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WELCOME

As an undergraduate and later a graduate student in the USA, I was well aware of the South Asia Institute and its excellent international reputation, but never dreamed that one day I would be working there as a Professor. Now that I have been in Heidelberg for 17 years, and have begun my second stint as Executive Director, I can say that with every passing year I am more certain that my decision to move to Germany and join the SAI was the right one.



For someone like me who really loves South Asia, there is really no place in the world quite like the SAI. With our seven Professors and four Associated Professors, our library of 300,000 volumes, our Branch Offices in Delhi, Kathmandu, and Colombo, our Guest Professors supported by the Governments of India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, and above all the many languages we teach, the South Asia Institute is uniquely placed to cover South Asia in its most important aspects, both historically and from a contemporary perspective.

The dynamism of the South Asia Institute is well conveyed in this month's newsletter: the Sri Lanka Professor is new, and so is our new CATS (Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies) building, and so is a new program of digitisation in the library. There are new study programs on Ageing in India, and on written and spoken Urdu; new research projects on memory, governance, and images of manliness; and eight new books on topics ranging from Sanskrit literature to contemporary governance. The SAI is very lively and exciting place, and I am more delighted than ever to be a part of it.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'William S. Sax'.

William S. Sax
Professor and Head
Department of Anthropology, and
Executive Director
South Asia Institute



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- ▶ Subrata K. Mitra and Dr. Michael Liebig: "Kautilya's Arthashastra: An Intellectual Portrait - The Classical Roots of Modern Politics in India"
- ▶ Axel Michaels and Govinda Tandon: Pasupatiksetra: A Historical Inventory
- ▶ Christiane Brosius & Sanjeev Maharjan: Breaking Views. Engaging Art in Post-Earthquake Nepal
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UTE HÜSKEN NEW PROFESSOR OF DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS HISTORY OF SOUTH ASIA

We cordially welcome Ute Hüsken as new professor of Classical Indology and head of the Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia to the beginning of summer term 2017. Her research interests are medieval and contemporary Hindu traditions as well as early Indian Buddhism and Theravada Buddhism.

She is also interested in ritual traditions of Indian origin, in connection with the study of intersectionality and gender.

In her academic work, she focuses on a combination of the study of ancient and central Indian texts and ethnographic research. Regarding teaching at the institute, she plans to strengthen the Middle Indian language Pali and to intensify the Sanskrit courses. Ms. Hüsken is also looking forward to working with the other sections at the South Asia Institute and the Heidelberg Center for Transcultural Studies to jointly develop and offer events and courses.



In the upcoming summer term, Ms. Hüsken will offer a seminar entitled "Sanskrit Māhātmyams" which introduces the genre "Māhātmyam" and which presents analytical tools to deal with these (often sectarian) texts. In addition, she will hold the lecture with the title "Buddhismus: Aus der Sicht der Frauen – eine andere Geschichte des Buddhismus?".

Ute Hüsken studied Indology, Tibetan Studies, Burmese Studies, Sociology and Ethnology at the University of Göttingen. In 1995, she obtained her doctorate with the topic "Die Regeln für die buddhistische Nonnengemeinde im Vinaya-Piṭaka der Therāvadin". In 2003, she habilitated at Heidelberg University on the "Life-cycle rituals of the South Indian Vaikhānasa temple priests". After working as a research associate and university assistant at University of Göttingen, she worked as a project manager at the Collaborative Research Center 619 "Ritual Dynamics" at Heidelberg University from 2003 to 2008. From 2007-2017, she was a professor in the "South Asian Studies" section at the Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages, Faculty of Humanities at the University of Oslo.

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INAUGURATION OF THE SRI LANKA CHAIR



Prof. Siri Hettige giving his lecture

On Thursday, 9 February 2017, the festive inauguration of the Sri Lanka Chair took place at the South Asia Institute, Library, Heinrich Zimmer Reading Room. At the beginning, Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Bernhard Eitel, President of Heidelberg University, His Excellency Karunatilaka Amunugama, Ambassador of Sri Lanka, Norbert H. Quack, Honorary Consul of Sri Lanka and Prof. Dr. William Sax, head of department of Anthropology, South Asia Institute gave welcome addresses. Afterwards, Prof. Siri Hettige, the holder of the Sri Lanka Chair and Emeritus Professor of Sociology, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka gave a talk entitled „Achieving Sustainable Development Goals in Sri Lanka: Prospects and Challenges“. The event concluded with a reception.



Ritual by Prof. William Sax



Dancing Performance



From left to right: H. E. Karunatilaka Amunugama, Prof. William Sax, Prof. Bernhard Eitel, Prof. Siri Hettige, Norbert Quack

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FAREWELL FOR PROF. JÖRG GENGNAGEL

by Malini Ambach

On 30 January 2017, Prof. Jörg Gengnagel was given an official farewell with several surprise guests in the library of the South Asia Institute. After the welcome address by Prof. Axel Michaels the lecture "Going Global in Benares" by Prof. Sumathi Ramaswamy from Duke University provided some interesting insights and stimulating thoughts relating to Prof. Gengnagel's research interest in the religious topography of Benares. Following her talk, Prof. Niels Gutschow and Dr. Stefan Schütte joined them to participate in the panel discussion. As a surprise, Prof. Gengnagel was thanked and honoured for his long commitment to the SAI with a song performed by his department as well as gifts by colleagues and the student council. Closing the official part of the evening Prof. Gengnagel himself gave a thank-you speech and invited everybody to enjoy the buffet.



Prof. Gengnagel has been part of the SAI since 1997 but worked especially for the Department Cultural and Religious History of South Asia for about eight years partly as interim professor for Prof. Michaels. During this time he was additionally committed to several different research projects like "Changing Sacred Waterscapes: Religious and Scientific Knowledge Systems in Varanasi" at the Cluster of Excellence and the joint project "Weltweites Zellwerk" with the Universities of Mainz and Bonn. He also actively engaged with the organization of courses and study programs as a member of the joint committee of the South Asia Institute.



Colleagues of the department singing a farewell song

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LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR CATS

On Friday, February 17, the foundation stone for the Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies (CATS) was laid in a festive setting at the construction site. Guests of honour from the federal state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, together with representatives from Heidelberg University and construction management acknowledged CATS as a milestone for the Asian Studies in Heidelberg.

Bernd Müller, executive construction director, gave an introduction and welcomed the project partners involved in CATS. Gisela Splett, Federal Secretary of Finance and Theresia Bauer, Minister of Science of the federal state of Baden-Wuerttemberg emphasized the importance of transcultural research for the future development of Heidelberg University. Furthermore, they outlined that the research done in CATS will facilitate the mutual understanding of cultural differences. They also mentioned the success of the newly established CATS Schülerlabor, which is the first project of CATS. Prof. Bernhard Eitel, President of Heidelberg University and Jürgen Odszuck, first mayor of Heidelberg stressed the innovative concept behind CATS and its importance for the university and city of Heidelberg as well as for the quarter of Bergheim. Profs. Barbara Mittler and Axel Michaels, who are the managing directors of CATS, presented an outlook on research and studies at CATS and connected the continents of Asia and Europe in their speech.

After the speeches, the guests proceeded to the edge of the construction site where the foundation stone, built from bricks, had been placed for the ceremony. All partners involved in the creation and construction of CATS placed a symbolic object in a cassette that was then immured into the foundation stone.



Cornerstone laying at the Bergheim campus with Senior Construction Director Bernd Müller of the Baden-Württemberg State Office of Property and Construction (left), sinologist Prof. Dr Barbara Mittler, Project Manager Katrin Werkle-Geisinger, Minister of Science Theresia Bauer, University Library Director Dr Veit Probst, Heidelberg University President Prof. Dr Bernhard Eitel, architect Jan van der Velden-Volkman, State Secretary Gisela Splett, City Councillor for Building and Construction Jürgen Odszuck, and indologist Prof. Dr Axel Michaels.

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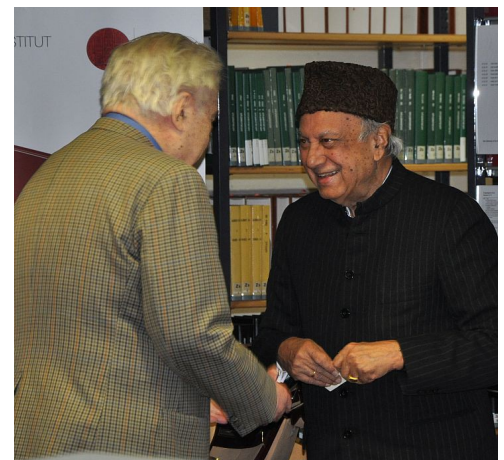
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BOOK PRESENTATION OF "GANDHI'S OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP"

On 27 October, 2016, the presentation of the German edition of the book entitled "Gandhi's Outstanding Leadership" (with a preface by Michail Gorbachev) by Pascal Alan Nazareth took place at the Heinrich-Zimmer-Reading Room of the SAI-library. Pascal Alan Nazareth presented his book to the audience; further participants and discussants were Prof. Gita Dharampal-Frick (Head of the Department of History, SAI), Prof. Stefan Klonner (Executive Director, SAI) and Prof. Dr. A. Stephen K. Hashmi (Vice-President Research and Structure, Heidelberg University).

The Ambassador of India, Shri Gurjit Singh, gave a welcome address to inaugurate the event. Afterwards, there was a reception in the foyer of the South Asia Institute.

