



REPORT

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2005



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Fishermen depend on their equipment – the SAI provides help to 422 fishermen in Pottuvil (Sri Lanka)

Tsunami: From active help to academic analysis

Library now hosts DFG-funded special collection on South Asia

New B.A. course in South Asian Studies

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Editorial

Readers will need no reminders of the scenes of destruction and the attendant loss of life caused by the *tsunami* that struck Southeast and South Asia in December 2005. Fittingly, part of this Report is devoted to what has happened in the immediate aftermath, to the prospects for longer term reconstruction, and to the ensuing questions that scholars should address.

Yet there is another tragedy that plays out daily, especially in the poorer inland regions of the subcontinent - a quiet tragedy, but one that, over the course of time, is much grimmer in scale. Hundreds of thousands of children die each year of malaria and diseases of childhood, while tuberculosis and, increasingly, AIDS carry off in comparable numbers adults who should be in the prime of life. According to the *World Health Organisation*, 45 per cent of the total burden of disease in South and Southeast Asia can be laid at the door of communicable diseases, maternal and peri-natal conditions, and nutritional deficiencies. The task of substantially reducing this fearful toll would not make intolerable claims on fiscal and organisational resources. Whether governments are ready to exert themselves in this direction is another matter.

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Title photo: Steve Creech (Sewalanka)

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New B.A. course in South Asian Studies at the SAI



The South Asia Institute has developed an innovative and exciting undergraduate degree programme with the core components literary and conversational Hindi or Sanskrit, as well as the culture, society and history of South Asia. The degree aims to combine South Asian studies with Hindi or Sanskrit to degree level by offering a wide range of courses.

The B.A. in South Asian Studies is a full-time programme of study based on a three-year course taught within a modular framework with prescribed, mandatory modules and supplementary modules which are offered with some choice (core options). The particular modules can vary from course to course, and depend on your own preference. Mandatory modules comprise Sanskrit or Hindi and six other courses in South Asian studies, i.e. Anthropology, Geography, History, Classical Indology, Modern

Indology, Political Science and Economics. The supplementary modules consist of another subject of the mandatory modules and a practical training of at least ten weeks after the intermediate examination completed by courses in interdisciplinary, professionally-oriented subjects.

By the end of the second semester students will be required to sit a preliminary exam, i.e. to obtain a pass at the end of the language course. The intermediate exam after the third semester requires successful participation in certain courses of study as laid down in the examination regulations. The final B.A. examination consists of a certain number of certificates ("Scheine") verifying completion and indicating the grade of term papers and examinations, done in the individual courses, a B.A. thesis and an oral exam.

We welcome applications from students with Abitur or with other backgrounds meeting standard entrance requirements

for German universities. Our admissions tutor will be pleased to discuss with you possible programmes of study appropriate to your existing qualifications and previous experience. As the language of instruction for all types of courses (i.e. seminars, lectures, tutorials and practice sessions) is German, students whose first language is not German should have achieved a minimum German language standard documented by the PNDS exam. The application deadline for international students is 15 July 2005.

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Who does what wherewith where when and why?

1st international workshop on the dynamics of ritual in Bhaktapur, Nepal

Last August fifteen brave young men and women from Western and Central Europe went to an old city in the central Himalayas to learn how to ask questions.

To do this they first had to learn the language of that place. Every morning around the kitchen table they would learn to understand the questions of their teacher, Laxminath Shrestha who by gentle persistence would have them listen by pointing to his ear: Sunnus na! Have them speak, by beckoning them near: Bhannus na! And, averting his head, ask them to ask back: Soḍhnus na! C'mon, ask! But ask what if everything is a puzzle? Ask whom if you do not know who knows?

Of course, there were people around whom they could ask, first of all Niels Gutschow, himself a Bhaktapurvāsi of old and someone who knows more about what goes on in this city than most white men. Cunningly, he had invited the fifteen young people at a time of the year when things happen, draw attention, have them focus, draw them in, have them participate and experience events which point their fingers at their ears, beckon them near and, in the loud and earthy fashion of Newari peasant culture, asks them to ask. When on Nāgapañcamī the whole town sticks painted images of snake deities above the houses' main doors, sometimes with cow-dung, sometimes with Pritt glue-stick, sometimes clockwise, sometimes anti-clockwise, or maybe even just as they feel like, when during Gāijātrā the whole town starts carrying around giant pyramidal cows for their dead and the local boys on that occasion decide to wear drag which eventually turns into a demonstration of gay pride, it is not the

exotic which makes you ask, but the unexpected.

However, if the young men and women would turn to Niels-G for answers, the architect-scholar would turn the tables on them and, while asking them back, point in the direction he himself once took and which he still regularly takes when he encounters the unexpected, have them walk the undulating, brick-paved streets



“What am I doing here?” Tessa Fischer, student, on the quest.

- Photo: J. Götz.

of Bhaktapur to map out their answers, have them face the blood-splattered guy who chops away at the headless goat, say Namaskār to the lady who waits with a bunch of flowers in her basket: Get to know them, find out what keeps them busy. And, for God's sake, ask and do not fool yourself into thinking that you actually know what's going on.

Sometimes the trail led beyond the beaten tracks of Bhaktapur, like when Brigitte Merz had the group attend a séance of a female healer in a nearby village and had them find out that some doctors don't ask you to stick out your tongue but hit you with a broom instead. Or when I had three of the young researchers over in Lalitpur for a marathon mass circumambulation of the city's 400-odd stūpas in the space of one day during the Buddhist festival of Matayā which led us past shrines, hotel swimming pools and burning tyres while an anti-Muslim pogrom was raging in Kathmandu.

This international group consisting of students and postgraduates from the fields of Indology, Anthropology, History, Geography, Pedagogy and Psychology could be brought together by the interdisciplinary efforts and ongoing work conducted by members of the Collaborative Research Centre “Ritual Dynamics” sponsored by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and will have been the first of a series of workshops on ritual both outside and within Nepal.

In the evenings and on weekends the group was regularly asked by their mentor what they had seen and what they had found out. As a concerted reply, results were eventually collected in an accurately compiled and splendidly illustrated documentation. However, they might have to go again, for last September fifteen brave young men and women from Western and Central Europe came back from an old city in the central Himalayas and brought with them more questions than answers.

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Teaching focus: Rituals in South Asia

The workshop on the Dynamics of Ritual is part of this year's teaching focus “Rituals in South Asia” (see SAI-Report 2004, page 6). Various other seminars, lectures, workshops and excursions complete the program.



Teaching award for language training

On February 1st 2005 the departments of Modern and Classical Indology were awarded the Landeslehrpreis (Teaching Award of the State of Baden-Württemberg) for their outstanding language programmes.

Each department received half of the total amount of 10.000 Euro to be spent on further improving the departments' programmes - in particular their language teaching.

The award was bestowed upon Monika Boehm-Tettelbach and her team for the intensive Hindi course attracting students from all over Europe interested in a well-grounded and fundamental training, and upon Axel Michaels and his department for the Summer School in Spoken Sanskrit, conducted by Dr. Sadananda Das from Varanasi, for its uniqueness in the field of Indology, attracting participants from as far a field as Japan or Australia to the SAI each summer.

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Monika Boehm-Tettelbach, Dept. of Modern Indology, and Axel Michaels, Dept. of Classical Indology, at the award ceremony. The award has encouraged both departments in their keen efforts towards developing their programmes for maintaining the institute's reputation among students and scholars worldwide.

- Photo: Dagmar Welker (RNZ).

On sowing seeds and harvesting fruits...

New "Sarasvati Sanskrit Prize" and DAAD-funding for the summer school in spoken Sanskrit

In times of smaller and greater changes in the German university structure fear of neglect or even disappearance of departments belonging to "small" subjects such as Indology is growing. The Classical Indology at the SAI is therefore happy to have "harvested" support from outside for its work in students' training and teaching quality.

The seeds for the Summer School in Spoken Sanskrit, organized by Prof. Dr. Axel Michaels and conducted by Dr. Sadananda Das from Varanasi, were sown almost six years ago. Its success and popularity all over the world - with participants applying from as far a field as Australia and Japan - have resulted in the financial promotion by the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) in its new programme "German Summer Academies". Among the 22 other summer programmes funded by the

DAAD the Summer School in Spoken Sanskrit is the only funded course from Heidelberg. The total amount of 17.650 Euros granted the department will not only enrich the school's extracurricular activities by inviting guest speakers and organizing subject-oriented excursions, it will also have the opportunity of granting scholarships to students from abroad covering the costs of flights, lodging and course fees.

Besides this new input new seeds have been spread out in our "Summer School Project" earlier this year: Dr. Sadananda Das arranged a two weeks intensive course for advanced speakers of Sanskrit from January 18th, 2005, to January 31st, 2005, in Varanasi. The group of participants consisted mostly of alumni from the previous courses here at the SAI and was engaged in ardent conversations and discussions on different con-

temporary and historical topics under the guidance of "Sadaji". In the afternoons eminent pandits gave presentations and talks in Sanskrit on Kashmiri Shaivism, Vedic Sacrifice, Poetics and other topics, which in their turn were concluded by lively discussions. The participants again enriched their treasure of subhashitas, short proverbs usually sung to specific tunes. Although the high demand on the students' efforts and engagement makes this course exceptional and certainly not a regular institution, we are hoping to establish it over a longer period of time.

A completely new seed has also been sown this year: With the generous support of the Indian Embassy and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations the Department of Classical Indology has established a new competition for bona-fide students from a European University: the "Sarasvati Sanskrit Prize".



Tamil summer school 2004

Annually, the much renowned Tamil Summer School in Pondicherry attracts students interested in learning colloquial Tamil for six weeks from July to August from all over the world.

Traditionally organized by the French Institute of Pondicherry (→ ①), the 2004 course was the first to be organised and held exclusively by the Pondicherry Institute of Linguistics and Culture (PILC).

Three of the seven participating students came from SOAS; one French student strengthened the group as well as one American student from Michigan University. Two students were from the SAI. Focussing on colloquial Tamil, the schedule included grammar lessons, dialogues as well as songs and stories and reading of newspapers or journals. The students were grouped into intermediates and beginners, which were taught separately.

The teaching body included three teachers of the linguistic department of PILC; T. Parasuraman, L. Ramamoorthy and G. Ravisankar, as well as lecturing teachers for extracurricular demonstrations on subjects such as Music, Dance, or Pottery. Prof. Murugayan from Paris also joined the team for two weeks to give extra lessons on grammar.

Field trips, which gave the opportunity to test the results of learning the language - on the market as well as during visits to neighbouring fishing villages - were part of the programme as well as a meeting with the Minister of Education of Pondicherry.

It can well be said that the "TSS" focuses not only on teaching the language, but profoundly conveys cultural aspects of Tamil South India, and is therefore highly recommendable.

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① <http://www.ifpindia.org/>

The reward will be bestowed for the best essay written in Sanskrit on this year's topic "What is the use of non-violence in our times?". The winner will receive a ten days' trip to New Delhi, including flight and lodging, where a reception will be held for him/her. The award-ceremony here at the SAI will take place on the final day of the Summer School in Spoken Sanskrit on August 26th, 2005.

We are very optimistic that our recently spread seeds will bring fruits as successful as the original Summer School in Spoken Sanskrit and will result in an even higher attractiveness of Sanskrit studies for students especially at the SAI!

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Workshop on classical Tamil poetics

An international workshop on Classical Tamil Poetics was conducted at the South Asia Institute from 13th to 18th July 2004.

The participants of this workshop were the members of a newly formed research group working on Classical Tamil Poetics: Eva Wilden, École Française d'Extrême-Orient, Pondicherry, Takanobu Takahashi, University of Tokyo, Jean-Luc Chevillard, University of Paris, Sascha Ebeling, University of Cologne, and Thomas Lehmann, South Asia Institute. The aim of the research group is to prepare a History of Classi-

cal Tamil Poetics by a series of critical editions and annotated translations of the relevant poetological texts and analyses of the repetitive poetological concepts.

During this first workshop a critical edition and annotated translation of the *Irāiyāār Akapporuḷ*, a short poetological text on love poetics of the 5th century was prepared. The workshop was sponsored by the German Research Council (DFG).

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Stuart Blackburn teaches at SAI

Stuart Blackburn, Senior Research Fellow at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, was in residence at the SAI as Guest Professor during the Winter Semester 2004/2005. The visit took place as part of an exchange programme of the German Academic Exchange Service.

During his stay he was actively engaged in teaching and research of the Department of Anthropology and held seminars on 'Tribal Transitions: Culture Change in Northeast India', 'Designing Research Projects for Northeast India' and 'Bangladesh: Ethnography of Performance'. The first two seminars examined the question of cultural change in Arunachal Pradesh, a tribal state in North-east India and focussed on manifestations of change in three key areas: material culture, ritual life, and oral traditions. The third course introduced



students to the growing scholarship on performance, with an emphasis on ethnographic research including areas such as performance theory, the role and variety of performers and audiences, the concept of entextualisation and the relation between texts and performance.

His research interests include oral narrative, performance, oral history, literary culture and language movements. He has written several books on folklore in India, two of which won prizes. His current project is a long-term collaborative study of cultural change in the tribal state of Arunachal Pradesh, India. Within the project, he is concentrating on oral narratives, especially oral histories and ritual texts, among the Apatanis.

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In the pursuit of Urdu: from Heidelberg to Erfurt and on to Pakistan

Urdu, the national language of Pakistan and one of the major Indian languages, is spoken by approximately 150 million people not only in South Asia but in many countries around the globe. And yet it is still among the lesser known languages of the region.

