



Dear readers,

The year 2016 Heidelberg University continued its strong hold as the Shanghai Ranking 2016 placed Heidelberg University the best university in Germany for the third successive time after 2014 and 2015. The University came in 47th place internationally and 12th in Europe. In the QS World University Rankings by Subject Heidelberg University was rated among the 100 best universities in the world in 15 subjects, including chemistry, English language/literature, geography, mathematics, pharmacy/pharmacology, political science/international studies, and sociology. Also, Heidelberg University is the most successful university Germany-wide on the list of highly cited researchers. The four Vice-Presidents of Heidelberg University, Prof. Dr. Beatrix Busse, Prof. Dr. A. Stephen K. Hashmi, Prof. Dr. Dieter W. Heermann and Prof. Dr. Óscar Loureda were re-elected to a second term by the Senate of Ruperto Carola. The scientific research excellence continued with the scientists at Heidelberg University making outstanding discoveries and being bestowed prestigious research awards and prizes.

In India the year was equally exciting with HCSA expanding Indo-German research collaborations and exchange programme networks, organizing Indo-German events of significance, securing financial gains with successful proposal with DAAD-UGC on Active Ageing, DWIH Regular Activities and selection of Baden Wuerttemberg Fellows 2016 for Indian scholars. Also, HCSA introduced initiatives to improve visibility and awareness of the University. The upward trend continued with ten scientific delegation visits, expansion of existing 'Guest lecturer Programme' with three scientists from Heidelberg accepting to teach in India.



**Prof. Dr Axel Michaels**  
Head Coordinator HCSA



**Mr. Radu Carciumaru**  
Resident Representative



**Mr. Suboor Bakht**  
Deputy Director

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## HCSA News & Events

### 5th Heidelberg Lecture by Prof. Hans Georg Bock: April 11

Prof. Hans Georg Bock, Interdisciplinary Center for Scientific Computing, delivered the 5th Heidelberg Lecture, titled "...we need this to remain competitive...Mathematical Methods for 21st Century" in New Delhi. His presentation highlighted challenges and success stories, where innovative mathematical research was stimulated by the demands of industry and led to immediate economic benefit in the applications. [\[read more\]](#)



### Delegation visit from Interdisciplinary Center for Scientific Computing(IWR): April 10 -13

A delegation comprising of scientists from IWR, Prof. Hans Georg Bock, Prof. Peter Bastian, Prof. Guido Kanschat, Prof. Ekaterina Kostina, Prof. Johannes Schloeder and Dr. Michael Winckler visited India and conducted workshops and a student seminar. The idea behind these was to get exposure to Indian research landscape, meet scientists, students, exchange ideas and explore mutually beneficial collaborative endeavours. [\[read more\]](#)



### Indo-German Dialogue on Sustainable Water Resource Management: New Delhi, October 03 - 04

Under the umbrella of the German House for Research and Innovation (DWIH) New Delhi, Heidelberg Centre South Asia, TERI University, Technical University Munich, FU Berlin and Indo-German Centre for Sustainability conducted an Indo-German Dialogue on Sustainable Water Resource Management. The workshop took place between October 3-4, at TERI University, New Delhi and was attended by over 150 persons. [\[read more\]](#)



### Smart Cities Workshops in Kolkata, Kochi, Pune and Bangalore

Under the umbrella of the German House for Research and Innovation (DWIH) in New Delhi, prominent institutes from Germany and India conducted four Indo-German workshops in India that focused on Smart City: Mobility & Infrastructure in the 21st century. The workshops were coordinated by HCSA and supported by FNF. [\[read more\]](#)



### DWIH Indo-German Conference "CityScapes", New Delhi, September 29 to October 1

The German House for Research and Innovation New Delhi (DWIH New Delhi) organized an Indo-German Conference on "CityScapes" from 29th September to 1st October at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The conference brought together Indian and German practitioners and scientists



from the fields of energy, environment, cyber security, migration, development and waste management, to discuss the global challenges of sustainable urbanization. [[read more](#)]

