Dear colleagues and friends,

It is a pleasure to open this letter with great news: The Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context” succeeded in the final round of the Excellence Initiative and will be able to continue its work for another five years. I would like to use this opportunity to give my most sincere thanks to all our Cluster members, partners, and supporters for their hard work.

As one of the highlights of the last months, this year’s Annual Conference on “Things that connect - pathways of materiality and practice” just came to an end. Scholars from various countries and disciplines discussed in numerous panels and lectures broader theoretical questions related to the study of materiality and practice as well as the latest research results of our scholars.

This year’s Summer School, too, was dedicated to material and visual culture. Students from all around the globe discussed how “Seeing Matter(s)”. You can read more about this and the past interesting months in this newsletter.

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

Best regards,

Prof. Dr. Madeleine Herren-Oesch
Acting Director

Dr. Alexandra Heidle-Chhatwani
Scientific Project Manager
More than 150 scholars from Heidelberg and around the world participated at the Annual Conference on “Things that connect - pathways of materiality and practice” from October 10 to 12, 2012 at the Karl Jasper Centre. The thematic focus of this year’s meeting was the study of materiality and the power it exercises in cultural processes. The conference was organised by Prof. Monica Juneja, Prof. Birgit Kellner and Prof. Diamantis Panagiotopoulos on behalf of Research Area D “Historicities & Heritage” in cooperation with CRC 933 “Material Text Cultures” which is coordinated by Prof. Markus Hilgert.

Keynote Lecture by Neil MacGregor

In the first keynote lecture on October 10, 2012, Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum, approached history through the lens of objects. Focussing on material culture, he unfolded stories on societies, wars, religions, travelling and exchange and showed how the world is structured through things that connect.

Ian Hodder on “From Materiality to Entanglement”

The connection between things and humans was the topic of the conference’s second keynote lecture by Prof. Ian Hodder on October 11, 2012. He explored how webs of human-thing connections are interspersed with reliance, constraints and power and argued that such entanglements can be regarded as the defining characteristic of human history and culture.

Panels, Poster Presentation, and Lecture Concert

In four plenary and nine smaller panels the participants discussed theoretical questions as well as recent results of cutting-edge transcultural research on material culture. Alongside a poster presentation by graduate students, a lecture concert rounded out the manifold programme. The Duo Seidenstrasse combined different musical materialities and identities in one single musical act. A photo gallery is available at www.asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de.
**Humboldt-Foundation honours Patrick Geary**

The Humboldt Foundation honoured Prof. Patrick Geary, a leading American medievalist and member of the Cluster’s Advisory Board, with the “Anneliese Maier Award”. Alongside the official award ceremony on September 13, 2012 at Heidelberg University, the Humboldt-Foundation organised a colloquium for the laureates. Prof. Geary will use the prize to intensify his cooperation with the Cluster as well as with the Department of Medieval Studies at Heidelberg University. Prof. Geary was nominated by Cluster member Prof. Bernd Schneidmüller.

**New Funds for Resources on Chinese Periodicals**

The project “Early Chinese Periodicals Online (ECPO) - Creating a Prototype for an Intelligent Archive” has been awarded 3.000.000 Taiwan-Dollar (about 80.000 Euro). As a result, it will be possible to merge databases on Chinese periodicals developed by the Academia Sinica and by the Cluster. The ECPO project has been initiated by Cluster member Prof. Barbara Mittler in cooperation with Dr. Yu Chien-ming from the Academia Sinica.

**Graduate Programme welcomes Doctoral Students**

The Cluster welcomes eight new doctoral students. After presenting their future projects they have been chosen from more than 170 candidates. They come from various countries such as Singapore, China, Netherland, France and Germany as well as diverse disciplines and will join the Cluster’s Graduate Programme in November 2012. Their research topics range from exploring the Turfan textile collection in Berlin or Tibetan indigenous grammar to analyzing the perception and state strategies towards natural hazards and disasters in late imperial China. The Cluster’s Graduate Programme for Transcultural Studies is coordinated by Prof. Madeleine Herren-Oesch, followed by Prof. Harald Fuess in November 2012.

**Short News**

**Student Lectureships**

The Cluster welcomes applications for the Heidelberg Prize Lectureships. The two lectureships enable graduate students to acquire teaching experience in a field broadly related to the discipline of history at the University of Chicago.

**Internship at UNOG**

Graduate students can submit their application for two internships at the United Nations Office in Geneva. They are intended to provide a better understanding of international affairs. The programme has been initiated by Prof. Madeleine Herren-Oesch.

**HRA Presentation**

Members of the Heidelberg Research Architecture presented posters at the Digital Humanities Conference in July 2012. The world’s largest conference on Digital Humanities took place from July 16 to 22, 2012 at the University of Hamburg.

