



REPORT

2004



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Summer Schools in Heidelberg, Hindi Intensive Course in Jaipur
Research Focus: Environment and Health

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Editorial

Newspaper editors, who must write their columns daily, are unlikely to have much sympathy for the directors of academic institutes, who are charged with composing but one a year. Yet, scholars labour in the vineyards of their choice, often producing in a slow and uncertain rhythm. Small wonder, then, that the struggle to provide a spicy, new introduction to a report on academic activities is usually a lost cause - and the temptation to let the report speak for itself correspondingly great. Readers of past SAI Reports will indeed find much that is familiar in this one, but there are two topics that merit a little emphasis.

The first concerns what should be an imminent change in the SAI's institutional life, in the form of the introduction of a new Bachelor of Arts Degree in South Asian Studies. A corresponding Master of Arts is in the planning stages. These initiatives reflect a key element of those reforms of the German University system that are now being actively implemented. Whether they will advance - or rather impede - the cause of higher learning remains to be seen. On the modest scale of the SAI's effort, however, the experience should give my successors something to write about.

The second concerns the AIDS epidemic in South Asia, especially India, where the situation is now a cause for anxiety. Recent estimates place the prevalence rate among the population aged 15 to 49 at around two percent in the southern States and a little less than one percent in much of the north. This may not seem too startling - until one recalls that the prevalence rate in South Africa went from about one percent in 1990 to twenty percent in 2001. It is earnestly to be hoped that developments on this front will remain buried in those sections of future reports that deal with research projects rather than become the occasion for another editorial.

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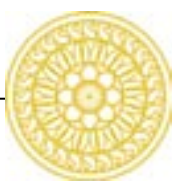
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Alive in a Dead Language

The Heidelberg Summer School in Spoken Sanskrit turns five



Students at the Summer School in Spoken Sanskrit - Photo: Susanne Goetz

In Don Siegel's novel "Love in a Dead Language" the protagonist Leopold Roth is killed by a very unusual weapon: the not very handy, yet by no means less effective 10 kg Sanskrit-English Dictionary by Sir Monier Monier-Williams. This may be one, yet not the only reason why our lecturer Sadananda Das kindly requests participants to leave at home any kind of reference work when visiting the Summer School in Spoken Sanskrit in Heidelberg.

Indeed, as fundamental as dictionaries and grammar books undoubtedly are for philological work, and as indispensable they may seem to the student at home wrestling with their homework, you might actually miss out on having the time of your life when, on being asked whether you have any plans for the evening in Sanskrit, you first start leafing through a 4000-page tome. Not that the ability to communicate in Sanskrit will necessarily open up to you Bombay's glitzy night-life, get you any closer to rubbing your

elbows with the man on the street or, for that matter, even help you get a *chai*. Though always an idiom of the few, the Sanskrit-speaking community nowadays has dwindled probably to an all-time low, despite new revivalist tendencies.

However, at an Indian conference dealing with classical Indian themes or on the hallowed ground of South Indian temple cities you might very likely run into someone who, if you introduce yourself as a scholar or student of Sanskrit, will ask you something in a language which until then you may have thought existed merely on paper, and was uttered only by mythical and revered heroes of Indology such as Agastya, Arjuna or Paul Thieme. To establish a personal link to a brahminical scholar and for sharing with him the love for a whole world of language, literature and ritual, there are few ways as direct and casual of stepping out of everyday talk into the inner circle of intimacy and learning as through a dialogue in Sanskrit - a language whose mastery

requires maybe more sweat, tears and dedication and whose range covers a vaster field of ideas and practices than many others. For students, texts - the main object of study of Classical Indology - may appear more approachable and be read differently once the awe, which Sanskrit usually inspires, is outweighed by a feeling of accomplishment and familiarity.

The Summer School in Spoken Sanskrit at the SAI in Heinrich Zimmer's and Max Weber's Heidelberg is a unique event. It all started in autumn 2000 when on the initiative of Professor Axel Michaels, head of the Department of Classical Indology, and with the assistance of Dr. Srilata Raman Müller, the first course was held by Shri, now Dr., Sadananda Das from Benares. Dr. Das's knowledge as a native speaker of Sanskrit, his teaching skills and his engaging personality have contributed to making the Heidelberg Summer School the success story which it has turned out to be



Info: Summer School in Spoken Sanskrit 2004

This year for the second time the SAI offers a three-week intensive course dedicated to advanced learners of spoken Sanskrit. Shri Dr. Sadananda Das has prepared a course which especially addresses the needs of the alumni of the previous Heidelberg Sanskrit Summer Schools, but is equally open to those who already speak Sanskrit. What has been learnt in previous courses will be reactivated and the students will be assisted in enlarging their vocabulary, practising the use of idiomatic expressions as well as in developing fluency in speech and having topically oriented discussions. By introducing new material from gnomic and kaavya literature one of the foci once again will be memorization, recitation and, as a grand finale, a theatrical performance.

Prerequisites: elementary Sanskrit and English

Organizer: Prof. Dr. Axel Michaels

Teacher: Dr. Sadananda Das

Participants: max. 15; min. 10

Venue: South Asia Institute

Date: September 6 - 24, 2004

Deadlines: application May 15, payment June 30

Fee: Euro 300,- (incl. teaching material)

Accommodation: hostel on request, approx. Euro 200,-

Please send your application, including the completed questionnaire from our website (→ ①), by e-mail to Srilata Müller (→ ②) or as a letter to:

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The Secretariat
Dept. of Classical Indology
South Asia Institute
Im Neuenheimer Feld 330
69120 Heidelberg
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① <http://www.sai.uni-heidelberg.de/abt/ind/index.htm>

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over the last five years.

With more than 50 applicants each year coming from all over the world, the SAI summer school has become *the* international address for spoken Sanskrit by offering small study groups of 15 highly qualified participants, daily five-hour sessions of intensive, monolingual teaching for six days a week over a period of four weeks, concluded by a theatrical performance (*nāṭaka*) in Sanskrit. I myself had the pleasure of taking on the organization of the course in 2001 and together with the staff of the Dept. of Classical Indology I have witnessed it acquire its present shape. Last year we had the honour of hearing Prof. Madhav Deshpande (University of Wisconsin at Ann Arbor) give a talk to the course on “vernacular Sanskrit” - in Sanskrit. Subsequently, our students reciprocated by valiantly conducting the discussion with the renowned sanskritist - in Sanskrit, of course.

Last year was marked by an expansion of the Summer School’s format: In view of the high number of applications, the limited places and the diverse levels of language competence, we additionally offered for the first time an “Advanced” Summer School in Spoken Sanskrit as a follow-up to the regular course in September. It is anticipated that it will become a forum for all those who wish to meet again and continue speaking and practicing Sanskrit even when not in India.

The Advanced Summer School, held at the Università degli Studi in Florence, was organized by Prof. Michaels, myself and Prof. Fabrizia Baldissera,

thus strengthening ties with one of our Erasmus/SOCRATES partner universities. Prof. Baldissera managed to round up the magnificent setting of the old Tuscan capital with splendid hospitality. The concluding *nāṭaka* which featured an abridged version of Kalidasa’s “Abhijnanasakuntala”, the well-known tale of the rebuked forest beauty and the king’s regained memory of his love, happened to be a social event in which the enraptured Florentine public was honoured by the presence of an enthusiastic Burmese princess. In addition, His Excellency the Indian ambassador to Germany on his visit to the SAI this year expressed his admiration and support for the Heidelberg Summer School’s ongoing effort to promote Sanskrit outside India.

Applications for this year’s courses are pouring in. I hope this course may continue to be an inspiration for students and teachers alike and remove the obstacles which the gravity and complexity of Sanskrit may pose to those who may find a language you supposedly can’t chat in or reach out to people with stifling and depressing. In Fellini’s “La dolce vita” the *paparazzo* Marcello meets his old friend, the brooding and Teutonic Steiner, who mentions that he is currently reading a Sanskrit grammar. A few days later Steiner is found dead with a gun at his head. Maybe this episode would have ended differently, if Steiner had also *spoken* Sanskrit.

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Hindi Intensive Course in Jaipur

Eight students participated in the first Hindi intensive course organized by the Department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures. Seven of them had just finished the introductory Hindi course in Heidelberg, one student had already completed her third semester.

The course was designed and organized by Prof. Dr. Monika Boehm-Tettelbach and Michaela Dimmers in collaboration with Prof. Pawan Surana (Commissioner of Women Affairs, State of Rajasthan, former Principal of Maharani College and former Head of the Department

of German Studies at the University of Rajasthan), and Hemant Agrawal, Secretary of the Indo-German Society, Jaipur. The Prakrit Bharati Academy, Jaipur, provided the venue. Michaela Dimmers accompanied the students to India.

The course comprised four hours of classroom teaching each morning and project work in the afternoon. It also included a number of extracurricular activities, such as excursions (trips to Udaipur and Ranakpur), and lectures on cultural, social and political topics.

The perhaps most challenging but also



most enjoyed extracurricular activity was dancing lessons with the renowned Guru Pandit Girdhari Maharaj and Srimati Jyoti Bharati Gosvami. These were generously sponsored by the Indo-German Society of Jaipur. Within only nine days the students learnt a dance on the Radha-Krishna theme which they performed at the 39th Anniversary of the Indo-German Society. The dance performance was a great success and received ample coverage in the local press.

For the year 2005, the organizers plan to open the course for participants from other German universities, as well.

Michaela Dimmers

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Dance performance by participants of the Hindi course at the Prakrit Bharati Academy, Jaipur

Summer School in Modern South Asian Studies 2003

From July 19th to August 2nd, 2003, the Department of Political Science hosted the Second Summer School in Modern South Asian Studies. The program was attended by 24 students from 12 countries around the world and teaching staff from across the European Union.

The course was again jointly organized by faculty members from various departments within the SAI as well as members of the University of Edinburgh, the University of Oslo, the European Institute for Asian Studies (Brussels) and the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (Paris). As in the previous session, the course aimed at providing students from disciplines as diverse as economics, history and international relations with an in-depth look at issues facing South Asia in the third millennium.

The program generated debate between students and teaching staff on a range of topics, such as the role of religion in contemporary politics, the North-South divide in economic development, economic liberalization and inter-communal relations in South Asian countries.

Both students as well as teaching staff commented very positively on the high

level of academic teaching and discussions. Both sides also enjoyed the opportunity to form long-standing academic and personal relationships and networks.

The Summer School received external funding from the European Commission for the second year in a row. In recognition of the quality of the program the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) has also recognized it as one of its German Summer Academies for both the years 2003 and 2004. It generously provided additional funding for students as part of its effort to create a long-term network of high-level German summer courses for foreign students.

In an attempt to enable participants to make full use of the resources at the SAI (and here in particular the library), an additional third week of guided research will be added to the third Summer School, which will be held from July 24th to August 14th, 2004 at the Institute with the theme "Modern South Asia: Analysing Political, Economic and Cultural Change".

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Info: Summer School in Modern South Asian Studies 2004

The Department of Political Science at the South Asia Institute will host the Third Summer School in Modern South Asian Studies from 24 July to 14 August 2004. This year's theme will be "Modern South Asia: Analysing Political, Economic and Cultural Change".

The program is organized in cooperation with Dr. Willem van der Geest (EIAS), Prof. Roger Jeffery (University of Edinburgh), Prof. Subrata K. Mitra (University of Heidelberg), Prof. Pamela Gwynne Price (University of Oslo) and Dr. Marie Saglio-Yatzimirsky (INALCO) and will be co-funded by the European Commission and the German Academic Exchange Service.

For further information, please visit our website (→ ①).

① www.sai.uni-heidelberg.de/abt/sapol/summerschool.html



Teaching Focus 2004/2005: Rituals in South Asia

After the success of last year's focus on "Megacities" this year's focus will be on "Rituals in South Asia", jointly organized by the departments of Classical Indology, Modern Indology and Anthropology. This topic has not only helped forge South Asia as a unique cultural region. It has also directed the interest of scholars from the most diverse disciplines towards this part of the world, reckoning South Asian ritual traditions as a paradigmatic case for understanding rituals in general or even for developing a new understanding of religion and human action.

The leading questions will be how old and new, text and field work, philology and social sciences can complement each other when dealing with a phenomenon as multifaceted as ritual. It will be one more opportunity to thematically synchronize the teaching commitment of the Institute's departments, thereby making full use of an interdisciplinary academic setup. Additionally this year's teaching focus will help the SAI present the ongoing research and latest results of the DFG collaborative research center (SFB) "Dynamics of Ritual" to its students. Thus, participants will be enabled to get involved with the various projects of the SFB.

During the winter term the focus will be on life cycle rituals, whereas the summer term will be dedicated to rituals in the context of festivals. The program will consist of seminars, one two-day workshop each semester, individual lectures regarding aspects of ritual and ritual theory, a series of documentary and feature films dealing with visual and performative aspects, excursions to religious centres and attendance at special events. The program will be completed by an exhibition on "Rituals in Nepal".

