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## WELCOME

with the 11th Newsletter we are happy to bring to your attention a short report on the inaugural lecture of Prof. Rahul Mukherji which was taking place in the Alte Aula on November 15th 2017. Prof. Mukherji talked on "Governing India: What do we know and what do we need to know" followed by a reception in the Bel Etage. In his lecture Prof. Mukherji not only gave a profound insight into the way he applies political science's quantitative approach to an analysis of governance in India but he also reached out to explore the historical frameworks within which political actors work. With this lecture we truly witnessed the interdisciplinary spirit of the SAI. Within the same winter term we are looking forward to yet another inaugural lecture: With Prof. Ute Hüsken's lecture "Nine Nights of the Goddess. The order of the world" also the second new chairholder at SAI will present her work to a wide audience and we are proud to see how well appreciated the start of both colleagues at SAI is already after a short time of taking up their positions.

In the teaching section you will find a report on the first SAI students conference that started as an experiment and became a hands-on training on presenting current research. The conference resulted in a poster session that was opened by Prof. Mukherji and lively discussed within the institute and its staff. We – as well as the participants – believe that the variety of topics and the way they were worked out was a good and refreshing experience that deserves continuation. Also new in the newsletter is the introduction of the format of interviews with researchers working on South Asia. As the opening interview you find a double page with Prof. Monica Juneja, associated professor at SAI and chairholder for Global Art History at the Cluster Asia and Europe. She talks about her publication and accompanying exhibition on Indian miniature art in collections in Dresden which gives historical insights into the interchange of Germany and India from 17th century until today. We believe that this is an inspiring way to report lively about the many and meaningful ways our researchers work on topics of their choice. Thus we hope that this format will be continued and want to encourage and indeed look forward to suggestions for upcoming interviews of this kind.

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

Martin Gieselmann  
Executive Secretary  
South Asia Institute

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### INAUGURAL LECTURE OF PROF. RAHUL MUKHERJI

by Himanshu Jha

Professor Rahul Mukherji delivered his inaugural lecture titled *Governing India: What we Know what we need to know?* on 15 November 2017 at the Alte Aula. This lecture coincided with the 70th year of India's independence presenting an especially opportune moment for reflecting on how India is governed. Not surprisingly, the lecture generated considerable interest among scholars and students alike. The lecture was widely attended by the professors from various departments and institutes in the university.



In this lecture, Prof. Mukherji pointed out that India presents a paradox – of growth on the one hand and poverty and rising inequalities on the other. This necessitates a deeper engagement with the question-Does India's liberal democracy, amidst unprecedented diversity, have the capacity to serve the citizen and play a responsible role in the world? There is a powerful view that India is a mere procedural democracy, a country ridden by populist clientelism based on caste, class and narrow interest group pressures. Another strand examines the role of regime types, density of party networks, local intermediaries, sub-national elites or the agency of the political leaders in governance delivery.

There is large corpus of literature around the pathologies of governance or the lack of citizen orientation in India explaining why the glass of India's development is half empty. However, Prof. Mukherji suggested that if



one wishes to explore why it is half full as well, then one needs to pursue another path. This alternate path places substantial emphasis on how the state thinks. Bureaucrats and technocrats are incessantly puzzling and powering about policy. Hence, the relationship between the technocrat or bureaucrat and politician is very important for understanding both how the state thinks and evolves the capacity to act. Drawing upon his work on India's economic reforms he offered that India follows an evolutionary tipping point model of institutional and economic change. Tipping point resembles the earthquake model of change. Changes are evolutionary, gradual and largely endogenous. Similarly, collaborative work with his colleagues on the successful implementation of Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in the state of Andhra Pradesh show significant role of the ideas within the bureaucracy and gradual ascendance of political-bureaucratic interactions. The key message emerging from this lecture is that there is no one rationality in politics. However, it is important to discover how new rationalities are born and how they interact with politics to produce governance.

## INTERVIEW WITH MONICA JUNEJA



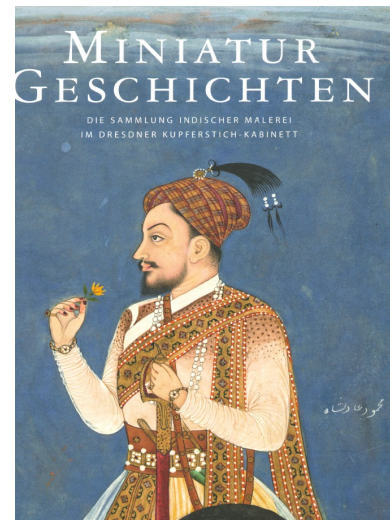
Monica Juneja (Cluster Asia and Europe, HCTS Professor “Global Art History”) will talk about the publication “Miniatur Geschichten- die Sammlung indischer Malerei im Dresdner Kupferstich-Kabinett” (Sandstein Verlag) by Monica Juneja, Petra Kuhlmann-Hodick published by state art collection Dresden.

**Martin Gieselmann (MG):** Could you define in a nutshell what Global Art History means to you?

**Monica Juneja (MJ):** First, maybe, what it does not mean: Global Art History is not about putting the entire world into a book. It is an approach based on the assumption that cultures of the regions we study – and therefore their artistic production – is created through connecting relationships with other regions. The subjects investigated focus on migrations of forms, actors and practices. Migration is a useful term because it can mean many things – interaction, assimilation, perhaps partial, acceptance or rejection. “Global” here stands for a critical perspective that moves beyond exhausted models of centers and peripheries, of empire and colony, of the West and the rest. It also questions the epistemic foundations of art history by responding to the challenge of cultural plurality and using an investigation of a region – in this case South Asia – to rethink the conceptual categories and values built into the discipline.

**MG:** You co-curated the exhibition “Miniaturgeschichten” based on two collections of Indian miniatures in the Kupferstichkabinett of the Dresden State Museums, together with preparing a wonderful catalogue. Can you tell us something about the collections.

**MJ:** One collection was acquired by August the Strong, Elector of Saxony (r. 1694-1733) who was an avid collector of art objects from Asia that now fill the rich Dresden museums. The second belonged to the Indologist August Wilhelm Schlegel, whose family donated it to the museum. For decades the collections lay in the depots, together with costume prints from the Ottoman regions and a motley collection of “Asiatica” that was unresearched and could not be classified. The exhibition was planned as one part of the museum’s larger program called “Europa-Welt” that collaborates with the HCTS. The Indian paintings comprise of both albums and single folios, they date to the period following the decline of power of the Mughal centers in the North of India, leading artists to migrate to the kingdoms in the south. During this time European trading companies catered to the desires of collectors for whom such works enjoyed an aura of being rarities. The paintings here emanate from a workshop in Golconda set up specially to produce for a European market. The painted baroque frames in gold speak for an Indian artist’s imagination of what would suit a prospective European client.



**MG:** How does this exhibition – at first glance stemming from a regional art form – relate to Global Art History?



**MJ:** The relationship lies in following the tracks of this art form on its journeys through Europe, following its first landing in the Netherlands, where these works were sold, bought, collected gifted, cherished, copied, remade. They enter new contexts that they shape and transform. The presence of these works and similar objects in European collections and homes made them a material channel through which people connected to distant cultures and places. They shaped a climate of cosmopolitan curiosity and a love for an aesthetic that allowed an escape from established canons, and frequently even transformed them. The paintings themselves reveal dimensions that were a product of an interaction of different cultural currents, including the European.



**MG:** Can you give a concrete example from the exhibition of an interaction between South Asian and European art?

**MJ:** An interesting example is that of medallion portraits that first came to India as diplomatic gifts from Europe – these were like cameos, to be worn next to the body. Indian rulers, generally fascinated by jewels, cherished these also for the uses the intimate format could be put to. The medallion was recast as a turban jewel that now carried the likeness of the local ruler. It stood for a transfer of charisma from the body of the king to that of his subject who wore it. Medallion portraits could serve as a medium to bind a circle of nobles of different religions and ethnicities to the person of the emperor. In another vein, European idioms of naturalism and perspectival vision fascinated Indian artists. Though they mastered such techniques, these were used very selectively. Portraits, especially, followed a flat, iconic mode, always in the profile, as it was more effective in translating hierarchy: a profile can be gazed at but does not look back at the viewer.



