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**Welcome** to this first edition of the **SAI | Newsletter**. It substitutes the former SAI-Report that has provided information regarding the SAI in yearly reviews. The **SAI | Newsletter** owes to the SAI-Report by taking over the structure of topics. Thus you will find contents in the newsletter arranged to sections such as NEWS, TEACHING, RESEARCH, PEOPLE, and BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS.

With the **SAI | Newsletter** we provide information in more frequent sequences and in a more flexible, appealing and technically up-to-date form. Single entries have been circulated through e-mail lists or on the SAI-website before. For the **SAI | Newsletter** they have been reedited and assembled according to the sections given above. The **SAI | Newsletter** presents what we have to offer at SAI: A fascinating unity in a variety of academic topics on South Asia, a unique group of highly qualified academics, numerous best practice examples for research and teaching and last but not least a sound degree of public attention. Apart from looking back at what has happened at the institute the **SAI | Newsletter** will also point at upcoming activities and events. By doing so the **SAI | Newsletter** combines the important task of documentation while at the same time looking ahead to what the future will bring.

The first edition of the **SAI | Newsletter** will bring the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the SAI to your attention. While the jubilee has already been opened with the spectacular talk of the world-famous mountaineer Gerlinde Kaltenbrunner in mid-January 2012, the major part of the program still lies ahead. Between late February and early April the SAI will host three events in South Asia namely in Sri Lanka, India and Nepal. With the beginning of the summer term the focus will shift to Heidelberg. You will find regularly updated information on the website and in the next issue of the **SAI | Newsletter**. Today we would like you to keep in mind that on May 8th 2012 the central celebration of the anniversary will take place in the Old Lecture Hall (Alte Aula) of the University, followed by an Alumni-Evening (May 11th) and an Open Day (Tag der Offenen Tür; May 12th) for SAI-members as well as general audience which will end with an (open-end) SAI-Party on the same evening. We hope to see as many of you as possible for the SAI-anniversary.

Marcus Nüsser/Martin Gieselmann

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# NEWS

**SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE - 50 YEARS OF LOOKING AHEAD**

The celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of Heidelberg University's South Asia Institute (SAI) that was founded in May 1962 began in January 2012 with the talk by mountaineer Gerlinde Kaltenbrunner about her climbing experiences in the Himalayas. For this event one of the largest lecture halls on campus was fully booked (see following report in this issue). Thus the talk by one of the most celebrated mountaineers became a perfect start for the anniversary year that will be followed by a number of events during the main part of the celebrations between March and July 2012.

The motto for the SAI's anniversary program is "The South Asia Institute: 50 Years of Looking Ahead". Further details as well as regularly updated information can be found on the website <http://www.sai.uni-heidelberg.de/en/50years/>.

The anniversary will be celebrated both in Heidelberg and in South Asia. In Heidelberg, the anniversary program offers single events, includes a central week of festivities in May and provides a series of lectures on South Asia addressing the general public running from April to July. Even before the anniversary program in Heidelberg takes off there will be a number of events in different countries throughout South Asia. These include a conference in India entitled "Between Global Aspirations and Local Realities. India's Cities in Interdisciplinary Perspective" that will be held at the JNU Campus in New Delhi. Secondly, there will be a workshop in Sri Lanka in early March that focuses on new research perspectives in the country and finally a celebration on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the branch office in Kathmandu, Nepal. We are looking forward to a year of celebration of the South Asia Institute (SAI) that will be conducted in a joint effort by all members of the Institute.

SAI | SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE

**50 Years**  
of Looking Ahead**VISIT OF NEW INDIAN CONSUL GENERAL**

On Wednesday, November 30th, the newly appointed Indian Consul General from Munich, Mr. Vikram Misri, was arriving at the SAI for a first informal visit. He was welcomed by Prof. Mitra, Prof. Harder, Dr. Schöttli, Dr. Wolf and Dr. Gieselmann. The Consul General started his appointment in Munich in September 2011. Previous assignments were in Brussels and recently in Colombo. The Munich Consulate is in charge for Heidelberg which is of relevance when it comes to visa application. An upcoming visit in early 2012 which will include a public presentation of the Consul General was agreed upon.



From right: Prof. Tiwari, Prof. Mitra, Mr. Misri, Dr. Schöttli, Dr. Wolf

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## CEREMONY ON THE AWARDING OF THE ORDER OF MERIT TO PROF. DIETMAR ROTHERMUND

For his achievements for the South Asia Institute, his contributions to the distribution of knowledge on India and South Asia in Germany and his impressive academic work, Prof. Dietmar Rothermund has been awarded with the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. On this occasion the South Asia Institute of Heidelberg University had been happy to conduct a ceremony at which the Order of Merit was handed over to Prof. Rothermund.