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Teacher's Report: Interdisciplinary Teaching Programme Megacities of India (2003-2004)

In the winter semester of 2003-04, the SAI started an interdisciplinary teaching programme (*Lehrschwerpunkt*) with the purpose of introducing students to major fields of contemporary research on South Asia. The first round was organised by the departments of History and Anthropology and focused on Indian megacities. Each department held a course on "megacities", which was supplemented by various joint activities: a fortnightly film-show, a reading of contemporary poetry on Mumbai, an excursion to the exhibition "body.city" in Berlin and a workshop for students.

The intention of this workshop was to enable students to discuss current research projects with scholars from various disciplines (History, Geography and Anthropology). Themes already touched upon in the seminars were taken up again, but now from the specific perspective of the lecturer's own projects, methods, findings and research experiences. In this way, the differing approaches of the various disciplines to the exploration of megacities were introduced. Moreover, thematic fields were marked out that students could then explore themselves, e.g. in MA theses. The challenges and difficulties of research in these fields were also addressed.

The workshop, held on January 22-23, 2004, was inaugurated by an evening lecture of Heinz Nissel (Vienna, Geography) on Mumbai as a megacity between global, national and local interests. The morning session focused on historical aspects: Michael Mann (Fernuniversität Hagen) spoke on the

Delhi's metamorphoses between 1911-1961, Tilman Frasch (Manchester Metropolitan University, history) gave a talk entitled "Empowering the City: Technological networks and urbanity (ca. 1880-1930)", Ravi Ahuja (SAI, History) explored industrial culture in colonial Bombay (1870-1947). After the lunch-break, Jürgen Clemens (SAI, Geography) presented insights regarding his research on migration and urbanisation in Karachi and Christiane Brosius (SAI, Anthropology) looked at Hindu nationalist performance and power in Mumbai with particular focus on the Shiv Sena. The workshop was concluded by the talk "Living from garbage: survival strategies of the urban poor in Delhi" by Michael Köberlein (SAI, Geography).

Students and lecturers agreed that the workshop was highly successful. More than seventy students took part and, more importantly, many of them participated in very lively discussions. In fact, the time earmarked for discussion turned out to be too short. The workshop proved that innovation in university teaching cannot be reduced to the proposed introduction of credit point systems. New ways of teaching must be explored, thus encouraging students to embark confidently and creatively on research journeys of their own.

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Student's Report: Resumé of the Workshop "Megacities in South Asia"

The workshop "Megacities in South Asia" addressed various issues related to the development of urban centres in South Asia. It offered a unique opportunity to students participating in regular seminars to expand their knowledge of urban development in South Asia since the late 17th century.

The students highly appreciated the

interdisciplinary nature of the workshop, thereby providing those who had already participated in the seminars with the opportunity to get additional information on the subject from different points of view. The speakers covered a wide range of aspects in their presentations and by doing so, they deepened the knowledge of the students rather than overstraining



it. Thus, the time for discussions after each presentation turned out to be too short due to an unexpected degree of student participation. The standard of discussions was further enhanced through the prior distribution of abstracts, giving an overview of the contents of the talks.

Apart from highlighting the facts essential to each focus of interest the scholars supplemented their presentations by providing further information on the methodology of their studies, thereby enabling the students to become familiar with professional research methods. Moreover, the students highly appreciated the fact that the workshop looked beyond India towards other South Asian countries, thereby providing a deeper insight into the subject than the regular seminars.

At the end of the day each of the students was asked to write down his/her suggestions and comments concerning the workshop. The evaluation of these comments showed that the vast majority of the students would highly welcome similar events taking place at the SAI in the future. We hope that the overall positive picture of the workshop and the suggestions made by students of different



Participants of the workshop “Megacities in South Asia” during a presentation in the Institute’s library. - Photo: Ravi Ahuja

departments will encourage academic staff at the Institute to provide alternative ways of teaching in the future for the benefit of all.

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Socio-cultural Exposure - Students’ Fieldtrip to Southern India

The recent field and study trip, carried out by Prof. Dr. Hans-Georg Bohle and Arnd Holdschlag (Geographer, M.Sc) (Febr. 16th to March 13th, 2004), included a group of 17 graduate students of Geography who visited the South Indian states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Against the background of sharply contrasting environmental potentials and constraints a major target was to demonstrate the various structural frameworks of development as well as the diverse transformation processes. Within these regions this was achieved by having a closer look at the inhabitants’ complex livelihood strategies, both in urban and rural settings. Special emphasis was laid on discussions about approaches and methods for empirical field research in development geography.

Taking Mumbai (Bombay), India’s “economic powerhouse”, as a starting point, a 27 hours train journey led to Chennai (Madras). This first field-trip location showed the different morphologies of a





megacity's built-up area, indicating its rapid and giant growth. Additionally, the urban poor's living conditions in slum and squatter settlements along transportation lines were directly assessed. Chennai then served as the arena for studying phenomena of a megacity or a "globalized place", comprising aspects of urban development from the colonial period to the recent trends of globalization. Its new functional dimensions and internal fragmentation also contain uncontrollable risks as well as social and functional rifts. Our programme included presentations by the local government (Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority) and a non-governmental organization (Exnora International) on their views of metropolitan dynamics and problems as well as their approaches to and difficulties in coping with these.

Additional facets of the urbanization process were highlighted during study trips to several secondary cities. The basic elements of Hindu town planning, reflecting religious thought and principles, and the ongoing transformation of traditional urban structures were examined in the temple cities of Chidambaram and Madurai, the latter being an early centre of Tamil culture and currently the major city of southern Tamil

Nadu. Pondicherry (east coast) and the harbour towns of Kochin-Emakulam (west coast) were selected to explain practices and impacts of the European colonial rule and the established trade relations. Moreover, outlines of a comparatively recent development factor - national and international tourism - were



Participants of the field-trip with students of the Government College of Kumbakonam - Photo: Heiko Eller

witnessed in Mamallapuram, Kanyakumari/Cape Comorin, and in Kovalam.

The rural development spheres were reviewed by comparing the different ecological determinants of agriculture in these two states and their consequences for sustainable livelihood strategies. With the support of the Department of Geography, Government College of Kumbakonam, a field survey of several days was

conducted in four nearby villages. This focussed particularly on issues of food security, vulnerability and survival strategies in the context of the water crisis in the Cauvery delta. The findings as well as the practical and analytical problems of empirical field research directly led to further debates, e.g. with members of the

Centre of Development Studies, Trivandrum, and with Balz Strasser, Geographer, University of Zurich, who has been studying the diversification strategies of farmers, formerly engaged in the rubber monoculture in Edamattom (Kerala). More dialogues were held along our way to the end of the tour at Mysore with participants in small scale industries, e.g. coconut processing, match and *bidi* making and aquaculture. This opportunity for scientific and intercultural exchange of views and

ideas played a prominent role in deepening the understanding of regional development problems. This also paved the way for the establishment and strengthening of future research contacts.

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Students share information on internships in South Asia

With the intention of providing a "gateway" to South Asia for their fellow students, the students' body of the SAI is preparing a website (→ ①) with information on internships in South Asia. Eric Decker, Volker Oberkircher, Constanze Weigl and Christian Underwood took up the task of setting up the website.

Eric Decker, who studies History and Political Science of South Asia, will present a report on his internship at the SAI's Branch Office in Colombo. Volker Oberkircher (Anthropology and Political Science) will relate his experiences at the Branch Office in New Delhi. Both supported the work of the resident representatives with clearly defined tasks

such as creating new websites for the branch offices, while also gaining valuable insights into the *modus operandi* of the Institute's branch offices.

Constanze Weigl (History of South Asia, Anthropology and Modern Indology) started her time in India with an internship at the Library and Information Centre of the Max Müller Bhavan in New Delhi. This was followed by a three-month traineeship at the "Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit" (GTZ) in New Delhi.

Christian Underwood, a promising young journalist and currently student of Political Science at the SAI, signed on as a free lancer with the Indian Express,

exploring New Delhi - always in search of a good story. What about this one: A small group of German students and trainees, who all met in New Delhi for the first time, decided to meet again - this time, in Berlin.

And maybe this shows another important aspect of internships abroad: It's not only gaining valuable work experience abroad, but also establishing contacts and networks for the future.

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① <http://praktika.sai.uni-heidelberg.de/>



SAI establishes research focus “Environment & Health”

South Asia is in a phase of rapid change. Globalization and urbanization are transforming the life-worlds of more than a billion people. Long-existing diseases, such as malaria, tuberculosis and malnutrition continue to trouble South Asian populations, while new burdens on health, such as environmental pollution, HIV/AIDS, diabetes, and suicide, are gaining increasing prominence. In this context, the SAI plans to make Environment & Health a key theme for interdisciplinary research.

The aim of establishing this focal point is to concentrate capacities that already exist at the Institute and to extend research networks with other universities and centres. At the SAI, it is particularly the Departments of Anthropology, Economics, Geography, and History of South Asia that are joining forces. In the University of Heidelberg, already existing ties with the Institute of Tropical Hygiene and the Institute for the History of Medicine will be strengthened. Internationally, Environment & Health is expanding SAI's active co-operations with research centres in South Asia.

Environment & Health will build on ongoing activities of the Institute's

members. In the Dept. of Economics, continuing research is being done on the economic impact of HIV/AIDS and on resource management. In the Dept. of Geography, Prof. Bohle has carried out extensive research on the effects of environmental disasters in Orissa, on food security and conflict resolution, and on health and sickness in Sri Lanka. In the Dept. of Anthropology, Prof. Sax has an ongoing project on ritual healing in the Himalayas. Medical anthropology is one of the Department's research priorities. The Department organized an international conference on “gender and health in South Asia” in 2002. The next international conference, “The Ills of Marginality” will take place in June 2004. The Dept. of History of South Asia, under direction of Prof. Dharampal-Frick, is planning projects on medical histories of South Asia and establishing links with the Institute of the History of Medicine.

Issues in Environment & Health already constitute a major part of the Institute's teaching, and will continue to do so in the future. Most courses in the Dept. of Geography are directly relevant to the key theme. In the Dept. of History of South Asia, teaching concentrates on

the history of epidemics of disease and of hunger. The Dept. of Economics deals with health and environment in the context of the economics of development. In the Dept. of Anthropology, up to four seminars are offered on health, illness and medicine each term, making it the largest teaching programme in medical anthropology in Germany. In 2000, the Dept. established Germany's first post-doc position for medical anthropology and convenes the Heidelberg Medical Anthropology Working Group.

Within Environment & Health, a number of topics have been identified for interdisciplinary research: health transition, adaptability of tropical health systems, socio-economic consequences of HIV/AIDS, water management, privatisation of health care, ritual healing, popular risk perceptions, mental health and suicide, as well as socio-cultural marginalization and illness.

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Bhopal 1984-2004

Around midnight of the 2nd to the 3rd of Dec. 1984, Bhopal was struck by an industrial disaster of hitherto rare dimensions. A cloud of toxic gas and vapour, produced by an explosion at the Union Carbide pesticide plant, killed approx. 5000 (or 16000, or 30000) and injured between thirty thousand and up to seven hundred thousand citizens, depending on the sources. Reports as late as 2003 state that thousands of severely injured and handicapped people still have not seen any money or any other form of relief and compensation. Books describing the ill fortunes of those whose social life was severely disrupted due to loss of relatives, expenses for protracted law suits and treatment costs, loss of livelihood and employment due to disabilities, would fill a whole library.

The disaster immediately attracted the attention of the international media.

Almost from the first hour, TV stations from all over the world and the international press reported from Bhopal and Institute, West Virginia, the seat of Union Carbide's headquarters. It was one of the most freely and intensely reported disasters, to an extent unknown before and thereafter. A rare combination of a country with a free press, the new satellite technology and the then still amateurish “information management” by Union Carbide, set a forum for worldwide discussions of safety standards, the role of third world countries in what we now call the global economy, the conflicting interests of victims and stake holders on the one hand, and that of governments, multinationals and share holders on the other.

If we compare this openness with later incidents of exposure to chemical and nuclear hazards (Ukraine and Russia, the

gas leak in west China, the Gulf Wars, Exxon Valdez and other oil spills), it is evident that information has become more tightly controlled by interested parties, such as governments and multinational companies.

Twenty years after the Bhopal disaster, there remain many unknown victims and open questions. The event has been aestheticised in books, plays and photo exhibitions, many a sentimental story has been published, and victims still fight for justice. Meanwhile, Union Carbide has been taken over by Dow Chemical, but the new owner refuses to acknowledge any liability resulting from the takeover - at least in India - although it has earmarked 2 billion US \$ to address Union Carbide's asbestos liabilities in the US.

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Environmental Standards and International Trade: The Case of India

Public awareness of potential threats of international trade to the natural environment has grown in the last few years. In detail, there are mainly three different ways, in which international trade might affect the environment: Firstly, international trade boosts economic growth and - other things being equal - enhances pollution and the exploitation of natural resources. On the other hand, higher incomes as a result of economic growth increase demand for an improvement in environmental quality (growth effects).

Secondly, international trade changes international production patterns. A potential migration of polluting industries to countries with lax environmental standards would harm the environment in these countries, but the worldwide transfer of environmentally sound technology could reduce pollution (structural effects). Thirdly, international trade sharpens competition. Countries might compete in low environmental standards to attract foreign investors and producers might try to save production cost to the disadvantage of the national environment. On the other hand, environmental friendly products and production methods can be applied in favour of the marketing-strategy of companies (competitive effect).

