



WELCOME

to this 7th edition of the **SAI** | Newsletter!

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This summer term witnessed a large number of stimulating as well as outreaching public events. Especially noteworthy was the lecture of Prof. Amiya Sen as Zimmer-Chair holder on “Hinduism and the Problem of Self-Actualization in the Colonial Era” in May, which was attended by the majority of SAI staff and guests, including the Indian Consul General Naik and the Dean Prof. Gerrit Kloss. Also notable was the book launch on “Multidimensional Poverty Measurement and Analysis” in June, an occasion to which we welcomed the authors Prof. Sabine Alkire (Oxford University) and Prof. James Forster (George Washington University). Furthermore, you find reports about activities of the branch offices, such as the Heidelberg Lecture in New Delhi, that attracted high media attention or the student excursion in Sri Lanka in January and February, which was conducted in cooperation with Zuerich University or the Vrindavan and Jaipur study tour in March, conducted by Anand Mishra from the Department of Cultural and Religious History South Asia (Classical Indology).

However the importance of our daily work is maybe best reflected by the most tragic and unprecedented event of the last months. With the earthquakes that hit Nepal in late April and early May numerous colleagues at the institute were confronted with fear, destruction, death and the disaster of friends and collaborators in Kathmandu and beyond. Luckily our branch office staff was spared from the worst effects of the earthquakes. At the same time – and increasingly with news coming in over the first weekend and week – we felt that we had to act in support of the victims. Thus a donation campaign was launched and a SAI HELP NEPAL Relief Fund was installed, conducted by the Association of Friends and Patrons of the SAI. The incoming donations were far beyond our expectations. With more than 200.000,- € it became the biggest donation campaign at the SAI so far and many SAI staff members as well as colleagues from the Cluster of Excellence have ever since put a lot of their time voluntarily into setting up help initiatives. On July 3rd a Nepal Day was conducted at the SAI that drew a lot of attention and visitors and we are certainly continuing with further support for Nepal.

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HEINRICH ZIMMER LECTURE BY PROF. AMIYA P. SEN

On May 20th, 2015 the South Asia Institute staged the Heinrich Zimmer Lecture held by Prof. Amiya P. Sen (Modern Indian History at the Department of History and Culture at Jamia Millia Islamia), who is the current chairholder of the Heinrich Zimmer Chair. He is by training a historian with special interest in the intellectual and cultural history of colonial India. His prime focus of interest is the intellectual and cultural history of Modern India and he has published widely on Hinduism as well as biographical studies on eminent Indian historical figures.

The event began with a welcoming speech by the Executive Director of the SAI Prof. Dr. Stefan Klöner as well as greetings by M. Sevala Naik (Consul General, Munich) and Prof. Dr. Gerrit Kloss (Dean of Philosophical Faculty, Heidelberg University). Prof. Dr. Gita Dharampal-Frick (Head of Department, History) gave an introduction followed by the Main Lecture by Prof. Sen, which was entitled "Hinduism and the Problem of Self-Actualization in the Colonial Era: Critical Reflections". The event closed with an Indian reception in the foyer.

Prof. Sen's talk aimed at bringing out the complexly juxtaposed and often contesting currents of thought that contribute to complicate even the category of the 'invented'. In colonial India, internally generated debates about the origin or the nature of Hinduism run parallel to ascriptions originating outside, thereby making colonial Hinduism a site for perennially contesting perceptions and paradigms. Just as the use of the expression 'neo-Hinduism' postulates a body of thought or practice frozen earlier in time, it might be presumptuous to imagine that there was a social or cultural consensus on the self-understanding of colonized Hindus themselves. This talk also sought to ask if not to also definitively answer, certain key theoretical questions. For instance, even allowing for the fact that boundaries defining social and cultural identities are often porous, does it still make sense to ask if even unstable and fluid perceptions about the self were invested with some meaning? 'What does it mean to be a Hindu?' is a question that many colonized Hindus would have asked themselves, albeit quite tantalizingly.



M. Sevala Naik



Prof. Dr. Gerrit Kloss



Prof. Amiya P. Sen



Lecture in the Reading Room



Reception in the Foyer

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EARTHQUAKE IN NEPAL AND CALL FOR DONATIONS

After the devastating earthquakes in Nepal, on 24.4. and on 12.5.2015, the South Asia Institute (SAI) has launched a donation campaign to request donations and to provide short and long term help for Nepal. The projects have already begun, and have taken up promising speed. To this end, the Association of Friends and Supporters of the SAI has set up the "Nepal Earthquake Relief Fund Heidelberg" (short SAI HELP NEPAL). The donations are used for humanitarian aims and project for the restoration of the architectural heritage.



Patan Darbar Square



Devastated Laykupalcha after the earthquake
(photo: Bajay Basukala)

The South Asia Institute is active in Nepal with several academic projects and runs a branch office in Patan since 1987. Our initiative is completely based on honorary work. Each project has one or two key patrons, members of the South Asia Institute, you can learn more about them on the respective project sites. Due to their long familiarity with Nepal and partly decades long personal contacts, faculty and junior researchers of the SAI working voluntarily in or for Nepal guarantee a direct non-bureaucratic transfer of the funds. If you want to donate for one particular project, please mention "Nepalhelp" plus the Name, or a keyword from the project portrayed. Donation certificates will be issued on request; kindly send an email with your address to: gieselmann@sai.uni-heidelberg.de.