**MG:** What excited you most about this curating work?

**MJ:** The challenge of making a new kind of visuality accessible to a viewing public who often would find it difficult to enter these images. To communicate why portraits refrain from showing emotions or individuality; to tap the potential of digital tools that would allow viewers to “leaf through” the albums. Most importantly, to transmit the message that objects like these were not simply reminders of exotic lands, but actually a living element of local cultures over several centuries.



**MG:** Thank you very much for this interview!



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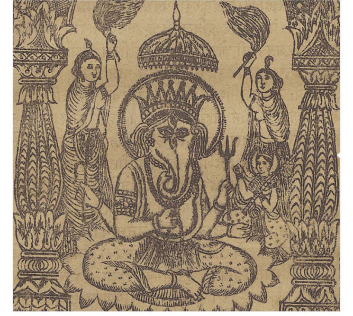
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## NEW COLLECTIONS ON NAVAL KISHORE PRESS

The CrossAsia thematic portal Naval Kishore Press offers access not only to the Naval Kishore Press Bibliography, but also to digitized Sanskrit and Hindi works from the collection from now on. Among the 44 digitized works 22 titles have already been OCRed and converted to searchable and editable digital texts in Devanāgarī script and Latin transliteration. They can be accessed on Naval Kishore Press - digital. The presentation platform offers a full text search in both scripts. A word or phrase found by searching the full text will be highlighted in the facsimile. Furthermore users can download a high quality OCR-PDF of the facsimile, where the text is fully searchable either in Devanāgarī script or in Latin transliteration. Some of the already OCRed texts are:



- Tulasīdāsa: Rāmāyaṇasaṭīka. Lakhanaū, 1894.
- Kanhaiyālāla: Samāsa cakra. Lakhanaū, 1883.
- Dūdhadāsa: Rāmāśvamedha bhāṣā. Lakhanaū, 1900.
- Jacobi, Hermann: Jaina āura baudha ka bheda: Jain and baudhs taken from the introduction to the Bhadrabahu's Kalpasutra. Lakhanaū, 1897.
- Jālimasiṃha: Brahmadarpaṇa: upanyāsa. Lakhnaū, 1917.
- Jayadeva; Rāyacanda Nāgara: Gītagovindādarśa: arthāt Rāyacanda Nāgara-kṛta Gītagovinda saṃskṛta kā bhāṣā-pratibimḃa. Lakhnaū, 1926.
- Jānakī Prasāda Ātma Pyārelāla: Rāgavinoda: jisameṃ bhajana, ṭhumrī, dādarā, pūrvī, bihāga, khammāca, kajarī, addhā, gajala, lāvanī va dohe ādi anekarāga varṇita haiṃ. Lakhnaū, 1914.

## CROSSASIA AT THE 33. DEUTSCHER ORIENTALISTENTAG

CrossAsia - Specialised Information Service Asia was from 18th September till 22nd September 2017 at the 33. Deutscher Orientalistentag in Jena with an information stall at the Industrial exhibition. You are invited visit us and get informed on our various services such as



**xasia**  
ePublishing

- E-Publishing
- Digitisation-on-Demand
- Thematic portals and digital collections
- CrossAsia PDA (acquisition requests for materials from and about Asia)

The South Asia Institute and Heidelberg University Library are responsible for the collection focus on South Asia. Two services will be presented in talks within the Panels 38 "Perspektiven digitaler Vernetzungen in den Asien- und Orientwissenschaften: Neue Forschungs- und Infrastrukturprojekte" on Thursday, 21st September 2017, Room SR208: Forschung sichtbar machen - Möglichkeiten des elektronischen Publizierens im Fachinformationsdienst Asien (Nicole Merkel-Hilf) and Quellen lesbar machen - OCR-Bearbeitung von Hindi- und Sanskrittexten der Naval Kishore Press (Liudmila Olalde).

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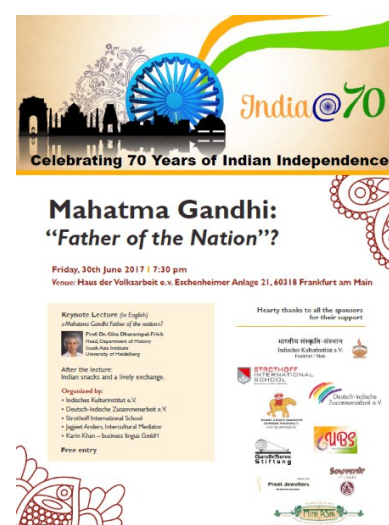
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## MOU BETWEEN BANANRAS HINDU UNIVERSITY, VARANASI, INDIA AND SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE

In October 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) initiated by the Head of the Department for Cultural and Religious History of South Asia, Prof. Ute Hüsken, was signed between the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India and the South Asia Institute of the Heidelberg University to promote academic cooperation between both Universities in the fields of cultural and religious studies, Sanskrit and other languages of South Asia. Apart from accessing library facilities and manuscript resources, the MoU will facilitate exchange of researchers and students, conducting joint research and organisation of international colloquia.

## LECTURES BY GITA DHARAMPAL-FRICK

Prof. Gita Dharampal-Frick, head of the Department of History, held two lectures on "Celebrating 70 Years of Indian Independence". The first lecture was entitled "Father of the Nation"? And took place in Frankfurt, Haus der Volksarbeit on 30 June 2017. (The program poster is shown on the right). On this occasion, senior mayor Peter Feldmeister conveyed an appreciating greeting to Prof. Dharampal-Frick. The second lecture focused on the topic "Endspiel' des British Raj" and took place in Bad Nauheim, Altes Rathaus on 16 September 2017.



## COOPERATION BETWEEN THE DRAUPADI PUBLISHING HOUSE AND CROSSASIA-EBOOKS

The Draupadi publishing house in Heidelberg and CrossAsia-eBooks started in Spring 2017 a co-operation to publish electronic Open Access versions of selected books on South Asia that appeared originally as print editions and are not scheduled for reprint. The first Draupadi title offered by CrossAsia-eBooks is Schaubühnen der Öffentlichkeit: Das Jatra-Wandertheater in Westbengalen (Indien), a dissertation by the ethnologist Hans-Martin Kunz. The print edition is still available in bookshops or directly at the Draupadi publishing house. The next electronic publication of a Draupadi book will be Markus Schleiter's Die Birhor. Ethnographie und die Folgen. Ein indischer "Stamm" im Spiegel kolonialer und postkolonialer Beschreibungen (2008). It is planned to appear in Autumn 2017.



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## INAUGURAL LECTURE BY PROF. UTE HÜSKEN

The Inaugural Lecture by Prof. Dr. Ute Hüsken, the Head of the Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia took place on Wednesday, December 13th at 12:00 noon in the Alte Aula of the Old University. Prof. Hüsken gave a talk on: "Neun Nächte der Göttin: Die Ordnung der Welt". The lecture was followed by a reception in the Bel Étage.



## TALKS BY PROF. UTE HÜSKEN

Prof. Ute Hüsken attended the conference "Sacred Texts and Human Contexts: Woman and Gender Relations in Religions" (July 30 - August 1, 2017) at Nazareth College (Rochester, USA) and gave the talk "Hindu Priestesses (Strī Purohitā) in Pune." She also attended the XVIIIth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies (IABS) in Toronto (August 20 – 25, 2017). There she co-presented (together with Tathālokā Therī) the talk "Coming into Our Own: The Re-making of the Bhikkhunīsaṃgha in Transcultural Contexts" in the panel Discipline, Agency, Inquiry: Vinaya Reception in Women's Monastic Communities Past and Present. Furthermore, she was invited as a speaker at the book launch event (3.10.2017) at Oslo University (The Oslo Buddhist Studies Forum), presenting the talk "Modernization and Traditionalization". Prof. Ute Hüsken was invited as a speaker to the Sanskrit Research Seminar at the Hangzhou Buddhist Academy, Hangzhou, China (Oct 12-15, 2017). She presented the talk "Teaching Sanskrit with F.A. Stenzler's Elementarbuch der Sanskritsprache in Germany and Norway".

## GUEST SPEAKERS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS HISTORY OF SOUTH ASIA

Ina Ilkama from Oslo University presented her doctoral project „The Play of the Feminine: Navarātri in Contemporary Kanchipuram“. Prof. Marzenna Czerniak-Drożdżowicz from Jagiellonian University, Krakow introduced her research on „Cōḷa Temples and Bronzes in the context of the history and Culture of Tamil Nadu“ and Prof. Caleb Simmons from Arizona University gave a talk on „The King's Devotion: Rethinking Traditional Forms of Sovereignty in India through Devotional Practice“.

