Dear colleagues and friends,

It is a pleasure to inform you of good news: Initiated by the Cluster, an M.A. Programme in Transcultural Studies is presently being introduced at Heidelberg University. We also look forward to welcoming students from all over the world to our Summer School in July. Another highlight will be the joint public lecture by our five Cluster professors on May 25, 2011, in the Alte Aula to which we gladly invite you.

The past months were very exciting as well. A number of conferences were organised at the Karl Jaspers Centre and around the globe. Research project B1 “Satire”, for example, held an international workshop on the power of caricatures in Egypt. In addition, the Cluster introduced Tibetan as a new language taught at Heidelberg University.

Moreover, we are delighted for Prof. Joachim Quack who was awarded the prestigious Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize and for Amit Madheshiya who won the World Press Photo Award. His pictures of a screening at a travelling cinema in India will be exhibited on May 19 at the Karl Jaspers Centre and subsequently for two weeks in the city hall of Heidelberg.

On the following pages, you will find further news, publications and reviews and announcements of events. Please visit our website at www.asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de for additional information.

We wish you an interesting read and a pleasant summer.

Best regards

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**Master Programme in Transcultural Studies**

Initiated by the Cluster, a Master Programme in Transcultural Studies is introduced at Heidelberg University. The two year programme commences in autumn 2011. Students can choose to focus on the area “Society, Economy and Governance”, “Visual, Media and Material Culture” or on “Knowledge, Belief and Religion”. Most courses will be given by our five Cluster professors. Applicants must hold a B.A. in the humanities or social sciences with above average grades. Furthermore, language proficiency in English and two other languages is required.

**Tibetan Language Teaching at Heidelberg University**

The Cluster has introduced Tibetan as a new language taught at Heidelberg University, thereby closing a gap in the broad coverage of languages already being offered at the Centre for East Asian Studies and the South Asia Institute. Jonathan Samuels, the lecturer, is associated with the Chair of Buddhist Studies, held by Prof. Birgit Kellner.

**Launch of Database on International Organisations**

Research Project A3 “Networking the International System” launched a new database. “The League of Nations Search Engine” provides information about international organisations, their members, activities, meetings and publications. The launch took place in context of an international conference on “Networks in Times of Transition”. The research project is coordinated by Prof. Madeleine Herren-Oesch.

**Scholarships for Doctoral Researchers**

The Cluster’s Graduate Programme for Transcultural Studies awards doctoral scholarships to outstanding graduate students. It offers a monthly grant of 1.000 Euro, advanced courses and individual supervision. Half of the scholarships are reserved for students from Asia. The successful candidates will be announced at the end of June.

**Short News**

**Steering Committee**

New Speaker of Research Area A “Governance & Administration” is Prof. Thomas Maissen. Prof. Joachim Kurtz and Dr. Susan Richter were elected as the First and Second Deputy Speaker. Prof. Diamantis Panagiotopoulos was elected to the position of First Deputy Speaker of Research Area D “Historicities & Heritage”.

**Science without Borders**

Scientific Project Manager Dr. Brigitte Merz presented the Cluster’s research and Graduate Programme for Transcultural Studies at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington D.C., USA.

**Final Project Report**

Prof. Subrata K. Mitra, coordinator of project A1 “Citizenship”, submitted six volumes presenting the work of the project during the past two years.

**Extensive Media Coverage**

A number of mass media interviewed Prof. Harald Fuess and Prof. Gerrit Jasper Schenk in connection with the disasters in Japan, including dpa, dapd, Die Welt, Die Zeit, Sonntagszeitung, SWR, NDR Inforadio, Deutschlandfunk, Saarländischer Rundfunk, ARD, ZDF, 3-Sat, N-TV, Phoenix, ARTE, SWR TV, Spiegel Online, Stern.de, Focus.de, Sueddeutsche.de, DW-World.de (en, pt), etc.
People

World Press Photo Award for Amit Madheshiya

Amit Madheshiya won the World Press Photo Award in the category “Arts and Entertainment/Stories” with a series of twelve pictures of a “Night Screening at Travelling Cinema” in India. The award is the most prestigious and coveted award in professional photojournalism. Amit Madheshiya is a fellow of HRA9 “Satellites of Networks” as well as of the Cluster-affiliated Tasveer Ghar project, which are both coordinated by Prof. Christiane Brosius.

