

EAST ASIAN HISTORY

RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HEIDELBERG

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Introduction

The following overview focuses on the contributions in research into the history of East Asia in general or the respective east-Asian countries in particular, which have been published since the 1990's in the Heidelberg Institute for Chinese Studies, Japanese Studies, and, more recently, in the Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe in a Global Context". The use of source material in the respective original languages was a prerequisite for these research contributions. This overview, to begin with, neither claims to be exhaustive nor to include all research contributions at Heidelberg University in the various disciplines besides East Asian History which relate to East Asia in one way or other. Complying with the *Yearbook of Historical Research in Germany's* editors' request, special emphasis will be placed on institutionalized research and not so much on individual research, and, where the latter is named, then only for the time period the respective scholar spent at Heidelberg University. Given the fact, that the individual scholars' research background is Chinese Studies and/or Japanese Studies, their research profile is usually not limited to history in the stricter sense. It should therefore be noted that only the publications relevant to historical research are presented here, which does not at all represent the complete work of either scholar. We beg the reader's pardon for all insufficiency and limits this entails for an adequate representation.

(Gotelind Müller)

Historical research into China and East Asia at the Institute of Chinese Studies in Heidelberg

The expansion of the Heidelberg Institute of Chinese Studies started in the second half of the 1980's. The number of professorships grew from one to three in the 1990's. In addition to the existing chair of Classical Chinese Studies, one chair for Modern Chinese Studies and one for an initially more social-historical research on China were

created. The focus on historical research during the 1990's was most notably placed on the development of a public sphere (directed by R. G. Wagner – presently senior professor at Heidelberg University), on modern Chinese historiography (directed by S. Weigelin-Schwiedrzik – presently at Vienna University) and on the economic, social and religious history of China (H. U. Vogel – presently at Tübingen University, B. ter Haar – presently at Leiden University).

The study of a modern public sphere in China in the framework of different research projects about some early influential newspapers and magazines led to several publications, among these also doctoral and habilitation theses: N. Vittinghoff: *Die Anfänge des Journalismus in China (1860–1911)* (The Beginnings of Journalism in China (1860-1911)), Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz 2002 (opera sinologica 9); A. Janku: *Nur leere Reden. Politischer Diskurs und die Shanghaier Presse im China des späten 19. Jahrhunderts* (Only Empty Talk: Political Discourse and the Shanghai Press in the Late Nineteenth Century China), Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz 2003; B. Mittler: *A Newspaper for China? Power, Identity and Change in Shanghai's News Media, 1872–1911*, Cambridge/Mass.: Harvard U. P. 2004. The preliminary final point of this research area is marked by the volume *Joining the Global Public: Word, Image, and City in Early Chinese Newspapers, 1879–1910* (ed. by R. G. Wagner), New York: SUNY Press, 2007. This project was accompanied by a comprehensive collection of early Chinese newspapers and magazines, which made the library of the Heidelberg Institute of Chinese Studies one of Europe's leading libraries in the field.

The research coordinated by S. Weigelin-Schwiedrzik concentrated on two major topics. First, studies in Chinese historiography of the 20th century aimed at an internationalization of the discussion on Chinese history in order to enable a methodological dialogue between historiography inside and outside of China and to further a process of controlled reflection on the mutual perceptions of history. Second, beginning in the mid-1990ies, studies were carried out on the situation in Chinese villages, starting from problems of rural enterprises under the aspect of rural development. An attempt was made to explain the relationship between the State and the rural society and the thesis of the distance between the State and the rural society was established and tested for its explanatory power in several doctoral dissertations and

individual studies. Among these were most notably studies on the privatization of rural enterprises, on the rural health care system, about rural-urban migration, as well as on the effects of migration on the cities. The following relevant publications in the fields of historiography and rural development are to be mentioned: S. Weigelin-Schwiedrzik with D. Rothermund and W. Reinhard: *Periplus 1995. Jahrbuch für außereuropäische Geschichte* (Periplus 1995: Yearbook for non-European History): Münster und Hamburg, 1995, and (together with A. Schneider – presently at the University of Göttingen) “Chinese Historiography in Comparative Perspective“ – a theme issue of the journal *History and Theory* Vol. 35, No. 4, 1996, following the homonymous conference in Heidelberg on historiography. In connection to the research focus on rural development, the volume *Ländliche Unternehmen in der VR China* (Rural Enterprises in the PR China). Duncker und Humblot: Berlin, 1999 was published, edited by S. Weigelin-Schwiedrzik and D. Hauff.

