



NEWSLETTER

No 14, October 2019

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WELCOME

Dear friends and members of the South Asia Institute,

A very intense Summer term just came to an end: The South Asia Institute moved from Im Neuenheimer Feld 330 to the new location Campus Bergheim. This move was very demanding, but everyone involved gave their best to see that the necessary planning was done in time, and that the innumerable boxes were packed, moved and unpacked, so that we swiftly made the new building our home. I wish to thank everyone involved for their hard work, their patience, and their humor, as in the beginning we all had to improvise in many ways.

The Summer term then gave us some time to get settled in, and to start to enjoy the wonderful library, which opened on June 3rd, where we now have access to 600000 volumes relating to South, East and Southeast Asia, making the library a very unique resource.

Right from the beginning, our new locality gave us many opportunities not only to meet each other in new and different constellations, but also to forge new connections with our colleagues from the HCTS, the IfE, and the ZO, which together with the SAI constitute the CATS, the Center for Asian and Transcultural Studies.

Much time in the Summer term was spent on planning and executing events marking the inauguration of CATS, culminating on June 25th, which gave us the opportunity to show our new CATS Campus to a wider public, and to collaborate with each other in a playful way – the presentation of 40 Haiku poems for example in Pfälzisch, Gujarati and Korean on the CATS Greens was certainly one of the highlights of the inauguration day.

A huge 'thank you' - again - to all who made all of this possible, who bore with the glitches, and who lent a helping hand when needed. It is this great spirit of mutual acknowledgement and support that has made the SAI what it is, and that will make it a strong component in our new physical and intellectual home, the CATS.

But now turn the pages, sit back and enjoy the 14th SAI Newsletter!

Best wishes,

Dr. Martin Gieselmann
Executive Secretary

Prof. Dr. Ute Hüsken
Executive Director

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CATS OPENING CEREMONY

by Anna Echtenacher

On June 25, the Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies (CATS) officially opened its doors. The ceremony, which was organised and hosted by the Baden-Württemberg State Office of Property and Construction, was part of a day of events and discussions associated with Asian and transcultural studies. The new Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies (CATS), which has been operating since the beginning of the summer semester, was officially opened on June 25, 2019.

It is unique among centres researching Asia, as it is committed to conducting Asian and transcultural studies in a global context through interdisciplinary dialogue. The opening ceremony was hosted by the Baden-Württemberg State Office of Property and Construction and started with a welcome address by its director, Annette Ipach-Öhmann. It was followed by greetings from Theresia Bauer MDL, the Minister of Science, Research and Culture in Baden-Württemberg, from Prof. Bernhard Eitel, the rector of Heidelberg University, from Dr. Joachim Gerner, mayor of Heidelberg, from Dr. Veit Probst, the director of the Heidelberg University Library, and by Prof. Barbara Mittler and Prof. Axel Michaels, the founding directors of the Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies. Edith Sitzmann MdL, the Minister of Finance of the county of Baden-Württemberg, gave a speech that was followed by the official handover of the key.

The opening ceremony also saw the artist interventions "Winged Pilgrims: A Chronicle from Asia" by Sheba Chhachhi and Ai Weiwei in an interview with Prof. Perry Link under the heading "The Artist as an Engaged Intellectual." There were also musical performances by Chen Peyee and Marc J. Reichow from the KlangForum Heidelberg and the Nepalese Band The Triplets. A day of events and discussions associated with Asian and transcultural studies framed the opening ceremony in the campus of the Centre of Asian and Transcultural Studies, and the institutes that make up CATS presented themselves in their respective buildings.



CATS OPENING: THE PROGRAMME

10 pm

The Scholar's Choice.

An exhibition for the opening of CATS

Introduction: Axel Michaels
and Margareta Pavaloj

from 12 pm

Asiatische Imbisse: CATS geht durch den
Magen

1 pm

Ritual for the first entry of a new house
(Gr̥hapraveśa)

Patanjali Mishra (Benares Hindu University)

2 pm

Asia Research in Europe:

Prospects and Challenges

Christiane Brosius and Joachim Kurtz in dia-
logue with Ravinder Kaur (Copenhagen),
Tiziana Lipello (Venice), Chunrong Liu
(Shanghai/Copenhagen), Philippe Peycam
(Leiden), Dhruv Raina (Delhi) et al.

3 pm

Kunst am Bau

Friedemann von Stockhausen

in conversation with Monica Juneja

3:30 pm

Haiku Performance

Moderation: Judit Árokay und Hans Harder

5 pm

Opening Ceremony with Sheba Chhacchi
und Ai Weiwei

7:30 pm

Meet Ai Weiwei

Moderation: Students from Global Art His-
tory

from 7 pm

Concert by Nepalese Band "The Triplets"



KARL JETTMAR'S BOOK RELIGIONS OF THE HINDUKUSH CELEBRATED

On 5 July, a book launch was held for the book *Religions of the Hindukush: The Pre-Islamic Heritage of Eastern Afghanistan*, by Karl Jettmar (Orchid Press, 2018). Jettmar was the founding Professor and Head of the Department of Anthropology at the SAI from 1964 to 1986, and an important figure in Central Asian research. He was instrumental in the founding of the SAI's Kabul branch office, which was subsequently closed for security reasons. The book was originally written in German in 1975 by Jettmar, with contributions from Georg Buddruss, Schuyler Jones, Max Klimburg and Peter S. C. Parkes, and became a classic of Central Asian Studies. It was translated into English by the late Adam Nayyar (d. 2008), edited by Hugh van Skyhawk and finally, after considerable effort by Wolfgang-Peter Zingel, published on Jettmar's 100th birthday, with the addition of an obituary written by Dr. Harald Hauptmann.

The central question animating the book is already adumbrated in the Introduction: How can one best account for "the preservation of a non-Islamic lifestyle and the maintenance of pagan beliefs and customs" in an otherwise Islamic environment? In order to answer this question, the book examines the pre-Islamic religions of local peoples, and is divided into six parts: Introduction, The Religions of Kafiristan, Religious Traditions of the Shina Speakers and the Burusho, The Religion of the Kalash, Religious Traditions of the Kho (Chitral), and an epilogue entitled "Petroglyphs as Evidence for Religious Configurations?"

The guests were welcomed by Prof. Dr. Annette Hornbacher, co-director of the Institute of Anthropology. This was followed by short talks by Jettmar's successor Prof. Dr. William S. Sax (Heidelberg) who gave a short resumé of Jettmar's life and then spoke about the transcultural aspects of Jettmar's work; by Dr. Max Klimburg (Vienna), a contributor to the book, who spoke of his research amongst the Kafirs of Kafiristan; by Prof. Dr. Hermann Kreutzmann (Berlin), who recalled his meetings with Jettmar in the field; by Prof. Dr. Claus Peter Zoller (Oslo), who talked about his current research on Western Himalayan socio-linguistics; and finally by Dr. Wolfgang-Peter Zingel (Heidelberg), who told us the history of the book's publication.

The event was attended by a number of guests from outside Heidelberg, including Prof. Dr. Matthias Winiger (Bonn); Dr. Thomas Schmitt of the Daimler und Benz Stiftung, Berlin; Dr. Martin Bemann from the Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften; Dr. Elisabeth Berger, the widow of Prof. Dr. Hermann Berger; and Salwa Hauptmann-Hamza, the widow of Prof. Dr. Harald Hauptmann.



Hermann Kreutzmann, Claus-Peter Zoller, Wolfgang-Peter Zingel, Annette Hornbacher, Max Klimburg, William Sax

OPENING OF THE CATS LIBRARY

On June 3rd the CATS library opened. Surrounded by the CATS Institutes a new library was built four floors underground. Lending desk, wardrobe, multi-media-rooms, 13 carrels, as well as a study area for 50 people around the inner courtyard are found on the first floor.

The CATS library holds approximately 600.000 volumes in regional languages and relating to South, East and Southeast Asia in English and other western languages. The East Asia department unites the libraries of the Institutes of Chinese Studies, Japanese Studies, East Asian Art History, and the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies; the South Asia department comprises also a good collection on Southeast Asia - the research priority of the Institute of Anthropology. Thus, the CATS Library houses one of the vast European collections on Asia, such as Asian Library – Leiden University, Oriental and East Asian collections of Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, library of SOAS and Oxford University.

Apart from the major print holdings, an expanding Digital Library, and a growing network of electronic resources some special collections are:

- 600 subscriptions to print or e-journals
- 7.000 films, 5.000 available via streaming
- 160.000 slides on East Asian Art and Hindu rituals in heidlCON- the multimedia database of Heidelberg University
- Chinese music recordings
- collection of posters
- 5.000 volumes from the Naval Kishore Press
- Primary sources on Tibetan Buddhism in block print
- Copies of ritual manuscripts from the Orissa Research Project
- Census of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
- CrossAsia (in co-operation with Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin and DFG)
- Central access point for academic information on Asian studies:
- CrossAsia Search: Access to more than 90 million bibliographic records in Asian studies
- CrossAsia E-Publishing: CrossAsia-Repository, CrossAsia-eJournals, and CrossAsia-eBooks
- Digital Resources

The library provides its print, audio, video, microform and digital resources for scholars as well as for the general public.

Visitors are welcome to roam the two floors of free access stacks.



Opening hours

Monday to Friday	9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Saturday	12 a.m. – 8 p.m.