The ceremony was held on Thursday, October 20th 2011 at 15.30h at the library of the South Asia Institute, Im Neuenheimer Feld 330. The Order of Merit was handed over by the rector of Heidelberg University, Prof. Dr. Bernhard Eitel and the laudatio was held by the historian and dean of the Faculty of Philosophy, Prof. Dr. Manfred Berg.



Prof. Dr. Bernhard Eitel, Rector of Heidelberg University (left), and Prof. Dr. Dietmar Rothermund (Foto: Häntschel)

## BRANCH OFFICE KATHMANDU HAS MOVED

The SAI Branch Office Kathmandu has moved to Bhanimandal, Lalitpur. The new office is in the neighbourhood of the UK Department For International Development (DFID) and the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC). It is located in between the NGO Saathi and the Small Grant Program (SGP) of United Nations Development Project UNDP. The SAI Branch office hosts a small library open to local and international visiting scholars.



Branch Office Kathmandu

## CONRAD LECTURE „FEDERAL DEMOCRACY IN INDIA AND THE EU“ ON FRIDAY, JULY 15<sup>th</sup>.

For this event the SAI invited Professor Dr. Philipp Dann, LL.M from Gießen University. Prof. Dann studied law and political theory at Humboldt University (Berlin), Harvard Law School and Goethe University (Frankfurt), taught European and constitutional law in Germany, The Sudan and India (NUJS, Kolkata) and was a research fellow at New York University and Georgetown University (Washington DC). He now holds a chair in Public and Comparative Law at Justus-Liebig-University Gießen (Germany). Prof. Dann is also a Schumpeter-Fellow of the Volkswagen Foundation. He has published widely on the law of the European Union, on the law of international organizations and most recently on issues of law and development. Prof. Dann is the first chairholder in Germany who has a focus on Indian law. The lecture started with greetings by Mr. Ajit Gupte, Deputy Chief of Mission, Indian Embassy, Berlin.



Prof. Dr. Philipp Dann

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## LECTURE BY GERLINDE KALTENBRUNNER, JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> 2012

The lecture by Gerlinde Kaltenbrunner „Leidenschaft leben über 8000“ became a perfect start for the SAI anniversary program. Gerlinde Kaltenbrunner is an Austrian mountaineer and the first woman to climb the fourteen eight-thousanders without the use of supplementary oxygen.

Gerlinde Kaltenbrunner has given a lecture about her recent expeditions in the Himalaya and the Karakoram. The lecture took place within the series of lectures of the HGG (Heidelberger Geographische Gesellschaft).

Gerlinde Kaltenbrunner informed a fascinated audience of over 400 visitors, about the expedition planning and the successful ascent of the K2, the second highest mountain on earth.



Gerlinde Kaltenbrunner and her husband Ralf Dujmovits



Gerlinde Kaltenbrunner with Marcus Nüsser (Head of Department of Geography)

## INAUGURAL LECTURE OF PROF. BIRGIT KELLNER

Prof. Dr. Birgit Kellner gave her inaugural lecture on Wednesday, November 9, at 12.00 pm in the Old Auditorium of Heidelberg University. The Professor of Buddhist Studies spoke about Buddhism between India and Tibet. Under the title “Von Pechas, Pandits, Papageien - die Uebersetzung des Buddhismus zwischen Indien und Tibet”, Prof. Kellner discussed translation and translators in the broader context of the transfer of Buddhist doctrines, practices and institutions from culturally Indian regions to the Tibetan plateau, between the 7th and 13th centuries CE. Prof. Dr. Birgit Kellner holds the Chair of Buddhist Studies at Heidelberg University’s Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context”. She is also an associated member of the South Asia Institute. Having studied Tibetology and Buddhist Studies in Vienna, Austria, she earned a PhD from the University of Hiroshima, Japan, with a dissertation on the history of Buddhist philosophy in India. In her research, she specializes on the history of religion and philosophy with a focus on epistemology, the philosophy of consciousness, and logic in India as well as in Tibet.

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► Excursion to Berlin Archives by Department of History

► MA SAS Approved

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# TEACHING

## REPORT: EXCURSION TO BERLIN ARCHIVES BY DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

The South Asia Institute's Department of History went on an excursion to Berlin from August 1st-3rd to familiarise students of South Asian history with archival collections of interest. The trip was organized by Rafael Klöber and Manju Ludwig, in collaboration with Frank Drauschke from Facts & Files as well as the Institute of Asian and African Studies. The excursion included a workshop about how to use archives, highlighted by guided tours in the Secret State Archives Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation and the Federal Archive. The excursion was well received by the participating students of the South Asia Institute and the History Seminar.