Further information: <http://saihelpnepal.com/>

GEMSTONES IN THE FIRST MILLENNIUM AD. MINES, TRADE, WORKSHOPS AND SYMBOLISM

Members of the BMBF-Project "Garnet in South Asia. Historical and archaeological sources" will participate at the international conference "Gemstones in the first Millennium AD. Mines, Trade, Workshops and Symbolism" in October 20th - 22nd, 2015 at the Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum, Mainz. The conference is organised within the scope of the project »Universal Framework – Changes in the cultural significance of early medieval gemstone jewellery considered against the background of economic history and the transfer of ideas and technologies«. Borayin Larios will give a presentation on "The organisation of a modern gemstone mine in India". Jörg Gengnagel and Kerstin Sobkowiak will chair the session on "The value and the symbolic meaning(s) of gemstones".



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From SSG to FID? From Savifa to CrossAsia!

by Nicole Merkel-Hilf

Since 2005 the library of the South Asia Institute (SAI), in co-operation with Heidelberg University Library (UB), is in charge of the regional focus collection on South Asia (SSG) funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). By the end of this year the SSG will cease to exist, but we hope to continue our services under the new funding programme the DFG has set up, the so-called “Fachinformationsdienst für die Wissenschaft” (FID). In order to transfer the SSG to an FID Asia the SAI Library, UB and Berlin State Library have collaboratively submitted a proposal for an FID Asia to the DFG.

As a first step, the partner organisations SAI/UB and Berlin State Library have decided to merge their well-established virtual libraries “Savifa” and “CrossAsia” under the CrossAsia roof.

Since July the first South Asia related services are available via CrossAsia

- **CrossAsia E-Publishing:** The three platforms CrossAsia-Repository (see screenshot), CrossAsia Journals and CrossAsia E-Books support open access to academic information and offer scholars of Asian Studies the possibility to publish their research results electronically.
- **Digital Collection** offers access to historical literature on South Asia, to the slide collection Sontheimer as well as to Early Bengali Books and Periodicals from the Hiteshranjan Sanyal Memorial Archive.
- **Blauer Leihverkehr:** Under a special agreement material in South Asian languages can be borrowed for an extended lending period for up to one year through “Blauer Leihverkehr”.

In case our FID Asia proposal is successful – which will be decided by the end of 2015 – one focus of the SAI Library will remain on the collection building with print as well as electronic materials on South Asia. Together with our co-operation partner, the Berlin State Library, we will also focus on building up new services for CrossAsia, such as a review platform for Asian Studies, as well as developing already existing services further and thus adding value for scholars and researchers.

Welcome to CrossAsia-Repository

CrossAsia-Repository, the full-text server of the Virtual Library CrossAsia is the platform for publishing and archiving research literature in Asian Studies. Academics from all over the world are offered the possibility to publish their research on all fields of Asian Studies free of charge and without access limitation.

CrossAsia is financially supported by the **Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)** with the aim of providing a comprehensive and qualified supply of information to researchers. Currently, there are 3.581 open access documents available on CrossAsia-Repository.

Most recent items

1. Poerting, Julia ; Keck, Markus, Hrsgg. (2015) Aktuelle Forschungsbeiträge zu Südasiens: 5. Jahrestagung des AK Südasiens, 23./24. Januar 2015, Göttingen.
2. Dorji, Kinzang (2014) Comprehensive Review of the Land Act of Bhutan, 2007 for Revision.

open-access.net – News

- OJS-de.net – Neues Netzwerk für Open-Access-Zeitschriften
18.02.2015
- Der FWF erweitert und präzisiert Open Access Policy
19.12.2014
- Universität Leipzig verabschiedet Open Access Policy
15.12.2014
- Gates Foundation verabschiedet Open Access Policy
15.12.2014
- Springer-Verlag und niederländische Universitäten unterzeichnen Rahmenabkommen

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NEPAL DAY ORGANIZED BY SAIHELPNEPAL

by Christiane Brosius

On July 3rd, the South Asia Institute organised a Nepal Day. Highlights were the Classical Charu Dance performance by Ritu Bajracharya, short talks by ten scholars from the SAI and associated institutions on issues related to the earthquake in Nepal, ranging from historical or mythological perspectives on previous earthquakes in Nepal, on the geographical scale of the 2015 and earlier earthquakes, and on individual initiatives funded by SAIHELPNEPAL. Moreover, 1400 Momos were made and delicious cakes provided by volunteers. There was a Nepal-Bazar and we even managed to sell products made by the knitting women from our Bhaktapur project. Information desks allowed Nepal-based initiatives and projects to present their work. Despite the tremendous temperature (40 degrees Celsius), the Nepal Day managed to attract a very good crowd of visitors throughout the day, and the event then turned into the SAI-Summer party, with the students' union donating their income to the SAIHELPNEPAL fund. Thanks to all involved – helping, listening, buying and engaging in many different ways! We received further money from the Students Union of the Institute of Geography who generously collected almost 1000 Euros at their annual summer party, the 'Atlasfete'. Thanks to them, too! The Heidelberg-based Fürst Foundation, that seeks to provide help to education-based institutions in South Asia, has generously granted funds to the Rebuilding Bungamati and Community Project Bhaktapur to provide support to pupils and students.