WORKSHOP “POLITICAL AND ETHICAL DISCOURSES ON RESPONSIBILITY IN AND FOR OLD AGE”

by Constanze Weigl-Jäger

From 27th February to 2nd March 2019, the workshop “Political and ethical discourses on responsibility in and for old age” of the DAAD funded exchange program (Heidelberg University and Jawaharlal Nehru University) took place in Berlin. It brought together 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 aim of the workshop was twofold - it consisted of a lecture series on socio-political gerontology combined with visits to Federal ministries, where participants received the chance to discuss with German policy makers the possibilities and challenges of demographic change and its corresponding political strategies.

The workshop started with a lecture by Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Andreas Kruse (Institute of Gerontology) who addressed the fundamentals of politics and spoke about demographic change and civil society, setting the context for the following visit of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ). State Secretary Juliane Seifert and Prof. Dr. Matthias von Schwanenflügel (Directorate Demographic Change) presented the policies and programs of the BMFSFJ for senior citizens. They pointed out that making policy for senior citizens (e.g. the Alliance for persons with dementia) means making policy with them.

On the next day Dr. Frank Berner (German Centre of Gerontology) gave an overview of the seven German Government Reports on Older People. Dr. Berner focused in particular on the 7th Report titled “Care and Shared Responsibility in the Municipal Community (2015)” emphasizing that due to the increasing number of people who are in need of support, the structures of care have to be enlarged to a network and cooperation between the professional sector, relatives, volunteers and the municipality.

After seeing the building of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS), the group received a presentation of the pension system in Germany including its basic principles, characteristics and its reforms related to the demographic change.

On day three Barbara Wackernagel-Jacobs (Film producer, Min.a.D.) showed in her presentation recommendations and strategies how to develop new positive images and views of age and ageing within society, e.g. to focus on the process (“ageing”) instead of a state of being (“old age”). In the afternoon the group visited Sozialwerk Berlin e.V. - a neighborhood and advisory center for older people. All participants were very impressed by the centre's multifaceted work such as their activities for senior citizens (e.g. counseling service) and their cooperation with the political parties in order to improve the quality of life of the elderly. The workshop closed with a visit of the Reichstag Building, where the group attended a guided tour on the German Bundestag.



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- ▶ Call for Applications: Lived Sanskrit Cultures in Varanasi (Feb. 17th - Mar. 6th, 2020)
- ▶ Sanskrit Divas (Sanskrit Day)
- ▶ Intensive Courses in Spoken and Written Urdu
- ▶ 2nd. Bengali Summer School, 2019
- ▶ Congratulations to PhD student Meah Mostafiz
- ▶ Congratulations to MA. student Namia Akhtar
- ▶ Student Conference 2019
- ▶ Asian Studies meet School in CATS Student Lab

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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: LIVED SANSKRIT CULTURES IN VARANASI (FEB. 17TH - MAR. 6TH, 2020)

The three week course “Lived Sanskrit Cultures in Varanasi” will be held from Feb. 17th to March 6th, 2020, in Varanasi. Since 2018, the Department of Cultural and Religious Studies of South Asia at SAI is organizing this unique course in collaboration with the Chair of Indology, Institute of Cultural Studies of East and South Asia, Würzburg University.

The course is designed to impart a practice-oriented training in methods of cultural and religious studies, focusing on how Sanskrit texts are taught, applied, enacted, inscribed in spaces and lived by practitioners, women and men, in Varanasi. A maximum of 12 students from all over the world are selected to take part in this intensive course in which a number of experts and scholars from Varanasi collaborate. This year, the areas of study include:

- Teaching Sanskrit and the Veda
- Performing Rituals
- Processions in Varanasi
- Goddess Temples in Varanasi
- Indian Calendrical Systems
- A Crash Course in Spoken Sanskrit.



Students and scholars working in these areas are encouraged to apply. The application deadline is **31st Oct. 2019**.

For further details, please visit the course website:

www.sai.uni-heidelberg.de/abt/IND/hdsanskrit/2020_varanasi.php

SANSKRIT DIVAS (SANSKRIT DAY)

The annual Sanskrit Divas (Sanskrit Day) is part of the **HeidelbergSanskrit** program at the Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia. This year's Sanskrit Divas took place on June 28th in the auditorium of the new Centre for Transcultural and Asian Studies (CATS). The programme serves to playfully and in an entertaining manner display the students' language competences, and to exhibit some little-known intricacies of the language.

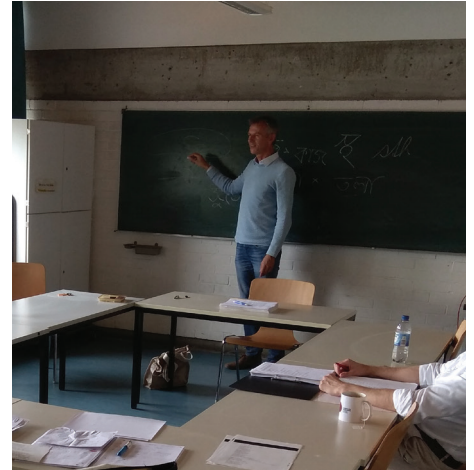
This year's event started with a welcome speech by Prof. Ute Hüsken. PhD candidate Shefali More guided the audience through the varied program with entertaining explanations. First Prof. Patanjali Mishra, guest from The Banaras Hindu University, gave the audience examples of different styles of reciting Vedic texts, which ensure that the orally transmitted texts remain intact over centuries. After an introduction by MA candidate Kush Depala, Sanskrit students from Heidelberg recited sūtras from the grammar Aṣṭādhyāyī by the grammarian Pāṇini (4th cent. BC). Meera Shridhara showed the audience how Bharatanāṭyam dance is deeply connected to the metrical system of Sanskrit poetry. The event concluded with a lively enactment of selected verses from Abhijñānaśākuntalam - the famous Sanskrit play by Kālidāsa - performed by Prof. Patanjali Mishra.



INTENSIVE COURSES IN SPOKEN AND WRITTEN URDU

The South Asia Institute at Heidelberg University, Germany, offered introductory and advanced courses in Urdu from 2-20 September 2019.

In the introductory course, students develop speaking, reading, listening and writing skills and acquire basic vocabulary as well as knowledge of the main grammatical structures and conversational etiquette of Urdu. The advanced course is designed to develop communicative skills, grammatical accuracy and the ability to understand complex texts. Particular stress will also be laid on listening comprehension.



2ND. BENGALI SUMMER SCHOOL, 2019

The Institute of South and Central Asia, Charles University, Prague, in collaboration with the Department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg, and the Chair of South Asian Studies, Faculty of Oriental Studies, Warsaw organised the 2nd. Bengali Summer School from 14.08.19 to 29.08.19.

The beginners' level will mostly focus on pronunciation, basic grammar and vocabulary, simple exercises in reading, basic writing, speaking and listening skills. The advanced level programme will emphasize exercises on selected grammatical topics, newspaper readings, listening exercises (accompanied by films, TV programmes, radio broadcasts, poetry and text readings etc.) and conversation.



CONGRATULATIONS TO PHD STUDENT MEAH MOSTAFIZ

The Doctoral Studies Funding Committee of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences and the Graduate Academy, Heidelberg University, awarded a travel grant to doctoral candidate A.S.M. Mostafizur Rahman (Meah Mostafiz) for his planned research stay in Bangladesh. Mr. Mostafiz is currently working towards his doctoral dissertation on the political economy of Bangladesh - understanding the rise of the garment industry.



CONGRATULATIONS TO MA. STUDENT NAMIA AKHTAR

From 20-25 May, Namia Akhtar participated in the Venice Summer School "Sources of Democracy: Citizenship, Social Cohesion and Ethical Values", organized by ResetDoc. She was part of the working group that presented on the topic "Is diversity compatibility with democracy?" She argued that the presence of diverse communities in a given state might be volatile in the short run, but it enhances long run stability, leading to better institutional designs. Furthermore, she stated that the quality of democracy largely depends on the ideas of the political elites and the way they construct national identity. The diverse communities and their impact on democracy is a secondary factor.



STUDENT CONFERENCE 2019

by Anish Mishra

On 16 July 2019, a group of Masters Students from the South Asia Institute got together to organise the Fourth SAI Student Conference 2019 themed “Rethinking Borders: Step(ping) Across the Line.” These students include Anish Mishra, Puja Kaur Matta, Tirthankar Chakraborty, Valida Rolin Mendonca, Theresa Bievel, Evelyn Katharina Fellhauer, Ma Hongpeng, Apsana Kandel, Isabel Jakob and Rebecca Schäfer. They worked under the supervision of Judith Müller. The event was held at the Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies (CATS) and was attended by over 35 students and faculty members. The conference was inaugurated with the keynote address of Dr. Martin Hoffman titled “New Walls and Selective Openness – Some Reflections on Border Theory.” He talked about how borders are fabricated realities, constituted by the meaning people attach to them. Dr. Hoffman noted that “researchers in different fields have attempted to comprehend the shifting notions of borders and their relevance for different social groups.”

Dr. Dieter Reinhardt chaired the first panel session with Anish Mishra and Puja Kaur Matta. Mishra presented a comparative study of two democratic transitions in Pakistan, one which took place after the death of General Zia-Ul-Haq and the other following the Musharraf era. According to Mishra, if one compares Pakistan’s experience of democratisation to the democratic transitions that have taken place across the world, then parallels can be drawn between the causal factors of democratisations between Pakistan and many other countries in Latin America, Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. Subsequently, Matta presented her ethnographic research on the Afghan Sikh community in Stuttgart, Germany using the theoretical framework of Avtar Brah to conceptualize the diaspora as diasporic space; many borders which were previously invisible have now become visible. Matta explained that there exists a huge dichotomy between the perspective of men and women in the Afghan Sikh and Hindu community in Germany.



