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In this second edition of the **SAI** | Newsletter we look back at a variety of activities related to the fiftieth anniversary of the SAI. To make a long story short: it has been a long year full of academic as well as public events. For the Open Day in May visitors flocked into the Institute and were entertained and informed about South Asia -- be it by lectures and readings, dance performances, games or Indian food.

The central celebration culminated in an enlightening lecture by Sheldon Pollock for which the Old Lecture Hall, the most traditional location in Heidelberg, was fully booked.

At the same time, the jubilee was an occasion to reach out: an international conference, entitled "Between Global Aspirations and Local Realities: India's Cities in Interdisciplinary Perspective", was held in New Delhi in March, bringing together all current SAI-chairholders. Similar events were held in Sri Lanka and Nepal, showing the SAI's commitment in the region. Many more events - far too many to be mentioned here - took place and we encourage you to read about these in our newsletter or visit the website which provides even more reports, information and photos (<http://www.sai.uni-heidelberg.de/en/50years/>).

This summer has also been a fortunate one insofar as one of the most important research activities that the SAI is proud to be part of, was evaluated successfully. With the extension of the Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe in Global Context" until the year 2017, the SAI is not only contributing to the lively research community on Campus Bergheim, but also greatly benefitting from the "Cluster". Congratulations from our side, and we are looking forward to foster "the dynamics of transculturality" in the years to come.

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CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE "ASIA AND EUROPE IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT" FUNDING APPROVED FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS



Karl Jaspers Centre for Advanced Transcultural Studies

On June 15th 2012, the Excellence Initiative Grants Committee – the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the German Council of Science and Humanities (Wissenschaftsrat) – approved the funding for the second phase of the excellence initiative. The cluster of excellence is closely connected to the SAI: Numerous SAI scholars – among them the heads of six SAI departments – are able to conduct research and research projects within the cluster, doctoral students pursue their studies there and are at the same time supervised at the SAI. Last but not least, with Prof. Axel Michaels, head of the department for Cultural and Religious History of South Asia (Classical Indology), one of three co-directors of the cluster stems from the SAI. We are happy and proud that this success story continues now until 2017 and congratulate the Cluster of Excellence Asia and Europe for this great success.

SAI DABEI! IN 50 FRAGEN DURCH SÜDASIEN. ACADEMIC LUNCHBREAK TALKS AT PETERSKIRCHE, HEIDELBERG



With a series of short lectures as part of the anniversary program the SAI addressed a general public including working population, students, citizens as well as guests of Heidelberg. From April 19th to July 27th 2012 a total of 67 lectures were held at every working day in the semester. The lectures with a format of 15 minutes presentation each plus 15 minutes Q&A were held at Peterskirche, the University church in the Old Town of Heidelberg. The Peterskirche, that had been beautifully renovated in 2004/05, turned out to be a perfect location. It was reached conveniently by the audience and provided an unforgettable lecture experience for speakers. The series attracted a total audience of approximately 2000 people (or ca. 30 on average) and touched various aspects of South Asia. Contributions stemmed from all seven departments of the SAI plus four associated chairs, among them three from the Cluster of Excellence Asia and Europe. Apart from the current chairholders, contributors included also six retired professors and former members of staff of the SAI who delivered a total of 11 lectures. Furthermore, many contributions to the series came from young researchers, doctoral students as well as assistant professors. As the Q&A part of the lectures showed, the knowledge input provided by the speakers matched the expectations of the audiences and stirred up their imagination for further questions. Lively debates after the lectures thus proved that the transfer of the rich academic expertise on South Asia was well received by Heidelberg citizens.

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SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE OPENS ITS DOORS FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

by Manju Ludwig

Among the many highlights of the South Asia Institute's 50th anniversary celebrations the Open Day on May 12th 2012 took pride of place. Friends of the South Asia Institute as well as interested citizens of Heidelberg came in large numbers to Neuenheimer Feld to commemorate this joyful occasion. The whole building with all its departments opened up for the enthusiastic visitors, old and young, to inform, entertain and interact with them.



Author: Gabriel Neumann



Sandra Ludwig



Visitors playing South Asian games



Prof. Marcus Nüsser, Department of Geography

Manifold activities, such as a reading by the author Gabriel Neumann from his books 'Masala Highway' and '101 Indien - Geheimtipps und Top-Ziele', a dance performance of classical Bharatanatyam by Sandra Ludwig, a preview of the dance-play 'Kadal Payanam – A voyage for love' by students of the South Asia Institute and a screening of the Indian movie 'Peepli Live' with a round-table-discussion of in-house scholars enhanced the cultural programme.

Visitors could learn how to prepare Indian Masala Chai, dress in South Asian attire and have their names written in the various scripts of South Asian languages. A crash course in Hindi was also a great hit with visitors, whilst colourful make-up sessions, a scavenger hunt and a tropical insectarium entertained the younger participants.

A performative introduction into Tibetan calligraphy by Puntsok Tsering was another attraction; and to complete the rich cultural programme, visitors, young and old, could try their luck at playing one of the manifold South Asian games which constitute part of a prized collection held by the South Asia Institute's library.