Urdu not only serves as the major link language all over Pakistan and in its colloquial form is widely understood in India, it also possesses a remarkable treasure of classical and modern literature, and Urdu poets and prose writers have from the start been central to the Indian film industry in Bombay / Bollywood. What is perhaps even less known is the fact that Urdu is one of the major languages of Islam, and probably the most important language of contemporary South Asian Islam.

Thus, it was only logical to arrange for intensive courses in Urdu in collaboration with Professor Jamal Malik, who holds the Chair of Islamic Studies at the University of Erfurt. The first round of courses took place at Erfurt in September 2004. We had announced introductory and advanced courses. The response was very encouraging. Eleven students and scholars from Germany and Switzerland registered for the introductory course and five for the advanced course. The participants represented fields such as Indology, Islamic Studies, Anthropology, Politics of South Asia and Geography.

The teaching was done by two native speakers of Urdu, Ms. Amtul Manan Tahir, Heidelberg, and Ms. Bushra Iqbal, Erfurt, and by Christina Oesterheld, Heidelberg. In the advanced group, teachers and students interacted exclusively in Urdu, whereas in the introductory course the language of instruction was German although here, too, simple conversation was carried out in Urdu. In the evenings participants met for film shows and other cultural programmes, or for social gatherings. We enjoyed the almost ashram-

like situation at the university campus where we all stayed and studied together, far removed from our usual daily routine. The atmosphere remained very cordial and informal throughout. Our stay at Erfurt was made even more pleasant by the fine weather, the beauty of the city



Visit to the International Islamic University, Islamabad. - Photo: Jacqueline Fellner.

and the delicacies offered by the adjacent coffeehouse. In view of this great experience we decided to hold this year's Urdu courses again at Erfurt. In 2006 it will be Heidelberg's turn to organise the courses.

At the end of the intensive courses in Erfurt we had already announced our intention to take a group of students on a field trip to Pakistan in March 2005. Not all participants who had initially enlisted for the field trip were able to take part. In the end, a group of ten students from different universities, accompanied by Sonja Stark-Wild, the librarian of the South Asia Institute Heidelberg, and Christina Oesterheld departed for Islamabad on 4 March 2005. Seven students received a DAAD grant for this journey. For all but

Learning Bengali in Kolkata

Last year our Bengali class spent six weeks improving our Bengali in Kolkata, West Bengal and Orissa. Our group included 5 students in all, accompanied by our teacher, Mala Al-Farouq. After four weeks in Kolkata, we went to Darjeeling and Puri, spending a week at each place.

Kolkata is neither 'The City of Joy' nor 'dreadful': It's hot, humid, crowded, and definitely poor, at least at first sight. However, if you take some time and stay for a while, you'll get used to the radically different circumstances there and become aware of the fact that there is so much more than the pre-existing stereotypes of Kolkata one arrived with. The Bengalis proved to be amiable, friendly, and open-hearted people who always encouraged us to make contact with them. We were warmly welcomed wherever we went.

The language lessons were great. Our teacher, Sunandadi, usually teaches German at the Max-Müller-Bhavan, which meant that teaching 'the other way around' was a new experience for her as well. She always instructed her driver to buy whatever fruit or sweets were mentioned in the texts we read, making 'amar bhett bhare geche' (my stomach has become full) one of the sentences we most often used. We lived in a Brahmo Samaj household, which offered us the privilege of experiencing a bhadralok family first hand. It was truly interesting experience, allowing us to have some very inspiring conversations and to listen to first-hand reports about recent Indian history, from people who actually experienced it.

Participating in this trip was one of the greatest experiences I have ever had, and I want to thank Mrs. Al-Farouq for all the trouble she put into organizing everything, and, most of all, for her patience.

Thanks to this trip, India has now become 'real' for me!

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one student it was the first visit to Pakistan. The group stayed in Islamabad one week before proceeding to Lahore from where we returned to Germany on 23 March. During our 19 days stay in Pakistan we visited a number of historical sites and tourist attractions, but the main focus of the trip were academic and cultural institutions in the two cities.

Our first week in Pakistan coincided with an international Urdu conference that had been organised by the Capital Development Authority at Islamabad. We were invited to attend not only the academic sessions but also the cultural events which took place every evening. Thus we had the great opportunity to attend a mushaira (poetry reading). Most of our students could not be expected to fully understand the poetic language, but by simply taking part in the event they learned how much alive and interactive the poetic tradition of Urdu is.

Among the academic institutions we visited, the Qaid-i-Azam University, the International Islamic University and the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) at Islamabad, the Centre for Research in Urdu Language Processing (CRULP), the Oriental College and the Kinnaird College for Women in Lahore are worth mentioning. One of the highlights of our stay were the calligraphy classes organised for us at the CRULP. We all felt like firstgrade pupils learning how to write their first letters. It was hard work but we enjoyed it immensely.

Among the strongest impressions we gained during these visits was the keen interest in mutual collaboration and academic exchange which was expressed at all universities we visited. But perhaps even more striking was the excitement of the common people we met in the streets or in the bazaars. Thus, on the steps of the Badshahi Masjid at Lahore an elderly woman thanked us for coming to Pakistan. This was one of the most touching moments of our journey.

For all students of Urdu the trip was a unique experience to practice the language, to get a first hand impression of the importance of Urdu in everyday life and to see with how much warmth and enthusiasm they were received by everybody when they spoke Urdu. It became obvious that without Urdu the range of operation in Pakistan is limited to the urban elites. Some of the participants will certainly return to Pakistan in the near future for further Urdu courses / private Urdu classes or for research purposes.

Apart from our academic pursuits the tour provided an excellent opportunity to form a more realistic impression of Pakistan. We saw the natural beauty of the mountains and the plains, the highly developed agriculture in the fertile Punjab, had glimpses of industrial areas and got an idea of the developing activities in the cities. We also noticed the contrast in the lifestyles of different social strata and the vast gap in educational standards. These contrasts are

especially marked with regard to gender roles and the image of women. While we encountered emancipated professional women of the upper middle class at elite colleges and in the offices of the popular private TV channel Geo, we also saw many heavily veiled women in the older parts of Lahore, near Sufi shrines and in universities. Whether or not the veil is an impediment to female emancipation was a point of much debate among the students at the Kinnaird College. There are no simple answers to this question, and our experiences in Pakistan should help us to refrain from stereotypical denunciations.

In meetings with Punjabi language activists and writers we learned about Punjabi culture and its not always easy relationship with Urdu culture. Above all, everybody felt quite happy and relaxed in Pakistan. The fears and apprehensions created by the one-sided media image of Pakistan in the West, which anyway were shared more by the parents than by the travellers themselves, were soon forgotten once we were there. This time we could only visit the northern part of Punjab. We hope that there will be an opportunity to explore the rich cultures of southern Punjab and Sindh in another trip to Pakistan.

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Summer school “Modern South Asia: Analysing political, economic and cultural change”

For the third consecutive year, the Department of Political Science at the South Asia Institute hosted the Summer School in Modern South Asian Studies from July 24th to August 14th, 2004. Twenty-two students from as diverse institutions as Karachi, Oxford, Vilnius and Chicago as well as students and teaching staff from across the South Asia Institute’s Socrates partner institutions and India participated in the program.

The course was again jointly taught by faculty members from various departments within the South Asia Institute as well as by faculty members from the

University of Edinburgh, the University of Oslo, EIAS (Brussels) and INALCO (Paris). As in the previous two sessions, the course aimed at providing students from disciplines like economics, history, anthropology, political science and international relations with an interdisciplinary in-depth look at issues facing South Asia today.

The inaugural lecture was given by the noted scholar Professor Ashis Nandy (CSDS, Delhi) on the theme of post-secular democracy and the language of religion in India. Another highlight of the program was the presentation on the general elections in India in 2004 by His Excellency, the Ambassador of India in

Germany T.C.A. Rangachari. Both lectures were followed by moderated discussions in which students and faculty engaged the speakers in lively debates.

The teaching modules and discussions between students and teaching staff revolved around a range of topics, such as the role of history and religion in contemporary politics, the North-South divide in Indian socioeconomic development, economic liberalization in South Asia and changes in inter-communal relations in different South Asian countries. 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 interact at a



social level at barbecues, sightseeing and at a farewell dinner.

The Summer School received external funding in the form of a core grant from the European Commission for the third consecutive year. Like in 2003, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) selected the program as one of its German Summer Academies in view of the high quality of the course and generously granted a total of 23,000 Euros

for scholarships to foreign students.

As part of the program, the DAAD scholars submitted papers on the topics of their own South Asia-related research, for which a third research-based week was organized within the course. The best paper was submitted by Ronojoy Sen, a Ph.D. student in political science from the University of Chicago, on the theme "Defining Religion: The Indian Supreme Court and Hinduism". It has

been selected from the pool of submissions to be published as part of the Heidelberg Papers in South Asian and Comparative Politics.

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M.A. support scheme at Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu

The SAI Kathmandu Office is affiliated to Tribhuvan University (T.U.). In order to strengthen this link the Kathmandu Office has designed a scheme for supporting a total number of 10-12 students enrolled in their thesis year in social sciences while carrying out field research for their M.A. theses.

This "M.A. Support Scheme" has been conducted for the last two years, with 10-12 students. Several potential topics related to current development issues are being announced by the end of the academic year (September) at six departments at T.U. (Economics, Geography, Political Science, Population Studies, Rural Development, and Sociology/Anthropology).

One pillar of this scheme is a close cooperation with a number of development projects, who support the students financially. The Nepal Institute of Development Studies (NIDS) has been instrumental in setting up this scheme, similarly the Friends & Supporters of the SAI at Heidelberg University. Funding via projects has been available through GTZ's Health Sector Support Programme (HSSP), the Nepal Swiss Community Forestry Project (SDC), the NLA (National Labour Academy) and VBSK (Vertical Brick Shaft Kiln, SDC). While funding was nominal in the first year (9,500 NRs) it was increased to 19,500 NRs during the current year, in order to adjust rates to funding from other agencies. This year, cooperation also exists with GTZ-Churia Forestry Project.

The second pillar of this scheme are a series of classes on aspects relating to their research, such as methodology, building up and analysing data bases, as well as visualising findings, where all the



Workshop held at GTZ with the students forming the M.A. support scheme (September 2004).
- Photo: Rajesh Lal Shrestha.

students are requested to participate. In addition, they regularly need to report on the current state of their ongoing research, discussing their research with their fellow students, similar to "Colloquia" at German universities. These classes have been carried out in close collaboration with Shambhu Kattel (lecturer at the Central Dept. of Sociology/Anthropology) and Mahesh Phuyal. For 2005, Bhupendra Shahi, a student from the 2004 batch, has also been recruited for teaching. In September 2004 a workshop was organised where the students presented their research studies to a wider audience of T.U. teachers, team leaders and project staff (see photo).

In order to qualify for selection, students need to hand in a research proposal, specifying objectives, details of methodo-

logy, theoretical framework, a selected bibliography, as well as budget requirements. About 15-25 short-listed students have been interviewed by a committee, together with T.U. professors and project staff. Among those 10 to 12 have been selected for participation.

This scheme aims at exposing T.U. students to both foreign academic teaching and research within donor-funded projects. This scheme will hopefully be a vital tool in guiding them as well as familiarising them with empirical research, particularly those who are interested in further studies, whether in Nepal or at foreign universities.

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The SAI looks at disasters in South Asia

In this issue of the SAI-Report, we look back at last December's tsunami which so heavily affected South Asia's coastal regions. The SAI and its members are involved not only in actively managing relief efforts but also in contributing to the study of disasters.

Pia Hollenbach, the SAI's new Representative at our branch office in Colombo, probably imagined the start in her new job differently. Two weeks after the tsunami, she travelled to some of the most heavily affected areas in Sri Lanka and gives a detailed description of her impressions and thoughts (see page 10).

In close collaboration with the Sri Lankan NGO Sewalanka, the SAI raised funds and channelled them into local projects - Hartmut Fünfgeld and Christiane Noe (Dept. of Geography) give an overview over the combined efforts (see page 13).

Hartmut Fünfgeld also describes the socio-political restraints of the difficult



Affected by the tsunami: Members of the South Asia Institute are trying to assist the efforts to fight disasters - as scholars, but also in the field.
- Photo: Pia Hollenbach.

reconstruction-process (see page 13), this time from a more academic point of view.

The commitment to Sri Lanka and the analysis of its problems are central to the SAI - before and after the tsunami. Jürgen Clemens (Dept. of Geography) and Wolfgang-Peter Zingel (Dept. of Development Economics) give an overview of the co-operation with Sri Lankan Universities (see page 14) including workshops in Heidelberg and Colombo.

The SAI also tried to assist the media, for example with a panel discussion in February 2005. Subrata K. Mitra (Dept. of Political Science) raised various important questions centering around "coping with catastrophes" (see page 15) which will keep scholars occupied.

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Sri Lanka: Visiting the affected areas - impressions and thoughts

Is it possible that one event, one day can change your life? I never thought it really could, but after traveling to the tsunami affected areas in Sri Lanka I know that, even in a couple of minutes, one incidence happening thousands of kilometers away, can change your life, the lives of thousands of people - even a whole Nation.

It was the 26th December 2004, two days after Christmas, a normal, relaxed, sunny Sunday morning in Sri Lanka. The people living along the wide coastline in Sri Lanka were not aware, that this morning would change their and their nation's lives. They did not know that the worst natural disaster to hit Sri Lanka, fol-

lowing an earthquake off Sumatra that measured 9.0 on the Richter scale - the highest recorded earthquake of recent times - would unleash an unbelievable, unthinkable and devastating huge wave crashing into the coastline of the pearl shaped island of Sri Lanka.

