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WELCOME

We look back on a vibrant summer term with numerous activities: First of all, we are delighted to announce the new Sri Lanka Guest Professorship at the South Asia Institute. We are looking forward to strengthen the ties with Sri Lanka and to foster research by collaborating with eminent scholars. In this newsletter, special emphasis should also be placed on Prof. Axel Michaels. After 20 years as Head of the Department "Cultural and Religious History of South Asia", a farewell ceremony was held in honor of the occasion of his retirement. Moreover, Mala Al-Farooq, another well-known scholar at the SAI, has retired from her post as lecturer of Bengali at the Department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures after 21 years of teaching. In the department of Political Science Prof. Rahul Mukherji has successfully launched his teaching program. He is supported by a newly formed team, which will be introduced in this newsletter, too.

In this newsletter, we have also sad news to report. Pratibha Khanal, former resident representative of the branch office in Kathmandu, and Rajesh Lal Shrestha, Secretary of the Kathmandu Office, have both passed away in 2016 and will in each case be honored by an obituary written by Axel Michaels and Martin Gaenzsle. We will remember the work and life of both former colleagues who with their outstanding personalities have significantly contributed to support the research on and in Nepal by the SAI.

In this issue, you will also find reports on the regularly held Summer Schools in Urdu, Spoken Sanskrit and Nepali, which took place in August 2016 at the SAI. Furthermore, the SAI staff participated in international events. These include the international conference of the Research Group on Development Economics, the workshops on „Literary Sentiments: Telling Gendered Lives in the Vernacular“ and „After Eurocentrism, Beyond Decentering: Themes and Methodologies for an Interdisciplinary History of Ideas“, both conducted by the department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures. Finally, this latest newsletter issue encompasses recent publications of our SAI-members and associates which underlines the intellectual life at the Institute.

We are very happy, to present you this ninth issue of our **SAI** | Newsletter and we wish you a pleasant read!

Best wishes,

Dr. Martin Gieselmann
Executive Secretary

Prof. Dr. Stefan Klöner
Executive Director

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Workshop on „Literary Sentiments: Telling Gendered Lives in the Vernacular“

Workshop: „After Eurocentrism, Beyond Decentring: Themes and Methodologies for an Interdisciplinary History of Ideas“

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New Hyperimage Project on Pilgrimage Scroll

5th Sri Lanka Roundtable on Contemporary Sri Lanka

Pre SAARC Summit Dialogue 2016

24th World Congress of Political Science

Nepal Workshop

Four Workshops on Smart Cities in India

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Welcome to Professor Rahul Mukherji and the new Staff at the Department of Political Science

Welcome to Daniel Kiowski

Research Fellowship for Dr. Lion König

Welcome to Paula von Haaren

Talk by Nadine Plachta on 14th Conference of the International Association for Tibetan Studies

Farewell to Mala Al-Farooq

Welcome to Himanshu Jha

„Cinema Travellers“ by Abraham and Madheshiya at Cannes Film Festival

Talk by Dr. Divya Narayanan

Welcome to Bharat Desai as Guest Professor

Obituary Pratibha Khanal (1983-2016)

Obituary Rajesh Lal Shrestha (1959-2016)

BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

125 Years of the National Archives of India (1891-2016)

New Issue of Journal for Global History

Amiya P. Sen: An Idealist in India: Selected Writings and Speeches of Sister Nivedita

Lion König & Bidisha Chaudhuri: Politics of the Other in India and China: Western Concepts in Non-Western Contexts”

New Publication on CrossAsia-eBooks

New Journal on CrossAsia Journals – Interdisziplinäre Zeitschrift für Südasiensforschung

New Book by Niels Gutschow and Katharina Weiler

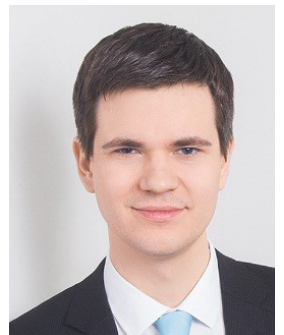
Clio Guide Südasiens



Farewell Lecture by Prof. Dr. Michaels



Farewell to Mala Al-Farooq



Daniel Kiowski coordinator of “CATS-Schülerlabor”



Obituary Pratibha Khanal

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NEW SRI LANKA GUEST PROFESSORSHIP AT THE SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE

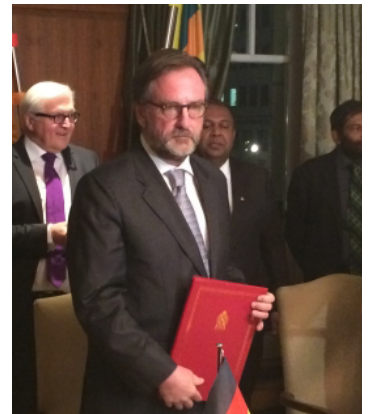
The Government of Sri Lanka and Heidelberg University signed a “Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)” to establish a Sri Lanka Guest Professorship at the South Asia Institute.

On February 18, 2016 the President of Heidelberg University, Prof. Dr. Bernhard Eitel, the Sri Lankan Ambassador to Germany, Karunatilaka Amunugama, and on behalf of the South Asia Institute, Prof. William Sax, signed this agreement in Berlin. The German Foreign Minister Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier and his colleague Mangala Samaraweera also attended the signing of the MoU.

The holder of the Sri Lanka Chair will stay one semester at the South Asia Institute to hold lectures, participate in meetings and to pursue research work.



The President of Heidelberg University, Prof. Dr. Bernhard Eitel, and the Sri Lankan Ambassador to Germany, Karunatilaka Amunugama, signed the agreement in Berlin. The German Foreign Minister Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier and his colleague Mangala Samaraweera (center of the picture) also attended the signing of the MoU.



Prof. Dr. William Sax, Deputy Executive Director of the SAI and Head of the Department of Anthropology, also attended the signing.

In addition to its branch offices and regional representatives in Nepal, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, the SAI opened a branch office in Colombo in 1999. It was closed for security reasons in 2007, but has been re-opened with Darshi Thoradeniya as its branch office manager in March 2014. The branch office is located at the Social Policy Analysis and Research Centre (SPARC) of the University of Colombo, with which the SAI has had a strong relationship for more than ten years. The reopening of the branch office in Colombo and the establishment of the Guest Professorship aims to intensify the collaborative research work and to build up new networks.

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FAREWELL LECTURE BY PROF. AXEL MICHAELS

On July 20, 2016 the farewell lecture by Prof. Dr. Axel Michaels, Professor at the Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia at the South Asia Institute, took place at the Great Hall of the University.

As opening speech, the President of Heidelberg University, Prof. Dr. Bernhard Eitel, and the Executive Director of the SAI, Prof. Dr. Stefan Klonner referred to Axel Michaels astonishing career and achievements for the Heidelberg University, the SAI and, in particular, Nepal.

The following lecture with the title “Nepal in der Welt” by Axel Michaels focused on the history of Nepal as an example for multifaceted cultural and religious encounters. It covered the topics: Nepal between India and China, The Gorkha-Regiments, Nepal’s Migrant Workers in the Gulf Region, The Image of Nepal, Nepal’s Future and: Farewell Glances from the Roof of the World. The lecture was well attended by Professors, Guest researchers, students and members of the South Asia Institute and of the Cluster “Asia and Europe” and was followed by a reception at the Bel Etage.



Prof. Dr. Axel Michaels



Prof. Dr. Bernhard Eitel



Prof. Dr. Stefan Klonner



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CROSSASIA E-PUBLISHING AT THE 24TH ECSAS IN WARSAW

From July 27 to July 30, 2016, CrossAsia E-Publishing was present at the 24th European Conference on South Asian Studies in Warsaw to introduce the three publication platforms CrossAsia-Repository, CrossAsia Journals and CrossAsia-eBooks.

At the publisher space, interested scholars could get informed on the various offered possibilities for publishing books, series or journals. CrossAsia E-Publishing supports the Open Access publishing model for distributing research results and publishes therefore primary publications (“gold”) as well as secondary publications (“green”). It is a service of Heidelberg University Library and the South Asia Institute in co-operation with Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin and CrossAsia and is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

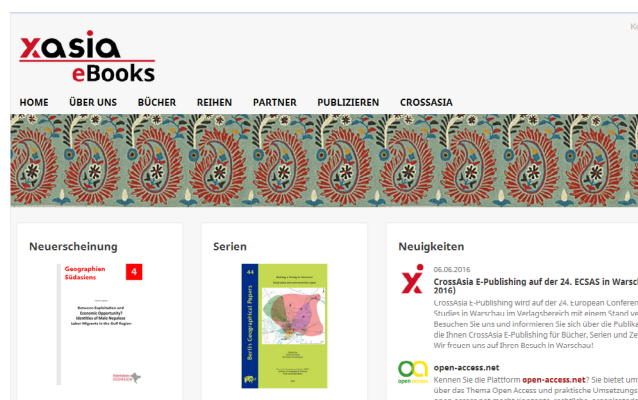
CROSSASIA-EBOOKS IS ONLINE

by Nicole Merkel-Hilf

The Open Access platform CrossAsia-eBooks has been launched. It offers a new publication on labour migration and the first volumes of the series Berlin Geographical Papers.