Last but not least, the multifarious research and teaching foci of the SAI's seven departments were presented to interested visitors in a series of short lectures by all the in-house as well as affiliated professors.

The successful day culminated in the traditional summer party organised by the students' association.

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FINAL REPORT ON THE ALLOCATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BY THE SAI FUND-RAISER IN SUPPORT OF THE FLOOD CATASTROPHE VICTIMS IN PAKISTAN 2010

In July and August 2010, large parts of Pakistan were flooded by heavy monsoon-rains resulting in one of the century's most severe natural catastrophes. More than 14 million people were affected, with the floods claiming app. 2,000 lives, injuring another 3,000 and destroying about 1.7 million homes. Six million people were in dire need for immediate aid after losing everything. Amidst that devastating situation, the South Asia Institute called for a fund-raiser to help the victims. The campaign and allocation of money was conducted by the Vereinigung der Freunde und Förderer des Südasiens-Instituts e.V. and numerous organizations as well as individuals contributed generously, including the mayor of Heidelberg, Dr. Eckart Würzner, the German-Pakistan Society in Karlsruhe, and Dossenheim-based businessman Kay Eulenbach. Furthermore, the Lions Club Waldbronn donated a substantial amount of money. We also express our deep gratitude to the more than 350 individual donors, who contributed decisively to the success of this campaign. The overall amount of donations summed up to 42,795€, which were converted into more than 5 million Pakistani Rupees. The funds were distributed among 4 projects directly benefitting the affected population in Pakistan:

1. 20,000€ were immediately allocated for the acquisition of aliments in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. As transportation of relief supplies from Germany to Pakistan was not possible due to administrative and financial restrictions, Prof. Sayed Wiqar Ali Shah, since 2009 Al-lama Iqbal Fellow at our institute, agreed to organize the acquisition and distribution of food personally. Thanks to his close ties to his home region and his efforts, relief supplies directly reached those in need. Approximately 6,000 people benefitted from this project.
2. An amount of 2,200€ was donated to the program "Adopt a family", established by COSMATS Institute of Information Technology in Islamabad, which supports self-help efforts by partnering with affected families and providing for financial funds for up to one year to enable families to regain their self-reliance. Until June 2011, more than 20,000 families benefitted from the project.
3. In order to support the reconstruction efforts for crucial infrastructure, 15,200€ were allocated to the province of Gilgit-Baltistan, where the Nanga Parbat Foundation, headed by Ghulam Nabi Raikoti, was able to secure and rebuilt supply facilities for safe drinking water and irrigation for agriculture, which benefitted around 5,650 people until October 2011.
4. 5,400€ were allocated to the Peshawar region, where funds were used to buy school materials for affected children in order to bring back some normality for the smallest and most vulnerable members of society. Due to uncomplicated cooperation with local partners, all our relief efforts could be conducted timely and efficiently. Faculty members of the South Asia Institute have visited the affected regions and assured and confirmed that all donated funds directly reached people in need. All people that were involved in the fund-raising and our efforts in Pakistan, did their work gratuitously and we want to express our sincerest gratitude to all of them!

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WORLD HINDI DAY CELEBRATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MODERN SOUTH ASIAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES



Consul General Vikram Misri

The Department of Modern South Asian Languages started the year 2012 with the celebration of World Hindi Day (Vishwa-Hindi-Divas) on January 10th. The event took place in collaboration with the Consulate General of India in Munich and in presence of Consul General Vikram Misri and Consul Yash Pal Motwani. Consul General Misri's inaugural address was followed by an extensive and varied afternoon

programme entirely held in Hindi.

Hans Harder, Head of the Department, led an audience of more than ninety through the entertaining programme. Contributions ranged from research presentations to singing performances and creative poems. Max Kramer, for instance, a graduate of the department, staged dialectal characteristics of Bombay Hindi, and his colleague Anne Moßner presented her work on the propagation of Hindi in South India. Anand Mishra, assistant professor at the Department of Cultural and Religious History, earned much laughter for his self-composed satirical poem on the World Hindi Day. The department's students demonstrated their talent by telling jokes and enacting of one of Upendranath Ashk's stage plays.

Hindi lecturer Gautam Liu ceremoniously presented his recently published German medium Hindi textbook titled „Hindi Bolo 1“ to Consul General Vikram Misri, and Heinrich-Zimmer Professor Heeraman Tiwari, in his beautiful Upasamhar or concluding remarks, pointed out that besides all its other functions, Hindi is also the language of cricket.