## **Science Circle Lecture "Air Pollution, Climate Change and Health" by Prof. Dr. Rainer Sauerborn, New Delhi, October 25**

The German House for Research and Innovation – DWIH New Delhi together with the German Embassy and Heidelberg Centre South Asia organized a Science Circle Lecture on “Air Pollution, Climate Change and Health” at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on Tuesday, 25 October 2016. The speaker was Professor Dr. Rainer Sauerborn, Director of the Institute of Public Health at Heidelberg University. The talk attracted the interest of both, subject experts as well as discerning public. [[read more](#)]



## **Workshop on Air Pollution and Health, New Delhi, October 26**

Heidelberg Centre South Asia, South Asia Institute, Indian Institute for Tropical Meteorology, Indian Chest Foundation, both in Pune, and the Health and Demographic Research Center in Vadu, in collaboration with Friedrich Naumann Foundation, organized a workshop on ‘Urbanisation, Climate Change and Health’, part of HCSA series of initiatives and events on Smart Cities. [[read more](#)]



## **Science Circle Lecture " The paradigm of pediatric leukemia – a true success story of modern clinical oncology" by Prof. Dr. Andreas Kulozik, Chennai, October 26**

The German House for Research and Innovation – DWIH New Delhi together with the Chennai Consulate and Heidelberg Centre South Asia organized a Science Circle Lecture on “The paradigm of pediatric leukemia – a true success story of modern clinical oncology” in Chennai, Wednesday, 26 October 2016. The speaker was Professor Dr. Andreas Kulozik, Chair, Department of Pediatric Oncology, Hematology and Immunology at Heidelberg University. [[read more](#)]



## **DWIH Indo-German Workshop on Childhood Diseases: Chennai, October 27-28**

Held in Chennai, in cooperation with Technical University of Muenich and Cancer Institute, Chennai, it included participants from India and Germany. The aim was to meet colleagues in the major Indian centers in Delhi, Mumbai Chennai and Bengaluru to highlight and discuss the high-end research work at the German centers and initiate collaborative scientific projects. [[read more](#)]



## 3rd Indo-German Dialogue on Excellence in Research and Education at IISER Pune, November 10

'Indo-German Dialogue on Excellence in Research and Education', an initiative by DWIH New Delhi, aims at bringing together Indian and German decision makers, stakeholders and leading experts, to jointly and comprehensively discuss the multifaceted and all-encompassing aspects of excellence in research and education, to exchange ideas and experiences with regard to the challenges and opportunities and to identify areas of mutual interest. [\[read more\]](#)

## Annual Conference of the International Association of Centre for Federal Studies, New Delhi, November 16-17

The South Asia Institute of Heidelberg University together the Institute of Social Sciences, the Centre for Multilevel Federalism and the Forum of Federations and the International Association of Centre for Federal Studies organized an international conference on "The value of comparative federalism: the legacy of Ronald L. Watts". The conference took place between November 16-18. The theme of the annual conference was designed as a tribute to the intellectual legacy of Ronald Watts.

## Talk Towards A Comprehensive Understanding of Old Age by Prof. Dr. Andreas Kruse, New Delhi, November 28

Professor Dr. Andreas Kruse gave a lecture titled "Towards A Comprehensive Understanding of Old Age" to a packed Multipurpose Hall, India International Centre, New Delhi. The Talk was the opening event of the four year Indo-German Partnership in Higher Education between Heidelberg University and Jawahar Lal Nehru University. The project "New Directions in Active Ageing and Age Friendly Culture in India and Germany" is cofunded by The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and University Grants Commission (UGC). [\[read more\]](#)

## Filmscreenings, "New Directions in Active Ageing and Age Friendly Culture in India and Germany"

The project "New Directions in "Active Ageing" and "Age-friendly Culture" in India and Germany", which runs from 2016 to 2020 has two major foci: to foster intercultural and multidisciplinary exchange between researchers from both universities working on ageing and demographic change and contribute to the intergenerational dialogue and sensitizing civil society in India for these topics. Therefore, it will include film screenings on topics such as active and healthy ageing, followed by a discussion of experts and the audience. These screenings bring the very successful format of the "European Film Festival for Generations" to India, which has been running since 2010 in more than 70 venues in Germany.