In the research area of the third Chinese Studies professorship at Heidelberg University at the time, Social History of Religion, an important contribution to research was made during the 1990's by B. ter Haar with his monograph *The Ritual and Mythology of the Chinese Triads: Creating an Identity*, Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1998.

After the turn of the century, a new constellation of professorships at the Heidelberg Institute of Chinese Studies came into being. After a long period of vacancy, the two chairs next to the chair of Classical Sinology were staffed again at the end of 2004. The focus of one chair was turned towards modern culture and music of China (B. Mittler), and the other one towards modern intellectual and cultural history of China with a special attention to Sino-Japanese cultural exchange (G. Müller-Saini). An orientation towards East Asia in general in teaching and research was encouraged in the course of the merging of the institutes of Chinese Studies, Japanese Studies and East Asian Art History into the Centre for East Asian Studies, and the establishment of an innovative and interdisciplinary BA program “East Asian Studies”, which deliberately aimed at embedding the traditional disciplines into a larger regional context. In several research projects, some of which transcended the realms of East Asia, a tighter interconnectedness with historians of other regions of the world working at Heidelberg University was created. In the eyes of the author, this is a very inspiring experience,

especially at the times before (and later during) institutionalized interdisciplinary cooperation as it is now practiced in the Cluster “Asia and Europe in a global context” (see below).

As examples of this cooperation, the following interdisciplinary conferences should be named: on the Russo-Japanese War (initiated by the Heidelberg Institute of Japanese Studies together with colleagues carrying out historical research in various contexts in Heidelberg), on racism in the modern world (organized by specialists in American history at Heidelberg; international, with some colleagues from Heidelberg), on the reassessment of the Russian Revolution of 1905 (organized by specialists in Eastern European History at Heidelberg; international, with some colleagues from Heidelberg) and on “Globalization, Identity, and Regional Integration in East Asia, 1861-2011” (organized by the Heidelberg Institute of Japanese Studies; international, with some colleagues from Heidelberg). The results were published in M. Sprotte / W. Seifert / H.-D. Löwe (ed.): *Der Russisch-Japanische Krieg 1904/05. Anbruch einer neuen Zeit?* (The Russo-Japanese War 1904/05. Beginning of a New Era?). Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz 2007 (on Japan: M. Sprotte, W. Seifert; on China: G. Müller); as well as M. Berg and S. Wendt (ed.): *Racism in the Modern World – Historical Perspectives on Cultural Transfer and Adaptation*. New York: Berghahn 2011 (on Japan: U. M. Zachmann; on China: G. Müller). (The volume on the Russian Revolution of 1905 is currently being printed by Slavica Publishers, Bloomington, and includes the following articles on East Asia: F. Grüner on Harbin, on China G. Müller, on Japan M. Sprotte – presently at the University of Halle.) Also currently being printed, in this case by Iudicum Verlag, Munich, is the volume on the regional integration in East Asia: Contributions of scholars from Heidelberg therein on Japan: U. M. Zachmann – presently University of Edinburgh, on China: G. Müller). A further intra-Heidelberg cooperation led by ancient historians produced the interdisciplinary volume by A. Chaniotis / A. Kropp / Chr. Steinhoff (eds.): *Überzeugungsstrategien. Heidelberger Jahrbücher* (Strategies of Persuasion. Heidelberg Yearbooks 2008 (on China: B. Mittler, G. Müller).