The second panel session was chaired by Dr. Cathrine Bublatzky with Tirthankar Chakraborty and Valida Rolin Mendonca. Chakraborty delivered his presentation; “Travelling sensibilities: Breaking the rural – urban border one migration at a time” speaking about domestic migration from the rural areas of East India to the city of Hyderabad (India). He argued that “rural migrants travel to urban locations (metropolis, cities and towns) to not only earn money but, more importantly, use the experience to enhance their social status and position in the community where they belong.” Mendonca gave the final panel presentation dealing with how Bollywood movies and other popular media play a major role in shaping people’s understanding of the complex social and also political reality in India.

The panel sessions were followed by a workshop on intercultural communications lead by Theresa Bievel which dealt with the issues of cultural prejudice and stereotypes. At the conference, there was

also a poster exhibition. A total of 5 posters designed by the students were put up for display; Transboundary utilization within the Indus-River-Basin: Cooperation between Pakistan and India by Evelyn Katharina Fellhauer, The question of Arunachal Pradesh : Sandwiched between China and India by Ma Hongpeng, Tracing the Shadows by Apsana Kandel, Rethinking the border between religion and ethnicity: the case of the Parsi community in Mumbai by Isabel Jakob and Crime and Democracy: India’s Electoral Democracy by Rebecca Schäfer.



ASIAN STUDIES MEET SCHOOL IN CATS STUDENT LAB

by Alexander Smit

CATS Student Lab brings students of the senior classes in school and researchers of Heidelberg University together to explore current research questions in Asian Studies. For one day students themselves take on the tasks of for example a historian or a geographer. That way they get a clear idea of the methods and tasks in academic research. The workshops and projects are tailored to fit the syllabus of the schools and topics are as diverse as disciplines, research and teaching are in CATS. The project started as part of an initiative by the government of the state of Baden-Württemberg to improve visibility of smaller academic disciplines in 2016. Since then schools have been able to book workshops and project days both in English and German language or to enter long-time cooperation for project courses. An expert advisory board formed by Hans Martin Krämer, Professor of Japanese Studies, and Martin Gieselmann, Executive Secretary of SAI, provides for the high standards of instruction in CATS Student Lab.

The one-day workshops at the university have proven to be the most popular format. Here the school classes come to CATS to learn from one of the center's researchers on her or his field of expertise. Examples from this year include workshops by Rahul Mukherji, Professor of Political Science, on international relations in South-Asia and Anja Senz, Professor of Chinese Studies, on recent Chinese foreign politics.

Taking part in project days at schools is another important part of the program. For example, each year CATS Student Lab is part of the annual project days at the Elisabeth von Thadden School in Heidelberg-Wieblingen. This year Shefali More, PhD student in the Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia, went there for three days to teach about the role of women in Hinduism. Also present was 'China an die Schulen!', a project by the Chinese Studies in CATS that focuses on bringing the Chinese language into the schools.

The feedback CATS student lab gets from schools and teachers is expectedly positive. Topics related to Asian Studies are not represented in the official syllabus schools in a way that matches their actual importance in a county of exportation and immigration like Germany. In addition, many schools have established ties with schools in countries like China or Japan though exchange and language programs. The workshops and projects offered enable schools to complement their instruction on a level of expertise that they normally could not offer to their students.

CATS student lab is always looking for researchers to explain their methods and findings to school classes. Especially for PhD students at CATS the student lab offers the unique opportunity to present their own work to non-academic audiences. This does not just help to relate academic research to the public in general but it also enables the researchers to test their work for understandability and coherence in front of an educated but relatively unbiased group.



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- ▶ Collaborative academic exchange with The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- ▶ DFG funding for the project "Temple Networks in Early Modern South India: Narratives, Rituals, and Material Culture"
- ▶ DAAD funding "A New Passage to India" for the SAI-BHU collaboration "Exploring Cultures of Learning in India and Germany"
- ▶ Scholarship Announcement: A new Passage to India"
- ▶ Conference/Workshop: Masters and Servants: Slavery, Bondage and Unfree Labor in Nepalese History
- ▶ Third China-India Workshop on Development and Governance
- ▶ Lecture Series on Governance and Politics in South Asia -summer semester program 2019

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1ST CATS OPEN FORUM "IN AND BETWEEN SOUTH AND EAST ASIA"

With the inauguration of the Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies (CATS), the four institutions establish CATS Open Fora, serving as a platform for academic exchange and contestation between specialists in different regions and disciplines. The 1st CATS Open Forum "In and Between South and East Asia" was held on June 3rd 2019. It was held in honour of Professor Axel Michaels, to celebrate his achievements as founding director of CATS on the occasion of his 70th birthday. Twelve presentations by members and friends of CATS were inspired by the new intellectual opportunities that CATS presents to its members, proposing new methods and approaches in which Asia's intellectual traditions serve as a point of departure, and dealing with hitherto unexplored connections between South Asia and its neighbours, near and far. After opening addresses by Thomas Holstein (Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften), Ute Hüsken and Astrid Zotter, presentations by Barbara Mittler, Rahul Mukherji, Hans Harder, Lothar Ledderose, Simon Cubelic, Bernd Schneidmüller, Rich Freeman, Sumathi Ramaswamy, Ute Hüsken, Alexander Henn, Nikolas Jaspert, Madeleine Herren-Oesch and Guido Sprenger provided inspiring and entertaining insights into new research and planned collaborations.



COLLABORATIVE ACADEMIC EXCHANGE WITH THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

In continuation of the existing academic collaboration with The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Prof. Dr. Ute Hüsken was invited to give the key note lecture "Tradition, Innovation, and Resistance? Women's Approaches to Holiness in Contemporary Vedic Rituals" at the Third Annual Conference of the Israeli Association for the Study of Religions on April 7 2019.



האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

Further, Dr. Naphtali Meshel (Department Chair, Department of Comparative Religion, Hebrew University) visited the Department of Cultural and Religious Studies of South Asia at SAI from 1st - 12th July 2019 to work with Dr. Anand Mishra (SAI) towards exploring the explanatory power of the classical Sanskrit science of sacrifice—named (Mīmāṃsā) for a better understanding of the sacrificial ritual system described in ancient Israelite and early Jewish texts. Together with Dr. Matthieu Barbier (CNRS) and Dr. Hillel Mali (Hebrew University, Jerusalem) they organized a panel at the Annual Conference of British Association of Jewish Studies at University of Oxford (21-24 July, 2019).

DFG FUNDING FOR THE PROJECT “TEMPLE NETWORKS IN EARLY MODERN SOUTH INDIA: NARRATIVES, RITUALS, AND MATERIAL CULTURE”

Prof. Dr. Ute Hüsken and Dr. des. Jonas Buchholz receive DFG-funding from 2019-2022 to conduct the project “Temple Networks in Early Modern South India: Narratives, Rituals, and Material Culture”. This project explores how the sacred space of the ancient South Indian temple town of Kāñcīpuram is represented, negotiated, and shaped through mythological texts in Sanskrit and Tamil in interaction with ritual practice and material culture.

The project employs the concept of ‘temple networks’ to describe the relations between the city’s numerous temples, which in Kāñcīpuram, the so-called “Benares of the South”, have for centuries co-existed, interacted and competed with each other. Several intersecting temple networks exist in parallel in Kāñcīpuram, and their hierarchies have been constantly renegotiated. Such processes find expression in local mythological texts (Māhātmyas / Sthalapurāṇas) that deal with Kāñcīpuram as a sacred place. From at least the 15th and 16th centuries onwards, several such texts have been composed in both Sanskrit and Tamil. The project investigates how the temple networks of Kāñcīpuram are reflected and produced in the mythological texts. Adopting the texts’ own notion of Kāñcīpuram as a “field” (kṣetra) of divine and human encounter, it looks at Kāñcīpuram as a dynamic nodal point where diverse religious networks interact with each other.

Many narratives that are found in the mythological texts are also ritually enacted during temple festivals and are materially represented in the temples’ iconography, keeping these episodes alive in collective memory. Similar to the different interpretations of the basic narratives in the diverse texts, the ritual performances and sculptures also tell stories differently, and are moreover often at odds with the textual narratives. The project therefore pays close attention to the relevant ritual performances and the iconographic program of the temples in order to assess how rituals and material relate to the texts.

The team of this project works on two interconnected case studies across sectarian affiliations, Śaiva and Vaiṣṇava. Ute Hüsken’s subproject accesses the relevant dynamics for Vaiṣṇava temple networks through local mythological texts in Sanskrit (esp. Sthalapurāṇa texts) and through the ritual enactments of the narratives pertaining to central mythological and historical events during temple festivals. Jonas Buchholz’ subproject investigates Śaiva temple networks through the comparison of Sanskrit and Tamil mythological texts (Sthalapurāṇa / Talapurāṇam) and analyzes the interaction between the Sanskrit and Tamil traditions. In close collaboration the investigators assess how the texts, the temples, and the ritual practices of the diverse religious communities interact, representing, yet continuously re-configuring, networks within an ancient South Indian temple town.