In light of the upcoming FIFA world championship in Qatar, increasing international attention has turned to the large role of foreign workers in the rapid growth of many Gulf cities, as well as the often problematic working and living conditions of these laborers. Considerably less attention, however, has been given to the ‘other ends’ of those migration processes, namely the contexts from which these people originate and return to.

In her thesis *Between Exploitation and Economic Opportunity?: Identities of Male Nepalese Labor Migrants in the Gulf Region* Hannah Uprety investigates how these mostly male migrants and their families navigate through transnational lifestyles and how their identities are transformed alongside them.



Also new on CrossAsia-eBooks are the first volumes of the series Berlin Geographical Papers, which publishes scientific results from ongoing research projects at the Centre for Development Studies, Freie Universität Berlin. The regional research focus is directed on Asia, and more specifically on South and Central Asia. The results are related to geographical development studies in a broader sense. The series aims to make research findings accessible to an interested public without delay and as open source.

The Open Access platform CrossAsia-eBooks offers researchers in Asian Studies a possibility to publish their research in time and free of charges.

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NEW DATABASES ON SOUTH ASIAN POLITICS AND HISTORY

by Nicole Merkel-Hilf

In the context of the FID the Library of the South Asia Institute and Heidelberg University Library have licensed the two databases Foreign Office Files for India, Pakistan and Afghanistan, 1947-1980 and India, Raj and Empire.

The **Foreign Offices Files** contains diplomatic correspondence, maps, statistical data, protocols etc. from the National Archives in London. The database allows a full-text search and offers several browsing options, documents can be read online or downloaded as PDF-files. It is divided into three sections:

- Section I: Independence, Partition and the Nehru Era, 1947-64
- Section II: South Asian Conflicts and Independence for Bangladesh, 1965-71
- Section III: Afghanistan and the Cold War, Emergency Rule in India, and the Resumption of Civilian Rule in Pakistan, 1972-80.

Archives Direct

Sources from The National Archives, UK

Introduction Documents Chronology Interactive World Map Essays Help

[Home](#) | [Documents](#) | [Essays](#) | [Chronology](#) | [Popular Searches](#) | [Maps](#)

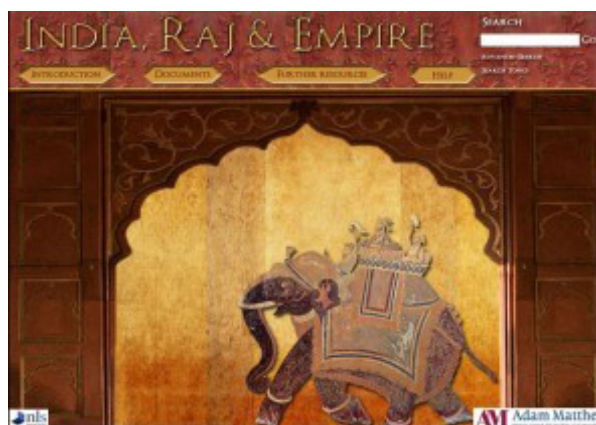
FO Files for India, Pakistan and Afghanistan



Foreign Offices Files

India, Raj and Empire contains diaries, letters, drawings, maps etc. from the East India Company and its employees. The original material comes from the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh. Since much of the material is handwritten, there is no full-text search available, but several browsing options are offered.

Members of Heidelberg University can access both databases via the homepage of Heidelberg University Library - Databases: <http://www.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/Englisch/Welcome.html>



Researchers within Germany belonging to an institution that participates at the "Blauer Leihverkehr" can access the databases after registration via CrossAsia.

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URDU SUMMER SCHOOL 1ST -19TH AUGUST 2016

by Christina Oesterheld

After a one-year break, the Urdu Summer School 2016 attracted 20 participants from Germany, Italy and Poland. As usual, courses took place on three levels: introductory, intermediate and advanced. Participants were free, however, to move between the different levels according to their individual qualification and interest. This was facilitated by the structure of the course which on the intermediate and advanced levels offered separate modules: conversation and composition, reading and translation, as well as systematic grammar. Thus we were able to cater to the individual requirements and interests of the participants some of whom were preparing for studies in Pakistan, other needed a language certificate or simply wanted to obtain language skills to be able to communicate with family members. We could teach three parallel courses only thanks to the dedicated efforts of our language instructors Amtul Manan Tahir and Bushra Iqbal Malik and our doctoral student Arian Hopf.

This time, again, very cordial group dynamics developed within and between the participants of the different levels. We all met every day for the coffee breaks where our student assistants provided us with the necessary stimulation and nourishment, together went for lunch in the canteen and enjoyed a course dinner preceded by collective cooking in the SAI cafeteria. Apart from the daily instruction we showed Indian and Pakistani films and met for a walk to the Iqbal sites in Heidelberg (Iqbal-Ufer and the former Pension Scherer at the banks of the Neckar). The summer school ended on a very enjoyable note with recitations, a slide show and a quiz presented by the participants on the last day of the course. As a proof look at the smiling faces in the photograph taken at the end of the course!



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MASTER THESIS AWARD FOR DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS STUDENT HEIDRUN WEINELT

As a student of the Master of Economics programme (M.Sc.) at the University of Heidelberg between 2012 and 2015, Heidrun Weinelt was particularly interested in development economics and statistical methods. She wrote her master thesis with Prof. Dr. Stefan Klöner, head of the Department of Development Economics, and graduated with distinction in autumn 2015.

In her master thesis Heidrun Weinelt analyses the effects of droughts on child labour in agricultural households. Child labour is a common phenomenon around the global South, not only in South Asian countries. Previous research had suggested that income shortfalls caused by adverse weather conditions may increase child labour and harm school attendance because households seek additional income to make up for harvest losses. In contrast, in a statistical analysis of a household-level data set from rural Uganda collected by the World Bank, Heidrun Weinelt finds effects of droughts on neither children's overall labour hours nor their school attendance. Instead, she shows that the structure of child labour changes with children working fewer hours in agriculture and instead spending more time on household chores, particularly fetching water. These findings are an important contribution to the understanding of the determinants of child labour in low-income countries and can be taken as an additional piece of evidence for the success of Uganda's 1997 Universal Primary Education Act, a policy initiative that has previously been widely acclaimed for its success by researchers as well as the international community.

For this outstanding thesis Heidrun Weinelt has won the Euro 2.500 Graduate Award of the SEW Eurodrive Foundation. SEW is a family-owned company in the area of machine construction with headquarters in Bruchsal, near Karlsruhe. The Graduate Award was endowed in 1989 and is awarded annually to up to five graduates from master programmes at Austrian, German and Swiss universities in the areas of electrical and mechanical engineering, and economics. The 2016 prizes were awarded on June 2 at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT). The SAI congratulates Heidrun Weinelt for this great accomplishment.



Heidrun Weinelt (on the second from right)

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HINDI IN PRAGUE, VIENNA AND HEIDELBERG

by Hans Harder

Hindi in Prague, Vienna and Heidelberg was the title of an event organized by the Department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures on the occasion of the अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हिंदी दिवस, the International Hindi Day, in the Heinrich-Zimmer-Reading Room of the SAI library on January 20, 2016. Prague, Vienna and Heidelberg: an illustrious combination of names, since these are in this order the oldest universities of central Europe. And, in fact, all of them offer Hindi teaching programmes to their students. So the idea was to bring the Hindi teachers of these three institutions together and let them report about the Hindi scene in their respective environments. Alka Chudal from Vienna, Nora Melnikova from Prague and Gautam Liu from Heidelberg did so in passionate ways, describing their enthusiasm for the task of teaching Hindi to mainly European students, but not glossing over some of the difficulties involved in it.

The second part of the programme was a poetry reading. Agyeya, Vishnu Khare, Raghuvir Sahay and Dilip Chitre – the latter read in Hindi translation – were some of the well-known poets' names, their commonality being that all of them



Farhana Islam (Devdas), Rebecca Hadank-Rauch (Haider), Samantha Kanna (Devdas) and Adela Khopade (poem recitation)

had had, in one way or the other, a biographical entanglement with Heidelberg. This was followed by a greatly entertaining quiz by students of the institute, who staged various scenes from popular Hindi cinema and had the audience do the guessing afterwards. The classical Shole and the recent remake of Devdas featured as well as Haidar, Vishal Bhardvaj's Kashmir version of Macbeth.

