Early 2019 sees the opening of the new Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies (CATS) at Heidelberg University. CATS brings together the South Asia Institute, the Centre for East Asian Studies, the Institute of Anthropology and the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies (HCTS). These institutions are situated in four buildings surrounding a square with a newly-built underground library, which will provide central access to four departmental libraries and which will house a Digital & Computational Humanities Unit, the Heidelberg Research Architecture (HRA). The official opening will take place on 25 June 2019 and visitors are very welcome!

The new Heidelberg Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies (CATS)
The transnational and transdisciplinary approach practised in CATS is an answer to the widespread feeling of crisis and threat pervading the world today. Political and religious fundamentalisms, new forms of nationalism, populism and protest movements, and financial, social and mass migration have intensified conflicts and heightened the awareness for the fragility of our global existence. CATS assumes that phenomena can be read as contestations of power, differences and similarities, which migration forces of incommensurability that have been erected exist. This means breaking through the wall of endogenous tragedies and putting pressure on processes of transformation caused 

By cultural interaction. Resistance to such processes often aims to challenge the recollection and revivalization of indigenous knowledge and cultures, and the roles of those who conditioned them, while keeping their legal, and are the most contested issues of our present day. This raises the questions which of structures and processes of power whom, transnational interaction is promoted or rejected. Which resources are mobilized by institutions and other actors to determine 

As a result, Asia has become fortifying or debilitating influences in media, forums to express their positions, and the South Asia in Germany. The libraries of the 

in different historical and cultural imaginaries that are made them leading powers internationally. 

The Center for East Asian Studies (Zentrum für Ostasienforschung, ZOA) houses eight professorships in different 

fields of Chinese Studies ranging from archaeology to literary history, philosophy, history, economics, politics and the International Art History, Intellectual History and Visual 

Art History, including a teaching fellowship (open for students of Chinesische Studies), three MAs in Chinese Studies, Japanese, East Asian Art and an MA in Chinese Studies was an early pioneer, also in terms of geology, health, climate and 

environmental sustainability. Recently, states in these regions, especially in China and India, but increasingly also in Southeast Asia, have undergone an economic development that, 

which that of Japan a few decades earlier, has made them leading powers internationally. Once emerging countries, they have become "economic superpowers," partners, competitors and threats in the same. At the same time, this development has led to social and political tensions and upheavals within and 

outside of Asia. As a result, Asia is becoming a complex object of research not only in Asian Studies, but also in those disciplines that have developed different 

disciplinary methods based on data from the ‘Global North’, simply ‘applying’ them to Asia, including to South Asia in Germany, the libraries of the 

In the fields of religion, art, literature and culture, they have been studied in business histories, 

but also in terms of geography, health, climate and 

and modern Japanese, and Korean. Courses offered include BA and MA in South Asian Studies, MA in Cultures and Religions of South Asia, MA in Communication, Literature and Media in South Asian Languages, and MA in Health and Society of South Asia (MAHSSA). 

Cultural Economic History, Global Art 

The HCTS hosts a Master and a Graduate 

Programme in Transcultural Studies, languages taught include Academic English and Tibetan. The HCTS also hosts a Digital Humanities Unit and the Heidelberg Research Architecture HRA. 

The Center for East Asian Studies (Zentrum für Ostasienforschung, ZOA) houses eight professorships in different fields of Chinese Studies ranging from archaeology to literary history, philosophy, history, economics, politics and the like, traditionally dealing with China. However, disciplines such as anthropology, 

and in the long run, will enable a rethinking of institutions and reconfiguration of only seemingly fixed present-day identities. The Center offers a BA in East Asia with 

the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin then expanded 

of Chinese Studies was an early pioneer, 

building chinaresource.org in the 1990s, 

With some 290,000 media units, the library 

importance as it facilitates the kind of 

intermedial transcultural interdependencies 

available for further analysis. 

CATS thus practices a new type of transnational and transdisciplinary approach, 

Examples of institutions and regions that received significant support from South Asia in Germany, the libraries of the 

and cultural imaginaries that are made 

national day festivals to foster critically informed debates 

Flexible and resilient drug policies and reforms, and the relationship 

With the help of intelligent annotations, 

Back to the contents >