Joachim Friedrich Quack receives the Leibniz Prize

Prof. Joachim Friedrich Quack, coordinator of the projects C1 “Medical Systems” and D7 “Oriental Cults”, was awarded the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize in Berlin on March 16, 2011. Endowed with 2.5 million Euros, the highest German research prize aims to enhance the working conditions of outstanding researchers. Prof. Quack received the prize as one of the “world’s most eminent Egyptologists from Germany”.

Ruprecht Karls Prize for Huang Xuelei

Huang Xuelei, member of project B12 “Rethinking Trends”, has won the Ruprecht Karls Prize. She receives the award for her outstanding dissertation titled “Commercializing Ideologies: Intellectuals and Cultural Production at the Mingxing (Star) Motion Picture Company, 1922-1938”. The Ph.D. thesis was supervised by Prof. Barbara Mittler.

Farewell Lecture by Professor Saurma

Prof. Lieselotte E. Saurma gave her farewell lecture at the Neue Universität on February 3, 2011. She worked at the Ruperto Carola since 1995, holding the Chair for Medieval Art History. At the Cluster, she coordinated the research project D3 “Images of Alterity”.

Further Achievements

Marsilius Fellow

Prof. Sven Barnow, coordinator of project C7 “How Universal is Depression?”, has been appointed as a fellow of the Marsilius Kolleg for the year 2011-2012.

Best Book in Slavic Linguistics

Prof. Jadranka Gvozdanovic's publication “Celtic and Slavic and the Great Migrations: Reconstructing Linguistic Prehistory” has been honoured as the “Best Contribution to Slavic Linguistics” in 2009 and 2010.

Best Book in Taiwan

GPTS student Wu I-Wei wrote one of the best books in Taiwan in the year 2010, according to the China Times. The book describes his family’s laborious life during the Taiwan Economic Miracle.

Memorial Lecture in Yale

Prof. Rudolf G. Wagner gave the 51th Annual Edward H. Hume Memorial Lecture in Yale. He talked about the migration of metaphors and their visualized forms across languages and cultures.

Cluster Film Crew

Christoph Bertolo and Anne Scheuing form the Cluster’s new film crew. Most recently, film portraits of Prof. Barbara Mittler and Dr. Philipp W. Stockhammer became available. The portrait series was initiated and realised by Prof. Christiane Brosius.
Cluster launches E-Journal “Transcultural Studies”

The Cluster launched its new, biannual, peer-reviewed, open-source e-journal “Transcultural Studies” in December 2010. It can be found at www.transculturalstudies.org. The inaugural volume contains articles by Arjun Appadurai, Douglas Howland, Monica Juneja, Gennifer Weisenfeld, James Elkins, and Franziska Koch. Also the first article in the next issue is already online: Rudolf G. Wagner writes about metaphors such as “China asleep/China awakened”.

Selected Articles


Further Publications

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

Hohenstaufen-Exhibition attracts 235.000 Visitors

More than 235,000 visitors came to see the exhibition “The Hohenstaufen dynasty and Italy” in the Reiss Engelhorn Museums in Mannheim from September until February. It was arranged by scholars including the Cluster members Prof. Stefan Weinfurter and Prof. Bernd Schneidmüller.

Cluster Lecture Series on Global Concepts

The podium discussions of the lecture series on “Global Concepts? Keywords and Their Histories in Asia and Europe” in the winter term 2010/11 were attended by up to 170 participants. It was organised by Prof. Monica Juneja, Prof. Joachim Kurtz, and Dr. Susan Richter.

Spring School in London on Global History

In mid-April, the two Junior Research Groups A9 “Cultural Transfer” and B9 “Information Flows” organised a spring school on “Global History: Connected Histories or a History of Connections?” together with the University of Leipzig and the German Historical Institute London.

Workshop in Egypt on Caricatures

Research project B1 “Satire”, coordinated by Prof. Hans Harder, held an international workshop on “The Power of the Image - Caricatures as Transcultural Media of Political and Social Propaganda” in Egypt from March 24 to 26, 2011. It was organised by Eliane Ettmüller.