DAAD FUNDING “A NEW PASSAGE TO INDIA” FOR THE SAI-BHU COLLABORATION “EXPLORING CULTURES OF LEARNING IN INDIA AND GERMANY”

In February the DAAD granted four years of funding (2019-2023) for the project “Exploring Cultures of Learning in India and Germany”, which is a collaboration between the Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia (SAI), the Banaras Hindu University (BHU), the Chair of Indology at Würzburg University, and the IIT (BHU) in Varanasi.

The collaboration is jointly conducted by the Professors Ute Hüsken (Heidelberg), Jörg Gengnagel (Würzburg), H.N. Prasad and Gopabandhu Mishra (BHU) and Dr Vinita Chandra (IIT/BHU). It concentrates on the historically and culturally vastly diverse “Cultures of Learning” in India and Germany, which the participants in this program experience and investigate.

The heart of this project is the annual intensive course “Lived Sanskrit Cultures” in Varanasi with 12 international student participants, including students from Heidelberg, from Würzburg, and from Varanasi. This three-week intensive course is designed to impart a practice-oriented training in methods of cultural and religious studies, and to complement and supplement the approaches of philology and textual studies. The programmatic term “Cultures of Learning” reflects the ambition of the collaborators to look into how learning sustains identities and habitus over time while enabling and generating change, and how learning has shaped and continues to shape values and subjectivities.

Short term and long-term exchange of teaching faculty and students, common workshops (arranged in Heidelberg, at BHU, and in Würzburg) and guest lecture series will complement the program, which will run for four years.

The initial meeting between all collaborating institutions was held on 03.03.2019 at the Central Library, Banaras Hindu University, followed by a coordination meeting at the South Asia Institute in Heidelberg on 24.6.2019.

The first PhD students from BHU to participate in this program were Jaya Yadav and Raja Pathak, who visited the Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia from 1st of June until 31st of August, 2019. Raja Pathak is pursuing his PhD at the BHU's Department of Jyotish on the topic Programming and Software Development for Planetary Calculation. Jaya Yadav is a PhD student at the Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy at the BHU's Faculty of Social Science. Her PhD topic's title is Third Gender in Ancient India: A Historical Inquiry.



Coordination meeting held at SAI



On the 27th of June the University Librarian and the Deputy Librarian of the central library at BHU, Prof. H. N. Prasad and Dr. V. K. Mishra visited the University Library and met with the Deputy Director of University Library, Rike Balzuweit.

SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT: „A NEW PASSAGE TO INDIA - EXPLORING CULTURES OF LEARNING IN INDIA AND GERMANY“ 2019 – 2022

Applications are invited by M.A. and Ph.D. students of the South Asia Institute and of the Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies for research scholarships to stay up to 6 months at the Banaras Hindu University and Indian Institute of Technology of the BHU, India. The scholarships will include a monthly stipend and international travel costs and will be awarded on merit. The scholarships aim to give the researchers an opportunity to participate in the academic activities of the BHU or IIT (BHU) and profit from the intellectual exchange with scholars and students there.

During their stay, the students can attend BHU and IIT (BHU) courses, and work on their thesis with co-supervision from academics at the hosting institution. The scholarships are sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) under its program “A New Passage to India” and are administered within the framework of the close cooperation / MoU between the South Asia Institute (SAI) of Heidelberg University, the Banaras Hindu University (BHU), and the Indian Institute of Technology of the BHU (IIT(BHU)) in Varanasi, India.



Banaras Hindu University (BHU)

Applications should be submitted as one .pdf file to npi@sai.uni-heidelberg.de and should include:

1. Motivation letter: explain what you expect from your stay at BHU/ IIT (BHU). Indicate also the preferred length and period of your stay, in line with the program guidelines.
2. Curriculum Vitae
3. Reference letter from a professor of the SAI/CATS
4. Abstract of your research and/or mention of your field of interest

Application deadline: **15th November 2019** for research stays between April 2020 and March 2021.

For more information, please visit the SAI Homepage, or write to npi@sai.uni-heidelberg.de



Indian Institute of Technology of the BHU (IIT(BHU))



Banaras Hindu University Campus

CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP: MASTERS AND SERVANTS: SLAVERY, BONDAGE AND UNFREE LABOR IN NEPALESE HISTORY

2-4 March 2019, Yalamaya Kendra, Patan

The Research Unit “Documents on the History of Religion and Law of Premodern Nepal” of the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities and the National Archives of Nepal jointly organized the conference “Masters and Servants: Slavery, Bondage and Unfree Labour in Nepalese History” which took place at Yalamaya Kendra, Patan, from 2–4 March 2019. The conference was inaugurated at the occasion of the opening of the Nepal Research Bhavan on 2 March. On the following day, several presentations explored the various forms, practices and representations of unfree labor in Nepal during the 19th and 20th centuries. In their presentations, Dines Raj Pant (Kathmandu) and Axel Michaels approached the history of slavery in Nepal from a *longue durée* perspective. Saubhagya Pradhananga (Kathmandu) gave an overview on slavery related documents preserved at the National Archives Kathmandu. Other papers investigated the relationship between law, labor and land (Sanjog Rupakheti, Worcester), focused on constellations of dependency in the British-Nepalese borderlands (Catherine Warner, Boston), in the Western Himalayas (Arik Moran, Haifa) and in the Tsum valley (Nadine Plachta) or studied literary representations of bondage in modern Nepali novels (Ramhari Timalisina). The first day closed with a screening of the film *The Riyalist* (2018), followed by a discussion with its director Kesang Tseten. On the second day Manik Bajracharya, Simon Cubelic and Rajan Khatiwoda held a workshop in which primary sources on legal and economic aspects of unfree labor were discussed with the conference participants. A publication of the conference proceedings is under preparation.



THIRD CHINA-INDIA WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNANCE

The third China-India Workshop on Development and Governance was held on June 7, 2019 at University of California, Riverside, CA., USA. Professor Rahul Mukherji and the Mari-Curie PhD fellows Mr. Jai Prasad and Ms. Tanvi Deshpande attended and presented their work at the workshop. Professor Rahul Mukherji chaired a session of the workshop and discussed the relevance of area studies and endogenous ideas from China and India. Mr. Jai Prasad presented his paper on “Forest Governance and Tribal Welfare in India”. Ms. Tanvi Deshpande presented a paper titled “Institutional change: Evolution of India’s National Action Plan on Climate Change” co-authored with Dr. Himanshu Jha and Professor Rahul Mukherji. The workshop brought together scholars working on China and India to share and discuss issues of common interest and concerns.



LECTURE SERIES ON GOVERNANCE AND POLITICS IN SOUTH ASIA - SUMMER SEMESTER PROGRAM 2019

As in previous semesters, the department of political science hosted a lively lecture series that attracted scholars and practitioners from India, the US, Sri Lanka and Singapore.

First CATS lecture: Prof. Pranab Bardhan

Professor Pranab Bardhan, University of California, Berkeley, delivered the first CATS lecture on “Governance Issues in Economic Development: A China-India Comparative Perspective” on 3rd May at CATS, Heidelberg University. Prof. Dr. Rahul Mukherji presided over the talk, and Prof. Dr. Aurel Croissant gave the opening remarks. Prof Bardhan compared the governance issues in India and China, focusing on the internal organization of government - state bureaucracy, corruption, and decentralized structures and processes.



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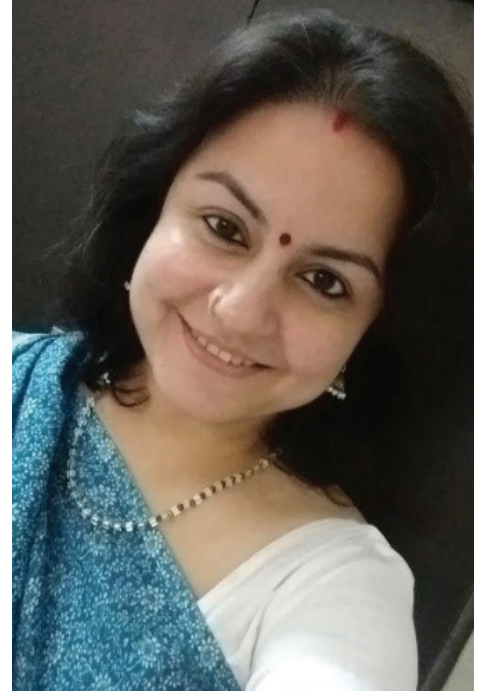
DAAD SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER DR. SHONALEEKA KAUL AT THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY OF SOUTH ASIA

The South Asia Institute welcomed Dr. Shonaleeka Kaul as DAAD scholarship holder at the Department of History in the summer term 2019 at the South Asia Institute. She is a cultural historian of early South Asia, specializing in working with Sanskrit texts. She is currently Associate Professor at the Center for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, where she received in 2006 her PhD and in 2000 her M.A. in history.

Her areas of research comprise early Indian history, with special emphasis on classical Sanskrit literature (kāvyā), cultural history, history of ideas, behavioural history, gender, urbanism, literary theory, cultural transmission, regional Studies and history of early Kashmir.

Shonaleeka Kaul taught three courses on early Indian history, a lecture course entitled “Early India: Introduction to Cultural History”, an advanced seminar on “Gender and Literature in Early India” and a reading Course on “History and Memory in Premodern South Asia.”