The book entitled "Gandhi's Outstanding Leadership" analyses the components of Gandhi's leadership, compares his political role with that of other modern leaders, and assesses his achievements, which made seminal contributions to various fields. Furthermore, Mr. Nazareth traces the revolutionary impact that Gandhian alternatives have exercised during a span of nearly seven decades since his assassination. The book culminates with highlighting the continued relevance of Mahatma Gandhi's inspirational vision for the contemporary global scenario.



Pascal Alan Nazareth

Pascal Alan Nazareth is the former Ambassador of India to Egypt and to Mexico, as well as to other important emerging states. Since his retirement in 1994, he has been researching, writing and lecturing on Mahatma Gandhi and has evaluated his extensive global impact. His book 'Gandhi's Outstanding Leadership' has been published in 11 Indian and 12 foreign languages.



(from left to right): Dinesh Setia, CGI, Munich, Prof. Dr. A. Stephen K. Hashmi, Pascal Alan Nazareth, Prof. Stefan Klonner, Prof. Gita Dharampal-Frick, Gurjeet Singh, Ambassador of India, the publisher Pragma Gerig, The Golden Shore, Nürnberg

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DIGITISATION AND BEYOND – SANSKRIT/HINDI OCR OF THE NAVAL KISHORE PRESS COLLECTION

by Liudmila Olalde

One of the sub-projects within the new Special Information Service Asia (Fachinformationsdienst Asien – CrossAsia) is the digitisation of the Naval Kishore Press collection of the library of the South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University. Until recently, digital versions of texts in South Asian scripts offered by the Heidelberg University Library (see <http://digi.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/sammlungen/suedasien.html>) consisted merely of high quality scans which do not allow for a full text search. In order to overcome this limitation, a team at the SAI and Heidelberg University has been working since June 2016 on the implementation of the OCR software developed by Oliver Hellwig for Sanskrit and Hindi. Currently, more than a dozen books of the Naval Kishore Press are now also available as editable texts in Devanagari and Roman transliteration. This allows users to run full text searches and see the results highlighted in the facsimile. Additionally, a high quality OCR-PDF can be downloaded for free.

Admittedly, the accuracy of the Optical Character Recognition varies considerably from text to text, depending on the font, the print quality, the paper, the state of preservation of the book, etc. An interesting feature of the project is furthermore the scope of languages covered by the Naval Kishore Press, which includes Avadhi and Braj. These languages can be a real challenge for the OCR software, but it is possible to train it and thus increase the accuracy of the results. For these reasons the OCR texts undergo a basic manual correction before going public. Thus, although the texts provided are not thoroughly proofread and hence not fully accurate, they still represent a useful tool for students and researchers to identify relevant material and could also serve as the starting point of a linguistic corpus.

The collection is accessible at <http://digi.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/sammlungen/suedasien.html> -> subject -> collections -> Naval Kishore Press.

Heidelberger historische Bestände – digital

UNIVERSITÄTSBIBLIOTHEK HEIDELBERG

The screenshot shows the digital interface for the book 'Kavi, Nivāja; Kālidāsa [Editor] Śakuntalā upākhyāna' by Lakhanāu, 1895. The interface includes a search bar, navigation controls, and a list of tabs: Facsimile, OCR-Volltext, Scroll <>, and Overview. The main content area displays the text in Devanagari script, starting with 'कथाप्रारंभ' and 'काव्य बद्ध शकुन्तला दुष्यन्त के गन्धर्व विवाह के विषय में सवेया'. Below the text, there is a search bar with the text 'शकुन्तला' and a 'Usage information' link. The footer of the page shows the text 'kathānīrāmbha'.

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SAI HELP NEPAL REVIEW AND UPDATE

by Nadine Plachta, with Christiane Brosius and Axel Michaels, Manik and Ritu Bajracharya, Niels Gutschow, Rajan Khatiwoda, Roberta Mandoki, Marcus Nüsser and Davide Torri

Two years ago, Nepal was devastated by a major earthquake of magnitude 7.8. Another followed a few weeks later, leaving people even more helpless. Few of us can forget the shocking images of houses collapsed, and people and their belongings buried in the rubble; of centuries-old temples being reduced to dust as the ground shook.

The South Asia Institute responded quickly. In the immediate aftermath of the disaster it founded the "Nepal Earthquake Relief Fund Heidelberg" (or more succinctly, SAI Help Nepal) to provide support for communities in need. Drawing on their familiarity with the country, researchers and faculty members of the SAI worked voluntarily together with coordinators on the ground. Since then around twenty short- and long-term projects have focused on humanitarian relief, children's education, and the reconstruction of architectural heritage. The most recent result to come out of this campaign is "Breaking Views," a book co-authored by Christiane Brosius and Sanjeev Maharjan. It delves into the question how artists perceive everyday life after a catastrophe. What meaning does art have in the context of an earthquake, and what can it do? The book brings together the expertise of artists, curators, an art historian, and an anthropologist to offer a set of perspectives that bear witness as much to friction and fragility as to perseverance and resilience. It is testimony to how young artists in Nepal have responded to social and urban change, and how the earthquake in particular inspired creative responses to help others. The book was launched at Tangalwood Hotel during the Kathmandu International Art Festival, also called the Kathmandu Triennale, in March 2017.

Further, a seventeenth-century public rest house (pati) in a neighborhood of Patan, which collapsed during the earthquake, was rebuilt and handed over to the community. Reconstruction work was carried out with financial assistance from the Barbara and Wilfried Mohr Foundation, Germany. The dismantling of the structural remains of the pati began in August 2016, and the rebuilding, under the guidance of architect Padma Sundar Maharjan, was completed in March 2017. The pati now will again be a significant meeting place for the local Newar community. Reconstruction of the Char Narayan Temple also progressed speedily. After carpenters removed rotted wooden parts and replaced the damaged sections with new timber, woodcarvers skillfully restored carving details. Finally, stonemasons excavated the foundation around pillars and repaved the foundation with bricks bound with mud mortar. All damaged parts of the western portal of the Char Narayan Temple have been replaced. Today many talk of how the earthquake brought an end to life as they knew it. But they also describe it as a beginning, filled with new hopes. At the same time, government distribution of earthquake reconstruction grants for private houses has been slow, and entire communities are still waiting for support from state bodies. That is why we now feel obliged to raise awareness that people in Nepal still need your help. Please do consider donating again.

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CENTURIES-OLD PATI RECONSTRUCTED IN PATAN

A 349-year old phalca has been handed over to the community in Patan following its reconstruction in March 2017. Prof. Christiane Brosius, representative of Nepal Earthquake Relief Fund Heidelberg (SAI Help Nepal), formally handed over the phalca to Shyam Gopal Maharjan, chief of the Chabahal Community Association. The phalca in Lunchhen Nani, Chabahal was badly damaged by the earthquake of spring 2015. The reconstruction was carried out with the financial assistance from the Barbara and Wilfried Mohr Foundation, Hamburg via SAI Help Nepal of Heidelberg University in Germany.

Speaking at the handover celebration, Prof. Brosius laid emphasis on the importance of preserving the culture of singing bhajans by also preserving the phalcas. Prof. Axel Michaels of Heidelberg University stressed the importance of preserving the open nature of the phalcam which welcomes old and young, men and women, Nepalis and foreigners. Also speaking at the function, Chabahal community chief Maharjan pledged that the community will do its best to ensure preservation and timely renovation of the phalca, while also continuing the culture of bhajans. Architect Padma Maharjan explained about the complexities of reconstructing an old phalca in traditional form. Researcher Rajendra Shakya outlined the history of the phalca, saying that it was first built in 1668 AD and was later enlarged in 1712 AD. The bhajan team of Chabahal performed religious songs dedicated to various deities ahead of the handover. Donor Wilfried Mohr, who passed away few days ago, was also remembered at the program for his contributions. The dismantling of the phalca began in August 2016 and the reconstruction was completed in March 2017. Mostly used by the elderly people for performing bhajans and also for sitting, knitting, or watching the life on the street or in the courtyard, the public rest house with arcaded platform was a key part of the social life until the earthquake incurred major damages to the phalca.

The South Asia Institute (SAI) of the Heidelberg University, Germany had launched a donation campaign entitled 'SAI Help Nepal' immediately after the massive earthquake of April 25, 2015. Besides the phalca in Chabahal, SAI Help Nepal is also funding the reconstruction of Char Narayan Temple and Mani Mandap phalcas of the Patan Durbar Square that collapsed during the earthquake. SAI is active in Nepal with several academic projects and runs a branch office in Patan since 1987.



Christiane Brosius (left) hands over the key of the recently reconstructed Lunchhen Nani Phalcha to chief of the Chabahal Community Association, Shyam Gopal Maharjan in Chabahal, Tangal of Patan. Photo Courtesy: Padma Sundar Maharjan

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HIGH-LEVEL VISIT TO SAI BRANCH OFFICE

by Radu Carciumaru

On February 16, 2017, the branch office of the Heidelberg University welcomed a delegation from the State of Baden-Wurttemberg's two highest-ranking universities of applied sciences. The delegation consisted of Prof. Dr. Spägele (President of the University of Applied Sciences Ravensburg-Weingarten), Prof. Dr. Roos (President of the Stuttgart Media University), Prof. Dr. Pfeffer (Vice-President Research, International Affairs and Transfer) and Prof. Dr. Brümmer, his colleague from the University of Applied Sciences Ravensburg-Weingarten. In a highly exciting and interesting exchange, Heidelberg University's branch office shared its years of experience in India and in the South Asian region and explored the possibilities of mutual collaboration, especially on water and particularly in the Southern part of India, where Ravensburg-Weingarten has a presence of over ten years.