Talk by Prof. Nüsser



Talk by Roberta Mandoki



Listeners of the lectures



Making of Momos



Nepal Bazar



Products by knitting women from the Community Project in Bhaktapur

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4TH HEIDELBERG LECTURE 2015 IN NEW DELHI

by Suboor Bakht

On 24th February, 2015 Professor Andreas Kruse (Director of the Institute of Gerontology at Heidelberg University) delivered a distinctive and stimulating lecture. In front of an audience of more than 350 participants who had filled the multi-purpose hall of India International Centre, Kruse spoke on „Contemporary Images of Age and Ageing: Vulnerability, Strengths and Developmental Potentials“ and highlighted his humanities-based approach. He framed the talk with a selection of piano pieces by Bach, Mozart, Schumann and Chopin played by him. The lecture was significant as active ageing is a relevant topic in today's world, especially in a country like India, with a sizable proportion of elderly population and with very little research done in this field. Building an inclusive society and improving quality of life of elderly population could be the key strategy for active ageing.



Besides Professor Beatrix Busse, Pro Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Teaching at Heidelberg University, who gave the 'Welcome Note', Prof. Axel Michaels, Director Cluster of Excellence Asia and Europe, who introduced the speaker, Prof. Madeleine Herren-Oesch, Director of the Institute for European Global Studies, Basel, Prof. Christiane Brosius, Visual and Media Anthropology, Mrs. Fuhrmann-Koch, Head Communications and Marketing, Heidelberg University, who presented the memento and Mrs. Astrid Radunski, Counsellor, The German Embassy were also present.

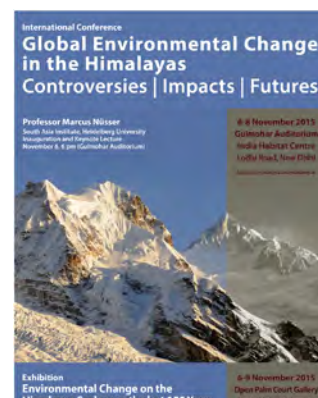
UPCOMING DWIH EVENTS OF HEIDELBERG CENTRE SOUTH ASIA

This year, Heidelberg Centre South Asia (HCSA) submitted four applications for DWIH (Deutsches Wissenschafts- und InnovationsHaus):

1. International Workshop on "Sustainable water resource management: Perspectives from Europe and South Asia" (28.-29.09.2015, German House for Research and Innovation, DWIH, Delhi).
2. International Conference: "Global environmental change in the Himalayas: Controversies, Impacts, Futures" (India Habitat Centre, November 6-8),
3. Symposium "Indo-German Dialogue on Excellence in Research and Education" (Delhi 14.10, German Embassy in Delhi, TBC)
4. International Conference on "Scientification and Scientism in the Humanities in South Asia and Europe" (25.11.2015, JNU, New Delhi)

More information:

<http://www.sai.uni-heidelberg.de/delhi>



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CAREER INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Melani Aloysious & Lars Stöwesand

Since 2013, every summer term the Office of the Registrar has invited Alumni to present their individual professional careers after graduating from the SAI. The presentations and the following discussions help students acquire an overview of further study and job opportunities. The multi and interdisciplinary orientation of SAI's study programmes open up a wide range of career possibilities. However, this makes it an imperative for students to engage with questions about their own career choices early and to structure their study at SAI accordingly.

On 26 June, three Alumni joined their Alma Matar for an evening discussion with our students. Ms Mirja Brand, who graduated in 2014, went on to study a Master's in Social Anthropology at the London School of Economics. She gave a clear account regarding the admission process, the study conditions, and financial issues to be considered when studying in the UK. Ms Laura Winter, who left the SAI after she had completed her Bachelor's in South Asian Studies in 2012. For her Master's she went to Berlin to study Development Geography. Just a few days prior to our meeting she had handed in her MA thesis and had started an internship at a German NGO that specialises in hygiene education. Mr Clemens Spiess studied Political Science of South Asia and Anthropology and wrote his PhD thesis under the guidance of Prof Subrata Mitra. He taught Political Science at our institute for several years and worked as office manager in New Delhi for the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung and in Kathmandu for the Arbeiter Wohlfahrt. At the moment he works for the Robert Bosch Stiftung in Stuttgart.

We want to heartily thank all three Alumni for this informative and enjoyable evening talk.



Discussion with Clemens Spiess, Mirja Brand and Laura Winter

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ZURICH STUDENT EXCURSION IN SRI LANKA

by Darshi Thoradeniya and Pia Hollenbach

27th January to 12th February 2015

The department of Geography, Political Geography of the University of Zurich, took the initiative under Dr. Pia Hollenbach to organize a 16-day excursion in Sri Lanka in cooperation with Dr. Darshi Thoradeniya, South Asia Institute Heidelberg/Sri Lanka.

As the excursion had two objectives, the 17 days were divided in two parts: Firstly, the round trip in Sri Lanka focussed on various topics on Sri Lanka that are relevant to research projects in the University of Zurich. The first half of the excursion therefore was intensive travel which included stops in Colombo, Galle, Kataragama and Nuwara Eliya/Hatton. At each location local research colleagues and partners joined the student group in order to share their expertise and research insights and to guide the group through their respective research areas/field sites and topics. Research topics covered urban development and city planning; Post-tsunami resettlement schemes and development induced forced resettlement (the everyday practices of international development); Highland Tamils and workers rights in a globalized economy (Tea Plantations in Sri Lanka); and Sinhala Buddhist Nationalism and minority politics in Sri Lanka (Muslim politics and religious coexistence).

