



NEWSLETTER

No 13, February 2019

WELCOME

to the 13th issue of the SAI newsletter.

Over the two years of my period as Executive Director of the South Asia Institute we have collectively managed to accomplish a number of things: a reorganization of our operations in Delhi; initiation of the search for a successor to Gita Dharampal-Frick, Professor of History at the SAI; a highly successful review by our Scientific Advisory Board; the establishment of a “gender and equality committee”; and the usual flood of guests, conferences, research grants, publications, and all the other things that contribute to such a vibrant institution as the SAI.

Throughout this period, all of us were aware that the SAI would soon undergo perhaps the greatest change in its 57-year history by joining three other institutes - the Centre for East Asian Studies, the Institute of Anthropology, and the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies - to form the new Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies (CATS), which will be the largest Asian Studies Centre in Europe.

Our new building is almost complete, and what a spectacular building it will be! The four institutes administratively independent institutes will surround a central glass structure, beneath which will be the library, sunk floors into the ground. The entire complex will comprise approximately 5000 square metres of office, teaching and library space. Most of the funding was provided by the State of Baden-Württemberg and the Federal Government of Germany, although the University and the four institutes also contributed significant financial resources for its realization.

But CATS is much more than just a building. More profoundly, it represents our desire to firmly locate the study of South Asia in a global context, which means paying more attention to the many influences that other parts of the world have had on South Asia, in the past as well as the present, as well as emphasizing the myriad ways in which South Asia had, and continues to have, a powerful impact on the rest of the world. Moving from the Neuenheim Campus to the centre of Heidelberg is, at the same time, a move from the scholarly periphery to the centre.

We are certain that the synergies released by our new “living arrangements” will broaden our horizons, stimulate new ideas, and help us to open our minds, critically reflect on our intellectual habits, and continue the study of South Asia in new and creative ways.

Prof. Dr. William Sax
Executive Director

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WORKSHOP “DYNAMICS OF FEMALE AGENCY IN BUDDHISM AND HINDUISM” (2.- 4.7.2018)

by Prof. Ute Hüsken

The workshop “Dynamics of Female Agency in Buddhism and Hinduism” dealt with new forms of ritual and religious agency in Buddhist and Hindu traditions around the globe. In most mainstream religious traditions of Hinduism and Buddhism, women are traditionally excluded from positions of religious and ritual leadership. However, this situation rather recently started to change: in an increasing number of contexts, women can and do now undergo monastic and priestly education; they can receive ordination/initiation as Buddhist nuns and Hindu priestesses; and they are accepted as ascetic religious leaders.

Still these processes largely take place outside of traditional religious institutions. Yet it becomes clear that women are starting to establish new religious trends and currents, attracting many followers, occupying positions of religious leadership on par with men. In some cases, this process takes place in collaboration with male performers, in others against the will of the women’s male counterparts. At times women are filling a void left behind by male religious specialists, at times they are perceived as rivals of male religious specialists.



Students of the Pāṇini Kanyā Mahāvīdyālaya (Varanasi) performing the morning homa at their school

WORKSHOP “DYNAMICS OF FEMALE AGENCY IN BUDDHISM AND HINDUISM”

While there are many differences between and also within these diverse religious traditions, the processes which facilitate the emergence of women as religious and ritual leaders are unfolding right now.

This workshop set out to look at the historical background, contemporary trajectories, and impact of the emergence of new powerful female agencies in these culturally and politically conservative religious traditions – a change, which paradoxically takes place while women’s rights in modern and liberal settings are being curtailed. The workshop participants discussed processes that either facilitate or impede the emergence of female leadership through the comparison between specific settings and traditions. Importantly, the contributors also looked into the entanglement of gender and religion beyond specific traditions, regions, and time periods. The gathering facilitated lively conversations between scholars who conduct in-depth studies of culturally, historically and geographically specific situations.

Workshop participants also discussed new methods to analyze intersectionality, to contribute to a better understanding of the dynamics connected to global flows of gender and religion. The contributions included talks on female ascetic Hindu leaders (Antoinette E. DeNapoli, Texas Christian University), on a Nunnery for girls in Nepal (Amy Langenberg, Eckerd College, Florida), Hindu women’s ritual agency in Trinidad (Priyanka Ramlakhan, University of Florida), female religious specialists in Kalmykia (Valeriya Gazizova, Cambridge University), gender difference and gender equality for Buddhist women in early 20th century China (Elena Valussi, Loyola University Chicago), on Shiv Sena Women and political agency (Tarini Bedi, University of Illinois at Chicago), Buddhist radicalism as a vehicle for female empowerment (Iselin Frydenlund, MF Norwegian School of Theology), on women’s rights to enter in places of Hindu worship (Shefali More, Heidelberg University), late 19th and 20th century Thai female Buddhist practitioners (Martin Seeger, University of Leeds), on women teachers in the Hindu diaspora (Vasudha Narayanan, University of Florida), on British Buddhist women (Caroline Starkey, University of Leeds), and on a Veda school for girls in Varanasi (Ute Hüsken). Workshop audience - among them many students - and presenters engaged in lively discussions of the following questions:

- How do female religious specialists use their new position as instruments of socio-political critique, how are they agents of change, and how do they enact modes of protest and resistance within the framework of a rigid and conservative tradition?
- What is appropriated by the new actors, and what is rejected?
- Which strategies do the women employ that allow them to integrate in a tradition that excludes them?
- What is the role of the first women choosing these paths, how do they acquire their competence and how this does this in turn affect their way of teaching and transmitting their knowledge and experience to the next generation)?
- What do intersections of gender and caste background, marital status, ethnic background, skin color and social status affect these processes?
- How does, at times, a higher degree of gender equality within a religious tradition come at the expense of other marginalized subjectivities?

ARTIFICIAL GLACIERS IN RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE?

Heidelberg researchers study effects of ice reservoirs on meltwater-dependent economies in high mountain regions of South Asia

Receding glaciers and dwindling snowfalls pose a threat to meltwater-dependent agriculture in large parts of the high mountain regions of South Asia. A research team led by Prof. Dr Marcus Nüsser of Heidelberg University's South Asia Institute conducted a long-term study to determine how creating ice reservoirs, commonly called artificial glaciers, might help counteract seasonal water scarcity. The researchers assess the different types of ice reservoirs and their socioeconomic impact in an attempt to identify whether artificial glaciers are an effective adaptation to climate change. Members from the Heidelberg Center for the Environment also contributed to the study.

Over the past thirty years, funding has been provided to build various types of ice reservoirs in the high-altitude desert of Ladakh in Northern India. These artificial glaciers are fed by meltwater runoff between November and March and stored as ice at locations with the suitable topography and microclimate. The glaciers, structured as cascading walls or stupas, supply water for agriculture in the dry early months of spring in this region, which is completely dependent on snow and glacier meltwater.

In their recently published study, Marcus Nüsser's team provide an inventory and typology of the artificial glaciers in Ladakh. Their analysis of satellite images and field measurements point to a storage volume of between 1,010 and 3,220 cubic metres of water. "In the best case, the fields could be fully irrigated up to three times over the course of several days," states Prof. Nüsser. "The storage volume is not reliable, however, because it depends on climatic conditions in the region, which vary from one year to the next."

The researchers were able to extrapolate the values obtained to the entire storage volume in the Ladakh region and demonstrate that the different types of ice reservoirs are not equally efficient. Reservoirs made up of multiple sequential cascading basins are most effective. "In addition to climatic conditions, the ratio of subsidies to effectiveness is also decisive for the evaluation," explains Prof. Nüsser. Based on interviews with local smallholders, the artificial glaciers are also considered beneficial because they reduce the risk of crop failure and increase the possibility of growing cash crops. According to the researchers, the artificial glaciers can therefore "be understood as a site-specific adaptation strategy to environmental conditions in the high-altitude desert of Northern India".

Beyond their local application, the ice reservoirs were also framed in the past as a general response to the negative effects of climate change, especially receding glaciers. Based on the findings by the Heidelberg researchers, however, the usefulness of this strategy remains questionable. Climatic variability and natural hazards – especially floods, landslides and avalanches – along with incomplete integration into the local socioeconomic setting significantly limit the efficacy of artificial glaciers. "Moreover, the term 'artificial glacier' is misleading, because these ice reservoirs can in no way replace natural glaciers," states Prof. Nüsser. The research results were published in the journal "Regional Environmental Change": <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10113-018-1372-0>



Photo: Marcus Nüsser

Artificial glacier at 4,450 metres above sea level, located above the village Igoo in the high-altitude desert of Ladakh in Northern India (2014).