The structural effects are of highest interest in the environment and free trade debate. The results of theoretical work



Export led growth in a labour and pollution intensive industry: India, the world's leading ship wrecker.

- Photo: C.Engel / Greenpeace

predict a shift of polluting industries to low standard countries, but substantial empirical evidence is still lacking. A research project of the Department of International Economics has now examined the development of Indian exports of polluting industries in the decade after India's liberalization of its foreign trade regime in the beginning of the 1990s. Polluting industries, measured as industries with high pollution abatement costs, have been identified on a highly disaggregated level by recently provided data of the Federal Statistical Office of Germany. The data source for the development of Indian industry sectors was drawn from the Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy.

The average export share (sales abroad to total sales) of the observed 305 pol-

luting and non polluting Indian industries nearly doubled to 11.6% in 2000 due to India's trade liberalization. A special pattern for polluting industries seems to become obvious, if the environmental abatement costs exceed 2.5% - 3.5% of total production costs and if these highly polluting industries are furthermore divided into capital- and labour-intensive sectors. In 2000, the export share of highly polluting labour-intensive industries amounted to more than 20%, whereas that of highly polluting capital-intensive industries was less than 10%.

On the other hand, the growth rate of the export share in the observed decade was much lower in the highly polluting labour-intensive industries than in all other industries of the sample and the export share of highly polluting capital-intensive industries grew much faster than all other industries of the sample. This might be a sign that India has a comparative advantage in the field of polluting industries and that India has realized this advantage to a large extent in the labour-intensive industries while the highly polluting capital-intensive industries seem to be in an adjustment process. Furthermore, a higher share of foreign investors in the polluting industries could not be found.

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Ayurveda in a Global Environment - Proposal for a New Project

Ayurveda, the "ancient" Indian medical tradition, is undergoing a renaissance as a fashionable wellness regime. How does Ayurveda perform in a global environment dominated by economic interests, scientific biomedicine and in which consumers can shop around for treatments? What have the cures advertised in lifestyle magazines in common with Caraka, Susruta and the elder Vagbhata?

The Ayurvedic system of healing has incorporated quite a few imports from overseas (use of coconuts and spices from South East Asia; later tomatoes, chilies, bananas etc. from America; distillation,

mercury therapies, injections, anti-biotics and other inventions from Arabia and Europe) and seems to have no problems adapting to a Western environment. This resilience is combined with a resistance to change on the level of its constitutive categories. It has remained rooted in ancient ideas of humoral pathology and even now places special weight on preservation of wealth, philosophy, morality, and a healthy way of life.

A new project is being planned under the directorship of Prof. G. Dharampal-Frick in co-operation with Prof. W. Eckart (History of Medicine). It aims

to look at how Ayurveda's constituent elements have been adapted to the new challenges from a global world. It plans to analyse this on the fundamental level of its categories of causality, healing methods, agents and rituals, and spiritual discipline. A comparison with the development of western medical history is necessary in order to understand how Ayurveda is being perceived through the eyes of its western patients, few of whom are familiar with its roots.

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SAM - a New Initiative for International Academic Networking on South Asian Modernity

The Department of History has set itself the task of establishing within the course of the next eight years an international and interdisciplinary network of historical and contemporary studies on South Asia. This ambitious project was conceived in answer to the very urgent need for more concerted efforts towards interlinking individual research work on South Asia and to providing a very necessary interdisciplinary academic forum for historians, social and cultural scientists alike. The South Asia Institute with interdisciplinarity writ high on its agenda, and given its unique status in Germany, offers an ideal base for initiating an academic enterprise of this nature. This Communication Network, named SAM (South Asian Modernity), has thus three basic aims.

Firstly, its *raison d'être* is to facilitate co-operation and interaction between scholars on South Asia not only within Germany but also internationally (in particular between European and South Asian scholars, and later extending to include academics from North and South America and other Asian countries). This dialogue and exchange of knowledge could be engendered through co-ordination and active participation at workshops, conferences and more substantially by undertaking joint research projects. Secondly, it is hoped that this research networking would instigate new intellectual challenges, and in turn significantly contribute not only to strengthening the research orientation at the SAI, but also have positive repercussions on the regular teaching in the departments of the Institute, engendering an organic connectivity between research and teaching. Thirdly, SAM could eventually develop into an informational resource centre - in close connection with a Database which would function as a separate enterprise managed by the SAI as a whole - for use by the media, educational and political institutions as well as serving business interests; overall, its aim would be to make the latest research findings accessible to the general public. Needless to say, the ultimate goal of SAM is to transform the SAI from an "island of excellence" into a "centre of excellence"!

Though still in its initial phase, and as yet funded only with a minimal budget, SAM has taken some viable first steps to lay the foundations for subsequent international co-operation. In September 2002, with the 17th European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies being hosted by the SAI, an ideal forum was provided at our doorstep to establish preliminary but enduring contacts with South Asianists from Europe and the Indian subcontinent and to assemble a wealth of information about on-going research projects with a view to future co-operation. During the next months, preparations were undertaken to organise jointly with the Department of History of Delhi University an interdisciplinary workshop (within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between Delhi University and the University of Heidelberg) which took place in February 2003 in New Delhi, and where measures for future cooperation were discussed. The proposals ranged from project-related workshops through short-term faculty visits to an expanded programme of student exchange. Two scholars of the partner university, Prof. Shahid Amin and Dr. Dilip Menon, were invited guests of SAI's History Department in June and October of the same year. In April 2003 members of the History Department (Prof. Dr. Dharampal-Frick and Dr. Ravi Ahuja) were active participants at an interdisciplinary workshop "New Perspectives on the Indian Ocean" at the University of Oxford with scholars from Oxford, Geneva and Berlin. This forum constituted not only an excellent opportunity for a stimulating scholarly exchange, clarifying conceptual and methodological issues, but also provided concrete guidelines for joint projects on the history of the Indian Ocean.

In August 2003, various academic assignments of the head of the History Department served to establish important contacts for extending the SAM network: firstly, chairing (along with Prof. Anil Bhatti from the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi) an interdisciplinary and comparative seminar at the European Forum Alpbach on "Multiculturalism/Pluriculturalism in Europe and

India" facilitated the association with this highly reputed intellectual institution in Austria, enabling a closer interaction and exchange with a larger academic audience; secondly, the International Conference of Asian Scholars, held in Singapore, at which Gita Dharampal-Frick chaired the section on "Patronage and Politics in South Asia", was an ideal forum for widening SAM's horizons to include South-East and East Asian scholars with whom future interaction is envisaged. Further forays in this direction were made during her research trip to South Korea (Seoul) in March and one to Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur, Penang) at the end of August. On the Asian subcontinent itself, India has so far been the main focus, and important contacts (also for the purpose of initiating and co-ordinating new research projects) have been established in Chennai (Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems, Madras Institute of Development Studies, Centre for Policy Studies), Bangalore (Foundation for the Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions in Bangalore), Madurai (Organisation for Sustainable Access in Rural India), Hyderabad (HCU, Osmania University), and Delhi (Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Centre of Contemporary Studies at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Observer Foundation, Indian Council of Historical Research).

In October 2003, back in Germany, at a conference in Berlin on "Politics as the Site of the Modern from 15th century to the Present", at the House of World Cultures in Berlin, we were able to engage with internationally renowned social scientists and historians of South Asia on the complexities and vicissitudes of South Asian modernity. A week later, on home ground in Heidelberg, the Department hosted an International Conference on "Religion and the Negotiation of Boundaries" (organised by Drs. Margrit Pernau and Monica Juneja) as a pioneering enterprise to initiate an interdisciplinary dialogue between South Asianists and mainstream European historians and social scientists. The success of this venture bodes well for instigating a wider intellectual and methodological exchange between new currents in his-



tory and social sciences pertaining to South Asia with new developments in European scholarship.

In December 2003, at the Conference on Religions in the Indic Civilisation, New Delhi, organised by the CSDS, again manifold opportunities were provided for extending the SAM network. Concomitantly discussions were held with the Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR), the outcome of which has been the signing, in February 2004, of a Memorandum of Understanding between the ICSSR and the SAI for purposes of academic exchange, joint research projects and translations of selected German dissertations into Hindi or regional South Asian languages.

Whereas on-going institutional academic co-operation (or informal con-

tacts) with German, European and American establishments (such as the Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin; Centre for South Asian Studies, Edinburgh University; Centre d'études de l'Inde et de l'Asie du Sud, Paris, the South Asian Institutes at Chicago and Berkeley) are being intensified, a new linkage is being planned with the Kern Institute in Leiden, and should be concretised in particular with the Department of History (Prof. Jos Gommans) in May/June 2004. Active participation at the 18th European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies (July in Lund) will further enhance our efforts to extend the SAM network. As a culminating highlight in July 2004, an interdisciplinary workshop at the SAI with Prof. Nicholas Dirks (Columbia University) portends to be a stimulating intellectual

exercise with bright prospects not only for extending our SAM network, but, more significantly, for initiating a new orientation to South Asian research.

Projects for SAM's future include organising a conference at the SAI on "South Asian Modernity: Issues for Contemporary History" (envisaged for 2006/07), setting up an internet research website "Gateway South Asian Modernity" (with a mailing list), and last but not least, editing a journal on contemporary South Asian History - all are still pipeline dreams ready to become reality once the necessary funding is available.

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Bringing the future of Germany and India together

Ambassador of India visits the South Asia Institute on February 9-10

Unveiling the statue of Rabindranath Tagore, a talk given on "India and its role in South Asia", and the signing of the Golden Books of the University and City of Heidelberg were the outstanding events of the dense visiting program of His Excellency Mr. T.C.A. Rangachari, the Ambassador of the Republic of India. The ambassador was accompanied by his deputy chief Mr. Amit Dasgupta, Mr. Sudhanshu Pandey the Counsellor for press, information, education and culture and Mrs. Rangachari, a former lecturer in history at Delhi University and highly interested in academic life in Germany in general and especially in the SAI.

It was not only when meeting Professor Dr. Peter Hommelhoff, the Rector of the Heidelberg University, that the Ambassador expressed his strong wish for academic interaction between the two countries and with Heidelberg University. In bringing students closer together and by exchanging scholars he sees the main means of achieving this goal. For Rector Hommelhoff, the Memoranda of Understanding with Delhi University, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, and the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, mark important points in the relations between Heidelberg University and India. While signing the Golden Book of the university,

he told the honourable audience of professors and administrative staff as well as journalists that the Prime Minister of India has announced the inauguration of an Indian chair for Germany.

The highlight of Monday 9th was the unveiling of the statue of India's famous teacher, writer and winner of the Nobel prize for Literature, Rabindranath Tagore. The Ambassador looked back to the times, when this famous prize was awarded to Tagore: "The colonized mind had been trained to think that there was nothing good in India, but he was a sign of excellence." And thus the prize made an impact on the Indian mind. The SAI was such a good place for Tagore's statue, because "You are striving for excellence as he did, and this is the connection. He was a teacher above all. What better home, resting place can a teacher have than an institute like yours?" It was German Indologists who translated Tagore's Poems into English, but the links between India and Germany reach much farther back. With the wish that the relations between the two countries may grow closer for the next two hundred years to come, the statue was unveiled, and soon the students and staff gathered to welcome the bust of the celebrated poet and were engaged in candid conversation with the ambassador and

his company.

In a meeting with the heads of the departments questions of Indian-German collaboration and on how the SAI could be involved were discussed. The main objective was to figure out possible areas of collaboration, and as Dasgupta put it under the premises, of "what is doable?" It was clear that the Indian side had precise ideas about the Institute's contributions to the bi-national relations although the Indian side generally is more interested in pure and applied sciences: investigations about India and informing the scientific and broader community, bringing scholars together, bringing German students into India and Indian students into Germany. They also offered to help with cultural exchange programmes and negotiations concerning the exchange of scholars and students, and to open the embassy for exhibitions, conferences and talks.

"India and its role in South Asia" was the title of the talk the ambassador gave the next morning in front of the participants in Prof. Mitra's seminar on "State and international politics in South Asia: e.g. India" and several guests from the Institute's staff. First he looked back in history and stated that then and now India was and is perceived very differently. One of the outstanding notions is the



alleged otherness of India, sometimes to the positive, sometimes to the negative. Now India is the world's largest democracy and enormous economic changes are going on: Today India is self-sufficient and exporting. But still the north-south gap exists. With its South Asian neighbours India seeks good relationships, but the Indian economy is many times bigger than all the other ones together, and that is often perceived as threatening. Nevertheless the ambassador was confident that in future the region would gain from India's strength. This was the focus around which a lively discussion circled.

The growing economic strength of India and its investments in Germany and especially in the Heidelberg region was one of the main topics discussed with the mayor of Heidelberg, Beate Weber. She had herself been to India for an international conference and took the visit as a very special occasion. While the ambassador was signing the Golden Book of the city she told him that around 300 Indian citizens above the age of eighteen live in Heidelberg, among them 60 students. Many more live in the wider region.

A walk through the old town including some of the outstanding points and



His Excellency Mr. T.C.A. Rangachari signing the Golden Book of Heidelberg University - Foto: Manfred Hake

a visit to the University Library, where some old and rare German manuscripts and early prints, containing views and maps of some famous Indian cities were admired, allowed very brief glimpses

into the rich cultural heritage of Heidelberg and her university.