## **LipiThukral Accepted as a Guest group leader at IWR, University of Heidelberg**

Lipi Thukral has been accepted as a Guest group leader at IWR, University of Heidelberg. The guest membership is valid for 3 years. Through the membership at IWR she will have access to the "Heidelberg Graduate School of Mathematical and Computational Methods for the Sciences". Lipi did her PhD in Computational biophysics from IWR and is now a senior scientist at CSIR-Institute of genomics and integrative biology.



## **Prof. Comba as distinguished professor at IIT Mumbai**

Prof. Peter Comba, Institute of Inorganic Chemistry, Heidelberg University has been invited to join Department of Chemistry, IIT Bombay (IITB) as a distinguished visiting professor for the year 2016-2017. He visited IITB from September till November. During his stay at IITB, he delivered a series of lectures on coordination chemistry to IITB graduates students. He also delivered several research seminars and fostered his scientific collaboration with various groups in IITB.



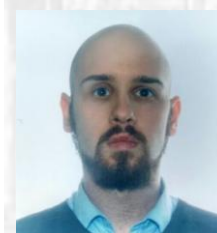
## **Dr. Roos Gerritsen as Guest Lecturer at IGCS, IIT Madras**

Dr. Gerritsen, Institute for Ethnologie, Heidelberg University joined Indo-German Centre for Sustainability (IGCS), IIT Madras as a visiting lecturer attached to the Department for Humanities and Social Sciences. She offered a course for Humanities students and also conducted research. Her research focused on "foodscapes in Chennai" contributing to the research field of urban sustainable consumption and lifestyles at IGCS.



## **Mr. Markus Scheiber as Guest Lecturer at Mumbai University**

Markus Scheiber, German Studies, University of Heidelberg is teaching for a semester at the Department of German, Mumbai University under Heidelberg-India Partnership Programme. In addition to this he provides assistance to students at the Department with their written assignments and contributes in Departmental seminars and conferences.



## **Prof. Sahadevan at South Asia Institute**

Professor P. Sahadevan, Professor of South Asian Studies at the Centre for South Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University was the DAAD Guest Professor at the Department of Political Science, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University during the summer term of 2016. Professor Sahadevan offered one foundation course and two seminars during the semester.



## Heidelberg Alumni India (HAIN)

### Welcome to HAIN!

Join the network of former students, teachers, fellows and friends of Heidelberg University in India on the new online platform on [HAI-net](#) [[click here to register](#)]

If you would like to become an active member of HAIN, please don't hesitate to contact us today at: [hain@alumni.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:hain@alumni.uni-heidelberg.de).

### HAIN Regional Chapters

HAIN is the Heidelberg alumni initiative for all alumni of the Ruprecht-Karls-University who live and work in India and neighbouring countries. The goal of the Heidelberg alumni initiative in India is to establish and promote academic, scientific, cultural and also social exchanges in the region. [[read more](#)]

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## Heidelberg University News

### At the Top with Ten Highly Cited Researchers

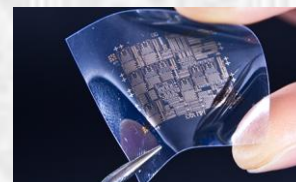
Heidelberg University is the most successful university Germany-wide on the list of highly cited researchers, that has just appeared. With ten researchers it is in second place in Germany after the Max Planck Society. This international evaluation names researchers whose publications have been quoted most often worldwide in the natural sciences, social sciences or medicine. [[read more](#)]