Photo: Marcus Nüsser

Irrigated agriculture solely depends on meltwater availability, especially from glaciers (2008).

SAI AT FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR

At last year's Frankfurt Book Fair, the South Asia Institute was represented by two events. On Saturday, October 13, a book presentation of the German translation of Perumal Murugan's novel "Maadhorubaagan (One Part Woman)" took place. The participants were Perumal Murugan (Tamil author), Prof. Torsten Tschacher (German translator), Kannan Sundaram, Kalachuvadu (Tamil publisher), Christian Weiss (Drapadi Verlag) and Dr. Martin Gieselmann (Executive Director at SAI).

Furthermore there was a talk on Sunday, October 14, on the topic „Lokal oder global? Nachdenken über Sri Lankas Konfliktlinien“. The participants were Prof. Dr. Nira Wickramasinghe (Professor for Modern South Asian Studies, Leiden University), La Toya Waha (Institute for Interdisciplinary Research on Conflict and Violence of Bielefeld University) and the moderator Martin Gieselmann (Executive Director at SAI).

In addition, the SAI together with the Heidelberg University Library had a permanent stall at the book fair where publication format such as Heidelberg University Press (heiUP) and CrossAsia ePublishing were presented.

A PICTURE BECOMES A TEXT - WITH "MACHINE LEARNING"!

by Nicole Merkel-Hilf

Everywhere you hear and read about the many different applications of methods of machine learning (ML), artificial intelligence and neural networks - be it in medicine, in image analysis or the development of autonomously driving cars. But even at less spectacular projects, such as automated text recognition, methods of ML delivered excellent results.

For generating editable full-text versions of printed works of the late 19th century Naval Kishore Press (NKP) collection in the South Asian देवनागरी script, the library of the South Asia Institute and Heidelberg University Library are currently focusing on the possibilities of machine learning by using data models especially trained for this text material and developed by the Transkribus platform which is part of the EU-funded project READ. For 200 pages of text a so-called "Ground Truth" transcription was created, i.e. an error-free copy of the text on the digitized image facsimile. Then the "Ground Truth" transcription together with the digitized images is used to train a "recurrent neural network" that automatically transcribes additional texts from the NKP collection. With a character error rate of only 1.77% on randomly selected test pages, the text recognition results are excellent for this difficult material.

The full texts - searchable in Devanāgarī script and Latin transliteration - are available to users via the Naval Kishore Press - digital portal (<https://digi.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/en/sammlungen/suedasien/navalkishore.html>). Of the currently 100 digitized works, about 50 titles already have a searchable full-text version in both scripts. In the future we plan to extend this method to historic texts in other South Asian scripts.

The screenshot shows the Transkribus web interface. The main window displays a scanned page of a document in Devanagari script. The text on the page is:

३६ रामायण अध्यात्मविचार ।

पश्यतिसपश्यति" । इत्यादि प्रमाणसे आपको अरु उक्त बालि

को जो सम देखताहै सोई श्रेष्ठ देखता है, अतएव हे भगवन् !

अब आप मुझपर ऐसी कृपाकरो कि जिसकरके मैं सर्व संकल्प

विकल्प को त्याग ।" आत्मावाअरेहृष्टयः श्रोतव्योमन्तवोनिदि

ध्यासितव्यो" इत्यादि प्रमाण से अहर्निश एकसत्यस्वरूप आप

काही श्रवण मनन निदिध्यासनकरों, इसप्रकार जब उक्त सु-

ग्रीवने उक्त रामजीसे विनयकिया तब उसके वैराग्य युक्त वाक्य

को श्रवणकर धनुषधारी भगवान् उक्त रामजी हँसके बोले कि

हे सखा ! हे सुग्रीव ! तुम जो कुछकहतेहो सो सर्वसत्यही है

Below the image, there is a list of transcription progress indicators for pages 37 through 45. The indicators show the page number, the status (Ground Truth, In Progress), and a small thumbnail of the page.

37: Ground Truth

38: Ground Truth

39: Ground Truth

40: Ground Truth

41: In Progress

42: In Progress

43: In Progress

44: In Progress

45: In Progress

At the bottom of the screenshot, there is a list of transcription progress indicators for pages 1-1 through 1-4. The indicators show the page number, the status (Ground Truth, In Progress), and a small thumbnail of the page.

1-1 ३६ रामायण अध्यात्मविचार ।

1-2 पश्यतिसपश्यति" । इत्यादि प्रमाणसे आपको अरु उक्त बालि

1-3 को जो सम देखताहै सोई श्रेष्ठ देखता है, अतएव हे भगवन् !

1-4 अब आप मुझपर ऐसी कृपाकरो कि जिसकरके मैं सर्व संकल्प

A NEW PROJECT ON NEPAL HERITAGE DOCUMENTATION

Since October 2018, Christiane Brosius (Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies) and Axel Michaels (Heidelberg Academy of Humanities and Sciences) head a pioneering digital database related to Nepal's cultural heritage. The Nepal Heritage Documentation Project (NHDP) documents endangered monuments and sites of Nepal's cultural heritage, such as monasteries and temples or vernacular architecture. The project responds to the rapid socio-economic and urban transformation as well as the damages caused by the earthquakes of April and May 2015, it will document dynamics of change and allow for a more systematic insight into the rich Newar heritage of the valley. Arcadia, a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin, funds the NHDP pilot phase (2018-2020) with € 775.000.



View on Patan Darbar Square, October 2018



Meeting of the Documentation project in the Patan office



Atah Phalca Cyasal – Women of the neighbourhood resting at a phalca



Architect Sabina Tandukar makes an architectural drawing of a monument in Patan

Findings from more than three decades of historical and anthropological research in the Kathmandu Valley (mainly Lalitpur/Patan), updated and complemented by newly sourced data, new up-to-date documentation standards, and Open Access data-sets will be merged into a new Digital Archive of Nepalese Architecture, Monuments and Objects (DANA). This will become a powerful tool designed for the management, preservation and protection of the national and community-based heritage of Nepal. In addition to this, the NHDP collects diverse historical documents such as maps, photographs and drawings as well as oral histories related to the built heritage and socio-religious use and practices around them.

Grounded in know-how from across disciplinary borders, the project team includes almost 20 researchers and database experts from fields such as architecture, history, anthropology, indology and digital humanities among others. In Germany, the NHDP is based on the cooperation of two academic institutions: the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies (HCTS) and the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (HAdW) but also involves Heidelberg University Library and i3mainz | University of Applied Sciences Mainz (Dr. Ashish Karmacharya).

The key project partner and representative in Nepal is the Saraf Foundation of Himalayan Traditions and Culture. Other partners are the Department of Archaeology, the Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust (KVPT), the UNESCO Nepal, and the South Asia Institute Branch Office. Here, the project work, with head office in Patan, is based on the data collected during fieldtrips by the in situ teams made up of experienced heritage architects, draftsmen, photographers and research assistants as well as IT programmers.

With its commitment to Open Access, sustainable data management and up-to-date standards of documentation, the NHDP hopes to set the stage for potential growth beyond its pilot phase of 2 years. By making its results publicly available, the project aims to create long-lasting positive effects, both for the key stakeholder Nepal as well as internationally.

The project's Digital Archive of Nepalese Architecture, Monuments and Objects (DANA), which will go online in spring 2019, is situated at the ARCHES platform and provides immediate access to a broad range of information.

DAAD-PROJECT EVENTS ON “ACTIVE AGEING“

by Constanze Weigl-Jäger

From 19th to 26th September 2018 several events have been held in New Delhi as part of the DAAD-funded cooperation project “New Directions in ‘Active Ageing’ and ‘Age-friendly Culture’ in India and Germany” between Heidelberg University (HU) and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). The event series started with the workshop “Caring Relations, Caring for Ageing” by Prof. Dr. Christiane Brosius (Heidelberg Centre Transcultural Studies) and Roberta Mandoki (MA) at 19th/20th/25th September. It was opened by Prof. Brosius at JNU with a lecture on “Caring for Old Age in South Asia” and included presentations and discussions addressing caring relations, elderly care and ageing in urban spaces in South Asia and within transnational Indian families. The interactive documentary “Elderscapes – Ageing in Urban South Asia” was presented by its co-author Roberta Mandoki and Iris Boettcher (MA) talked on “Population Ageing and care worker migration – a transcultural perspective on the global care workers shortage.” At the next day an excursion to a Senior Care Centre (Samvedna) in Gurgaon took place, where students received the possibility to engage in conversations with the elderly, family caregivers and Samvedna’s staff members on care and its multiple meanings.