The event was made possible through generous funding from the Indian Consulate General in Munich. It was inaugurated by the former Consul General of the Indian Consulate at Munich, His Excellency Sevala Naik and moderated by Hans Harder. Consul Setia, a Hindi native speaker, volunteered in the second part and recited a poem himself. The show was run exclusively in Hindi language. It was well-attended and concluded by a catered dinner.



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SUMMER SCHOOLS 2016 IN SPOKEN SANSKRIT AND NEPALI INTENSIVE COURSE

This year the 17th Summer School in Spoken Sanskrit and the 13th Nepali Intensive Course took place in Heidelberg. The courses were held from 1st to 26th August 2016 with 35 participants from countries like Serbia, Italy, Japan, Sri Lanka, Russia and many more. The closing ceremony at the end of the courses included a very diverse agenda where the students received a certificate and performed a play, different songs, Vedic recitation and impressions of their own experiences. The Sanskrit course was taught as usual by Dr. Sadananda Das, who teaches Sanskrit as a vivid language and focuses on daily life issues. Also Laxmi Nath Shrestha remains as the Nepali teacher and continued his varied teaching methods with for example rehearsing songs and realistic dialogues. Next to the daily courses the participants were offered a cultural program with a guided tour in Heidelberg. They stayed at students' apartments at the campus, only a five minutes' walk away from the South Asia Institute.

Both courses are organized by the Department for Cultural and Religious History at the South Asian Institute under guidance of Prof. Dr. Axel Michaels and take place every summer. They are a great success with new interested parties every year.



Sadananda Das



Laxmi Nath Shrestha

Dr. Sadananda Das received a PhD from the Centre of Advanced Study in Sanskrit, University of Pune. From 1993 to 2005 he worked as a research fellow in India. He has taught summer schools in spoken Sanskrit in several universities in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Spain and Australia. Since 2005 he has been working as a lecturer in Sanskrit at the University of Leipzig.

Laxmi Nath Shrestha is an experienced teacher who has taught Nepali to generations of students and researchers. He is well known within the scholarly circle of Nepal experts for his exceptional pedagogical skills. He comes from Kathmandu, where he has taught Nepali for four decades.



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- ▶ Launch of New Database on Historical Documents from Nepal
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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RESEARCH GROUP ON DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS

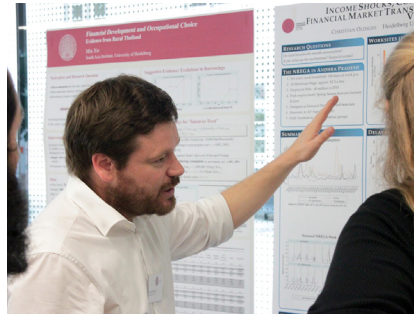
June 3 & 4, 2016

For the first time, the Annual International Conference of the Research Group on Development Economics within the German Economic Association (Verein für Socialpolitik) focussing on the topic „Development Economics and Policy“ took at Heidelberg University, on June 3 and 4, 2016.

The conference was jointly organized by Prof. Dr. Axel Dreher (Alfred-Weber-Institute for Economics) and Prof. Dr. Stefan Klöner (Head of the Department Development Economics of the South Asia Institute). The conference venues were the Alte Aula and Neue Universität on the University Square in Heidelberg's old town.



Prof. Dr. Stefan Klöner



Christian Oldiges

The conference brought together almost 200 international scholars and researchers of development economics and neighboring fields. Keynote speeches were delivered by Philip Keefer (Interamerican Development Bank) and Jean-Philippe Plateau (University of Namur). More than 100 contributed papers and posters in parallel sessions, many dealing with South Asian regional contexts, reflected the full range of the current state of research in development economics.



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WORKSHOP ON ‘LITERARY SENTIMENTS: TELLING GENDERED LIVES IN THE VERNACULAR’

by Hans Harder

The first ‘Literary Sentiments’ workshop, held at the South Asia Heidelberg (July 14-15, 2016), was a successful commencement of a long-term cooperation between a cluster of scholars from the United States of America, Canada, Germany and India. Hosted by the Department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures, it is part of a cooperation between York University, Toronto (Shobna Nijhawan) Delhi University (Charu Gupta), and Heidelberg University (Hans Harder). The workshop brought together historians and literary scholars with a focus on South Asian vernaculars. The theme was South Asian literature of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with a particular focus on questions of gender and vernacularity.

Clusters of papers were seen to hinge together around vernacular periodicals (Sharmita Ray, Sukla Chatterjee, Shobna Nijhawan, Hans Harder), vernacular writer-activists (Charu Gupta, Heiko Frese), and vernacular genres (Laura Brueck, Preetha Mani). The papers covered different genres (novel, life narrative, short story, advertisement, essay), languages of primary source materials (Bengali, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu), as well as colonial and postcolonial time periods. The contributors chose diverse regional, linguistic and temporal frames, while cohering around the central theme of the workshop. They foregrounded print as their critical tool, exploring imaginative possibilities within structure and language of print, including the literary and the visual.

Among the red threads that emerged in the discussions and will be further developed in the future course of the endeavour, the most important was vernacularity, i.e. the question how to get at the particular choices and constraints of engagements in regional South Asian languages. Other central threads concerned gender and the common quest for the complex interlinkages between English and vernacular gender discourses, glossed repeatedly as intersectionality, as well as the category of voice in theorising these discourses.



The follow-up workshop, to be held in Summer 2017 in Toronto or Chicago, shall proceed with these refined keywords and feature a set of expanded or new but related papers, in view of a joint publication.

The organisers wish to thank the South Asia Institute, the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, York University (Canada), the Ontario-Baden Wuerttemberg Faculty Exchange Program, as well as the Indian Consulate General, Munich, for their generous support.

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WORKSHOP: „AFTER EUROCENTRISM, BEYOND DECENTRING: THEMES AND METHODOLOGIES FOR AN INTERDISCIPLINARY HISTORY OF IDEAS“

by Hans Harder

This workshop, jointly organized by Benjamin Zachariah (University of Trier) and Hans Harder (SAI), set out to discuss the movement of ideas, and the difficulties, archival, methodological and disciplinary, of tracking them as they move. The event brought together a number of academics from different area studies specialisations and several disciplines: South Asian Studies and East Asian Studies, historians, historians and philosophers of science, literary scholars, political scientists and sociologists. All of them have in common that they have for some years been engaged in tracking ideas as they move across linguistic, state, national or ‘cultural’ boundaries in their work: Anup Grewal, University of Toronto; Javed Majeed, King’s College, London; Joachim Kurtz and Pablo Blitstein, both Heidelberg University; Sudipta Kaviraj, Columbia University, New York (who presented his paper over Skype); Kavita Philip, University of California, Irvine; Dhruv Raina, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Benjamin Zachariah, University of Trier; and Hans Harder, Heidelberg University.

We started from the premise that a critique of ‘Eurocentrism’ has by now lost its bite, and a contrary danger of indigenism has to be confronted. A process of recovery of methodological discussions must take place that is no longer content with critique and rejection, but attempts to provide constructive suggestions as to how to write about moving ideas, their adoption, adaptation to different contexts, or appropriation to new purposes. The speakers addressed the theme differently: biographically (Raina, Zachariah, Majeed, Kurtz), linguistically (Majeed, Grewal, Harder), institutionally (Philip, Blitstein), virtually (Philip), geographically (Blitstein, Kaviraj); with various overlaps and crossovers enabling discussions.



Hans Harder



Benjamin Zachariah

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LAUNCH OF A NEW DATABASE ON HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS FROM NEPAL

by Astrid Zotter

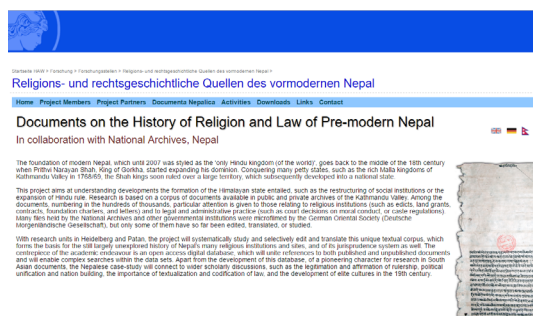
In its third year of work the research unit “Documents on the History of Religion and Law of Pre-modern Nepal” of the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities has launched its website and database for external users.

The database named “Documenta Nepalica” consists of two interrelated parts, the “catalogue” and the “editions.” The former aims at bringing together information about published and unpublished historical documents from Nepal, while the latter is the platform for digital (XML) editions of documents selected from the catalogue by the members of the project.