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Honorary Professorship Awarded to Niels Gutschow

To be lucky you have to be bold. To be bold means to be able to take decisions, swiftly and accurately. Timing and accuracy are both essential in building - a craft where, besides choosing places, drawing lines and laying foundations, generally, doing things the right way and insuring a good life are maybe more intimately connected than anywhere else.

Hamburg-born Niels Gutschow is a lucky man. Trained as a carpenter at Inuyama Castle on Mt. Koyasan, Japan, and as an architect at Darmstadt Technical University, just a 30-minute train ride from Heidelberg, careerwise he hardly ever had to follow anything else other than his own interests, for almost his entire professional life being free of the administrative constraints which offices, be it in architecture or in South Asian Studies, put on you. Instead, Niels Gutschow, boldly relying in his work entirely on individual projects, at least until now, seems to have enjoyed the intellectually independent and dedicated existence

of the classical German "Privatgelehrter" - the only difference being that he has always been much more than just a scholar. He did not start off as one in the first place. A seminal moment in his life was, as he told me in our last conversation, when completing his dissertation on Japanese fortified cities in 1973, he felt that he could use his knowledge not only to actually plan and build himself, but to understand how others before him historically decided to plan and build and what these decisions mean for the life that people lead in these places of their own making today.

In short, he decided to become a scholar who can find out what building means because he knows how to build. And he has become part of those places too. Niels-ji is as much a reknown and respected community member of Bhaktapur and Patan today, as he has been a challenging and inspiring colleague of ours at the SAI over the past years, playing a decisive role in DFG projects such

as the one on sacred maps of Benares or currently the SFB project on life-cycle rituals in the Kathmandu Valley.

Niels Gutschow's receiving the honorary professorship is a long-due recognition of his comprehensive and thorough work on South Asian urbanism and architecture condensed in books such as "The Nepalese Caitya" or the ground-breaking illustrated dictionary of Newar architectural terms. Yet, having one's work recognized by an institution like the Ruprecht Karls University Heidelberg is not a question of luck, but a sign of respect and gratefulness for a lasting and still ongoing human and scholarly achievement. And it is our university and our institute, which can call themselves lucky to have decided in favour of making such an extraordinary man a member of our faculty.

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Staff News

Prof. Dr. Hans-Georg BOHLE, Dept. of Geography, accepted the professorship in Cultural Geography, University of Bonn, with effect of summer term 2004.

Dr. Jürgen CLEMENS, Dept. of Geography, went to Kabul University for a DAAD-sponsored lectureship from 26. 08. until 16.09.2003.

Dr. Susanne van DILLEN, Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin at the Dept. of Geography, resigned to take up a position at the University of Bonn.

PD Dr. Peter GOTTFRIED, University of Regensburg, took up a temporary tenure as chair of Development Economics.

Dr. Stefan KLONNER, Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter in the Dept. of Development Economics, resigned to take up a position at Cornell University.

Martin KUNZ took up an appointment as Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter in the Dept. of Anthropology.

Malte PEHL, M.A., took up an appointment as Wissenschaftlicher Angestellter in the Dept. of Political Science.

Dr. Stefan SCHÜTTE, Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter at the Dept. of Geography, resigned.

Oliver STROBEL took up an appointment as Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter in the Dept. of Development Economics.

Willem Bollé honoured

In June 2004, Willem Bollé will receive the Acarya Hemacandrasuri Award 2003 from the hands of the Vice-President of India, honouring Bollé for his works on Jainism during the last ten years, most notably for "The Story of Paesi."

Professor Hans-Georg Bohle leaves for Bonn

On April 1st, 2004, Professor Hans-Georg Bohle took over the chair in Cultural Geography and was appointed Head of the Department of Human Ecology and Development Research ("Abteilung für Humanökologie und Entwicklungsforschung") at the Geographical Institute at Bonn University.

Prof. Bohle joined the South Asia Institute exactly nine years ago on April 1st, 1995 and succeeded in re-establishing the Institute's Department of Geography as a well funded and staffed research and teaching institution of high international reputation. Within 3 years (1998-2001) his department was granted more than 0.9 million Euro for research projects. During his tenure in



Professor Hans-Georg Bohle

Heidelberg ten Ph.D. candidates successfully graduated, and two received post-doctoral qualifications ("Habilitation").

During his nine years at the SAI Prof. Bohle also led the Institute's general development as the director in charge from May 1st, 1998 to April 30th, 2000. The institute is also grateful to the establishment of another branch office in Colombo, which had been initiated by Professor Bohle as part of his new regional research focus in Sri Lanka. In addition, the Board of Directors of the SAI appointed him to be in charge of the Institute's Public Relations Programme.

The SAI wishes its distinguished Heidelberg alumnus every success in Bonn.

Kenneth McPherson awarded Mercator Professorship

In 2002, Professor Dr Kenneth McPherson was awarded the first Mercator Professorship to be held at the University of Heidelberg.

The award was funded by the Deutsche Forschung Gemeinschaft for the period November 2002-August 2003 and was held in the Department of Political Science at the SAI. Professor McPherson, who was previously a Humboldt Fellow in the department of South Asian History (1972-73) is currently a Visiting Professor at the SAI in the department of Political Science.

During the summer semester, he is teaching a course on the regionality of Islam in South Asia and is preparing a joint proposal with South Asian History for submission to the European Union.

Whilst he was at the SAI in 1972/73, Professor McPherson's PhD thesis was published in the SAI's series South Asian

Studies under the title of "The Muslim Microcosm: The Muslims of Calcutta 1918-1937".

Since then, his work has primarily focussed on broader Indian Ocean regional history. Apart from numerous articles on early European trade and political life in the Indian Ocean region, he published "The Indian Ocean. The History of People and the Sea" with Oxford University Press in 1993.

During the 1990s, Professor McPherson was Director of the Indian Ocean Center at Curtin University (Western Australia) and was advisor to the Australian Government on Indian Ocean issues. He was also a member of the official Australian delegation to the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Co-operation, 1995-2001.

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Bruno Knall turns 80

As a contemporary of late Toni Hagen, Prof. Bruno Knall was among the first foreign experts to come to Nepal. His first assignment brought him there in 1960/61 as a UNESCO consultant to assess the education sector. Together with H.B. Wood (University of Oregon) he co-authored what was to become known as the legendary Wood-Knall-Report on “Educational Planning in Nepal and its Economic Implications” (1962).

In 1968 he was appointed to the chair at the Dept. of Development Economics at the then newly established SAI at Heidelberg University. As such he was one of the directors of the Institute, a position he continued to hold until his retirement in 1992. During this period he devoted most of his academic life to Nepal.

As a university assistant at the Institute of World Economics at Kiel University, Germany (1958-65) Knall had the opportunity to come to Nepal for the first time. The assignment was based on a request from HMG/Nepal, financed under the 1961 Contingency Fund Provision as a joint UNESCO-ECAFE project, seeking “advice on the establishment of priorities within education”. Thus, Knall and Wood were given the task to “draw up a comprehensive overall plan of educational development” and to “come up with practical recommendations concerning the development of education and its integration in economic planning”. Their on-the-spot investigation, carried out over a period of four months, resulted in a comprehensive compilation (143 pp.) of educational statistics and policies. While strongly favoring many ideas put forward in the National Education Plan (1954), the two authors also pointed out some of the flaws. A major one was the “tremendous wastage” when consider-

ing drop-outs and failures in exams, at all levels of schooling but particularly in secondary education and (non-) performance during during the class 10-examinations (so-called School Leaving Certificates, SLC).

After his academic training in econom-

undertaken by the SAI and the German Foundation for International Development (DSE) in 1982, where he was involved in curriculum development.

Further fields of interest brought Prof. Knall to Sri Lanka, where he undertook research in rural development during the



N.K. Rai visiting Prof. Knall (July 2003) - Photo: Elvira Graner

ics, Prof. Knall spent much of his professional life mediating development planning and “social realities”. Thus, he was an early advocate for “popular participation” and “development from below”, arguing that Truman’s model of “trickling down” has not, and most probably would never, achieve the goals envisaged by its promulgators. These ideas were regularly put forward in publications as well as while undertaking consultancy work for German development institutions, GTZ and BMZ (Ministry for Economic Cooperation).

Based on these premises, Prof. Knall strongly favored local participation and related policies, such as the District Administration Plan of 1975 and particularly the Decentralisation Act of 1982. Yet, at the same time, he also raised concerns about “government rhetoric”, lack of implementation, and the lack of qualified personnel in particular. One of the early remedies to counteract the later shortcoming was the setting up of a scheme for professional training, jointly

early 1980s, mainly in collaboration with his junior colleague Norbert Wagner. In Nepal, he was followed by his colleague Chris Rieger, who continued his work while being affiliated to Tribhuvan University’s Centre for Economic Development and Administration (CEDA) during the 1970s. Until today, many others of his students and junior colleagues, both Germans and Nepalese, hold important positions in the field of Development Economics, both in policy formulation and implementation.

After his “retirement”, Prof. Knall continued his academic life and was frequently invited to undertake teaching assignments. Thus, he taught a course at his birthplace Kronstadt, Romania, for two years in succession. For the SAI, Prof. Knall’s contribution was the pioneering of regular research work in Nepal and his work is certainly one of the corner stones for the establishment of its Kathmandu Office. In this respect, the two authors are deeply indebted to him and wish him all the best for his 80th birthday (on February, 22nd). Today, Bruno Knall is recovering from a severe stroke in an old people’s home in the idyllic upper Neckar valley, southern Germany.

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The Importance of Being at the SAI

In the winter of 2003 I was attached to the South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg, as a DAAD fellow for a two-months' study visit on a comparative project of domestic violence in history. A short stay but not insignificant in terms of the benefits I was able to draw and the wider interaction I was encouraged to establish.

Interdisciplinarity

The merit of the SAI, for me, lies principally in its interdisciplinary structuring where eight complete disciplines of Political Science, Geography, Anthropology, Classical Indology, Modern Indology, Development Economics, International Economics, and History physically located under one roof actively interact with each other. It provided me, a historian from an Indian state university, an uncommon platform to step out of the boundaries of my own discipline and establish a dialogue with others. My interactions, particularly with the anthropologists, fruitfully took me into local cultures and the information and insights I was able to obtain underscored the need to nuance my understanding of gender relationships and, therefore, redefine some fundamental assumptions informing the research I had undertaken.

To explain, it enabled me to take the cultural specificity of India under purview and consider gender relationships within it in association with concepts of age, generation, kinship and marital status rather than through the simple binarism or apparent universals of man/woman, domestic/public, subordination/dominance. Derived from Western feminist writings of the 70s these dichotomies, at best a symbolic system referring to ideal behaviour, have nevertheless become convention in writings of social/feminist historians of India and continue to stubbornly hold sway. The shift to a far more complex system of thought concerning gender provided me a focus for exploring the difference in power relationships between men and women - implicating violence within the family-in India and Europe, all the while noting the similarities, despite the obvious contrasts, between the two societies.

Colloquium Culture

The theoretical advancement was in no small measure facilitated by the SAI colloquium, arranged by my host Professor Subrata Mitra, where I made a presentation on the theme "Feminity, State and Public Space in the Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Century India" about which I had been working on for sometime. The presentation was also an occasion to bring to light a variety of indigenous sources and an "inner" sensibility before the academics of the Institute which I hope made my position as a Fellow from India somewhat relevant to them.

The colloquium culture at the SAI was impressive and offered a lesson to impart in my own home University. Rather than being a forum of showmanship, it is executed in its ideal spirit where the guest speaker presents her research as work-in-progress and the audience provides constructive criticism, suggestions and comments on it. The SAI was remarkably open to me as a Visiting-Fellow, as exemplified by Professor Gita Dharampal-Frick who, in order to familiarise her students with the socio-cultural aspect of the setting in which the British rose to power in India, asked me to give an informal talk to them. This I gladly did and gave a brief survey of the historiographical tradition of the eighteenth century in the context of my own research into the social history of the period. This involved explicating the conventional "dark" versus "bright" view of the century, whilst at the same time underlining the need to disengage oneself from such a dichotomous posturing, and instead to look at an extremely vibrant, complex and fluid century as one evoking differential and diverse images.

One fascinating image that I put forward before the students was the assertion of the female principle in Mughal polity as it lost its power, manifesting itself in a mutation of the performative text of the emperors, the rise of many powerful women and a sensualisation of cultural/art forms and religious activities of the age marking, thereby, a departure from the classical age of the Mughals when concerns of expansion of territory, control over resources and governance-all perceived as masculine attributes-

defined the state.

The frequent seminars and talks held at the South Asia Institute were a wonderful opportunity for me to widen my academic horizons. Wishing to put the two months available to best use, I tried to attend most of them, and was especially impressed by a two-day "Round Table on South Asian Rituals". Its value was its identification and focus on the dynamics of rituals: their divergence from prescriptive texts, changeability, adaptability to ever evolving social contexts and, inhering to their variability, the factor of agency.

As regards the considerable progress of my actual research work this was due in large measure to the easy accessibility I had to the extremely rich and well-managed library of the SAI providing many books on the Indian context of my project which, sadly enough, I have had problems locating in my own country.