Secondly, the fieldwork experience was conducted in partnering with University of Colombo and University of Peradeniya. The second half of the excursion started with a one day seminar on 'Qualitative Research Methods' at the University of Peradeniya where Sri Lankan and Swiss lecturers introduced the topic of qualitative research and research ethics in the field. The seminar was open to all students of the University of Peradeniya and over 20 Sri Lankan students participated. Following the seminar, the Swiss students partnered with eight Sri Lankan students (four from Colombo and four from Peradeniya) who were selected previously to become part of the excursion. During the next four days the Swiss and Sri Lankan students worked in small research teams in two different locations: In the Free Trade Zone Katunayake (garment factory workers rights and health and globalized economy) and in Mahaweli Resettlement Scheme in Hennanigala, Mahiyangana (Indigenous communities in Sri Lanka and long-term resettlement).

The objective of this exercise was to apply qualitative research methods and to experience the everyday of qualitative research. Students worked in teams by setting up an open ended questionnaire followed with practical application by conducting interviews in the field.



Group photo taken at the University of Peradeniya with local students who joined the second half of the excursion



Kataragama Devalaya - Multi religious site in Sri Lanka with Prof. Premakumara (local expert)

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EXCURSION TO VRINDAVAN AND JAIPUR (MARCH 2015)

by Anand Mishra

From 11th till 18th March an excursion to Vrindavan and Jaipur (India) was organized by the Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia (Classical Indology) to study the institutions of bhakti associated with Krishna in North India from around 16th century onwards.



A group of four students together with Anand Mishra jointly traced the journey of Govindadev Ji (a particular idol of Krishna) from Vrindavan to Jaipur. A magnificent temple for Govindadev Ji was finished by Man Singh I in 1595. Following the destruction of temples owing to the decree of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in 1669 the deity was shifted and finally reached its current destination in Jaipur in 1727.

Prof. Monika Boehm-Tettelbach supervised the students in Jaipur and the group visited the nearby Galta Ji which is an important seat of Ramanandi sect. While in Vrindavan, the students stayed in Jaisingh Ghera, which is an important center for Vaishnava studies run by Shrivatsa Goswami. Through talks and discussions with local experts and visiting the actual sites, the group had the opportunity to observe and study the origin, development and functioning of the selected temples (Radharaman, Ashtasakhi and Madan Mohan) apart from investigating the ritual of circumambulating the Govardhana mountain.

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BOOK LAUNCH “MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY MEASUREMENT AND ANALYSIS”

On June 12, the Department of Development Economics hosted a book launch at the SAI Library. The authors Sabina Alkire (Oxford University), James Foster (George Washington University), Paola Ballon (Universidad Pacifico, Lima), and Suman Seth (Oxford University) presented their new book “Multidimensional Poverty Measurement and Analysis”, published by Oxford University Press, 2015. After discussions by Martin Biewen (Tübingen University) and Stefan Klöner (South Asia Institute) the event ended with a lively dialogue between the authors and the audience.

The book argues that, in practice, poverty is often defined by one-dimensional measures, such as income. But no one indicator alone can capture the multiple aspects that constitute poverty. Multidimensional poverty is made up of several factors that constitute poor people’s experience of deprivation – such as poor health, lack of education, inadequate living standard, disempowerment, poor quality of work and threat from violence. The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), developed by Sabina Alkire and James Foster, has been included in the Human Development Reports of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since 2010, and the release of national poverty measures in Chile, Mexico, Colombia, Bhutan and the Philippines. The book introduces the framework for multidimensional measurement and addresses practical implementation issues.



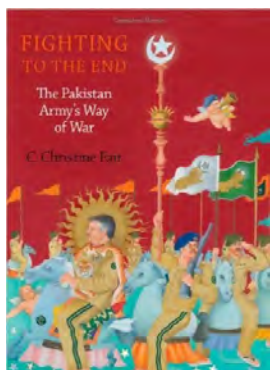
Sabina Alkire responding to a question from the audience



James Foster explaining the technical details of Multidimensional Poverty Measurement

TALK BY DR. CHRISTINE FAIR

The Department of Political Science organized in collaboration with the US Consulate in Frankfurt a lecture by Dr. Christine C. Fair on April 27th, 2015 titled, “Security in a Fragile Region: The Case of India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan”.



In her talk she addressed the challenges of security in a dynamic and volatile region with two of the world’s nuclear states (India and Pakistan), a rising, aspiring power (India) and where a number of protracted conflicts, (Kashmir) and security concerns continue to dominate (human security, terrorism, drugs). Dr. Fair’s talk was part of a Europe-wide launch of her latest publication: *Fighting to the End: The Pakistan Army’s Way of War* (Oxford University Press, 2014).

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STUDYING DOCUMENTS IN PRE-MODERN SOUTH ASIA AND BEYOND: PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVES

by Simon Cubelic

From 4th – 6th October 2015 the Research Unit "Documents on Religion and Law of Pre-modern Nepal" (Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities) organizes an international conference entitled "Studying Documents in Pre-modern South Asia and Beyond: Problems and Perspectives". The event will take place at the Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften, Karlstraße 4, 69117 Heidelberg.

Although over the last decades, the "government of paper" (Matthew S. Hull) in colonial and post-colonial bureaucracies has received considerable scholarly attention, the practices of documentation in pre-modern societies in South Asia still largely remain unexplored. Therefore, the study of such documents is a challenging field. It opens up new perspectives on South Asian religions and societies which until now have only rarely been explored by Indologists and other textual scholars of South Asia.