## BOOK LAUNCH OF "THE LITTLE PRINCE"

On 13th June 2017, the Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia organised the Book Launch of a Sanskrit translation of "The Little Prince" (by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry), which is called "Kāṇyān Rājakumārah" in Sanskrit. On this occasion Prof. Gopabandhu Mishra from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi gave a talk in which he shared with the audience his motivations to translate "The Little Prince" in Sanskrit and the challenges he faced while translating. This was followed by reading of selections of "The Little Prince" in French (by Julie Pusch), English (by Nadine Sauer) and Sanskrit (by Gopabandhu Mishra). Earlier, the Acting Director of the SAI, Prof. William Sax and Prof. Ute Hüsken, head of the Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia welcomed the guests. The publishing house 'Edition Tintenfaß' put up a desk with translations of this book in several other languages.



Book Launch „Little Prince“



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Photos: Borayin Maitreya Larios

# TEACHING

## FIRST SAI STUDENTS CONFERENCE: AN ADVENTURE IN LEARNING

By Catherine Loomis

On June 30, 2017, the students of Heidelberg's South Asian Institute (SAI) presented "First SAI Students Conference: Current Research on South Asia". Held in the atrium of the SAI building, the evening culminated with closing remarks by guest speaker Prof. Rahul Mukherji in the Heinrich-Zimmer Saal, the event was sponsored by the SAI and Pashtun Times. The goal of the conference was to not only present ongoing research to others in their field, but to experience putting together a conference.

Sitting in the room with classmates, it was fascinating to watch individuals from all walks of life try to agree on a format. We had students who insisted upon a lecture format, while others balked at the idea of presenting the equivalent of a term paper on short notice. Some thought a poster session would be easier.

There was also the dreaded land of technology. For those of us who eschewed modern technological advances, learning new computer programs overnight to design a poster was a bit daunting. Even communication was a bit trying at times. It seemed so simple to go online and type messages in WhatsApp. Then it became chaotic. Who was responding to which previous message? We moved from WhatsApp to Facebook, which was a little better organized. Then came the issue of uploading files. We used emails, Google Drive, and Facebook. I suspect we all learned a valuable lesson; pick one format and stick with it.

In the end, the chaos and anarchy surprised us and evolved into something perfect. We may have pulled out a few hairs and acquired some grey ones, but the end result was a conference, while thrown together in about two months, which looked like we had half a year to plan. Prof. Mukherji, summed up the event beautifully when he commented on the variety of posters.

A few topics covered in the conference ran the gamut. Honor killings and abuse of women still occur in areas of South Asia. While new laws are enacted, they are not always enforced due to cultural traditions, or simply a community willing to ignore evidence. Political and financial motivations make the Chinese-Pakistan Economic Corridor difficult to complete while there is a continuing argument over where to build the trade route. The destruction of the Bamiyan Buddhas are part of an ongoing cultural war by conservative religious groups rejecting other ideals in their regions.

After talking with many of our visitors, we learned we presented our ideas well and they were introduced to topics they never considered. Even those academics who we revered had kind words to say and encouraged us in our studies. In this writer's observation, their variety reflected the diversity of our students and how we all blended together to make a wonderful conference.

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## SEARCHING TRUE EQUALITY: INDIA AT 70

by Ahyaan Raghuvanshi

It is now harder than ever to convey to younger generations the extraordinariness of India's Independence, which heralded the global emancipation from racist imperialism and initiated the biggest experiment in democracy. But ritual back-patting over the strictly aggregate economic achievements by the country's English-speaking upper caste intellectual class—who habitually confuse personal advancement with the general good—has since shrouded that rare moment of history where many divergent possibilities were imaginable. Two of these major visions by MK Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru were discussed in the very first session of the seminar 'Tryst with Destiny: India's Journey since Independence' with Prof Gita Dharampal-Frick. Gandhi formed his ideas in opposition to the destructive aspects of western modernity and offered a blend of decentralised, self-sufficient village republics and a non-secular, but inclusive, understanding of the moral and political powers of religion. Whereas Nehru, though often in agreement with Gandhi, brought forth his diametrically opposed anglophile vision of an India fired by steel plants and dams, implemented via the largely intact colonial state structure, and paid for by discounting investments in primary education, health and land reform.

Since the time of the French Revolution people have lunged from looking for meaning and identity beyond society to being the object of worship themselves in the form of a secularised religion of the national community, and sought equality within it. But this seemingly well-meaning equality can quickly become, as Gandhi argued, an 'equality of sword,' which excludes the marginalised and entails the loss of 'the power to love'. It is an equality based on domination by those presumed to possess the power of reason and measure, and precludes not only other humans but also the natural world. Equality of wealth, power and dignity in Britain grew hand in hand with the suppression of its colonial subjects; slavery offered, as John C. Calhoun asserted, 'the best guarantee of equality among whites' in America; the American example, in turn, inspired the thoroughly egalitarian Nazi Revolution, which promised levelling up among the *Herrenvolk*; the Japanese participation in this global mimetic game, too, found it necessary to base their equality on the inferiority of others.

In India, at the helm of power are now racial-religious supremacists who, resolutely believing the inclusive ideas of its independence leaders to be their crippling original sin, seek to create a majoritarian constituency more equal than others, and promote their ideology from the screeds of nightly news to well-organised indoctrination camps. Every year, new women and men in their millions sign up for the promised security and liberation of modernity, rousing a transformation that is hard to underestimate. But these rising expectations are hardly being met with experienced reality. The resulting disenchantment and despiritualisation leaves us all vulnerable to the compensatory balm of Hindutva: an ideology formed as a defensive reformulation of Hinduism that, ironically, absorbed all the clichés of colonial scholarship. Yet such desperate times of crisis may well be our best chance for some fresh thinking.

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## URDU SUMMER SCHOOL 2017

by Christina Oesterheld

This year again the Urdu Summer School at the South Asia Institute was a very pleasant experience. Along with students from different German universities, from Italy and Great Britain for the first time we had a participant from Norway. Several participants were old acquaintances having come for the second or third time to attend the course, thus advancing from one level to the next.

Teaching was conducted in Urdu, English and occasionally also in German, but the main focus was on developing communicative skills in Urdu. Apart from the classes we met for a walk to the Iqbal sites in Heidelberg—the Iqbal Ufer (Iqbal embankment), with Iqbal's famous poem on the Neckar engraved on a rock, and the former boarding house Pension Scherer where Iqbal stayed in 1907. A special highlight was our dinner in the SAI cafeteria to which everybody contributed a dish, sweets, some beverages or fruits. The weather was fine so that we could enjoy the evening sitting on the terrace of the cafeteria. On the last day of the course, all three groups demonstrated the acquired language skills by presenting songs, recitations and a one-act play. Many participants would like to come again for another Urdu course, maybe at the SAI's new location.

## CRASH COURSE IN SPOKEN SANSKRIT

From 06th - 16th June 2017, the Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia (Classical Indology), Heidelberg University, Germany organized A Crash Course in Spoken Sanskrit. This course was conducted by Prof. Dr. Gopabandhu Mishra (Department of Sanskrit, Faculty of Arts, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi). The course was attended by 27 students of Heidelberg University which provided them a unique opportunity to learn spoken Sanskrit from Prof. Mishra who is a speaker of Sanskrit and an experienced teacher of Sanskrit conversation. This beginners' course was structured to introduce the basic grammar and vocabulary of spoken Sanskrit as well as mnemonic techniques and methods of recitation. Further, to familiarize themselves with the usage, the students were encouraged to engage in dialogues. The active participation of the students together with the unique pedagogical techniques of Prof. Mishra to enthuse them made this course very successful.





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In the coming winter-term, Rafael Klöber (Department of History) will invite students to search for "Indian traces" in the local archives of Heidelberg. The students will reconstruct seemingly marginal and hitherto unknown histories of South Asians who, for different reasons, lived and/or studied in Heidelberg in the early 20th century. Besides the well-known example of Mohammed Iqbal, who was learning German beside the Neckar in 1907, there were several other South Asians staying in Heidelberg for various reasons. The archival research, which should be conducted by the students on the ground, will reveal multifarious entanglements between the German university town and world politics, war, espionage, global religious movements, as well as family ties to the most influential political family in independent India. The results of this experimental and research-based seminar will ideally be presented to a wider public in the course of 2018.

**ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

by Patrycja Jastrzebska

The Department of Political Science has been working on their visibility on social media for new and current students as well as for partners. Today, they have a lively Facebook page which can be followed with up to date activities such as conferences, guest talks, various other events and visits, as well as achievements of teaching staff and ambitious students. Such platform invites for interactive material and comments sharing that boosts the relationship between the department and its students. On the top of this, they created a channel on YouTube where they publish materials from workshops and conferences making these events and their content accessible to students and scholars who missed the opportunity to be there. Both of these media are run alongside the Department's website which aims at providing students with crucial information on studying opportunities and exploring their highlighted events and activities in greater details. In the upcoming months, they aim at attracting more interaction on each of these mediums and at re-starting Heidelberg Papers in South Asian and Comparative Politics that will increase access to the current academic research on South Asia.

**LIVED SANSKRIT CULTURES IN VARANASI**

A four week intensive course (19th Feb. - 16th Mar. 2018) designed to impart a practice oriented training in methods of cultural and religious studies is launched by the Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia, Heidelberg University in cooperation with the Chair of Indology, Department of Cultural Studies of East- and South-Asia, Würzburg University. It will take place every year in the months of February/March in India and twelve university students from all over the world can participate in it. In the year 2018 the course will focus on how Sanskrit texts are taught, applied, enacted, inscribed in spaces and lived by practitioners, women and men, in Varanasi. Besides, a crash course in spoken Sanskrit will be conducted by Prof. Dr. Gopabandhu Mishra (Banaras Hindu University), Varanasi. More information about the course is available here: <http://www.sai.uni-heidelberg.de/abt/IND/hdsanskrit/hdsanskrit.php>



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- ▶ Opening Workshop on "Active Ageing"
- ▶ China-India Workshop on Development and Governance
- ▶ Global Conference on Transparency Research
- ▶ Talk on Global-Local Linkages
- ▶ International Relations in Asia-Pacific region: multidimensional research perspectives
- ▶ Interrogating Indian Intelligence Culture

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# RESEARCH

## OPENING WORKSHOP ON "ACTIVE AGEING"

by Constanze Weigl-Jäger

The series of activities of the DAAD-UGC funded exchange program (Heidelberg University and Jawaharlal Nehru University) on "Active Ageing" continued with a three-days workshop on "New Directions in 'Active Ageing' and 'Age-friendly Culture' in India and Germany" at Heidelberg from June 18 to 20, 2017.

At the first day, Prof. Dr. Andreas Kruse (Institute of Gerontology, Heidelberg University) gave lectures discussing concepts of age and active, healthy ageing at the Institute of Gerontology concluded by a visit of the "Alte Aula" and a piano playing.

The second day at the South Asia Institute consisted of presentations and discussions on Ageing in India. Speakers were Prof. Dr. Minati Panda (Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University) talking on "Psychology of Ageing in India", Prof. Dr. Surinder Jodhka (Centre for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University) on "Emergent Inequalities: Diverse Modes of Ageing in Contemporary India", Prof. Dr. Mohan Rao (Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University) on "Women and Health in India" and Annika Mayer (PhD candidate at the Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe in a global context") on "Middle-Class Senior Citizens and New Elder-scapes in Urban India". The day ended with a film screening and discussion chaired by Prof. Dr. William Sax (Department of Anthropology, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University) attended not only by German-Indian Project members but also by many students of the MA "Health and Society in South Asia".

At the concluding day was an excursion to the "Klinik für rehabilitative Geriatrie", Karlsruhe, with an introduction to and guided tour through the institution followed by another film screening at the SAI. Content-related aim of all three days activities was to discuss and argue that ageing is not simply a matter of restrictions and vulnerability but involves new potentials and opportunities.

In addition, an accompanying program for five PhD students from JNU (Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies and Centre for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences) took place from June 16 to 23, 2017. The activities of this program included an introduction to the libraries of the South Asia Institute and the Institute of Gerontology, the participation at an Intergenerational Seminar at the Netzwerk Alternsforschung and a visit of the senior citizens' residence "Augustinum", Heidelberg.



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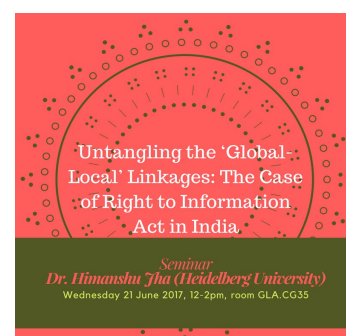
Professor Rahul Mukherji and Dr. Himanshu Jha presented papers in China-India Workshop on Development and Governance organised by Fudan University, Shanghai China on 3 June 2017. Professor Mukherji presented a paper on “Is India a Developmental State?” and Dr. Jha presented on State Processes, Ideas and Institutional Change. Professor Mukherji also delivered a lecture on Globalization and Indian State at Seaker Chan Centre for Comparative Political Development Studies, Fudan University.

**GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON TRANSPARENCY RESEARCH**

Dr. Himanshu Jha presented a paper on “Capturing Institutional Change: Case of Right to Information Act in India” at the 5th Global Conference on Transparency Research, University of Limerick, Limerick, Ireland. The conference was co-organised by University of Limerick and University of Baltimore. More than 90 papers were presented during the Conference which brought together academics and the practitioners from around the world working on the issues of transparency and accountability.

**TALK ON GLOBAL-LOCAL LINKAGES**

Dr. Himanshu Jha delivered a talk on “Untangling the Global-Local Linkages: The case of Right to Information” at the Ireland India Institute, Dublin City University, Ireland. Department of Political Science at SAI, Heidelberg University along with the Dublin City University is part of a Horizon 2020 funded by European Training Network on Global India.





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**PEOPLE****BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS****BRANCH OFFICES****CONTACT****INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN ASIA-PACIFIC REGION: MULTIDIMENSIONAL RESEARCH PERSPECTIVES**

Dr. Seyed Hossein Zarhani presented on "India's State Level Politics in Post-Liberalization Era: Regional Leaders and International Economic Actors" during the International Relations in Asia-Pacific region: multidimensional research perspectives on 11th May 2017 in Warsaw. The conference was organised jointly by The Institute of International Relations, Faculty of Political Science and International Studies, University of Warsaw, South Asian Studies, School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies, University of Oxford, South Asia Institute, Department of Political Science, University of Heidelberg and South Asia Democratic Forum (SADF), Brussels, Belgium.

**INTERROGATING INDIAN INTELLIGENCE CULTURE**

In the context of the ongoing research project on bureaucratic culture in India of the Department of Political Science, Dr. Michael Liebig has been pursuing the research avenue 'Indian Intelligence Culture'. From June 11- 17, 2017 and again from Sept. 23- Oct. 7, 2017, Dr. Liebig was in Delhi to conduct expert interviews in the Indian strategic and intelligence community and to interact with academic colleagues on the subject area. His research work is being supported by the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) in New Delhi.

On Oct. 5, 2017, Dr. Liebig presented the paper "India's Strategic Culture and its Intelligence Culture - Interrogating 'Hyphenated Cultures'" at the IDSA Workshop "Exploring the Roots of India's Strategic Culture." Also speaking at the workshop was Prof. Subrata Mitra, emeritus at the department; his paper is titled "Ministry of Home Affairs and Intelligence in India".



Dr. Liebig with colleagues from the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) and the United Service Institution of India (USI)

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# PEOPLE

## WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS & AWARDS

### PROF. DR. MONIKA BOEHM-TETTELBAACH FELLOW OF AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Prof. Dr. Monika Boehm-Tettelbach (former Head of the Department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures, Modern Indology, at the SAI) has been elected as a Fellow of the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The American Academy of Arts and Sciences, frequently known as the American Academy, is one of the oldest and most prestigious honorary societies and a leading center for policy research in the United States. The Academy convenes leaders from the academic, business, and government sectors to address critical challenges facing our global society. The Academy's membership of 4,900 Fellows and 600 Foreign Honorary Members includes many of the most accomplished scholars and practitioners worldwide. Since its founding in 1780, the election to the Academy is considered one of the nation's highest honors since its founding during the American Revolution.