It was 9:45 am local time when they got to know the effects. A massive tsunami crashed into two-thirds of the paradise isle's coastline killing almost 31.000 people, injuring 15.200, and displacing half a million people, leaving behind over 4.600 people missing. Furthermore the devastating tidal wave destroyed 68.779 houses completely, almost 43.000 houses partially and washed away livelihoods, communities and lives.

Impressions and Thoughts

To see and feel the full range of this tragedy, it is necessary to leave Colombo and drive to the South, the South East, the East and the North parts of Sri Lanka.

During the last 4 months after my arrival in Sri Lanka, I had the opportunity to visit some of the tsunami affected areas in the South (Hambantota, Tangalle, Galle, Matara), the East (Batticaloa) and the North (Trincomalle).

My first trip started two weeks after the devastating tidal wave, I was able to visit the southern part of the island together with a small local NGO Farm Slanka, bringing food, cooking materi-



als, books and clothes to churches and temples, where displaced people found temporary shelter. When our small “aid convoy” started, I thought I was in a certain way prepared, having all the pictures of the media in my mind, but to face the reality was different.

Close to Matara we stopped and visited a village - is it still a village? Before the tsunami 80 families used to live together in this community but today; only eight families survived the tragedy of the 26th December. Two families came back to start their life again on the same old

helplessness and feelings standing in between her “old life”, 200 meter away from the “calm enemy” that has taken away her identity.

During my visits to Batticaloa and Trincomalee I was confronted with the same devastating destruction I had seen



A beach house at VVT.

- Photo: GTZ.

I never in my life was confronted with such destruction. Houses, streets, railways, cars and lives were washed away. Some areas were totally gone, no house resisted the unbelievable, devastating force behind that wave. At some point, I could hardly imagine that there was a village before. For example, driving into the city of Hambantota I could not believe what I saw. There was no Hambantota! The city was almost completely washed away, nothing existed any longer. Those, living in the elevated part of the city luckily were not affected by the wave were still trying to keep up the normality, knowing that about 1.500 (whole District: 4.500 deaths) people, neighbors, friends, family members died on the 26th of December 2004.

place they used to be. Walking in, we met one survivor who came back to the “old life”.

Walking around she showed us the area, telling who lived here and there. Explaining what happened, she pointed out to the sea that now looks calm and innocent. She tried to be strong and not to cry - but looking into her eyes we could see her suffering, crying and searching for answers and explanations. When she said: “Why did I have to survive? I lost my children, husband, sister, mother, house and belongings and I even lost my identity! How can I continue? How and where to start?”. At this moment I realized, I was in no position to give her an answer, there is no answer. Words were not strong enough to express my sadness,

weeks before in the South. But there was one difference! My personal impressions and feelings traveling to the post conflict areas. We all know that the Districts of the North, East and South-East of Sri Lanka still suffer the aftermath of the civil conflict started in 1983 and officially ended with the ceasefire in 2002. The conflict marginalized these parts of the country in many ways - referring to social and individual life, economic and infrastructural development and many more spheres of life - and accounted for more than 60.000 lives. With the beginning of the ceasefire people started to reconstruct, rebuild and re-settle, they tried to recover from over two decades of war. On the 26th of December the small steps to recovery perished in just twenty



minutes before nature's fury.

Yes, Sri Lanka was affected by tsunami. But some Sri Lankans were more affected than others. If we examine the numbers of dead, displaced and missing, it is plain to see, that those hardest

Muslim; nor does nature bestow any special privilege based on cast or class - rich man, poor man, beggar, politician etc.. These are mere labels - walls that insecure humans build around themselves.

I hope it is a unity that preserves long

vided with health care, drinking water, food and clothes. Three weeks after the natural disaster the health situation and the access to drinking water was secure throughout the country.

Today, over three month after the tsu-



Siva Sithambaram and his friends examine their destroyed fishing equipment.

- Photo: Steve Creech (Sewalanka).

hit were those already disadvantaged to begin with. 67% of recoded death, 75% of completely damaged houses, 70% of the destroyed schools and almost 57% of the displaced people are located in the post conflict zone. The shock to post conflict reconstruction is unlimited.

Seeing the vast destruction and realizing, that marginalization continues by being left behind in the rebuilding process, there was one positive thought. Since the 26th disaster there has been a unity that has been rarely witnessed here in Sri Lanka before, where people of all walks of life galvanized into activity. Sri Lankans worked as one people to help their fellows who nature had so cruelly felled and denuded in a matter of minute. People were compelled to realize that nature does not recognize or discriminate against the many labels that we humans give ourselves - Singhala, Tamil, Malay or Burgher; Buddhist, Hindu, Christian,

past the next political crisis, the next round of negotiations and the next religious divide. I hope it is a unity that is fostered less by political opportunism and more by the will of a mature people.

Sri Lanka has changed; nothing is like it was before. But many times I ask myself, is it possible to rebuilt "normality, the old lives, the nation"?

The rebuilding process

In the immediate aftermath of the disaster the generosity of the local people, followed by rapid shipment of supplies and support services by foreign governments and aid agencies, ensured the availability of basic necessities for the victims in almost all areas affected by the tsunami. Tents were distributed, refugee camps were built up and people were pro-

nami, Sri Lanka is more than ready to recover from the disaster. In some areas you can feel the spirit of the people willing to restart their life. They return to their former places of occupation and are slowly trying to pick up the pieces, which by no means appears an easy task. Some people are tired of life, stuck in refugee camps and, with no help coming from any quarter, these people have begun to take matters into their own hands. In some houses only one or two walls were left, but people are trying to make these structures their homes once again, often using only a sheet of polythene as a roof. Meanwhile they collect and sort out the fragments of their life they had before the tsunami. By collecting stones, wood, tiles and other belongings which still can be used, people try to understand what happened and try to find a place in the vast destruction.

It will be a long path to reconstruction,



rebuilding and healing. The affected people will continue to depend on relief supplies for their survival until their livelihoods are restored. It is necessary to facilitate the transition from “camp life” to re-settlement as quickly as possible. Yet, re-settlement is a complex process that requires careful planning and implementation. If this is not done properly, it can have an adverse effect on the quality

of life of the resettled. Talking about tsunami victims, we talk about an extremely diverse population with various socio-economic backgrounds and standard of living. All the different factors and circumstances need to be taken into account in the process of resettlement and reconstruction. If not, it can lead to serious social problems and negative tensions. Hopefully this will not occur and

the huge amount of aid and relief will become a chance for the whole country, and it will not be misused for politics and radical ideas to foment the old conflicts.

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South Asia Institute's appeal for Eastern Sri Lanka

In January 2004, the South Asia Institute in close cooperation with the Sri Lankan non-profit organisation Sewalanka Foundation launched a fundraising appeal for supporting reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts on the east coast of Sri Lanka. Sewalanka Foundation has over a decade of community rehabilitation experience in the conflict-affected areas of Sri Lanka.

Members of the SAI have cooperated with local universities and non-governmental organisations on the east coast in several research projects. By collaboration with Sewalanka Foundation, the SAI aims at direct and unbureaucratic support through locally established institutions. The Resident Representative of the SAI in Colombo is facilitating the

implementation of micro-projects jointly with the Rehabilitation Coordinator of Sewalanka.

The first micro-project was undertaken in three fishing communities in Ampara District on the east coast. The SAI Appeal Fund contributed 10.000 Euros, while Sewalanka added another 2.177 Euros from their own tsunami appeal funds. The funds were used to provide fishing equipment for 422 fishermen in the town of Pottuvil, which was distributed in April through the local Fishing Cooperative Society under the supervision of Sewalanka. The fishing gear included nets that are essential for prawn fishing, which is a lucrative seasonal income-earning activity in the area. The revenues from prawn fishing are important for

rebuilding the livelihoods of the families depending on fishing.

Further micro-projects are in preparation, building on the existing efforts of the SAI-Sewalanka cooperation.

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① <http://www.sai.uni-heidelberg.de/workgroups/SLAK/index.html>
<http://www.sewalanka.org/>

Sri Lanka's east coast in the aftermath of the tsunami: Socio-economic and political constraints to reconstruction

The tsunami that hit Sri Lanka on 26 December 2004 has caused unprecedented damage to about two thirds of the land's coastline and over 1 Million coastal residents that were initially displaced, let alone the many lives that were lost while the flood has hit people of all walks of life - no matter of which ethnic, political or socio-economic status, locals as well as tourists - the uniting force of this nation-wide disaster has quickly been pushed to the backstage and political contradictions have taken hold of the rehabilitation and reconstruction works, particularly in the severely hit Eastern province.

Along Sri Lanka's east coast, the tsunami-affected people and communities still suffer from the adverse effects of a two-decade long war fought between

Tamil rebel groups, most notably the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), and the Sri Lankan government. Traditionally, the majority of the coastal population in the war-torn areas were fishermen. On the east coast, fishing has to a large extent remained a small-scale business, with relatively low technological and financial input. With regard to social standing, fishing has long been considered a marginal and less prestigious livelihood activity.

After the ethnicised conflict came to a preliminary halt with the signing of a ceasefire agreement in early 2002, fishing and fisheries-related activities that were previously restricted by the military forces regained ground, offering income-earning opportunities not only for traditional but also for “new” fishermen (e.g.

farmers who had lost their property as a result of the conflict). Small-scale fishing thus has become an economic refuge and a major factor for livelihood recovery. As one consequence of such regained livelihood opportunities, the fishing villages along the east coast have experienced a tremendous growth over the past decades, while fisheries resources such as coastal lagoons have become increasingly contested and, thus, deteriorated in their ecological functions.

The tsunami of December 2004 thus hit a population that was just reaping the benefits of largely non-violent political developments based on peace negotiations since 2002 and a slowly recovering local economy. Many families have begun to rebuild destroyed houses, to invest small amounts of savings in open-



ing a small shop, or to increase their productivity by investing in fishing gear. Those who lived in close proximity of the coast have now once again lost family members, homes and their means of production.

It is imperative to provide adequate assistance to these economically hardest hit families whose resilience to withstand such enormous external shocks has weakened dramatically during decades of violent conflict. Judging from the economic situation in east coast fishing villages prior to the tsunami, most families will find it extremely difficult to recover from their current situation without external support. While emergency relief seems to have reached most of the tsunami survivors, long-term reconstruction work in the east of Sri Lanka is complicated by a great many of interna-

tional and local relief agencies and, most notably, ongoing political contradictions among an increasing number of opposed political and military players. Since 2002 several intertwined sub-conflicts have surfaced in the east. They extend well beyond the Tamil-Sinhala conflict, which still dominates political discourses on the national level. Already before the tsunami the ceasefire agreement was frequently violated by obscure attacks on local politicians and military leaders. After the shocks of the tsunami the security situation further worsened, particularly in the Batticaloa district. This has made a concerted, well coordinated reconstruction effort more difficult, leaving many families three months after the disaster with little or no external assistance for livelihood recovery.

In such a politically volatile environ-

ment, rehabilitation work of local and international players has to adopt conflict-sensitive procedures in order to avoid instrumentalisation of their activities for political purposes. The dilemma here is that such measures need careful planning, while the humanitarian situation in the emergency relief camps and villages affected by the tsunami call for urgent action. However, if development and relief organisations do not invest in sound strategic planning of rehabilitation activities that includes important local stakeholders, the ultimate aim of reconstructing the livelihoods of the affected population may be in vain due to the politicisation of local-level disputes related to reconstruction efforts.

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Sri Lanka in transition: Capacity building co-operation with Sri Lankan universities

“Central places, local bodies and public finance - or how urbanization can be made more sustainable” was the title of a series of seminars held at the Eastern University at Trincomalee and Batticaloa - one-day seminars at both places - as well as at the University of Colombo - a two-day seminar - in September/October 2004.

The cross-cutting topic had been jointly selected because of its importance, academically as well as politically, supplementing the ongoing debate on “devolution of power” and “decentralization”. Little wonder, that the topic stimulated lively discussions, especially in the East. As the final part of a three-year programme of capacity building activities - run by several departments of the South Asia Institute in co-operation mainly with the University of Colombo and funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) - the departments of Geography (Jürgen Clemens) and International Economics (Wolfgang-Peter Zingel) conducted this interdisciplinary exercise.

As all great theories, the central place theory of the geographer Walter Christaller (1893-1933) and the industrial location theory of the economist Alfred Weber (1868-1958) have not lost their relevance and are still topical in Sri

Lanka, where they are taught at universities - at least as part of the geography curriculum. They provided also “local touch”, as both either lived near Heidelberg or taught at Heidelberg University. Rapid population growth is usually the driving force of urbanization. Sri Lanka, however, has since long been famously successful in lowering its birth rates. There, not so much fertility but the civil war has been determining the spatial distribution of population of recent years. The Mahaweli Ganga valley provided the government with the opportunity to distribute irrigated lands among settlers of their choice. Regional development policy, thus, has become highly political. Decentralisation and devolution certainly did not strengthen the local bodies of villages and small towns. The island state is far from a financially meaningful subsidiarity, as the seminars and the ensuing discussions showed.

Three junior and one senior university teachers -- three geographers and one economist -- were selected for short-term DAAD fellowships at the SAI in Heidelberg on the basis of merit, including their performance as rapporteurs at the Colombo seminar. At Heidelberg, they pursued their studies and discussed their work with colleagues in their host departments. The latter also organized

field trips and visits to institutions in and around Heidelberg that dealt either with the German set-up of federalized administrations and/or with methodology. A seminar was organized on “Sri Lanka in transition” on December 7, 2004, where they presented their current research work. Being one of the rare occasions to discuss Sri Lanka at an academic (interdisciplinary) forum in Germany, it was well attended and drew participants also from outside Heidelberg; a review will be published in “Internationales Asienforum -- International Quarterly for Asian Studies”.