Second event was the Autumn School “Ageing and Gender” at 21st-23rd/25th September opened by Prof. Dr. William Sax (South Asia Institute) at JNU with a lecture on Indian models of ageing focussing on widowhood in India. The position of widows in Northern India was further described by students’ presentations and illustrated by a screening of the Indian documentary “Krishna’s Waiting Room” (2017) about widows living in Ashrams in Vrindavan/Uttar Pradesh. This was followed by a two-days excursion to Vrindavan and a visit of two widow old age homes, where students could talk individually with widows who were sharing eg. insights from their life in Vrindavan and their family status. Within the excursion the group visited also the Banke Bihari Temple, did a walking tour through the city and went for a boat trip on the river Yamuna.

The Workshop and the Autumn School closed with a joint session at the India International Centre (IIC), where students presented and discussed their findings applying the reviewed theory and key readings from the lecture days at JNU day with fieldwork data and experiences from the excursions to Gurgaon and Vrindavan. All events were attended by Phd Students from JNU (School of Social Sciences), M.A. students from HU (Institute of Gerontology, South Asia Institute and Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies), and Indian-German project members. The event series concluded with a public event - the Film Festival for Generations at 24th to 26th September taking place for the first time in India. The official opening of the festival was inaugurated by Prof. Dr. Andreas Kruse (Institute of Gerontology), Dr. Stephan Lanzinger (German Embassy), T.P. Madhukumar (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment) and Venkatesh Srinivasan (UNFPA) at the IIC and attended by a few hundred guests. The German documentary “Forget me not” (on dementia) was screened followed by a discussion moderated by Prof. Kruse and Mohan Agashe (Psychiatrist and Actor). Further films from India and Germany dealing with topics such as activity and creativity in old age, searching for ego-integrity, and housing have been screened at IIC, Springdales school, Maitri College/Delhi University and JNU. The 2nd Filmfestival for Generations will take place in New Delhi in September 2019.



ACADEMIC EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY, JERUSALEM, AND SAI

Within the ongoing academic exchange between the Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia (Classical Indology) and the Department of Religion, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Anand Mishra visited Jerusalem in December 2018 to participate in a workshop organized by Prof. Naphtali Meshel (Hebrew University) on daily ritual practice in Muslim, Jewish and Hindu traditions. Further, he participated in the reading session of “Heidelberg-Jerusalem Reading Group” which regularly meets to study fragments written in a mixture of text (in Mishnaic Hebrew), commentary and dialectic discourse (in Jewish Babylonian Aramaic), and super-commentary (in medieval rabbinic Hebrew) that show striking similarities with Sanskrit text of the Jaimini-mīmāṃsā-sūtra (3rd century BCE) with the commentary of Śabara (3rd century CE). As next activity within this collaboration, Ute Hüsken is invited to give the keynote lecture at the Third Annual Conference of The Israeli Association for the Study of Religions, “Approaches to Holiness”, on April 8th 2019.

2019 – 2021: THE SECOND PROJECT PERIOD FOR CROSSASIA – FID ASIA HAS STARTED

by Nicole Merkel-Hilf

At the beginning of this year, the German Research Foundation (DFG) approved our application for the second project period for CrossAsia – FID Asia. The three cooperation partners – Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Heidelberg University Library and the South Asia Institute – receive funding from the “Specialised Information Services Programme” for another three years. After the convincing results of the first project period, the new aims are to consolidate and further develop the existing service infrastructure. Another important work item is the opening of the FID Asia for cooperation projects with national and international partners. In so-called “satellite projects” - projects, which are funded separately, but run in cooperation with the FID Asia - the use of the infrastructures of Heidelberg University Library and Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin for digitization and editing projects will be used. For South Asia, two agreements with university chairs had been signed for such cooperations. For the coming three years we have an ambitious program:



For South Asia, two agreements with university chairs had been signed for such cooperations. For the coming three years we have an ambitious program:

- Continuation of our digital and non-digital collection development to serve disciplinary, inter- and transdisciplinary as well as transregional research issues with relation to Asia
- Development of the CrossAsia-ePublishing platforms: CrossAsia-eBooks will include the option of interactive, networked and multimedia publishing in the sense of “enhanced publishing”. This will make our e-publishing services more flexible and service-oriented, tailored to the researchers’ specific needs.
- Provision of editable full texts in South Asian scripts using methods of “machine learning” and “artificial neural networks” for the OCR process.
- Enhancing the CrossAsia Search with new search areas. At the same time, we will implement a new, regionally structured access to the CrossAsia platform in order to make contents with focus on South Asia or Southeast Asia more visible.
- At the request of our scientific advisory board, the FID Asia will address the currently highly relevant topic of research data and will develop and establish an information and consulting service for Asia-related research data.

In the coming months, we will report on the developments and results of the individual work packages of the FID project here in the SAI Newsletter and on the CrossAsia and Heidelberg University Library blogs. The feedback from the scientific community is very important to us. For any questions and suggestions on our services we look forward to hearing from you.

STUDENT RESEARCH ON INDIANS IN EARLY 20TH CENTURY HEIDELBERG PUBLISHED

by Rafael Klöber

During the winter term 2017–2018, Rafael Klöber (Department of History) organized a research seminar on “India in Heidelberg. Entangled Histories between Asia and Europe”. In course of this seminar, undergraduate students conducted their own research into the fates of Indian students at Heidelberg University in the early 20th century. Working in local archives, like the City Archive (Stadtarchiv) and the University Archive, as well as in the Archive of the Foreign Office in Berlin (Politisches Archiv des Auswärtigen Amtes), SAI students not only reconstructed fascinating personal biographies of South Asian individuals on the brink and during WW I in Heidelberg. Moreover, these projects also included “the German side”, namely a strong local network of university teachers involved with foreign policy and war propaganda. The results of this research were now published as a special issue in the online journal „Interdisziplinäre Zeitschrift für Südasiensforschung“. All articles convincingly show that seemingly local histories are products of global entanglements and thus cannot be scrutinized without taking these global interconnections seriously.

The contributions present the productive outcome of this innovative teaching project in research-based learning. The volume includes seven different contributions: a) first, an introduction by Rafael Klöber that outlines the historical context of the studies and explains the didactical set up of the course; b) second, a contribution by Eike Brunnengräber that closely examines Prof. Wilhelm Salomon-Calvi (fig. 1), the most crucial figure with regards to Indian students at Heidelberg University during WW I; c) the third article by Marc Bechthold follows the tragic biography of Divakar Bhandarkar (fig. 2) from Bombay, who came to Heidelberg to study but was monitored closely during the war due to his “enemy origin”; d) in the fourth contribution, Natalie Stasiewicz focusses on South Asian students from the Princely States of Cochin and Travancore and is able to show that German authorities were able to differentiate the treatment of Indians according to their origin in certain circumstances; e) in their article, Frederic Kohlhepp and Rafael Klöber follow the curious case of Vasanji Dalal, an Indian student who settled in Heidelberg, married a local woman and remained at the Neckar even after the war. However, being a theosophist not only made him suspicious in the eyes of German war politics, but also engaged him in the internal struggle of German theosophy that led to the foundation of Anthroposophy in 1913; f) to complete the volume, Selina Pröhl and Anna Fried-Leiwald have meticulously put together a glossary of the important local and global figures and institutions involved with the case studies presented. The glossary is followed by an afterword by Pröhl and Fried-Leiwald that sums up and evaluates the project from a student perspective.

All contributions can be found online:

<https://crossasia-journals.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/index.php/izsa/issue/view/575>



Wilhelm Salomon-Calvi (1868–1941) UAH Bildarchiv Pos I 8947

Personalausweis Nr. 208
 Ausgestellt als Passiersatz für den Aufenthalt im Reichsgebiete.
 (Für den Grenzübertritt ist jedoch ein Sichtvermerk der zuständigen deutschen Stelle erforderlich.)

Familienname: *Bhandarkar*
 Vorname: *Divakar*
 Staatsangehörigkeit: *Indien*
 Beruf: *Arzt*
 Ewiger Wohnort mit Bezirk: *Bombay*
 Gegenwärtiger Aufenthaltsort mit Bezirk: *Heidelberg*
 Geboren am: *11. September 1886* Alter: *31* Jahre
 Geburtsort: *Poona*
 Gestalt: *Indisch* Haar: *Schwarz*
 Augen: *Braun* Gesichtsfarbe: *rosa*
 Besondere Kennzeichen: *keine*

So wird hiermit bezeugt, daß der Inhaber die durch nebenstehende Photographie dargestellte Person ist und die darunter befindliche Unterschrift eigenhändig vollzogen hat.