**Japanese Delegation**

Members from the Global Centre of Excellence at Tohoku University visited the Karl Jaspers Centre on June 25, 2012. The delegation signed the contract for a new cross-national doctoral programme between Heidelberg University and its partner university in Sendai.
Inaugural Lecture by Christiane Brosius

About 260 participants came to the inaugural lecture by Prof. Christiane Brosius on July 4, 2012 in the Old Auditorium of Heidelberg University. The Professor for Visual and Media Anthropology at the Cluster spoke about field research in rural areas, mega cities and in transit from a transregional perspective.

Heisenberg Fellowship for Roland Wenzlhuemer

Cluster member PD Dr. Roland Wenzlhuemer has been awarded a Heisenberg Fellowship by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Attached to the Department of History at Heidelberg University, he will continue his work on the history of telegraphy and begin a new research project on ship passages in the long nineteenth century.

Humboldt Fellowship for Martin Dusinberre

Dr. Martin Dusinberre, member of the Chair of Cultural Economic History, has been awarded with a research fellowship by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. He will use this scholarship to research Japan’s engagement with the world in the late 19th-century.

Emmy Noether Fellowship for Johannes Quack

Cluster member Dr. Johannes Quack has been awarded with the Emmy Noether Fellowship by the German Research Foundation (DFG). He receives the funding to lead an independent junior research group on the topic “diversity of non-religiousity”.

Integration Medal for Filmmaker Philipp Kohl

Former Cluster member Philipp Kohl will be awarded with the Medal for Efforts in Integration by the German Federal Government for his documentary “Transnationalmannschaft”. He was involved in research project B11 “New urban imaginaries” which is coordinated by Prof. Christiane Brosius.

Positions & Awards

Somnath Batabyal

Postdoctoral researcher Somnath Batabyal from project C13 “Environmental Activism” has been appointed as Lecturer for Media in Development at the Centre for Media and Film Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London.

Cora Jungbluth

Cora Jungbluth, former researcher in project B12 “Trends”, has become project manager at the Bertelsmann Foundation. She works for the project “Gemeinsamen Fortschritt fördern” with a focus on Asia and Europe.

Michael Falser

Post-doctoral researcher Dr. Michael Falser has been awarded a scholarship by the Gerda-Henkel-Foundation to research at the German Forum for Art History in Paris.

Ulrike Büchsel, I-Wei Wu

Ulrike Büchsel and I-Wei Wu, both former doctoral students at the Cluster, have been awarded with a fellowship by the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation in support of the final year of their dissertation.

Elena Welscher

The Department for Art History at Heidelberg University awarded the “Semesterpreis Magister” to Research Area Coordinator Elena Welscher.
Publications

New Books in the Cluster’s Book Series

“Transcultural History: Theories, Methods, Sources” is a new book by Prof. Madeleine Herren-Oesch, Martin Rüesch and Christiane Sibille. Focusing on a transcultural history, this book questions the territoriality of historical concepts and offers a narrative which aims to overcome cultural essentialism by focusing on crossing borders of all kinds. It has been published in the Cluster’s book series “Transcultural Research - Heidelberg Studies on Asia and Europe in a Global Context”.

“Structures on the Move. Technologies of Governance in Transcultural Encounter” is another new book in the Cluster’s book series. It has been edited by PD Dr. Antje Flüchter and Dr. Susan Richter. Although statehood and governance are highly discussed topics, modern state building is still often considered to be a genuinely European characteristic. The articles collected in this book discuss how strategies of governance were part of transcultural transfers between Asia and Europe.

New Issue of the E-Journal ”Transcultural Studies”

The new issue of the e-journal “Transcultural Studies” is available. It features articles by Dr. Philipp W. Stockhammer, Derya Bayır and Dr. Prakash Shah, PD Dr. Roland Wenzlhuemer and Michael Offermann as well as contributions to the series on multi-centred modernisms by Shukla Sawant and Dr. Christine Guth: www.transculturalstudies.org.

Books by Subrata Mitra on Citizenship and Re-Use


Book on Intercultural Discourse

Prof. Gita Dharampal-Frick, co-coordinator of four research projects at the Cluster, has co-edited a new book on intercultural discourse. The volume is designed as an introductory work and discusses key terms and contested concepts from the field of interculturality.

Monica Juneja edits Art Journal Issue

The latest issue of the “Kritische Berichte. Zeitschrift für Kunst- und Kulturwissenschaften 2012” was co-edited by Cluster Professor Monica Juneja. The issues’ ten contributions discuss whether art history can become a “universal” or a “global” discipline.