India alive at the South Asia Institute

As an Indian it was arresting and easy to notice the extent to which India is alive at the South Asia Institute. The Institute's relationship with the country, in other words, is not a distant one but rather a very tangible one, for its academics regularly visit the subcontinent, talk about it with much enthusiasm and affection, have command over its major languages, and whilst being within the confines of a German academic institute make sure that its cinema is shown, poetry is read and food is savoured. In this milieu I was able to have some especially strong interactions which sustain since my return to India. My work was executed amongst very polite, responsive and efficient people where scarcely any need of mine remained unanswered. Lodged in a comfortable flat, right on top of the SAI building, I could spread my eyes over the breathtakingly beautiful town of Heidelberg, flaming in autumn hues when I arrived, shedding leaves to assume wintry bareness, sparkling with fireworks on New Year's night and snowing when I left in January.

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Capacity Building at Kabul University, Afghanistan - Experiences as a Short-term Lecturer in Geography*

Soon after the Taliban regime fell in Kabul and the Petersberg Agreement in December 2001, academic co-operation between universities in Afghanistan and in Germany was revived, based on foundations in the 1960s and 1970s, when the Universities of Bochum, Bonn and Cologne signed official partnership contracts with Kabul University. Also the South Asia Institute had a branch officer in Kabul until 1979. These contacts were easily renewed as German researchers, who had lectured in Kabul before, took the lead and also inspired younger ones, who had been working earlier in Pakistan and Iran. In Bonn, especially Prof. Clas M. Naumann was a leading mentor of this academic exchange. Together with other researchers, he had also been assigned by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), on behalf of the German Foreign Office, for reconnaissance missions to Afghanistan in the spring of 2002.

In the summer of 2002, ten senior professors of the Faculty of Geosciences (Kabul University) participated in a "Summer School", organized at the University of Bonn, 15 more geoscientists, including also junior professors and a delegation of the Kabul Polytechnic Institute came to the "Winter Academy" in the same year. Both programmes were funded by DAAD and focused on state-of-the art introductions of concepts and research methodologies, since the

Afghan colleagues had hardly any international contact for years or decades. Already then, provisions had been made for intensive training courses to be held in Kabul, which started in 2003. Topics had either been identified by the Afghan colleagues or had been developed out of

short-term assignments in a "train the trainers" programme.

The programme itself also includes the reform of out-dated university curricula with the introduction of a credit point system. Under this system, the assistant professors - mostly holding a Bachelor's

degree only from the Taliban era - are offered career chances and promotion according to their participation in training courses and research activities.

Challenges of a different kind involved the faculty building's massive destruction and also the lack of teaching material, ranging from out-dated books and scripts to non-existing computer and laboratory equipment. These bottlenecks have been targeted either by German grants for the building's reconstruction and by donations in kind from several German universities, e.g. books, periodicals or computer hardware. Again, Prof. Naumann was an important actor in the area of inter-university co-operation. He founded the German-

Afghan University Society (DAUG) and initiated the "Ein Stuhl für Kabul" (Chairs for Kabul) charity collection. Thus, urgent demands for which official development assistance had no portfolios could be taken up with a clear focus on supporting regional enterprise activities.

Looking back on nearly two years of



Top: Building of the Faculty of Geosciences after reconstruction.

Photos: Jürgen Clemens.

Below: "Train the Trainers" - Lesson at the Faculty of Geosciences.



the previous meetings in Germany.

Having graduated from Bonn University and worked there as a research scientist, with fieldwork in northern Pakistan, as a well as a junior lecturer, I was invited to participate in the exchange programme from the very beginning. Eventually, I had the chance to visit Kabul twice on



my personal engagement, the overall judgment is positive - important foundations for future progress have been laid, even if progress itself seems to be slow. In addition, our Afghan colleagues are interested in the process and are also taking up more and more responsibilities themselves. They are, however,

anxiously looking forward to hopefully having more stable and reliable internal political conditions in the near future. Then, the increasing demand for higher education might be fulfilled locally and with up-to date facilities and staff - this will eventually support the country's general reconstruction.

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* Dedicated to Prof. Clas M. Naumann (Bonn), one of the mentors of the academic exchange programme with Kabul University, who died on February 15th, 2004.

Round Table : “The Kashmir Conflict in the Nuclear Age”

The round table discussion held at the SAI on 26th of August 2003 explored the changes in the regional strategic environment of South Asia after India and Pakistan declared themselves nuclear weapon states in 1998.

The hopes of many that the emergence of deterrence stability in the strategic relationship between India and Pakistan would cool down tensions along the Line of Command in Kashmir were disappointed in the wake of the Kargil war in 1999. Since then, massive troop deployments on both sides, sporadic shelling across the LoC and regular attacks by Muslim extremists increase international

fears of an escalation of this persistent conflict into a nuclear war. Conventional International Relations theory remains ambiguous about the relationship between nuclear confrontation and limited regional dispute. Recent publications on the so called stability-instability paradox even suggest that overall deterrence stability between two states might lead to instability within a limited regional or local confrontation. The evidence from the Kashmir conflict since 1998 supports this hypothesis.

So far, attempts to solve the dispute on a bilateral basis have largely failed. Confidence-Building Measures proved

to be rather ineffective in stabilising the bilateral relationship between the two antagonistic South Asian states. Thus, more and more voices raise the question about international intervention in order to solve, or at least stabilise the conflict.

The event was chaired by Prof. Subrata K. Mitra. Participants in the discussion were Prof. Robert G. Wirsing and Dr. Satu P. Limaye from the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies and Prof. Dietmar Rothermund and Karsten Frey from the SAI.

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Field research in West Bengal - Untouchability and the role of NGOs

Having been awarded last year's SAI Research Scholarship for my research thesis “Untouchability in West Bengal: The role of NGOs in the empowerment of Dalits and their contribution to Dalit political awareness” I headed for India in October in order to do fieldwork among Dalits in West Bengal.

My trip did not take me to Bengal right away but instead gave me the chance to experience India's capital New Delhi. After a few days of getting acquainted with the Delhi scene, I decided to drop by the SAI Branch Office where I met up with Evelin Hust, who looked over my questionnaire and gave me valuable insights concerning how to go about the task of interviewing people in India. Furthermore she kindly helped me with the arrangement of my transport to Kolkata.

In Delhi I also visited the Indian Institute of Dalit Studies, where Professor Sukhadeo Thorat kindly granted me access to the institute's library and handed me a list of contacts that turned

out to be exceptionally important in Kolkata.

Arriving in Kolkata after having spent ten days in India's vibrant capital, I moved in with a guest family living in the city center and started to explore the city's NGO-network and the contacts that I had established earlier. I met up with Dr. Anjan Gosh from the Center for Studies in Social Sciences, which is headed by Professor Partha Chatterjee, who at the time of my visit was unfortunately out of country. Dr. Gosh provided further valuable contacts and a multitude of literature pertaining to the empowerment of Dalits in West Bengal, which kept me busy in the National Library.

Having developed a solid background on the local Dalit situation, I started to do interviews with directors and fieldworkers of NGOs (e.g. Kolkata Ambedkar Mission, Social Legal Aid Training and Research Centre, Rama Krishna Mission, Liberal Association for Movement of People) and Dalit self-help groups.

Having chosen to focus on the empowerment of Dalits, I encountered problems due to a superficial negation of the caste system in the communist state of West Bengal, which made it difficult for an outsider to dig deep enough in order to get interviews where the caste controversy is articulated. Fortunately, I eventually gained access to this tabu subject by way of interviewing Professor Achintya Biswas from the Department of Bengali Language of Jadavpur University. Being a Dalit activist himself, he mentioned the discrimination he had been facing over the years and further gave me access to NGOs which are dealing with aspects pertaining to the topic of my thesis. Additionally, he accompanied me into the rural areas nearby Kolkata and served as my translator.

Having researched in Kolkata for two months, I decided to spend a week in Burdwan where Professor Harihar Bhattacharya granted me access to the University's library and a multitude of NGOs,



of which I visited several throughout my stay, always assisted by translators which were recommended to me by Professor Bhattacharya.

After one week of intense fieldwork, I returned to Kolkata in order to discuss the outcome of my research with Professor Biswas, thereby especially stressing the differences I experienced in Burdwan and the rural areas compared to the situation in urban Kolkata. These talks

yielded further valuable information pertaining to the empowerment of Dalits in West Bengal. An interview with the Cultural Research Institute. Scheduled Caste and Tribal Welfare Department. Government of West Bengal resulted in additional insights, working papers and statistical information and at the same time concluded my research in India.

Overall, three months of fieldwork have turned out to be too short. Never-

theless, I developed a first impression of the Dalit situation in West Bengal and a network of contacts which will be important for continuing research on the topic. Without the support of the Association of Friends of the South Asia Institute, these initial steps would not have been possible.

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Conference report: “Round Table on South Asian Rituals”

An international workshop on South Asian Rituals was held at the Internationales Wissenschaftsforum in Heidelberg from 27th to 29th November 2003 and financed by the German Research Council. The conference was conducted within the wider framework of the Collaborative Research Center “Dynamics of Rituals” of Heidelberg University and organized by members of the indological sub-projects at the South Asia Institute.

The “round table” was designed as a semi-formal exchange of scholars doing research in fields closely related to rituals in South Asia. Though rituals comprise of repetitive or stereotypical elements the workshop focussed on the investigation of the non-repetitive factors or the features which lead to the transformation in rituals. The papers laid emphasis on external influences, shifts in accent during the performance, innovations or intentional reversions of traditional patterns, or on “ritual transfer”.

The relationship between “normative” theological texts and the ritual literature of a particular tradition was intensively dealt with: does the latter reflect the actual “nature” of the religious tradition better than the theological literature? Is there necessarily a linkage between ritualism and soteriology? Dominic Goodall (Pondichery) could convincingly show that there is in fact a cross-system borrowing of ritual elements even in traditions which are trying to invest each and every rite with specific sectarian meaning. The general question “Why ritual?” from an emic perspective, particularly when the performer is considered to have achieved a state of perfectability which

makes ritual irrelevant, was considered and the resultant religious conflict and its social implications were addressed by Monika Boehm-Tettelbach in her paper.

Failure of ritual as such seems to be virtually impossible. If a ritual failed, it is declared as such in retrospective. Deviations are not necessarily considered as mistakes; they can also be seen as part of the divine play (*līlā*), since the ritual specialist is considered the mechanical vehicle of God’s will. It is important to see who decides on the rules: texts and ritual experts, such as priests, are equally authoritative, even while texts themselves stress that the Ācārya or Guru is the final arbitrator (Ute Hüsken). Shrivatsa Goswamy’s contribution made clear, that new rules are created by the breaking of old rules. “Deviations from the rules” are factored by referring to “local custom” and “historical circumstances”. The texts differentiate between conscious and unconscious mistakes; the conscious mistakes can again be subdivided into intentional and unintentional mistakes in ritual. Each of these failures have different forms of expiation. This might be derived from vedic rituals which requires the performer to take an oath not to make mistakes (Asko Parpola, Helsinki).

Aesthetics as an aspect of the study of ritual, is in general largely neglected. Goswamy gave various examples from his own ritual tradition where the aesthetic elements of ritual (dance, singing, use of unguents and flowers, theatre) is fundamental to many, contemporary, devotional ritual traditions. He, thus, highlighted ritual performance as generating aesthetic pleasure.

Axel Michaels referred to ritual structures and formality, speaking of a “pool” of ritual elements or a “floating inventory of ritual actions” in the context of the death ritual for the Newars. Michaels’ list of techniques regarding creativity and improvisation was complemented by the features of ritual transfer given by Goodall with regard to ritualized meditation on the “throne of worship”. Goodall mentioned the “copy and paste” method, imitation, elaboration by filling out a known sequence, etc., as modes of (re)creation of rituals and creativity within rituals. Alexis Sanderson argued for a nuanced understanding of the nature of ritual texts and their socio-historical contexts. Distinction has to be made between texts which avoid overdefinition in order to be applicable by larger social groups or over a wider geographic area and texts modified to cater to specific clientele.

Srilata Raman-Müller addressed the issue of “intentionality” and “subjectivity” in modernist interpretation of traditional rituals in which the participants in the ritual - well aware of its pre-stipulated nature - attempt to interrupt it and inject meaning into it. The question arose whether the quest for meaning in rituals is more prominent in rapidly changing social contexts such as in the diaspora.

Oliver Freiberger’s (Bayreuth) paper touched upon the issue of the irreversibility of rituals, in this case the ritual to become an ascetic. Jörg Gengnagel focussed on the “invention” or “re-discovery” of ritual when it came to coronation ceremonies in the Indian context. How is one to stage an event for which no obvious textual precedent could be



National Seminar on Dadu and His Relevance in Modern Times

Organised by: Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (Delhi) (→ ①), Monika Boehm-Tettelbach (SAI) and Akhil Bharatiya Shri Dadu Sevak Samaj (Delhi).

The two-day-seminar on March 13 and 14, 2004 brought together one of the major north Indian *bhakti* traditions and the academic world. The seminar was held to commemorate the fourth centenary of the death of Dadu whose sect forms the most important repository of manuscripts of the Sant tradition. Apart from papers shedding light on the various aspects of the Dadupanthe traditions, a major feature of the event was that *bhajan* singers from Rajasthan performed at the seminar.