She also gave four enriching talks on various topics, ranging from “The Lamp that Illuminates the Past - Sanskrit Poetry and the Writing of History in Premodern India”, “Imagining the Urban: Social Commentaries from Sanskrit kāvyā”, “Semantics of Architectural Space” to “Querying the Region: The Sacred and the Political in the Construction of Early Kashmir.” These themes also reflected her most important areas of research and her most recent publications. Her newest book “The Making of Early Kashmir: Landscape and Identity in the Rajatarangini”, was published in 2018 by Oxford University Press, Delhi and two more monographs (Eloquent Spaces: Meaning and Community in Early Indian Architecture and Looking Within: Life Lessons from Lal Ded) are forthcoming. Other publications include “Cultural History of Early South Asia: A Reader” (edited volume, 2013) and “Imagining the Urban: Sanskrit and the City in Early India” (2010).



Further information is available here:

<https://www.jnu.ac.in/content/shonaleeka-kaul>

WELCOMES

DR. PABLO HOLWITT - NEW HEAD OF DELHI BRANCH OFFICE



Dr. Pablo Holwitt is the new Head of the Delhi Branch Office of the South Asia Institute. He succeeds Radu Carciumaru, starting from 1st May 2019. Dr. Pablo Holwitt received his MA from the Institute of Anthropology of the University of Münster and his PhD from the Institute of Anthropology at the University of Leipzig.

For both his MA- and PhD-thesis, he focused on South Asia and conducted various field studies in India. While he studied practices of ritual healing in rural regions of the state of Maharashtra in Western India for his MA-thesis, he focussed on contemporary processes of urban renewal in the colonial city centre of Mumbai for his PhD-thesis. With his PhD-project, he was enrolled as a PhD-student at the Graduate School „Global and Area Studies“ of the University of Leipzig. Moreover, from 2015 to 2018 he worked as a research assistant for the project Involve at the research group Intercultural and Complex Working Worlds (FinkA) of the University of Jena and since 2011 he taught several undergraduate and graduate courses as a Lecturer at the Institute of Anthropology of the University of Münster. His main research interests include processes of transformation in urban India, globalization theories, sensory studies and aesthetics and the anthropology of South Asia.

WELCOME TO FREDERIC LINK

Frederic Link is the new Branch Office Manager of Kathmandu. He succeeds Nadine Plachta, starting from October 2019. Frederic Link studied Geography, Anthropology and Modern Indology in Heidelberg and New Delhi and finished his studies in October 2014 with the thesis „Hum kya chahte? Azadi! (T)räume der Freiheit und Orte des Widerstands im indisch verwalteten Kaschmir“. From July 2016 till September 2019 he worked at the Research Unit „Documents on the History of Religion and Law of Pre-modern Nepal“ of the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

In his doctoral thesis at the Geography department of the South Asia Institute Frederic Link investigates the lived and legal geographies of territorial borders in Far West Nepal. His research focuses on northern South Asia (Himalaya, Nepal) and includes Human-Environment-Interaction and Political Geography.



WELCOME TO BELINDA WISE



Belinda Cassandra Wise is the new Branch Office Manager of Colombo starting from August 2019. Wise graduated in 2019 from University of Colombo with a Bachelor degree, specializing in Sociology. Her thesis focused on on-line interaction and was titled „An Exploratory Study of Online Interaction and Presentation of Self on Facebook“.

Prior to joining SAI, she worked as a Research Assistant at the Social Policy Analysis and Research Center (SPARC), University of Colombo and was involved in a project titled „Challenges of Municipal Solid Waste Management: Learning from post-crisis governance initiatives in South Asia“.

Her research interests focus on gender, social interaction, culture, and youth.

WELCOME TO JONAS BUCHHOLZ

The South Asia Institute cordially welcomes Jonas Buchholz at the Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia. Since September 2019, he conducts the DFG funded project “Temple Networks in Early Modern South India” together with Prof. Dr. Ute Hüsken at the University of Heidelberg.

He studied Sanskrit and Tamil in Heidelberg and finished his studies with an M.A. degree in 2012. In April 2012, he defended his PhD thesis on classical Tamil literature at the University of Hamburg. From 2014 to 2019, he worked as a research associate in the ERC funded project “Going from Hand to Hand: Networks of Intellectual Exchange in the Tamil Learned Traditions (NETamil)” at the University of Hamburg. He also taught as a visiting lecturer at the Universities of Tübingen and Göttingen.

His research focuses on South India (Tamil Nadu). Special interests include Tamil and Sanskrit literatures and their mutual relationship, as well as manuscript studies.



HEIKO FRESE - SUBSTITUTE PROFESSOR TO DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

The South Asia Institute welcomes Dr. Heiko Frese as substitute professor to the department of History of South Asia in the coming winter term 2019/20. He is going to teach the following courses: the introductory lecture course into the history of South Asia “Einführungsvorlesung in die Geschichte des indischen Subkontinents I - Von den Anfängen bis 1500” (in German), a lecture course on “Rulers, Empires, Theories. A lover’s choice of Indian Hi(stories)” (in English), an advanced seminar entitled “From the Decline of the Mughal Empire to the College of Fort St. George: Military Encounters, Cultural Strategies and Colonialism” (in English) and a reading course “Texts and Discussions” (in English).

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”). His research interests are, amongst others, Indian history from the 16th to the 19th centuries, (Indian) historiography, Telugu literature and postcolonial theory.



DAVIDE TORRI - SUBSTITUTE PROFESSOR AT DEPARTMENT OF ETHNOLOGY

Dr. Davide Torri served as substitute professor during summer term 2019 at the Department of Ethnology of the South Asia Institute. Davide Torri completed his PhD in Anthropology/History of Religions in 2009 with a dissertation titled „Il Lama e il Bombo. Sciamanismo e Buddhismo tra gli Hyolmo del Nepal“ at the University of Naples “L’Orientale” (Italy). Since then, he worked as a Lecturer at the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Chester (UK).

Starting from 2013, he has been Post-Doc researcher and Lecturer at the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context”. During his studies and research, Davide Torri has engaged in fieldwork, particularly with regards to shamanic practices, beliefs and ideas at several sites in Nepal, India, Mongolia and China.

Torri’s main fields of research are Shamanism including textual analysis of ancient Western texts (mainly in Latin) describing religious rituals in Asia and historical development of the notion of shamanism itself. His research interests include also the topics of conflict, sacred landscapes, and the human/non-human interface.



DR. HARSHANA RAMBUKWELLA - HOLDER OF THE SRI LANKA CHAIR

Dr. Harshana Rambukwella, Director of the Postgraduate Institute of English at The Open University of Sri Lanka, was visiting professor at the South Asia Institute and the 4th holder of the Sri Lanka Chair from April to September 2019.



Rambukwella completed his Ph.D. at the University of Hong Kong. He is the author of the Politics and Poetics of Authenticity: A Cultural Genealogy of Sinhala Nationalism (2018) published by University College London Press (UCL Press). Since 2012, he has been a Senior Researcher at International Center for Ethnic Studies (ICES), Colombo, Sri Lanka, and since 2011 at the Post Graduate Institute of English (PGIE), Open University of Sri Lanka and since 2009 Honorary Professor at the School of English, The University of Hong Kong. Harshana's research interests are in postcolonial literatures, literary history and nationalism.

Impressions by Dr. Harshana Rambukwella:

"When I was first informed of my selection to the Sri Lanka Chairship I was delighted but also a little nervous since I was not sure of what to expect. Germany was totally alien academic and social territory for me. I had little or no prior exposure to German university culture or scholarship and was not sure how things functioned. I arrived on the day SAI was formally moving to its new Bergheim campus location from Neunheimerfeld and what I discovered on that first day was that the SAI was an informal, friendly and hospitable place. Dr. Gisemann gave me a ride on his bicycle to the new location and introduced me to others in the staff and it was a warm and friendly first evening in Heidelberg.

Thereafter, I found the intellectual atmosphere at Heidelberg stimulating and had a number of thought-provoking conversations with academics from different disciplines and was even invited as a panelist to a discussion on the implications of the Indian general election results for the Northeast of India – though I was neither a political scientist nor an India expert! But this also speaks to the interdisciplinarity that SAI has been able to foster. For instance, perhaps what was the intellectual highlight of my stay in Heidelberg, the colloquium I gave on cultural nationalism was graciously hosted by the Political Science Department though my disciplinary training is primarily in literature, literary history and cultural studies. This interdisciplinary focus was also reflected in the block seminar I conducted on cultural nationalism which attracted students from very varying disciplinary backgrounds.

I also found Heidelberg a brilliant location to network and connect with other European centers of scholarship. During my stay I was able to establish connections with the Goethe University in Frankfurt where I taught a masters class on Dalit literature, and I was invited to do extended sessions on two separate occasions based on my book The Politics and Poetics of Authenticity (UCL Press 2018) at the University of Zurich in the Human Geography department. I also had the chance to deliver a lecture in the Modern South Asia seminar series at Leiden University. As a scholar based in Sri Lanka, the European exposure facilitated by the experience at Heidelberg was invaluable and it is my hope that I would be able to re-visit SAI and Heidelberg again and perhaps experience another extended stay in Germany and further strengthen my links with German and European academia. I thank SAI for facilitating my stay as the Sri Lanka Chair and the warm hospitality with which I was received and hosted during my stay."