Gautam Liu presents his Hindi textbook to Consul General Vikram Misri



About ninety visitors attended the World Hindi Day programme at the SAI library's reading room

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EXCURSION TO GOA AND HAMPI (INDIA) 19.02. - 05.03.2012

From February 19th to March 5th 2012 the Department of Classical Indology organized an excursion to observe and analyze the ritual practices associated with worship of deities (Pūjā). Together with Anand Mishra, ten students of the department stayed in Śādvala - Center for Sanskrit Studies in Goa and participated in the Pūjā rituals conducted by Dr. Patanjali Mishra (Sanskrit-Faculty, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi) and Dr. Shivdeo Mishra (Priest, Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Varanasi). Each day, a group of two students were assigned the task of assisting the ritual experts for initial preparations and then participating and performing the following rituals with them. Gaṇeśa-pūjana (Erena Edmond Francis, Benjamin Edinger), Kalaśa (Varuṇa)-pūjana (Nathalie Gilhaus, Dominique Baur), Ṣoḍaśa-mātrkā-pūjana, Sapta-ghṛta-mātrkā-pūjana (Linde Goebel, Judith Unterdörfler), Nāndī-śrāddha (Anna Ries, Charlotte Backhaus), Navagraha-pūjana, Homa (Bastian Jantke, Nils Liersch).



The next step of analysis involved identification of the ritual elements and units, annotating them and connecting the corresponding pictures and audio recordings. Once the collected material is processed, the results will be published on the course website. For the group, it was a unique occasion to live with two traditional Pandits in the same house. Many issues of daily practices including ritual purity, food and other traditional customs were directly confronted and actively discussed.

On the occasion of Śivarātri (February 20th 2012) the students visited the Saptakoṭīśvara-Tempel in Narve, Goa and observed the festivities as well as Rudrābhiṣeka rituals. In the evening, they had a chance to view a temple theater (Rudrapraṇayanī) organized and performed by the local village community on the occasion of founding day of the temple. Linde Goebel and Charlotte Backhaus presented the historical, political and cultural background of Goa and the group visited the relevant places including Churches and Basilica of Old Goa, the Adilshahi Mosque and the Archaeological Museum. The students also participated in Sunday Mass conducted in Konkani in the Basilica of Bom Jesus. A workshop was organized with a group of the followers of a new movement, Jīvan Vidya Mission, getting popular among the middle class community in Maharashtra and Goa. This provided a glimpse into the way these groups organize themselves and communicate and propagate their ideas.

From March 1st to 5th 2012 the group visited Hampi. Erena Edmond Francis, Benjamin Edinger and Bastian Jantke presented information about the history, town planning and archaeological features of the Vijayanagara Empire. Brief reports on the selected structures will be prepared and published on the course website. The excursion was partially funded by the students' fees (Studiengebühren).



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M.A. HEALTH AND SOCIETY IN SOUTH ASIA

by Eva Ambos

In March this year, the second cohort of our interdisciplinary, international M.A. program Health and Society in South Asia (MAHASSA), which combines Medical Anthropology and South Asian Studies, obtained their degrees. Thirteen students from Germany, Chile, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Hungary, Slovenia, and Italy finished MAHASSA successfully after two years of study.

The students did coursework covering

a wide range of topics including healing systems of South Asia, reproductive health and gender, inequality and health, mental health, public health, religion and medicine, applied medical anthropology and fieldwork methods, dedicating the fourth term to their Masters Thesis based on field research in South Asia and Europe. They prepared for their research by studying not only the Medical Anthropology of South Asia, but also South Asian languages, history, political systems, economics and geography, which is facilitated through MAHASSA's interdisciplinary orientation and its integration with the curriculum of the South Asia Institute. Research topics included coping with diabetes mellitus by Pakistani migrants in the UK, HIV/AIDS among sex workers in Nepal, and adaptations of Ayurvedic practice in the context of modernity in India.

While some of the graduates now pursue a health-related career in South Asia, others go on to doctoral studies in Anthropology or related disciplines. Thus, their experience is similar to the first MAHASSA cohort, who graduated in 2010 and now either work in academia or in various health care related areas, e.g. for Doctors without Borders or for the German Society for International Corporation (GIZ).

MAHASSA provides an interdisciplinary environment, where international students work together and benefit from each other's academic and cultural background, as well as from an extensive research network of the South Asia Institute with several scientific institutions in Germany and abroad.

MAHASSA starts annually in October, and the next group of students has already begun their studies. The program has attracted a high number of interested students, of which thirteen promising international candidates from USA, Yemen, Pakistan, India, Cameroon, Bangladesh, Russia, Taiwan and the Philippines have been selected for the program.

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MAHASSA students at the United Nations Visitor's Centre during a study trip to Geneva. (Photo by M. U. Afzal, 2011)