On the occasion of the seminar, the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts agreed to extend its programme on Braj to Rajasthan, thereby creating a Vraj Rajasthan Prakalpa that will be devoted to the cultural heritage of both the regions which are, in fact, continuous.

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① <http://www.ignca.nic.in/>

Frontiers of Political Sociology (IPSA-ISA)

The Department of Political Science will organise a conference on "Actors, Culture, System: Competing Paradigms in Political Sociology" with leading experts in the field of Political Sociology.

The conference will take place in October 8-10, 2004, at a venue still to be decided.

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found and legitimize this through ritual?

Through the stimulating papers and the intensive discussions which followed, the "round table" contributed to the intensification of already established long-term contacts and the academic exchange between the participating scholars and their institutions. The proceedings of the Round Table will be published as part of the newly established Heidelberg series on "Ethno-Indology: Studies on South Asian Rituals" (general editor Axel Michaels).

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Ninth International Bhakti Conference

From 23 to 26 July 2003, the SAI organized the Ninth International Bhakti Conference. After 1982, the conference was held for the first time in Germany and was made possible by the generous support of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and the Stiftung Universität Heidelberg. It united specialists from the fields of textual studies, history, religion, and the social sciences.

The topics related to a great variety of movements from within the spectrum of devotional religion and were set within a historical range from the middle ages

to the present day. Out of the some forty participants who made presentations most came from outside of Germany, with only ten per cent of German participants. The conference proceedings will be published in 2005 under the title *Bhakti in Current Research, 2001-2003*. The next conference of its kind will be held in Vrindaban (U.P.) in 2006 and organized by Shrivatsa Goswami.

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Political Science: International networking

When in 2002 Prof. Subrata K. Mitra, Head of the Department of Political Science, took up the presidency of the Committee on Political Sociology (CPS), a research committee of the International Political Science Association/International Sociological Association (IPSA/ISA) and an associated research committee of the American Political Science Association (APSA), the two most important associations in the field, he took the initiative to promote the subfield of political science of South Asia within the organisational networks of international political science and within the much debated confines of the discipline.

The main tasks involved were to make and revive contacts within these two organisations thus preparing the ground for the intensification of the engagement with political science of South Asia within international political science and to put up and co-ordinate panels dealing

with "politics mainly South Asian" at the two associations' Annual Meetings and World Congress respectively, the two main conferences of the discipline.

At the same time, efforts had to be made for the opening up of the subfield to a comparative perspective. The latter is of special importance in a time when the sole focus on one area or region gets increasingly difficult to sustain in an ever more competitive scientific marketplace.

Thus, after a panel on "Does Context Matter? The State in the Time of Globalisation" with two papers on the Indian problematique had been organised shortly after the inauguration of Subrata Mitra as CPS president in 2002 at APSA's 98th Annual Meeting in Boston, the contacts made and networks established were used to launch a highly visible panel on "India's and South Africa's party system in a comparative perspective" at IPSA's 19th World Congress held in Durban,



South Africa, in July 2003.

The panel, chaired by Clemens Spieß, was well attended and a lot of interesting problems and perspectives of nascent and/or post-colonial democracies came up for discussion. The comments indicated that there is a growing interest in the Indian experience and that there is a need for knowledge about the Indian context coming under scrutiny of other regional experts and comparativists alike. The congress with several thousand participants from all over the world was a major opportunity to “dip” into the world-wide scholarly community and to plan future collaborative projects and conferences. South Asia had been put on the agenda of the RC and international political science successfully.

The most recent event of the committee’s activity has been the organisa-

tion of a panel on “Electoral Systems in Comparative Perspective” at APSA’s 99th Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. There was again an “Indian bias” prevalent in the panel with two papers dealing with aspects of India’s electoral system by Subrata Mitra and Clemens Spieß respectively.

The Philadelphia meeting was promising for the subfield for yet another reason: Susanne Rudolph was elected as president of APSA and Atul Kohli was announced as programme chair for APSA’s centennial meeting in Chicago this August. Thus, two of the most well-known experts on political science of South Asia are currently at the top of the discipline’s most important association.

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The special collections of the library of the SAI

Starting in January 1998 the German Research Council has funded special collections at the library of the South Asia Institute. This project finalised in December 2003. With an additional budget of 20.000 Euro per annum and funding for two student assistants the library was able to enrich its already considerable collections of interdisciplinary material concerning South Asia.

A main focus was put on a collection of school text books in regional languages of South Asia as well as on the vast field of “Grey literature”.

Collection of school text books

The collection of school text books consists now of 5800 titles and comprises text books of governmental schools and public schools. Most of them are approved by the National Board of Education or the State Boards of Education in South Asia.

We started our collection in India and firstly focused primarily on text books in English and Hindi. Thus, not only all kind of subjects were included but also a great variety of optional material such as readers, didactic manuals for teachers, and Question Papers. This collection was enhanced by text books in Bengali, Tamil, and Urdu. Moreover, the library acquired a representative selection of

school text books in Gujarati, Marathi, Oriya, and Sanskrit as well as some minor collections in Kannada, Telugu, and Malayalam.

However, due to the variety of types of schools and approving Boards of Education a further selection turned out to be necessary for most of the regional languages mentioned above.

Thus, we concentrated on subjects in Humanities, Socio-Empirical Sciences and above all on Language Training, meaning textbooks used for teaching the languages linguistically as well as literally. The subjects comprise history, social sciences, geography, general/civic studies, and environmental sciences.

In a further step we focused on Pakistan and Bangladesh. The same criteria of selection were valid concerning subjects and types of school; however, the national languages, Urdu and Bengali respectively were especially emphasized. Besides, English textbooks which are predominantly used in English medium schools were also included at a rather broad scale.

In Pakistan the material used in Madrasas was also considered.

Collection of “Grey Literature”

The acquisition of “Grey Literature” which can be defined as publications

Ills of Marginality: New Perspectives on Subaltern Health in South Asia

International Conference, IWH, Heidelberg, Germany, 17-18 June 2004.

Do oppressed and marginalized groups in South Asia have particular health problems? To what extent are their health-related practices and ideas influenced by their social position? Do they have specific conceptions of the body, of health, of disease?

These are questions of some urgency, since the bulk of the disease burden in South Asia is placed on subaltern groups such as the poor, women, and scheduled castes and tribes. We presume that socio-cultural factors like stigma, discrimination, and marginalization have concrete effects on the health of such groups. In order to understand and analyze these effects, qualitative and field-based research is required, that is, research that recognizes the importance of a “view from the inside”. This was recognized in the 1990s by international development agencies who began attempting to understand people’s immediate experience of poverty and discrimination, turning their attention to “participatory assessment” of poverty and marginalization.

How and why did this new “discourse of poverty” arise amongst development agencies, and what effects has it had? The conference “The Ills of Marginality” will address these questions by bringing together a group of scholars who have recently conducted, or are currently conducting, field research amongst subaltern groups in South Asia. The conference will, for the first time, critically examine the notion of “Subaltern Health” in South Asia, focusing on culture, consciousness, resistance, and agency. The speakers will focus on these specific aspects: marginality in local and global perspectives; marginality in the South Asian context; low castes/Dalits; and sexually marginal groups.

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distributed outside the traditional publishing and book agencies and which are, therefore, rather hard to get by, concentrated on publications by the government, official statistics, publications by political parties, socio-empirical studies published by regional research institutes and surveys on economical data and economical developments in South Asia. Mainly the academic staff of the Department of Political Science and the Department of International Economics bought these publications directly on the spot. These journeys were also sponsored by the German Research Council. Additionally some minor part of this material was purchased by the staff of the Branch Offices in Delhi, Colombo, and Kathmandu.

All this material has by now been

included into the stock of the library and is easily obtainable during the library hours. Moreover, the data are now part of the online union catalogue (→ ①) of the SWB (South West Germany Library Consortium) as well as the local union catalogue of Heidelberg called HEIDI (→ ②). The books can therefore easily be ordered by international library loan.

For many reasons - among them the availability of local data such as shelf mark or subject headings - it is preferable to choose the search in HEIDI. If, e.g., you are looking for a complete index of all textbooks you just have to carry out a search with the shelf mark [Signatur] "nsp 28*". It is absolutely crucial to set the truncation mark (*) because otherwise the search will end in no results,

whereas the successful search will produce about 5800 hits.

Unfortunately, HEIDI is still based on German for the major parts of the retrieval. For an online tutorial how to use the various search facilities for the school text book selection please visit the home page of the Institute's library (→ ③).

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① <http://www.bsz-bw.de/wwwroot/c.opac.html>

② <http://www.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/helios/kataloge/>

③ <http://www.sai.uni-heidelberg.de/abt/BIBLIO/school.pdf>

South Asia Covered by Detailed Russian Maps

The library of the SAI acquired with funds of the Department of Geography a full set of detailed topographical maps - scale 1:200 000 - issued by the Soviet "Generalnyi Shtab" in the 1960s to 1980s and eventually available for sale since the 1990s. By these totally around one thousand maps, our Institute has for the first time at hand a complete and detailed coverage of the entire region from Afghanistan to Birma and from Nepal to Sri Lanka. In spite of this map series' age and the Cyrillic script, they fill a gap of detailed maps, which so far is due to the non-availability of similar maps by the national survey departments of most of the South Asian countries.

So far, a huge amount of these maps have been included into the common digital database of the University of Heidelberg ("HEIDI", → ①) and thus, these maps are easily accessible by the means of combined descriptors - mainly toponyms and political entities. The maps' bibliographic description in the regional library database SWB follows the rules of RAK-WB ("Regeln für die alphabetische Katalogisierung an wissenschaftlichen Bibliotheken").

Along with the geographical or political entity's Russian name in the respective map's headline, the countries and subordinate political entities shown on the map are also recorded (e.g. states in India, provinces in Pakistan, etc.). The transliterated Russian terms can

be retrieved in HEIDI as "Titel(stichworte)", as well as the respective map's series number (e.g. E - 43 - VII, Bombej (Bombay/Mumbai)).

Additionally, a selection of English terms - chosen by the Department of Geography and based on "The Times Comprehensive Atlas of the World", representing additional important toponyms, - is added and also retrievable as "Titel(stichworte)". Indexing is based on the library's thesaurus, and subject headings are chosen as combined geographic and subject keywords (e.g. "Indische Union, Great Rann of Kuch / Karte" or "Pakistan, NWFP/Karte"). These terms can be retrieved in HEIDI as "Institutsschlagwort".

A locator map together with a transliterated and translated legend of the map details is being drafted and will be added to the maps' storage place within the library's central reading room. Until the completion of the bibliographical work, all remaining maps are accessible on request from the Dept. of Geography at the SAI.



Section of map E-43-VII, "Bombej" (Mumbai), 1954

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Branch Offices: New Delhi, Colombo, Kathmandu

New Delhi Branch

In the academic year 2003-2004 the Branch Office Delhi was as usual active in its core responsibilities. Among these are outreach activities as well as the promotion and strengthening of academic partnerships with individual scholars and institutions in the subcontinent. Especially in these two areas significant advances have been made.

Very encouraging and stimulating was a trip undertaken by the representative to Pakistan in February 2004 to explore possibilities for research collaboration with academic institutions as well as ways to coordinate our efforts in Delhi with those of our representative in Pakistan, Dr. Wiqar Ali Shah, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad. The representative met a large number of social scientists and members of civil society groups in

Lahore, Islamabad and Peshawar, most of whom expressing great interest in the work of the SAI as well as hope for future collaboration. Especially in the light of reducing tensions between India and Pakistan, many voiced their wish that the SAI Branch Offices in Delhi and Islamabad should function also as facilitators for scientific exchange between the two countries. It appears that the SAI could play a significant role there which will need to be explored in the next future.

Concerning other outreach activities the Branch Office, with the valuable help of Volker Oberkircher, went online in November 2003, offering a host of information on our work in German and English. The Branch Office also participated in the Open Day Fair organized by the Max Mueller Bhavan on 1 November 2003, as well as in an Education Fair of St. Stephen's College, the premier college of the Delhi University, on 12-13 December 2003. Each time we received encouraging response from students and teachers as well as many queries about

the work of the SAI, especially about our English publications.

Concerning further promotion of collaboration with partners in India, three new Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) have been agreed upon. An understanding with effect from 1 January 2004 has been signed with the Centre de Science Humaines (CSH) in Delhi, one of the major French research insti-



Dr. Ahmad Hassan Dani, Pakistan's famous Archeologist and Sanskritist in his office at Quaid-i-Azam University. - Photo: Prof. W.A. Shah.

tutes on the subcontinent, to strengthen collaborative research and scientific exchange. Under this agreement, the CSH offers to affiliate one SAI doctoral candidate per year, providing a working space and logistical support for field research. The academic collaboration has already borne fruit. In August 2003 the French Ministry for Education and Research granted 74,000 Euro for a common research project of members of the CSH, the SAI Branch Office Delhi, and others on "Urban Actors, Policies, and Governance" for a three year period. Several workshops will be held in Delhi and Paris, and field research is taking place in Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, and Delhi, where the Representative of the branch office is designated as the city coordinator.