Unterschrift des Inhabers: *Divakar Bhandarkar*

Stempel: *Heidelberg*

Divakar Bhandarkar (1886–1917)
 UAH Stud_A Bhandarkar, Divakar

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EXPOSÉ-SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE STUDIENSTIFTUNG DES DEUTSCHEN VOLKES FOR MALINI AMBACH

Malini Ambach, who completed her M.A. in Cultural and Religious History of South Asia in the summer term 2018, was awarded an Exposé-scholarship from the Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes (German Academic Scholarship Foundation) for the preparation of her PhD project in the field of Classical Indology.



This scholarship enables former scholarship holders of the Studienstiftung to conduct an academic working phase after graduation and before starting their dissertation. It supports projects that aim at the conception and preparation of innovative PhD projects.

Starting in January 2019, Ambach will work on the topic “Religious Networks between the pilgrimage centres of Kāñcīpuram and Vārāṇasī and their sacred geography in comparison”. Sanskrit texts from the genre of Māhātmyas which use mythological narratives to describe the sacred spaces and the efficaciousness of Kāñcīpuram and Vārāṇasī serve as a basis for her work. Her project is affiliated with the Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARIJA GRUJOVSKA

Marija Grujovska, student of the Department of Religious and Cultural History of South Asia, received a scholarship from the Margot and Friedrich Becke Foundation. Grujovska was honored for her exceptional academic achievements. The scholarship will support her master thesis on fieldwork and archival work in Nepal.



The topic of her master thesis is an in-depth study of the R̥ṣi Pañcamī, an annual religious festival held by Hindu women in Nepal. A central part of the celebration is ritual fasting to remove the “pollution of menstruation”. The aim of the master thesis is to explore the cultural representations of biological processes such as menstruation by Nepalese women. The grant from Becke Foundation allows her to travel to Nepal to explore the performative aspects of the text and the ritual.

GRADUATION CEREMONY 2018 HELD AMIDST FESTIVITY

by Punny Kabir

The students of SAI who completed their BA and MA degrees in 2018 were honored through a ceremony on December 7th at the library room of the institute. The enthusiastic presence of the faculty members, newly graduated students and their friends and families turned the cold evening into a warm and festive one.

Professor Rahul Mukherji welcomed the students and guests with a cordial speech that marked the opening of the program. Professor Stefan Klonner on behalf of Freunde & Förderer des SAI announced the winners for the best BA and MA theses of 2018. The awards were bestowed upon Rebecca Hadank-Rauch for her BA thesis „Waste Disposal in Nizamuddin Basti, Delhi: An Economic Analysis“ and Anna Scarabel for her MA thesis „Vegetarianism and Ahimsā in the Anuśāsanaparvan of the Mahābhārata (XIII.114-117)“.

Next Professors William Sax delivered a nostalgic speech about the history and some interesting facts about the building INF 330 where the institute is situated since 1962 and about to move its destination to another campus in a few weeks. Martin Gieselmann announced the names of the graduated students and distributed a bundle of souvenirs to each student who came up on the stage and received them with joy.

On behalf of the students Laila Borrie, Usman Mahar, and Erika Patho took the stage and delivered moving speeches reflecting their personal experiences as students of SAI with which all the students could relate to and expressed their acknowledgments with repeated rounds of applause. The event was wrapped up with a group photo session and wishing each other a happy journey ahead.



Photos by by Punny Kabir

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- ▶ The duty to fight poverty
- ▶ Right to Pray at Sabarimala

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THE DUTY TO FIGHT POVERTY

by Paula von Haaren

On 8 December 2018, the Department of Development Economics, the Student Network for Economic and Business Ethics (sneep e.V.) and the Evangelische Akademie of Baden-Württemberg jointly organized a panel discussion on “Who is responsible to combat global poverty?”. The discussion took place at Zimmer lecture hall of the South Asia Institute and was part of three-day workshop on global poverty for young people between 15 and 26 years organized by sneep and the Evangelische Akademie.



The moderators Paula von Haaren (SAI) and Rebecca Ruehle (sneep) discussed together with Achim Drewes (Nestlé Deutschland), Heinz Fuchs (Brot für die Welt), Sebastian Burger (Evangelische Akademie), Gabriele Reich-Gutjahr (FDP Baden-Württemberg) and the audience the scope of responsibility to combat poverty and in which ways different actors can contribute. The discussion revealed that a universal responsibility to fight against global poverty can be motivated both from a moral philosophical and from a religious viewpoint. The duty even applies to businesses since they are social constructs and both capable of understanding which actions are morally wrong and of adjusting their behavior accordingly. In addition, respecting human rights and offering fair working conditions in low-income countries can also lie in the self-interest of international corporations. This is supported by conscious consumers who create demand for fair trade products (or boycott products which enhance poverty) and by citizens redefining the goals and work culture in the businesses they work for and own. In addition, both low-income countries and home countries of international corporations must assure inequality – and poverty-reducing international and national trade, tax, environmental and employment regulations. By disseminating information about what harms the poor and which actions need to be taken, NGOs play an important role in forcing the other actors to do their part. Overall, it becomes clear that even though all actors have a duty to help the poor, they differ in their ability to intervene at different levels of society. Nevertheless, this should not induce them to shift responsibility to other actors but rather to strengthen their efforts in those areas where they can effectively reduce poverty.

RIGHT TO PRAY AT SABARIMALA

by Shefali More

“Rule of Law at Stake in Sabarimala”, read a headline in Deccan Herald on 20.10.2018, highlighting the violence that unleashed in Sabarimalā. The movement promoting women’s entry at Sabarimalā reminds one of the Vaidik movement led by the reformists T. K. Madhavan and K. P. Keshava Menon to allow the castes of Ezhavas and Pulayas to worship at a Śiva temple in the year 1924. It seems we are currently witnessing similar battle, this time pertaining to the unrestricted temple entry of women.



‘Sabarimala Sree Dharma Sastha Devasthanam (Sabarimalā Ayyappan Temple)’, dedicated to the male deity Ayyappan, is located on the Sabarimalā hills in the state of Kerala. Every year devotees visit this temple in huge numbers. However, until recently only men and women of prepubescent and postmenopausal age (barring women between 10 to 50 years) could take the pilgrimage. Though, the historic roots of this tradition are unclear, the reasons such as a strict code of celibacy (naiṣṭhika brahmacārin) followed by the deity, incapacity of women to undertake the mandatory 41 days vrata before going to the pilgrimage, the arduous trek to the temple, masculine energy of the place and the likes are quoted by the traditionalists to validate this ban. Importantly, the Sabarimalā events had precursors of Shanishinganapur Shani Temple incident where the shrine was purified after it was touched by a female devotee (November 2015) which led to the hashtag “Right to Pray” on tweeter. In no time, it turned into the ‘Right to Pray’ movement, lashing out against the discrimination women face in religious matters. On this background, the prohibition on women’s entry at Sabarimalā once again came up for discussion. As it can be deduced from the 1991 ‘S. Mahendran VS The Secretary, Travancore Devaswom Board’ Public Interest Litigation (PIL) and its verdict, this ban on the entry of women was much more flexible before 1991 and was made rigid after the court order. In 2006 a WRIT Petition was filed by the Indian Young Lawyer’s Association in the Supreme Court of India, asking the abolishment of this practice. The Supreme Court of India’s significant judgement (28th September 2018) allowing women of all ages to enter the temple was confronted with protests by the devotees. The constant protest made it impossible for the state government to implement the court order.

On 2 January 2019, two women - Kanakadurga and Bindu Ammini, were successful in entering Sabarimalā Ayyappan temple. However, as soon as the temple authorities got this information, the temple was closed for the purification. The entry of these two women caused a massive eruption of violence across the state. According to a report, submitted by the Chief Minister of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan to the Governor of Kerala P. Sathasivam, incidents of violence included attacks on women who tried to enter the temple, as well as on media persons and police officials, damage of shops, houses, state road transport buses etc. The report highlights that the police unearthed a conspiracy to create communal polarisation in the state and that a high number of rioters were identified by the police as members of Sangh Parivar Organisations. These are the offshoot organisations of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, a Hindu nationalist organisation. It is to be noted here, that at the beginning all the parties welcomed Supreme Court’s verdict. However, on the background of the upcoming 2019 general elections, after realising the political opportunity in opposing the judgement, parties like Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress changed their stance on the issue. BJP once again engaged in its self-imposed role of “protector of Hinduism” and criticizes the judgement, whereas Congress avoids taking any explicit stand. It is also important to note here, that the Sabarimalā Ayyappan temple is not just a Hindu place of worship, but it has always been open for all castes and religions, also attracting Christian and Muslim devotees in large numbers.