### New Collaborative Research Centre in the Chemistry of Organic Materials

Heidelberg University is receiving a new collaborative research centre in chemistry. The German Research Foundation (DFG) awarded funding for CRC 1249, "N-Heteropolycycles as Functional Materials". The research network's 17 subprojects are focussed on developing new organic semiconductors and investigating the elementary charge transport processes that determine their properties. [[read more](#)]



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## Prof. Axel Michaels as Senior Professor

The President of Heidelberg University, Prof. Dr. Bernhard Eitel, has awarded Prof. Axel Michaels (Head of Department Cultural and Religious History of South Asia) the title of Senior Professor as of 1 October 2016. "Senior Professor" is an honorary degree, inaugurated in 2007, that can be bestowed upon a university professor following his or her retirement or the conclusion of their obligations. The rectorate decides who shall receive the title. [\[read more\]](#)



## Humboldt Foundation awarded Sumathi Ramaswamy

Prof. Sumathi Ramaswamy (Duke University) received the prestigious Anneliese Maier Research Award by the Humboldt Foundation. With the prize money of 250,000 €, she will pursue research at her host institution, the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies (HCTS), over the course of five years. Ramaswamy is member of the Cluster's advisory board and was involved in various research projects. [\[read more\]](#)



## Exchange Programme "New Directions in Active Ageing"

A new cooperation programme between Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies/ South Asia Institute at Heidelberg University with Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, aims at enhancing "active ageing" and "age-friendly cultures" in both India and Europe through various forms of knowledge exchange. Profs. Christiane Brosius (HCTS), William Sax (SAI) and Andreas Kruse (Gerontology) are representatives of the programme. [\[read more\]](#)



## Ruperto Carola Again Best German University in Shanghai Ranking

The Shanghai Ranking for 2016, i.e. the Academic Ranking of World Universities revealed that Heidelberg University is again the best university in Germany, for the third successive time after 2014 and 2015. It shares first place with the Technical University of Munich. The two universities together occupy 47th place in the international league table. Heidelberg comes in 12th among European universities. [\[read more\]](#)



## Vice-Presidents Re-elected

The four Vice-Presidents of Heidelberg University, Prof. Dr. Beatrix Busse, Prof. Dr. A. Stephen K. Hashmi, Prof. Dr. Dieter W. Heermann and Prof. Dr. Óscar Loureda, have been re-elected to a second term by the Senate of Ruperto Carola. The vote passed by a large majority in the Senate session on 21 June 2016. [\[read more\]](#)



## Christiane Brosius appointed as Marsilius Fellow

Prof. Dr. Christiane Brosius, Chair of Visual and Media Anthropology, has been appointed as a fellow of the Marsilius Kolleg at Heidelberg University from March 2016 to February 2017. The appointment followed a selection by the University's rectorate applying criteria such as scholarly excellence, confirmed by publications, and a proposal that demands for collaboration with other scholarly disciplines. [\[read more\]](#)



## Humanities Earn Top Scores Internationally

Four humanities subjects at Heidelberg University are among the leading disciplines represented in the recently published QS World University Rankings by Subject. Archaeology ranks 23rd, modern languages 27th, philosophy 33rd and history 46th. "The principle of a comprehensive university that promotes interdisciplinary dialogue based on disciplinary strengths is a central component of our institutional strategy. [\[read more\]](#)



## Highly Endowed Grant from European Research Council for Heidelberg Biologist

Heidelberg biologist Dr. Sylvia Erhardt is receiving a highly endowed grant from the European Research Council (ERC), an ERC Consolidator Grant for excellent young researchers. In the five-year project, entitled "The role of RNA in centromere biology and genome integrity", Dr. Erhardt will explore centromeres – structures which are essential for cell division. [\[read more\]](#)