The proposed conference is organized by Axel Michaels under the auspices of the project "Documents on Religion and Law of Pre-modern Nepal" conducted since 2014 by the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities. It aims at bringing together experts for the study of documents in pre-modern societies, with a special focus on South Asia, but also including insights gained with material from beyond this regional context.

One of the main objectives of the conference is to contextualize the increasing production of documents in Nepal during the Śāha and Rāñā period within the framework of pre-modern South Asian administrative and legal cultures which are shaped by polyglotism and draw upon several trans-local literary cultures. Furthermore, digital aspects of document and archival research will be discussed and the digital infrastructure of the projects "Dodis" (Diplomatic Documents of Switzerland) and "Documents on Religion and Law of Pre-modern Nepal" will be introduced.

Around twenty presentations, with subjects ranging from indigenous traditions of Nepalese historiography, legal, ritual and religious practices of 19th century Nepal, deeds and diplomatics of different pre-modern South Asian regional cultures to digital methods in European diplomatics and archival research, will shed light on a broad variety of documentary practices in South Asia and beyond. Confirmed speakers include among others Diwakar Acharya (Kyoto), Monika Boehm-Tettelbach (Heidelberg), Polly O'Hanlon (Oxford), Timothy Lubin (Washington), Charles Ramble (Paris) and Alexander von Rospatt (Berkeley).

External guests are welcome. Prior registration is required. Please contact: simon.cubelic@adw.uni-heidelberg.de

For details see: <http://www.haw.uni-heidelberg.de/forschung/forschungstellen/nepal/projekt.en.html>



A pañjāpatra of King Rājendra (1846), National Archives Kathmandu.

Foto: Manik Bajracharya.

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CURATING ART AND PUBLICITY: DELHI AND KATHMANDU

On Friday, 13 March 2015 a session on Curating Art and PubliCity: Delhi and Kathmandu organized by Christiane Brosius (Professor of Visual and Media Anthropology at the Karl Jaspers Centre for Advanced Transcultural Studies at Heidelberg University) and Sujan Chitrakar (Professor and Academic Program Coordinator at Kathmandu University's Center of Art and Design), took place at Yalamaya Kendra, Patan Dhoka, Lalitpur. The session was divided into several formats: short input-presentations were followed by a conversation between Chitrakar and Brosius, followed by Q&A.

Many cities across the globe have begun to organize public art festivals to place themselves on a more visible stage and to generate a local interest in new formats of art practice and in theme-related issues such as eco-awareness and climate change. Rather than looking at cities as a 'neutral' arena into which art works can be 'inserted' (for interventions or research-based art projects) and to which a wide range of publics can be invited and asked to engage, this event looked at Delhi and Kathmandu as specific cases and local phenomena, with their own spatial fabric and temporal logic.

The session considered two art events as starting-point from which different aspects will be considered: Christiane Brosius presented the case of 48°C: public art ecology (2008), until then the largest art festival with public art works by commissioned international and national contemporary artists in the Indian capital. Sujan Chitrakar explored the challenges and chances of the second Kathmandu International Art Festival (KIAF) in 2012. Both speakers discussed the events and their underlining curatorial narratives through selected art works and sites. In conversation, they touched upon themes such as how the city can be imagined and interpreted through display, who 'owns' the city, and how access to public sites but also different memories of the city can be restricted, opened and challenged. How can art works contribute to a critical rethinking of the city as an open and responsive space? How can particularity and diversity, participation and inclusion be ensured, for artists and, more general, for all citizens? How can art engage in thinking about the city's ecology and life quality, its intangible and tangible heritage and future? What are the legacies of 48°C and KIAF 2 and is it possible to make distinctions and yet find parallels between the cases of Delhi and Kathmandu?



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- ▶ Talk by Dr. Christine Fair
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- ▶ Conference in Kalimpong
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CONFERENCE IN KALIMPONG

About 100 participants attended the conference „Transcultural Encounters in the Himalayan Borderlands: Kalimpong as a ‚Contact Zone““ organised by research project D19 „Kalimpong as a ‚contact zone‘: encounters between Tibet and Western modernity in the early 20th century“, which is directed by Prof. Birgit Kellner and Dr. Markus Viehbeck. It was held in Kalimpong, India, from March 6-8 and aroused great interest and media coverage. The conference brought together various international scholars on the cultural history of Kalimpong, many of whom are linked through Eastern Himalayan Research Network.

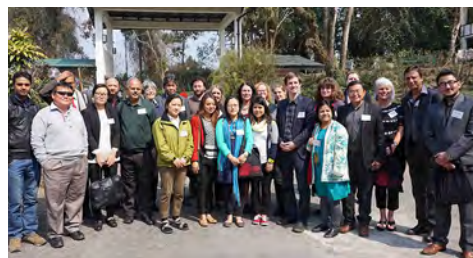
A number of articles on the conference were published in regional newspapers, such as Himalayan Mirror and Sikkim Observer. The keynote lecture was delivered by Prof. Tanka B. Subba, vice-chancellor of Sikkim University.

The conference focused on the hill station of Kalimpong which played a vital role as a center of convergence for the complex transcultural processes that affected the entire Eastern Himalayan region in the twentieth century. Originally an important link in the tea trade route connecting the Himalayas, it became the main transit hub for the exchange of Tibetan and European commodities in the wake of the British Younghusband invasion to Tibet in 1904.