Only a few days after the colleagues had returned to Sri Lanka and while we were discussing how the programme could be extended, the island was visited by the devastating tsunami of December 26, 2004. Since then, two of the colleagues have joined relief organizations; the SAI has been actively involved in providing help (see page 13), which, in the longer run, will concentrate again on academic cooperation.

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Intense discussion: Participants of the Sri Lanka Workshop at the SAI.
- Photo: Jürgen Clemens.

Coping with catastrophe: balancing indigenous efforts with international aid

In their own unforeseeable and tragic way, the giant tsunami tidal waves set off by a massive earthquake off the Indonesian coast on December 26, 2004 created a community of sorrow and suffering that momentarily united the people of the Indian Ocean Rim and concerned people all over the world. Televised images of the catastrophe and the agony of those affected led to a worldwide reaction of shock, concern and solidarity. Members of the South Asia Institute, with its long history of engagement with South and Southeast Asia, were similarly affected. Many were approached by the media for expert interviews, and, particularly in view of the reputed branch office of the South Asia Institute in Colombo, for more detailed field reports. At a personal level, members of the Institute contributed funds generously through the Association of Friends and Supporters of the SAI. These funds were transmitted to specific projects in Sri Lanka like one concerned with the rebuilding of a school.

The disaster left behind a number of questions with regard to the modality, morality and efficacy of aid, the competing and converging responsibilities of the state and civil society in coping with disaster and the policy options of international financial and political organisations. Now that the immediate crisis

is over and 24-hour news coverage has moved over to other trouble spots of the world, the time for sober reflection and stock-taking of the events and their aftermath has come.

The questions that we need to reflect on cut across most of the disciplines represented in the South Asia Institute. An important political question concerns the reactions of governments and media in the Indian Ocean region itself. While most opened up their national territories, air space and territorial waters to international relief agencies, the Indian decision not to follow suit caused general surprise and incomprehension.

The scholarly community at the South Asia Institute, engaged in the research and teaching of development, disaster management, public policy and ecology in the region is looking once again at the questions that the catastrophe has brought to light. The questions range between politics, economy, history and geography to the more intimate aspects of identity, vulnerability and trauma. Have the governments of the region, some of whom have acquired the capacity to launch space satellites and other sophisticated technology, failed their people, by not anticipating the crisis and installing a tsunami warning system? More pertinently, what mechanism can be conceptualised for a regional coordination of relief when

natural disasters strike, particularly in the case of those whose intensity is well beyond the coping capacity of individual states? How can one decide what are the most important local needs? How can aid be made effective in the long-term, and made sustainable? What kind of foreign aid by the way of disaster relief is relevant and appropriate in the sense that it does not stymie indigenous institutional innovation? Most delicately, what policies should be made to protect the identity and dignity of vulnerable populations from the negative side-effects of private relief organisations?

These questions featured prominently in a panel discussion organised by the South Asia Institute on February 17, 2005. The intention behind the interdisciplinary seminar was to bring together experts, policy makers, the media and concerned members of the public. Held in the heart of the Old Town of Heidelberg, the occasion generated a lively debate. The South Asia Institute plans to draw on the insights gained in the process to put together an inter-disciplinary research project on disaster management which will analyse some of these issues.

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The long-run economic costs of the AIDS epidemic

The HIV virus had made its way into human populations in parts of central Africa by the early 1970s. A decade later, so many were dying in the prime of life with such clear, common symptoms as to arouse the suspicion that a new and mysterious infectious disease had broken out. It was only after the virus had been identified in 1984 that its modes of transmission and the progression of the resulting disease known as AIDS became fully understood. Two decades later, the pandemic has assumed alarming proportions. According to UNAIDS, 38 million people are infected, 3 million are dying annually, and 4.8 million new infections (630,000 of them children) occur

are the breadwinners and family managers, combine to bring the household into acute financial difficulties. The death of one or more adults results in a drastic loss of lifetime family income and perhaps the dissolution of the household itself. To the extent that other families help out financially or take in the children, the burden is spread, but not diminished.

There are also the more subtle, but potentially very important, long-term effects on the formation of human capital, as the children lose the love, guidance and support of one or both parents. These elements of child-rearing complement and often promote formal education, and those children who lack them are argu-

ever, the effect of AIDS on per capita income will make itself felt both through the destruction of existing human capital and the weakening of the mechanisms through which new human capital is accumulated. The longer term effects of a prolonged and severe epidemic are likely to be very damaging and broad, as investment in the human capital of orphaned and needy children falters. These ramifications will take decades to make themselves felt in full, not only because of the slow progression of AIDS in individuals, but also because 15-20 years must pass for the knock-on effects to be evident in the children of its victims.

Premature adult mortality in South Africa

The following table gives estimates of the levels of premature adult mortality in South Africa in the steady states corresponding to the years listed. For example, the probability that a 20-year-old female would die before reaching her 40th birthday was about 4 per cent in the conditions ruling in 1990, when the prevalence (HIV-positive) rate was about 1 per cent. This probability is projected to rise to 54 per cent in 2010, when the prevalence rate will lie between 25 and 30 per cent.

Year	${}_{45}q_{15}$ (M)	${}_{45}q_{15}$ (F)	${}_{20}q_{20}$ (M)	${}_{20}q_{20}$ (F)	${}_{30}q_{20}$ (M)	${}_{30}q_{20}$ (F)
1990	0.265	0.265	0.106	0.040	0.182	0.098
2000	0.419	0.419	-	-	-	-
2010	0.790	0.790	0.359	0.541	0.616	0.707

Definition: ${}_kq_n$ is the probability that an individual will die before the age of $k+n$ years, conditional on surviving until the age of n .

Sources: ${}_{45}q_{15}$: Dorrington et al. (2001), who report only the average over both sexes.

${}_{20}q_{20}$ and ${}_{30}q_{20}$: authors' own interpolations from the age-specific mortality profiles in *ibid.*

each year. The cumulative death toll has reached at least 25 million worldwide, and AIDS has killed more people than any other communicable disease over the last two decades. As a sexually transmitted disease, HIV/AIDS has struck mainly young adults, whose premature deaths are leaving behind a growing number of orphans.

The microeconomic effects of the epidemic are, to a substantial extent, measurable. Individual households are severely affected when they must cope with the consequences of sick, debilitated and dying family members. The rising burden of health-care costs and the declining productivity of adults, who

ably ill-equipped for independence or the working world. Morbidity and mortality among young adults and those in their prime years also affect firms. Business costs rise due to the high personnel turnover caused by AIDS, and the health sector will be put under severe strain, as the cost of treating AIDS patients and their associated opportunistic infections rises dramatically and members of medical staffs themselves succumb to AIDS.

At the level of the entire economy, various efforts to pin down the epidemic's direct, aggregate effects on economic activity have revealed at most only a modest impact, especially in the short to medium term. Over the long run, how-

The Department of Development Economics is heavily engaged in research on this topic, with particular emphasis on human capital as the 'channel' through which the epidemic does its long-term damage. Clive Bell is directing the programme, in collaboration with Professor Hans Gersbach, Alfred Weber Institute. In this connection, Bell is the external advisor to the Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi, which has received a contract from the World Bank to investigate the effects of the epidemic on India's long-term economic growth.

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India dot com: the world's first Hindi databank at the SAI

Even though text databanks have been in use for many decades, their sudden spread in the 1990s came about when storage of large quantities of texts was no more a problem. Initially, text databanks were mainly used by linguists, but meanwhile they have found attention among other disciplines. Additionally, they are now indispensable for the production of dictionaries and grammars, for the development of automatic translation software and for language teaching in the major European languages.

Originally conceptualized as tools for quantitative language research, scientific work with text databanks has meanwhile disembogued into the new discipline of corpus linguistics. In recent years, corpus linguistics has radically changed our understanding of how language functions, and it has helped developing new models of the evolution of human language.

India is one of the largest book producers in the world, India is the second fastest growing economy, and India has - at least this is generally known here - a thriving IT industry. Given these facts, it was almost natural for the Department of Modern Indology to update its research tools by setting up a databank for Hindi. Hindi has - once again a superlative - the third largest group of speakers (about 400 million people speak Hindi, in India and abroad, and the total number of people who can understand the language may be 800 million). Although the department has started with Hindi, there are concrete plans to extend the databank to other South Asian languages.

There exist already a few small text corpora for Hindi, but none of them can claim to be a reasonable reflection of Hindi with its many text types and styles, and none of them provides the user with adequate software tools. All this will become available once the SAI Hindi databank starts working: it will be permanently updated with new texts and it will offer state of the art tools for search and analysis.

The German Research Council (DFG) provided a grant to the department in summer 2004 for setting up the Hindi databank. The project was sanctioned

despite a rejection for a start-up financing by the central research pool of Heidelberg University. The research pool justified this with the argument that the project lacked scientific relevance. On the other hand, Oracle in Munich plans to award the project with a so-called reference status. This includes, among other

undergo a semi-automatic grammatical tagging. This means that every word is equipped with information regarding its inflection form and part of speech in order to guarantee that a search for a certain pronoun, verb etc. will list all its variants. The texts are scanned by an inbuilt Hindi dictionary which needs per-



From India to Germany: Indian computer operators at the project office in Delhi prepare Hindi texts for the databank in Bavaria. - Photo: Claus Peter Zoller.

things, technical support free of cost.

The Indologist and linguist Claus Peter Zoller from the Department of Modern Indology attends to the general implementation of the project. The databank is designed and set up by Günter Unbescheid, a databank specialist and Indologist who runs his own company in Upper Bavaria.

In the meantime, a project office has been set up in New Delhi. Eight Indian computer operators are engaged with typing Hindi texts into computers. A detailed bibliographical file is attached to each text document. The documents are then sent to Upper Bavaria where the details of the bibliographical file automatically allocate their appropriate place.

In order to speed up the text feeding process, as many as possible Hindi texts in electronic form are additionally fed into the databank. The whole feeding process has been legally secured by contracts with leading Indian publishers and newspaper houses.

Once in the databank, all Hindi texts

permanent updating by hand.

Compared to other text databanks the Hindi databank faces special challenges: it will run both in English and in Hindi script. Due to lack of standardisation, a great many code conversion programmes need to be written and implemented. The project office in Delhi faces current fluctuations and power cuts, and there is regular trouble with the Indian Internet. So various strategies had to be worked out to cope with these problems.

However, the project is also being promoted by the DFG because of its unrivalled cost efficiency. Besides making maximum use of freely available software and other electronic resources, the ongoing costs in India are also remarkably low. This could be achieved by utilising networks and resources that have been built up by Zoller over long lasting stays in India. The first test runs have already started.

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New DFG-funded research project on Jainism in Karnataka

Since February 2005, a new research project examining the history, art and architecture, as well as the religion of Digambara Jainism in the southern Indian state of Karnataka, is based at the SAI. The four year project is generously funded through the Emmy Noether-Programme of the German Research Council (DFG). The project is run by Julia Hegewald, a South Asian art historian, who for the past six years was Research Fellow in Indian Architecture at University College Oxford.

Funded through the project are the post of team coordinator as well as two doctoral or postdoctoral positions which were advertised earlier this year. It is anticipated that the two new members will join the team in the autumn of 2005. The group will consist of a specialist in Indian history, who for the first time will shed light on the steady increase in influence of the Jaina community in Karnataka from about the fifth century AD, as well as the following, allegedly, sudden and total loss of power during the early twelfth century. Inevitably, these political changes had a pronounced effect on the religion and ritual of the Jainas, issues to be examined by the second student or postdoctoral candidate, specialising in Jainism or anthropology. The third



H.H. Lakshmi Sena Mahaswamigal, the Bhattaraka of the Jina Kanchi Math, and Julia Hegewald at Melsittamur.
- Photo: Hegewald.

element of this interdisciplinary research project, the art and architecture of the Jainas, will be examined by Julia Hegewald. Religious centres of the Jainas were taken over by Hindu religious groups which led to the conversion and modification of Jaina temples in many places.

The group will share adjacent offices in the SAI and conduct extensive fieldwork in Karnataka over the next four years.

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Subsidiarity in practice: Fiscal devolution to the third tier

Literature on local bodies is mainly concerned with history, politics and legal aspects. Much less has been written on the financial side. This despite the fact that no meaningful subsidiarity is possible as long as local administration is not governed by locally elected bodies who are empowered as much as they are obliged not only to distribute funds but also to raise them.

In India a constitutional basis was laid by passing the 73rd and 74th amendments of 1992. Their separate regulations for rural and urban local bodies are in line with their different histories; these can partly be explained by the fact that the colonial power, often for very personal reasons of their representatives, took much more interest in the administration of the towns and cities, where members

of the colonial administration and foreign merchants and entrepreneurs lived, than in the countryside, not to speak of the separate set up for the cantonments. The economic powers of rural and urban local bodies are still very different. Their combined budgets are just a small fraction of public revenue, most probably around five per cent for rural and urban areas taken together. Much more is spent on citizens in urban as compared to rural areas. State Finance Commissions have been set up to work out formulas for how to best share state funds between state governments and local governments and among local governments. Their first reports have been laid before the state assemblies; in a few cases followed by second reports, all showing a wide range of arrangements. Services that in other

countries are provided by private enterprises or local bodies, are still organized on a much higher administrative/political level in India and Pakistan.

Pakistan - because of constant interference of the military in state affairs, directly and indirectly - has much weaker federal structures, as the recent fights over the National Finance Award 2004 have shown. There are no provincial finance commissions as yet. The military has preferred strengthening local bodies on a more aggregate level than India since the times of Ayub Kahn's "basic democracies". The other South Asian countries have different set ups which still need analysis.

Given the limited services local bodies can provide at present, it is not difficult to see the many tasks local bodies may take



up for the benefit of local development. In the face of Indira Rajarama's verdict, that panchayats are "mere expenditure agencies rather than units of self government", it should be considered most important that funds are raised and discussed locally.