Workshop in New Delhi on Historical Disasters

Junior Research Group A6 “Cultures of Disaster”, coordinated by Prof. Gerrit Jasper Schenk, organised an international workshop on “The Transculturality of Historical Disasters”. It took place from March 3 to 5, 2011, at the Max Mueller Bhavan in New Delhi, India.

Selected Conferences

Ancient Greece and the East
Project D6 “Antithesis East-West” held a conference on “The Antithesis Revisited: Different perspectives on Greece and the East, 6th to 1st century BC” in February. It was organised by Dr. Björn Paarmann and Dr. Nicolas Zenzen.

Labour, Violence, and Stress
Project C5 “Stress and Stress-Relief” organised a workshop on “Industrial Labour, Violence and Stress” in December. It was organised by Dr. Christian Strümpell and Dr. Adrian Loerbroks.

Environmental Activism
Project C13 “Environmental Activism” held a conference on “Environmental Activism in a Globalised World” in December at the Jamia Millia Islamia University in New Delhi, India. It was convened by Dr. Somnath Batabyal.

Asian Border Towns
Project B10 “Harbin”, coordinated by Dr. Frank Grüner, organised a conference on “Daily Life and Urban Spaces in Northeast Asian Border Towns” in November.

Feminine in Asian Religions
Dr. Anna Andreeva and Dr. Dominic Steavu organised a symposium on “Imagining the Feminine in East Asian Religions and Medicine” in November.
Upcoming Events

Joint Public Lecture by the Cluster Professors

On the occasion of the 625th anniversary of Heidelberg University, Prof. Christiane Brosius, Prof. Harald Fuess, Prof. Monica Juneja, Prof. Birgit Kellner and Prof. Joachim Kurtz will give a joint public lecture on “Where is the border between Asia and Europe?” on May 25 in the Alte Aula.

625 Years Ruperto Carola: “Stunde der Universität”

On May 19, the Cluster invites the public into the Karl Jaspers Center. Prof. Harald Fuess and Dr. med. Ananda Samir Chopra will give lectures on cultural flows between Asia and Europe. Subsequently, the exhibition of the World Press Photos Series by Amit Madheshiya will be opened.

Summer School on Cultures of Consumption

“Cultures of Consumption in Asia and Europe” is the topic of this year’s Summer School held from July 24 to 29, 2011. The programme combines lectures by renowned scholars with interactive seminars and workshops. It is organised by Prof. Harald Fuess.

Selection of further Events during the Summer Term

- May 4, 6-8 pm, in room 212: Lecture by Prof. em. Ronald Inden on “Images of Paradise in Popular American and Indian Films”, organised by the Cluster Professorship Global Art History.
- June 9, 6-8 pm, in room 212: Lecture by Prof. Michel Hockx on “Moving Targets: The Travelling Poems of Wu Xinghua (1921-1966)”, organised by project B12 “Rethinking Trends”.
- June 23-26 in Olso: Conference on “South Asian Festivals on the Move”, organised by project B14 “Religion on Stage”.

Lecture Series

General Information

“Science, Technology and Transcultural Studies” is the topic of the lecture series in the summer term 2011. It is organised by Dr. Laurent Pordié and Prof. Wiliam S. Sax for Research Area C “Health & Environment”.

Programme

April 27, 6 to 8 pm, Room 212
Prof. Judith Farquhar (University of Chicago): “Culture Recast as Information: Emergent Ethnic Medicines in China”.

May 5, 6 to 8 pm, Room 212
Prof. Raji C. Steineck (University of Zurich): “Bioethics and medicine in modern Japan: National developments and transnational interactions”.

May 18, 6 to 8 pm, Room 212
Prof. Vincanne Adams (UC San Francisco): “Evidence of the Tibetan Body: Making the Subtle Winds Visible in an Evidence Economy”.

June 15, 6 to 8 pm, Room 212
Prof. Shigehisa Kuriyama (Harvard University): “Toward a History of Rotting Food”.

June 22, 6 to 8 pm, Room 212
Prof. Arthur Kleinman (Harvard University): “Global Health Priorities for Asia: Local Cultures and the New Implementation Science”.

More on the Website

For further information visit our website at www.asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de