REPORTS

TRAVEL GRANT BY MARGOT UND FRIEDRICH BECKE STIFTUNG FOR SHEFALI MORE

We congratulate Shefali More, Ph.D. candidate of the Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia, for receiving a travel grant from the Margot und Friedrich Becke Stiftung. This grant will support her attendance and paper presentation at the prestigious American Academy of Religion's Annual Meeting 2019, to be held in San Diego, California.

Ms. More will be presenting her paper 'Revisiting the Question of Authority to speak in Gender and Religion: The case of Śabarimalā' in the panel 'Rethinking Religious Feminisms through the Religious Lives of Buddhist and Hindu Women in Asia and the Diaspora: New Directions in Studies of Gender and Religion and Comparative Religion'.

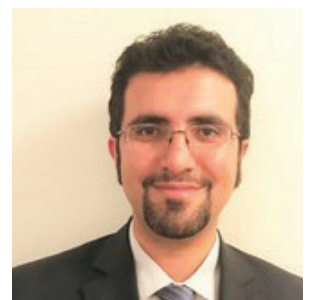
Ms. More is working on her project 'Vedic Rituals: An Interplay Between the Rituals, Women and the Idea of Procreation' under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Ute Hüsken. Her project aims at studying the significance of procreation in Vedic rituals and how it impacts the participation of women in the rituals. The travel Grant was handed to Ms. More on Wednesday 31st July 2019 by Prof. Mussnug, representing the Becke Stiftung.



CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. SEYED HOSSEIN ZARHANI

Dr. Hossein Zarhani's application for habilitation has been accepted by the Habilitation Conference of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, Heidelberg University. His habilitation of around 4 years will be mentored by Prof. Rahul Mukherji. Dr. Zarhani's research project for the habilitation will compare the political economy, particularly the telecommunication sector in Iran and India.

Habilitation constitutes the qualification to conduct self-contained university teaching and is the key for access to a professorship in Germany. It is the highest qualification issued by a university.



FAREWELL PARTY FOR BIRGIT DANNBACHER AND JUTTA SCHMID

On March 27th 2019, the South Asia Institute had to say good-bye to the long-term cleaning staff Birgit Dannbacher and Jutta Schmid. For many years, both had been important core members of the SAI staff, not only taking care of the cleaning, but also cheerfully contributing to the spirit of mutual support at the SAI. We thank them for many years of dependable and professional work, and we wish all the best for the future.



VISITS

VISITING SCHOLAR PROFESSOR SUMIT GANGULY



Prof. Ganguly is a Distinguished Professor of Political Science, and holds the Rabindranath Tagore Chair in Indian Cultures and Civilizations, at Indiana University, Bloomington. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (elected 2017), and a recipient of the Humboldt Research Award (2017), hosted by the Department of Politics, SAI, Heidelberg University. He is a specialist on the contemporary politics of South Asia, Professor Ganguly's research spans security, ethnic conflict, democratization, foreign policy, and international politics of that region. He is the author, co-

author, editor, or co-editor of over 20 books on the region. His most recent books include *The Oxford Handbook of India's National Security* (Oxford University Press, 2015, coedited with Nicolas Blarel and Manjeet S. Pardesi); *Deadly Impasse: Indo-Pakistani Relations at the Dawn of a New Century* (Cambridge University Press, 2016); and, with William R. Thompson, *Ascending India and Its State Capacity* (Yale University Press, 2017).

Prof. Ganguly stayed at SAI from May to July and contributed both to our lecture series and teaching. As part of our lecture series on governance and politics in South Asia, on 24th June, he gave a talk on "Why India May Never Be A Great Power?" The lecture was followed by a reception. Jointly with Prof. Mukerji, he also taught a block seminar on India's Foreign Policy.

VISIT BY PROF. GÉRARD COLAS

During the Summer Semester 2019 Prof. Gérard Colas from the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) was a visiting scholar at the Department for Cultural and Religious History of South Asia. Coming from one of France's most prestigious academic institutions, Prof. Colas' visit was part of the international scholarly exchange which aims at strengthening the collaboration between Heidelberg University and other institutions.

Prof. Colas' fields of research include concepts of religious icons, normative texts on temple rituals, ritual and music as known from ancient Sanskrit texts, textual criticism, transmission of texts and paleography of ancient India, Catholic and Protestant missionaries in India and their works in Sanskrit and Telugu and history of Sanskrit scholastics. While at the South Asia Institute, Prof Colas gave the course *Understanding Religious Icons*, a continuation of his 2018 lecture series, exploring diverse aspects of religious icons in ancient India, such as the devotional attitude towards the icon, the understanding of the icon as a person and its implications, the artisanal and priestly conceptions, the icon as a material object etc. Moreover, he conducted the course *Analysis and English Translation of Lalu Bhatta's Prameyaratnārṇava*, an Early 18th Century Text of the Vallabha Tradition. This course's aim was to study and translate the most difficult theoretical parts of the *Prameyaratnārṇava*, a digest of Vallabhite metaphysics.



VISIT OF TARIQ RAHMAN



Professor Tariq Rahman (presently Dean, School of Education, Beaconhouse National University, Lahore) visited the Department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures in June-July.

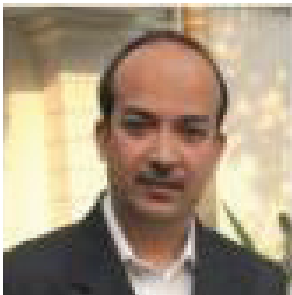
His stay was facilitated by his Humboldt Lifetime Research award which has brought him to the South Asia Institute repeatedly in the past already. He worked on his current project on the role of military decision-makers in the wars that Pakistan fought after independence. Professor Rahman also delivered a public lecture in connection with his latest book on the historical and present-day interpretations of Jihad in South Asia.

VISIT BY ARNAB SAHA

Dr. Arnab Saha (Assistant professor for Bengali literature at S.A. Jaipuria College, Kolkata) visited the Department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures as a Baden-Württemberg Fellow in the month of June. Dr. Saha's research focuses on the history of sexuality in 19th and 20th century Bengal. During his stay he delivered a public lecture at the South Asia Institute on "Self, Conjuality and Sexual Discourse in late 19th Century Bengal". Dr. Saha is also a Bengali writer who has published fiction and poetry.



VISIT OF PROF. DR. RAJIV PRAKASH



Prof. Rajiv Prakash (Dean, Indian Institute of Technology / Banaras Hindu University) visited SAI on 5th and 6th of June, 2019 and met Prof. Hüsken (Director - SAI) and Mr. Oliver Ehrhardt (International Relations Office, Heidelberg University) to discuss the possibilities of further intensifying the academic exchange between SAI and IIT-BHU within the framework of the MoU signed between the two institutions in March 2019. During his visit to Heidelberg University, he also met Prof. Horst Köppel (Department for Theoretical Chemistry, Heidelberg University) to explore the potentials of expanding the existing MoU to subjects of natural sciences as well.

LECTURES BY PROF. RAHUL MUKHERJI



On April 27, at a conference on Federalism in South Asia organized by the South Asia Council at Yale, Prof. Rahul Mukherji presented a paper titled "Ideas, Tipping Point and State Capacity in India: Comparing Welfare Politics in Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal".

On Saturday, 6th April, at 7pm, Prof. Mukherji held a talk after the Annual General Body Meeting of the German-Indian Society (Deutsch-Indische Gesellschaft) at the Ethnological Museum Heidelberg (Völkerkundemuseum, Hauptstraße 235). The talk titled "Governing India - What difference does Mr. Modi make?" addressed the question: Is Modi changing the nature of democratic governance in India?

OBITUARY FOR DR. AYYADURAI DHAMOTHARAN (1935-2019)

by Dr. Thomas Lehmann and Dr. P.R. Subramanian

Dr. A. Dhamotharan, a Tamil scholar and former Lecturer of Tamil at Heidelberg University, passed away on Friday, the 14th of June 2019, at the age of 84 in his hometown Thirumoolasthanam, Kattumannarkoil, Tamil Nadu. Dhamotharan completed his schooling in and around his native town and went to Annamalai University for higher studies. There, he earned his B.A. (Honours) in Tamil literature (1956-59). Then, serving as a lecturer of Tamil in a college for two years, he enrolled for Ph.D. under the guidance of Prof. V.I. Subramoniam, Department of Tamil, University of Kerala. His topic of research was "The Language of Thirukkural", a well-known classical text in Tamil. Dhamotharan submitted his Ph.D. thesis in 1966. The external examiner for his thesis was Prof. Kamil V. Zvelebil, who highly commended it. While Dhamotharan was working as a lecturer (1967-68) at the Centre for Advanced Studies in Linguistics in Annamalai University, his alma mater, he got an invite from the South Asia Institute to join the language faculty. In 1969, Dr. Dhamotharan was appointed as Lecturer of Tamil at the South Asia Institute of Heidelberg University, Germany, by the then head of the Department of Indology Prof. Hermann Berger on the recommendation of the great Tamil and Dravidian scholar Kamil V. Zvelebil. With the appointment of Dr. Dhamotharan at Heidelberg University and Dr. P.R. Subramanian, Lecturer at Institute of Indology, University of Koeln (1972-83), Tamil Studies in Germany made a progress.