Kalimpong thus became a salient space for manifold and complex cultural interactions. The study of such spaces in the colonial world has in recent years been enriched by new theoretical perspectives related to transcultural and postcolonial studies. The conference focuses on Kalimpong as a rich case study for stimulating dialogue between these different efforts, probing into various interconnected key areas, such as trade, religion, politics, media, scholarship, education, etc., using different methodological and disciplinary approaches.



Front page article in the newspaper Himalayan Mirror



Group of conference speakers



Audience



Keynote lecture by Prof. Subba



Discussion during break

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INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP IN NEW DELHI

by Annika Mayer & Roberta Mandoki

The research project „Ageing in a Transcultural Context“ from the Cluster of Excellence ‘Asia and Europe in a Global Context’ at Heidelberg University organized an international workshop on “New Approaches to Ageing in South Asia and Europe“.



Lecture at workshop

The workshop took place at India International Centre and Goethe-Institut New Delhi from February 24 to 26, 2015. It brought together international junior and senior scholars working on different aspects of ageing from a cultural perspective.

The workshop was opened on February 24, 2015 by Prof. Dr. Andreas Kruse's public keynote at the occasion of the Heidelberg Lecture 2015 which is annually hosted by the Heidelberg Centre South Asia.

During the succeeding two days at New Delhi's Goethe Institut, Max Mueller Bhavan, four workshop sessions covered topics from the micro- to macro-perspective on ageing. The sessions included presentations of narrating old age and death; policy, institutional and medical perspectives on ageing; growing old in the specific environment of South Asia's cities; and the implications of increasing transnational mobility on care and family.



Participants of the international workshop

Each session contributed to a fruitful interdisciplinary exchange with scholars coming from indology, social anthropology, literature studies and social work.

The second highlight was Prof. Sarah Lamb's public keynote on February 25, 2015 in the Siddhartha Hall of Goethe-Institut Delhi. The anthropologist from Brandeis University in Waltham, USA, critically analyzed the concept of 'Successful Ageing' through the lens of everyday practices of older persons in India. She argued that while the successful ageing model promotes ideals of agelessness, independence, and individual responsibility for ageing well, prevalent models of ageing well in India, in contrast, emphasize appropriate (inter)dependence within families, and accepting and growing from the fundamental condition of human transience.



Workshop keynote: Prof. Sarah Lamb, Brandeis University, Waltham

In her analysis Prof. Lamb highlighted that beliefs and practices surrounding ageing illuminate far-reaching social-cultural phenomena, including the cultural agendas behind national policies, intricate models of personhood, and profound social-moral visions of how best to live.

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MEMORIAL CEREMONY FOR LOTHAR LUTZE

Lothar Lutze

The SAI organized a memorial ceremony for Professor Lothar Lutze (1927-2015) on Wednesday, May 13th in the reading room of the SAI Library. Monika Boehm-Tettelbach, Alokaranjan Dasgupta, Hans Harder, Gautam Liu, Barbara Lotz, Rainer Lotz, Christoph Rieger, Dietmar Rothermund and Christian Weiß among others, spoke to the occasion.

Lothar Lutze, Emeritus Professor, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, passed away on the night of 4 March in Berlin, in the presence of his family.

Lothar Lutze (born on September 7th 1927) taught at the SAI from 1965 to 1992. He was a passionate lover of literature, and widely recognized as a translator of modern literature in Hindi, Bengali, and other South Asian Languages.

Lothar Lutze was awarded with the Tagore- as well with the George-Grierson-Prize. For his outstanding contributions to literature and education he received the Padma-Shri-Award in 2006.

Under his direction, numerous well-known authors from South Asia found their way to Heidelberg. He is fondly remembered by many of his students as a compelling university teacher.

The SAI is saddened by Professor Lutze's loss, and wishes to express its profound sympathy to his loved ones.

KAI FÜRSTENBERG AS LECTURER AT THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Kai Fürstenberg started as a lecturer at the Department of Political Science from April 1st 2015.

He studied political science, political science of South Asia and South Asian history at the Universities of Heidelberg and Uppsala.

He did his PhD-research under the supervision of Professor Mitra and received his PhD in political science writing about Evolutionary Institutionalism. His research interests are Evolutionary Institutionalism, biopolitics, especially the translation of biological concepts into the social sciences, as well as conflict analyses and security-research.

Kai Fürstenberg will be in charge of course guidance and supervision and examination of BA and MA students.



Kai Fürstenberg

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DISPUTATION BY PRABHAT KUMAR

Prabhat Kumar has successfully defended his dissertation entitled "Satire, Modernity, Transculturality in Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century North India" on 24th July, 2015. He is currently working as an assistant professor of history at Presidency University, Kolkata, West Bengal, India. His research interest lies in the field of literary-cultural and intellectual history.

The doctoral study explores the historical dynamics in the making and function of satire as a distinct literary-artistic mode of social expression in the newly configured vernacular public sphere of late nineteenth and early twentieth century colonial North India.

The study deals with modern Hindi literary and visual satire (popularly called cartoon) and its complex relationship with modernity, colonialism and the question of transculturality in an era, which connected the Indian subcontinent more directly to the global system of economic and cultural exchange within the asymmetrical matrix of power.



Prof. Dharampal-Frick, Prof. Harder, Prabhat Kumar, Prof. Rothermund (left to right)

DISPUTATION BY DIVYA NARAYANAN

Divya Narayanan, doctoral student of Prof. Dr. Gita Dharampal-Frick successfully defended her dissertation entitled "Cultures of food and consumption in Mughal and post-Mughal India" on 15.05.2015.