Prof. Dr. Franz Brümmer (University of Applied Sciences, Ravensburg-Weingarten), Prof. Dr. Michael Pfeffer (Vice-President Research, International Affairs and Transfer, UAS Ravensburg-Weingarten), Mr. Radu Carciumaru (Resident Representative, SAI/HCSA, Branch Office New Delhi), Prof. Dr. Thomas Spägele (President, UAS Ravensburg-Weingarten) and Prof. Dr. Alexander W. Roos (President, Stuttgart Media University).

MEMORANDUM OF COLLABORATION WITH FRIEDRICH NAUMANN FOUNDATION

by Radu Carciumaru

The Branch Office of the South Asia Institute in New Delhi signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, South Asia amounting to 22000 Euros. The funds will be primarily used for supporting branch office's activities and initiatives on sustainable urban development in South Asia. After successfully organizing five workshops on smart cities last year, the branch office, together with its main partners - the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi and the Observer Research Foundation (ORF)-as well as selected consortium members from the DWIH and EU Delegation will organize two-day workshops in Coimbatore, Dharamsala, Bhubaneshwar, Bangalore and Colombo (Sri Lanka).

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- ▶ Ute Hüsken new professor of Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia
- ▶ Inauguration of the Sri Lanka Chair
- ▶ Farewell for Prof. Jörg Gengnagel
- ▶ Laying the Foundation Stone for CATS
- ▶ Book Presentation of "Gandhi's Outstanding Leadership"
- ▶ Digitisation and beyond – Sanskrit/Hindi OCR of the Naval Kishore Press Collection
- ▶ SAI Help Nepal REVIEW AND Update
- ▶ Centuries-old pati reconstructed in Patan
- ▶ High-level visit to SAI Branch Office
- ▶ Memorandum of Collaboration with Friedrich Naumann Foundation
- ▶ Exchange Programme "New Directions in Active Ageing"

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EXCHANGE PROGRAMME "NEW DIRECTIONS IN ACTIVE AGEING"

A new cooperation programme between Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies and the South Asia Institute with Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, aims at enhancing "active ageing" and "age-friendly cultures" in India and Europe through various forms of knowledge exchange. In this programme, the faculty from HCTS, SAI and the Institute of Gerontology is represented by Prof. Dr. Christiane Brosius (Chair of Visual and Media Anthropology at the HCTS), Prof. Dr. William Sax (Head of the Department of Ethnology at SAI), Dr. Martin Gieselmann (Executive Secretary at SAI), Dr. Michael Doh (Department of Psychological Ageing Research, Institute of Psychology) and Prof. Dr. Andreas Kruse (Director of the Institute of Gerontology).

The issue of ageing is considered one of the most fundamental problems in this century. It creates challenges for our societies and is associated with many risks and problems, but also involves new possibilities and opportunities. With this purpose, the exchange programme "New Directions in 'Active Ageing' and 'Age-friendly Culture' in India and Germany" has been established as a joint project of Heidelberg University and Jawaharlal Nehru University, India. Various research themes will be explored within the programme frame. Several of these will be facilitated through the HCTS: Environmental gerontology, with a particular focus on urban environs and urbanization, migration processes and transnational care systems, especially transnational migration, media representations and the use of media for scholarly work and the introduction of nursing homes in India. Collaborative interdisciplinary research on "Ageing in a Transcultural Context" with particular emphasis on South Asia has already been conducted at the HCTS from 2013 to 2016. The aim of this project is to further expand the focus through extensive exchange of faculty and research-based teaching in Heidelberg and Delhi.

The exchange programme is funded in the context of the framework of Indo-German Partnership in Higher Education (IGP) by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) until June 2020. It has been established to develop new directions in active ageing and age-friendly culture.



Group of seniors doing Yoga in a park in Delhi

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- ▶ “Intensive Courses in Spoken and Written Urdu”
- ▶ Malini Ambach receives Academic Scholarship

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“INTENSIVE COURSES IN SPOKEN AND WRITTEN URDU”

The South Asia Institute at Heidelberg University will offer introductory, intermediate and advanced courses in Urdu during the summer vacations 2017. In the introductory course, students develop speaking, reading, listening and writing skills and acquire basic vocabulary as well as knowledge of the main grammatical structures and conversational etiquette of Urdu. At the intermediate level, students expand their vocabulary, their knowledge of grammatical structures and develop ease and confidence in dealing with communicative tasks. The advanced course is designed to develop communicative skills, grammatical accuracy and the ability to understand complex written texts. Special stress will also be laid on listening comprehension.

Time:	1-18 August 2017
Venue:	South Asia Institute Heidelberg
Fee:	250 Euro (incl. teaching materials)
Deadlines:	Application: 31 May, 2017
Accommodation:	Hostel on request, ca. 250-300 Euro
Contact:	Rishal Rahul Haque
E-mail:	rahul.h@gmx.de

The instructors, Ms Amtul Manan Tahir, Ms Bushra Iqbal Malik and Dr Christina Oesterheld, have taught regular Urdu courses at Erfurt University and Heidelberg University and intensive Summer courses at Erfurt and Heidelberg. Classes are scheduled to take place from Monday to Friday, 9.30 am to 3.30 pm. Regular film shows, viewing of news reports and cultural activities will be part of the programme. Participants who take part in the full programme and pass the written tests will be awarded 7 ECTS or equivalent credits. All participants are requested to acquire a basic knowledge of the Urdu script prior to the course. For this purpose, we recommend: Richard Delacy, beginners urdu script (teach yourself series), ISBN 0-340-86028-6.

Further information: http://www.sai.uni-heidelberg.de/nsp/urdu-intensivkurs_en.php

MALINI AMBACH RECEIVES ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

Malini Ambach, master's student at the SAI, has been admitted to the Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes (German Academic Scholarship Foundation) as scholarship holder in November 2016. The foundation sponsors students with outstanding academic talents, who are chosen on the basis of their outstanding intellectual skills, their dedication and intrinsic motivation, their social skills, wide-ranging extracurricular interests and social commitment. Malini Ambach studies in the master programmes Cultural and Religious History of South Asia and South Asian Studies. She has a Bachelor's degree in South Asian Studies with a focus on Classical Indology from Heidelberg University.



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MY PARENTS' WORLD – INHERITED MEMORIES

On November 9, 2016, at 3 pm, the website of the project „My Parents' World – Inherited Memories” was presented at Heinrich Zimmer Reading Room of the South Asia Institute Library as part of an afternoon conference. „My Parents' World – Inherited



Memories” is a joint project of the Goethe Institutes Kolkata and Dhaka in cooperation with the South Asia Institute, Heidelberg, the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta and the Research Initiative Bangladesh, Dhaka. The project researches inherited memories of the third post-Partition generation of Bengal through interviews. The aim is to explore how these memories and stories about the 1947 Partition shape the imagination of the third generation of post-Partition history. Through the multiple perspectives of these inherited experiences and stories, the project intends to achieve a convergence of the general understanding of this segment of subcontinental history. The project website contains 20 interviews, research results, background articles and more, all focused on the ways of remembering the 1947 Partition of Bengal which took place in the course of the general Partition of India. Speakers included: Gita Dharampal-Frick (Head of History of South Asia, SAI), Prof. Dr. Manas Ray (CSSSC, Kolkata), Dr. Meghna Guhathakurta (RIB, Dhaka), Nazes Afroz (former Senior Manager BBC World Service, GB and India), four third-generation interviewees after the division of India (Bangladesh and India), and Max Stille and Daniela Cappello (doctoral students, Department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures, SAI). At the centre of the various presentations was Nazes Afroz's inauguration of the website and the online video archive, as well as the screening of Supriyo Sen's documentary film “My Grand Parents' World”. Hans Harder (Department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures, SAI) moderated the event.

RETHINKING STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION: IN GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

Professor Rahul Mukherji, Dr Himanshu Jha and Meah Mostafiz (PhD Candidate at SAI) presented a co-authored paper on India and Bangladesh in Climate Change Finance: From Structural Conflict to Embedded Liberalism at a workshop on “Rethinking Stakeholder Participation in Global Governance: Challenges and Reforms in Financial and Health Institutions” held from 2-3 March in Burghausen, Bavaria. The workshop was co-organized by the Centre for Trade and Economic Integration (CTEI) at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva and Hochschule für Politik/Bavarian School of Public Policy at the Technischen Universität München (TUM). The paper is part of the ongoing project on ‘Rethinking Stakeholder Participation’ sponsored by the Swiss Network for International Studies. Department of Political Science at SAI is one of the partners in this project.

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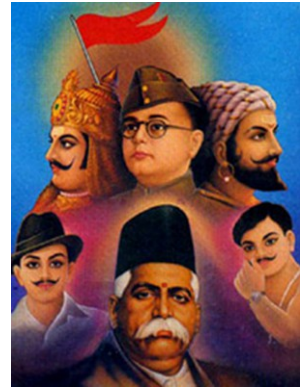
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MANLY MATTERS - REPRESENTATIONS OF MALENESS IN SOUTH ASIAN POPULAR VISUAL PRACTICE

Manly Matters is a new initiative undertaken by Sumathi Ramaswamy, Christiane Brosius and Yousuf Saeed as part of Tasveerghar – The House of Images. It is funded by the Anneliese Maier Research Award granted in 2016 to Sumathi Ramaswamy by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany. The project seeks to move the focus of pictorial analysis to representations of maleness—both spectacular and mundane—as it proliferates in South Asian popular visual practice, especially in printed images produced for the mass market.