It is primarily documents which were microfilmed under the Nepal German Manuscript Preservation Project (NGMPP) but have so far not been processed further that are being catalogued – historical documents having explicitly been excluded from cataloguing activities of the NCMPP and its successor, the Nepalese German Manuscript Cataloguing Project. In future, the database will also refer to documents held by other institutions or privately.

When it was launched in May 2016 the catalogue comprised about 19,000 entries. The number is growing continuously. The aim is to catalogue all documents (more than 100,000) microfilmed by the NGMPP within the duration of the project, that is, prospectively, by the end of 2028.

Documents selected on the basis of individual research interests have been transcribed, edited, and translated by the project members. They are available as XML-files, encoded by applying standards of the Text Encoding Initiative.



The website is accessible via: <http://www.haw.uni-heidelberg.de/forschung/forschungsstellen/nepal/index.de.html>

Selecting the tab “Documenta Nepalica” will refer the visitor to the database proper. As this is an open access project no log-in is required.

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NEW HYPERIMAGE PROJECT ON PILGRIMAGE SCROLL

“A Pilgrimage Scroll (tīrthapaṭṭa) from Rajasthan: Visual Journeys and Confluences of Devotion at the three Cities of Gayā, Kāśī and Prayāg” is the topic of a new research project launched in early 2016 at the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context” as a sub project of MC9.2 “Changing Sacred Waterscapes”. It aims to create a fully annotated digital representation of a pilgrimage scroll from Rajasthan in India.

The investigated scroll is a unique representation of sacred spaces in form, style and content and dates to the beginning of the 18th century. Painted on cloth, this tīrthapaṭṭa from Mewar (Rajasthan) has a size of 178 x 70 cm and depicts the three pilgrimage places Gayā, Kāśī (Vārāṇasī) and Prayāg (Allahabad).

After receiving high quality reproductions and rights of publication by the National Museum in New Delhi, more than 550 objects on the scroll could be identified. These, and a complete reading of all legible legends, will be presented interactively with the help of the HyperImage platform. The platform enhances the digital presentation of long horizontal, pictorial and textual formats and renders them available to a large audience.

Grounded on this technology, a first analysis of the object will be presented. The map depicts confluences of the rivers Gaṅgā and Yamunā as well as Asi and Varāṇā. The complex waterscapes of the three cities are represented by numerous wells and ponds. Mythological scenes like the depiction of the family of Śiva and Viṣṇu in the center frame the visual journey through the cities. Whereas this pilgrimage scroll hints at the interconnectedness of pilgrimage sites by not exclusively representing Kāśī, the Mirror of Kāśī has to be seen as a different category that has been produced in Banaras, using lithography as a new printing technology introduced during the 19th century.

The project is coordinated by Jörg Gengnagel (Department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures) and Eric Decker the coordinator of the Heidelberg Research Architecture (HRA). Further members of the project group are Vera Lazzaretti, a DAAD post-doctoral fellow from Università degli Studi di Milano and Matthias Arnold and Violetta Janzen of the Heidelberg Research Architecture.



Pilgrimage Scroll - Tīrthapaṭṭa.
New Delhi: National Museum, Mewar, Rajasthan

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5TH SRI LANKA ROUNDTABLE ON CONTEMPORARY SRI LANKA

by Darshi Thoradeniya

From 26 to 27 May, 2016 the 5th Sri Lanka Roundtable on Contemporary Sri Lanka organized by the School of Social and Political Science took place at University of Edinburg, UK. The Colombo Branch Office Manager of the SAI Heidelberg – Dr. Darshi Thoradeniya presented a paper titled ‘Women Citizens in Welfare State of Sri Lanka’ on the 26th May 2016. Her visit which was sponsored by SAI Heidelberg, did not limit to her presentation but also to publicize the branch office and to network with new and upcoming academics in the aim of future collaboration.

The Sri Lanka Roundtable has become a biannual event started in Utrecht University in 2009. Following the style of previous events, the School of Social and Political Science at University of Edinburg brought together academics from PhD students to senior professors working on various topics on Sri Lanka. Thirteen papers were presented on the 26th May on youth and war, gender, challenges for the post-war state, and transitional justice and constitutional reform: State of play and future prospects. On the second day (27th May 2016), 14 papers were presented about work and livelihoods, religion and transition, work and politics, past and present and borders and margins. The final session was titled ‘writing war and after’ where two writers/novelists (ie. Sunila Galappatti and Sugi Ganeshanatha) shared their experiences about writing novels on the subject of war.

Urban planning, beautification of cities, disaster reduction strategies, Diaspora community, post war women/labour mobility and development related relocation are some of the themes discussed in and outside of the conference hall.



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PRE SAARC SUMMIT DIALOGUE 2016

by Darshi Thoradeniya

Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS) Colombo organized a Pre SAARC Summit Dialogue on the 3rd of August 2016 in view of the upcoming 19th SAARC Summit. The aim of the dialogue was to discuss the most pressing topics/issues relevant to the region and reinvigorate regional cooperation. Representatives from High Commissions/Embassies of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, and Pakistan attended the event. In addition to them members from the Australian, Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese, South Korean, Swiss, and US Embassy also attended the event.

Dr. Sarath Amunugama, Minister for Special Assignments of Sri Lanka graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and high commissioners, ambassadors, diplomats of SAARC countries and intellectuals attended this event. Dr. Maneesha Wanasinghe – Pasqual, the Head of International Relations Department presented a paper on Terrorism, security and politics in South Asia and Prof. Imtiaz Ahmed, Director of RCSS presented a paper on Reenergizing SAARC while Mr. Nihal Rodrigo the former Secretary General of SAARC shared his ideas as the key discussant.

Dr. Amunugama spoke about the inception of SAARC and current difficulties faced by small states within a regional organization. Addressing the difficulties in economic cooperation in the region, he emphasized the success of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) which was originally es-

established to promote the economy of the region. ASEAN has expanded its horizon and SAARC has a lot to learn from it.

In light of the indefinite postponement of the SAARC Summit, I hope students interested in issues of South Asia would see the relevance of exploring the above mentioned proposals (discussed at the Pre SAARC summit dialogue in Colombo) for regional cooperation. Further, taking the European scenario into consideration (in light of Brexit), interesting comparisons could be explored by SAI Heidelberg students about the trajectory of regional cooperation in the world.

Further information: <http://www.sai.uni-heidelberg.de/colombo>



Prof. Imtiaz Ahmed (Director of RCSS) presenting a small gift of appreciation to Dr. Sarath Amunugama (Minister for Special Assignments, Sri Lanka). Dr. Maneesha Wanasinghe-Pasqual (Head/IR Dept. University of Colombo) and Mr. Nihal Rodrigo (former Secretary General of SAARC) are in the background.

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24TH WORLD CONGRESS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

by Himanshu Jha

International Political Science Association organized 24th World Congress of Political Science during 23-18 July 2016 in Poznan, Poland. The theme for this year's conference was 'Politics in World of Inequality'. Department of Political Science, SAI had a strong presence in this conference. Professor. Rahul Mukherji chaired a panel on 'Varieties of Local Governance in the States of India'. This panel discussed the local politics and state-society relationships in India particularly in the process of redistributing state resources to citizens.

In the same panel, Himanshu Jha (PhD) presented a paper on 'Untangling the Global-Local Linkages: Case of Right to information Act in India'. Dr. Seyed Hossein Zarhani presented a paper entitled – 'A Tale of Two States: Governance, Elite Agency and Development in Andhra Pradesh and Bihar' in a panel on 'Inclusive Development and Governance in a Post-Crisis Era'.



Mr. Radu Carciumaru was elected on the board of the Research Committee on Politics and Ethnicity during this conference. Additionally, Mr. Carciumaru convened two panels on 'Power Sharing: Managing Diversity and Negotiating Ethnic Conflict' and 'The Dynamics of Conflict and its Resolution: Subnational Movements in South Asia and Beyond'.

NEPAL WORKSHOP

by Astrid Zotter

In order to discuss their recent research on Nepal and to plan future collaboration scholars from German speaking countries convened from 6th to the 7th of May 2016 for a "Nepal workshop - Aktuelle kulturwissenschaftliche Projekte und Positionen" at the University of Vienna. The event was organized by Martin Gaenzle, Johanna Buß and Verena Widorn from the Department of South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies. Over two days, the participants presented papers and identified common research axes. Speakers included: Manik Bajracharya, Christiane Brosius, Johanna Buß, Alaka Chudal, Simon Cubelic, Martin Gaenzle, Aurora Graldi, Rajan Khatiwoda, Stefan Lüder, Axel Michaels, Uwe Niebuhr, Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka, Jan Seifert, Alban von Stockhausen, Marion Wettstein, Verena Widorn, Astrid Zotter, and Christof Zotter. The possibilities to network individual research and researchers as well as the challenges and chances involved in digital archiving were the major topics of the final discussion. It is planned to organize such meetings on a more regular basis. The next event will take place at Heidelberg.