Further Publications

Contemporary Chinese Art

“Negotiating Difference: Contemporary Chinese Art in the Global Context” is a book edited by Franziska Koch, Birgit Hopfener, Jeong-hee Lee-Kalisch and Juliane Noth. It explores the transcultural entanglements in contemporary Chinese art and its practices.

Japan’s News Agency

“Japan’s News Propaganda and Reuters’ News Empire in Northeast Asia, 1870-1934” is a new book by Dr. Tomoko Akami, former visiting professor at the Cluster’s A3 “Networking” project.

Purity and Impurity

Dr. Udo Simon and Dr. Petra Rösch edited the new book “How Purity is Made”. The volume discusses purity and impurity by looking at the dimensions of action, conception, representation, experience and internalisation.

Citizenship and Identity

GPTS student Lion König co-edited the book “The Politics of Citizenship, Identity and the State in South Asia” with Anja Kluge and Harihar Bhattacharyya. It is the first study to consider citizenship as right, entitlement, identity, and a legitimating principle for both state and society.

Online Bibliography

Visit www.asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de/en/publication
Events

“Seeing Matter(s)”: Summer School 2012

Young scholars from various countries and disciplines participated at the Cluster’s Summer School “Seeing Matter(s): Materiality and Visuality” from July 29 to August 4, 2012, at the Karl Jaspers Centre. Together, they explored the role of visual and material culture in the context of transcultural exchange processes between Asia and Europe. The Summer School 2012 was organised by Prof. Christiane Brosius together with Prof. Barbara Mittler and Prof. Sumathi Ramaswamy.

Workshop on the Culture of Stress

“The Culture of Stress” was the topic of a workshop on May 22 and 23 at the Karl Jaspers Centre. It was organised by project C5 “Stress and Stress Relief”. The workshop addressed “stress” in Western and Non-Western countries. It combined epidemiological research on “stress” with anthropological and historical approaches. In addition to the conference, the picture series “Visualising Stress Effects” was shown in an exhibition from May 22 to June 19, 2012 at the Karl Jaspers Centre.

Conference on "The Asia-Pacific Maritime World"

The nature of maritime connections between the Pacific world and the East Asian Mediterranean during the 19th century was discussed at the conference “The Asia-Pacific Maritime World: Connected Histories in the Age of Empire”. It was held at the Karl Jaspers Centre from July 6 to 8, 2012. The conference was organised by members of research project C12 “The Asian Sea”.

Conference on Mind and Body

“Asymmetrical Translations - Mind and Body in European and Indian Medicine” is the title of a conference that was held from June 26 to 28 at Internationales Wissenschaftsforum Heidelberg (IWH). It was organised by research project C3 “Mind and Body”. The conference looked at both European and Asian healing systems and the flows of ideas and practices within and amongst those systems.

Further Events

Reading Japanese Texts

Students from all around the globe participated at the Summer School “Reading Pre-Modern Japanese Texts” at the Karl Jaspers Centre from September 11 to 19, 2012. The Summer School’s aim was to facilitate the work with primary sources. It was organised by Dr. Anna Andreeva and Dr. David Mervart.

Exhibition on Newars

Architectural drawings by the Newar people were presented in an exhibition on “Architecture and Ritual” at Heidelberg’s Museum of Ethnology from June 21, 2012 on. The drawings are part of the extensive collection of Cluster member Prof. Niels Gutschow. The Cluster was one of the main supporters of the exhibition.

SAI’s Week of Celebration

From May 8 to 12, 2012, the South Asia Institute (SAI) invited to a “Week of Celebration” on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. In addition, current and historical developments in South Asia were discussed in 50 daily lectures. Titled “Academic Lunch Break” they took place from April 19 to July 27, 2012 in the Peterskirche in Heidelberg.

Online Event Calendar

Visit www.asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de/en/events
**Lecture Series on Imaging Disaster**

"Imaging Disaster" was the topic of the Cluster's lecture series during the summer term 2012. The lecture series was a cooperative enterprise between Heidelberg University and the University of Darmstadt. It was organised by Prof. Monica Juneja and Prof. Gerrit Jasper Schenk. The series has been designed as a preparatory exercise for an exhibition on Imaging Disasters planned for 2014 at the Reiss-Engelhorn Museum in Mannheim.

**Buddhism and the Dynamics of Transculturality**

"Buddhism and the Dynamics of Transculturality" was the title of a conference from June 11 to 13, 2012 at the Internationales Wissenschaftsforum Heidelberg (IWH). The conference was organised by the Cluster Professorship Buddhist Studies (Prof. Birgit Kellner). With this conference the organisers aimed to initiate a more sustained reflection on Buddhism and the dynamics of transculturality.