Excursion Participants

## MA SAS APPROVED

The interdisciplinary MA South Asian Studies has started in Winter term 2011/2012. It includes a variety of courses and allows for specialization in the studies of Anthropology, Buddhism, Cultural and Religious History of South Asia, Development Economics, Geography, History of South Asia, History of Art and Visual Culture of South Asia, Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures and Political Science. In addition, a focus on Himalayan studies is possible. The MA South Asian Studies can be studied in German but also to a great deal in English and is thus open to international students especially from South Asia. It offers intensive language training in South Asian languages such as Bengali, Hindi, Urdu and Tamil (BHUT) as well as in Sanskrit and classical and colloquial Tibetan. Furthermore, single language courses in Nepali, Dari, Pali, Newari or Singhalese can be taken. The MA South Asian Studies consists of 120 Credit Points and is scheduled to be obtained within four semesters. Studies can be taken up in both summer and winter terms respectively.

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- ▶ Celebrating Tagore -On the Occasion of his 150th Birthday
- ▶ A new Mirror of Kāśī available on the Web
- ▶ Heidelberg Center for the Environment (HEC) founded: SAI is among the founding members
- ▶ New Activities of Political Science Department in Brussels

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# RESEARCH

## FOURTH INTER-UNIVERSITY DOCTORAL WORKSHOP IN DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS, SEPTEMBER 28-29, 2011

In the fall of 2011, Stefan Klonner and Sarah Linders of the Department of Development Economics organized the “Fourth Inter-University Doctoral Workshop in Development Economics”. The two-day workshop, which took place at the IWH in Heidelberg’s old town, began with a public panel discussion on the Indian microfinance crisis on the evening of September 28. The panel, which was organized jointly with the development cooperative Oikocredit, brought together microfinance practitioners Mohammad N. Amin (CEO, Adhikar Microfinance), Lovely Mukherjee (Area Manager East India, Oikocredit India) and Jim Reiff (Growing Opportunity Finance Ltd.) with researchers Prof. Dr. Stefan Klonner (Department of Development Economics, SAI) and Prof. Dr. Eva Terberger (Chair of Development Finance, Mannheim University). The panel discussion was attended by students, academics, as well as the general public. A television team was also present and interviews with some of the panelists were subsequently broadcasted on the public broadcasting station ZDF-Infokanal (a link to the program can be found on the Department’s website).

The second day featured presentations by doctoral students in the field of development economics. Nine young researchers and three professors from various German universities and academic institutions attended this workshop which gave doctoral candidates the opportunity to present original work at an early stage to peers and senior academics. Topics included International Migration, Parental Decision Making and Children’s Achievements, The Role of Education for Agricultural Productivity and International Trade and Corruption. On both days, participants as well as the audience expressed their enthusiasm about the event.



Workshop Participants

## CELEBRATING TAGORE - ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 150TH BIRTHDAY - FRIDAY, 1 JULY 2011

On the occasion of the 150th birthday of the Bangali polymath Rabindranath Tagore, the Department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures organized a Tagore Day.

The event included a colloquium „Celebrating Tagore“ with Lectures by Barnita Bagchi (IDSK Kolkota / Utrecht University), Tanika Sakar (JNU Delhi) and Alokaranjan Dagupta (SAI Heidelberg). The colloquium was followed by a multilingual reading session of Tagore’s poems and a music performance by Rita Bandyopadhyay (Cologne).

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## A NEW MIRROR OF KĀŚĪ AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

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A HyperImage representation of Kailāsanātha Sukula's historical map Kāśīdarpaṇa (1876) is available now. This relaunch is based on the website [www.benares.uni-hd.de](http://www.benares.uni-hd.de) published in 2001 by the Vārāṇasī Research Project of the South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University. It was recently transferred into a HyperImage representation that annotates images in great detail by Jörg Gengnagel & HyperEvaluation Team (Matthias Arnold, Peter Gietz, Eric Decker, Giovanna Niebler, Wen-Ting Wu) „Asia and Europe“, Cluster of Excellence Karl Jaspers Center, Heidelberg University 2011. Find more details at the [Cluster website](#).

## HEIDELBERG CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (HEC) FOUNDED: SAI IS AMONG THE FOUNDING MEMBERS

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The SAI is one of the founding members of the Heidelberg Center for the Environment (HCE) that was inaugurated on December 21st 2011. A total of 10 institutes and institutions at Heidelberg University joined forces for the HCE. At HCE the existing competences on environmental sciences will be brought together thus intensifying and further developing activities in research, teaching as well as knowledge transfer. The HCE aims at conducting research on the challenges and ecological implications caused by natural, technological and social changes. Elected founding members of the HCE board are the SAI members Prof. Dr. Marcus Nüsser and (as deputy) Prof. Dr. William Sax.