### NIRMAL RANJITH DEWASIRI

During the summer semester, the History Department was honoured to welcome Professor Nirmal Dewasiri at the South Asian Institute. He is the second Chairholder of the distinguished Sri Lanka Chair, which is sponsored by the Sri Lankan Government, Ministry of Education through the University Grants Commission. Professor Dewasiri is a Senior Lecturer and Head of the History Department at the University of Colombo in Sri Lanka. He received his PhD from the University of Leiden in the Netherlands. His areas of interest include social transformations in agrarian societies, history and ideology, European colonialism in Asia, postcolonial state-building as well as ethnic nationalism. He actively contributed to the teaching curriculum at the SAI for students and faculty interested in Sri Lanka. He delivered a weekly lecture series titled "Sri Lanka: Socio-historical Perspectives from the 13th Century to the Present". His five-months' stay at the SAI was a valuable opportunity for all concerned to receive critical 'insider' reflections from a prominent scholar on Sri Lankan history and politics, and also enabled this second Chair-holder to pursue path-breaking research work at the SAI.



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## PROF. INDIVAR KAMTEKAR

The South Asia Institute cordially welcomed Prof. Indivar Kamtekar at the Department of History. He joins as a DAAD-Professor for the academic year 2017/18. Indivar Kamtekar is Professor of History at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi. He is an internationally renowned historian and acclaimed specialist for Indian history of the 20th century and its global importance.



## DISPUTATION BY ELEONOR MARCUSSEN

Eleonor Marcussen, doctoral student in the Department of History and member of the junior research group "Cultures of Disasters" (2009-2012) at the Cluster of Excellence, successfully defended her dissertation entitled "Acts of Aid: The Politics of Relief and Reconstruction after the 1934 Bihar-Nepal Earthquake" in April 2017. The PhD-thesis was supervised by Gita Dharampal-Frick and Gerrit Jasper Schenk (TU Darmstadt), and Hans Harder was member of the PhD committee. The study, which was submitted in South Asian History and undertaken within a framework of historical disaster research, explores the politics of relief and reconstruction in Bihar in the aftermath of the 1934 earthquake. Eleonor Marcussen is currently assistant professor in the Department of History and Philosophy at North South University in Dhaka where she teaches world history with a South Asian focus.



## CONGRATULATION TO DR. HIMANSHU JHA

Dr. Himanshu Jha's (Department of Political Science at the SAI) PhD thesis on 'Capturing Institutional Change: Case of Right to Information Act in India' has been awarded the prestigious Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) award for the best PhD dissertation in 2016 at the National University of Singapore. This thesis examines the process of institutional change through the lenses of transformation in the 'information regime' in India by tracing the passage of the Right to Information Act (RTIA), 2005. This doctoral work nuances the mainstream narrative on the evolution of the RTIA and contributes conceptually to the literature on institutional change.





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## PROF. RAM SINGH

We welcomed Prof. Ram Singh from the Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, at the Department of Development Economics of the SAI. He is a specialist in Economics and Law. He received the Ronald Coase Fellowship in Institutional Economics and Fulbright Senior Research Fellowship in Economics and stayed until mid of July at the SAI. Ram Singh holds a Ph.D (JNU, New Delhi) degree and Post-Doctorate (Harvard) in Economics.



## ALOK OAK

We welcomed Alok Oak at the South Asia Institute! He is a doctoral researcher hailing from Thane/Bombay who is currently affiliated to the Leiden Institute of Area Studies and the Center for the Study of Religion, University of Leiden. His research thesis on 'Colonialism, Desivad and Hindu Nationalism: A Study of the Political Philosophy of B G Tilak' deals with developing a distinct framework of reading anti-colonial texts and focuses on the writings of B G Tilak. He teaches moral and political theory at Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts, Pune.



## PROF. GOPABANDHU MISHRA

We welcomed Prof. Gopabandhu Mishra who stayed till the end of June at SAI. Prof. Gopabandhu Mishra teaches Sanskrit and Pāṇinian Grammar at the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India. Besides several books and research papers on Pāṇinian Grammar, he has published a number of literary works in Sanskrit, which include plays and short stories, a travelogue - Purastāt Paris – and a Sanskrit translation of „The Little Prince“ – Kanīyān Rājakumārah.



## LORE VANDEWALLE

We welcomed Lore Vandewalle at the Department of Development Economics at the South Asia Institute (26.6. - 29.6.2017). Lore Vandewalle is an assistant professor at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. Her research focuses on microfinance and savings behavior in Indian rural areas, but she is interested in development economics in general, political economy, behavioral economics, and applied econometrics.



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## DR. SAYAN CHATTOPADHYAY

We welcomed Dr. Sayan Chattopadhyay as holder of the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg Fellowship. He stayed till mid of July at SAI. He is assistant professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur where he teaches English literature, critical theory, and communication studies. He received his doctorate degree in 2014 from University of Cambridge.



## HARISH NARAINDAS

We welcomed Harish Naraindas to the Department of Anthropology at the SAI. He stayed till end of July 2017 as DAAD visiting professor and Professor of Sociology at the School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Adjunct Professor at the University of Iowa. Naraindas' primary interests in the history and sociology of science and medicine 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 and Ayurveda.



## CAROLA ERIKA LOREA

We welcomed 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 sub-continent.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO LARA KLOSSEK

Lara Klossek, studying South Asian Studies with a focus on Political Science and History, has secured a position as a PhD candidate at the Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (Spain) under prof. Barbé supervision starting this October. During this three-year program, she will spend one semester in India while conducting research on the topic "The making of EU foreign policy towards India".





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## CONGRATULATIONS TO KRISHNA KUMAR SAHA

Mr. Krishna Kumar Saha, a master student of South Asian Studies with focus on Political Science and Anthropology, has secured a Ph.D. position at Ghent University (Belgium) under prof. Bert Suykens's supervision starting November 2017. He will be working on a doctoral project titled 'Electoral Violence: A Case of Bangladesh Local Government Elections'. Mr. Saha was awarded a doctoral scholarship from Special Research Fund for this project from the same university.



## CONGRATULATION TO QUDSIA NAZ

Ms. Qudsia Naz, a master student of South Asian Studies with focus on Politics and History, has successfully passed the entry exams and the following interview for the position at Pakistan Administrative Services (PAS). The final decision was announced on the 10th of April this year. She will be travelling to Pakistan this September to take up the position and will continue to work on her research for master thesis from there. We wish you every success in your new position.



## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

### CHRISTIAN SCHERF

We cordially welcomed Christian Scherf as doctoral student at the Department of Development Economics at the SAI. He finished his master's studies in International Economics with focus on Econometrics and Development Economics at Göttingen University. Additionally, he spent one semester abroad at Korea University in Seoul, South Korea. His research focuses on the financial system and its impact on economic growth.



### ELIZAVETA ILVES

We cordially welcomed Elizaveta Ilves as doctoral student at the Department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures. Elizaveta Ilves received her Master in South Asian Studies at Hamburg University. Her research focuses on the project "Text-image relations in Colonial Bengal", which examines how text and image function together in a particular historical context.





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## KIRA SCHMIDT STIEDENROTH

We cordially welcomed Kira Schmidt Stiedenroth as the new course coordinator of the Master-program “Health and Society in South Asia” (MAHASSA) at the Department of Anthropology. A MAHASSA-graduate herself, she completed her PhD in Anthropology in 2016. Her research interests include traditional medicine in India (particularly Unani medicine) and reproductive health. Kira Schmidt Stiedenroth was research associate at the Department of Oriental and Islamic Studies, Ruhr-University Bochum, from 2011-2016. She has also gained experience in the humanitarian sector, working for the German Red Cross as the manager of a refugee shelter in Düsseldorf and for the ICRC as an Urdu-English interpreter in India and Pakistan.



## NEWS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Manju Ludwig is happy to return to her position as lecturer and student adviser in the Department of History of South Asia after a one-year long maternity leave. Students are welcome to contact her during office hours on Mondays, 9.30-11.30 a.m. or to write an e-mail to [mludwig@sai.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:mludwig@sai.uni-heidelberg.de).

Rafael Klöber, who has been a lecturer at the Department of History since 2010, is joining the Department for “Schlüsselkompetenzen und Hochschuldidaktik” (“Key Competencies and University Didactics”) in September 2017. In his new position, he will offer workshops on theories and methods for “good teaching” for members of Heidelberg University as well as other universities in Baden-Württemberg. At the same time, he will remain with the Department of History as a teacher and researcher.

## POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP FOR BORAYIN LARIOS

Dr. Borayin Larios from the Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia has recently obtained a postdoctoral fellowship in the collaborative research project Indian Subcontinent’s Shared Sacred Sites: Religious Interactions and Relations with the Other (I-SHARE). The research project is funded by the French National Research Agency (ANR) and coordinated by A. Mohammad-Arif, C. Jaffrelot, G. Schlemmer et L. Gayer. The international consortium comprises 17 members and will be launched in March 2018. With Raphael Voix, Borayin Larios will co-lead a research group to examine how street-shrines shape everyday social interactions and contribute to the understanding of the dynamics and limits of coexistence and religious identity in urban India.