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NEW RESEARCH PROJECT ON „LANDSLIDE HAZARD AND VULNERABILITY“

Ressources for a new two-year research project on “Landslide Hazard and Vulnerability: Unsafe Conditions in the Middle Hills of Nepal” have been awarded to Marcus Nüsser and Thomas Lennartz from the DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft). Landslides seriously affect the every-day life of already marginalised mountain dwellers in Nepal. Year by year, slope failures cause fatalities and destroy houses, technical infrastructure, and agricultural land throughout the country. So far, landslide studies in Nepal and elsewhere mainly focus on the analysis of the physical processes, which lead to slope failures. In order to develop comprehensive risk management strategies such hazard-centred analyses must be complemented with an evaluation of social vulnerability from a livelihood-perspective. Situated in the middle hill region of mid-western Nepal, Rukum District offers suitable conditions to study the vulnerability of rural households to landslides. Due to heavily concentrated annual precipitation and fragile geological units, the area is highly susceptible to slope failure. At the same time, the lower slope sections and valley bottoms are intensely used for agriculture and hence densely populated. In addition, the area is affected by recent transformation processes (e.g. transition from civil war, extensive road construction), which have major impacts on the households’ vulnerability. The basic goal of the research project is to improve the understanding of the unsafe conditions of local people living in rural mountain regions. It aims at gaining a deeper insight into the rationales of people settling in landslide-prone areas. In this respect, economic incentives, local peoples’ knowledge of hazard processes, and their perception of overall risk is considered. In addition, the potential impact of landslides on rural livelihoods is analysed. Finally, the research evaluates local capacities for prevention and coping, which are often reduced by a lack of resources. In order to capture landslide vulnerability in all its many facets the study applies a multi-method approach which comprises qualitative an quantitative data collection techniques as well as GIS-based analyses.



Structural mitigation measures are limited to a few road sections (Photo by T. Lennartz, 2010).



Villagers (red box) reconstruct an irrigation channel which was destroyed by a landslide (Photo by T. Lennartz, 2009).

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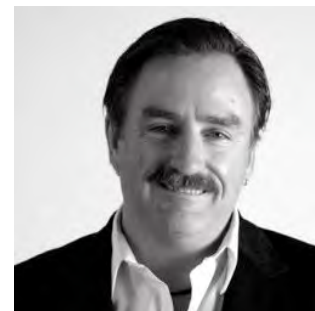
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HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY RECEIVED A GRANT FOR ACADEMIC NETWORKING ACTIVITIES

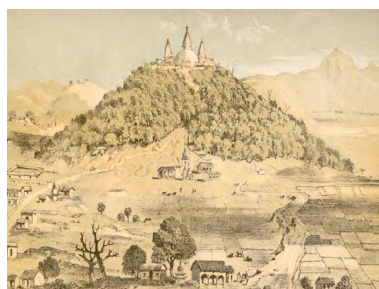
Heidelberg University has received a grant for academic networking activities as part of AROGYAM, “Advances in Research on Globally Accessible Medicine,” an academic network linking researchers from Heidelberg, Edinburgh University, Jawaharlal Nehru University (Delhi) and the Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies in Trivandrum, Kerala (South India). The network is funded for three years by the DFG, ANR (France), ESRC (U.K.), ICSSR (India) and NW (Netherlands). SAI members include Principal Investigator Prof. William Sax, along with Prof. Harish Naraindas, Dr. Ananda Chopra, Dr. Karin Polit, Dr. Johannes Quack, Dr. Christian Struempell, Dr. Constanze Weigl and Mr. Hasan Ashraf. (JNU Delhi) and Dr. Alokaranjan Dasgupta (SAI Heidelberg). The colloquium was followed by a multilingual reading session of Tagore’s poems and a music performance by Rita Bandyopadhyay (Cologne).



Prof. William S. Sax

25 YEARS KATHMANDU BRANCH OFFICE OF THE SAI

The branch office in Kathmandu was founded in 1987 based on a Memorandum of Understanding with Tribhuvan University as part of the Nepal research Centre. Later, though it separated into an independent location, it served as a point of contact and base for scholars from Heidelberg University as well as Nepalese researchers. Since then, numerous South Asian and thus also several Nepalese scholars had the opportunity to be incorporated into the studies at the SAI. The overall goal, until today, is to maintain long-term relations, especially on an academic and scientific level, to continue the exchange of ideas and knowledge between Germany and Nepal.



Historic drawing of Swayambhu & its vicinity. Image by Daniel Wright



Key speakers Prof. Michaels and Dr. Manik Bajracharya

On the afternoon of March 12th 2012, we had the opportunity to listen to a Joint Talk – symbolizing and reflecting such a collective German-Nepalese academic work. The Joint Talk was held by Prof. Axel Michaels and Dr. Manik Bajracharya on “New Light on the Historiography of Nepal: The ‘Wright Chronicle’ reconsidered”, which highlighted the historiographic approach and the historical implications on the document edited by Dr. Daniel Wright in the late 19th century. The goal of this Joint Talk was to highlight the long academic involvement of German scholars here in Nepal, going even beyond the opening of the territorial borders of Nepal in 1950 and later through the South Asia Institute and how collaborative academic research is being carried out in present times.

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CONFERENCE REPORT: THE FUTURE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH IN SRI LANKA

by William S. Sax

From 29th February to 1st March 2012, the South Asia Institute, in association with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) Colombo, sponsored an exchange of views among German and Sri Lankan academics at Galbantalawa, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. The conference was organised by Prof. William Sax in collaboration with Prof. Siri Hettige (University of Colombo) and Prof. Kalinga Tudor Silva (University of Peradeniya). The theme of the meeting was “The future of social research in Sri Lanka,” and it was intended to identify priority areas for social science research, along with possible areas of research collaboration between Sri Lankan academics and the South Asia Institute.