## NEW ACTIVITIES OF POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT IN BRUSSELS

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Early this year, the Department of Political Science started cooperating with the South Asia Democratic Forum (SADF). The SADF was set up in 2011 by its Executive Director Paulo Casaca, a former member of the European Parliament, as an independent non-governmental organization, with its main site in Brussels. Its primary mission is to act as a platform for dialogue between public and private institutions in South Asia and Europe, and to seek to bridge the geopolitical gap that comes in the way of a closer understanding. Part of this endeavour is to seek cooperation with individuals and institutions who share the SADF views and vision, especially with regard to democracy, human rights and security. With these goals as the main challenge, the SADF seeks to become a leading think tank on South Asian development and South Asia's link to Europe. As part of the cooperation, Professor Mitra will act as the chairman of the SADF academic advisory board and Dr. Siegfried O. Wolf will take over the position of the Director of Research in order to coordinate the SADF fellows as well as their research and educational activities. Two cooperative projects that have already been implemented are, the 'Insights South Asia – Nepal Survey 2011' and a Seminar on "Triangular Dynamics and Security in South Asia: Implications for Europe", which was held in the European Parliament in January 2012.

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- ▶ Dr. Schöttli Receives Hengstberger Prize 2011
- ▶ Visit at SAI by Prof. Shiva Prakash, Counsellor Culture and Education
- ▶ Prof. Dr. Dietmar Rothmund receives the Rabindranath Tagore Cultural Prize 2011

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**BRITTA CIERNIAK CELEBRATES HER 25TH ANNIVERSARY**

Britta Cierniak

In late 2011, Britta Cierniak, currently running the office in the department for Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures, looked back at 25 years of service at the SAI. It was in October 1986 that Mrs. Cierniak took up her position with the South Asia Institute. Initially she started to work for two units, namely the section „New Language and Literatures“ (with Lothar Lutze in charge) and “Law” (in the responsibility of Dieter Conrad). Occasionally, she was also working for the Central Office. With the establishment of the Chair for Modern Indology and its first chairholder Prof. Boehm-Tettelbach, Britta Cierniak worked for one department only. She keeps this position until today under Hans Harder the current chairholder of the department.

**NEW DFG-PROJECT „THE NEPALESE WRIGHT-CHRONICLE“**

Dr. Manik Bajracharya arrived to conduct a new DFG-Project called „The Nepalese Wright-Chronicle“. The German Research Foundation (DFG) has recently approved the project “The Nepalese Wright-Chronicle – Edition princeps, new translation and topographical atlas”. Prof. Axel Michaels has successfully applied for the funding. Starting from September 2011 Dr. Manik Bajracharya will conduct the research for this project at the SAI at the Department for Cultural und Religious History South Asia (Classical Indology).

**NEW GUEST ARRIVED: PROF. M. SULTAN BHAT**

Prof. M. Sultan Bhat

Prof. Dr. M. Sultan Bhat arrived in November 2011 on a Baden-Württemberg scholarship that brings him to Heidelberg for a three month stay. Prof. Bhat is from the Department of Geography & Regional Development, Kashmir University, Srinagar. He will be at the SAI until January 2012.



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## DR. SCHÖTTLI RECEIVES HENGSTBERGER PRIZE 2011

Dr. rer.pol. Jivanta Schöttli, Department of Political Science at SAI, has been awarded the Klaus-Georg and Sigrid Hengstberger Prizes for Young Scientists at the University of Heidelberg in 2011. The award includes the opportunity to conduct a scientific workshop on “Power and Governance in the Indian Ocean”. The selection followed a two-step process of application including a questioning by a committee of professors lead by rector Prof. Dr. Bernhard Eitel. Dr. Schöttli is not only the first awardee from SAI but her application is also the first successful one by a member of the faculty for economics and social sciences. Congratulations!



Dr. rer.pol. Jivanta Schöttli

## VISIT AT SAI BY PROF. SHIVA PRAKASH, COUNSELLOR CULTURE AND EDUCATION

On Monday, November 14th 2011, Prof. H.S. Shiva Prakash, Counsellor (Culture and Education) und Director of the Tagore Centers at the Indian Embassy, Berlin, visited the SAI. Prof. Shiva Prakash holds a chair at the School of Arts and Aesthetics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. Besides these he is well known as a Translator, Poet and Playwright. On the occasion of his visit, Prof. Shiva Prakash met the SAI-Board and gave a lecture on: “The Role of Bhakti Traditions in the Formation of Pre-Modern Literary Cultures in India”.

