Things that connect –
pathways of materiality and practice
More than 150 scholars from Heidelberg and around the world participated at the Annual Conference 2012. From October 10 to 12, they discussed the theme “Things that connect – pathways of materiality and practice”. The conference was organised by Research Area D “Historicities & Heritage” in cooperation with the Collaborative Research Centre 933 “Material Text Cultures”.

The conference was opened on Wednesday evening with a keynote lecture by Neil MacGregor (London) on “Trajectories of meaning: the shifting power of things”. Another keynote lecture was given on Thursday evening by Prof. Ian Hodder (Stanford) with the title “From Materiality to Entanglement”.

The program of this year’s annual conference also included plenary panels in the morning devoted to broader themes around the subject of the conference, and a number of smaller, parallel afternoon panels. Alongside the panels, a poster presentation and a lecture concert rounded off the manifold program of the Annual Conference 2012.

The 2012 Annual Conference “Things that connect – pathways of materiality and practice” of the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context” 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.
Wednesday, 10 October 2012

KEYNOTE LECTURE I
Neil MacGregor (London): “Trajectories of meaning: the shifting power of things”

Thursday, 11 October 2012

PANEL I – THE OBSTINACY OF THINGS
Chair: Philipp W. Stockhammer
Discussant: Ian Hodder
Speakers: Hans P. Hahn, Philipp W. Stockhammer, Diamantis Panagiotopoulos

PANEL II – MULTIPLE MATERIALITIES: LOCAL, NATIONAL, GLOBAL
Chair: Melanie Trede
Discussant: Monica Juneja
Speakers: Melanie Trede, Hans Thomsen, Terry Millhaupt, Christine Guth

PANEL A (SESSION I) – SOY, GOLD AND OPIUM: CULTURAL DIMENSIONS OF GLOBAL COMMODITIES
Chair: Roland Wenzlhuemer
Speakers: Ines Prodöhl, Bernd-Stefan Grewe, Frank Grüner

PANEL B (SESSION I) – ON THE USE AND RE-USE OF MANUSCRIPTS: MATERIALITY, TEXTUAL PRACTICE AND CHANGING VALUES
Chair: Markus Hilgert
Speakers: Martin Delhey, Vito Lorusso, Birgit Kellner

PANEL C (SESSION I): A EURASIAN STORY ABOUT PUBLIC JUSTICE TOLD BY A DRUM OR A BELL
Chair: Thomas Maissen
Speakers: Monica Juneja, Antje Flüchter, Rudolf G. Wagner

PANEL A (SESSION II) – HOW MATERIAL IS THE IMMATERIAL? SACRED ‘THINGS’ TRANSFERRED
Chair: Udo Simon
Speakers: Peter J. Bräunlein, Udo Simon, Astrid Zotter

PANEL B (SESSION II) – UNVALUED TRANSCULTURALITY. THE HIDDEN PATHWAYS OF PAPER FROM ORIENT TO OCCIDENT IN PREMODERN TIMES
Chair: Antje Flüchter
Discussant: Michael Friedrich
Speakers: Agnieszka Helman-Wazny, Rebecca Sauer, Carla Meyer

PANEL C (SESSION II) – HOW DO WE CONNECT WITH THINGS? CONCEPTS OF MATERIALITY IN MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ARTISTIC PRACTICES ACROSS ASIA, AFRICA AND EUROPE
Chair & Discussant: Gerald Schröder
Speakers: Birgit Hopfener, Franziska Koch
KEYNOTE LECTURE II
Ian Hodder (Stanford): “From materiality to entanglement”

POSTER PRESENTATION
Introduction: Kerstin von Lingen
Young researchers from the Cluster's graduate programme and the Cluster's Digital Humanities division (HRA) together with researchers of the SFB Material Text Cultures present their projects in a poster presentation.