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## DR. SHOBHA RANI DASH

Dr. Shobha Rani Dash, Visiting Professor from Otani University, Japan at the Department for Cultural and Religious Studies of South Asia has been working on the topic “Development of the Thought of Salvation of Women in Mahāyāna Buddhism: A Textual Study” as part of her research area “Women and Buddhism” during her stay at the South Asia Institute. In her research, she questions the subordinate position assigned to women in general in Buddhism and the reluctance to accept them as full-fledged members of the monastic order or on certain terms only, such as the observance of the Eight Important Rules (aṭṭhagarudhammā). The Five Impossibilities imposed on women such as denying them to achieve the status of Brahmā, Sakka, Māra, Cakkavattin and finally of the Buddha, the Perfectly Enlightened One, as well as a relatively newly introduced concept of gender transformation prior to the Buddhahood exclusively for women are further topics discussed within her research.



Alongside her textual study of the Buddhist thought, Dr. Dash is also part of the Sarasvatī Research Project, based in Japan, which aims to provide a common platform for research information on the goddess Sarasvatī. In this project, Dr. Dash looks into different aspects of the goddess Sarasvatī in terms of time and space as well as the goddess's travel from Brahmanism to Buddhism, which are studied from textual, ritualistic and cultural anthropological points of view. A research focus is here the historical development of the views on feminine aspects of Buddhist theology and soteriology from the early Mahāyāna to the later Mahāyāna.



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## OBITUARY FOR PROF. DR. KLAUS-PETER KÖPPING

The South Asia Institute is united in grief of Prof. Dr. Klaus-Peter Köpping, who died unexpectedly in Berlin on 17 June 2017 at the age of 77. After several guest professorships in Aachen and Mainz, Köpping held a professorship in Ethnology at Heidelberg University from 1991 to 2005. Prior to the founding of the Institute of Ethnology, in which he was decisively involved, Prof. Köpping worked at the South Asia Institute from 1991-1996. After his retirement, he lived in Berlin and worked as a guest professor at Goldsmith College in London until 2007. Heidelberg University loses with Prof. Dr. Klaus-Peter Köpping a highly respected scholar, original researcher and inspiring teacher. He has shaped the Institute for Ethnology in Heidelberg and has gained a great reputation, especially through the successful interdisciplinary networking.



## OBITUARY FOR DR. MUJAHID HUSAIN ZAIDI

The South Asia Institute is united in grief of Dr. Mujahid Husain Zaidi (24.09.1924 in Alwar, Rajasthan), who passed away in Dossenheim on 25 August 2017. The historian and literary researcher worked from April 1966 to September 1989 as a lecturer for Urdu and Persian at the South Asia Institute. Together with Lothar Lutze (Emeritus Professor, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures) he led the Hindi-Urdu conversation at the South Asia Institute.





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## OBITUARY FOR DINA BANGDEL (\*1963-2017)

by Christiane Brosius

Dina Bangdel is no more, at least not on this earth. She died on 25 July 2017 in a US-American hospital from the aftermath of a sinus-operation and meningitis. With her demise, we pay farewell not only to a remarkable scholar and energetic colleague, but also to a passionate teacher, facilitator and curator of art in Nepal, both in Nepal and beyond. With most of her higher education undertaken in the USA, she received her PhD from Ohio State University. Since several years, she was director of Art History Program at Virginia Commonwealth University in Doha, Qatar. She was also on the Board of Directors of the Nepal Art Council, among other positions of patronage and expertise.



At the time Dina fell ill, she was involved in many different activities, most in collaboration with different agents and institutions, both in Nepal and internationally. She had several exhibitions in the planning: one exhibition was a retrospective on the work of her belated father Lain Singh Bangdel, famous pioneer of Nepal's modern art. Another exhibition on Buddhist art was planned, with the Musée Guimet, a precious Paris museum concentrating on Asian art. In March 2017, she curated an exhibition in the context of the Kathmandu Triennale 2017, entitled Built / Unbuilt : Home/City, involving artists based in Doha and artists from Kathmandu, Nepal. One of her attempts was that of enabling respectful dialogue between traditional and contemporary, but also between Nepali and international art worlds. She brought Qatari art history students to India, to visit the Kochi Biennale and the India Art Fair in Delhi (2015), she invited Doha-based artists to Nepal, to learn more about art from Nepal, from each other. She often underlined the cosmopolitan character of Newar Buddhist art, the exquisite quality of the works. But also vice versa: Dina took selection of artists from Nepal to the Art Fair in Delhi, brought them to Doha, and was in the process of writing a book about Nepali contemporary art. Her passion for the arts, her professional attitude and humanist spirit gained her much admiration in the Nepali art world and beyond, had created a wave of energy. This became evident particularly in the context of her engagement with artivism in the aftermath of the grand earthquake of 2015. Dina followed closely the restoration work at Swayambhu, but also the relief work practiced by young artists and art teachers at various places, such as the town of Bungamati and the neighbourhood of Thulo Byasi in Bhaktapur. Her interest in art activism was published in *Breaking Views*, a book I compiled with Sanjeev Maharjan in 2017, on artist responses to the earthquake (Himal Books, Social Science Baha).

A void remains with Dina Bangdel's demise. But also, the recognition that what she believed in and worked for will remain with us, as a source of energy.

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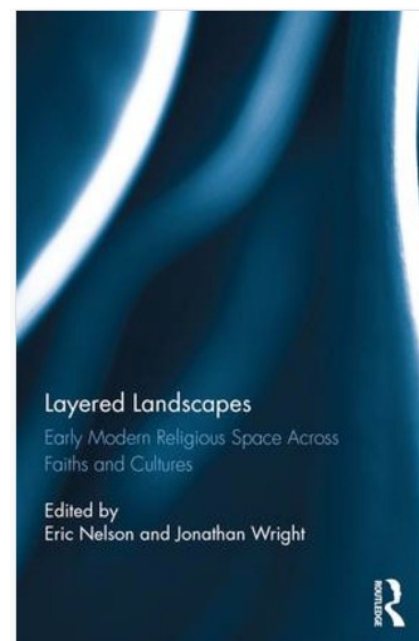
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### NEW PUBLICATION BY UTE HÜSKEN

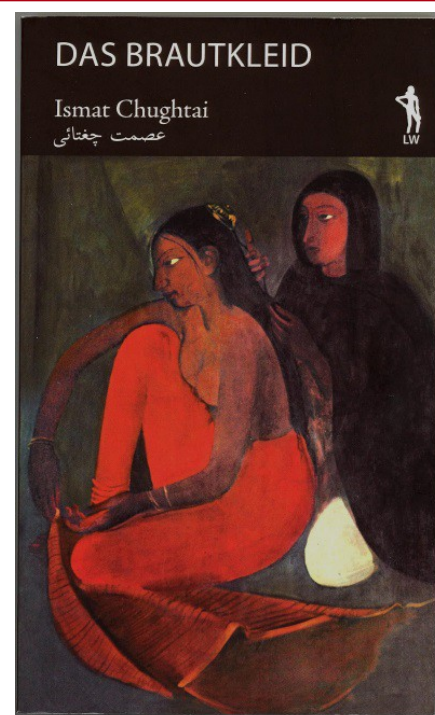
Prof. Dr. Ute Hüsken, Chair of the Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia contributed a chapter entitled "Gods and Goddesses in the Ritual Landscape of Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Kāncipuram" to the new publication *Layered Landscapes: Early Modern Religious Space Across Faiths and Culture*, edited by Eric Nelson and Jonathan Wright (Routledge). The volume explores the conceptualization and construction of sacred space in a wide variety of faith traditions: Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and the religions of Japan. The chapter by Hüsken deals with the construction of sacred space in the Hindu context of the sacred city of Kāncipuram. By looking at the different sectarian interpretations of different ritual actions in oral narratives and in mythological texts, she demonstrates how mythology and history are performatively remembered and how different dormant layers of sacred space are 'activated' during the ritual use of this space.



### "DAS BRAUTKLEID" TRANSLATED BY CHRISTINA OESTERHELD

Lotos Werkstatt recently published "Das Brautkleid" by Ismat Chughtai, which was translated by Christina Oesterheld (Department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures) using translations by Axel Monte and Ursula Rothen-Dubs. Furthermore, she wrote an epilogue for the new text.