In the above-mentioned cooperations, the following historical research contributions on China were presented: “Chinesische Perspektiven auf den Russisch-Japanischen

Krieg” (Chinese Perspectives on the Russo-Japanese War), which focuses on the reactions to the war in China as the nation actually directly “affected” by the war but often ignored in scholarship which tends to preoccupy itself with the combatants only. Here, the Chinese reactions are investigated with regard to the different social groups, screening diverse publication organs; “Glocalizing ‘Race’ in China: Concepts and Contingencies at the Turn of the Twentieth Century” is a study in conceptual and cultural history; “China and the Russian Revolution of 1905” is concerned with the contemporary perception of the revolution of 1905 in China; “Die Anfänge des Terrorismus in China: eine empirische Studie” (The beginnings of terrorism in China: an empirical study), concentrates on the first decade of the 20th century and the relation between terrorism and nationalism (and not: anarchism); “Wie sage ich’s meinem Kinde? Strategien zur Vermittlung eines normativen Geschichtsbildes in zeitgenössischen chinesischen Schulbüchern” (How to tell my child? Strategies used in current Chinese school textbooks to transmit the normative view on history) is a study on the textual and visual means employed in Chinese schoolbooks with the aim to convince the students of the State's historical views.

A recent research focus in East Asian history has been in the fields of history views, education and media, which is being supervised by the author at the Heidelberg Institute of Chinese Studies. Exemplarily, it shall be referred to the projects on history schoolbooks in East Asia (the conference proceedings have been published in: *Designing History in East Asian Textbooks. Identity Politics and Transnational Aspirations*, ed. by G. Müller, London and New York: Routledge 2011), in connection to which a very extensive collection of Chinese and Japanese schoolbooks of the 20th century has been gathered, including schoolbooks from Manchuria in Chinese and Japanese dating until the mid-20th century, which also serve another related project (both in the context of the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe” under the leadership of G. Müller-Saini/Chinese Studies and W. Seifert/Japanese Studies). Moreover, in the website project “Representations of History in Chinese Film and Television” undertaken in cooperation with students and integrated into courses, an attempt was made to offer access to some selected Chinese media representations of history to a general public. A monograph that was published in this connection in 2007 was *Representing History in Chinese Media: The TV Drama “Zou Xiang Gonghe” (Towards the Republic)*, Berlin:

LIT. Furthermore, several shorter works were published in this context about “popular/public history” and about the creation of history views in the People's Republic of China. Another monograph on selected historical documentary series is going to be published by Routledge in 2013. Further research fields in history, to which the author has contributed publications during her recent years in Heidelberg, some of which were based on extensive research work before her time in Heidelberg, are, among others, anarchism in East Asia, Chinese terrorism, language politics, religious and gender history of the early 20th century, as well as Chinese-Japanese cultural relations. Furthermore, teaching materials for German grammar school teachers on the history of the entire region of East Asia are being worked at, together with colleagues from Korean and Japanese studies at the universities of Bochum and Bonn (to appear with Wochenschau publisher in 2013).

The professors of the other two chairs of Chinese Studies have also repeatedly worked on relevant historical projects in their own research. Apart from the studies on the public sphere mentioned at the beginning, the previous professor of Classical Chinese Studies (his successor has been appointed recently), R. G. Wagner, has presented contributions on elite recruitment, urban history and most notably numerous case studies on intellectual history. After her above-mentioned habilitation thesis submitted in Heidelberg on early Chinese newspapers, the professor of Modern Chinese Studies, B. Mittler, devoted herself extensively to the study of the Chinese Cultural Revolution, its entanglement in global processes and how it was perceived by the participants. The results will soon be published in a monograph by Harvard U.P. (Concerning further relevant research activities of Chinese studies specialists at Heidelberg in the framework of the Cluster “Europe and Asia”, see below.) Besides, historical research is practiced at the Heidelberg Institute of Chinese Studies also by Th. Kampen, whose main focus is on biographical history. He presented several publications on the leading figures of the Chinese Communist Party, the Railway Protection Movement in Sichuan in 1911, personal ties between China and Europe in the 20th century, and the history of Chinese Studies. Especially his book on the leaders of the CCP has been widely recognized.