Friday, 12 October 2012

PANEL III – MATERIAL TEXT CULTURES ON THE MOVE
Chair: Diamantis Panagiotopoulos
Speakers: Julia Lougovaya-Ast, Hanna Liss, Ludger Lieb

PANEL IV – MATERIALIZING MESSAGES: METAMORPHOSES AND PLACEMENT OF TEXTS IN EARLY CHINA
Chair: Melanie Trede
Discussant: Oliver Venture
Speakers: Paul Nicholas Vogt, Guo Jue, Enno Giele

PANEL A (SESSION III) – “VOTIVE STUPAS FOR THE (POST-)COLONIAL NATION STATE” – INQUIRIES INTO THE PERFORMATIVE PRACTICES OF CULTURAL HERITAGE
Chair: Christiane Brosius
Speakers: Marieke Bloembergen, Michael Falser

PANEL B (SESSION III) – THINGS THAT CONNECT, DIVIDE AND TRANSFORM: THE MATERIALITY AND PERFORMANCE OF RELIGIOUS CONVERSION IN THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD
Chair: Antje Flüchter
Speakers: Gauri Parasher, Tobias Graf, Manja Quakatz

PANEL C (SESSION III) – BETWEEN UNIFORMITY AND INDIVIDUAL NEEDS. SACRAL ARCHITECTURE AND IMAGERY IN RELIGIONS FROM “THE EAST” AND THE PROCESS OF ITS ADAPTATION IN DIFFERENT REGIONAL CONTEXTS
Chair & Discussant: Christian Witschel
Speakers: Darius Frackowiak, Matthias Aulenbacher, Robert Langer

CONCLUDING ROUNDTABLE
Panelists: Joseph Maran, Sarah Fraser, Aloka Parasher-Sen, Markus Hilgert
Chair: Birgit Kellner

MATERIAL ENCOUNTERS: MUSICAL PRACTICE BETWEEN ASIA AND EUROPE – A LECTURE-CONCERT
Chair: Barbara Mittler
Duo Seidenstrasse: Zhao Chanyuan (Zheng & Vocals), Benjamin Leuschner (Marimbaphone & Percussion)
THINGS THAT CONNECT – OPENING

Opening ceremony of the 2012 Annual Conference at the University's Old Auditorium
Official welcome by Monica Juneja, Speaker of Research Area D “Historicities and Heritage”
Neil MacGregor on “Trajectories of meaning: the shifting power of things”
Participants address keynote speaker Neil MacGregor with questions
Discussions during the reception at the Bel Etage
PANEL I – THE OBSTINACY OF THINGS

Panel I: The Obstinacy of Things

Speakers:
Hans P. Hahn, Philipp W. Stockhammer
Diamantis Panagiotopoulos

Respondent: Ian Hodder

Philipp W. Stockhammer on “Manipulating Things: an Archaeologist’s Perspective”
PANEL I – THE OBSTINACY OF THINGS

Ian Hodder, Diamantis Panagiotopoulos, Hans P. Hahn and Philipp W. Stockhammer during the discussion
PANEL I – THE OBSTINACY OF THINGS

Diamantis Panagiotopoulos on “Material vs. Design”
Melanie Trede on the material transformations of a text
Madeleine Herren-Oesch addresses the panel with a question
Roland Wenzlhuemer chairs the panel on “Soy, gold and opium: Cultural dimensions of global commodities”
Markus Hilgert, Martin Delhey, Vito Lorusso and Birgit Kellner during a panel discussion.
AFTERNOON PANEL SESSIONS

Rebecca Sauer, Michael Friedrich, Carla Meyer and Agnieszka Helman-Wazny during a panel discussion
AFTERNOON PANEL SESSIONS

Participants during a coffee break
THINGS THAT CONNECT – KEYNOTE LECTURE II

Diamantis Panagiotopoulos introduces keynote speaker Ian Hodder
Ian Hodder during his keynote lecture on “From Materiality to Entanglement”
Hodder’s audience at the Karl Jaspers Centre
Participants address keynote speaker Ian Hodder with questions
THINGS THAT CONNECT – KEYNOTE LECTURE II

Joseph Maran in discussion with Ian Hodder
THINGS THAT CONNECT – KEYNOTE II

Monica Juneja introduces the poster presentation
THINGS THAT CONNECT – POSTER PRESENTATION