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FOUR WORKSHOPS ON SMART CITIES IN INDIA

by Radu Carciumaru

Under the umbrella of the German House for Research and Innovation (DWIH) in New Delhi, Heidelberg Centre South Asia organized, coordinated and conducted four Indo-German workshops in India entitled “Smart City: Infrastructure & Mobility in the 21st century”. The workshops focused on social mobility (‘inclusive cities’), migration, transportation, urban planning and design, waste management and sustainable energy.

The workshops were supported by Friedrich Naumann Foundation South Asia and were part of a series of pre-events leading to the DWIH (German House for Research and Innovation) annual conference CityScapes (September 29th and October 1st, 2016, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi).

The workshops took place in Kolkata (August 9), Cochin (August 11), Pune (August 19) and Bangalore (September 16). Amongst co-partnering institutions from DWIH and collaborating institutions from India were:



BayIND, Centre for Policy Research, Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), EU Science, Technology and Innovation, Fraunhofer India, GIZ, Indian Institute of Science, IIM Kolkata, IISER Pune, Observer Research Foundation, School

of Planning and Architecture (Delhi), University of Cologne, University of Göttingen and the Institute of Urban Designer of India. Representatives of government agencies, consulates, industry and NGOs, in addition to scholars and researchers attended and meaningfully contributed to the workshops.

The purpose of the workshops was to add to the visibility of the German scientific landscape, to deepen the collaboration between German and Indian scientific communities and to initiate a dialogue on Smart Cities between scholars, industry representatives and policy makers. A comprehensive report of the workshops will be circulated to all relevant institutions in both India and Germany.

Heidelberg Centre South Asia functions as a branch office of the South Asia Institute (SAI), the Cluster „Asia and Europe“ and Heidelberg University in its entirety in New Delhi, India. It is also part of the “Deutsches Wissenschafts- und InnovationsHaus” (DWIH, the German House for Research and Innovation), which is funding the events as a joint endeavor of the Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research to intensify international cooperation.



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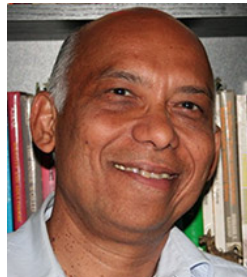
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TALKS ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

by Himanshu Jha

The department of Political Science organized several talks during June 2016.

On 22 June 2016, Professor Emeritus Subrata K. Mitra (Professor Emeritus at Heidelberg University and Visiting Professor and Director at Institute for South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore) delivered a talk on ‘Frozen conflicts: ‘low-level-equilibrium traps’ principled negotiations and India-Pakistan dialogue’. In his talk Professor. Mitra addressed some ‘hard’ structural issues regarding the tumultuous India-Pakistan relations. The talk offered a nuanced recommendation of ‘principled negotiations’ which will lead to win- win scenario for both the nations. Professor Mitra has delivered a talk in Heidelberg after he joined the National University of Singapore as a visiting professor.



On 29 June 2016, Professor Bharat Desai (Centre for International Legal Studies of the School of International Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, India) delivered a talk on ‘Current Challenged on International Environmental Governance (IEG)’. In this talk Professor. Desai unraveled the issues relating to IEG focusing specifically on UNEPO, UN trusteeship Council and multi-lateral agreements on environment.



On 27 June 2016, Professor Anwar Alam (Dep. of International Relations, Zirve University, Gaziantep/Turkey) examined Changing Muslim Politics in Contemporary India in a talk delivered at SAI. This talk critically reviewed the dominant paradigm about conditions and exclusion of Muslims in India. Professor. Alam argued that sections of Muslim communities have been beneficiary of domestic and global opportunity structures and this has led to the formation of muslim middle class across India. This in turn has changed the political paradigm and has resulted in the ‘mushrooming’ of Islamic parties across the country.

On 29 July 2016, Professor Arun K. Patnaik (Department of Political Science, University of Hyderabad, India) delivered a talk on ‘Ambedkar’s theory of Democracy’. Professor Patnaik argued that Ambedkar’s political thought can be in the tradition of what Hannah Arendt calls the intellectual tradition of *vita activa* rather than *vita contemplativa*. He further classified Ambedkar’s democratic thought at three levels-first, distinction between social democracy and political democracy; second, distinction of democracy as a policy of appeasement from a policy of settlement of grievances; and third, democracy as a mechanism (means) must be separated from democracy as value (ends).

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► Talk by Nadine Plachta on 14th Conference of the International Association for Tibetan Studies

► Farewell to Mala Al-Farooq

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WELCOME TO PROFESSOR RAHUL MUKHERJI AND THE NEW STAFF AT THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

The South Asia Institute cordially welcomed Prof. Rahul Mukherji, Ph.D. (Columbia) as new Head and Professor at the Department of Political Science. He succeeds Prof. Subrata K. Mitra, who headed the department from 1994 to 2014. He will give lectures starting from winter semester 2016.

Professor Mukherji met the masters students on 18th July to introduce them to the teaching programme, the colloquium in the forthcoming semester, the department's current strategy, and future developments.

Rahul Mukherji has been an Associate Professor in the South Asian Studies Programme located within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, since 2008. He is also Honorary Senior Fellow of the Institute of South Asian Studies and has served as Head of Research of the institute in recent times. In 1999, he obtained his Ph.D. at the Department of Political Science at Columbia University, New York. His dissertation focused on "A Path to Trade and Investment Liberalization". Prior to his Ph.D. he graduated at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi.

His research interests focus on Political Economy of Welfare in India, India's globalization and Politics of India's industrial regulation.

Himanshu Jha (Ph.D.) joined the department on 15th July 2016 as Lecturer and Research Fellow. Jha holds a PhD from National University of Singapore and plans to expand his existing research on institutions, institutional change, the Indian State and bureaucracy. He will be offering a BA seminar course on Politics in India in the forthcoming semester.

Mr. Meah Mostafiz from Bangladesh has joined the PhD programme as research assistant and is currently engaged in research project on Global Governance. Prior to his doctoral engagement at Heidelberg University, he was pursuing PhD in Vienna.

Professor Bharat Desai, Centre for International Legal Studies of the School of International Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, India finished his two months stay during June-July 2016 in the Department as Humboldt fellow.

Professor P. Sahadevan completed his term as DAAD Guest Professor at the Department of Political Science during the summer term of 2016. During his stay in the Department he offered one foundation course on Introduction to Peace and Conflict Resolution and two seminars on Promoting Peace and Reconciliation in Sri Lanka: Challenges and Prospects and Why South Asia Matters in International Politics.



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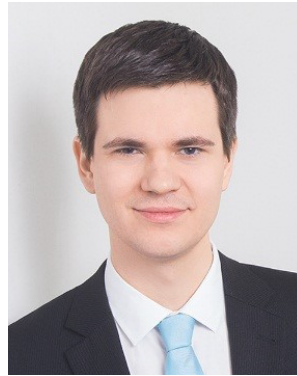
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WELCOME TO DANIEL KIOWSKI

Since August 2016, Daniel Kiowski is in charge of establishing the “CATS Schülerlabor,” a student lab for German high school students. The lab, which is a project of the Center for Asian and Transcultural Studies (CATS), will provide half to full-day workshops offering an Asian perspective to curricular topics.



It aims at getting students interested in the broad field of Asian studies, highlight the importance of Asian countries in a globalized world and strengthen the ties between secondary and university education. As such, Mr. Kiowski's functions are to get in touch with teachers and schools within the region in order to advertise the project. Internally, he will promote the lab within the institutes of CATS and find members of staff willing to give classes and hold workshops. Together, they will create teaching units

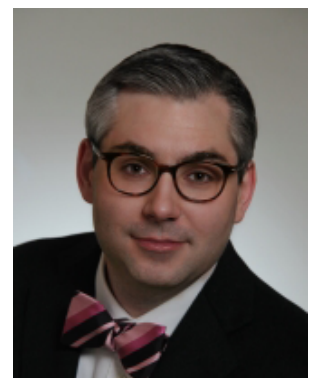
with a special focus on Asia and Asian countries that fit the school curricula. If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to contact him: kiowski@uni-heidelberg.de

His personal research interests focus on Chinese art history, museum studies and material culture. Daniel Kiowski studied East Asian art history, Chinese studies and European art history at Freie Universität Berlin, Nanjing University and Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg.