Dr. Dhamotharan worked at Heidelberg University for the next 30 years. He mastered the German language very quickly. During the ensuing three decades he taught Tamil to German students in the medium of German on all levels of the then Master's program of Indology. During his time at Heidelberg University, he co-supervised all Tamil Ph.D. projects done at the South Asia Institute; for instance, the theses on Tamil guardian deities by Eveline Meyer, on Tamil reduplication by Thomas Malten, on the grammar of Old Tamil by Thomas Lehmann, and on the Tamil verbal participle and infinitive by Jacques Deigner. His main research interest was the editorial work of the medieval Tamil grammatical text *Naṇṇūl* and its various commentaries. But, first he painstakingly collected the Thirukkural quotes employed by various commentators. He classified those quotes according to the purpose for which they were cited, and his work got published in 1970. Having published also his Grammar of Thirukkural (South Asian Studies No.5, University of Heidelberg, 1972) and a Bibliography of Tamil dictionaries in 1978, Dr. Dhamotharan prepared two fine editions of the Tamil grammatical text *Naṇṇūl* with the commentary by *Kūḷaṅkai* in 1980 and with the *Viruttiyurai* commentary by *Caṅkaranamacivāyar* in 1999. In his editorial work he was highly accurate and meticulous and showed his high degree of exact scholarship. In his 1999 edition of *Naṇṇūl*, Dhamotharan introduced a new feature in Tamil text editing and the format was well received in Tamil Nadu.

In 2000, Dr. Dhamotharan retired from Heidelberg University at the age of 65 and one year later in 2001 he returned to Tamil Nadu. Known for his great expertise in Tamil text editing, he was invited by the Central Institute of Classical Tamil, Chennai, to participate in their project of preparing definite (critical) editions of classical Tamil texts. He worked as a consulting editor for the Tamil Lexicon revision project by Madras University and for the revised and enlarged edition of Cre-A's Dictionary of Contemporary Tamil (2008). He served as Honorary Professor at the International Institute of Tamil Studies (2001) and as a trustee of Mozhi, A Trust for Resource Development for Language and Culture, Chennai (2003-07). Though he had a good grounding in modern descriptive linguistics, his outlook and approach were more historical which helped him delve into the grammatical traditions of Tamil medieval commentaries. Because of illness he lived the last few years of his life secluded at his native place in Tamil Nadu. He will always be remembered as an excellent and patient teacher, a fine and erudite scholar and a good friend to many Tamil students and scholars both in Germany and India. He is survived by his wife and two sons. He has been blessed with granddaughters and grandsons.

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- Special Issue of India Review on „Globalization and Governance in India“
- Mukherji & Jha: The State in India
- New articles by Department of Political Science
- New publication by Rafael Klöber
- Early Modern India: Literatures and Images, Texts and Languages
- New open access journal Dasta vezi: The Audio-Visual South Asia
- Book review on Nine Nights of the Goddess published
- Article by Prof. Dr. Hüsken in Forschung und Lehre

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SPECIAL ISSUE OF INDIA REVIEW ON „GLOBALIZATION AND GOVERNANCE IN INDIA“

Dr. Himanshu Jha along with Dr. Jivanta Schottli co-edited the special Issue of India Review on „Globalization and Governance in India“.

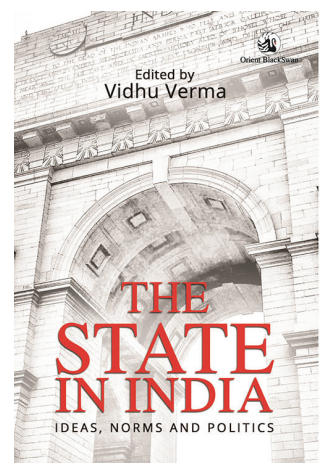
Prof. Rahul Mukherji provides the introduction to the latest journal issue which has insightful articles authored by Dr. Jivanta Schottli and Prof. Markus Pohlmann, Dr. Himanshu Jha, Dr. Aseema Sinha and Dr. Markus Pauli. The special issue ends with an epilogue by Prof. Subrata K Mitra.



MUKHERJI & JHA: THE STATE IN INDIA

Prof. Rahul Mukherji and Dr. Himanshu Jha have published their study on 'The State, Social Policy and Welfare: Reflections on Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal' as a chapter in an edited book on 'The State in India: Ideas, Norms and Politics', recently published by Orient Blackswan (Feb. 2019)

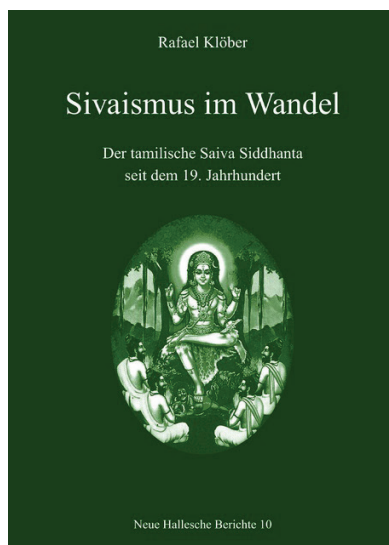
The chapter examines some of the conditions under which the state is likely to be more capable in delivering welfare results. It argues that ideas held within the bureaucracy are as important as the political will to support such proposals. Ideas and competence within the technocracy matter, as much as the political support for governance projects. This framework is then applied to welfare provisioning in two comparable cases. The first was the successful implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in undivided Andhra Pradesh. The second is the relative failure of the state in West Bengal to implement the same program in the early years. The edited book offers an insightful overview of the literature on the state and showcases the interplay of state and society in new sites: processes of globalization, assertions of sovereignty, and across the regional and local. The volume moves beyond the state question to interrogate how the state can shape concepts, ideas, and institutions central to our lives. The rise of the welfare state with extensive social policies of affirmative action and the emerging penal state are some of the core themes of the volume.



NEW ARTICLES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF POLICAL SCIENCE

Prof. Rahul Mukherji, Dr. Seyed Hossein Zarhani, Jai Shankar Prasad and A.S.M. Mostafizur Rahman recently published an article titled “Analysing the Modi Years – Credit and Criticism” in The Wire, in which they argue that Modi’s relatively few successes built substantially upon decades of policy experimentation.

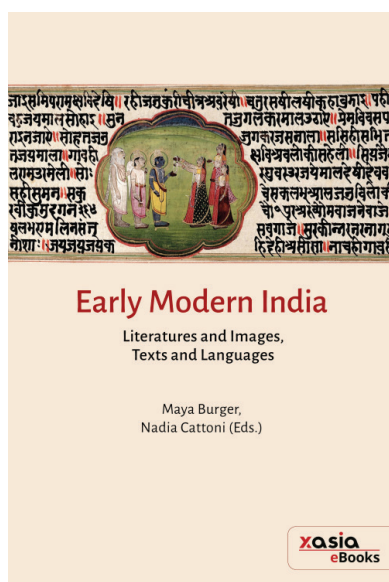
The joint article by Prof. Rahul Mukherji, Prof. Sumit Ganguly and Dr. Himanshu Jha titled “The Modi Mystery” was recently published in Foreign Policy. In the article, they argue that while poor economic performance should have hurt the prime minister at the polls, appeals to nationalism won him the vote.



NEW PUBLICATION BY RAFAEL KLÖBER

Franckesche Stiftungen Veröffentlichungen published in May 2019 the book „Sivaismus im Wandel. Der tamilische Saiva Siddhanta seit dem 19. Jahrhundert.“ by Rafael Klöber (former member of the Department of History at the SAI). It is the publication of his dissertation, which he wrote supervised by Professor Gita Dharampal-Frick. The publication is the 10th edition of the Neuen Halleschen Berichte.

Rafael Klöber is a religious scholar and University didact at the University of Heidelberg. His areas of interest include recent South Asian, especially South Indian religious history, Dalit studies, postcolonial theories of history and poststructuralist religious studies.



EARLY MODERN INDIA: LITERATURES AND IMAGES, TEXTS AND LANGUAGES

Interested in Indian vernaculars, Persian, Sanskrit? In the relations between various yogic traditions? Then read CrossAsia-eBook’s latest release: Early Modern India: Literatures and Images, Texts and Languages, edited by Maya Burger and Nadia Cattoni, Heidelberg, Berlin.

The book presents recent scholarly research on one of the most important literary and historical periods of the Early Modern era from a wide range of approaches and perspectives. It contains a selection of contributions presented at the 12th International Conference on Early Modern Literatures of North India which provide fresh and new material as well as innovative methods to approach it. The organizing principle of the volume lies in its exploration of the links between a multiplicity of languages (Indian vernaculars, Persian, Sanskrit), of media (texts, paintings, images) and of traditions (Hindu, Jain, Sikh, Muslim). The role of the Persian language and the importance of the translations from Sanskrit into Persian are discussed in light of the translational turn at local bookstores or via online booksellers.

CrossAsia-eBooks is a service of Heidelberg University Library and the South Asia Institute in cooperation with the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin and funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and its Specialised Information Service Programme (FID).

NEW OPEN ACCESS JOURNAL DASTAVEZI: THE AUDIO-VISUAL SOUTH ASIA

CrossAsia-ePublishing recently published the first volume of the new open access journal Dastavezi: The Audio-Visual South Asia. It is a journal for scholars and filmmakers, filmmakers as scholars, and filmmaking scholars working on regional and transregional South Asia. The journal provides a platform for linking audio-visual and scholarly practice from and on South Asia.