Kerstin von Lingen talking about the poster presentation of PhD students and the HRA
THINGS THAT CONNECT – POSTER PRESENTATION

PhD students in a discussion of a poster
Conference participants speak about the poster presentation
PANEL III – MATERIAL TEXT CULTURES ON THE MOVE

Julia Lougovaya-Ast on “Writing and Coinage Circulation in Central Asia and Northern India”
Hanna Liss during her talk titled “From Oriental Carpet Pages to Ashkenazic Masora Figurata drawings”
Markus Hilgert in discussion with the panel
Guo Jue on materialized death rituals
Enno Giele, Guo Jue, Paul Nicholas Vogt and Oliver Venture during a podium discussion
Rudolf G. Wagner addresses the panel with a question
Panel C (Session III): Between uniformity and individual needs. Sacral architecture and imagery in the religions from “the East” and the process of its adoption in different regional contexts

Speakers:
Darius Frackowiak, Matthias Aulenbacher, Robert Langer
Chair & Discussant: Christian Witschel

Panel discussion on sacral architecture and imagery in the religions from “the East”
Antje Flüchter chairs the panel on “materiality and performance of religious conversion in the early modern period”
AFTERNOON PANEL SESSIONS

Manja Quakat, Tobias Graf and Gauri Parasher in discussion with the audience
Michael Falser and Marieke Bloembergen speaking on “performative practices of cultural heritage”
CONCLUDING ROUNDTABLE

Markus Hilgert speaks at the concluding roundtable discussion
Sarah Fraser answers a question from the audience in the forum discussion.
Under the theme “Material Encounters: Musical practice between Asia and Europe”, Zhao Chanyun and Benjamin Leuschner from Duo Seidenstraße gave a concert. It was initiated by Barbara Mittler (left).
Participants at the conference
The 2012 Annual Conference “Things that connect – pathways of materiality and practice” of the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context” 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”.

Research Area D “Historicities & Heritage” is one of the four research areas at the Cluster. It focuses on how objects, texts, languages, concepts and spaces have been reconfigured over time in creating entangled histories and memories as well as situating materialities of exchange.

The Collaborative Research Centre “Material Text Cultures” at Heidelberg University is a new project funded by the German Research Foundation. It involves some 80 scientists from over 20 disciplines. They investigate script-bearing artefacts from societies in which the mass production of written material is largely or entirely unknown.

Its speaker is Prof. Markus Hilgert, Professor of Assyriology/ Sumerology at Heidelberg University.

Prof. Monica Juneja is speaker of Research Area D and Professor for Global Art History at the Cluster “Asia and Europe”.

Prof. Diamantis Panagiotopoulos is deputy speaker of Research Area D and Director of the Institute of Classical Archaeology at Heidelberg University.

Prof. Birgit Kellner is deputy speaker of Research Area D and Professor for Buddhist Studies at the Cluster “Asia and Europe”.

More information about the conference can be found at: www.asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de/en/annual-conference-2012
**Press and Public Relations Office**

Cluster of Excellence  
“Asia and Europe in a Global Context”  
Heidelberg University  
Karl Jaspers Centre for Advanced Transcultural Studies  
Voßstr. 2, Building 4400, Room 113  
69115 Heidelberg, Germany

Phone: +49 6221 54 4008  
Fax: +49 6221 54 4012  
E-Mail: press@asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de

**About the Cluster “Asia and Europe”**

The Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context” is an interdisciplinary network of researchers at Heidelberg University. It was founded in October 2007 as part of the Excellence Initiative launched by the German state and its federal governments.

The Cluster of Excellence and its 300 affiliated researchers examine the processes of exchange between cultures, ranging from migration and trade to the formation of concepts and institutions. A central question is in which dynamics the transcultural processes between and within Asia and Europe develop. Scholars from various disciplines explore these complex historical relationships, which are of great relevance to the global transformations of our time.

The Cluster is located at the Karl Jaspers Centre for Advanced Transcultural Studies. Among its partners are Harvard University (United States) and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (India).