Her dissertation was an interdisciplinary and transcultural study of food cultures in North India between the sixteenth and mid-nineteenth centuries. It drew on a variety of unpublished material in Persian, Hindi and English. She has now begun a new project on the environmental and climatic history of seventeenth and eighteenth century North India.



LAILA ABU-ER-RUB COMPLETED HER DISSERTATION

Congratulations to Laila Abu-Er-Rub for completing her dissertation project. Her dissertation entitled „Goldene Zeiten: Mode und Körper im neoliberalen Indien“ (Golden Times: Fashion and Body in Neoliberal India) was successfully defended on July 16th 2015. Laila Abu-Er-Rub studied Anthropology, Media Studies and Religious Studies. She works for the Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe in a Global Context" since 2009. Since May 2012 she is the coordinator of Research Area B „Public Spheres“ and since October 2013 the coordinator of the HERA Joint Research Programme „Cultural Encounters“ entitled „Creating the ‚New‘ Asian Woman: Entanglements of Urban Space, Cultural Encounters and Gendered Identities in Shanghai and Delhi.“



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PARTHA S. GHOSH AS VISITING PROFESSOR

We cordially welcomed Prof. Dr. Partha S. Ghosh as Visiting Professor at the Department of History at the South Asia Institute. He holds a scholarship by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH) and stayed from March 4th – May 30th at the SAI. He is currently a ICSSR National Fellow at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi and an editor at India Quarterly, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), Sapru House, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi. Partha S. Ghosh received his Ph.D. at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and his academic interests include South Asian Politics, Migration, Ethnicity, Majority-Minority relations, and Domestic Politics-Foreign Policy interface.



PUBLICATION BY MOAZZEM HOSSAIN ATTRACTS ATTENTION

Dr. Moazzem Hossain, Associate Professor of Economics in the Department of International Business and Asian Studies at the Griffith Business School, Brisbane, Australia, has been a visitor at the South Asia Institute's Department of Development Economics during spring 2012. In his manuscript "Building Responsible Social Protection in South Asia:



India's Food Security Act as a New Direction", which he has written during his visit, he highlights that poverty eradication in South Asia is closely connected to demographic developments. He suggests that the combination of the current population growth trends, the crisis in income distribution and the global financial crisis may worsen South Asia's situation in the years to come.

The article was published in South Asia Research in July 2014 (Vol 34, No 2, 133-153). This leading journal in the field of South-Asian studies is published on behalf of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London. Since its publication, the article has ranked persistently among the top ten most-read articles of this journal. The SAI congratulates Prof. Hossain on this influential publication.

FEDERAL CROSS OF MERIT AWARDED TO NIELS GUTSCHOW

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Niels Gutschow received in February 2015 the Federal Cross of Merit by Justice State Secretary Thomas Metz in Wiesbaden as an "architect, scientific and cultural bridge-builder". He has contributed significantly to a better understanding of cultural and social contexts in different regions, religions and societies. As an internationally renowned architectural historian, he has made major contributions to the understanding of the architectural culture in Europe and Asia.



Niels Gutschow graduated in architecture from Darmstadt University, and wrote his PhD-thesis on the Japanese Castle Town in 1973. Since 2004, he is honorary professor at Heidelberg University, Department of Indology and lives in Abtsteinach, Germany and Bhaktapur, Nepal.

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NEW GRADUATE PROGRAM ABOUT GLOBAL HISTORY OF RELIGION FROM A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE



A new graduate program dealing with Historicization and decentration of religious identities in the 19th and early 20th century („Globale Religionsgeschichte aus regionaler Perspektive“). It is funded by the the State Graduate Sponsorship Program (Landesgraduiertenförderung) and begins from 05/01/2015.

The aim of the program is an examination of different regional perspectives and the reciprocity and multipolarity of global religious exchange processes. A close cooperation with the Project

MC7 „political legitimacy“ of the Cluster of Excellence Asia and Europe in a Global Context is provided.

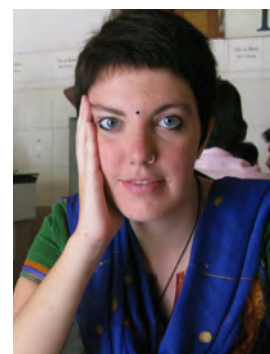
The program was requested by Michael Bergunder (Religious Studies and Intercultural Theology and an associate member of the SAI). Further responsible are Friederike Nüssel (Systematic Theology and Ecumenism), Jan Stievermann (History of Christianity in the US), Hans Martin Krämer (Japanese Studies), and Hans Harder (Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures, South Asia Institute).

Arian Hopf (picture), who completed his master's degree in „Modern Languages and Literatures of South Asia“ at the SAI in 2014, will deal with the South Asian context as a PhD student of Hans Harder. The focus of his investigation will be the concept of religion in Urdu.

POSTDOCTORAL DAAD-FELLOWSHIP FOR VERA LAZZARETTI

Dr. Vera Lazzaretti (University of Mailand) has been granted a DAAD post-doctoral fellowship to work on her research project on the negotiation of heritage in Varanasi entitled: “The production of heritage and its boundaries: rethinking space and practices in a controversial religious compound.” Hosted by the department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia (Classical Indology) she will stay at the SAI from October 2015 to July 2016, collaborate with Prof. Jörg Gengnagel and make use of materials collected at the SAI during the DFG-funded “Varanasi Research Project” (2000 – 2002).