At first blush, it may seem regressive to attend to men, given that they have been the very stuff of our scholarship for many decades as feminist critiques have so valuably demonstrated. It is however the case that in the scholarship on South Asian visual culture over the past two decades, with the possible exception of cinema studies, little or no attention has been paid to masculinity as problematic or presence, the category of “gender” frequently being read entirely as “female” and as “woman.” Consequently, the male qua male has been taken as a given, glossed over as gendered subject, and hence paradoxically rendered invisible, even while being everywhere and across various media. There is indeed “a curious timidity when it comes to male images” that is widespread in the study of South Asian visual culture. Further information: <http://tasveergharindia.net/cmsdesk/essay/137/index.html>

HEIDELBERG CENTRE SOUTH ASIA ACCOMPANIES DELEGATION TO INDIA

by Radu Carciumaru

Minister President of Baden-Württemberg Winfried Kretschmann headed a 120-member delegation to India, which took place between January 23 and 28, 2017. The high-ranking delegation consisting of representatives from state ministries, leading companies and universities visited Pune, Mumbai and Bangalore. This was the largest delegation in recent times from a German state to India. Heidelberg Centre South Asia accompanied the delegation in Pune. During the first day, the Science, Research and Technology group of the delegation headed by State Secretary Petra Olschowski (Ministry of Science, Research and Arts) visited the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), whereas during the second day it visited the College of Engineering, exploring ways for mutually beneficial research collaborations. During the official reception, Radu Carciumaru (Resident Representative of HCSA), held a short presentation in front of the delegation, introducing and familiarizing the select audience to the activities of the branch office in India and focusing on HCSA's recently held series of events on Smart Cities and on its membership in the German House for Research and Innovation consortium.



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by Rafael Klöber



Gita Dharampal-Frick and Rafael Klöber from the Department of History participated at the 51st Convention of German Historians (Deutscher Historikertag), held in Hamburg from 20.-23. September 2016 with the seminal theme "Glaubensfragen" (Religious matters). In welcoming India as the guest country, the prestigious biennial conference included a regional focus on a non-European country for the first time.

Gita Dharampal-Frick and Rafael Klöber both presented research papers in the session "India and us", organized by Wolfgang Geiger of the German History Teachers Association (VGD). Apart from advocating a stronger presence for South Asian history in German school curricula, the panel, which included Wolfgang Geiger, aimed to introduce the audience to the various longstanding connections and crucial interrelations between the Indian subcontinent and Europe, or Germany, in particular. Wolfgang Geiger ("India and Europe – a Cross-Cultural Relationship for More than 2000 Years. Subjects and Links to the Curriculum") presented a historical summary of intercontinental contact between South Asia and Europe through the centuries, starting with early trade from the era of the Indus civilization and ending with intensified mercantile relations in the pre-modern and early colonial era. By offering a comprehensive overview of the late colonial British rule and the multidimensional resistance against it, Gita Dharampal-Frick ("British Colonialism in India and the British Raj's 'End Game'") stressed the importance of studying the history of the independence movement bearing in mind the entangled nature of Indo-British relations. Rafael Klöber's paper ("Hippies, Yoga, Terrorism. Religion in India from a Historical and Global Perspective") provided historical case studies of intellectual Indo-German encounters, and thereby analyzed the emergence of modern Hinduism as a global discourse of deep personal entanglement. The Department of History has an ongoing interaction with the VGD to bring South Asian history more prominently into German classrooms.



Prof. Gita Dharampal-Frick



Rafael Klöber

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NEW ACADEMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OF MODERN SOUTH ASIAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES AND CHARLES UNIVERSITY, PRAGUE

by Hans Harder

In 2016, Prague and Heidelberg, two of the three oldest universities north of the Alps, called for cooperations on institute level so as to intensify their relations. Under this scheme, the Department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures of the SAI successfully applied for funds to set up a cooperation with the South Asia Department of Charles University, Prague.

The Prague Department for South and Central Asian Studies (Ústav jižní a centrální Asie) focuses on Hindi, Bengali and Tamil in both teaching and research, thus offering plenty of common interests and interfaces. Scholars such as Dušan Zbavitel and Kamil Zvelebil, the former bound to Prague until his death in 2012 and the latter starting his international career from there, have earned South Asian studies in Prague an excellent reputation. Jaroslav Vacek carried forth this legacy until his tragic demise in early 2017. The present team of scholars includes Martin Hribek (Bengali), Nora Melnikova (Hindi), Pavel Hons and Sona Bendikova (Tamil), Jaroslav Strnad (Braj, Old Hindi) and others.

In the course of this cooperation, a series of visits by Prague colleagues brought guest lectures to the SAI on topics ranging from South Indian tribals via Dalit politics to Hindi didactics. The highlight for the Heidelberg side was a collective visit of our staff and some PhD students to Prague in November 2016. This culminated academically in a one-day workshop to explore common fields of interest and scope for future cooperations.

Both sides have engaged quite enthusiastically in this exchange and have been productive in a very friendly atmosphere. The topic singled out for future activities, loosely inspired by the work of Franz Kafka, is fantastic literature and imagination in a transcultural vein, but with a clear focus on modern and contemporary South Asia. Another common plan, together with representatives of Warsaw University who joined us in Prague, is to set up a Bengali summer school from 2018.



The Heidelberg group in front of Franz Kafka's birth house in Prague

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CELEBRATION OF WORLD HINDI DAY

by Gautam Liu



After the talks and readings (From left to right): Prof. Hans Harder, Prof. Monika Boehm-Tettelbach, Gautam Liu, Consul General Sugandh Rajaram, Daniela Cappello, Johanna Hahn, Prof. Gita Dharampal-Frick, Max Kramer, Kuldeep Bhandari, Dr. Alaka Chudal. Photo by Borayin Larios

As it did in 2016, the Department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures organized a function in 2017 on the occasion of the Vishwa Hindi Divas (World Hindi Day) on January 27th. This was possible due to the generous support of the Consulate General of India, Munich.

The theme of this function was the manifold forms of Hindi. After brief welcome notes by the honourable Consul General Mr. Sugandh Rajaram and Prof. Hans Harder the following scholars presented their enlightening lectures on the official language of India in the context of its various dialects:

Gautam Liu (Heidelberg): *bhasha aur boliyan - ek sankshipt bhumika* (Language and dialects - a brief introduction), Prof. Monika Boehm-Tettelbach (Heidelberg): *kya Nath Siddhon ki bhasha Khari Boli hai?* (Is the language of the Nath Siddhas Khari Boli?), Johanna Hahn (Bonn): *galiyon men galiyan - Kashi ka assi upanyas men bolcal ki zaban* (Cursing in Benares - on the colloquial speech in the novel *Kashi ka assi*), Alaka Chudal (Vienna): *Hindi ka ek rup - Bihari Hindi* (Bihari Hindi - a form of Hindi), Max-Arne Kramer (Leipzig): *Mumbaiya Hindi* (The Hindi of Mumbai).

The lectures were followed by Hindi poems recited by Hans Harder, Kuldeep Bhandari and Daniela Cappello. At last a sumptuous Indian buffet awaited the guests.

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DWIH ANNUAL CONFERENCE 'CITYSCAPES'

by Radu Carciumaru



Between September 29 and October 1, 2016, German House of Research and Innovation (DWIH) organized its first annual conference 'Cityscapes' at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. Together with FU Berlin, Heidelberg Centre South Asia coordinated two panels under the overarching theme of 'City and Migration'. The first panel entitled 'Perspectives from Politics & Economy' was chaired by Prof. Dr. AbdouMaliq Simone from Max-Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen, whereas the second one - 'Citizen's Participation' - was chaired by Prof. Dr. Frauke Kraas from the University of Cologne. The panels covered two broad categories analysing politics and society, including such topics as policies, economy, labour migration, security, law and order, skill development, unemployment, political rights and duties (i.e., political integration) etc.; as well as education, citizens' participation, inclusion/integration vs gentrification/ghettoization, youth and ageing in urban South Asia, etc. The panels consisted of experts from Germany and India. Over three hundred scholars, students and practitioners from Germany and India, from both public and private sector, discussed the multifaceted topic of urbanization and its challenges. Heidelberg University was represented by Prof. Dr Christiane Brosius (Chair of Visual & Media Anthropology, Speaker Research Area B 'Public Spheres', Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe in a Global Context", Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies), who held a presentation on 'Art as critical Intervention? Mapping the 'other' world class city ', Dr Wolfgang-Peter Zingel (Associate Member, South Asia Institute) who gave a presentation on 'Megacity economies in South Asia: Rural exodus, late industrialization, smart cities and informal governance', Ms Roberta Mandoki (PhD Scholar, Cluster of Excellence, Head Project Elderscapes, Institut für Ethnologie) and by the Heidelberg alumnus Dr Andreas M. Wüst (Ministry of Social Affairs and Integration, Stuttgart), who spoke on 'The Refugee Crisis and Beyond: Challenges to Germany's Immigration and Integration Policies'.



Participants of the Conference



Christiane Brosius (middle) and Roberta Mandoki (right)

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- ▶ Welcome to Dr. Siddhartha Mukerji

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CHRISTIAN WEISS RECEIVES THE FEDERAL CROSS OF MERIT

The South Asia Institute conveys its sincere congratulations to the Heidelberg publisher Christian Weiss who has been awarded the Federal Cross of Merit. On 5 December 2016, he was honoured for his longstanding commitment to democracy and human rights (especially with regard to the Draupadi Publishing House) in the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts.

Christian Weiss, alumnus of the SAI, studied German Studies, History and Indology in Heidelberg. Afterwards, he worked as a lecturer and translator for different publishers. In 2003, he founded the Draupadi Verlag, which has been publishing translations from Indian languages and scholarly edited volumes, many of them in collaboration with members of the South Asia Institute. Weiss also participated in numerous literary events in cooperation with the South Asia Institute.