Furthermore, Chinese studies specialists at Heidelberg are integrated into numerous

trans-regional research networks on historical issues. Examples of this are: a project about encyclopedias (originally initiated by M. Dolezelova-Velingerova/Toronto, then connected to Heidelberg in cooperation with R. G. Wagner, and now a project of the Cluster, see section 3 below); an interdisciplinary project located in Tübingen, supervised by H. U. Vogel, co-supported by Heidelberg University, on “Moneys, Markets and Finance in China and East Asia”, which concentrates on the research of the copper coin currency in Qing Dynasty China, Tokugawa Japan and late Choseon Korea. Employing case studies (carried out by the Heidelberg Chinese studies specialists N. Kim and E. Kaske – presently at Pittsburgh, and others), topics like the detailed circumstances of coin production, from mining over transport of the metals until minting, as well as the function and exchange rate of several means of payment, the financial system, and cultural functions of money in local, regional, national and global contexts and their interdependencies were explored. Finally, a project on law history of ancient China should be mentioned, which recently led to a book by U. Lau (presently in Berlin) and M. Lüdke (presently at Erlangen University): *Exemplarische Rechtsfälle vom Beginn der Han-Dynastie: Eine kommentierte Übersetzung des Zouyanshu aus Zhangjiashan/Provinz Hubei* (Exemplary legal cases from the beginning of Han Dynasty: An annotated translation of the Zouyanshu from Zhanjiashan/Hubei Province). Tokyo: Tokyo University of Foreign Studies 2012.

(*Gotelind Müller*)

Historical research into Japan and East Asia at the Heidelberg Institute of Japanese Studies

An institutional infrastructure for historical research projects on Japan and East Asia here had to be created, as it had originally not existed. This happened with establishing a second chair of Japanese studies, namely “Society / History of Japan” in 1992, which complimented the chair of Literature / Culture of Japan (W. Schamoni). The latter one established in 1985 marks the beginning of Japanese Studies at Heidelberg University. By appointing W. Seifert (PhD in Political Science, habilitation in Japanese Studies) to

the new chair, more and more emphasis was placed on historical topics of modern Japan from 1853 on. As both professors predominantly have worked on modernization processes of Japan in literature, political history and “Intellectual History”, a fruitful cooperation came into being. A shared objective was, among others, the disclosure of new source material on these topics. As neither W. Schamoni nor W. Seifert had obtained their PhD or qualifications for professorship in History, they had to vigorously tackle the task of acquiring relevant sources on their own. Additionally, young scholars trained in History were appointed to bridge the lack of competence in this field.

One has to bear in mind that the historical research of Japan is only established at one single university in Germany in the form of one single professorial chair of “Japanese History”, namely in Bochum, where the focus is on social and cultural history. In all other universities, following the respective chair's description, “Japanese History” is only dealt with on the side. It depends on a chair-holder's qualification and research interest whether Japanese and East Asian History is, de facto, researched and taught. Vice versa, there is hardly any chair of History devoted to Japanese History, but rather to East Asia in General. The already worn-out catchphrase of “interdisciplinarity” is often employed only to conceal a shortcoming in the critical acquisition and analysis of historical source material. Instead of acquiring new sources, it is usually preferred to keep interpreting the few existing ones. In this light, W. Schamoni and B.-A. Wuthenow started the publication of the small journal *hon'yaku – Werkstattberichte zum Übersetzen Japanisch-Deutsch* (Workshop reports on Japanese-German translation) in 1999. Although this project also aimed at the clarification of translation problems, the critical analysis of purposefully selected sources and therefore also their content, played an important role. The leading question was: Which sources have to be analyzed in order to provide a differentiated image of Japanese modernization? To give an example: There are several Western studies on the origins of a discriminated social minority called Burakumin in the allegedly so homogeneous Japanese society. But there are hardly any translations of the most important documents in which this minority articulates itself. This gap was finally closed, as a first step, with the annotated translation of the founding documents of Suiheisha, the first nation-wide organization of the Burakumin of 1922 (*Hon'yaku*, 2006, No. 6).