Professor Kalinga Tudor Silva pointed out that with the end of the civil war in Sri Lanka, it was important for social scientists from throughout the country to set new research priorities. Prof. William Sax from Heidelberg recounted the history of the SAI’s involvement in Sri Lanka and reiterated its intention to strengthen its presence there. Mrs. Bettina Meier recounted the history of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Sri Lanka. After a short tea break, the first panel discussed the issue of reconciliation. Speakers were Prof. Siri Hettige, Dr. Dhammika Herath (ICES), Prof. H.M.D.R. Herath (University of Peradeniya), Dr. S. Sivathas (Psychiatrist, Vavuniya), and Radu Carciumaru, M.A. (University of Heidelberg). At 7 p.m., the keynote address entitled Models from the past and their relevance to present Muddles was given by Gananath Obeyesekere, the distinguished anthropologist and Professor Emeritus at Princeton University.

On Thursday, 1st March the following themes, which had emerged from the earlier discussions and which identified further collaboration opportunities, were presented. Each consisted of common research, shared publications and multi-lateral project applications: “Multiculturalism”, “Healing, Resilience and Rituals” and “Cultures of Memory”. This was followed by the panel “Culture and Heritage,” with presentations by Dr. Premakumara De Silva (University of Colombo), Ms. Nilu Abeyaratne (ICES Colombo), and Prof. Kalinga Tudor Silva (University of Peradeniya). After lunch, a panel on the topic “Health” was convened. The speakers were Dr. Abaya Ratnayake (University of Peradeniya), Dr. Indika Bulankulame (Open University), Eva Ambos, M.A. (University of Heidelberg) and Prof. William Sax (University of Heidelberg). On the same day, a Press Conference was organized by Prof. Siri Hettige at the Department of Sociology, University of Colombo, where the joint activities of the South Asia Institute and the University of Colombo over the years were highlighted. Brief talks were given by Prof. Hettige, by the German Ambassador to Sri Lanka, His Excellency Mr. Jens Ploetner, by Prof. Sax, and by Prof. Athula Ranasinghe, Dean of Social Sciences at Colombo University. This event was also attended by Mr. Dennis Schröder, Representative of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in Colombo, and by Mrs. Bettina Meier, Director of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Sri Lanka.

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CONFERENCE NEW DELHI: “BETWEEN GLOBAL ASPIRATIONS AND LOCAL REALITIES: INDIA’S CITIES IN INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES“

A conference in India on the topic of urban research marked the founding of the South Asia Institute (SAI) of Heidelberg University 50 years ago. The SAI was founded as a central academic institution of Ruperto Carola in May 1962 with a branch office in New Delhi. The event, entitled “Between Global Aspirations and Local Realities. India’s Cities in Interdisciplinary Perspective” was part of this year’s SAI anniversary programme and was held on March 26th to 28th 2012 at Jawaharlal Nehru University. The representatives of the Heidelberg delegation were meeting with Indian experts from various universities and research institutions.

Prof. Dr. Bernhard Eitel, Rector of Heidelberg University, led the delegation from Heidelberg. Along with representatives of the German Embassy and the office of the German Research Foundation in India, Prof. Eitel delivered the welcoming address to the conference participants in India. All the professors of the South Asia Institute and three members of the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context” were among the representatives from Heidelberg at the conference.



Rector of Heidelberg University, Prof. Dr. Bernhard Eitel (middle), Prof. William Sax (right) © HCSA



From left: Christiane Brosius and Doris Hillger © HCSA



Conference Participants © HCSA

As for the main topic of the conference, Prof. Dr. Marcus Nüsser, Executive Director of the SAI, explained: “The rapid expansion of India’s urban population has had an increasingly palpable effect on the environment, which in turn has a cultural, economic and political impact. Most urban research is concentrated on problems of infrastructure, city planning and resource utilisation, but remains largely compartmentalised.” Prof. Nüsser underscored that the conference was aimed at new, integrated approaches to urban research. The conference was organised in a series of six panels, each with a different focus. Cities

and their “hinterlands” were addressed, for example, as well as the impact of globalising urban cultures on contemporary Indian cities. The anniversary conference was jointly organised with the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and supported by the Federal Ministry for Education and Research as well as the German Research Foundation and was part of the Science Programme of the Year of Germany in India 2011-2012.

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WORKSHOP REPORT: BEYOND THE METROPOLIS – IMPLICATIONS OF URBANISATION IN TOWNS AND SMALL CITIES IN SOUTH ASIA

by Rafael Klöber, Kai Fürstenberg

From 14th – 16th June the South Asia Institute (SAI) hosted the third annual Young South Asia Scholars Meet (Y-SASM) at Heidelberg, funded by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation. The workshop was organised by Kai Fürstenberg (Dept. of Political Science), Rafael Klöber (Dept. of History), Manju Ludwig (Dept. of History) and Dr. Christian Strümpell (Dept. of Anthropology), thereby reflecting the interdisciplinarity of Y-SASM, which was initiated as a platform of interaction for aspiring scholars across disciplinary and generational boundaries. The theme of the meeting, “Beyond the Metropolis: Implications of Urbanisation in Towns and Small Cities in South Asia”, aimed to enrich urban studies dealing with South Asia which have hitherto focused almost exclusively on the so-called megacities. Hence, the workshop dealt with urban phenomena related to the growing number of towns and small cities which constitute vibrant economic, political and cultural centres in their specific regions.