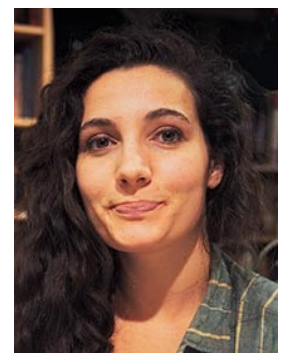


Theresa Bauer and Christian Weiß
(from left to right)

Draupadi Verlag, named after the central heroine of the "Mahabharata", focuses on the publication of German translations of novels, narrations and poems as well as textbooks from India and other South Asian countries.

WELCOME TO CAROLA ERIKA LOREA

We cordially welcome Carola Erika Lorea from the International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden University, at the Department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures of the SAI. The Bengali area specialist holds a DAAD scholarship and will stay for a year at the institute. Dr Lorea's research project "Folklore, religion and diaspora: the migration of oral traditions across and beyond the East Bengal border" is focused on the migrating folk-literature repertoires of post-Partition refugees resettled in various areas of the subcontinent. She is particularly studying the role of Bengali oral literature in the Andaman islands as a marker of cultural identity and a site of imagining 'homeland'.



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BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS**BRANCH OFFICES****CONTACT****CHAITI BASU NEW BENGALI LECTURER AT THE SAI**

The South Asia Institute cordially welcomes Chaiti Basu, M.A. as Bengali lecturer at the Department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures. Starting in the winter term 2016/17, she assumes the position of Mala Al-Farooq, who retired after 21 years of teaching at the SAI.



Chaiti Basu completed a master's degree in comparative literature at the Jadavpur University in India and a master's degree in South Asian Studies at the South Asia Seminar at the Martin Luther University in Halle-Wittenberg. In 2008, she was awarded a research fellowship in project B1 "Gauging Cultural Asymmetries: Asian Satire and the Search for Identity in the Era of Colonialism and Imperialism", in short the satire project, at the Cluster "Asia and Europe in a Global Context", and worked on colonial Bengali satire.

Before joining the SAI, Mrs. Basu was an assistant lecturer for Bengali at the Seminar for South Asian Studies at the Humboldt University Berlin and a Diploma Examiner for Bengali at the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO).

DISPUTATION BY RAFAEL KLÖBER

Rafael Klöber, assistant in the Department of History, successfully defended his dissertation entitled "Saiva Siddhanta in Tamil Nadu. Eine religionswissenschaftliche Untersuchung" on 27th September 2016. The PhD-thesis was supervised by Michael Bergunder and Gita Dharampal-Frick. The study, which was submitted in religious studies, explores the philosophical school of Tamil Saiva Siddhanta and its present-day adherents, organization and public propagation. Based on extensive fieldwork and close textual analysis of modern Saiva literature, the doctoral thesis traces the origin of contemporary forms of Saiva Siddhanta back into the 19th century. The analysis thus is a contribution to the field of Tamil religious history. Rafael Klöber continues to teach and research in the Department of History at the South Asia Institute.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO SIMON CUBELIC FOR HIS DISSERTATION**

Congratulations to Simon Cubelic, Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia for completion of his dissertation.

His dissertation is entitled "Die koloniale Restauration des Dharmasāstra. Das Obligationenrecht in Sarvoru Śarmans Vivādasārṇava" and was supervised by Prof. Dr. Axel Michaels.



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Christian Oldiges, doctoral candidate under supervision of Prof. Dr. Stefan Klöner, chair of Development Economics, South Asia Institute, between 2011 and 2016, has joined the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), Department of International Development, University of Oxford as Research Officer. He submitted his thesis titled "Essays on Household Welfare and Anti-Poverty Programs in India," in July 2016. In his thesis, Christian uses national survey data and self-collected data from villages of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh/Telangana to empirically measure the impact and influence of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) on poverty, consumption, and financial decisions. As part of his doctoral research he also developed the Nutritional Deprivation Index (NDI). The NDI enables the measurement of inadequacies in dietary diversity using ordinary household survey data easily available in developing countries. At OPHI, Oldiges will focus on measuring multidimensional poverty in South Asia as well as sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, he will advise national as well as regional governments on designing Multidimensional Poverty Indices (MPIs) that account for context specific needs and issues.

JÜRGEN SCHAFLECHNER RECEIVES FUNG GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP

After the coming summer term, Jürgen Schaflechner, assistant professor at the Department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures, will spend a year at Princeton. He has obtained one of the prestigious Fung Global Fellowships and will work at the Princeton Institute for International & Regional Studies (PIIRS) as part of a group of six international fellows on "The Culture and Politics of Resentment".

**LECTURES BY CHRISTINA OESTERHELD IN PAKISTAN**

From 10-12 February 2017, Dr. Christina Oesterheld took part in three panels of the 8th Karachi Literature Festival: a book launch of Harris Khalique's book "Crimson Papers: Reflections on Struggle, Suffering, and Creativity in Pakistan", OUP Karachi 2017, and discussions of „Novel aur Nisai Shoor“ and "The Dawn of Freedom, The Pain of Partition". During his opening remarks the Consul General of Germany in Karachi Rainer Schmiedchen presented the Urdu textbook for



speakers of German recently published by Christina Oesterheld and Amtul Manan Tahir. After the festival, Christina Oesterheld travelled on to Lahore where she met Urdu writers and former Heidelberg Post Doc Fellows from Pakistan and delivered talks at the Forman Christian College University, the Kinnaird College for Women, the Government College University and the Urdu Science Board.

CONTENT**NEWS****TEACHING****RESEARCH****PEOPLE**

- ▶ Christian Weiss receives the Federal Cross of Merit
- ▶ Welcome to Carola Erika Lorea
- ▶ Chaiti Basu new Bengali lecturer at the SAI
- ▶ Disputation by Rafael Klöber
- ▶ Congratulations to Simon Cubelic for his dissertation
- ▶ Christian Oldiges joined University of Oxford
- ▶ Jürgen Schaflechner receives Fung Global Fellowship
- ▶ Lectures by Christina Oesterheld in Pakistan
- ▶ Harish Naraindas DAAD Visiting Professor at SAI
- ▶ Welcome to Professor K.C. Suri
- ▶ Welcome to Dr. Siddhartha Mukerji

BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS**BRANCH OFFICES****CONTACT****HARISH NARAINDAS DAAD VISITING PROFESSOR AT SAI**

During Summer Term 2017, Professor Dr. Harish Naraindas will be teaching at the Department of Anthropology of the South Asia Institute as DAAD Guest Professor. Harish Naraindas is Associate Professor at the School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University. His primary interests in the history and sociology of science and medicine have led to a number of objects of enquiry: the emergence of tropical medicine as a discipline, the history of smallpox, a cross-cultural study of childbirth, medical tourism, Ayurveda, and the German Kur. He is currently working on past-life aetiologies and therapeutic trance in German psychosomatic medicine, and a multi-country study of perinatal death, personhood, and modes of memorialising perinatal loss.

**WELCOME TO PROFESSOR K.C. SURI**

During the previous winter semester, we welcomed Professor K.C. Suri as our guest at the Department of Political Science, SAI. He is a Baden Württemberg Fellowship-holder of the Federal State of Baden Württemberg and a Professor at the Department of Political Science at University of Hyderabad. He has published many book chapters and papers in national and international journals on different themes pertaining to politics and policies in India. He was a visiting scholar at Uppsala University, Sweden, and Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia. Presently he is the Managing Editor of Studies in Indian Politics, a bi-annual Political Science journal published in India by the Sage.

**WELCOME TO DR. SIDDHARTHA MUKERJI**

During the previous winter semester, we welcomed Dr. Siddhartha Mukerji as our guest at the Department of Political Science, SAI. He is a Baden Württemberg Fellowship-holder of the Federal State of Baden Württemberg and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow. His areas of interest are electoral politics in India, public administration and e-governance, and political economy of industrialization. He has been associated with EECURI network of the India-Europe Project studying urban-rural patterns of electoral change in Indian states and presented papers in its international conferences held at JNU (New Delhi), King's College London and London School of Economics and Political Science.



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- ▶ Publications by Darshi Thoradeniya
- ▶ New book by Borayin Larios
- ▶ „Buddhist Modernities: Re-inventing Tradition in the Globalizing Modern World“

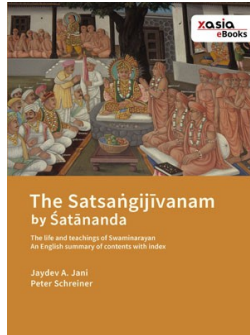
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BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

NEW PUBLICATIONS ON CROSSASIA-EBOOKS

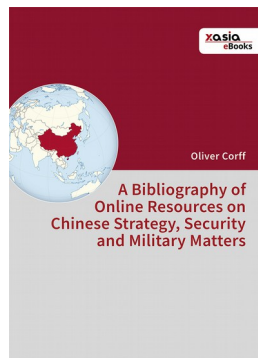
By Nicole Merkel-Hilf

CrossAsia-eBooks, the Open Access publication platform for Asian studies, is pleased to announce following new publications:



The "Satsaṅgijīvanam by Śātānanda" describes the life of Swami Sahajananda (1781-1830), the founder of the Swaminarayan Movement, considered by his followers as an embodiment of Krishna. The text describes the biography of Swami Sahajananda and is an important document for the religious situation in Gujarat of its time. The extensive work is composed in Sanskrit and is here presented in an English summary by Peter Schreiner and Jaydev A. Jani.

(Online edition: <http://dx.doi.org/10.11588/xabooks.185.247>) "The Satsaṅgijīvanam by Śātānanda" can be purchased in a hardcover edition at local [bookstores](#) or [Amazon.de](#). The transliterated <https://dx.doi.org/10.11588/data/10095> is available on heiDATA, the research data repository of Heidelberg University.



