Controversies in Global Health

“Transcultural Controversies in Global Health” is the topic of a lecture series organised by Prof. William Sax on behalf of research area C “Health & Environment” during winter term 2011/12. The list of speakers includes Prof. Kalinga Tudor Silva, Prof. Andreas Kruse and Prof. Annelies Wilder-Smith.

Science, Technology and Transcultural Studies

To explore science and technology from the perspective of Transcultural Studies is the aim of a lecture series organised by Dr. Laurent Pordié and Prof. William Sax for research area C “Health & Environment”. The series will continue during the winter term on several Wednesdays from 6 to 8 pm at the Karl Jaspers Centre.

Ancient Medicine

Prof. Stefan Maul and Prof. Joachim Friedrich Quack (C1 “Medical Systems”) organised for research area C “Health & Environment” a lecture series titled “Die Heilkunst des Alten Orients” on ancient medical knowledge. The topic was examined from different interdisciplinary perspectives.

“FILM ABI”

Christiane Brosius and her Chair of Visual and Media Anthropology organised the film series “FILM ABI” in cooperation with the Institute of Ethnology. Three of the four films were made by Cluster affiliates.
Summer School 2011 on “Cultures of Consumption”

More than twenty young scholars from around the globe participated at the Summer School on “Cultures of Consumption between Asia and Europe” held from July 24 to 29, 2011. Prof. Sheldon Garon (Princeton) gave a keynote lecture on savings in the world. The Summer School was organised by Prof. Harald Fuess and Dr. David Mervart.

Summer School in Colloquial Tibetan

The Cluster held its first language summer school in colloquial Tibetan in August. Jonathan Samuels, fellow at the Chair of Buddhist Studies, introduced participants to the Central Tibetan dialect. It was part of a summer school programme at the South Asia Institute organised by Cluster Professor Birgit Kellner and Co-Director Prof. Axel Michaels.

Film Screenings of “Don’t Cut My Head Off”

The documentary film “Don’t Cut My Head Off” produced by project C13 “Environmental Activism” was shown in various European cities such as Rome, Istanbul, London, Stuttgart and Heidelberg.

Selected Workshops

- **London**: “Gender and Transcultural Production: Chinese Women’s Journals in their Global Context, 1900-2000” was the concluding conference of HRA8 “Chinese Women's Magazines” and its partners. It was held in May at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London.
- **Shanghai**: Project B11 “New Urban Imaginaries”, coordinated by Prof. Christiane Brosius and Tina Schilbach, organised a workshop on “Growing up and growing old in Shanghai, Delhi and Tokyo” at the Goethe-Institut Shanghai from September 7-10.
- **Oslo**: Project B14 “Religion on Stage”, coordinated by Prof. Axel Michaels and Prof. William S. Sax, organised a workshop on “Growing up and growing old in Shanghai, Delhi and Tokyo” at the Goethe-Institut Shanghai from September 7-10.
- **Istanbul**: Project B4 “Transcultural Visuality”, coordinated by Prof. Brosius, Prof. Mittler and Prof. Ramaswamy, organised a workshop on “Colours, Images, Materialities” in Istanbul from June 2-5.

Future Events

**Cluster Lecture Series**

“Global Philosophies? Reflections and Challenges between Asia and Europe” is the theme of the Cluster’s lecture series in the winter term. It is organised by Prof. Birgit Kellner and her Chair of Buddhist Studies. The lectures will be held on the following dates from 6 to 8 pm at the Karl Jaspers Centre, room 212.

**October 20, 2011**
Ori Sela (Tel Aviv): “How did Philosophy become Chinese? The Travels of a Category of Knowledge from Europe to Asia”

**November 17, 2011**
Jens Halfwassen (Heidelberg): “Das Absolute als Negativität und/oder als Geist - westliche und buddhistische Perspektiven (Neuplatonismus, Nagarjuna, Yogacara)”

**December 1, 2011**
John Taber (University of New Mexico, USA): “How Should We Read Indian Philosophical Texts?”

**December 15, 2011**
Akeel Bilgrami (Columbia University): “Gandhi and the Philosophical Roots of Violence”

**January 12, 2012**
Parul Dave Mukherji (Delhi): “Performatve Mimesis: A Contemporary Retake on Indian Aesthetics by N. Pushpamala”

**January 26, 2012**
Edward Slingerland (University of British Columbia): “Philosophy and Metaphor: The Case of Early China”

**Online Event Calendar**

Please visit our calendar at [www.asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de/en/events](http://www.asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de/en/events)