Vera Lazzaretti's project addresses and explores the spatial dimension of heritage-making in a multi-religious compound that comprises the famous temple of Kāśī Viśvanāth, the Gyān Vāpī mosque and, in between them, a sacred well (Jñānavāpī, the Well of Knowledge). Due to its controversial history and its oscillation between being a shared and contested sacred space the whole compound is a highly sensitive area under a layered security plan. The research project takes a cross-disciplinary approach which combines the study of textual, visual and historical sources about the area with a multivocal ethnography of place and focuses on boundaries and the in-between space represented by the Well of Knowledge.



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NEW PUBLICATIONS BY GITA DHARAMPAL-FRICK

In March 2015, Reclam published the book „Mittel und Wege - Ausgewählte Reden und Schriften“ by Mahatma Gandhi, edited by Prof. Gita Dharampal-Frick (Head of Department of History at the South Asia Institute). Mahatma Gandhi is one of the most impressive figures in the history, his theories about non-violence and political resistance had enormous influence on the political debate. The volume brings together the most important texts and speeches by Gandhi and characterizes in this way his life.

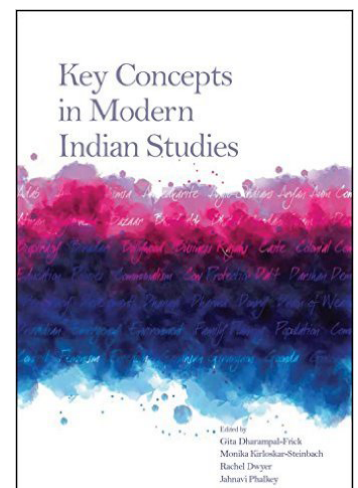


Franz Steiner Verlag released a new lexicon for non-European history („Lexikon zur Übersee-geschichte“), edited by Hermann Joseph Hiery which includes around 2,000 keywords (Abidjan to Zyklische Zeitvorstellung) related to the history of non-European cultures and people of Africa, America, Asia, Australia and the South Pacific.

Prof. Dr. Gita Dharampal-Frick took over the responsibility of editing the South Asia section of the 922-page volume. The publication includes more than 100 contributions

by (current and former) scholars from the South Asia Institute who thereby enriched the academic engagement with the region's history in Germany.

Oxford University Press India published the book „Key Concepts in Modern Indian Studies“, edited by Gita Dharampal-Frick (Head of the Department of History at the South Asia Institute), Monika Kirloskar-Steinbach (University Konstanz), Rachel Dwyer (University of London) and Jahnvi Phalkey (King's College London). This book is the first reference volume to introduce the terminology used for cultural studies and the social sciences relating to India and will be of interest to scholars and students of history, sociology, politics, religious studies and economics.



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PUBLICATION BY JÖRG GENGNAGEL

In May 2015, De Gruyter published the monograph „Monarchische Herrschaftsformen der Vormoderne in transkultureller Perspektive“ by Jörg Gengnagel (Interim Professor, Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia (Classical Indology), South Asia Institute). The book tries to analyze different monarchies of the pre-modern in the functioning of its political system. Further contributors are Wolfram Drews, Antje Flüchter, Christoph Dartmann, Almut Höfert, Sebastian Kolditz, Jenny Rahel Oesterle, Ruth Schilling and Gerald Schwedler.



NEW PUBLICATION BY ROMAN SIELER



In June 2015, Oxford University Press, New York, published the monograph ‚Lethal Spots, Vital Secrets: Medicine and Martial Arts in South India‘, authored by Dr. Roman Sieler, Research Associate, Department of Anthropology.

The book includes the first ethnographic study of siddha medicine in general and of its sub-specialization, varmakalai, in particular. It also provides a much needed counterweight to traditional studies of Indian medicine by using in-depth ethnographic research in addition to textual analysis.

NEW PUBLICATION BY MARKUS VIEHBECK

“Polemics in Indo-Tibetan Scholasticism: A Late 19th-Century Debate between ‘Ju Mi pham and Dpa’ ris Rab gsal” (Wiener Studien zur Tibetologie und Buddhismuskunde, Heft 86) makes an important contribution to exploring the question of how knowledge of Buddhist India is appropriated and negotiated on the Tibetan plateau. It investigates the series of debates between the Rnying ma master ‘Ju Mi pham (1846–1912) and his contemporary opponents from the Dge lugs school – in particular Dpa’ ris Rab gsal (1840–1912) – that flared up in Eastern Tibet in the late nineteenth century and involved the major centres of Tibetan scholasticism in the almost thirty years of its development. The publication is an outcome of Markus Viehbeck’s dissertation at the University of Vienna and his work in the project “Reasoning in South Asian and Tibetan Buddhism” (D16) at the Cluster “Asia & Europe.” Besides the printed edition the book is also available as Open Access from the publisher’s website: https://www.istb.univie.ac.at/uploads/wstb/WSTB_86.pdf



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Arriving by car from Autobahn A656

Turn left towards “Chirurgie” and “Zoo” at the end of the Autobahn. Cross the Neckar on Ernst-Waltz-Brücke. You are now at “Berliner Straße”. At the third traffic light turn left and enter into the Neuenheimer Feld Campus. After ca. 200 m the SAI is on the left hand side. Use one out of three public parking lots close to the institute.

Public Transport

From Heidelberg main station: Take bus line 32 or 21 (direction towards “Neuenheim”). Get off at the stop “Kopfklinik” or “Pädagogische Hochschule”. Bus line 31 also brings you to University Square (Uniplatz) in Heidelberg Old Town and back.