## PROF. DR. DIETMAR ROTHERMUND RECEIVES THE RABINDRANATH TAGORE CULTURAL PRIZE 2011

The Indo-German Society has awarded The Rabindranath Tagore Culture Prize 2011 to Prof. Dr. Rothermund. Rothermund was honoured with the prize for his outstanding work for supporting knowledge about India in Germany. The emeritus professor for South Asian History at Heidelberg University has influenced the image of India in Germany during his 33-years of teaching at the SAI. He helped to develop the South Asia-Institute into a leading centre for the Study of South Asia. Prof. Dr. Rothermund initiated the Heidelberger Südasiengeschäfte (Heidelberg South Asia Talks) to promote the exchange between representatives of science, economy and politics. His scientific activities, including writings for general audiences, have found great national and international resonance. Next to Prof. Rothermund this year the musician and producer Günther Paust was awarded with the Rabindranath Tagore Culture Prize 2011.



Prof. Dr. Dietmar Rothermund

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► Study on Climate Change in the Himalaya

► New Publication: „Visualized Texts“ by PD Dr. Jörg Gengnagel

► New Book by Hans Harder on Bengali Satires is out now

► „Citizenship and the Flow of Ideas“, Ed. by Subrata K. Mitra

► Julia Hegewald and Subrata Mitra edited the book „Re-Use-The Art and Politics of Integration and Anxiety,,

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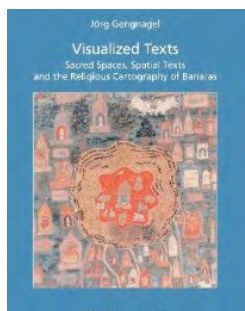
# BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

## STUDY ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE HIMALAYA



In the recent article „Offsetting Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the Himalaya? Clean Development Dams in Himachal Pradesh, India“ the authors Alexander Erlewein and Marcus Nüsser (Department of Geography, SAI) present a study on the effectiveness of dams for climate protection. The featured article was published in the recent edition of the Mountain Research and Development and was also discussed in the Hill Post .

## NEW PUBLICATION: “VISUALIZED TEXTS” BY PD DR. JÖRG GENGNAGEL



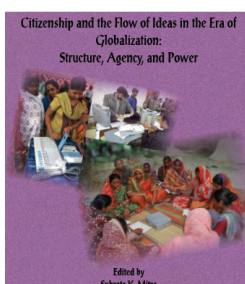
PD Dr. Jörg Gengnagel, Interim Professor of the Chair for Cultural and Religious History of South Asia published his new book Visualized Texts. Sacred Spaces, Spatial Texts and the Religious Cartography of Banaras (Ethno-Indology. Heidelberg Studies in South Asian Rituals 7) with Harrassowitz (Wiesbaden).

## NEW BOOK BY HANS HARDER ON BENGALI SATIRES



The new book by Hans Harder “Verkehrte Welten: Bengalische Satiren aus dem Kolonialen Kalkutta” [Worlds upside down: Bengal satires from Colonial Calcutta] was just released by Draupadi, Heidelberg. The book was part of a presentation at the Frankfurt Book Fair on October 16th. “Verkehrte Welten” includes a selection of 13 satirical texts, each introducing a particular author and the context of the text. The presentation of the satirical texts is bilingual (German/Bengali).

## “CITIZENSHIP AND THE FLOW OF IDEAS”, ED. BY SUBRATA K. MITRA



The book conceptualises citizenship as a ‘travelling’ concept. Despite the ubiquity of citizenship, both analytically, and in descriptive terms, there is a great deal of ambiguity surrounding its meaning and application. This volume explores the general question of how citizenship has moved from one location to another, both between and within cultures.

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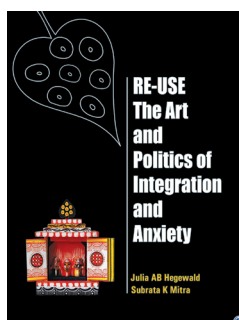
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## JULIA A. B. HEGEWALD AND SUBRATA K. MITRA EDITED THE BOOK “RE-USE-THE ART AND POLITICS OF INTEGRATION AND ANXIETY”



“Re-use” offers a novel approach to understanding the relationship between the past and the present in terms of the concept of ‚re-use‘. It introduces the theory of re-use - wherein elements from the past are adapted and built upon - as an important heuristic tool for analysing and interpreting cultural and political changes and the transnational flow of ideas, concepts and objects in South Asia.

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