The efforts to establish historical research on Japan as a branch of Japanese Studies in general on one hand, and to establish and intensify the connection to colleagues of Heidelberg working in the Historical Sciences on the other hand, finally showed effect when qualified scholars were appointed as lecturers and researchers. The initiatives of M. H. Sprotte (presently in Halle-Wittenberg / History) in this regard are especially to be mentioned. Together with J. Schmidt (presently in Bochum / Japanese History), the “Bibliography on Japanese History” was set up (<http://www.historische-japanforschung.de/>), in which more than 1000 titles on research on Japan in German since 2003 have been included up to now. Furthermore, a circle of younger historians of Japan in Heidelberg established the “Initiative zur historischen Japanforschung” (Initiative for historical research into Japan) with the support of the two professors. Since its founding during the spring of 2003, the circle organizes meetings twice a year in the respective institutions where research results are presented. The 19th meeting took place in May, 2012. Furthermore, historical researchers of the Heidelberg Institute of Japanese Studies tackled with the contextualization of the Russo-Japanese War 1904/05 in East Asian and global history as a specific topic, applying a concept of M. Sprotte. The results were published in: M. H. Sprotte / W. Seifert / H.-D. Löwe (eds.), *Der Russisch-Japanische Krieg 1904/05. Anbruch einer neuen Zeit?* (The Russo-Japanese War. Beginning of a New Era?) (Wiesbaden 2007: Harrassowitz). The following historians of Heidelberg University have contributed to this volume in Japanese Studies and East European history apart from the editors: M. Berg (American History), E. Binder-Iijima (Eastern European History), G. Dharampal-Frick (South Asian History), Ph. Gassert (Modern History), F. Grüner (Eastern European History), as well as G. Müller-Saini (Chinese Studies / Chinese History).

What are the areas and the research questions among the historical research on Japan in Heidelberg? The areas are: (1) Modern History and Contemporary History, (2) Intellectual History / History of Ideas, (3) Japan's Relationship with East Asia (Modern History and Intellectual History). The research questions of the first area are respectively: Which are the historical premises for a development of democracy in Japan and how did the dynamics of the power relations develop in the institutional framework of the post-war democracy after 1945? This includes the monograph in political science and history by W. Seifert, *Gewerkschaften in der japanischen Politik*

von 1970 bis 1990. *Der dritte Partner?* (Labor unions in Japanese Politics from 1970 to 1990. The third partner?) Opladen / Wiesbaden 1997: Westdeutscher Verlag, and also a dissertation that was published a long time before: *Nationalismus im Nachkriegs-Japan. Ein Beitrag zur Ideologie der völkischen Nationalisten* (Nationalism in Post-War-Japan. A contribution to the understanding of the ideology of volkish and ethno-cultural Nationalism) (Hamburg 1977: Institut für Asienkunde, Reihe Mitteilungen, Vol. 91).

The research question of the second area is: Which development in intellectual history led to the emergence of the concept of “nation” in Japan, and how does this concept harmonize with the idea of individual and human rights? Several works on the intellectual historian and political scientist M. Maruyama (1914-1996), who initiated a comparative research of fascism in Japan after 1945, were presented, as well as recently a study of the intellectual historian S. Fujita (1927-2003), such as the annotated translations to which were added an introduction and a glossary: M. Maruyama, *Denken in Japan* (Thought in Japan) (with W. Schamoni) (Frankfurt a. M. 1988: Suhrkamp; over 12.000 copies sold); Id., *Loyalität und Rebellion* (Loyalty and Rebellion), München: Iudicium (ed. and trans. with W. Schamoni, 1996, 2nd Ed. 1997); Id., *Freiheit und Nation in Japan. Ausgewählte Aufsätze, 1936–1949* (Freedom and Nation in Japan. Selected Essays, 1936-1949), Vol. 1 and 2 (ed. and trans. with W. Schamoni and U. M. Zachmann) (München 2007 / 2012: Iudicium); furthermore, among others “Menschenrechte in Japan. Zur Rezeption einer ‘ausländischen Idee’ zwischen 1860 und 1890” (Human rights in Japan. On the reception of a ‘foreign idea’ from 1860 to 1890), in: G. Schubert (Ed.), *Menschenrechte in Ostasien* (Human Rights in East Asia) (Tübingen 1999: Mohr Siebeck), pp. 297–344; “Der Staat des Tennôsystems – Fujita Shôzô's Analyse des Tennôsystems” (The Tennô-system State – Fujita Shôzô's analysis of the Tennô-system), in: Th. Fröhlich, E.-J. Lee (eds.): *Staatsdenken in Ostasien* (Concepts of State /Political Thought in East Asia) (Baden-Baden 2010: Nomos), pp. 209–229. A comprehensive account on the understanding of Modernity in Japan and China is “Japan und seine Moderne nach dem Asiatisch-Pazifischen Krieg: Takeuchi Yoshimis Intervention 1948” (Japan and its Modernity after the Asia-Pacific-War: Takeuchi Yoshimi's Intervention 1948), in: T. Morikawa (ed.): *Japanische Intellektuelle im Spannungsfeld von Okzidentalismus und Orientalismus* (Japanese Intellectuals