Clearly, the role of political parties and activists in the unfolding of the dynamics related to Sabarimalā is crucial, and the issue of Sabarimalā, an issue of gender and religion in the first place, continues to be used as a vehicle for the political agenda of different stakeholders. The Sabarimalā conflict thus is an important reminder of the gender dimension of India’s religious politics and of the religious dimension of the gender equality struggle in India – showing once again that gender, politics and religion cannot be studied separately.

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- ▶ Lecture by Prof. Dr. Rahul Mukherji
- ▶ Anand Mishra visited Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi within ERASMUS+ Mobility Agreement

Congratulations:

- ▶ Borayin Larios
- ▶ Anna Scarabel

- ▶ Greetings from the Gandhi Research Foundation (GRF), Jalgaon, Maharashtra

Welcomes:

- ▶ Sona Prabhakaran
- ▶ Arian Hopf
- ▶ Chandan Jain
- ▶ Dr. Heiko Frese
- ▶ Prof. Purohit
- ▶ Dr. Ali Zulfiqar

- ▶ Prof. Gopabandhu Mishra appointed Vice Chancellor of Shree Somnath Sanskrit University

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LECTURE BY PROF. DR. RAHUL MUKHERJI

On August 14, Professor Dr. Rahul Mukherji delivered a lecture on “Governing India: What do we know and need to know?” at Siddhartha Hall, Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, New Delhi. The lecture was chaired by Professor Dr. Amitabh Kundu (Distinguished Fellow, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)) and attended by over 80 persons. This was the second talk of the ‘Current Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences on India in Germany’ lecture series, jointly organized by the South Asia Institute with Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, New Delhi.



ANAND MISHRA VISITED JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY, NEW DELHI WITHIN ERASMUS+ MOBILITY AGREEMENT

In January 2019, Anand Mishra from the Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia (Classical Indology) visited Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi within ERASMUS+ Mobility Agreement. At JNU, he taught M.A., M.Phil., and research students of the School of Sanskrit and Indic Studies (SSIS) and gave lectures on Modeling the Pāṇinian System of Sanskrit Grammar and on Bhāgavatapurāṇa. Apart from this, he exchanged ideas for project-based cooperation with Prof. Dr. Girish Nath Jha (Dean, SSIS) and Prof. Dr. Santosh Shukla.



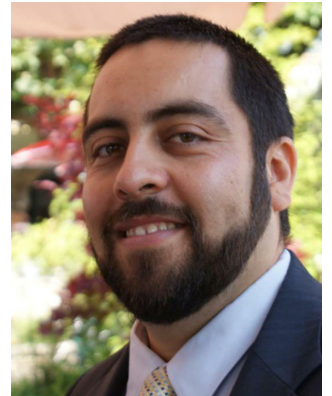
CONGRATULATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS TO BORAYIN LARIOS

After 10 years at the South Asia Institute in Heidelberg, Dr. Borayin Larios from the Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia has recently been appointed as university assistant at the Department of South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies at the University of Vienna in Austria. He is now assisting Prof. Martin Gaenzle who is the Chair of South Asian Studies in Vienna, where among other tasks, he will continue to work on his second book on popular religion in the urban public space in the city of Pune, Maharashtra.

Larios came to Heidelberg in 2008 to start his Ph.D. under supervision of Prof. Axel Michaels. His dissertation was published as "Embodying the Vedas. Traditional Vedic Schools of Contemporary Maharashtra" by De Gruyter in 2017 and is available here: <https://www.degruyter.com/view/product/480043>

Since his doctoral defense in 2013, he has been active at the SAI in a number of research projects and also as a lecturer offering interdisciplinary courses. We wish him all the best, thank him for his precious work at SAI and hope to see him from time to time in Heidelberg.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ANNA SCARABEL

Anna Scarabel of the Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia was honored for her excellent MA thesis on "Vegetarianism and Ahimsā in the Anuśāsanaparvan of the Mahābhārata". In this thesis Scarabel analyses sections 114 to 117 of the Anuśāsanaparvan, which contain important, yet ambivalent statements on vegetarianism and non-violence (ahimsā). She shows therein for example that „tongue“ and „taste“ constitute sense-organs, and that according to this text the experience of tasting meat has a very strong effect on the person who consumes meat. Scarabel also argues that in this text the realization that all beings are similar to oneself is the central motive to practice ahimsā. She also points to important exceptions mentioned in the text: one the one hand, some passages accept meat eating as important element of Vedic sacrifices and killing in the context of a sacrifice is described as a deed that effects religious merit for the sacrificial animal. Furthermore, killing in the context of a „fair fight“ of kṣatriyas with wild animals is also exempt from the general preference for ahimsā and vegetarianism. The award was handed out to Anna Scarabel in the context of an academic celebration in the South Asia Institute's Heinrich Zimmer Saal.



Martin Gieselmann, Stefan Klöner, Anna Scarabel (from left to right)



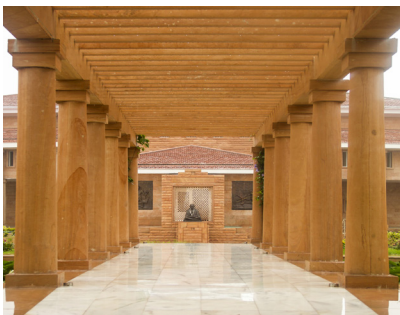
GREETINGS FROM THE GANDHI RESEARCH FOUNDATION (GRF), JALGAON, MAHARASHTRA

“Retirement is the start of life’s golden phase”

by Gita Dharampal



Since the beginning of November, as research advisor for the Gandhi Research Foundation (also called the Gandhi Teerth), I’ve been fortunate enough to at least partially substantiate the above adage: situated in rural Khandesh, on the outskirts of Jalgaon, the Gandhi Teerth’s pollution-free campus, with its verdant garden landscape and mango groves, is veritably an Arcadian idyll in the otherwise arid region of north-western Maharashtra.



Inaugurated in March 2012, the GRF, as an academic and rural welfare-promotion institution, aims at contributing towards sustainable living for India’s villages through applied research on political, economic, social and cultural issues. One exemplification of this objective is the ongoing BA-BAPU 150 initiative (commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi [or Bapu] and his wife Kasturba [or Ba] in 2019) whose goal is to revitalise Gandhi’s constructive work program for today’s rural development. Targeting 150 villages across eight states of India, BA-BAPU 150 is focussing on the amelioration in six priority areas, namely rural health, primary education, sanitation and hygiene, watershed management, agricultural technology and rural entrepreneurship.



As for the research side, the library of the Foundation houses a comprehensive collection numbering about 11,000 books on and by Mahatma Gandhi, as well as a wide range of historical and contemporary journals and periodicals. This library corpus is supplemented by the GRF’s archives which comprise extensive documentation on Gandhi (both in original manuscripts and in digitized form) as well as audio and film material and historical photographs.



My immediate task is to initiate a residential research fellowship programme, in stages within the next 3-5 years. The GRF, with its comprehensive library and archival collections, complemented by excellent board and lodging facilities, will provide an environment congenial for conducting intensive research by a selected annual team of 10-15 national and international scholars, activists, social-workers, and public figures, during a duration of one to six months (the 2019 deadline for applications is 15th February; for further information, please contact me at: prof.dharampal.gita@gandhifoundation.net).



Lastly, the GRF would be an ideal place for SAI interns (at the BA or MA level), and this would also constitute an ideal way for me to stay in touch with my alma mater! So, if anyone is interested, please do be in touch. As you see, I believe in the motto: “You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream”.

WELCOMES



WELCOME TO SONA PRABHAKARAN

We cordially welcomed Sona Prabhakaran, a DAAD fellow, who has newly joined the department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia as a doctoral candidate under the supervision of Professor Ute Hüsken. A native of Kerala, she has an Integrated Master's degree in Humanities and Social Sciences from IIT Madras and Aarhus University, Denmark. Her PhD project on "Ritual Pluralism and Guardian Deity of Tamil Nadu: Shastric Amman vis-à-vis Amman of the Graveyards" will explore sacred spaces produced and transformed by ritual pluralism in Tamil Nadu.

Before joining the SAI, she worked with Stanford University (Rural Education Action Program) in assessing the quality of Engineering Education in India. She has also been involved in numerous ethnographic projects dealing with gender and internal migration in India, study on miniature shrines in Chennai, assessment of canal construction, and status of rehabilitation and resettlement in Madhya Pradesh to name a few. Her research interests lie in Cultural Studies, Religious Studies, and Literary Theory and Criticisms.