In his Bibliography of Online Resources on Chinese Strategy, Security and Military Matters, the German Sinologist Oliver Corff presents an overview of the material available online on these subjects. The bibliography will be updated on a regular basis. (Online edition: <http://dx.doi.org/10.11588/xabooks.191.253>)



The historian Martina Franke examines in her dissertation "Hoffnungsträger und Sorgenkind Südasien: Westdeutsche Betrachtungen und Begegnungen zwischen 1947 und 1973" the perception of the South Asian countries in a West German political public changing in the course of time. The medially transported views on Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, and the views on occurrences such as the conflict between India and Portugal over Goa or the German-Indian cooperation to build the steel mill in Rourkela reveal different perspectives. The perception of the political development in South Asia until the beginning of the 1970s was in connection with the debates on granting and use of development aid. In the course of this

generational affiliations and different life experiences left an imprint on the self- and external perception. The book can be read and downloaded on the CrossAsia-eBooks website (<http://crossasia-books.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/xasia/catalog/book/177>). In addition "Hoffnungsträger und Sorgenkind Südasien" can also be purchased as a hard cover edition at local bookstores or [Amazon.de](#).

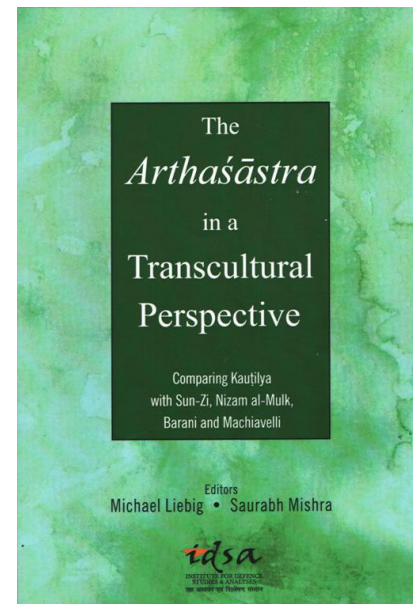
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BRANCH OFFICES**CONTACT****MICHAEL LIEBIG & SAURABH MISHRA: THE ARTHAŚĀTRA IN A TRANSCULTURAL PERSPECTIVE**

Pentagon Press recently published a new book by Michael Liebig (Department of Political Science, SAI) and Saurabh Mishra (Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi). The book is entitled „The Arthaśātra in a Transcultural Perspective: Comparing Kautilya with Sun-Zi, Nizam al-Mulk, Barani and Machiavelli“.

Political Science and International Relations are still predominantly Eurocentric and based on European intellectual resources, while India, with a long civilisational and philosophical history, is credited with no contribution to the evolution of the Political Science and IR theory. Notably, Kautilya's Arthaśātra, a foundational text of Political Science and IR theory, has, so far, been ignored or marginalized in these disciplines. The volume explores the conditions of the possibility of a 'migration' of Kautilyan thought-figures from South Asia to the Mediterranean. In this idea-migration – and hybridization – across cultural and historical spaces, pre-Islamic and Islamic Persianate cultural space is of special significance.

**NEW PUBLICATION BY RAHUL MUKHERJI**

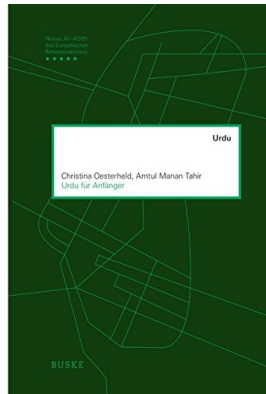
Prof. Rahul Mukherji, the new head of Political Science, recently published his first article since teaching at the SAI. His article focuses on "Governance reform in a weak state: Thirty years of Indian experience" and was published on 29 September 2016 in volume 30 of the journal Wiley Governance.

The last three decades have witnessed governance transformations in India and China. China gave up autarkic communism and engaged the world. India gradually gave up its somewhat more liberal import substitution-based closed economy model and engaged the world by giving greater primacy to private companies. India began to open up the economy to private investment from the mid-1970s but trade and international orientation arrived only after 1991. By this time, the Chinese economy had become a powerhouse. India's rates of economic growth surpassed China's only in recent years, when the Chinese economy had become much larger than India's. India is the most rapidly growing economy among the Group of 20 countries that discuss the globe's financial architecture.



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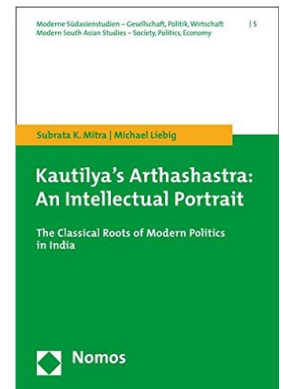
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BRANCH OFFICES**CONTACT****CHRISTINA OESTERHELD & AMTUL MANAN TAHIR: URDU FÜR ANFÄNGER**

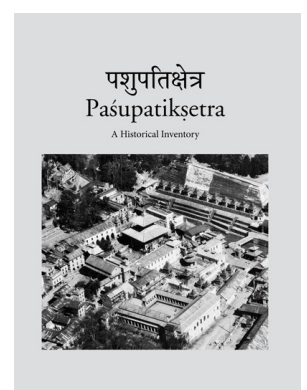
The new book „Urdu für Anfänger“, co-edited by Christina Oesterheld and Amtul Manan Tahir from the department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures, was published in December 2016. The textbook teaches basic knowledge of Urdu by using everyday communicative situations. The lessons are divided into several reading and grammar sections, followed by vocabulary lists and texts with country-specific information. The book addresses beginners without previous knowledge of Urdu in universities, language schools and other institutions of adult education. Thanks to the key to the exercises it can also be used for private study.

SUBRATA K. MITRA AND DR. MICHAEL LIEBIG: “KAUTILYA’S ARTHASHASTRA: AN INTELLECTUAL PORTRAIT - THE CLASSICAL ROOTS OF MODERN POLITICS IN INDIA”

Nomos recently published a new book co-edited by Prof. Subrata K. Mitra, Ph.D. (Rochester, USA, former head of department of Political Science, SAI) and Dr. Michael Liebig (department of Political Science, SAI). The book is entitled “Kautilya’s Arthashastra: An Intellectual Portrait - The Classical Roots of Modern Politics in India” and is part of the series of “Modern South Asian Studies”. This series addresses social, political and economic issues of South Asia, set in context of the historical and cultural space, religions and identities of the region, and ensconced in the heritage and memories that underpin them all. India is a rising power in the multipolar world. This book showcases India’s endogenous political ideas and strategic thinking, both of which are the key resources that underpin and drive this rise.

**AXEL MICHAELS AND GOVINDA TANDON: PASUPATIKSETRA: A HISTORICAL INVENTORY**

A new book entitled “Pasupatiksetra: A Historical Inventory”, edited by Axel Michaels and Govinda Tandon, was recently published by Himal Books. The publication is a historical inventory of the “Field of Pashupati” at the famous Pashupatinath Temple in Nepal. Together with a long introduction into the history, organization and rituals of the Pashupatikshetra, the book it presents historical photos and maps of the area that help to identify the hundreds of shrines, statues and other sacred places.



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BRANCH OFFICES**CONTACT****CHRISTIANE BROSIUS & SANJEEV MAHARJAN: BREAKING VIEWS. ENGAGING ART IN POST-EARTHQUAKE NEPAL**

How do artists look at their lifeworld after a catastrophe such as the earthquake in Nepal 2015? What does art mean in this context, what can it 'do'? This book is a collaborative effort responding to these and other questions. It brings together the expertise of artists and curators, an art historian and an anthropologist, to offer a set of perspectives that reflect friction, fragility and precarity as much as perseverance and resilient strongholds.



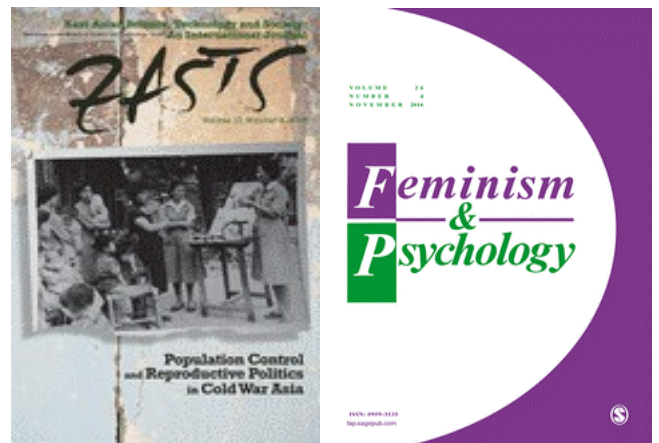
Centre-stage of the book are the photographs, interviews and an installation of artist Sanjeev Maharjan. They are discussed as a careful reflection of those weeks and months after the earthquake hit, but beyond that also invite us to address the broader context of art's role in society, and of an urbanising world in flux. Lastly, the different views in this book also facilitate the 'breaking' of dominant narratives of catastrophe that often overshadow individual experiences by means of heightened sensationalism.

PUBLICATIONS BY DARSHI THORADENIYA

Dr. Darshi Thoradeniya, representative of the SAI Branch office in Colombo, recently published the following articles:

Her review of the book "Abortion in Asia: Local dilemmas, global politics, edited by Andrea Wittaker was published in the *Journal of Feminism & Psychology*, Vol. 26, No. 4, November 2016.