This requires a more detailed analysis

of available published and unpublished material and on the spot case studies, e.g. how much money the various agencies can actually spend and how their expenditures are funded, i.e. by own funds, transfers/grants or debt and what actually can be regarded as own funds (taxes, fees and "others"). Loans waived are often

difficult to make out. It is also important to examine semi-governmental "para-statal" public utilities working in urban and rural areas.

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Nehru and German public opinion: A Cold War divide

After finishing my Masters Degree in Political Science and South Asian History in March 2004, I began working on my PhD under the supervision of Gita Dharampal-Frick in the History Department of the SAI. The personality I am focusing on in my PhD should be well known to all historians of South Asia: Jawaharlal Nehru, a close companion of Mahatma Gandhi and India's first Prime Minister from 1947 until his death in 1964. As the world was divided into the US-led Western Bloc and the Soviet-led Eastern Bloc in the years following 1947, India - at that time under Nehru's leadership - decided to pursue a foreign policy based on the principle of non-alignment. Alongside Nasser (Egypt) and Tito (Yugoslavia), Nehru was an important protagonist of the Non-Alliance Movement.

In my research work, I would like to examine the ways in which the German public in both East and West Germany regarded Nehru as a person and how they judged his policies. The question

as to whether or not there were differences between his reception in East and West Germany is very important due to the fact that the two parts of Germany existed as separate political and social systems. After World War II, a socialistic dictatorship was built up in the East, whereas a democratic state was formed in the West. The confrontation between East and West Germany was a typical characteristic of the Cold War as well since the GDR was part of the Soviet-led coalition, while its counterpart, the FRG, was part of the Western Bloc.

In the 1950's and 1960's, the public discourse was carried out mainly through printed media such as newspapers and magazines. In West Germany, newspapers such as the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ), Süddeutsche Zeitung (SZ), Die Zeit, and magazines such as Der Spiegel, were significant fora of public discourse. In East Germany, the main newspaper was Das Neue Deutschland (ND), while other important periodicals included the Berliner Zeitung (BZ)

or Junge Welt (JW) Die Weltbühne, an important magazine.

Because of the prominent role played by such journalistic works, I shall base my research on such articles. In East Germany, public opinion was created by the Socialistic State Party (SED), which meant that there was no pluralistic system based on differing opinions. Public opinion in West Germany was much more diverse, resulting from its pluralistic system sporting a whole range of various newspapers and magazines.

The main thesis of my research is that the reception and representation of Nehru in the respective parts of Germany was contingent upon the political and ideological conflicts which characterized Cold-War relations at this time. I hope that my research will contribute toward promoting a better understanding of the Indo-German relationship and German foreign policy during the Cold War.

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Focus on classical Tamil

During the past few years the École Française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO), Pondicherry, has emerged as the main centre of the study of Classical Tamil worldwide. Under the leadership of Eva Wilden and Dominic Goodall it had been possible to create new positions in the Tamil Department of the Pondicherry Centre and to increase the team of scholars working on Classical Tamil to five in the meantime. Most importantly, several ambitious projects have been launched.

The most important ones are the digitalisation (photographing) of the fast disintegrating palm-leaf manuscripts of classical Tamil texts, the preparation of

critical editions and annotated translations of the corpus of the Caṅgam literature, and the yearly conduct of the Classical Tamil Winter School (→ ①), a month-long intensive workshop of both teaching classical Tamil to beginners and reading classical Tamil texts with advanced students. During this workshop participants get the opportunity of approaching the difficult text material by reading and discussing the texts and commentaries both with Indian and Western scholars.

An international team of scholars is participating in these projects. In this way, Thomas Lehmann, Lecturer of Tamil, Department of Modern Indology at the

SAI, had been invited for the second time to participate as an instructor at the Classical Tamil Winter School from January 31st to February 25th, 2005. During the same time, he has started his work of a critical edition and annotated translation of the classical Tamil text Ainkurunūru in collaboration with Pandit T.V. Gopal Iyer as part of the larger Caṅkam project of the EFEO.

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① <http://www.efeo.fr/ctws>



Staff News

Dr. Gabriele ALEX took up an appointment as Wissenschaftliche Angestellte at the Dept. of Anthropology and will focus her work on "Medical Anthropology".

Dr. Georg BERKEMER took up a position as Wissenschaftlicher Angestellter in the Dept. of History.

Dr. Christiane BROSIUS, Dept. of Anthropology, taught at the School of Arts & Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, from January to May 2005 (Ford Foundation Fellowship).

Dr. Jürgen CLEMENS, Dept. of Geography, took up a position as Desk Officer Sri Lanka with the care organization Malteser.

Dr. Stefan ECKS, Dept. of Anthropology, took up a position as Lecturer at Edinburgh University.

Dr. Alexander FISCHER, Dept. of Political Science, will take up a temporary appointment as substitute for Martin Lau at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London.

Dr. Evelin HUST resigned as the SAI's Representative in the New Delhi branch office and took up a position at the Goethe-Institut, Munich.

Dr. Anastasios KOUKOU MELIS took up an appointment as Wissenschaftlicher Angestellter in the Dept. of Development Economics and will join Prof. Bell's project on the "Long-run economic costs of AIDS", funded by the Worldbank.

Dr. Julia HEGEWALD was appointed head of the Emmy-Noether-Research-Group studying "Jainism in Karnataka" (see page 16).

Dr. Peter LEHR, Dept. of Political Science, took up a position in the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence at the University of St. Andrews, Edinburgh.

In memoriam: Hermann Berger

The Indologist and Linguist Hermann Berger passed away on the 31st of January 2005. He was 78 years old. Hermann Berger, who was Emeritus Professor and former Head of the Department of Indology at the South Asia Institute, devoted himself to the study of Indian languages. On completing his doctorate and his habilitation at the University of Munich, he spent a period as Visiting Professor at the Sanskrit College in Calcutta, India. In 1964, he came to the University of Heidelberg and was active there till his retirement in 1993. He was the Director of the South Asia Institute in 1974/75, the Dean of the Fakultät für Orientalistik und Altertumswissenschaften between 1979-81 and remained a member of the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences starting 1981.

Hermann Berger was a fine and learned scholar who devoted his life and his research to the study, in particular, of the endangered languages of South

Asia. His extraordinary knowledge of Burushaski, one of the most complicated languages of North Pakistan, earned him international fame in the field of linguistics. His expertise and painstaking work in documenting Burushaski through many fieldtrips in the Karakoram region resulted in the three volume standard work on this language. In spite of chronic health problems, the result of the war years, he engaged himself energetically and with great success in teaching, in building up the South Asia Institute and in encouraging research in the modern languages of South Asia.

He will be long and fondly remembered by the faculty of the South Asia Institute and his former students for his excellent research, his commitment to teaching as well as his gentle sense of humour and humanity.

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In memoriam: Ulrich Schweinfurth

On 8 April 2005, Ulrich Schweinfurth, founder of the Department of Geography at the South Asia Institute of Heidelberg University, passed away only two months after celebrating his 80th birthday. Ulrich Schweinfurth was born in former Prussia and studied geography in Heidelberg and Bonn. In Bonn, Carl Troll, the founding father of landscape ecology exerted a lasting influence and suggested the topic of his dissertation: "Horizontal and vertical distribution of vegetation in the Himalayas". This treatise, published in 1957, is still a milestone of vegetation geography and the basis for plant research in the Himalaya. Schweinfurth's achievement was to make visible for the first time the underlying geo-ecological structure of the Himalaya through the palimpsest of vegetation cover, represented in a vegetation map that he had synthesized from a plethora of travel reports and journal entries.

His next research enterprise - a study of the vegetation cover of New Zealand and Tasmania - involved extensive travel and fieldwork on these islands, and resulted in the publication of numerous articles

and two books. "New Zealand - observations and studies on plant geography and ecology of the Antipodes" (1966) was based on Schweinfurth's habilitation thesis.

In 1964, Schweinfurth received the call to the South Asia Institute of Heidelberg University, and was entrusted with the mission to establish a Department of Geography. Schweinfurth has always cultivated interest in a broad range of topics and a wide array of regions, and has therefore not limited his work to South Asia, but also included Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific region. However, the focal point of his research and of the research of many of his doctoral and post-doctoral students was Sri Lanka, which Schweinfurth had visited for the first time during his passage by ship to New Zealand. Other important regions for research were Nepal, South India, Indonesia and Thailand.

The centerpiece of the Geography Department and one of Schweinfurth's major legacies to the South Asia Institute is the department library and map collection. Guided by his stupendous erudi-



tion, it had been hand-picked and carefully maintained over many years, before it became incorporated into the central library of the SAI upon the designation of his successor. In 1972, Schweinfurth established the series "Geoecological Research" through the publication of Vol. 1 of the series "Tea in Ceylon" by Heidrun Marby, who later became his wife. Schweinfurth and Schweinfurth-Marby co-authored and published in 1975 a book on the travels and achievements of the famous "plant hunter" Sir Francis Kingdon-Ward. Schweinfurth was a truly international scientist and maintained a huge correspondence through a far-flung network of contacts. His many contacts left their imprint on the seminar series "Neue Forschungen in Suedasien"

on Thursday afternoons, which hosted lectures from international visitors. The guest inventory reads like a Who-is-Who in geo-ecological research on South Asia and beyond.

As representatives of all those - colleagues as well as students - who thrived in and benefited from the open-minded and cosmopolitan atmosphere at his institute, we mourn his loss and convey our condolences to his wife and to his daughter.

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The SAI welcomes P.P. Raveendran and Jayanta Sengupta as guests

Jayanta Sengupta and P.P. Raveendran received the Baden-Württemberg Fellowship and stay as guests at SAI during May-July 2005.

Jayanta Sengupta was educated at Presidency College, Kolkata, India, and the Universities of Calcutta and Cambridge. He has been teaching since 1988 in Jadavpur University, Kolkata, where he is currently Reader and Head of the Department of History. His primary research interests are the social and cultural history of modern South Asia and intellectual interaction between India and the United States. A Life Member of Clare Hall, University of Cambridge, he has held visiting appointments at the Universities of Cambridge, Pennsylvania, and Utah State University.

He is currently working on two book projects - one, growing out of his Cambridge doctoral dissertation, on the discourses of development, democracy and regionalism in twentieth-century Orissa, and the other on U.S.orientalist perceptions of India during 1850-1950. He has also written extensively in various academic journals and the media on such diverse subjects as Indian democracy, the politics of communal identity, popular films, and the culture and politics of food and cricket in the Indian subcontinent. Jayanta Sengupta can be reached at jayantas@yahoo.com.

P.P. Raveendran is a bilingual critic and translator, writing in English and his native Malayalam. He is Professor of English and Director of the School of Letters at Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam.

He is the author of Poetry and the New Sensibility (1995), Postmodernism: Positions and Perspectives (2001) and the monograph on Joseph Mundasseri (2003) under 'The Makers of Indian Literature' series. He has edited anthologies of poetry by Kamala Das and Jayanta Mahapatra, and has published five volumes of literary criticism in Malayalam including a monograph on Michel Foucault and another on Cultural Studies. He has written extensively on Indian literature, cultural studies and critical theory in journals across the world. He is a Council member of the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, and is the editor of the interdisciplinary literary journal Haritham.

At the SAI he is engaged in editing some of his published essays on Indian literature for a prospective book-length study tentatively titled 'Indian Literature: Readings from the Margin.' He is also reading up on medieval bhakti literature that might eventually lead to a paper looking at the ideology of bhakti from a critical perspective. P. P. Raveendran can be reached at ppravee@satyam.net.in

Staff News

Prof. Dr. Axel MICHAELS, Dept. of Classical Indology, was appointed member of the curatorship of the Lautenschläger-Resarch-Prize.

Prof. Dr. Subrata K. MITRA, Dept. of Political Science, was named "Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques" for his exemplary commitment to intensifying German-French relations.

Priv.-Doz. Dr. Dietrich SCHMIDT-VOGT, Dept. of Geography, took up a position as Associate Professor at the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok.

Sabine SCHOLZ took up an appointment as Wissenschaftliche Angestellte in the Emmy Noether-Programme of the German Research Council (DFG).

Dr. Clemens SPIESS, Dept. of Political Science, took up a position as head of the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, New Delhi.

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang WERNER took up a position as interim professor in the Department of Geography for the winter term 2004/2005.

In 2004, all three SAI branch offices got new Representatives.

Pia HOLLENBACH took over from Dr. Birgit MAYER-KÖNIG in Colombo.

Christoph ZOTTER succeeded Dr. Elvira GRANER in Katmandu.

Dr. Michael KÖBERLEIN took over from Dr. Evelin HUST.

New positions in the library:

Nicole MERKEL, M.A. (virtual library-project, subject librarian: history, languages)

Robby GEYER, M.A. (virtual library-project)

Alexander WEIMAR, Dipl.-Bibl.

Thomas VOGEL, M.A.



International symposium “The Ills of Marginality”

An international symposium organized by the Dept. of Anthropology, and entitled “The Ills of Marginality: New Perspectives on Subaltern Health in South Asia”, was held on 17-18 June 2004 in Heidelberg. The aim of the symposium was to re-examine assumptions and frameworks for addressing the health situation of marginalized groups in South Asia.

The symposium brought together researchers who have recently conducted or are still in the process of conducting original ethnographic fieldwork in South Asia. As was evident in almost all the papers presented, the “Subaltern Studies” approach, with its focus on “resistance”, was felt to be less helpful to understand the contemporary scenario.