WELCOME TO ARIAN HOPF

The South Asia Institute cordially welcomed Arian Hopf as Urdu lecturer at the Department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures. Starting in the winter term 2018/19, he assumes the position of Christina Oesterheld, who has retired after 28 years of teaching at the SAI. Arian Hopf completed a master's degree in modern South Asian languages and literatures at the SAI. In 2015, he was awarded a research fellowship in the LGF project "Globale Religionsgeschichte aus regionaler Perspektive" and worked on the concept of religion in 19th and early 20th century Urdu sources.



WELCOME TO CHANDAN JAIN

The South Asia Institute cordially welcomed Chandan Jain, who joined the team of Development Economics for a period of six months as an exchange student under the SWAGATA Erasmus + Exchange programme. Jain is currently a PhD Candidate in Economics at Shiv Nadar University in India and completed his Masters in Economics from TERI University. His current research primarily focuses on analysis of educational and labour market outcomes in the Indian context. Besides, he has also been working on analysing issues relating to educational quality, educated leaders, teachers and teachers labour force.

WELCOME TO DR. HEIKO FRESE

Dr. Heiko Frese was acting as the substitute professor for Prof. Dr. Gita Dharmpal, who retired on 30.09.2018, in the winter semester at the Department of History. Dr. Frese studied Indology with focus on Islamic Studies and Philosophy at the University of Kiel. He then received his doctorate at the Institute of Indology at University of Leipzig on Nepali historiography ("Variationen von Wirklichkeit"). During the winter term Dr. Frese offered an introductory lecture course and a reading course for BA students as well as a lecture course entitled 'Transitions: The Beginnings and Ends of Empires in Precolonial and British India' and an advanced seminar on 'India in the 15th and 16th Century' for MA students. All courses were immensely enjoyed by students. Dr. Frese also acted and will continue to act as thesis supervisor to students for which the Department and the Institute are deeply grateful.



WELCOME TO PROF. PUROHIT

We cordially welcomed Professor D. R. Purohit as visiting professor at the Department of Anthropology in winter term 2018/19. He was awarded a Baden-Württemberg Fellowship and during his stay, he will translate the book „Temple Mahabharat of the Mandakini Valley“. Professor Purohit teaches at the HNB Garhwal University in Dehradun in India. He published more than 50 texts about central Himalaya and wrote, directed and produced theatre plays. His PHD addressed "Medieval English Folk Drama". The main focus of his research is the culture of the Central Himalaya.



WELCOME TO DR. ALI ZULFIQAR

The Department of Political Science at the SAI cordially welcomed Dr. Ali Zulfiqar as DAAD guest professor. He is affiliated with the Department of Philosophy, University of Karachi, Pakistan and will stay till December 2018 to further develop his research in the areas of postmodernism, postcolonialism, Pakistan's political system and corruption.



PROF. GOPABANDHU MISHRA APPOINTED VICE CHANCELLOR OF SHREE SOMNATH SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY

Prof. Gopabandhu Mishra, a regular guest faculty of the Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia (Classical Indology), has been appointed Vice Chancellor of Shree Somnath Sanskrit University, Gujarat, India in September 2018. He will hold this position for three years. Prof. Mishra is actively associated with various programs and activities of Heidelberg Sanskrit including Spoken Sanskrit course in Heidelberg, Lived Sanskrit Cultures in Varanasi and participation in Sanskrit-Day in Heidelberg. He has been instrumental in signing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between South Asia Institute (SAI) and Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India as well as between SAI and Shree Somnath Sanskrit University, Gujarat. These MoU will facilitate further academic cooperation between the participating institutions.



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- ▶ Book Presentation “Studies in Historical Documents from Nepal and India”
- ▶ Axel Michaels: Kultur und Geschichte Nepals
- ▶ „Entre mers - Outre-mer: Spaces, Modes and Agents of Indo-Mediterranean Connectivity“
- ▶ Interdisziplinäre Zeitschrift für Südasienforschung No.3 (2018) published
- ▶ Interdisziplinäre Zeitschrift für Südasienforschung No.4 (2019)
- ▶ Publications by Borayin Larios
- ▶ Festschrift in Honour of Gita Dharampal-Frick
- ▶ New book by Hossein Zarhani on Governance and Development in India
- ▶ Publication by Prof. Rahul Mukherji, Hossein Zarhani and K. Raju

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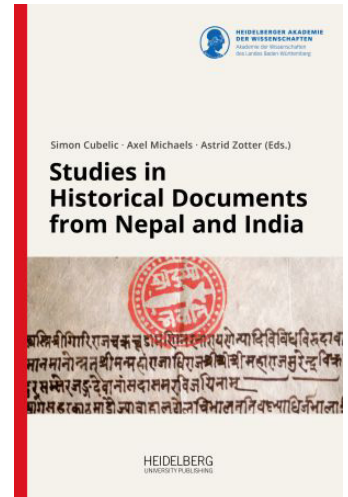
BOOK PRESENTATION “STUDIES IN HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS FROM NEPAL AND INDIA”

The Nepalese edition of the book “Studies in Historical Documents from Nepal and India” edited by Simon Cubelic, Axel Michaels and Astrid Zotter on behalf of Heidelberg Academy of Science and Humanities, was launched by the National Archives of Nepal during the Archives Day on the 3rd of October in Kathmandu. The book was jointly launched by the celebrated culture expert Satya Mohan Joshi and the minister of the Culture of the Government of Nepal, Rabindra Adhikari. During the book launch, the book was introduced by Rajan Khatiwoda, one of the members of the editorial board.

This volume is the outcome of the conference “Studying Documents in Premodern South Asia and Beyond: Problems and Perspective”, held in October 2015 in Heidelberg.

In bringing together experts from different fields—including Indology, Tibetology, History, Anthropology, Religious Studies, and Digital Humanities—it aims at exploring and rethinking issues of diplomatics and typology, the place of documents in relation to other texts and literary genres, methods of archiving and editing documents, as well as their “social life”, i.e. the role they play in social, religious and political constellations, the agents and practices of their use, and the norms and institutions they embody and constitute.

The book is the first volume of the Documenta Nepalica – Book Series, published by the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities in collaboration with the National Archives, Nepal.



Axel Michaels Kultur und Geschichte Nepals



AXEL MICHAELS: KULTUR UND GESCHICHTE NEPALS

Kröner Verlag published the book “Kultur und Geschichte Nepals” by Prof. Axel Michaels (Senior Professor and former head of the Department of Classical Indology, SAI). The book is about the development of the cultural, social and political diversity of Nepal.

Currently about 20,000 Germans travel to Nepal per year, and the number is rising; the fascination for the mysterious, colorful country on the roof of the world is unbroken - you just have to take a look at the TV program, where different documentaries report about Nepal. But there is no history of Nepal on the German market so far.

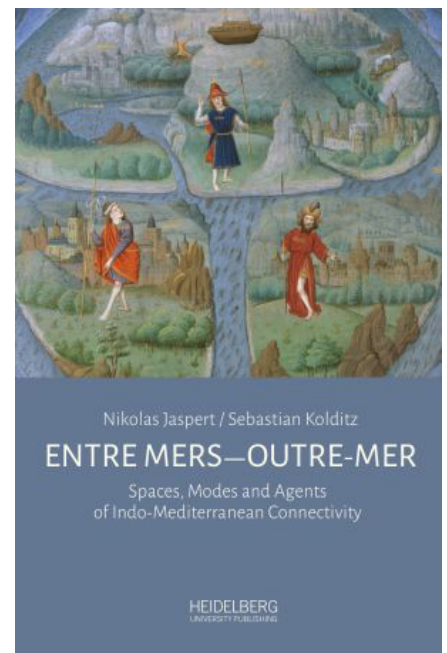
The first German history of Nepal by Prof. Axel Michaels is about the development of the cultural, social and political diversity of Nepal and therefore does not tell one, but many stories: the history of the water, the elephant or the shaman drum, the history of dynasties, traditions, rituals, festivals, crafts or arts, which remain largely unchanged until today, because in Nepal actually the time (and therefore the history) seems to have stopped sometimes. The book offers deep insights into

the colorful diversity of Nepalese history and the present.

„ENTRE MERS - OUTRE-MER: SPACES, MODES AND AGENTS OF INDO-MEDITERRANEAN CONNECTIVITY“

Heidelberg University Publishing published the book „Entre mers – Outre-mer: Spaces, Modes and Agents of Indo-Mediterranean Connectivity“, edited by Nikolas Jaspert and Sebastian Kolditz. The publication comprises a collection of twelve essays on transmarine compounds, their regulation and mental expansion in an Indo-Mediterranean context. Prof. Gita Dharampal-Frick (former head of History at the SAI) contributed with an article on „Transcultural Networks: From the Red Sea to the South China Sea, 1000–1800. Continuities and Transformations“.