On Thursday evening, 14th June, the event was inaugurated in the Heinrich-Zimmer reading room by Dr Nitin Sinha (Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin), one of the original initiators of Y-SASM. His welcoming words were followed by the keynote address of Dr Andrew Sanchez (London School of Economics), entitled: “Beyond Formal Privilege: Rethinking Class in Urban India” which, by drawing on Sanchez’ long-term research at the Tata steel town of Jamshedpur, elaborated on new ways of sketching the formal and informal sector as well as theorising on class in one of India’s oldest industrial complexes.

On Friday and Saturday, six panels were conducted consisting of two presentations each which were chaired and commented by senior scholars, such as Profs. Roger Jeffery (University of Edinburgh), Martin Fuchs (Max-Weber-Kolleg, Erfurt), Ravi Ahuja (CeMIS, Göttingen), Valerian Rodrigues (JNU, Delhi), Anupama Rao (Columbia University, New York) and scholars from the South Asia Institute, namely Profs. Gita Dharampal-Frick, Subrata Mitra, Hans Harder and Dr Jiva Schöttli. The panels focused on diverse topics, such as “Governance and Administration”, “Subaltern Perspectives”, “Narratives of Urbanism”, “Centre and Periphery”, “Provincial Politics” and “Vernacular Urbanism”, thereby including perspectives from various academic disciplines. The short presentations were followed by detailed comments by the respective discussants and the floor was then opened for a wider and lively engagement with the presented topics. The workshop was concluded by a roundtable discussion on Saturday afternoon, summarizing the preliminary results of the interdisciplinary endeavour as well as raising important issues in urban studies dealing with smaller urban areas. The workshop was perceived to be an initial step towards a more intensive involvement of young scholars with a dynamic field of research that deserves committed interest in the immediate future. Next year’s Y-SASM will take place at the ETH in Zurich.

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HENGSTBERGER SYMPOSIUM: POWER, POLITICS AND MARITIME GOVERNANCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

by Jivanta Schöttli

From 2nd to 4th July 2012 the Hengstberger-Symposium, *Power, Politics and Maritime Governance* in the Indian Ocean took place in Heidelberg, organized by Dr. Jivanta Schöttli and the Internationales Wissenschaftsforum Heidelberg (IWH). The conference was made possible thanks to the 2011 Hengstberger Prize and funds from the South Asia Institute and the Cluster, *Asia and Europe in a Global Context*.



Participants and speakers for the Indian Ocean conference (Photo by Adrian Ahlers).

Scholars from twelve countries gave presentations and discussed the security challenges, trade interests, opportunities for conflict and cooperation, historical linkages, cultural ties and power competition within the Indian Ocean. Central discussion points included whether the Indian Ocean defies conventional regional depictions and challenges traditional theoretical assumptions and approaches to multilateral governance.

India and China were the focus of two keynote speakers, Udhay Bhaskar (National Maritime Foundation, New Delhi) and Urs Schoettli (Consultant on Asian Affairs) who highlighted domestic dynamics and global politics shaping foreign policy behaviour of the two giants. Over two days of panel presentations and discussions, scholars analysed the strategic options for major players in the Indian Ocean including India, China, USA, France, Australia and Europe. The achievements and weaknesses of The Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation were examined to discuss whether regionalism could be the medium through which to manage asymmetric power relations, the diversity of common problems and crosscutting interests. Adjacent regional maritime zones were identified in terms of spill over effects from developments in the Indian Ocean, such as the Persian Gulf and South China Sea. Strategic interests and a heritage of connectivity were examined via the prism of textiles, global history and elaborate networks as well as specific security challenges of piracy and power projection.

A central aim of the conference was to draw upon different theoretical approaches and methods of analysis to consider cognitive, legal, political and geographical approaches to the notion of and relationship between space and power. The Indian Ocean was the ideal subject of analysis as it is a fast-changing theatre of competition and collaboration amongst multiple agents including state and non-state actors. Rapporteurs from the South Asia Institute helped compile a report on the conference's proceedings which can be found, along with the full programme, on the website of the SAI's Department of Political Science. A selection of papers from the conference will be compiled as a special edition of the *Journal of the Indian Ocean Region*.

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DAAD VISITING FELLOW PROF. MOHAMMED BADRUL ALAM AT THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

From June 1st to July 1st, Prof. Alam, a DAAD Visiting Fellow, was affiliated with the Department of Political Science, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg, Germany. He worked on a research project delineating issues and challenges facing India-Japan relations in the context of the broader Asia Pacific Security Architecture. Dr. Alam is currently a Professor of Political Science at Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi, India. He was educated at a number of institutions including Utkal University, Bhubaneswar; Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; and Cornell University, New York; from where he earned M.A, M.Phil and Ph.D degrees respectively. He has taught for over two decades in the United States, Japan and India at various educational institutions. Dr. Alam is the author of several books including, *Constructing South Asian Nuclear Discourse* (2007), as well as numerous articles, monographs and book reviews published in various international journals. He is also a recipient of a number of prestigious awards and fellowships.