Website: <http://www.cats.uni-heidelberg.de/schuelerlabor/>

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP FOR DR. LION KÖNIG

Dr. Lion König has been awarded a research fellowship by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Council, DFG) to undertake postdoctoral research at Oxford University. He will be based at the Asian Studies Centre at St. Antony's College, Oxford for a period of two years to work on nation-building in South Asia. At Oxford, he will be mentored by Dr. Faisal Devji, Director of the Asian Studies Programme.



The postdoctoral work takes Lion König beyond his doctoral work where he explored the concept of cultural citizenship in India and the role which different mass and non-mass media play in the construction and negotiation of the citizen of the Indian Republic. His new project looks at larger fundamentals of nation-building from a theoretical, an institutional, and an iconographic perspective, using India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka as case studies. The dissimilar developments in the three countries will provide rich comparative insight into strategies of nation-building, while the theoretical-methodological breadth of the work, which draws on political science as well as cultural studies, contributes to the furthering of interdisciplinary approaches in the social sciences.

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WELCOME TO PAULA VON HAAREN

We cordially welcome Paula von Haaren as research assistant at the department Development Economics at the South Asia Institute. She studied Economics at the University of Heidelberg and Development Economics at Göttingen University. During her studies, she worked as a student assistant for both universities and the Courant research center for Poverty, Inequality and Growth. Moreover, she completed internships at the UN research center for justice and crime and the KfW Development bank. Ms. von Haaren gained first experiences in South Asia while conducting research for her master thesis in Bihar, India. Her primary research interests lie in female empowerment, social capital, poverty, inequality and conflict and security issues.



TALK BY NADINE PLACHTA ON 14TH CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR TIBETAN STUDIES

The Fourteenth Seminar of the International Association for Tibetan Studies was held in the old Hanseatic city of Bergen, Norway, between 19th and 25th June 2016. It was hosted by the University of Bergen in cooperation with the Network for University Cooperation Tibet-Norway, an academic network with the universities of Oslo, Bergen, and Tromsø as partners.

The opening of the conference was marked by keynote lectures of Sarah Jacoby (Northwestern University) and Lama Jabb (University of Oxford). Within seven days, over four hundred scholars, researchers, and young scientists presented papers in 53 panels and 28 sessions. The talks were as diverse as the entire Tibetan cultural area, its history, political, religious, and literary traditions, and dissemination in the diaspora. They stimulated dialogue between scholars, and researchers from diverse disciplines engaged in sharing their findings and exchange ideas.



The talk of Nadine Plachta, resident representative of the South Asia Institute's Kathmandu Office, examined how the Tsumpa, a community in Nepal's northern borderlands, perceive, narrate, and interact with their environment. It focused on the translation and study of four local decrees, called shagya (tib. sha rgya), that have been regulating human-animal relationships since 1921. Overall, the Fourteenth Conference of the International Association for Tibetan Studies provided an excellent opportunity to establish sustainable research networks, produce joint publications, and conduct collective fieldwork.

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FAREWELL TO MALA AL-FAROOQ

by Hans Harder

At the end of the summer term 2016, after 21 years of teaching, Mala Al-Farooq has retired from her post of lecturer of Bengali at the South Asia Institute's Department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures. Mala Al-Farooq was born in Kolkata and did her MA at Calcutta University before coming to Germany for an additional degree in German teaching for foreigners. She joined the South Asia Institute in 1995 when she took up the position of a Bengali lecturer which had then been newly created on Monika Boehm-Tettelbach's initiative.

Teaching Bengali, for Mala Al-Farooq, has always been more than training students in the intricacies of Bengali grammar and pronunciation. She has a close and intimate relationship with Bengali literature, art and cinema and embodies the refined taste and broad outlook that are often associated with cultured Bengaliness. Close to the literary, artistic and intellectual life in both West Bengal and Bangladesh, she has very well represented these to her students and among the colleagues within and outside the Department, all of whom greatly appreciate her gentle nature and unflinching collegiality.



Mala Al-Farooq

An avid reader of Bengali, but also German, Spanish and other literatures, as well as a cineaste and, last but not at all least, a passionate traveler, Mala Al-Farooq is well equipped for her retirement from teaching duties. We, the Department and the South Asia Institute as a whole, wish her all the best for the time to come.

WELCOME TO HIMANSHU JHA



Himanshu Jha

The South Asia Institute cordially welcomes Himanshu Jha Ph.D. (National University Singapore) as Lecturer and Research Fellow at the Department of Political Science. Jha holds a PhD in Political Science (South Asian Studies) from National University of Singapore. He received a M. Phil in Public Policy from Australian National University, a Master in Political Science from Jawaharlal Nehru University and a Bachelor with Honors in History from University of Delhi.

Jha's most recent research is to explore the processes of institutional change by looking in-depth at the evolution of Right to Information Act in India. He wishes to strengthen and expand his research in the fields of institutions, institutional change, the Indian State and bureaucracy. Prior to his doctoral engagement he was working in developmental sector in India.

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„CINEMA TRAVELLERS“ BY SHIRLEY ABRAHAM AND AMIT MADHESHIYA PREMIERES AT CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

The documentary „Cinema Travellers“ by Shirley Abraham and Amit Madheshiya premiered at the 69th annual Cannes Film Festival in the „Cannes Classics“ section.

The 96-minute film is a portrait of Indian traveling cinemas in Maharashtra, a tradition that still carries the magic of images into remote areas and is now, due to technological advances, facing numerous changes.

Shirley Abraham and Amit Madheshiya have been working for eight years on the documentary. Madheshiyas award winning photos from visitors of Indian travelling cinemas were exhibited at the 50th anniversary of the SAI in 2013. Some images are still displayed at the terrace next to the cafeteria.

Amit Madheshiya is a photographer and filmmaker. His photographs won the World Press Photo Award and were shown in exhibitions worldwide. He is a fellow of the Cluster of Excellence „Asia Europe in a Global Context“, Heidelberg University, Sundance Institute, Goethe-Institut and India Foundation for the Arts and Arts Council of England.



Shirley Abraham is a filmmaker and has directed documentaries for the Guardian, Al Jazeera English and Doordarshan India. She has been a fellow of the Cluster of Excellence „Asia Europe in a Global Context“, Heidelberg University, Sundance Institute, Goethe-Institut and TasveerGhar.

The 69th Cannes Film Festival took place between 11 and 22 May 2016 in Cannes, Palais des Festivals et des Congrès. In this year the section „Cannes Classic“ also presented eight other documentaries about cinema.



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TALK BY DR. DIVYA NARAYANAN

On Monday, May 2, 2016 Dr. Divya Narayanan (Department of History, South Asia Institute) gave a talk on “Water resource management in a semi-arid city: the case of early modern Delhi”. The talk took place as part of the lecture series entitled „Heidelberger Brücke“ at the Heidelberg Center for the Environment (HCE).



This talk investigated the manner in which water management techniques play a significant role in famine and drought prevention. Technological responses to ecological circumstances were analysed with special reference to a semi arid region – the historical city of Delhi, India. In its over thousand-year history, Delhi has witnessed an evolution of water management systems that have more or less successfully responded to disturbances in the monsoon cycle and the shifting the river Yamuna. Despite occasional problems, Delhi’s hydrological systems allowed water to be effectively distributed for irrigation, defence, consumption, personal use as well as for pleasure and recreation. Much of this water management network was dismantled in the nineteenth century when the British took over the city, and this trend continued into the post-colonial era in the mid to later twentieth century. Many have argued that a recovery of Delhi’s traditional water management systems would help in solving the chronic water shortages and pollution that Delhi now faces. This talk examined recent work on these themes along with archaeological and archival evidence with respect to famine and drought prevention, and sought an answer to the much talked about question: what is traditional knowledge good for in tackling modern ecological problems?

WELCOME TO BHARAT DESAI AS GUEST PROFESSOR

The Department of Political Science at the South Asia Institute cordially welcomed Professor Dr. Bharat H. Desai as Guest Professor during the summer semester. He pursued his research work during his stay of two months funded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation until end of July.

Bharat Desai is Professor of International Law at the Centre for International Legal Studies of the School of International Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University. He received his Ph.D. in International Environmental Law from Jawaharlal Nehru University and his LL.M. in International Law from Gujarat University.

His main areas of his current research work include International Law; International Environmental Law; International Humanitarian Law; International Criminal Law as well as International Dispute Settlement.