between the poles of Occidentalism and Orientalism) (Kassel 2008: Kassel Univ. Press), pp. 75–120.

The third area deals with historical relationship between Japan and its East Asian neighbours – also not as a single project but as a long-term research task. The research question is: What is the relation of Japanese Nationalism to the emerging nation states China and Korea on the one hand, and concepts of regionalism (buzzword ‘Asianism’) on the other hand? The issue of competence and institutionalization also arises for this task. One of the hopes that the author had in mind when the Centre for East Asian Studies was established was that it would be possible to enhance the relevant affiliations and rely on scholars trained in two East Asian languages, e.g. Japanese and Korean. Apart from numerous MA-dissertations, the following articles were presented: “Zur aktuellen Diskussion über den Pazifischen Krieg in Japan” (The current debate about the Pacific War in Japan), in: *Periplus. Jahrbuch für außereuropäische Geschichte* (Periplus. Yearbook for Non-European History), Vol. 5 / 1995: pp. 53–62; “Japan Großmacht, Korea Kolonie – völkerrechtliche Entwicklungen vor und nach dem Vertrag von Portsmouth 1905” (Japan Great Power, Korea Colony – developments in international law before and after the Treaty of Portsmouth in 1905), in: M. H. Sprotte, W. Seifert, H.-D. Löwe (Ed.), *Der Russisch-Japanische Krieg 1904/05. Anbruch einer neuen Zeit?* (The Russo-Japanese War 1904/05 – Beginning of a new era?) Wiesbaden 2007: Harrassowitz, pp. 55–82; “Japans Systemtransformation in den 1930er Jahren und die ‚Asiatisierung‘ Ostasiens” (Japan's system transformation in the 1930's and the ‘Asianization’ of East Asia), in: S. Linhart u. S. Weigelin-Schwiedrzik (eds.), *Ostasien im 20. Jahrhundert. Geschichte und Gesellschaft* (East Asia in the 20th Century. History and Society) (Wien 2007: Promedia), pp. 45–61.

The first international conference on Y. Takeuchi and his ideas on the problem of an “alternative modernity” was organized by the Institute of Japanese Studies in Heidelberg in 2004. In 2005 *Takeuchi Yoshimi, Japan in Asien. Geschichtsdenken und Kulturkritik nach 1945* (Japan in Asia. Historical thinking and cultural criticism after 1945) (ed. and trans. by W. Seifert and Chr. Uhl, with glossary added), München: Iudicium) was published. The prizewinning doctoral dissertation by Chr. Uhl (presently in Ghent), *Wer war Takeuchi Yoshimis Lu Xun? Ein Annäherungsversuch an ein*