DAAD VISITING FELLOW DR. KAUSHIK BHATTACHARYA AT THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Dr. Bhattacharya of the Indian Institute Management Lucknow visited the South Asia Institute on a DAAD fellowship from May 21st to June 19th, 2012. Dr. Bhattacharya is an econometrician and received his Ph.D. from the Indian Statistical Institute. He has worked in both, academic and policy organizations like the Reserve Bank of India, Bank for International Settlements, University of Bonn, and Indian Institute of Management Lucknow. Dr. Bhattacharya's research project was on regulatory issues relating to the entry of candidates in elections. In this context, his work also touched the problem of emergence of small parties and independent candidates, on which he earlier published a paper in *Heidelberg Papers in South Asian and Comparative Politics*. During his stay, Dr. Bhattacharya also gave a talk on this topic (on May 29th, 2012) organized by the Political Science Department of the SAI.



Dr. Kaushik Bhattacharya

JOHANNES QUACK WAS AWARDED FOR EMMY-NOETHER FUND

Dr. Johannes Quack

The Emmy Noether Programme is run by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Quack receives funding to lead an independent junior research group on the topic "diversity of non-religiosity" at Frankfurt University. The junior research group is to gain a comprehensive understanding of the role of religion or religions within contemporary societies.

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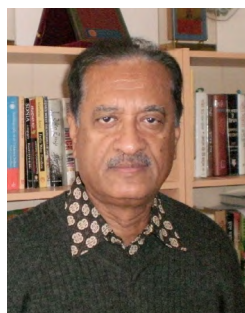
NATIONAL AWARD FOR SAI DARI-LECTURER

In December 2011, Gholam Djelani Davary, Dari-Lecturer at the Department for Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures at the SAI was awarded with the Honorary Letter of the Republic of Tajikistan on the occasion of the visit by President Imomali Ramon (see picture). Mr. Davary received this honor due to his support of the rich Tajik culture, his respect for national values and his support of the academic exchange between Germany and the Republic of Tajikistan. At the SAI, Mr. Davary teaches Dari – a form of Persian commonly used in Afghanistan – for beginners as well as for advanced students.



From left: President Imomali Ramon and Gholam Djelani Davary

MOAZZEM HOSSAIN: VISITING SCHOLAR AT THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS



Dr. Moazzem Hossain

Dr. Moazzem Hossain, senior lecturer in economics of the Griffith Business School, Griffith University, Australia has been a visitor of the South Asia Institute under the Academic Study Program (ASP) of Griffith Business School from 22 March to 28 June 2012. Dr Hossain is an agricultural economist specialised in the area of development economics. He received his PhD at the University of Western Australia, Perth and has visited several US, UK and west European academic institutions over the last twenty years. He has been with Griffith University over the last twenty years and published in areas such as economic reforms in Asia, telecommunications regulation in the Asia Pacific, climate change and growth in Asia, South Asian economic development and so on. He jointly published six volumes with the UK based publishers Routledge and Edward Elgar since 1998. Also, he has published more than thirty articles in refereed journals and as book chapters in edited volumes. He contributed numerous pieces to the Dhaka based top English daily, The Daily Star, over the last fifteen years. Presently, Dr Hossain works on a book project for the Edward Elgar Publishing called, 'Realising Asian Century: Responsible Futures Matter?' to be published in early 2013. While at the SAI, Dr. Hossain worked with two papers based on a primary survey of four villages in the Sundarbans region of the Bay of Bengal delta in early 2012. These are: 'Microfinance creating micro-business: Is climatic hazard spoiling the party?' and 'Availability of micro credit in the 'Aila' affected areas (two sides of the Sundarbans) of the Bay of Bengal delta'. He presented the preliminary results of these studies in two conferences held at the University of Bonn and at the Antonine University, Beirut by invitation. Dr Hossain highly appreciates the support extended by the Department of Development Economics during his three months stay.

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INAUGURAL LECTURE BY CHRISTIANE BROSIUS

Press Office: Cluster of Asia and Europe

About 260 participants followed the inaugural lecture by Prof. Christiane Brosius on July 4 in the Old Auditorium of Heidelberg University. The Professor for Visual and Media Anthropology spoke about field research in rural areas, megacities and in transit from a transregional perspective. The professorship of Visual and Media Anthropology is one of five professorships established by the Cluster of Excellence „Asia and Europe in a Global Context“ at Heidelberg University. The spectrum of the professorships ranges from Intellectual History, Buddhist Studies, and Global Art History to Cultural Economic History.