Instead, a strong emphasis on the complex experiences of “marginality” in the lives of South Asians was one of the leading themes of the symposium. The event was successful in developing new ways to conceptualize the relation between social marginality and health. In this way, it helped to develop a stronger voice for an ethnographic perspective on problems in international health.

Scholars participating in the conference had recently conducted, or were currently conducting, field research amongst subaltern groups in South Asia. They were Sanjay Srivastava (Melbourne), Vishvajit Pandya (Ahmadabad), Mitchell Weiss (Switzerland), Ian Harper (Edinburgh), Sushrut Jadhav (London), Patricia Jeffery (Edinburgh), Lawrence Cohen (Berkeley), Veena Das (Johns Hopkins), Gayatri Reddy (Illinois), Martin Fuchs (Berlin), and from Heidelberg Stefan Ecks, Verena Keck, Peter Lehr, Karin Polit, Malabika Sarker, and William Sax.

Selected papers from the conference will be published in a special edition of the journal *Anthropology & Medicine* in December, 2005.

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From Heidelberg to Hyderabad: A new link

The Central University of Hyderabad is one of the major centres of research and advanced teaching in India. Sumptuously situated on fourteen hundred acres of landscaped gardens and watched over by huge rocks much older than the Himalayas, the campus is home to students from all over India, and increasingly, also to foreign students from North America, Europe, Australia and South-East Asia, attracted by its thriving “Study India” programme. Located outside the old town of Hyderabad, the campus offers both exclusivity and conviviality, and an intense cultural and academic life. At the same time, the effective public transport makes the cultural and historical riches of the city of Nizam, the Salar Jung Museum and Golkonda Fort easily accessible.

The idea of an academic link with the Central University was mooted by Vice-

Chancellor Professor Kota Harinarayana during my visit in 2004 when I held the Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Visiting Professorship at the University of Hyderabad. Subsequently, several staff visits took place in both directions. The Memorandum of Understanding that the SAI and the Central University have since concluded anticipates a regular exchange of students and staff, joint conferences, and research projects in areas of mutual interest. The latest visit to have emerged from this new academic link between the SAI and Hyderabad is that of the Head of the Department of Political Science of the University of Hyderabad, Professor Prakash Sarangi, to a workshop organised at the SAI in April 2005.

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Research internship at the CSH

Thanks to the financial support of the Centre de Sciences Humaines and the SAI, based on a Memorandum of Understanding between both institutes, my research internship at the CSH took place from July to October 2004.

Located in New Delhi at the Cultural Service of the French Embassy, the CSH is part of a network of 27 research centres funded by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It conducts research and organises lectures and seminars in the field of social sciences and humanities. The CSH supports researchers in promoting their work through a wide ranging scientific network, the publication and dissemination of research works, as well as organising scientific events and related activities to maximise visibility of the researchers and their ‘academic output’. As an ‘input’ the CSH offers research training, affiliation, a workplace and access to its extensive network to PhD students.

The affiliation with the CSH provided me with the opportunity to conduct various field visits in Hyderabad, Mumbai and New Delhi. The fieldwork comprised the tapping of Indian sources related to the formation of identity, and the strategies constructed and implemented as part of the process of political mobilization. I

was able to undertake research in several libraries, academic centres as well as at the most important institutions and facilities of the ‘Hindu-Nationalist movement organizations’.

I encountered some of the typical problems that researchers in India in general and particularly those engaged in research on identity and nation-building encounter, given the actuality and contentious nature of the topic. Interviewees were often most suspicious with regards to my academic interests. In addition, the field was and still is remarkably politicised and ‘working’ on Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, one is often confronted with highly polarised opinions that obscure the objective, scientific nature of the study. Under these circumstances much valuable advice and insights into the academic and journalist community of New Delhi was given to me by my new colleagues that helped me overcome and avoid many hindrances.

Fulfilling one of the required outcomes of the exchange program I organized a ‘CSH-workshop’ on Savarkar and Hindutva in a theoretical perspective in September 2004 at the CSH. I would like to thank my supervisors Subrata Mitra (SAI) and Girish Kumar (CSH) for their



valuable help in initiating and supporting my internship at the CSH and fieldwork in India as well as Veronique Dupont (Director, CSH), who kindly welcomed

me to the CSH and integrated me into the team of researchers. Furthermore I am most grateful to Manfred Hake for all his support in matters of administration and

financial support.

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Library now hosts DFG-funded special collection on South Asia

As from January 1, 2005, Heidelberg University Library is responsible for the Special Subject Collection “South Asia” funded by the German Research Council (DFG), which so far has been hosted by the University Library of Tübingen.

The home of the new Special Subject Collection will be the SAI. Its library holds more than 265.000 volumes and 500 periodicals, and even today owns one of Europe’s largest special collections in this field. The holdings are available nationwide via Interlibrary Loan and Electronic Document Delivery, thus becoming the central special library in this field in Germany. The acquisitions profile comprises the full spectrum of academic literature from and about Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka with the focus on literature, language, history, anthropology, art history, religion and philosophy. The aim is to increase the annual acquisitions to up to 5.000 volumes and to enhance the electronic services.

The “Virtual Special Library South Asia” (SAVIFA), which will serve as a gateway to print and electronic media, will have the following components:

- ➔ A metasearch engine which allows the user to simultaneously search the most important online catalogues in the field in Germany, i.e. the online catalogues of SAI, Tübingen University Library and the State Libraries of Berlin and Munich
- ➔ Bibliographic databases such as Bibliography for Asian Studies, ATLA, Index Islamicus, Vidyanidhi and Abia Index, which allow comfortable retrieval of books and periodical articles
- ➔ A current contents service making available the tables of content of 200 topical periodicals

- ➔ An electronic document delivery service which will allow articles from periodicals and collective works to be digitized within 24-48 hours and made available as pdf files to the end users
- ➔ New acquisition lists featuring alerting services
- ➔ Systematic retrieval and evaluation of relevant web resources, which will be made searchable via a user-friendly database
- ➔ The full text server of the University Library (HeiDok ➔ ①) will be enhanced to become an online publication platform for research on South Asia.

A prototype of the new portal will be available on the web by summer (for the first modest beginnings see ➔ ②).

In order to face this great challenge, the SAI, the University Library and the German Research Council provide funds to upgrade the responsible library team to 10 librarians and IT specialists who work mostly in the SAI Library and partly in the University Library.

The University Library is responsible to the DFG for the project and provides in particular the IT infrastructure. As far as SAI is concerned, the enhancement of the library and of the electronic services will not only provide better conditions for research and teaching, but also lead to a gain in importance and prestige for an institution which is already widely renowned for its excellence.

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- ① <http://archiv.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/>
- ② <http://www.ub.uniheidelberg.de/helios/fachinfo/www/suedasien/welcome.html>

Conference “Processions between Religion and Politics”

On February 17-19 2005, the Collaborative Research Center “Dynamics of Ritual” at Heidelberg University held an international conference at Bad Herrenalb. The conference was organized by Monika Boehm-Tettelbach, Jörg Gengnagel and William Sax. The main objective was to focus attention on the dynamic ritual process as manifested in the spatial aspects of ritual processions. Pilgrimages, royal investitures, political campaigns, and many other forms of public ritual often involve processions that seem to have both a religious and a political character. How close is the relationship between “religion” and “politics” here? Is it useful to distinguish sharply between religious processions on the one hand, and political marches and processions on the other, or are their religious and political aspects so interdependent as to make such a distinction untenable?

In addition to the contributions made by the SAI-members of the departments of Anthropology, Classical Indology and Modern South Asian Studies (Languages and Literatures), several papers focused on various forms of movements in space in medieval as well as contemporary Europe. To enhance interdisciplinary communication each presentation was followed by a comment of a discussant whose field of research was not directly linked to that of the speaker. The conference languages were both German and English. The proceedings of the conference will be edited jointly by Monika Boehm-Tettelbach, Jörg Gengnagel, and Gerald Schwedler (Medieval History).

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SAI branch offices

The representatives of all three branch offices have changed within the last academic year. Christof Zotter took over from Elvira Graner and is now responsible for the branch office in Kathmandu, Pia Hollenbach took over from Birgit Mayer König and is in charge of the Colombo office Colombo and Michael Köberlein succeeded Evelin Hust at the New Delhi branch office.

New Delhi

At the SAI branch office in New Delhi, the core activities have been continued. Key tasks are to provide support in coordinating research projects of the South Asia Institute in India and to promote and cultivate academic partnership with scholars and institutions throughout the country. In this respect one of the major involvements was to support the setting up of the Heidelberg Hindi Database (see page 17).

In addition, a special emphasis was to enliven the partnership of Heidelberg University with Delhi University. In this respect consultations have been conducted with various scholars from Delhi University and the involvement of the representative in giving lectures at Delhi University and in joint research work with scholars has been agreed upon.

Further responsibilities of the branch office are the administration of the Baden-Württemberg Fellowship of the University Grants Commission as well as of the Baden-Württemberg Scholarships for exchange students between Delhi University and Heidelberg University, the organisation of seminars and lectures, the procurement of books, journals, and research materials for the library in Heidelberg and to provide assistance for Indian and German scholars in bureaucratic procedures and research activities. In addition, the branch office serves as

an information pool for contacts to academic and development organisations in India and also with regard to higher education in India.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between SAI and the University of Hyderabad in March in order to strengthen collaborative research work and commence scientific and scholarly exchange.

The branch office also had a large number of visitors (students, scholars and officials) from Heidelberg and other German universities as well as from France, Sweden, Austria, Australia, England and in particular from India.

The most prominent guests were a delegation of experts in the field of Social Science sent by the French government to evaluate the partnership with the French Centre de Science Humaines.

In the end of October 2004 a meeting took place in Delhi, with the then representative of the SAI in Colombo, Birgit Mayer König, the then representative of the SAI in Kathmandu, Elvira Graner and the representative in Delhi, Michael Köberlein. In this meeting a further strengthening of the collaboration between the Branch Offices in South Asia in terms of common projects was talked about, the strategy paper regarding the tasks of the branch offices was modified and new areas of work identified.

In February this year the resident representative was nominated as a member of the founding committee of the planned New Delhi chapter of the Heidelberg Club International in order to select potential members for the Club and to support the establishment of the Club in India. The mayor of Heidelberg City, Mrs Beate Weber, will inaugurate the Club in August this year. Its objective is to bring together prominent persons from the economic, academic and tourism fields, who would serve as ambassadors of the city of Heidelberg abroad. The members of the Heidelberg Club New Delhi are supposed to propagate a positive image of the city of Heidelberg and disseminate information on the potential for cooperation in the field of business, tourism, education, etc. as well as on new developments and special events taking place in the city to the people of India.

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Colombo

Pia Hollenbach, the new Resident Representative of the SAI Colombo Office, took over her work on the 4th January 2005. Due to the natural disaster that happened on the 26th December 2004 it was difficult to resume the core activities of the Branch office immediately. The Resident Representative was asked to participate in set up of a liaison office to organize the German Relief Aid at the German Embassy. The 4 weeks of work at the Embassy turned out to be a good

starting point to build up new, and revitalize old, networks and cooperation with partners and strengthen the relationship between the German Embassy and the South Asia Institute.

The appeal of Hartmut Fuenfgeld, Christiane Noe and Pia Hollenbach to assist Sri Lanka with reconstruction while supporting micro-level projects was very successful. The positive response, generous contributions and the good relationship of Mr Fuenfgeld with the local NGO

Sewalanka, made it possible to provide effective support directly and immediately. In cooperation with Sewalanka we completed the first micro project to equip 422 fishermen (in Ampara District) with new fishing gear to enable them to restore their livelihoods.

Since after the tsunami disaster, most of the organizations are now taking up their "normal work and issues" again, and the first meetings have been held with the most relevant partners. It was agreed to



continue the cooperation and future joint projects were discussed. With the visit to Eastern University it came to an agreement that the cooperation and partnership has to be strengthened. In cooperation with two PhD researchers, Hartmut Fuenfgeld and Christiane Noe (both from the Dept. of Geography SAI Heidelberg), two workshops will be conducted this year at the Eastern University. Apart from this initiative, the Undergraduate Competition, which was initiated by the former Resident Representative, Birgit Mayer-Koenig, will be continued in collaboration with the Eastern University. The leading topic of the competition will be on tsunami related issues. The final seminar will be held in the second half of 2005 in Batticaloa with participation of undergraduates from different universities and faculties throughout the country.

Furthermore the idea of the “Students

Leaders in University”, for the seminar purposes of instructing student leaders in Universities in peace related matters and enabling those to carry this to other audiences of students throughout the country will be reactivated and new seminars and lectures will be organized.

In the year 2004 two seminars have been held: First, the Weeramantry International Centre for Peace Education and Research in association with the South Asia Institute of the University of Heidelberg held a one week seminar on peace studies with a view to train young university graduates and undergraduates in socially related discussions with regard to the teaching of Peace Studies in schools. Second, a three days seminar at the Subodhi Institute of Integral Education was held. The seminar was jointly organized by the Faculty of Graduate Studies of the University of Colombo, Weeramantry International Centre for

Peace Education and Research, and the South Asia Institute. The seminar provided a great opportunity for the undergraduates to bridge the gaps in terms of culture, ethnicity and various disciplines. Lectures were delivered by senior lecturers and professors on the subjects of International Law, History of the Peace Movement, Human Rights, and Constitutional Background of Peace. Practical sessions were chaired by Father Mervyn Fernando.

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Kathmandu

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 has recently been relocated to the GTZ compound in Patan, Sanepa (Near Bhavan), along with the DED and the KfW (see photo). There, it occupies a spacious room, including a small library.