Monument der japanischen Sinologie (Who was Takeuchi Yoshimi's Lu Xun? Approaching a Monument of Japanese Sinology), München 2003: Iudicium, preceded this publication and was followed by the also prizewinning doctoral dissertation of M. Zachmann (presently in Edinburgh), *China and Japan in the Late Meiji Period: China Policy and the Japanese Discourse on National Identity, 1895–1904*, London 2009 (hc), 2011 (pb): Routledge /Leiden Series in Modern East Asian Politics and History. Recently completed but not yet published is the doctoral dissertation *Embracing 'Asia'. Japanese Asianism Discourse in a Transnational Setting, 1912–1933* (T. Weber). Currently, the following doctoral dissertations are being written: *History Schoolbooks in Manchuria (1931–1945) – Aspects of Shaping Citizenship under De Facto-rule of Japan* (U. Flick); *Die John Rabe-Tagebücher: „Feindliche Flieger über Nanking“ von 1937/38 und ihre Bedeutung für die historische Forschung, insbesondere im Lichte japanischer Quellen* (The John Rabe Diaries: “Hostile aircrafts over Nanking” from 1937/38 and their meaning for historical research, especially in the light of Japanese sources) (D. Schaaf).

Especially successful was the cooperation with the Institute of Chinese Studies (G. Müller-Saini) at a conference in March 2009 organized in the framework of the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europa in a Global Context”. The conference was titled “Shifting Re-creations of European and Asian ‘Others’ in East Asian Schoolbooks”. Experts from Japan, the PR China, Taiwan, South Korea, Great Britain and Germany gathered at the conference. Most of the contributions were published in the above mentioned volume *Designing History in East Asian Textbooks. Identity politics and transnational aspirations* edited by G. Müller-Saini. A current activity that should be mentioned is the panel on “Nationalstaatsbildung in Japan und Ostasien” (Nation-building in Japan and East Asia) at the 15th Japanese Studies Congress in Zurich in August 2012, at which also scientists of the Chinese and Korean studies are taking part. History schoolbooks of all East Asian countries are the subject of coordinated research. Issues to be focused on are comparisons of different interpretations of historical key events in East Asia, their similarities in facing the challenge of the “arrival of the West” and politics of colonization, as well as the question which aims are pursued when “creating a citizen”.

The area of transnational Japanese history of science and politics should also be mentioned. As early as in 1984, T. Ishida presented an important monograph now accessible in German, but in no other Western language: Takeshi Ishida, *Die Entdeckung der Gesellschaft. Zur Entwicklung der Sozialwissenschaften in Japan* (The discovery of society. On the development of the social sciences in Japan) (ed. and trans. W. Seifert), Frankfurt a. M. 2008: Suhrkamp. In addition, the doctoral dissertation *From International Law to a New World Order: The Transcultural Discourse on Immigration, 1873–1948* (K. Terada) is being written in this research field.

Finally, in the view of the author there are two desiderata for historical research into Japan: Firstly, as representatives of the field have command of the relevant source language, including its modern and pre-modern styles, their task is to publish fundamental documents and texts in translation with critical commentary, to analyze their genesis and effects and provide grounded assessments. Otherwise, historians cannot integrate Japan into their research in Comparative or Global History in a grounded way as long as the language barrier blocks their access to the sources. The situation of the accessibility of source material on Japanese History can only be called miserable nowadays. Not even documents known to every schoolchild in Japan, such as the Imperial Rescript on Education of 1890, are available in an annotated translation that mentions the conceptual history of central terminology. It could be argued that the existing translation into English in some cases should suffice to call a source “accessible”. This however raises doubts. Isn't it rather that when translating into Western languages, the terms and forms of expression require special considerations in the target language – such as German? Just think about the debate on Constitutional Law during the Meiji era (1868-1912) and the scientific discipline in which it was placed, namely “Staatswissenschaften” (fields of scholarly endeavour focused on the state). Because of the role of German terminology, academic tradition and culture in Japan of that time, distortions are likely to happen if the reader just relies on the English translation of Japanese terms. Already the word “Staatswissenschaften” itself does evidently not exist in English. Another important task is making the results of Japanese historical scholarship accessible, this even more so, as the central controversial themes on Japanese history are being discussed in Japanese.