Ismat Chughtai (1915-1991) is considered as one of the greatest narrators of Urdu in the 20th century. Her stories offer lively milieu descriptions next to sensitive psychological studies. This volume presents a wide selection of her narrations in German translation.



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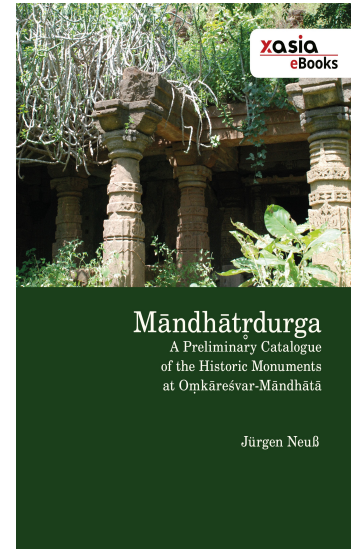
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## NEW PUBLICATION ON CROSSASIA-EBOOKS

CrossAsia-eBooks, the Open Access publication platform for Asian studies, is pleased to announce a new publication: In *Māndhātṛdurga - A Preliminary Catalogue of the Historic Monuments at Oṃkāreśvar-Māndhātā* the Indologist Jürgen Neuß offers for the first time a comprehensive survey of the extant historic remains at Oṃkāreśvar-Māndhātā, the most important place of pilgrimage in the Narmadā valley. Although the place has been known as an archaeological site since the middle of the nineteenth century, it has till date been overlooked that the remains are much more extensive and coherent than the rarely published archaeological notes, that deal with only a few monuments, suggest. This book provides a long overdue survey of the whole area which in essence represents a conglomeration of three historic settlements. At the center lies a thoroughly structured fortification, Māndhātṛdurga, which represents the only preserved fortified city of the Paramāras of Dhāra in the Narmadā valley presently known to us.



## ARTICLE BY JENS ZICKGRAF

The renowned magazine *Hau - Journal of Ethnographic Theory* recently published in its current issue (volume 7, issue 1) an article by Jens Zickgraf (Research Associate at the Department of Anthropology, SAI). More information about the article entitled "Becoming like money: Proximity and the social aesthetics of "moneyness" is available at

<https://www.haujournal.org/index.php/hau/article/view/hau7.1.022>.



## CHRISTIANE BROSIUS AND SANJEEV MAHARJAN: "BREAKING VIEWS. ENGAGING ART IN POST-EARTHQUAKE NEPAL"

Himal Books recently published "Breaking Views. Engaging Art in Post-Earthquake Nepal", co-edited by Prof. Christiane Brosius and Sanjeev Maharjan. The volume presents photographs, interviews and essays of artists and scholars, which reflect the time after the earthquake in Nepal.





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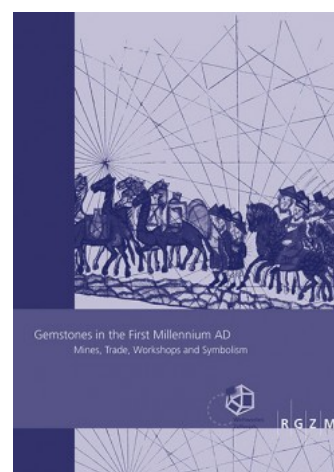
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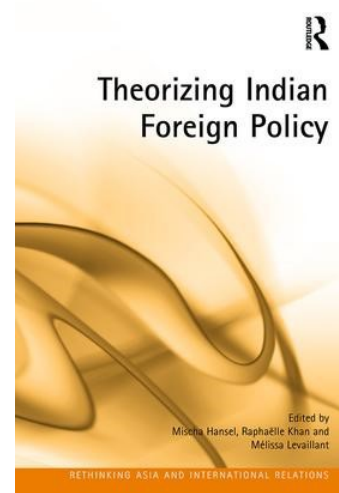
## NEW PUBLICATION "GEMSTONES IN THE FIRST MILLENNIUM AD – MINES, TRADE, WORKSHOPS AND SYMBOLISM"

RGZM (Verlag des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums) recently published the book "Gemstones in the First Millennium AD - Mines, Trade, Workshops and Symbolism", edited by Alexandra Hilgner, Susanne Greiff, Dieter Quast. The volume includes articles by Kerstin Sobkowiak, Jörg Gengnagel and Borayin Larios (researches at the Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia, SAI and members of the project Weltweites Zellwerk - International Framework).



## BOOK CHAPTER BY BERNHARD BEITELMAIR-BERINI IN "THEORIZING INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY"

The book "Theorizing India's Foreign Policy" published by Routledge, contains a chapter by Bernhard Beitelmaier-Berini (PhD researcher and lecturer at the Department of Political Science at the SAI) on "Theorizing Indian Strategic Culture(s): Taking Stock of a Controversial Debate". The chapter takes issue with the popular notion of a strategic culture deficit in India. He argues that four strategic subcultures compete with each other in Indian foreign policy discourses: Nehruvian, Liberal Globalist, Leftists and Hindu Revivalist.



## INTERDISZIPLINÄRE ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR SÜDASIENFORSCHUNG

The second issue of Interdisziplinäre Zeitschrift für Südasienforschung / The Interdisciplinary Journal for Research on South Asia (IZSAF) was published. IZSAF is an electronic peer-reviewed journal that seeks to provide a platform for young researchers focusing on South Asia to publish their findings or to present future projects. The intention of IZSAF is to bring together young scholars from a variety of disciplines and to enter into interdisciplinary discussions regarding issues surrounding the study of South Asia. IZSAF is open to new formats and also publishes photo essays to present topics in South Asian studies visually.



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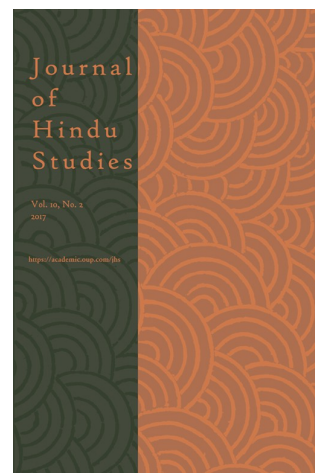
## CULTURAL HERITAGE IN MATERIAL RELIGION

The journal "Material Religion" recently published in issue 3, volume 13, 2017 a themed section on cultural heritage in the wake of the Nepal earthquake, the special issue is dedicated to the deceased Dina Bangdel. The section includes the following articles: Heritage Dynamics in Times of Crisis by Christiane Brosius, "Religious" Approaches to Heritage Restoration in Post-Earthquake Kathmandu by Manik Bajracharya & Axel Michaels, Authenticity and the Re-evaluation of Cultural Heritage: The Revival of Patan Darbar Square's Sacred Sites by Katharina Weiler, Caring for Ancestral Heritage away from Home: The Hyolmo Adivasi (indigenous people) of Helambu in Kathmandu by Davide Torri and Contemporary Artists' Response to Heritage in Times of Crisis: 12 Baishakh and Photo Kathmandu by Marlene Harles & Sheelasha Rajbhandari.



## ARTICLE BY RAFAEL KLÖBER IN JOURNAL OF HINDU STUDIES

Rafael Klöber (Department of History, SAI) has co-edited the recent issue of The Journal of Hindu Studies (Volume 10, Issue 2) with Oxford University Press. For this thematic issue on „Modern Tamil Saivism and Tamil Saiva Siddhanta“, Klöber contributed the general introduction as well as the essay „What is Saiva Siddhanta? Tracing Modern Genealogies and Historicizing a Classical Canon“. This volume aims at shedding light on the mostly neglected modern history of Tamil Saivism.

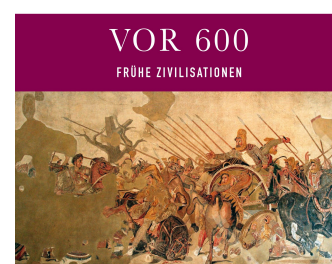


## VOLUME BY AXEL MICHAELS IN "FRÜHE ZIVILISATIONEN. DIE WELT VOR 600"

The volume "Frühe Zivilisationen. Die Welt vor 600" recently published by Hans-Joachim Gehrke includes a chapter "Südasien und Südostasien" written by Prof. Dr. Axel Michaels. The volume is part of the six-volume series "Geschichte der Welt" published by Akira Iriye and Jürgen Osterhammel. Like the other volumes of the series, this book will also be published in English by Harvard University Press.