Furthermore, a MoU has been signed between the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and the SAI in February 2004 for exchanging visiting scholars in the fields of social sciences and Indology on a reciprocal basis. The

purpose of these visits will be to undertake relevant research in academic institutions of the two sides. The third MoU has been signed in April 2004 between the Jawaharlal Nehru University and the SAI. The envisaged areas of cooperation are exchange of faculty members and students, joint research activities, participation in seminars and academic meetings, exchange of academic materials and other information, and special short-term academic programmes.

Concerning activities with the established MoU partner Delhi University, various meetings have been held for the formulation of a European Union-Project as well as for the preparation of another project proposal on "Philosophical Traditions", for which a successful pilot study in Bihar's Mithila region took place in early March 2004. Furthermore, two exchange students from the University of Heidelberg,

Chanda Elzer and Oriana Ponta, were studying at the Delhi University (DU) during this period. The next Baden-Württemberg Fellow, Dr. Biswamoy Pati, is also member of the DU, and will be coming to Heidelberg in May 2004 for a two months period. In respect to the MoU partner IGNC, a national seminar was held on 13.-14.3.2004 in collaboration between Prof. Monika Boehm-Tettelbach and Dr. Molly Kaushal on "Dadu and His Relevance in Modern Times".

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Colombo Branch

The branch office Colombo operates under a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Colombo. It initiates and facilitates research cooperation between the SAI and the University of Colombo as well as other Sri Lankan academic institutions. Its excellent network with local and international academic, political, and developmental institutes and agencies provides many opportunities for joint research projects, seminars, and lectures. Moreover, numerous students use the office for access to internships.

Funded by a DAAD exchange program, the SAI Branch Office Colombo organized a workshop on “Sub-altern Health. Theory and Practice” from 19th - 21st August 2003 in cooperation with the University of Colombo and the Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA).

This workshop was led by Prof. Dr. William Sax (Department of Anthropology, SAI). Ms. Karin Polit, M.A. presented some stimulating insights in her field research. As a result, the University of Colombo has shown interest in increased cooperation with the SAI.

As part of the same DAAD exchange program three scholars from the University of Colombo (Prof. Siri T. Hettige (Dept. of Sociology), Dr. Saroj Jayasinghe (Medical Faculty) and Dr. Nimal Attanayaka (Dept. of Economics)) traveled to Heidelberg from the 12th to the 19th of December, 2003. They attended a workshop on “Health in Sri Lanka” organized by Prof. Sax. A larger, inter-disciplinary project on this topic is planned.

In 2003, in cooperation with the National Science Foundation Sri Lanka (NSF), the branch office had advertised an island-wide competition on “The Role of Religion in the Peace Process”. Undergraduate students were invited to deliver a case study on a particular incident, institution or village in which a conflict had occurred. They pointed out

how a religious institution, leader or concept contributed to the solution of this conflict. Undergraduate students from any academic discipline were eligible; individual entries and group entries up to a group of 3 students were accepted. In the evaluation of the research papers equal weight was given to the subject



Undergraduate research competition “The Role of Religion in the Peace Process”: awards resenting seminar - Photo: SAI Branch Office Colombo

matter and the style.

The jury members consisted of Prof. Laksiri Fernando (Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo), Prof. Kalinga Tudor Silva (Dept. of Sociology, University of Peradeniya), Dr. Kumarasamy Somasundaram (retired Director, Tamil Education, National Institute of Education), Mrs. Jezima Ismail (Chancellor, South Eastern University) and Dr. Birgit Mayer-König (Resident Representative).

The winners presented their papers in a public seminar on 18th November 2003 at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, Colombo. The first prize went to a group of three undergraduates of the Law Faculty, University of Colombo, who had delivered an excellent research on the communal riots in the Central Provinces in October 2000. They showed how the local religious leaders succeeded in calming down the masses and contributed to a sustainable peace by initiating a multi-religious and bi-lingual pre-school in the area. In the evening, the jury members discussed the topic in a plenary session.

This event was funded by a local automobile business. It was widely covered by local newspapers. It was included in the programme of the German Embassy in Colombo for the celebration of 50 years of diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and Germany. The Deputy German Ambassador, Mrs. H. Jung was the chief guest and addressed the auditorium before handing out the first prize.

The year 2004 started with a lecture on “Dynasties and Female Political Leaders in Asia” delivered by PD Dr. Dagmar Hellman-Rajanayagam (Dept. of History, SAI), organized in collaboration with the International Centre of Ethnic Studies (ICES) on 26th February.

From 28th - 31st January the resident representative traveled to Jaffna. This Northern peninsula had been badly affected in the civil war and its situation has only

slightly improved now. The University runs its programs in Tamil medium only. It welcomes cooperation with the SAI. The prestigious public library has been rebuilt and welcomes book donations.

In order to provide easy access to more information, the branch office has updated its internet pages. It has also published a brochure which is handed out to its local partners.

In July 2004, a peace training program is being organized with the University of Colombo, the Eastern University Trincomalee Campus, and the Weeramantry Peace Centre.

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Representative:

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Kathmandu Branch

The SAI Kathmandu Office is affiliated to Tribhuvan University (T.U.), based on a Memorandum of Understanding with the Centre for International Relations (TUCIR). Its office is located at Patan/Dhobighat, where it occupies a three room flat, including a small library. The office is currently headed by Elvira Graner, a member of faculty from the SAI's Dept. of Geography, carrying out research on human development, gender studies and (labour) migration, the latter in close collaboration with the Nepal Institute of Development Studies (NIDS). Research projects by other members of the SAI include life cycle transition rituals, carried out within the broader framework of the

high level DFG-SFB funded "Dynamics of Ritual" (Christoph Emmrich) as well as a recently initiated project on documenting two Rai languages, officially inaugurated by the German Ambassador Rüdiger Lemp and financed by the Volkswagen Foundation within their scheme of documenting rare languages (Martin Gaenzle, jointly with Leipzig University and N.K. Rai, T.U./CNAS).

The Kathmandu Office has close institutional links to T.U.'s Centre for Nepal & Asian Studies (CNAS). A joint book launch was organised for Ramesh Dhungel's book on "The Kingdom of Lo". One of their members of faculty, Prof. N. K Rai, was invited to the SAI for the summer term 2003, jointly teaching a Nepali course with Prof. Axel Michaels (Classical Indology). Activities in Kathmandu include talk programmes with renowned scholars in order to disseminate their research activities. Thus, Brigitte Merz (25.10.) was invited for a lecture on "Devotional Healing". Similarly, A. von Rospatt gave a lecture about his research on life cycle rituals among Newar (3.12),

the latter being funded within DFG's "Dynamics of Rituals" (see above). From T.U. Kapil Shrestha (CNAS, Political Science), one of Nepal's top-level human rights activists, was presenting a lecture about "Maoist Insurgency, based on field visits from Mid-Western Nepal" (25.4.).



Class of T.U. students under the "M.A. Support Scheme" (January 2004) - Photo: Rajesh Lal Shrestha

Other activities of the Kathmandu Office include a recently initiated support scheme for students from social sciences enrolled at T.U. Within this scheme, a total of 10 students from four departments (Sociology / Anthropology, Political Science, Population Studies, and Rural Development) receive a nominal financial contribution (9.500 NRs each) for undertaking field research for their theses. The second component of this scheme are supervision classes, carried out in close collaboration with Shambhu Kattel (Sociology / Anthropology) and Mrigendra Karki (CNAS). There, the students need to regularly report on the current state of their on-going research, discussing their proposals, methodology, as well as research findings. Classes also include computer training. This scheme has started in December 2003. It is based on the financial support from several (inter) national donors and research agencies. The NIDS was instrumental in setting up this scheme, similarly the Friends of the South Asia Institute at Heidelberg University. Funding via pro-

jects is available through GTZ's Health Sector Support Programme (HSSP), the Nepal Swiss Community Forestry Project (SDC), VBSK (Vertical Brick Shaft Kiln, SDC), and the NLA (National Labour Academy). This scheme will hopefully be continued in future years, Thus, this scheme exposes students to

both foreign academic teaching and research within donor-funded projects.

Similarly, it would be advantageous to (regularly) invite T.U. lecturers for joint teaching activities at the SAI. A first attempt for setting up a joint interdisciplinary course with the two above mentioned lecturers (summer 2004) was submitted to the DAAD for funding.

Other forms of cooperation exist between the branch

office and the Social Science Baha (SSB), who will in future jointly edit the "European Bulletin of Himalayan Research" (EBHR). Similarly, they will re-print the scholarly work of the SAI-anthropologist Andras Höfer, on "The Muluki Ain" (Nepal's Legal Code). Documentation of SAI research in the local media was done at the occasion of Prof. Bruno Knall's 80th birthday (22.2.2004; see page 15); included also under "Institutional Memory" at the office's new website).

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Representative:
Elvira Graner



Selected Research Projects

Anthropology

Christiane Brosius

- Political Rituals and Notions of Space (Ritual dynamics, A 4.3)
- Managing Homelands and Coming Home - The Indian Diaspora and strategies of re/dis-location in media representation and public events
- Megacities in India: the transformation of Old Delhi in the early 21st century; developing new townships: Gurgaon
- Political Rituals and Notions of Space
- Hindu nationalist processions (1983-today)
- Colonialism and the representation of the Pacific Islands in early film (1900-1930)

Stefan Ecks

- The Alchemy of Happiness: Mental Health in India between Ritual and Biomedicine
- Reproductive Health Perception & Practices of Health Care Providers and their Male Clients in Urban South Asia: Impact on Women's Health

Roland Hardenberg

- Meria Sacrifice: ritual construction of socio-cultural identities of the Dongria Kond in the Niyamgiri mountains of Orissa
- Marriage Between Villages: Affinity, Territoriality and Gifts among the Kond of Orissa

Michael Nijhawan

- Diaspora Sikhs and the Ritual Production of Migrant Localities
- Territorial Rituals at a Sufi Dargah in the Punjab (Ritual dynamics, A 4.2)

William S. Sax

- Der Heilkult der Gottheit Bhairav im Zentral-Himalaya: Analyse aus der Perspektive der kritisch-interpretativen Medizinethnologie und der Performanz-Theorie
- Ritual processions in the Central Himalayas (Ritual dynamics, A 4.1)

Elisabeth Schömbucher-Kusterer

- Possession Mediumship among the Vadabalija, a South Indian Fishing Caste.

Classical Indology

Christoph Emmrich

- Concepts of time and salvation in the Suttapiṭaka of the Theravādins
- Buddhist and Hindu elements in the life-cycle rituals among the Newars of Lalitpur

Niels Gutschow

- Visualized Space - Varanasi Research Project

Niels Gutschow, Hermann Kulke, Andreas Brandt

- Ranpur - urban space and ritual of a town in Orissa

Ute Hüsken, Srilata Müller, Monika Boehm-Tettelbach

- Initiation, priestly ordination, temple festivals - ritual traditions in south Indian temple city of Kancipuram (Ritual dynamics, A 3)

Ute Hüsken

- Rites of Passage of the Vaikhanasa: Construction of Religious Identity in South India
- Ritual failure and mistake(s) in ritual

Axel Michaels, Niels Gutschow, Christoph Emmrich, A. von Rospatt, J. Buß, N. Sharma

- Life-cycle rituals in Nepal (Ritual dynamics, A2)

Axel Michals, B. Bäumer, J. Beltz, S. Das

- The Mahima-Dharma-Movement (Orissa) in text and context

Axel Michaels, N. Sharma

- The price of impurity: The Dharmādhikārin in the legal tradition of Nepal

Axel Michaels

- *Editio princeps* of the so-called Wright chronicle

Development Economics

Clive Bell, Hans Gersbach

- Child Labour, Education and Economic Growth

Clive Bell, Hans Gersbach, Shantanayan Devarajan

- Economic Growth and Premature Adult Mortality: The Long-run Economics of AIDS

Clive Bell, Gerhard Clemenz

- Strategic Lending in Rural Credit Markets

Natsagdorj Enkhjargal

- The Impact of Natural Catastrophes on the Economy of Herder Households and the Role of Financial Institutions

Rahel Falk

- Industrial Sickness in India

Ramona Schrepler

- Child Labour, Fertility and Economic Growth

Oliver Strobel

- Equilibrium population and per capita income in India in the long run

Dagmar Völker

- AIDS, Economic Growth and Public Finance

Geography

Hans-Georg Bohle

- Food security and conflict management in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka

Hans-Georg Bohle, Michael Brklacich

- Global environmental change and human security (research group)

Hans-Georg Bohle, Rainer Sauerborn

- Global environmental change and health (research group)

Jürgen Clemens

- Urbanisation trends in Sri Lanka: Potential of small and medium towns

Hartmut Fünfgeld

- Community-oriented natural resource management and conflict transformation in the Eastern Province, Sri Lanka: The case of lagoon fisheries

**Elvira Graner, Ganesh Gurung**

- International labour migration from Nepal

Una Hombrecher

- Social capital: Options and obstacles in search of security. Sri Lanka women in conflict

Stephen Lemke

- Banaras as Waterscape. On the construction of everyday "space of water use"

Christiane Noe

- Health and illness in the "welfare" state of Sri Lanka. Livelihood and vulnerability of marginal groups in Colombo, Sri Lanka

Susanne van Dillen

- Critical region, vulnerable people: A geographical investigation into the case and the effects of "nature disasters" in western Orissa, India

History**Gita Dharampal-Frick**

- "Revisiting the colonial archive": Evaluation of the "Board's Collection", 1784-1858

- South Asian Modernity (SAM). A network of historical and contemporary studies.