## Leibniz Prize for Heidelberg Researcher Prof. Dr Joachim P. Spatz

Prof. Dr Joachim Spatz, Heidelberg University researcher and Director at the Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems in Stuttgart, has been awarded the 2017 Leibniz Prize from the German Research Foundation (DFG) for his outstanding research at the intersection of the material sciences and cell biophysics. [\[read more\]](#)



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## Upcoming HCSA Events

### **Photo exhibition on Glacier Melting at Jamia University, New Delhi, February**

Jamia Millia Islamia University organizes Professor Dr. Marcus Nuesser's Exhibition on "Environmental Change on a Himalayan scale" The exhibition consists of a collection of bi-temporal comparisons, between historical photographs, paintings or maps and repeated photographs, satellite imagery and topographic maps, which will visualize the environmental changes on a Himalayan scale. Examples will be shown from the Nanga Parbat area in the northwestern Himalayas, over Ladakh and Nepal to Sikkim.



### **IGP, "New Directions in Active Ageing and Age Friendly culture in India and Germany" - Spring School and Workshop, New Delhi, February 20-24**

Indo German Partnership in Higher Education Programme between Heidelberg University and Jawahar Lal Nehru University was launched in November 2016. In February 2017 the programme is entering the next stage with a Spring School organised by Prof. Kruse, Prof. Sax and Prof. Brosius titled, " Perspectives on an Age-Friendly Culture: Concepts and Methods". Prof. Sax will also conduct the workshop, "Ageing and Residence". The event format will be morning workshops, afternoon film screenings and discussions.



### **DAAD German Study & Research Expo India 2017, New Delhi and Hyderabad, February 17-23**

13 German universities, research and funding institutions, including HCSA will participate in two city German Study & Research Expo India 2017 organised by DAAD. The Expo aims specifically at graduates and postgraduates and presents a platform for a one on one exchange between students and experts. Candidates interested in pursuing a PhD in Germany can book individual appointments with representatives of German universities & research institutions. In addition to this the Indian institutions can do matchmaking with the German institutions present at the Messe.



### **Launch of Heidelberg India Research Internship Platform, February 2017**

Heidelberg Centre South Asia would be launching its initiative, 'Indo-German Research Internship Platform' in year 2017. The conviction that internships are crucial for career orientation and applicability of knowledge and skills taught in Higher Education Institutions makes it one of the future core services of Heidelberg Centre South Asia (HCSA). This platform would host information on internship opportunities both in Germany and India and it



aims at building connections that are important for developing and maintaining a strong professional network for the future to scientists, researchers, students, faculty and professionals from Germany and India.

## **Prof. Harish Naraindas as DAAD Guest Professor 2017 at SAI**

Prof. Harish Naraindas, Centre for the Study of Social Systems, JNU got confirmed for Guest Professorship at the SAI of Heidelberg University for the summer term 2017. This is the fourth consecutive successful application from HCSA.



## **International Workshop on Social In/Exclusion at TISS, Mumbai, March 22 - 24**

Heidelberg Centre South Asia, jointly with Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, will organize a three-day international workshop on social inclusion and exclusion. The workshop will be attended by experts from Europe, India as well as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal.



## **Heidelberg India Joint Graduate Programme on Big Data Research**

The proposed Joint Graduate Programme has partner institutions, BioQuant and IWR from Heidelberg and IITs viz. Guwahati, Kanpur and Madras, and universities viz. JNU, Delhi University and Allahabad University. The programme is funded by DBT, Ministry of Science and Technology, India and Heidelberg University. The MoU would be signed this Spring.



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## **India –Germany DST-DFG Joint Call Recommended Projects**

The DST-DFG Joint Proposal on “Magnetic and dielectric studies on the room temperature magnet SrRu2O6 and its doped variants” by Prof. Ruediger Klingeler, KIP and Prof. Sunil Nair, IISER Pune has been recommended. However, official news is yet to come. This lays the foundation for a structured Indo-German collaboration between the two institutes and paves way for bigger future initiatives.



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