Her article titled "Altruism, Welfare or Development Aid? Swedish Aid for Family Planning in Ceylon, 1958 to 1983" was published in the *Journal of East Asian Science, Technology and Society* in Volume 10, No. 4, in the December 2016 issue which was entitled "Population Control and Reproductive Politics in Cold War Asia".



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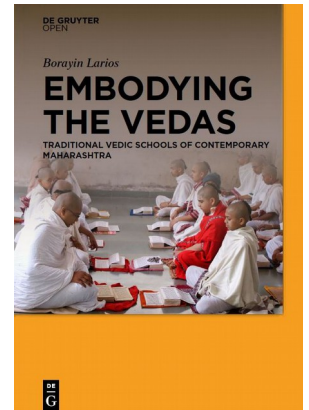
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NEW BOOK BY BORAYIN LARIOS

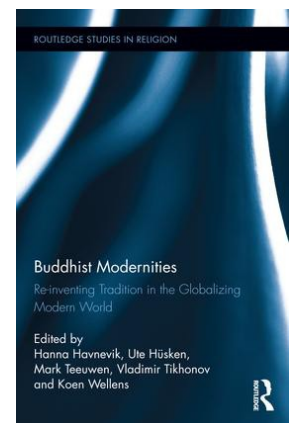
De Gruyter recently published a new book by Borayin Larios, Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia, with the title "Embodying the Vedas - Traditional Vedic Schools of Contemporary Maharashtra". The book deals with popularly Hinduism, which is believed to be the world's oldest living religion. This claim is based on a continuous reverence to the oldest strata of religious authority within the Hindu traditions, the Vedic corpus, which began to be composed more than three thousand years ago, around 1750–1200 BCE. The book presents the results of a study of the traditional education and training of Brahmins through the traditional system of education called gurukula as observed in 25 contemporary Vedic schools across the state of Maharashtra. This system of education aims to teach Brahmin males how to properly recite, memorize and ultimately embody the Veda. This book combines insights from ethnographic and textual analysis to unravel how the recitation of the Vedic texts and the Vedic traditions, as well as the identity of the traditional Brahmin in general, are transmitted from one generation to the next in contemporary India.



„BUDDHIST MODERNITIES: RE-INVENTING TRADITION IN THE GLOBALIZING MODERN WORLD“

Routledge recently published the book "Buddhist Modernities: Re-inventing Tradition in the Globalizing Modern World", jointly edited by Ute Huesken (Professor of the Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia), Hanna Havnevik, Mark Teeuwen, Vladimir Tikhonov and Koen Wellens.

The transformations Buddhism has been undergoing in the modern age have inspired much research over the last decade. The main focus of attention has been the phenomenon known as Buddhist modernism, which is defined as a conscious attempt to adjust Buddhist teachings and practices in conformity with the modern norms of rationality, science, or gender equality. This book advances research on Buddhist modernism by attempting to clarify the highly diverse ways in which Buddhist faith, thought, and practice have developed in the modern age, both in Buddhist heartlands in Asia and in the West. It presents a collection of case studies that, taken together, demonstrate how Buddhist traditions interact with modern phenomena such as colonialism and militarism, the market economy, global interconnectedness, the institutionalization of gender equality, and recent historical events such as de-industrialization and the socio-cultural crisis in post-Soviet Buddhist areas. This volume shows how the (re)invention of traditions constitutes an important pathway in the development of Buddhist modernities and emphasizes the pluralistic diversity of these forms in different settings.



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- ▶ Indo-German Dialogue on Sustainable Water Resource Management in South Asia
- ▶ Spring School and Workshop on 'Active Ageing'
- ▶ Living City - Lived-in heritage: post-earthquake Kathmandu
- ▶ The International Symposium "Healing Practices in the Himalaya: Challenges and Opportunities"
- ▶ News and Events of the Branch Office in Colombo

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NEW DELHI – INDIA

GERMAN STUDY & RESEARCH EXPO INDIA 2017

Heidelberg Centre South Asia participated at the German Study and Research Expo in India, which took place in Delhi (February 17-19) and Hyderabad (February 21-23). Organized by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and also known as the GATE fair, the event represents the largest of its kind and offered a unique opportunity for the university to provide first-hand information of post-graduate courses, PhD programmes, research opportunities, admission procedures, scholarships, etc., whereas those interested in pursuing PhD in Heidelberg could book one-on-one consultations, during the PhD-matchmaking sessions. The education fairs also included expert talks on postgraduate courses and research opportunities, interactive session with Indian scholars about their experience in Germany and institutional networking events.



Participants of the German Study and Research Expo



Radu Carciumaru advising a student

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AT IPSA JOINT COLLOQUIUM IN NICOSIA, CYPRUS

Radu Carciumaru will participate at the International Political Studies Association (IPSA) Joint Conference of Research Committees 14 'Politics and Ethnicity', 28 'Comparative Federalism and Multi-Level Governance', and 13 'Democratization in Comparative Perspective' on "Democratization and Constitutional Design in Divided Societies", which will take place at the University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus, 24-27 June, 2017.

Radu Carciumaru will give a paper on "Constitutional Reforms in Sri Lanka" and will act as chair and discussant of the panel entitled "Institutional design in divided societies: The case of the Republic of Moldova". The conference will provide an opportunity to examine the role of different factors (e.g., ethnicity, gender, class, political institutions, efficacy of multi-level governance, the intersection between peace and democratic stability) in fostering democratization in the context of regional and global integration.

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CONTACT**WORKSHOP ON 'SOCIAL INCLUSIVITY/EXCLUSIVITY IN SOUTH ASIA' AT TISS, MUMBAI**

by Radu Carciumaru

The Branch Office of the South Asia Institute in New Delhi, Heidelberg Centre South Asia, jointly with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS, Mumbai) and its Centre for Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policies conducted a two-day workshop on 'Social Inclusion/Exclusion in South Asia'. The workshop was supported by Rosa Luxemburg Foundation South Asia and took place between March 22 and 23, 2017, at the Library Conference Hall, TISS.

Inaugurated by the director of TISS Prof. Dr. S. Parasuraman, this was the first workshop of its kind organized by the branch office, comprising leading experts in the field from India (Prof. M.H Suryanarayana), Bangladesh (Prof. Sk. Tawfique M.Haque), Nepal (Prof. Devendra Shrestha) and Sri Lanka (Prof. Siri Hettige). Within the framework of the workshop, Dr. Himanshu Jha, Department of Political Science, SAI, gave a talk on the 'Right to Information: A Viable Institution? Emerging Politics of Accountability'. The workshop also included a panel dedicated to the young scholarship at TISS- 'Flagging Some Key Concerns in Current Research on Social Exclusion/Inclusion'-in which graduate and postgraduate students presented their current projects and had a unique opportunity to interact with experts from South Asia and Germany.



The participants discussed over two-days the multiple dimensions of social exclusion/inclusion seen in the sub-continent, to not only capture how 'social exclusion' is intrinsic to deprivation or deprivation in-itself, but also the processes of political engagement and social interactions that the socially excluded develop as strategies and networks for their growth/development.

Next year, the participants will meet again and launch the book, consisting of selected papers of the workshop.

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CONTACT**INDO-GERMAN DIALOGUE ON SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH ASIA**

by Radu Carciumaru

Funded by the German House for Research and Innovation (DWIH), Heidelberg Centre South Asia (HCSA) and TERI University, in partnership with the Indo-German Centre for Sustainability (IGCS), FU Berlin and Technical University Munich conducted the second Indo-German Dialogue on Sustainable Water Resource Management. The dialogue took place at TERI University, Delhi, between October 3 and 4, 2016 and was attended by over 150 participants.

Due to its innovative, interdisciplinary and transregional approach, the dialogue represented an intense exchange between Indian and German scholars and experts from both public and private sector, academia and industry representatives. It consisted of four thematic sessions, including current approaches, benefits and challenges of water sharing; stakeholder engagement and capacity building for sustainable water management, urbanisation and water management as well as tools and techniques for managing water.

The event opened with a welcome address by Dr. Rajiv Seth, Pro Vice Chancellor, TERI University, followed by a comprehensive overview held by Mr. S. K. Sharma, Sr. Joint Commissioner (Policy and Planning), Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation. Mr. Sharma shared India's challenges in water sector, particularly with regard to dying rivers and groundwater quality. Further, professor Dr. Jayanta Bandyopadhyay (former head, Centre for Development and Environment Policy, IIM, Kolkata, presently Observer Research Foundation) talked in his keynote address about the governance of Himalayan river system, particularly through political and ecological aspects. The technical session, besides this, included other renowned and distinguished scholars.

Moreover, within the framework of the dialogue young researchers from across India, who participated in a poster competition, presented and defended ten short-listed innovative projects on water resource management. The winners of the poster competition were two young scholars affiliated with the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), Delhi, whereas the runner-up was a project submitted by a group of scholars from Kerala.



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SPRING SCHOOL AND WORKSHOP ON 'ACTIVE AGEING'

by Radu Carciumaru

The series of joint initiatives and activities within the framework of the DAAD-UGC funded project on 'Active Ageing' (Heidelberg University and JNU) continued with the Spring School entitled "Perspectives On An Age-Friendly Culture: Concepts And Methods" (February 20-22) and the Workshop on "Ageing And Residence" (February 23-24, 2017). The spring school took place at the JNU Convention Centre. Prof. Dr. Andreas Kruse (Institute of Gerontology, Heidelberg University) and Prof. Dr. Minati Panda (Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University) co-chaired the first day, which included, besides presentations and discussions, the screening of "Wild Strawberries" by Ingmar Bergman. Prof. Dr. William S. Sax (Department of Anthropology, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University) and Prof. Dr. Mohan Rao (Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University) jointly chaired the second day of the spring school, which included the screening of "Astu-So Be It", followed by a discussion with Dr. Mohan Agashe (psychiatrist and actor). Prof. Christiane Brosius (Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies, Heidelberg University) and Prof. Surinder Jodhka (Centre for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University) co-chaired the third day, which took place under the overarching topic of "Environmental Gerontology: Ageing in Place". The concluding day of the workshop consisted of a presentation on "Demographic Situation of Ageing in India" by Prof. K.S. James (Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences, JNU), a plenary discussion led by the chairs and two student presentations. Furthermore, the participants were introduced and discussed Heidelberg "Elderscapes" project.