The office has been headed by a member of faculty from the SAI's Dept. of Geography (Elvira Graner), carrying out research on (labour) migration,



The branch office in Kathmandu has moved to the GTZ-compound in Patan where it now occupies a spacious room, including a small library.
- Photo: Rajesh Lal Shrestha.

human development and gender studies (March 2003 - March 2005). The newly appointed representative is Christof Zotter (Dept. of Classical Indology) who has taken up his assignment in April

2005. He will undertake PhD research on the initiation ritual (vrata-bandhana, upanayana) of Brahmin boys.

Research projects by 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, Niels Gutschow, Axel Michaels, Christof Zotter) as well as a project on documenting two Rai languages (Puma and Chhital), financed by the Volkswagen Foundation within their project of documenting rare languages (DOBIS, Martin Gaenszle, jointly with Leipzig University and N.K. Rai, T.U./ CNAS). As a component of the former project a workshop on Ritual Dynamics was held

in the Kathmandu Valley in August 2004 with 15 students from different disciplines and institutes, taught jointly by Niels Gutschow, Brigitte Merz, and Christoph Emmrich (see page 4).



The Kathmandu Office has close institutional links to T.U.'s Centre for Nepal & Asian Studies (CNAS). Joint activities in Kathmandu include talk programmes with renowned scholars in order to disseminate their research activities. In February 2005, Ramesh Dhungel (CNAS, currently on deputation to SOAS, London) gave a talk on his research on the Brian Hodgson's Manuscripts. Further links to T.U. are the "M.A. Support Scheme" for students writing their theses in social sciences (see page 9), which is jointly financed by a number of projects, namely GTZ-HSSP, Nepal Swiss Community Forestry Project (NSCFP), Nepal

Institute of Development Studies (NIDS), National Labour Academy (NLA), GTZ-Churia Forestry Project as well as the "Freunde und Förderer des SAI".

Cooperation also exists with the Social Science Baha (SSB), who will in future jointly publish the "European Bulletin of Himalayan Research" (EBHR). The launch of the first journal took place on December, 24th. Similarly, there has been a jointly organised book launch with Himal Books in August 2004, of the highly scholarly work of the SAI-anthropologist Andras Höfer, on "The Muluki Ain" (Nepal's Legal Code). Himal books also plans to (re-) publish a book from

the SAI's late Richard Burghart on the Terai.

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Research projects and publications

Anthropology

Projects

- Political Rituals and Notions of Space (Christiane Brosius, SFB Ritual dynamics)
- Managing Homelands and Coming Home - The Indian Diaspora and strategies of re/dis-location in media representation and public events (Christiane Brosius)
- Megacities in India: shopping malls and luxury enclaves in Delhi (Christiane Brosius)

- Colonialism and the representation of the Pacific Islands in early film (1900-1930) (Christiane Brosius)
- Consuming Theatre: The Economics and Politics of Jatra in West Bengal (Hans-Martin Kunz)

Publications

- Christiane Brosius**
- *Empowering Visions. The Politics of Representation in Hindu Nationalism.* London: Anthem Press, 2005.
 - "I am a national artist": Popular art in the sphere of Hindutva". In: Richard

- Davis (ed.), *Iconographies of the Indian nation-state.* Hyderabad: Orient Longman, 2005.
- "The Scattered Homelands of the Migrant. Bollyworld through the diasporic lens." In: Raminder Kaur and Ajay Sinha (eds.), *Bollyworld: Popular Indian Cinema through a Transnational Lens.* New Delhi: Sage Publications, 2005.
- "The Unwanted Offering. Ubiquity and Success of Failure in Hindu Right Rituals." In: Ute Hüsken (ed.), *Getting it Wrong? Ritual Dynamics, Mistakes, and Failure.* Leiden: Brill, 2005.

Collaborative Research Centre 'Ritual Dynamics'

The Collaborative Research Centre 'Ritual Dynamics' (SFB 619 'Ritualdynamik') has been extended by the German Research Council (DFG) for another 4 years. It has been granted funds of approx. 7 mill. Euro. Within the research scheme of 21 sub-projects the following seven concern South Asia:

- Life-cycle rituals in Nepal (A. Michaels, N. Gutschow, Chr. Emmrich, Chr. Zotter, N. Sharma)
- Initiation, priestly ordination, temple festivals - ritual traditions in south Indian temple city of Kancipuram (S. Raman, U. Huesken)
- Agency and territorial rituals in India (Chr. Brosius, M. Nijhawan, K. Polit)
- Ritual healing and its critics (W. Sax, B. Fuhrmann)
- The discourse of non-brahmanical rituals and their transformation in the religious history of South Asia since the 18th cent. (M. Bergunder)
- The transfer of rituals between South Asia and the West (G. Dharampal-Frick, F. Neubert)
- Court ritual in the Jaipur state (18th Century to 1949) (M. Boeh-Tettelbach, J. Gengnagel)

For further details see the website of the Collaborative Research Centre (→ ①) or contact its speaker Axel Michaels (→ ②).

① <http://www.ritualdynamik.uni-hd.de>

② axel.michaels@urz.uni-heidelberg.de

**Roland Hardenberg**

- *Children of the Earth Goddess: Society, Marriage, and Sacrifice in the Highlands of Orissa (India)*. Habilitation. Münster: Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, 2005.
- “‘Village Relations’: Descent, Territory, and Residence in a Middle Indian Tribal Society.” In: G. Pfeffer (ed.), *Tribal Society: Category and Ritual Exchange* (Contemporary Society: Tribal Studies Vol. 7). New Delhi: Concept, 2005.
- “The Meria Sacrifice and the Creation of Society.” In: G. Pfeffer (ed.), *Tribal Society: Category and Ritual Exchange* (Contemporary Society: Tribal Studies Vol. 7). New Delhi: Concept, 2005.
- “Mädchenhäuser, Schöpfung und Empfängnis: Kulturelle Konstruktion der Geschlechter bei den Dongria Kond (Orissa/Indien).” *Zeitschrift für Ethnologie* 130.
- “Vitalität und Tausch: Heirat und Opfer bei den Dongria Kond (Orissa, Indien).” *Mitteilungen der Berliner Gesellschaft für Anthropologie, Ethnologie und Urgeschichte* 25: 31-46.

Hans-Martin Kunz

- “Schauspiele, Schaubühnen, Schauplätze. Jatra und Populäres Theater in Kalkutta.” In: Ravi Ahuja and Christiane Brosius (eds.), *Megastädte in Indien: Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta*. Heidelberg: Draupadi, 2005.
- *Mahasweta Devi. Aktivistin, Schriftstellerin, Menschenrechtlerin*. Heidelberg: Draupadi, 2005.
- “Aufstand im Munda-Land.” A novel by Mahasweta Devi. Herausgegeben in Zusammenarbeit mit der Heidelberger Südasiengruppe. Bad Honnef: Horlemann, 2005.

William Sax

- “Healing Rituals: a critical performative approach.” *Anthropology and Medicine* 11 (3): 293-306.
- “Addicted to Justice, Ecstatic in Union.” *Paragrana* 13: 62-77.

Schömbucher, Elisabeth

- “Lord of the Seven Hills, Mother of Seventy Thresholds: The Religious Practice of a South Indian Fishing caste.” In: Aditya Malik, Anne Feldhaus, Heidrun Brückner (eds.), *In the Company of Gods*. Delhi: Manohar, 2005.

Classical Indology

Projects

- Female initiation rites among the Buddhist and Hindu Newars of Lalitpur, Nepal (Christoph Emmrich)
- Sources for the history of the Rāto Matsyendranātha procession of Buṅgamati and Lalitpur, Nepal (Christoph Emmrich)
- Traditional Digambara-Jaina scholarship in South India (Christoph Emmrich)
- Jainism in Karnataka: history, architecture and religion (Julia Hegewald)
- Jaina Temple Architecture in South Asia: The development of a distinct language in art and ritual (Julia Hegewald)
- Water Architecture in South Asia: A study of types, developments and meanings (Julia Hegewald)
- Jainism in Madhya Pradesh: sculptural records in Vidisha (Julia Hegewald; The Vidisha Research Project, international research group)
- Life-cycle rituals in Nepal (Axel Michaels with Niels Gutschow, Christoph Emmrich, Chr. Zotter, J. Buß and N. Sharma; Ritual Dynamics)
- The Mahimā-Dharma-Movement (Orissa) in text and context (Axel Michaels with B. Bäumer, J. Beltz and S. Das)
- The price of impurity: The Dharmādhikārīn in the legal tradition of Nepal (Axel Michaels with N. Sharma)
- Editio princeps of the so-called Wright chronicle (Axel Michaels)

Publications

Christoph Emmrich

- “All the King’s Horses and All the King’s Men. The 2004 Red Matsyendranath Incident.” In: Hüsken, Ute (ed.), *Getting it Wrong? Ritual Dynamics, Mistakes, and Failure*. Leiden: Brill, 2005.
- “Ujyā. Ein Letzter Ritus der Vajrācāryas von Lalitpur.” In: J. Assmann, F. Maciejewski, A. Michaels (eds.), *Trauerrituale im Kulturvergleich*. Göttingen: Wallstein, 2005.
- “South Asian Fiction and Religion”. In: L. Jones (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Religion*. 2nd Revised Edition. New York: Macmillan Reference, 2005.

Ute Hüsken

- Entries “Rāmānuja”, “Viṣṇu”, “Viṣṇuismus”. In: *Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart*, 4. Auflage, ed. by Hans Dieter Betz, Don S. Brown-ing, Bernd Janowski and Eberhard Jüngel, Tübingen.
- “Saṃsākras in Theory and Practice: a South Indian Case”. In: J. Gengnagel, U. Hüsken and S. Raman (eds.), *Words and Deeds. Hindu and Buddhist Rituals in South Asia* (Ethno-Indology. Heidelberg Studies in South Asian Rituals 1). Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2005, 153-198.
- “The Moonlight of Female Duties: On the Brahmanical Text Vadhūdharmacandrikā.” In: U. Roesler and J. Soni (eds.), *Aspects of the Female in Indian Culture II (Indica et Tibetica)*. Swistal-Oden-dorf: 2005, 139-172.
- (ed. with J. Gengnagel and S. Raman Müller) *Words and Deeds. Hindu and Buddhist Rituals in South Asia* (Ethno-Indology. Heidelberg Studies in South Asian Rituals 1), Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2005.

Axel Michaels

- (with Niels Gutschow) *Handling Death. The Dynamics of Death and Ancestor Rituals Among the Newars of Bhaktapur, Nepal*. With Contributions by Johanna Buss and Nutan Sharma and a Film on DVD by Christian Bau. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2005.
- Reprint *Hinduism. Past and Present*. New Delhi: Orient Longman, 2005.
- “Saṃkalpa: The Beginnings of a Ritual.” In: Jörg Gengnagel, Ute Hüsken, Srilata Raman (eds.), *Words and Deeds: Hindu and Buddhist Rituals in South Asia*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2005: 45-64.
- “General Preface to the ‘Heidelberg Studies in South Asian Rituals’”. In: Jörg Gengnagel, Ute Hüsken, Srilata Raman (eds.), *Words and Deeds: Hindu and Buddhist Rituals in South Asia*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2005: 7-13.
- *Die Kunst des einfachen Lebens. Eine Kulturgeschichte der Askese*. München: C.H. Beck, 2004.
- “Wohin mit den Ahnen? Totenritual und Erlösung in indischen Religionen.” In: Friedrich Wilhelm Graf and Heinrich Meier (eds.), *Der Tod im Leben. Ein Symposium*. München, Zürich: Piper, 2004: 269-292.



- "Indology and the Cultural Turn." In: Angelika Malinar, Johannes Beltz and Heiko Freese (eds.), *Text and Context in the History, Literature and Religion of Orissa*. Delhi: Manohar, 2004: 457-481.

- "Häsamārga - Zur Komik ritueller Förmlichkeit." In: Dietrich Harth and Gerritt Jasper Schenk (eds.), *Ritual-dynamik. Kulturübergreifende Studien zur Theorie und Geschichte rituellen Handelns*. Heidelberg: Synchron. Wissenschaftsverlag der Autoren, 2004: 405-420.

Development Economics

Projects

- Child Labour, Education and Economic Growth (Clive Bell)
- Economic Growth and Premature Adult Mortality: The Long-run Economics of AIDS (Clive Bell)
- Strategic Lending in Rural Credit Markets (Clive Bell)
- Long-term Movements in Rural Output and Income Distribution in India (Clive Bell and Stefan Klonner)
- Child Labor, Fertility and Economic Growth (Ramona Bruhns)
- Industrial Sickness in India (Rahel Falk)
- Economic Effects of HIV/Aids (Anastasios Koukoumelis)
- Dealing with Natural Shocks in a Nomadic Economy: the Case of Winter Droughts in Mongolia (Enkhjargal Natsagdorj)
- Equilibrium Population and Per Capita Income in India in the long Run (Oliver Strobel)
- AIDS, Economic Growth and Public Finance in South Africa (Dagmar Völker)

Publications

Clive Bell, S. Devarajan and H. Gersbach

- "Thinking about the Long-run Economic Costs of AIDS", in M. Haacker (ed.), *The Economics of AIDS*, Washington, DC: International Monetary Fund, 2004.

Clive Bell et al.

- *Economic Growth, Human Capital*

and Population in Kenya in the Time of AIDS: A Long-run Analysis in Historical Perspective, processed, Washington DC, World Bank, August, 2004.

Clive Bell and M. Lewis

- "The Economic Implications of Epidemics Old and New." *World Economics* 5 (4): 137-174.

Clive Bell and H. Gersbach

- "Growth and Epidemic Diseases." Working Paper No. 4800, Centre for Economic Policy Research, London (<http://www.cepr.org>), 2004.