- Alexander Walker (1764-1831) on India

Ravi Ahuja

- The Indian Ocean und the "labour question": The regulation of South Asian maritime labour, 1918-1960

- Communications and Colonialism. Orissan Society and the Politics of Transport in the Long Nineteenth Century.

Indra Sengupta-Frey

The archaeology of sacred sites and identity in colonial and postcolonial India, 1861-1960. The case of Eastern India

International Economics**Paul Brandeis**

- Foreign Direct Investment, Optimisation of Business Location and Multilateral Investment Agreement, with Empiri-

cal Research on South-East-Asia and India

Frithjof Kilp

- Environmental Policies and their Transmission by International Trade (with a Case Study of India)

Markus Loewe

Informally Working People: How to Reform their Social Security and to Improve their Impact

Pilanya Niyomthai

Tax Reform in Semi-Industrialized Countries (Thailand)

Dong Phuong Pham

Competitiveness of Cooperative Financial Systems: The Case of Vietnam

Sabine Streb

Regulating Natural Monopolies in the Water Industry of Developing Countries: Institutional Alternatives

Marco Veselka

Economic Structures, Financial Systems, and Growth (Germany, USA, Taiwan)

Isabel Werle

An International Comparison of Fiscal Federalism (Germany, Malaysia)

Axel Wolz

The Transformation of Agricultural Cooperatives, Self-Help-Organizations, and Rural Finance Systems in Vietnam

Wolfgang-Peter Zingel

Local Bodies Finance: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh

Modern Indology**Monika Boehm-Tettelbach, Jörg Gengnagel**

- Court ritual in the Jaipur State (18th century to 1949)

Monika Boehm-Tettelbach

- The Militant Rāmānandīs: History and Transformation

- Dadupanthi anthologies from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries

- "Eternal religion": an eighteenth-century debate

- The preacher's art

Mathias Metzger

- Romani as an Indic Language - Typological and Etymological Studies into a New Indo-Aryan Language of Europe

Ulrike Stark

- Diffusing the Printed Word: The Naval Kishore Press of Lucknow (1858-1895) (concluded)

- Raja Shivaprasad of Banaras (1823-1895): Life and Ideas of an Indian Educationist

Political Science**Tamara Enhuber**

- Bonded Labour Systems in India

Alexander Fischer

- Constitutional Amendment Process in India

Karsten Frey

- State Interests and the Course of India's Nuclear Build-up

Peter Lehr

- The Indian Ocean as a region: illusion or reality?

K.M. Mahiuddin

- Parliamentary Committees in Bangladesh and Germany

Subrata K. Mitra, Clemens Spieß

- Parties and party systems in India and South Africa

Matthias Paukert

- Hydrosolidarity in Pakistan

Siegfried Wolf

- Collective identity and identity politics in India: the case of Hindutva in a theoretical perspective

Branch Office New Delhi**Evelin Hust**

- Urban Actors, Policies, and Governance



Recent Publications of Members of the SAI

Anthropology

Christiane Brosius

- "Of nasty pictures and 'nice guys': the surrealities of Online Hindutva". In Monica Narula et al (eds.). *CRISIS/MEDIA*: Sarai Reader 04. New Delhi: The Sarai Programme, 2004: 139-151.
- *Empowering Visions. An Ethnography of Hindutva Nationalism and New Media Technologies (1989-1993)*. London: Anthem Press, 2004.
- "Mappare il corpo della nazione. Le prozessionen territoriali nei video di propaganda della destra indù." *Etnosistemi X(10)*. Special Issue Terra, territorio e società, edited by Gilles Tarabout and Daniela Berti, 2003: 130-144. ["Mapping national identity. Patriotic pilgrimage and territory in videos of the Hindu Right"]
- "... denn der Schmerz ist schwer erträglich": Zur Inszenierung von Tätowierung als Medienereignis." In Erika Fischer-Lichte et al (eds.), *Performativität und Ereignis* (= Theatralität 4). Tübingen and Basel: Francke, 2003: 163-183. ["... the pain is difficult to bear". On the performativity of tattooing as media event"]
- "Kannibalismus im Film. Imaginierte Rituale zwischen Dschungel und Salon". In Erika Fischer-Lichte et al (eds.), *Ritualität und Grenze* (= Theatralität 5). Tübingen and Basel, 2003: 295-312. ["Cannibalism and Film. Imagined Spaces between the Jungle and the Salon"]

Stefan Ecks

- "Bodily Sovereignty as Political Sovereignty: 'Self-Care' in Kolkata (India)" *Anthropology & Medicine* 11(1). 2004: 75-89.
- (with Oliver Razum) "Medizin und Globalisierung: Warum sich zwischen 'traditioneller' und 'moderner' Medizin nicht sinnvoll unterscheiden lässt". <http://www.journal-ethnologie.de/>

Roland Hardenberg

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Michael Nijhawan

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William S. Sax

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Elisabeth Schömbucher

- (with Heidrun Brückner) "Performances". In Veena Das (ed.), *The Oxford India Companion to Sociology and Social Anthropology*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2003: 598-624.
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Classical Indology

Christoph Emmrich

- "How Many Times? Pluralism, Dualism or Monism in Early Jaina Temporal Discription." In Piotr Balcerowicz & Marek (eds.), *Essays in Jaina Philosophy and Religion*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 2003: 69-88.
- "Das westliche Gewand der Jainas. Europäische und indische Überformungen jainistischer Gelehrsamkeit." In Peter Schalk (ed.), *Orientalismus und Okzidentalismus in asiatischen Religionen*. Uppsala: Uppsala University Press, 2003: 26-40.

Niels Gutschow

- (with Kim Gutschow) "A landscape dissolved: Households, fields, and irrigation in Rinam, Northwest India." In N.

Gutschow, A. Michaels, C. Ramble and E. Steinkellner (eds.), *Sacred Landscape of the Himalaya*. Wien: Austrian Academy of Sciences Press, 2003: 111-136 .

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Ute Hüsken

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Axel Michaels

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- "Tirtha - Orte der Transzendenz in hinduistischen Texten, Ritualen und



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Srilata Müller

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Development Economics

Clive Bell

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Stefan Klonner

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Hans-Georg Bohle

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- "Geographien von Gewalt - Kulturgeographische Interpretationen des Bürgerkrieges auf Sri Lanka." *Petermanns*

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Jürgen Clemens

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- "Destination Kabul im Steigflug. Die Luftfahrtbranche entdeckt das Land am Hindukush als attraktives Ziel." *Südasiens* 3/2003: 10-12.

- "Neue Grenzkonflikte um 'Pashtunistan'." *Südasiens* 3/2003: 54-56.

- "Von Karten und Grenzen: Die koloniale 'Durand Line' als permanenter geopolitischer Konfliktstoff zwischen Afghanistan und Pakistan." *Asien* 1/2004: 53-58.

- "Unterrichten ohne Strom und Stuhl: Erfahrungen eines Gastdozenten an der Universität Kabul." *Südasiens* 4/2003: 13-15.

- "Frieden durch grenzüberschreitendes Wassermanagement? Der Indus-Wasservertrag zwischen Indien und Pakistan von 1960." *Entwicklung und Ländlicher Raum* 2/2004: 22-25.

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Elvira Graner

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Ujjaini Halim

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Michael Köberlein

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Stefan Schütte

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History

Ravi Ahuja

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Inayatullah Baloch

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Georg Berkemer

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Gita Dharampal-Frick

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- 24.06.2003 Global Environmental Change and Human Security (Prof. Dr. Michael Beklacich)
- 26.06.2003 Auf der Suche nach der Individualität? Biographien und Erinnerungen auf Persisch und Urdu (Dr. Margit Pernau)
- 27.06.2003 From dharma to law and back? Postmodern Hindu law in a global world (1. Dieter Conrad Memorial Lecture) (Prof. Werner Menski)
- 30.06.2003 Nuclear Menace: The Saty-

- agrah Approach (Dr. Anil Athale)
- 01.07.2003 Unauthorized Modernities (Prof. Makarand Paranjape)
- 15.07.2003 "A Frame for India's Past?" James Fergusson und die Entstehung der modernen indischen Architekturgeschichte im 19. Jahrhundert (Prof. Monika Juneja)
- 29.08.2003 Sanskrit Vernaculars (Prof. Madhav Deshpande)
- 06.11.2003 Between Memory and Forgetting: the Missing Years of the Bengal Partition, 1947-71 (Dr. Ahijeet Paul)
- 24.11.2003 India-Pakistan Peace Pro-

- cess (the current process) (Dr. Pervaiz Cheema)
- 22.01.2004 Mumbai. Megacity im Spannungsfeld globaler, nationaler und lokaler Interessen (Prof. Dr. Heinz Nissel)
- 02.02.2004 The Translator's Headache: Hindi Classical Poetry in English (Prof. Vishnu Khare)
- 04.02.2004 The Pacific is Burning: Gender Crossing in Polynesian Performance Culture (Prof. Christopher Balme)
- 05.02.2004 Ayurveda in Deutschland: Praxis und Perspektiven (Dr. A. S. Chopra)



Hindi Movie Show at the South Asia Institute

Summer Semester 2004: Strong Women



On Wednesdays, 6 to 9 PM, SAI Z10 - Upcoming Programme:

26 May 2004 Mandi (The Market Place)

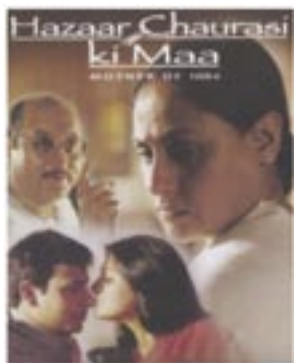


A black comedy set in a Hyderabad *kotha* (brothel), *The Marketplace* is a rollicking drama of excess. This singing-dancing prostitute establishment is faced with a sad decline as its patronage withers in the face of changing times. Benegal uses the bordello as an instrument to satirise middle class respectability but it has its own secrets and repressed passions. With an amazing cast this ensemble film boasts excellent music, sensuous interiors and is altogether a lot of fun!

Dir.: Shyam Benegal, 1983, 160 mins., Hindi with English Subtitles

Cast: Shaban Azmi, Smita Patil, Naseeruddin Shah, Om Puri.

9 June 2004 Hazaar Chaurasi Ki Ma (Mother of 1084)



This film by is based on a famous Bengali novel by Mahasweta Devi, the film is set in a period when Bengal was swept by a powerful militant leftist movement known

as the Naxalite movement. Sujata Chatterji is a middle aged, traditional, unprotesting, upper middle class woman, who works in a commercial bank in Calcutta. One early morning she awakens to the shattering news that her youngest and favorite son, Brati, is lying dead in the police morgue, reduced to a mere number: corpse number 1084. The shock of this experience propels her on a journey of discovery, in the course of which she struggles to understand her son's revolutionary commitment which led to his death. At the same time, she begins to recognize her own alienation from the complacent, hypocritical, bourgeois society her son had rebelled against.

In an attempt to regain a sense of self from her intense psychological and emotional trauma, Sujata, as a mother, gains some deep insights into the complex relationship between the personal and the political.

Dir.: Chandan Arora, 2003, Hindi with English Subtitles

Cast: Antra Mali, Rajpal Yadav, Govind Namdeo

17 June 2004 Jhansi Ki Rani (The Maharani of Jhansi)



(please note that this movie is on thursday, 7 PM)

One of the best-known Indian historicals, it is a spectacular account of Rani Laxmibai's life, the 19th C. queen of Jhansi known as Manu to her friends who led her armies into battle against the British East India Com-

pany during the Mutiny of 1857. The Film chronicles Lord Dalhousie's annexation policies which had forced a treaty upon the aged and childless King Gangadhar Rao. The high priest, who controls the throne and who had opposed the signing of the treaty, searches for someone capable of leading a revolt and finds the defiant Manu. He persuades the king to marry her, making her the rightful successor to the king instead of the scheming Sadashiv Rao who is on the side of the British.

Dir: Sohrab Modi, 1953, 93 mins., Deutsch

Cast: Sohrab Modi, Mehtab, Mubarak, Ulhas, Ram Singh, Shakeela, Anand Balraj

23 June 2004 Chameli (Yasmin)



The investment-banker Aman (Rahul Bose) and Chameli (Kareena Kapoor), a prostitute, meet by chance during a rainy night in Bombay. After a brief introduction, characterized by Aman's shock at the crude mannerism of the girl, the two get along talking. The remaining night will be full of stirred emotions, hesitant revelations followed by inevitable separation. Although the film is quite deftly made, it moves at a much slower pace than what the viewers of mainstream cinema are used to.

Dir.: Sudhir Mishra, 2003, Hindi with English Subtitles

Cast: Kareena Kapoor Rahul Bose, Rinke Khanna

7 July 2004 Bumika (The Role)

21 July 2004 Guddi (Darling Child)