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PRATIBHA KHANAL (26 JANUARY 1983 – 27 MARCH 2016) - A MEMORY AND APPRECIATION

by Axel Michaels

Pratibha Khanal passed away unexpectedly after suffering from a long and serious disease in Königsfeld (Schwarzwald) on Easter Sunday. Pratibha came to the South Asia Institute after her high school graduation in Königsfeld, where she studied Political Science and History of South Asia. She was working as a student assistant at different departments of the South Asia Institute, the SAI-library and the „SFB Ritual Dynamics“. She received her Master of Arts in Political Science of South Asia focusing on the topic „Caught between Democracy and Authoritarianism: Implications of the Constitutional Monarchy on the Democratization Process in Nepal“. From 2008 to 2014, she served as the resident representative of the SAI-branch office in Kathmandu. She then devoted her best efforts to the relief organization World Vision Switzerland until her death.



In spring 2014, Pratibha and Sujeet Tamang celebrated their marriage in Kathmandu. Shortly thereafter, her disease was diagnosed. Notwithstanding, she still devoted all her strength to the new mission, especially after the devastating earthquake in Nepal in April and May 2015. Though she ultimately lost the fight against the malignant disease, she never lost her faith.

Pratibha and her sister were adopted and came to Germany at a young age. Despite these circumstances, they did not lose contact to their biological parents and siblings. At her wedding, it was a moving and touching sight to look on both fathers accompanying her to the altar. Pratibha always gained tremendous strength by her faithful dedication to Christianity during difficult times.

Thus, Pratibha lived in two worlds, cultures and religions. She appreciated Nepal as her home as much as Germany. An indication of this is her application letter for the branch office of the SAI in which she rated her language skills as follows: German (Native), English (Good knowledge), Nepali (Good knowledge). Actually, she had a profound and perfect knowledge of Nepali language. I remember when she attended my Nepali lessons to improve her language skills. In the end, I learned more from her than she did from me.

Everyone lucky enough to meet Pratibha was impressed by her friendly, cheerful, polite, optimistic and helpful character. During an excursion in spring 2013, the Heidelberg and Swiss researchers were delighted by her person. Professor Subrata Mitra, supervisor of her thesis, shares this impression: „I will always remember Pratibha for her ready-smile which seemed to come from deep inside. She was the spark in my seminars - with her conviviality, her ability to connect and her keen desire to learn.“ (email of 04 April 2016).

The SAI is indebted to Pratibha's efforts and commitment. We shall treasure the memory of her friendly and cheerful character in honor and gratitude. We show our deepest compassion to her husband who could only remain by her side for such a short time and to their two families.

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OBITUARY RAJESH LAL SHRESTHA (1959-2016)

by Martin Gaenszle

After suffering a severe illness, Rajesh Lal Shrestha passed away on January 25, 2016.

Rajesh worked as the Secretary of the Kathmandu Office, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University, since March 1990 and had been the firm and steady backbone of this office since then.

Born in Kathmandu in 1959, he earned a degree in Commerce, planning to go into business like many of his relatives. But in 1990, when the first secretary of the SAI Kathmandu Office left, he was offered the job and from then on devoted himself to the task of administering the Kathmandu Office.

Apart from secretarial desk work, this meant above all socializing. During the time when the office was still in the process of being set up it was crucial to establish good contacts with various university authorities. Though he was not an academic, he soon understood the intricate mechanisms of university bureaucracy; he always quickly had a positive rapport with the officers, and knew well how to handle a sometimes delayed process or deadlocked situation.

Rajesh always followed the general political situation with an interested but also somewhat detached and impartial view, never missing the ironies of personal entanglements. I remember the time during the 1990 Jana Andolan, when Rajesh was helping with collecting private newspapers for the SAI library. On sometimes long tours with his motorbike we visited private newspaper editors who brought out their mukhpatra, often printed in their own private house, and mostly risking to get in trouble with the Panchayat authorities. Talking to the editors we were led to other editors, and Rajesh increasingly enjoyed the work, as we learned about many individual life stories.

He was always friendly and helpful, and whoever visited the office, he did his best to support budding projects and remove obstacles, no matter what the problem was. He was reliable, honest and loyal, patiently going through the most arduous bureaucratic proceedings.

Even though there were many personal problems he had to cope with, he never lost his optimism and his fine sense of humor. We will miss him.



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125 YEARS OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA (1891–2016)

At the occasion of the 125th Anniversary of the National Archives of India (NAI), a celebration volume has been released. In the book with the title “The Past of the Future” many scholars, archivists and academics share their experiences about the NAI.

In the volume, Dr. Lalatendu Dasmohapatra, Assistant Director of the National Archives of India (Eastern Zone) Bhubaneswar, reports on the prized collection of manuscripts of the Orissa Research Project (ORP), sponsored by the German Research Council and the South Asia Institute. In November 2006, Prof. Gita Dharampal-Frick, Professor at the Department of History and Prof. Hermann Kulke, Professor of Asian History, Coordinator of the ORP and former member of the South Asia Institute, donated 400 valuable Sanskrit and Oriya palm-leaf manuscripts and translations to the NAI at Bhubaneswar. The South Asia Institute organized in connection with this donation a two-days seminar of Indian and German scholars on the ‘Madalapanji’ or official chronicle of the Jagannath temple at Puri and on other historical manuscripts of the collection. Moreover, Dr. Dasmohapatra, reports on the donation of the comprehensive collection of books and manuscripts of late Dr. Martin Brandtner of the Department of History at the South Asia Institute that had financed its shipment. In November 2014, Mr. Rainer Schmiedchen, the German Council General of Kolkata, handed over this collection to the NAI at Bhubaneswar in the presence of a large number of Oriya scholars and friends of Martin Brandtner.

The National Archives of India is a repository of the non-current records of the Government of India situated in Delhi and holds them in trust for the use of administrators and scholars.



NEW ISSUE OF JOURNAL FOR GLOBAL HISTORY

A new issue of the *Journal for Global History (Zeitschrift für Weltgeschichte)*, edited by Prof. Dr. Gita Dharampal-Frick, head of the department of History, South Asia Institute, has been published by Peter Lang Publishing Group.

Further contributors are Hans Harder (head of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures), Wolfgang-Peter Zingel (International Economics) and Michael Bergunder (SAI Associate Researcher, Religious Studies and Intercultural Theology). The journal focusses in issue 1/2016, 17. Jg. on India and provides an insight to India's history and present times.



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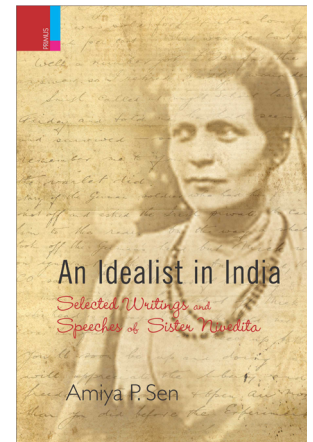
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AMIYA P. SEN: AN IDEALIST IN INDIA: SELECTED WRITINGS AND SPEECHES OF SISTER NIVEDITA

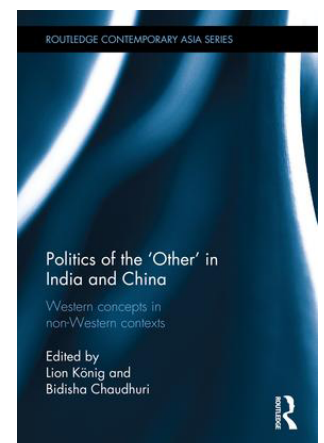
Primus Books recently published the book “An Idealist in India: Selected Writings and Speeches of Sister Nivedita” by Amiya P. Sen, current chair holder of the Heinrich-Zimmer Chair at the South Asia Institute. The volume puts together representative speeches and writings of Sister Nivedita. This selection encompasses among other things the education of Indian women, Hindu religion and mythology, and issues of the emerging Indian nationalism of these times.

Posterity has often judged Margaret Elizabeth Noble (1867-1911), better known as Sister Nivedita as well as her guru, Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902), in widely different ways. Opinion remains divided over whether or not the Swami was more a patriot than prophet and Nivedita’s biographers too have read her life and work variously, aided perhaps by the fact that the Sister remained deeply committed to the memory of her Master and his ideas even as she was increasingly drawn to a life of active politics, which, paradoxically, had been forbidden by none other than the Master himself. However, it is just as possible that neither Vivekananda nor his most illustrious disciple felt that there was an innate conflict between the spiritual and the social, between the quest for personal salvation and the collective emancipation of the masses. Arguably, their deep and abiding commitment to India and Indians creatively bridged such seeming differences.



LION KÖNIG & BIDISHA CHAUDHURI: POLITICS OF THE OTHER IN INDIA AND CHINA: WESTERN CONCEPTS IN NON-WESTERN CONTEXTS

The book “Politics of the Other in India and China: Western Concepts in Non-Western Contexts”, edited by Lion König (Associate Researcher of the SAI) and Bidisha Chaudhuri (International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore and Alumna of the department of Political Science of the SAI), has been published by Routledge, London in February 2016. The book proposes to shift the discussion on what constitutes the ‘Other’ as opposed to the ‘Self’ from philosophy and cultural studies to the social sciences and explores how the structural asymmetries that exist between Western discourses and the realities of the non-Western world manifest themselves in the ideas, institutions and socio-political practices of India and China, and in how far they shape the social scientist’s understanding of their discipline in general.