In focusing on transcultural networks of the Indo-Mediterranean, this paper aims to provide insights into the cultural and economic genealogies of globalisation as well as into the divergent ancestries of its social geographies. Its methodological objective is to examine the extensive Indian, Southeast Asian, Arab and Chinese interaction in the littoral regions of Malabar, the Bay of Bengal, the Indonesian Archipelago and the South China Seas in the medieval and early modern period. Thereby, rather than underscoring the significance of merely economic factors implicated in this maritime connectivity, other relevant (and hitherto largely neglected) aspects will be discussed, namely the enactment of political sovereignty (as a layered and shared concept), the crucial significance of resilient networks (defined by mercantile, cultural and social factors) as well as of widespread dynamic diasporic communities (of Chinese, Southeast Asians, Indians, Persians and Arabs), and last but not least, the flow and exchange of ‘cargoes’ (including both commodities and intellectual ideas). In doing so, an attempt will be made to ascertain the continuities and transformations (subsequent to the entry of European companies) in the pelagic patchwork quilt of the Eastern Indian Ocean until the beginning of the 19th century.



INTERDISZIPLINÄRE ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR SÜDASIENFORSCHUNG NO.3 (2018)

In August 2018, CrossAsia e-Journals published the third edition of the Interdisziplinäre Zeitschrift für Südasienforschung (IZSAF). The current issue features articles by Sneha Banerjee (Understanding Gestation Work in India through Surrogacy Contracts), Janna Vogl (Protest against Sexual Violence and NGO Activism: Disruptions of Female Solidarity), Loreley Franchina (Did Pandialy Walk on Fire? The Refutation of an Ancestral Mythological Genesis as a Quest for Knowledge and Acknowledgement), an essay on „Indien als Zufluchtsort für jüdische NS-Flüchtlinge“ by Maria Framke and a report



on the research project „From Young Researchers' Mobility Experiences towards an Integral Academic Human Resources Knowledge Management Approach: Design-Research for Pakistani-German Higher Education Cooperation“ by Mustafa Ghulam.

The Interdisziplinäre Zeitschrift für Südasienforschung (IZSAF) is an electronic peer-reviewed journal that seeks to provide a platform for young researchers with a research focus on South Asia to publish their findings. The intention of IZSAF is to bring together young scholars from a variety of disciplines and to enter into interdisciplinary discussion regarding issues surrounding the study of South Asia. IZSAF is open to new formats and also publishes photo essays to present topics in South Asia studies visually. The Interdisziplinäre Zeitschrift für Südasienforschung (IZSAF) is published once a year. Special issues will be also published. If you are interested in publishing with IZSAF, then please send a short abstract of your article to our editorial board at: izsaf@sai.uni-heidelberg.de

INTERDISZIPLINÄRE ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR SÜDASIENFORSCHUNG NO.4 (2019)

In January 2019, CrossAsia e-Journals published the fourth edition of the Interdisciplinary Journal of South Asian Studies. The complete edition as well as all individual contributions can be found here:

<https://crossasia-journals.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/index.php/izsa/issue/view/575>

The issue presents the results of a seminar on research learning that took place in summer semester 2018 under the direction of Rafael Klöber at the Department of History at the South Asia Institute. It includes following articles:

- India in Heidelberg at the beginning of the 20th century. A project for research learning / Rafael Klöber
- “Unser Vertrauensmann für indische Angelegenheiten in Heidelberg”. Professor Wilhelm Salomon-Calvi, the Foreign Office and work among Indian students at the time of the First World War / Eike Michael Brunnengrabe
- Between lecture hall and camp: Indian captivities during First World War / Marc Bechtold
- In the footsteps of two students from Cochin and Travancore: S. Kunin Krishna Pillai and Vadaka Kurupath Raman Menon during the First World War in Germany / Natalie Stasiewicz
- An Indian student in Heidelberg and Theosophy in Germany at the beginning of the 20th century / Frederic Kohlhepp and Rafael Klöber

In addition, the contributions include a glossary and an afterword by Selina Pröhl and Anna Fried-Leiwald.



PUBLICATIONS BY BORAYIN LARIOS

The South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal (SAMAJ) published a special edition on “Wayside Shrines: Everyday Religion in Urban India.” This issue contains an introductory article by Borayin Larios (Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia) together with Raphaël Voix on “Introduction. Wayside Shrines in India: An Everyday Defiant Religiosity” and also Larios’ article entitled „From the Heavens to the Streets: Pune’s Wayside Shrines“.

Borayin Larios and Raphaël Voix: Introduction. Wayside Shrines in India: An Everyday Defiant Religiosity

Drawing on this special issue’s ethnographic data and analysis this introduction aims to offer an analytical framework for understanding the notion of wayside shrines. It does so by defining wayside shrines as sites that enshrine a worshipped object that is immediately adjacent to a public path, visible from it and accessible to any passerby. Further, we argue that wayside shrines are spaces in which we can observe a unique form of everyday religiosity that challenges sedimented discourses and practices at three different scales: at the level of the individual, of the community, and of the state.

<https://journals.openedition.org/samaj/4546>

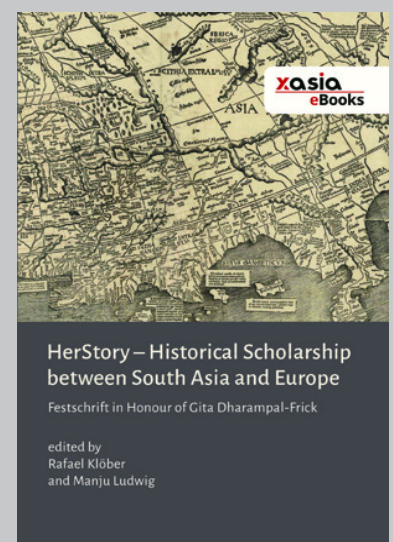
Borayin Larios: From the Heavens to the Streets: Pune’s Wayside Shrines

This article presents the results from brief ethnographic research conducted in 2016 in the city of Pune, Maharashtra. Through two case studies of wayside shrines in Pune—the first, a tiny pavement shrine which is steadily growing in popularity, and the second, a small shrine turned into an extravagant temple in just a few years—I consider them as more than just spontaneous expressions of devotion. Taking into consideration the roles that urban conditions and social configurations have been playing in how social actors forge connections between localities and different communities, this paper will look at how these shrines can be spaces of creative subversion of the established socio-religious order and its structures of power. In in this contribution, I argue that the wayside shrine reveals the blurred boundaries between the rural and the urban, the sacred and the mundane, the institutionalized and the popular as well as the legal and the illegal. <https://journals.openedition.org/samaj/4549>



FESTSCHRIFT IN HONOUR OF GITA DHARAMPAL-FRICK

CrossAsia-eBooks published the Festschrift in honour of Professor Dr. Gita Dharampal-Frick entitled “HerStory. Historical Scholarship between South Asia and Europe”, edited by Rafael Klöber and Manju Ludwig (both members of the Department of History at the South Asia Institute). The volume brings together innovative contributions by friends, colleagues and former students to the multiple research areas in the field of history of South Asia that Gita Dharampal-Frick has enriched over the last decades. The essays included in this volume address a broad number of topics and periods, ranging from transcultural encounters between South Asia and Europe, reassessments of colonial discourses and their legacies, novel approaches to the maritime history of the Indian Ocean, and to perspectives on M. K. Gandhi.

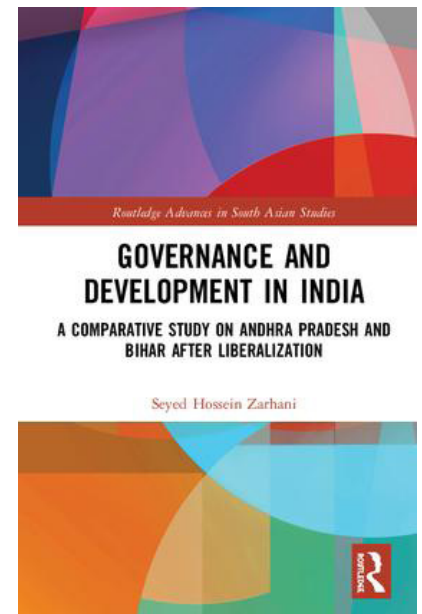


NEW BOOK BY HOSSEIN ZARHANI ON GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

Routledge published the book „Governance and Development in India - A Comparative Study on Andhra Pradesh and Bihar after Liberalization“ by Dr. Seyed Hossein Zarhani (Department of Political Science, SAI). The book was released as part of the series „Routledge Advances in South Asian Studies“.