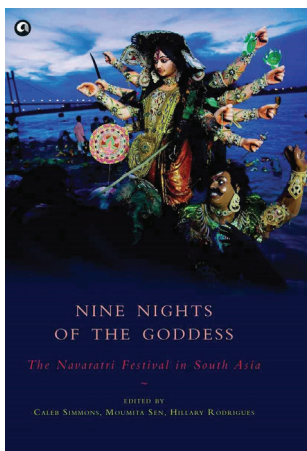


Dastavezi is an open-access archive of audio-visual knowledge. By providing films published in the journal with Digital Object Identifier (DOI) numbers, Dastavezi encourages filmmakers and scholars working on South Asia to cite documentary film as a legitimate source of academic production. Furthermore, it aims to make the films accessible to audiences beyond the structures of the market domain.

Further information: <https://crossasia-journals.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/index.php/dasta/index>

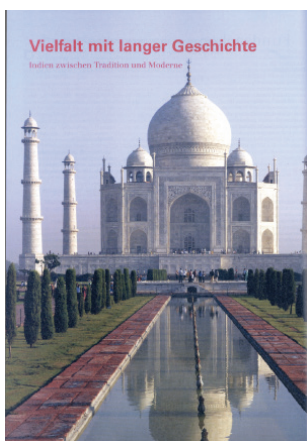
The first issue includes an introduction by the main editors (Max Kramer and Jürgen Schaflechner) and films and essays by:

- Fathima Nizaruddin. My Mother's Daughter (19:05). Delhi.
- Mahera Omar. Perween Rahman: The Rebel Optimist (1:06:57). Karachi.
- Yaminay Chaudhri. Mera Karachi Mobile Cinema (22:22). Karachi.
- Aditya Basu. Kaifiyat (8:13). Mumbai.



BOOK REVIEW ON NINE NIGHTS OF THE GODDESS PUBLISHED

The website scroll.in published a review entitled „What the manifestations of Navaratri tell us about religious expression and narratives of power“ on the book „Nine Nights of the Goddess: The Navaratri Festival in South Asia“, edited by Caleb Simmons, Moumita Sen and Hillary Rodrigues. The book includes articles by Prof. Ute Hüsken (Head of Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia) on „Ritual Complementarity and Difference: Navarātri and Vijayadaśamī in Kāñcīpuram“ and by Astrid Zotter on „Which Durgā? What Navarātra? Remarks on Reconfigurations of Royal Rituals in the Kathmandu Valley“.



ARTICLE BY PROF. DR. HÜSKEN IN FORSCHUNG UND LEHRE

The magazine „Forschung und Lehre“ published in its issue 4/19 an article entitled „Vielfalt mit langer Geschichte: Indien zwischen Tradition und Moderne“ by Prof. Dr. Ute Hüsken (Head of the Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia). In the article, Prof. Hüsken characterizes the Indian cultural sphere through examples from her own research.

„Forschung und Lehre“ provides information about the development in universities and science. Since 1994, the magazine has been published monthly under the motto „Everything that moves science“ and has with 34,000 copies the highest circulation rate of university and science policy journals in Germany.

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FORUM “CLIMATE CHANGE – MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION IN MUMBAI AND MAHARASHTRA”

by Pablo Holwitt

On May 3rd 2019, the Multi-stakeholder Forum “Climate Change – Mitigation and Adaptation in Mumbai and Maharashtra” took place at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai. The event was jointly organized by the SAI Delhi Branch Office, Indo-German Chamber of Commerce, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Friedrich-Naumann-Foundation for Freedom, Global Shapers Community Mumbai Hub and amfori. The Forum brought together experts from the economy, academia, politics and civil society and initiated a dialogue between them using the innovative discussion method of the World Café. It addressed problems and challenges resulting from the effects of climate change in India with a specific focus on the megacity Mumbai and the state of Maharashtra.

Following the welcome remarks by the Deputy Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany Marja Einig, an introductory session served to situate the factors of climate change and its existing effects in India, including water shortages, droughts and declining monsoon rains.

Afterwards the participants engaged in several table discussions about the various drivers of climate change in Mumbai and Maharashtra, adaptation strategies and ways to mitigate the effects of climate change. The event concluded with a discussion of results and a closing note on India’s National Action Plan on Climate Change.



TALK BY PROF. DR. ECKART WÜRZNER

by Pablo Holwitt

Prof. Dr. Eckart Würzner, the current mayor of Heidelberg, visited Delhi in February 2019 to deliver a talk on the topic “Stepping into Action – Heidelberg 2030”. The talk was jointly organized by Observer Research Foundation (ORF), the Delhi Branch Office of the South Asia Institute (SAI) and the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA).

It was inaugurated by Dr. Renate Schimkoreit, Minister and Head of the Department for Economic & Global Affairs, German Embassy. Apart from Prof. Würzner, further speakers included Dr. Rumi Aijaz, Senior Fellow at ORF, Dr. Radu Carciumaru, Resident Representative at SAI’s Delhi Branch Office, and Prof. Arunava Dasgupta, Head of the Department of Urban Design at SPA, who acted as discussant to Prof. Würzner’s talk.

In his talk, Prof. Würzner outlined recent interventions in the city planning of Heidelberg, providing several examples that illustrated how the city’s development follows an approach that highlights sustainability, inclusivity, global networking, knowledge creation and use of information technologies. His talk sparked comparisons to India’s current Smart Cities Mission which aims at remaking Indian cities in accordance with similar ideals. In this respect, the talk provided useful insights about current challenges faced by cities worldwide and the ways in which these are understood and tackled by policymakers.



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IMPRESSUM

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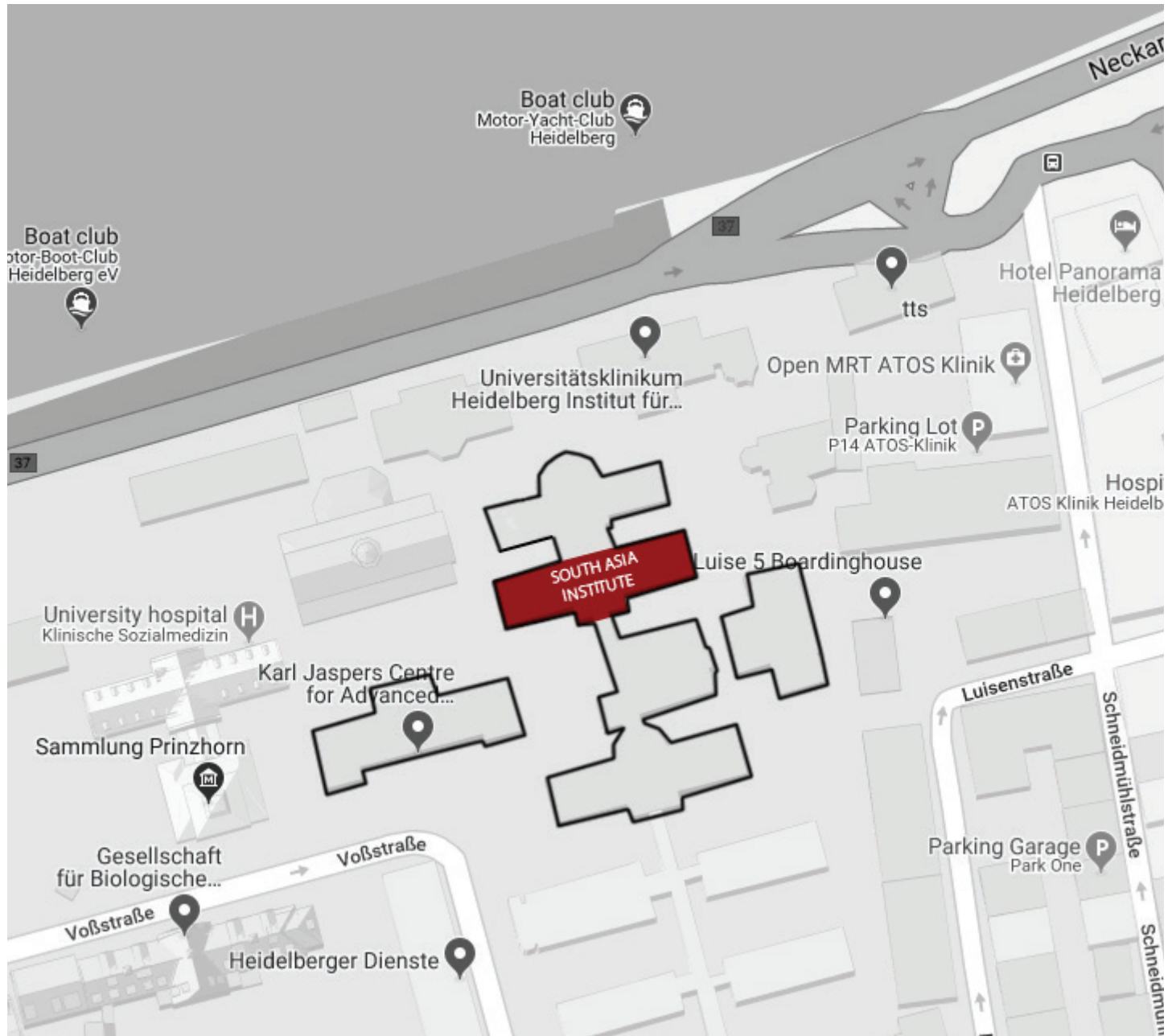
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BY CAR FROM THE HIGHWAY

Go straight on at the end of the Autobahn following Bergheimer Straße until the hospital can be seen on the left. You may cross the railroads or park your car on the right side of the street and walk to the hospital.