Prof. Christiane Brosius

HUMBOLDT FELLOW, PROFESSOR MUFAKHARUL ISLAM AT THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY



Prof. M. Islam

Prof M. Mufakharul Islam, from the Department of History at Dhaka University, was hosted by the Department of History at the South Asia Institute during his research visit as a Humboldt Fellow from July 18 to August 11, 2012. Prof Islam is a historian who obtained his Ph.D. at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London in 1972. He has taught history at the universities of Chittagong and Dhaka for almost five decades and has, since 1972, periodically visited the South Asia Institute where he was involved in research projects with Prof Rothermund, and since 2002 with Prof. Dharampal-Frick. His main research interests are economic and agrarian history, in general, with a special emphasis on Bengal history, fields in which he has published widely. During his current stay at the South Asia Institute, Prof Islam worked on the manuscript of his forthcoming monograph on the economic history of Bengal from 1757 until 1947, as well as on a paper concerning Hindu-Muslim relations and the British policy of „divide and rule“.

INDIAN AMBASSADOR VISITS SAI



On July 18, 2012 the newly appointed Indian Ambassador in Berlin, H.E. Mrs. Sujatha SINGH visited the SAI. She met members of the SAI board as well as students from India.

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► New Textbook: "Hindi bolo! Hindi für Deutschsprachige, Teil 2."

► Niels Gutschow published "Architecture of the Newars"

► "The Politics of Citizenship, Identity and the State in South Asia"

► New Book co-edited by Gita Dharampal-Frick

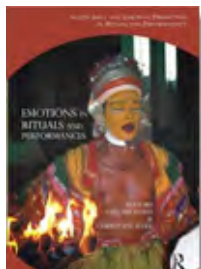
► "Getting Married" by Niels Gutschow and Axel Michaels

► New Illustrated Book "Heiliges Indien"

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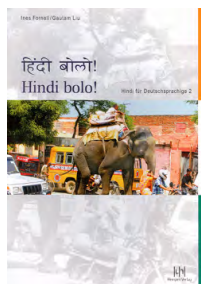
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AXEL MICHAELS, CHRISTOPH WULF (ED.): "EMOTIONS IN RITUALS AND PERFORMANCES"



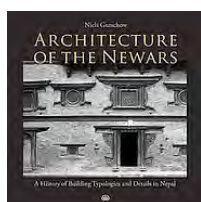
Challenging the idea that rituals are static and emotions irrational, the volume explores the manifold qualities of emotions in ritual practices. Focusing explicitly on the relationship between emotions and rituals, it poses two central questions. First, how and to what extent do emotions shape rituals? Second, in what way are emotions ritualized in and beyond rituals?

NEW TEXTBOOK BY GAUTAM LIU IN COOPERATION WITH DR. INES FORNELL, UNIV. GÖTTINGEN: „HINDI BOLO! HINDI FÜR DEUTSCHSPRACHIGE, TEIL 2.“



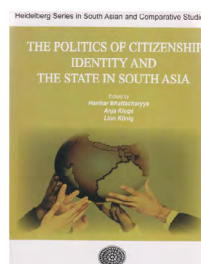
The second part of the textbook „Hindi bolo!“ is devoted to a higher knowledge of Hindi, based on the first volume of the book. In 10 lessons which accompany the families Jindal, Mathur and Abdul in their everyday life. The book provides also communication exercises, everyday dialogues, reading texts and grammar exercises.

NIELS GUTSCHOW PUBLISHED THREE VOLUMES ON „ARCHITECTURE OF THE NEWARS“



Prof. Niels Gutschow published three volumes with the entire history of architecture in Kathmandu and its neighbors over a period of 1,500 years. Architecture of the Newars is a rare tribute to an urban culture that has preserved a fascinating lifestyle to this very day.

HARIHAR BHATTACHARYYA, ANJA KLUGE AND LION KÖNIG: "THE POLITICS OF CITIZENSHIP, IDENTITY AND THE STATE IN SOUTH ASIA"



The Book has been published in the book series „Heidelberg Series in South Asian and Comparative Studies“, which is edited by Prof. Subrata Mitra. The volume is the first interdisciplinary and comprehensive study of citizenship, identity and the state in South Asia, that considers citizenship as right, entitlement, identity, and a legitimating principle for both state and society.

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NEW BOOK CO-EDITED BY GITA DHARAMPAL-FRICK



"Intercultural Discourse – Key and Contested Concepts" is the title of a collection of articles in German as well as English by numerous internationally renowned authors. The book was edited by Monika Kirloskar-Steinbach (Konstanz), Gita Dharampal-Frick (Heidelberg) and Minou Fricke (Bonn).

VOLUME 12: "GETTING MARRIED" OF THE SERIES "ETHNO-INDOLOGY. HEIDELBERG STUDIES IN SOUTH ASIAN RITUALS" BY NIELS GUTSCHOW AND AXEL MICHAELS



Getting Married is the third and final volume on Hindu and Buddhist life-cycle rituals among the Newars of the ancient city of Bhaktapur in Nepal. It combines extensive fieldwork and the edition and translation of relevant ritual handbooks.

NEW ILLUSTRATED BOOK "HEILIGES INDIEN"



"Heiliges Indien" with photos from Amit Pasricha, one of the leading panoramic photographers in India, including an introductory text by Axel Michaels, is among the latest publications of the SAI.

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