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NEW PUBLICATION ON CROSSASIA-EBOOKS

by Nicole Merkel-Hilf

Announcing a new publication on CrossAsia-eBooks - *Die Revitalisierung von Vāstuvidyā im kolonialen und nachkolonialen Indien* by Felix Otter is now available as an open access publication on the CrossAsia-eBooks platform. The book can also be purchased as a hardcover edition via local bookstores, buchhandel.de and amazon.de.



Vāstuvidyā, the old Indian esoteric lore of building a house, has been the object of several attempts at revitalisation since the first half of the 20th century. This book examines these attempts in the context of ideological and historical developments with the methods of textual analysis. The relationship between the revived version(s) of Vāstuvidyā with the precolonial formulations of the lore, the relevance of

the apologetic discourse of the indigenous sciences for the revitalisation of Vāstuvidyā, and the discourse strategies employed in colonial and post-colonial Vāstu literature are the central themes of the book. The book is a revised version of a PhD-thesis submitted to the Philosophical Faculty of Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg in 2012. More information: <http://dx.doi.org/10.11588/xabooks.129.160>

NEW JOURNAL ON CROSSASIA JOURNALS – INTERDISZIPLINÄRE ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR SÜDASIENFORSCHUNG

by Nicole Merkel-Hilf

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. (More information: <http://crossasia-journals.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/index.php/izsa>)

It is managed by an editorial board of eleven young scholars – Christopher D. Bahl (London), Tobias Berger (Wien), Christoph Bergmann (Heidelberg), Carmen Brandt (Halle), Simon Cubelic (Heidelberg), Maria Framke (Rostock), Sarah Holz (Berlin), Natalie Lang (Göttingen), Johannes Rosenbaum (Bamberg), Fritzi-Marie Titzmann (Leipzig) und Anna-Lena Wolf (Bern).

IZSAF is open to new formats and also publishes photo essays to present topics in South Asia studies visually. The first issue was published in mid-October 2016 with articles by Frederic Maria Link (Heidelberg), Divya Narayana (Heidelberg), Nitin Sinha (Berlin), Constanze Weigl-Jäger (Heidelberg), Jan-Sijmen Zwarts (Utrecht).



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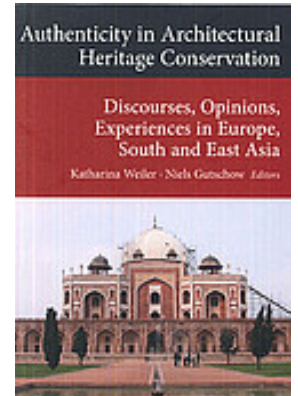
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NEW BOOK BY NIELS GUTSCHOW AND KATHARINA WEILER

The new book "Authenticity in Architectural Heritage Conservation-Discourses, Opinions, Experiences in Europe, South and East Asia", co-edited by Prof. Niels Gutschow and Dr. Katharina Weiler, has been published as part of the book series "Transcultural Research – Heidelberg Studies on Asia and Europe in a Global Context" by Springer.

The book contributes to a recontextualization of authenticity by investigating how this value is created, reenacted, and assigned. Over the course of the last century, authenticity figured as the major parameter for the evaluation of cultural heritage. It was adopted in local and international charters and guidelines on architectural conservation in Europe, South and East Asia. Throughout this period, the concept of authenticity was constantly redefined and transformed to suit new cultural contexts and local concerns.



CLIO GUIDE SÜDASIEN

The Clio Guide Südasiens by Robby Geyer and Nicole Merkel-Hilf was recently published on the web portal Clio Online (<http://guides.clio-online.de/guides/regionen/suedasiens/2016>).

The "Clio Guide Südasiens" is part of the larger handbook "Clio Guide - Ein Handbuch zu digitalen Ressourcen für die Geschichtswissenschaften". It is intended to give students and researchers in South Asian History a first orientation in the vast field of digital resources in their discipline. The online-publication provides an overview of important and useful online resource for South Asian History.

The screenshot shows the Clio Online website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for 'Über Clio', 'Rezensionen', 'Web-Verzeichnis', 'Institutionen', 'ForscherInnen', 'Guides', 'Chancen', and 'Datenbanken'. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area displays a list of guides, with 'Südasiens' selected. The selected guide is titled 'Südasiens' and is authored by Robby Geyer and Nicole Merkel-Hilf. The page also includes a 'PDF-Version' link and a 'Kapitel' section listing '1. Geschichtswissenschaft'.

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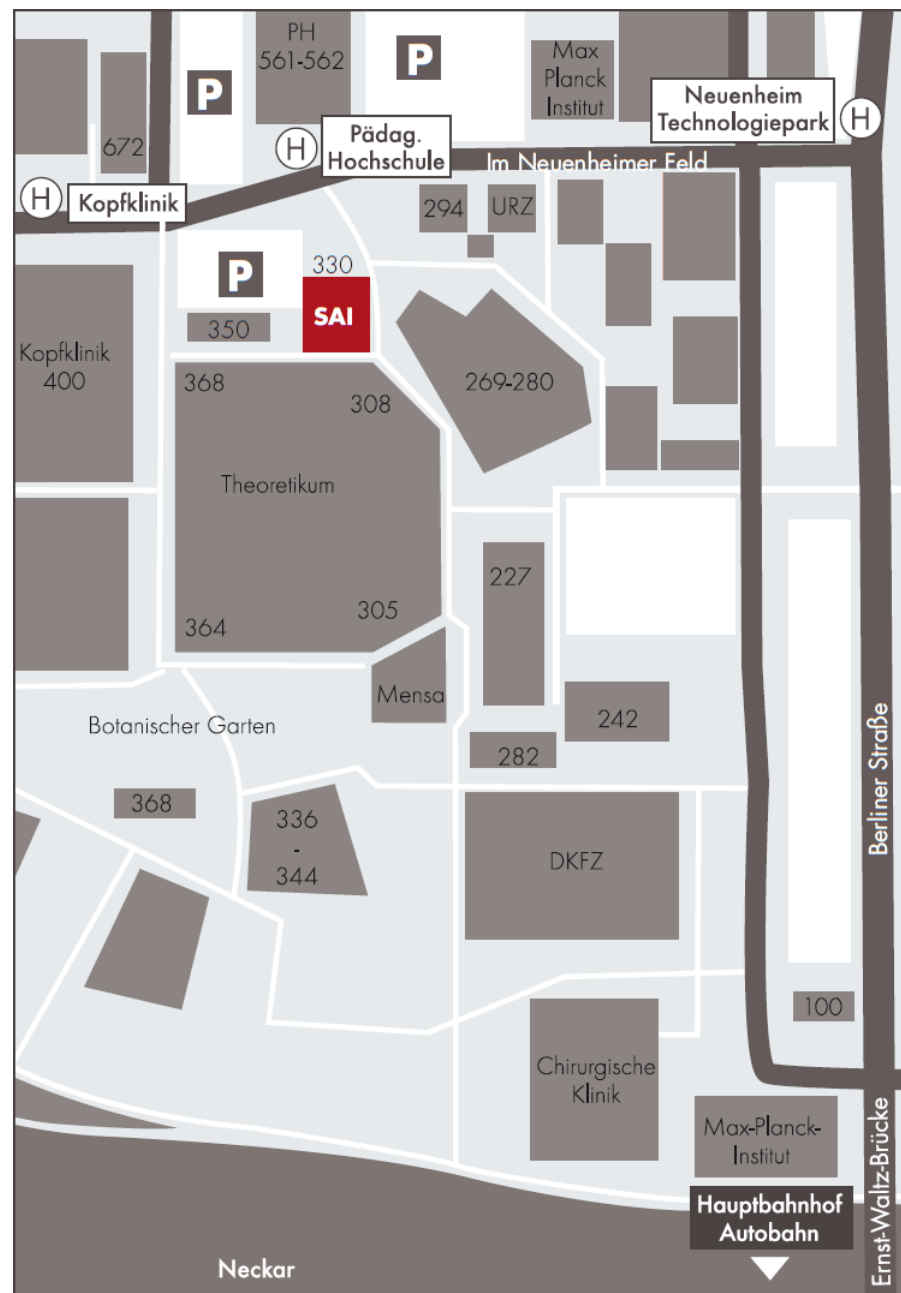
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Arriving by car from Autobahn A656

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

Public Transport

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