Amongst the highlights of the Workshop on "Ageing and Residence" were the visit of an Old Age Home in Bindapur, including interactions with inhabitants and the lectures given by Prof. Dr. Jodhka on "Sociology of Ageing in India", Prof. Dr. Rao on "Double Burden of Disease and NCDs in India" and Prof. Dr. Sax on "Anthropology of Institutional Care".



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CONTACT**KATHMANDU – NEPAL****LIVING CITY - LIVED-IN HERITAGE: POST-EARTHQUAKE KATHMANDU**

by Christiane Brosius

Crises like an earthquake have their own tragic sustainability. Even two years after the earthquake in Nepal 2015, hundreds of thousands of people still live in 'temporary' shelters, wait for schools to be re-opened, have taken massive loans to rebuild their houses, search for masons or building material (at times when wood has become an even more scarce resource). Several members of the SAI have been, and still are, actively involved in post-earthquake relief work in Nepal. The SAI HELPNEPAL initiative that was founded in the aftermath of the earthquake of April 2015 put much attention on humanitarian help and reconstruction of built environs (e.g., schools, temples). The role of cultural heritage, material and practiced, has become one key motor of our community-based reconstruction activities. Besides religious and private buildings, communal sites might have often been overlooked. But in fact, they are of key importance for the lives of communities and neighbourhoods.

One such social hub are the resthouses and arcaded platform that impact much of traditional Kathmandu Valley. The '*phalcā*' (called *pāṭī* in Nepali) is a unique spatial and social 'institution'. Built as homage to a deity, it manifests Nepal's rich and lively cultural heritage. It is a site of the everyday, speaking of the social and cultural changes that impact the lives of those people engaging with it. With their amazing open character, the phalchas are used by young and old, women and men, people on the move or residing there. SAI HELPNEPAL has been able to support the reconstruction of community buildings, partly also with special funding from the Barbara & Wilfried Mohr-Foundation (Hamburg). The Lučhe~Nani Phalcā in Patan is one such building that was handed over to the community after almost 6 months of demolition-reconstruction, in March 2017. It had largely been used for *Dāphā* (*Bhajan*) music performances for which the local musicians gathered in the mornings to play various instruments and recite verses, both Buddhist and Hindu. The April 2015 earthquake had seriously affected the *phalcā* which was then unsafe for the locals to perform their music, the activities had to be dismissed. The handing-over celebration took place on 23 March 2017, and was attended by members of the Maharjan community, as well as other local representatives and press. The reconstruction was supervised by architect Padma Sunder Maharjan and by Bijay Basukala (Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust). While trying to preserve the remains of the previous *phalcā*, attention was also paid to exquisite craftsmanship, especially for the newly commissioned pillars and other details. The work was accompanied throughout by research (documentation and interviews) from Rajendra Shakya and Sanjeep Maharjan. It has now become part of an open access database and research project in the making that evolve around public space, intangible heritage and built environs of Patan conducted by Christiane Brosius. Further supporting the research are Manik Bajracharya (database), Daniela Verztman and Nina Petrovic (online documentation of 4 case studies), Dikshya Karki (research for PhotoKathmandu exhibition 2015) and the rich documentation conducted on phalchas by Niels Gutschow in the 1980s and 1990s.

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CONTACT**THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM "HEALING PRACTICES IN THE HIMALAYA: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES"**

by Nadine Plachta

The Kathmandu Office of Heidelberg University's South Asia Institute, together with the German Embassy, UNESCO, Lumbini International Research Institute, and Goethe Zentrum Kathmandu conducted a three-day international symposium on "Healing Practices in the Himalaya: Challenges and Opportunities" from October 7 to 9 in Marpha, Lower Mustang.

The symposium brought together renowned medical anthropologists and doctors from different Himalayan regions in Nepal (Mustang, Tsum, Kathmandu, and Khotang) to discuss on the current situation of place-based healing techniques and the possibilities for preserving this knowledge for upcoming generations in order to meet the multifaceted challenges medical traditions are facing in Himalayan communities today.



Nadine Plachta and Christoph Cüppers chaired the symposium, which began with short welcoming speeches by Matthias Meyer, German Ambassador to Nepal, and Christian Manhart, the country's UNESCO Representative. Presentations covered such diverse topics as Mustang's medical history, diagnosis procedures, herb collecting, and other current medical practices (Tenjing Bista, Gyatso Bista, Tshampa Ngawang). Accounts of medicinal bath therapies in Tsum (Ani Kunsang) and treatment methods at a clinic in Maratika (Sonam Sherpa) stirred great interest among the participants. Also particularly thought-provoking were papers on Desi Sangye Gyatso's (1653-1705) contribution to the study and practice of medicine in Tibet (Christoph Cüppers) and healing rituals of the Bon tradition (Charles Ramble, Colin Millards, Nyima Samphel). These presentations were rounded out by a discussion of the lack of state recognition of Tibetan medicine in Nepal (Gaurav Lamichhane) and education programs offered at Sowa Rigpa International College in Kathmandu (Tenzin Nyima). Overall, the symposium stimulated dialogue between practitioners and scholars, providing both groups a forum in which to share findings and exchange ideas.

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CONTACT**COLOMBO – SRI LANKA****NEWS AND EVENTS OF THE BRANCH OFFICE IN COLOMBO**

by Darshi Thoradeniya



Prof. Gita Dharampal-Frick planting a coconut plant at Sarvodaya Vocational Training Centre at Batticaloa after her visit to the centre

Dr. Martin Gieselmann paid a brief visit to Sri Lanka in December 2016 in view of renewing the MoU between the University of Colombo and SAI, Heidelberg and also to discuss the modalities with the University Grants Commission, Colombo of executing the Sri Lankan studies Chair-ship at Heidelberg University.

Dr. Gita Dharampal-Frick, Head of History Department at SAI, visited Sri Lanka in mid March 2017 (from 18 to 29 March 2017). She paid visits to 4 state universities in Sri Lanka, namely University of Colombo, University of Peradeniya, Eastern University of Sri Lanka and University of Jaffna to meet academics to inform about the possibilities at SAI and also to explore possibilities of conceptualizing future research projects. Further she met with the director of the Sri Lanka Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement; Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne to discuss about the conference on local knowledge and global problems conceptualized by Prof. William Sax.



Prof. Gita Dharampal-Frick with the staff of the Faculty of Arts and Culture at the Eastern University of Sri Lanka

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Prof. Sandagomi Coperahewa - Director of the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies at University of Colombo - presenting a publication on Tagore to Prof. Gita Dharampal-Frick



Prof. Muniyandy (Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Culture, Eastern University of Sri Lanka) and SAI Colombo Branch office manager together with Eastern University Arts faculty staff and students listening to Prof. Gita Dharampal-Frick

Chair for Sri Lankan studies at SAI, Heidelberg was advertised in all the state universities by the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka in early February 2017 and Dr. Nirmal Dewasiri, Senior Lecturer at the Department of History, University of Colombo was appointed for this term.

Social Policy Analysis and Research Centre (SPARC) conducted number of surveys over the past years (from 2005). In view of revisiting survey data and encouraging young academics to publish, SPARC in collaboration with SAI will conduct workshops on analyzing survey data and writing skills. Dean of the Faculty of Arts agreed to be the editor of the publication that will be produced at the end of these workshops.

Department of Medical Humanities, Faculty of Medicine at University of Colombo expressed interest in developing a course on Indigenous Medical Practices in Sri Lanka together with SAI.

Intends to publish a special issue on Sri Lanka at the SAI from the papers of the Conference on 'Families, Kin and the State in Sri Lanka' organized by the American Centre for Lankan Studies. Colombo branch manager will be presenting a paper and also a panel discussant in this conference.

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Contributors of this edition:

Malini Ambach
Manik and Ritu Bajracharya
Christiane Brosius
Radu Carciumaru
Martin Gieselmann
Niels Gutschow
Hans Harder
Benjamin Kellers
Rajan Khatiwoda
Jennifer Landes
Gautam Liu
Roberta Mandoki
Nicole Merkel-Hilf
Axel Michaels
Marcus Nüsser
Liudmila Olalde
Nadine Plachta
Darshi Thoradeniya
Davide Torri

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SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE

Im Neuenheimer Feld 330
69120 Heidelberg

Germany

P: +49 (0) 62 21/54 -8900

F: +49 (0) 62 21/54 -4998

E: info@sai.uni-heidelberg.de

www.sai.uni-heidelberg.de

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Prof. Rahul Mukherji, Ph. D.

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Head: Prof. Dr. Hans Harder

Political Science

Head: Prof. Rahul Mukherji, Ph. D. (Columbia)

Branch Offices**New Delhi / India**

Radu Carciumaru, M.A.
carciumaru@sai.uni-heidelberg.de

Kathmandu / Nepal

Nadine Plachta M.A.
kathmandu@sai.uni-heidelberg.de

Colombo / Sri Lanka

Darshi Thoradeniya
darshi@sai.uni-heidelberg.de

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MAP OF THE AREA**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.