Geography

Projects

- Community-based Resource Use and Conflict Transformation in the Eastern Province, Sri Lanka: The Case of Lagoon Fisheries (Hartmut Fünfgeld)
- Poverty and Health in the urban Region of Colombo - Investigating the Role of Social Capital (Christiane Noe)
- Remittances and international Labour Migration from Nepal [Elvira Graner, Ganesh Gurung (Nepal Institute of Development Studies Kathmandu)]
- Carpet Production in the Kathmandu Valley. Manufacturers and Workers for the World Market (Elvira Graner)
- Varanasi as imagined Waterscapes: Exploring the social Spatiality of Everyday Water Use (Stefan Lemcke)
- Urbanisation Trends in Sri Lanka: Potential of small and medium Towns (Jürgen Clemens)
- Drought Stress in tropical Rain Forests of Asia caused by ENSO-Droughts (Wolfgang Werner)
- Integrated coastal Zone Management in Baclayon, Bohol (Wolfgang Werner)
- Social Capital: Options and Obstacles in Search of Security. Sri Lanka Women in Conflict (Una Hombrecher)

Publications

Hartmut Fünfgeld

- (with S. T. Hettige, et al.) *Investigating social vulnerability in Community-Based Poverty Monitoring in Sri Lanka: Scaling down to the household level*. Conference paper. Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) General Meeting,

Dakar, Senegal, 2004. Available from <http://www.pep-net.org>.

- (with Korf, B.) *War and the commons: Assessing the changing politics of violence, access and entitlements in Sri Lanka*. Conference paper. 10th Conference of the International Association for the Study of Common Property, Oaxaca, Mexico, International Association for the Study of Common Property, 2004. Available at <http://dlc.dlib.indiana.edu/archive/00001426>.

- *Dezentralisierung und Local Governance in Sambia: Von Wem, für Wen? Entwicklungsperspektiven in der Ländlichen Peripherie*. Initiative Südliches Afrika, Wissenschaftliche Reihe Bd. 5. Bonn, Lingenbrink, 2004.

- "Sri Lankas Osten nach der Flut: Sozio-ökonomische Folgen und politische Diskurse des Wiederaufbaus." *Südasiens* 24 (4), 14-17.

Christiane Noe

- "Colombo - Fluch oder Segen. Risiken der Existenzsicherung zwischen Cash Economy und Marginalisierung." *Südasiens* 2-3/2004: 33-35.

- (with Hettige, S.T., Fernando, N., Mayer, M. & Nanayakkara) *Improving Livelihoods of the Urban Poor. A Study of Resettlement Schemes in Colombo*. Published by GTZ Sri Lanka in collaboration with Colombo Municipal Council and IMCAP. Colombo, 2004. Available at <http://www.cmc.lk/primuss>.

Wolfgang Werner

- "Toasted Forests - Evergreen Rain Forests of Tropical Asia under Drought Stress." *ZEF Discussion Papers On Development Policy No. 76*, Center for Development Research. Bonn, 2003.

Jürgen Clemens

- "In heiler Mission: Armeekaktion gegen al-Qaida in Waziristan." *Südasiens* 1/2004: 44-47.

- "Weltbilder in Karten - Abbild oder Konstruktion der Welt? Eine Analyse anlässlich der Berichterstattung über den Krieg in Afghanistan." In: Gebhardt, H. & H. Kiesel (eds.), *Weltbilder*. Heidelberg, 2004 (Heidelberger Jahrbücher 2003; 47): 389-409.

- (with Andreas Dittmann) "The Power of Maps and the War against Terrorism in Afghanistan. A Critical review of German News Maps." *International Quarterly for Asian Studies* 35, 2004,



1-2: 31-45.

- “Die Macht der Karte – Zur Repräsentation Afghanistans in Pressekarten zum Afghanistankrieg, 2001.” In: Damir-Geilsdorf, S.; Hartmann, A. & B. Hendrich (eds.), *Mental Maps - Raum - Erinnerung. Kulturwissenschaftliche Zugänge zum Verhältnis von Raum und Erinnerung*. Münster etc., 2005 (Kulturwissenschaft: Forschung und Wissenschaft; 1): 237-256.
- “The Indus Waters Treaty between India and Pakistan. Peace through transboundary Management?” *Agriculture & Rural Development* 1/2005: 60-63.
- “Le Traité des Eaux de l’Indus entre l’Inde et le Pakistan. La Paix au travers de la Gestion transfrontalière de l’Eau?” *Agriculture & Développement Rural* 1/2005 : 60-63.
- (with Rainer Werning) “«Wir kämpfen auch für Eure Zukunft.» Südasien Beitrag im Ersten und Zweiten Weltkrieg, Teil 1.” *Südasien* 4/2004: 23-26.

Arnd Holdschlag

- (with Fazlur-Rahman) “Hazards im Hohen Hindu Kush. Leben mit Naturgefahren in Chitral (Pakistan).” *Südasien* 2-3/2004: 36-40.

History

Projects

- “Revisiting the colonial archive”: Evaluation of the “Board’s Collection”, 1784-1858 (Gita Dharampal-Frick)
- South Asian Modernity (SAM). A network of historical and contemporary studies (Gita Dharampal-Frick)
- Alexander Walker (1764-1831) on India (Gita Dharampal-Frick)
- The Indian Ocean and the ‘labour question’: The regulation of South Asian maritime labour, 1918-1960 (Ravi Ahuja)
- Communications and Colonialism. Orissan Society and the Politics of Transport in the Long Nineteenth Century (Ravi Ahuja)
- Therapy and Time (Georg Berkemer)

Publications

Gita Dharampal-Frick

- “Kaste” in frühneuzeitlicher Pers-

pektive.” In: Shalini Randeria/Martin Fuchs/Antje Linkenbach (eds.), *Konfigurationen der Moderne. Diskurse zu Indien* (= Soziale Welt, Sonderband 15), Baden Baden: Nomos, 2004, 259-277.

Ravi Ahuja

- “Erkenntnisdruck und Denkbarrieren: Anmerkungen zur indischen Arbeits-historiographie.” In: Shalini Randeria/Martin Fuchs/Antje Linkenbach (eds.), *Konfigurationen der Moderne. Diskurse zu Indien* (= Soziale Welt, Sonderband 15), Baden Baden: Nomos, 2004: 349-366.
- “Az indiai munkásmozgalom történetének margójára”, *Ezmelet* 62 [Hungarian translation of the aforementioned article].

Dietmar Rothermund

- “Der Blick vom Westen auf den Indischen Ozean vom ‘Periplus’ bis zur ‘Suma Oriental’.” In: Dietmar Rothermund/Susanne Weigelin-Schwiedrzik (eds.), *Der Indische Ozean. Das afro-asiatische Mittelmeer als Kultur- und Wirtschaftsraum*, Wien: Promedia, 2004.
- “Zur Historiographie des Indischen Ozeans.” In: Dietmar Rothermund/Susanne Weigelin-Schwiedrzik (eds.), *Der Indische Ozean. Das afro-asiatische Mittelmeer als Kultur- und Wirtschaftsraum*, Wien: Promedia, 2004.

Hermann Kulke and Dietmar Rothermund

- *A History of India* (4th revised edition). London: Routledge, 2004.

International Economics

Projects

- Foreign Direct Investment, Optimisation of Business Location and Multilateral Investment Agreement, with Empirical Research on South-East-Asia and India (Paul Brandeis)
- Environmental Policies and their Transmission by International Trade (with a Case Study of India) (Frithjof Kilp)
- Informally Working People: How to Reform their Social Security and to Improve their Impact (Markus Loewe)

- Competitiveness of Cooperative Financial Systems: The Case of Vietnam (Dong Phuong Pham)
- Regulating Natural Monopolies in the Water Industry of Developing Countries: Institutional Alternative (Sabine Streb)
- Economic Structures, Financial Systems, and Development (Germany, USA, Taiwan) (Marko Veselka)
- An International Comparison of Fiscal Federalism (Germany, Malaysia) (Isabel Werle)
- The Transformation of Agricultural Cooperatives, Self-Help-Organizations, and Rural Finance Systems in Vietnam (Axel Wolz)
- Local Bodies Finance: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh (Wolfgang-Peter Zingel)

Publications

Oscar Gans and Wolfgang-Peter Zingel

- “Overcoming Poverty and Famines – Or: Do Economists Learn from Disaster?” *Quarterly Journal of International Agriculture* 43(3): 209-210.

Pilanya Niyomthai

- *Bewertung konsumorientierter Steuer-reformen in Entwicklungsländern - Eine numerische Allgemeine Gleichgewichts-analyse für Thailand*. Heidelberg 2005, <http://www.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/archiv/5227>.

Wolfgang-Peter Zingel

- “Reinheit des Geistes. Wie gebildete Inder den Weltmarkt erobern.” In: DIE ZEIT, 27.1.2005, p. 21.
- “Indien auf dem Weg zur postindustriellen Gesellschaft: Infrastruktur, Dienstleistungen und Deregulierung.” In: Werner Draguhn (ed.), *Indien 2004: Politik, Wirtschaft, Gesellschaft*. Hamburg: Institut für Asienkunde, 2004: 319-338.
- “Bhutan”, “Pakistan” und “SAARC”. In: Michael Neu, Wolfgang Gieler, Jürgen Bellers (eds.), *Handbuch der Außenwirtschaftspolitik: Staaten und Organisationen*. Münster: Lit-Verlag, 2004: 393-397; 522-531; 1027-1036.
- “Bangladesch” (with Tim Goydke) and “Bhutan”. In: *Wirtschaftshandbuch Asien-Pazifik 2004/2005*. 49. Ausgabe. Hamburg: Ostasiatischer Verein e.V. 2004 : 67-85; 87-99.
- “Indiens Wirtschaft zu Beginn des



21. Jahrhunderts." In: Subrata K. Mitra (ed.), *Herausforderungen des 21. Jahrhunderts. Staat, Gesellschaft und Wirtschaft in Indien*. Heidelberg: Südasien-Institut, 2004: 27-47.
 – "Pakistan - Wirtschaft" and "Pakistan - Soziales und Kultur". *Munzinger-Archiv/IH-Länder aktuell* 23/04.
 – "Sri Lanka - Wirtschaft" und "Sri Lanka - Soziales und Kultur". *Munzinger-Archiv/IH-Länder aktuell* 25/04.

Modern South Asian Studies (Languages and Literatures)

Publications

Jörg Gengnagel

– (ed. with Ute Hüsken and Srilata Raman) *Words and Deeds. Hindu and Buddhist Rituals in South Asia*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz 2005 (Ethno-Indology. Heidelberg Studies in South Asian Rituals 1).
 – "Kāśīkhaṇḍokta: On Texts and Processions in Vārāṇasī." In: Gengnagel, J. & Ute Hüsken & Srilata Raman (eds.), *Words and Deeds. Hindu and Buddhist Rituals in South Asia*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz 2005: 65–89 (Ethno-Indology. Heidelberg Studies in South Asian Rituals 1).
 – "Wenn Pilger vom rechten Weg abkommen: Ein Fallbeispiel aus Benares (Nordindien)." In: Ambos, Claus & Stefan Hotz & Gerald Schwedler & Stefan Weinfurter (eds.), *Die Welt der Rituale. Von der Antike bis in die Neuzeit*. Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft: Darmstadt 2005: 121–128.

Monika Horstmann

– "Why Ritual? An Eighteenth-Century Debate." In: Gengnagel, J. & Ute Hüsken & Srilata Raman (eds.), *Words and Deeds. Hindu and Buddhist Rituals in South Asia*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz 2005: 277–289 (Ethno-Indology. Heidelberg Studies in South Asian Rituals 1).
 – "Das Lichter-Ritual." In: Ambos, Claus & Stefan Hotz & Gerald Schwedler & Stefan Weinfurter (eds.), *Die Welt der Rituale. Von der Antike bis in die Neuzeit*. Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft: Darmstadt 2005: 253–261.
 – "Ritualkritik im modernen Hinduismus." In: Ambos, Claus & Stefan Hotz

& Gerald Schwedler & Stefan Weinfurter (eds.), *Die Welt der Rituale. Von der Antike bis in die Neuzeit*. Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft: Darmstadt 2005: 262–267.

Christina Oesterheld

– "Urdu and Muslim women." In: Daniela Bredi (ed.), *Islam in South Asia* (monographic number of *Oriente Moderno*, No. 1-2004): 217–243.

Ulrike Stark

– "Towards a New Hindu Woman: Educational Ideals and Female Role Models in Shivprasad's Vāmānrañjan (1856)." In: Ulrike Roesler & Jayanda Soni (eds.), *Aspects of the Female in Indian Culture*. Marburg: Indica et Tibetica Verlag, 2004, 167–179.

Claus-Peter Zoller

– "Kabir and ritualized language." *Acta Orientalia* 2004:65, 33–68.

Political Science

Projects

– Democracy and Marginality in India (Subrata K. Mitra)
 – The History of Political Sociology as a Discipline (Subrata K. Mitra)
 – Security and Disaster Management in South Asia (Subrata K. Mitra with Wolfgang-Peter Zingel, Elvira Graner)
 – Mediation Strategies of the EU in the Kashmir Conflict (Karsten Frey)
 – Nuclear Politics in India between Strategic Interest and Prestige (Karsten Frey)
 – Coalition Politics in India (Malte Pehl)
 – The Provision of Public Goods in the Indian States (Malte Pehl)
 – The History of Political Sociology as a Discipline (Malte Pehl)
 – Terrorism, Legislation and Civil Rights in India (Alexander Fischer)
 – The Changing Constitution of India (Alexander Fischer)
 – Social Movements in India (Siegfried O. Wolf)
 – India: Society, Culture and Economic Development (Siegfried O. Wolf)
 – Savarkar, Social Reforms and Political Thought (Siegfried O. Wolf)

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