AKIRA IRIYE UND JÜRGEN OSTERHAMMEL (HG.)

C.H.BECK HARVARD UP  
GESCHICHTE  
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HG. VON HANS-JOACHIM GEHRKE

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## BRANCH OFFICE IN NEW DELHI

### HEIDELBERG CENTRE SOUTH ASIA LAUNCHES A UNIQUE EXCHANGE PLATFORM FOR YOUNG SCHOLARS

by Radu Carciumaru

Heidelberg Centre South Asia, the Branch Office of the Heidelberg University in India, officially launched the Heidelberg India Research Internship Platform (HEIIN) on April 10, 2017 at the German House for Research and Innovation (DWIH, New Delhi). Under the aegis of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Vice-President of the Heidelberg University, Prof. Dr. Dieter Heermann, inaugurated the platform.

The Heidelberg India Research Internship Platform is a robust and secure online web based workflow solution hosted at URZ (University's computing centre), Heidelberg. The first-of-its-kind structured exchange platform has several distinguishing features such as the fact that the highly competitive internships are fully funded by the collaborating organizations, they presuppose at least 6 months of advanced research in a multinational, interdisciplinary environment and, after the completion, offer opportunities to further explore career opportunities both in Heidelberg and in India.

A select audience comprising representatives from institutions of research and higher education, funding organisations, Indian government bodies, think tanks, German organisations in India and DWIH Consortium Members, attended the official inauguration of the Heidelberg India Internship Platform.



## WORKSHOPS ON SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

New and better ways can make urban centres "smart" in their operations with particular focus on sustainability. This viewpoint emerged during a two-day workshop on "Smart City 2017" organised in Shimla on May 19 & 20, 2017. The workshop was organised and coordinated by the Heidelberg Centre South Asia (HCSA) and Observer Research Foundation (ORF). Other partners included School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), the Indian Institute of Architects (Shimla Chapter), the German House for Research and Innovation (DWIH) and Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom. Four thematic sessions included in the workshop were Inclusive Cities, Smart Infrastructure and Mobility, Smart Resource Management and Smart Governance. The 2017 series of workshops on sustainable urban development (Shimla, Coimbatore, Bhubaneswar and Bangalore) are financially supported by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for the Freedom (32.000 Euros) and the Delegation of the European Union to India (5000 Euros).



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## SUCCESSFUL EU ERASMUS APPLICATION

by Radu Carciumaru

SWAGATA Consortium's application for Key Action 1 – Mobility for Individuals (KA108) – within the framework of the Erasmus+ programme has been successful. SWAGATA consists of three comprehensive German Universities – University of Cologne, University of Göttingen and Heidelberg University and is coordinated by University of Göttingen.

SWAGATA's objectives are:

- to implement the proposed mobility scheme with scholarship to Indian and German students, academic as well as administrative staff,
- to strengthen the collaboration between Germany and India through student and staff mobility,
- to contribute to inclusive and sustainable growth by improving academic skills, and
- to promote alumni activities and collaborate with other partners from the German House for Research and Innovation (DWIH), New Delhi.

Amongst the partner institutions from India are:

1. Jawaharlal Nehru University,
2. University of Agricultural Sciences Bengaluru,
3. University of Pune,
4. Bharati Vidyapeeth University,
5. School of Planning and Architecture,
6. Jamia Millia Islamia,
7. Shiv Nadar University, and
8. Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham.



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

Joint Calls for Applications, for students, academic as well as administrative staff (SAI and HCTS), will be published at the beginning of 2018, at [www.dwih.in](http://www.dwih.in) and on the webpages of partner universities.

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## COIMBATORE

by Radu Carciumaru

Creation of opportunities for pro-active participation of citizens in city designing and management, and adoption of an ecologically sensitive planning and design approach can help in developing smart and sustainable cities.



The case of Coimbatore was discussed in a workshop on smart cities organised on 6 and 7 June 2017 under the umbrella of the German House for Research and Innovation (DWH) by the Heidelberg Centre South Asia (HCSA) and Observer Research Foundation (ORF). Other partners included Friedrich Naumann Foundation, the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), the Indian Institute of Architects (IIA Coimbatore Chapter) and the Bavarian-Indian Centre (BayIND). This workshop, second in the series, was held in collaboration with local institutions PSG College of Technology and Kumaraguru College of Technology (KCT-BS). The first one was organised in Shimla on 19 and 20 May 2017.

In his opening address, Dr. K. Vijayakarhikeyan, the Municipal Commissioner of Coimbatore Corporation and Managing Director, Smart Cities Mission, mentioned that the smart cities mission is a collective dream that can be fulfilled only by taking the nature along and providing basic services in an efficient and sustainable manner.

Three thematic sessions were conducted as part of the workshop with focus on inclusive cities, resource management, as well as infrastructure and mobility. An interactive session for the benefit of the students was also held to enhance understanding of the various issues related to smart and sustainable city development.

In his welcome remarks, Mr. Radu Carciumaru, Resident Representative, Heidelberg Centre South Asia/South Asia Institute, emphasised the need to undertake collaborative research in the area of sustainable urban development. Rumi Aijaz, Senior Fellow, ORF mentioned that this workshop seeks to serve as an interactive platform and the lessons learned will be documented for use of policy makers.

Over 20 speakers presented their work and ideas. They represented institutions such as Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR), Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Resident Awareness Association of Coimbatore, Siruthuli, Tamil Nadu Institute of Urban Studies (TNUIS), Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), and private firms such as Design Consortium, Kalycito, and Urban Design Collaborative. The workshop was attended by over 95 participants including academicians, students, professionals, as well as government, industry and civil society representatives.

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**CONTACT****HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY AT GERMAN STUDY & RESEARCH EXPO INDIA 2017**

by Radu Carciumaru

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 postgraduate 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.

**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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- ▶ Heidelberg Centre South Asia launches a unique exchange platform for young scholars
- ▶ Workshops on Sustainable Urban Development
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- ▶ Nadine Plachta received NIAS Supra Nordic Scholarship
- ▶ Kathmandu Branch Office launches weekly movie screenings

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## BRANCH OFFICE IN NEPAL

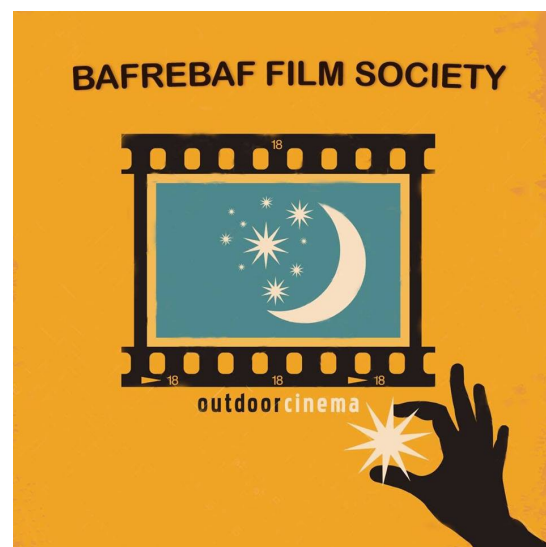
### NADINE PLACHTA RECEIVED NIAS SUPRA NORDIC SCHOLARSHIP

Nadine Plachta, resident representative at the SAI's Kathmandu Branch Office, received the Supra Nordic Scholarship. This grant is one of the most important features of the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies' (NIAS) support program. It is designed to make NIAS' resources accessible to PhD candidates and covers travel to and from Copenhagen and accommodation at Nordisk Kollegium for a period of two weeks. During this time, Nadine Plachta will have at her disposal a suitably equipped work place, and access to all the facilities at NIAS. She will be encouraged to interaction with NIAS researchers and will have the opportunity to make a presentation and receive expert advice.

### KATHMANDU BRANCH OFFICE LAUNCHES WEEKLY MOVIE SCREENINGS

by Nadine Plachta

In collaboration with Sattya Media Arts Collective the Kathmandu Branch Office from November onwards offers weekly ethnographical film treats. It now is part of the BafrebaF Film Society whose main aim is to create an open educational platform for everyone interested in the art of film. Besides weekly meetings consisting of discussions and screenings of films not shown in mainstream cinemas, the film society is engaged in organizing events and providing resources on convergences between art and social sciences. The primary focus is on non-fiction films with a strong ethnographic and anthropological content—films that spark political, sociological and philosophical debates and films that question the world we live in.



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**IMPRINT**

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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.

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