**Conference on Transcultural Statehood**

The history of the state and the process of state-building were the topics of an international conference at the Karl Jaspers Centre from May 10 to 12, 2012. The conference “Entanglement of Histories, Circulation of Knowledge, and Transfer of Technologies: Dimensions of Transcultural Statehood? (1500 – 1900)” was organised by project A9 “Cultural Transfer” which is coordinated by PD Dr. Antje Flüchter.

**Conference on Politics in the Indian Ocean**

Dr. Jivanta Schöttli, Associate Member of the Cluster “Asia and Europe”, organised an international symposium on “Power, Politics and Maritime Governance in the Indian Ocean”. It was held from July 2 to 4, 2012 at the Internationales Wissenschaftsforum Heidelberg (IWH). The symposium addressed crucial trade interests, untapped energy resources and mounting security concerns that are propelling countries to rethink their strategies in the Indian Ocean.

**Save the Date**

**Images of Disasters**

“Atlantis bis Fukushima. Vom menschlichen Umgang mit Katastrophen” is the title of an exhibition organized by research project D17 “Images of Disasters” from September 07, 2014 to March 04, 2015 in the Reiss-Engelhorn Museen in Mannheim.

The exhibition will illustrate how humans deal with catastrophic events through culturally formed patterns of action and collective ways of coping. It will cover catastrophes from different times and all over the world, ranging from the myth of the flooded city of Atlantis to the 2011 triple disaster in Fukushima, Japan.

Research project D17 “Images of Disasters” critically examines transcultural images of natural disasters. It is coordinated by Prof. Monica Juneja and Prof. Gerrit Jasper Schenk.

**Opening Hours**

September 7, 2014 to March 4, 2015
Tuesday to Sunday
11 am to 6 pm

**Venue and Address**

Reiss-Engelhorn-Museen
Museum Weltkulturen
D5, 68159 Mannheim
www.rem-mannheim.de
Success in the Excellence Initiative

We are delighted that the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context” will be able to continue its work for another five years. On June 15, 2012 the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) and the German Council of Science and Humanities (Wissenschaftsrat) announced the decisions for the final round of the Excellence Initiative. Our Cluster is among those institutions that were successful in this challenging competition.

Second Funding Period begins in November 2012

In the second funding period, the Cluster will continue its work in the four research areas and the five established professorships. Moving on from locating asymmetries and documenting cultural flows, the projects will now strive to refine our ability to understand the inventory of transcultural interactions and develop an adequate language to capture their dynamics. Alongside these changes, research area C will be renamed to “Knowledge Systems”. New projects within and across the research areas will be initiated by fifteen Mini-Clusters which will cover a wide range of topics as well as methodological approaches.

Perspectives for Young Scholars

Four Independent Research Groups (IRG) will be established in each of the research areas. Their role will be to further develop the Cluster’s research potential as well as open career paths for PhD and post-doctoral researchers. One of the IRG will be situated in “Islamic Studies” to analyze religious aspects of exchanges across cultural, geographic, linguistic and media borders. In addition, start-up professorships will be set up for promising young scholars.

Permanent Teaching in Heidelberg

The Cluster’s Graduate Programme and the M.A. Transcultural Studies will be continued. The same holds for the Heidelberg Research Architecture (HRA). Institutionally, many of the programmes and scholars of the temporary Cluster will most likely become part of a permanent institute at Heidelberg University. The Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies is expected to be founded within the next months.

New Speakers

Directorate
Prof. Madeleine Herren-Oesch, Prof. Axel Michaels, Prof. Barbara Mittler

Steering Committee
Prof. Monica Juneja, Prof. Thomas Maissen, PD Dr. Antje Flüchter, Cluster’s Acting Director, Scientific Project Manager

Research Area A “Governance & Administration”
Prof. Thomas Maissen (Speaker), Prof. Harald Fuess. Dr. Susan Richter (Deputies)

Research Area B “Public Spheres”
Prof. Christiane Brosius (Speaker), Prof. Melanie Trede, Prof. Hans Harder (Deputies)

Research Area C “Knowledge Systems”
Prof. Joachim Kurtz (Speaker), Prof. William S. Sax, Prof. Joachim Friedrich Quack (Deputies)

Research Area D “Historicities & Heritage”
Prof. Monica Juneja (Speaker), Prof. Diamantis Panagiotopoulos, Prof. Birgit Kellner (Deputies)

Career Opportunities

Several Mini-Clusters and Research Projects such as MC4 “Frames and Framing” and MC5 “Global Concepts” offer postdoctoral positions and PhD scholarships. More information is available at www.asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de.