The study of the political economy of development in India is significant as India has emerged as one of the fastest-growing countries during the last three decades and the rate of economic growth and poverty reduction have not been matched in India’s subnational states. Although the Union Government has introduced and implemented several economic reforms since 1991 to enhance the economic development, the results of implantation have varied.

Governance and Development in India compares two Indian subnational states, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. The book does not consider the state as an aggregate entity; rather, it disaggregates the state relationally and spatially. Concentrating on the micro-institutional variables and the role of regional elites, the author investigates the political roots of the divergence of development trajectories among India’s subnational states since liberalization, as an essential aspect of the political economy of development in India. The book explores the black box of the multi-layered state of India and interactions among the Central Government, the states, regional leaders and other stakeholders and explains why the regional leaders have pursued divergent economic strategies using the analytical narrative research method and the subnational comparative research method. Firmly based on the theoretical foundations of the neo-institutional rational choice model of governance, polycentric hierarchy theory and the strategies for regional elite strategy analysis, combined with empirical research, this book is a valuable contribution to the fields of comparative political economy, state politics in India, governance and development in developing countries, and South Asian comparative politics.



PUBLICATION BY PROF. RAHUL MUKHERJI, HOSSEIN ZARHANI AND K. RAJU

The Indian Journal of Human Development published an article jointly edited by Prof. Rahul Mukherji, Hossein Zarhani and K. Raju entitled “State Capacity and Welfare Politics in India: Implementing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Undivided Andhra Pradesh”. This article argues that the Indian state can develop the capacity to deliver economic rights in a citizen-friendly way, despite serious challenges posed by patronage politics and clientelism. Clientelistic politics reveals why the Indian state fails to deliver the basic rights such as the right to work, health and education. We argue that the ability of the state to deliver owes a lot to bureaucratic puzzling and political powering over developmental ideas in a path-dependent way. We combine powering and puzzling within the state to argue the case for how these ideas tip after they have gained a fair amount of traction within the

state. We test the powering and puzzling leading to a tipping point model on the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in undivided Andhra Pradesh (AP). How and why did undivided AP develop the capacity to make reach employment to the rural poor, when many other states failed to implement the right to work in India?

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WORKSHOPS ON SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN RANCHI AND KOLKATA

by Radu Carciumaru

The Branch Office of the Heidelberg University, jointly with Observer Research Foundation and the School of Planning and Architecture Delhi, organized two workshops on Smart Cities: Sustainable Urban Development in Ranchi (Jharkhand) and Kolkata (West Bengal). The workshops were held in continuation of similar initiatives since 2016; previously organized in Aizawl, Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Coimbatore, Kochi, New Delhi, New Town (Kolkata), Pune, Ranchi and Shimla. The events brought together scholars, students, policy makers, bureaucrats, government authorities and civil society representatives from both national and the State levels. Both events were supported by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom.

The two-day workshop in Ranchi (November 19-20) was co-organized in collaboration with the Impact and Policy Research Institute, Council for Social Development, the Government of Jharkhand, Urban Development and Housing Department, Ranchi Smart City Corporation Ltd, the Central University of Jharkhand and the Indian Institute of Management, Ranchi. The Workshop was the first of a kind organized in Jharkhand and was inaugurated by Mr. C.P. Singh, the Hon'ble Minister for Urban Development, Housing and Transport Department, Government of Jharkhand. Dr. Sandeep Chachra, a social anthropologist by training and currently the Executive Director of ActionAid India, as well as the co-chair of World Urban Campaign, UN-HABITAT, delivered the Special Address in the Inaugural Session. Prof. Dr. Amitabh Kundu, currently Distinguished Fellow at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi and formerly Professor of Economics and Dean of the School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, delivered the Keynote address on Vision and Mission for Smart Cities- Inclusivity and Sustainability. The Deputy Mayor of Ranchi, Mr. Sanjeev Vijaywargiya, expressed his anticipation of the contributions of the conference that, according to him, would help the city government in building an inclusive liveable city. The Guest of Honour for the Workshop, Hon'ble Chief Secretary of the Government of Jharkhand, Mr. Sudhir Tripathi, while delivering the Special Address, pointed out that while the government is keen to build the cities as engines of growth, it would also give special attention to maintaining environmental balance.

The two-day workshop in Kolkata (November 27-28) was held under the aegis of the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Kolkata, and co-organized in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur, University of Calcutta and the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata. The workshop commenced with the inaugural session with the lighting of the sacred lamp of knowledge. Special address was delivered by the Consul General Dr. Feiner, German Mission in Kolkata. Mr. Devi Prasad Karanam, IAS, Joint Secretary, Government of West Bengal conveyed the Keynote Address.

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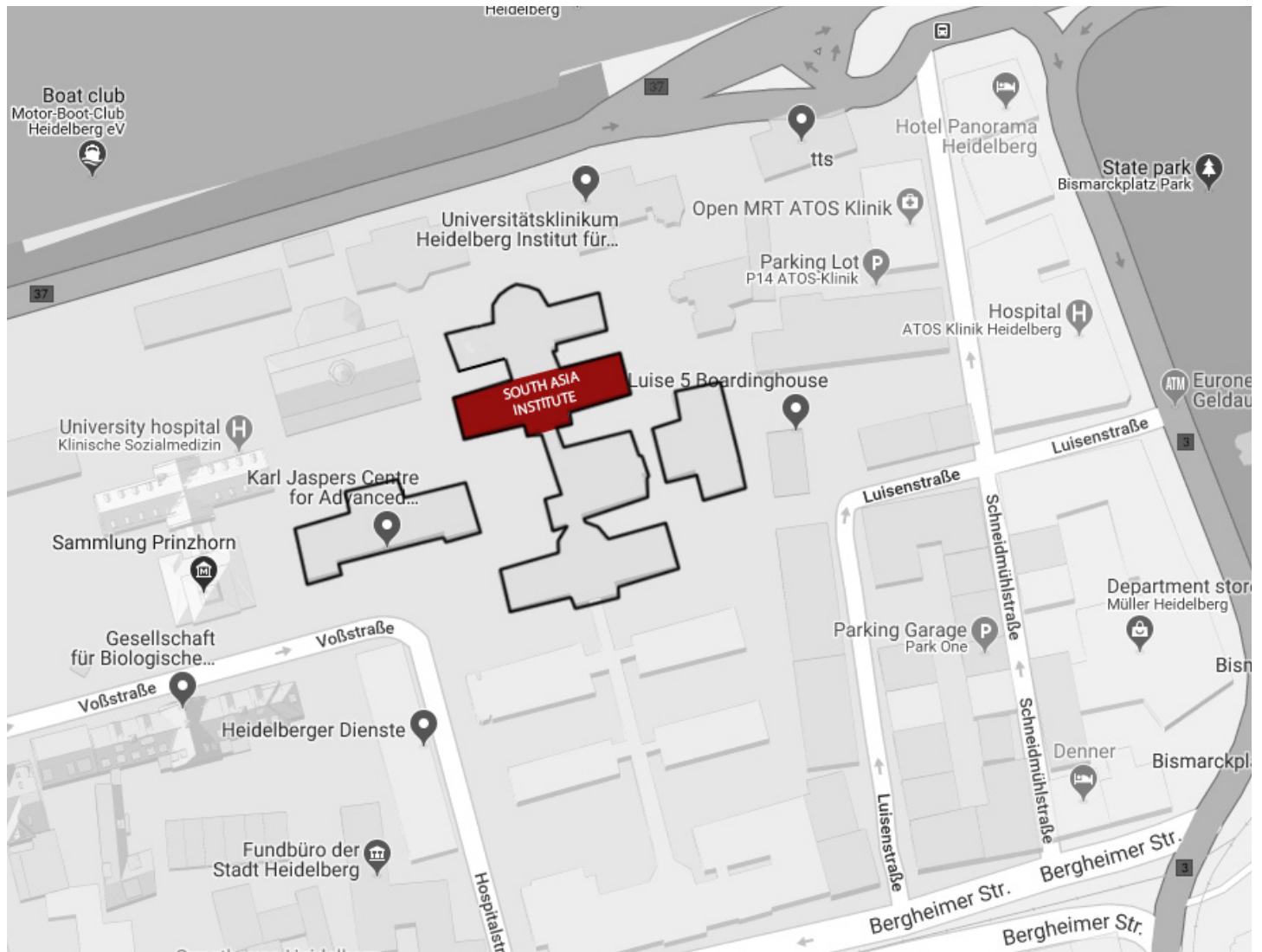
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MAP OF THE AREA



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