Secondly: The attempt to institutionalize historical research on Japan in the Centre for East Asian Studies in a separate “Professorship for the History of Japan and East Asia” has regrettably failed. However, the place or institution where such a professorship is based – be it the Institute of Japanese Studies or be it the Institute of History – does not seem as important to me as the way it is researched and taught, namely in a competent and qualified way in terms of methodology and language. This is the only way that the deficient accessibility of sources and texts can be overcome, in order to provide colleagues in History with material, as well as vice versa learning from the research questions of the historians for our own research on Japan. Historians of Japan themselves have plenty of research results from which they could extract new research questions for the Western-centered science of history. Both sides would profit from such an interdisciplinary exchange.

(Wolfgang Seifert)

Historical research into East Asia at the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context”

Studies in East Asian History occupy a prominent place in Heidelberg’s Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context.” The Cluster – a joint initiative of the Centre for East Asian Studies (ZO), the South Asia Institute (SAI), the Centre for European History and Culture (ZEGK), and the Centre for the Study of Antiquity (ZAW) – was established in 2007 as part of the Excellence Initiative of the Federal German government and the Federal states. In 2012, its funding was renewed for a second five-year term. Scholars at the Cluster study the dynamics of cultural exchanges from antiquity to the present, often in projects transgressing boundaries of disciplines and regions. In their work they pay equal attention to documenting and analysing intra-Asian entanglements and transcultural interactions between Asia and Europe. Rather than merely postulating an interdisciplinary approach, area studies specialists cooperate on a day-to-day basis with scholars favouring a more narrowly defined methodological focus to do justice to the complexity of the phenomena resulting from the mobility of people, practices, objects, and ideas that has intensified over the past centuries but

should in no way be seen as exclusively modern. Their aim is, on one hand, to contribute to overcoming the “inequality of ignorance” (D. Chakrabarty) that values insights from and about Euro-America as indispensable while dismissing detailed knowledge about the past and present of other world regions as non-essential for theory formation in the social and human sciences. On the other hand, they expand the critique of an understanding of cultures as homogenous and self-contained units that has long been undermined in theory but continues to shape views of the other in the form of tacit assumptions underlying the humanities disciplines that emerged in nineteenth-century Europe and have today proliferated around the globe.

Projects related to the history of East Asia are conducted in all four of the Cluster’s Research Areas (A: “Governance and Administration”; B: “Public Spheres”; C: “Knowledge Systems” [formerly: “Health and Environment”]; D: “Historicity and Heritage”) and by researchers at all levels of qualification (tenured and non-tenured faculty, PhD candidates). Since retiring from his position as Professor of Chinese Studies in 2007, R. Wagner has served as a senior professor and one of three Acting Directors of the Cluster. He is concurrently the editor of the Cluster’s online journal *Transcultural Studies* (<http://archiv.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/ojs/index.php/transcultural/>) that has published several contributions to transcultural aspects of East Asian history (e.g., D. Howland, “Japanese Neutrality in the Nineteenth Century: International Law and Transcultural Process,” *Transcultural Studies* no. 1 [2010]). Two of the five new chairs founded at the Cluster in 2009 are predominantly devoted to studies of East Asian history: the professorship in Cultural Economic History (H. Fuess) with a focus on Japan; and the professorship in Intellectual History (J. Kurtz) with a focus on China. A Junior Research Group directed by F. Grüner works on the relations of ethnic and national communities in the urban space of the city of Harbin in northeastern China (F. Grüner and I. Prodöhl [eds.], *Ethnic Ghettos and Transcultural Processes in a Globalised City – New Research on Harbin*, Special Issue of: *Itinerario: International Journal on the History of European Expansion and Global Interaction* 35, 3 [2011]). A second such group, headed by S. Richter, examines the mutual influences of European and Chinese ideas of governance and administration since the early modern period (S. Richter, “*Pater patriae sinensis*: The Discovery of Patriarchal Rule in China and Its Significance for German Theories of State in the Eighteenth Century,” in: *Structures on*

the Move. Technologies of Governance in Transcultural Encounters, edited by A. Flüchter and S. Richter, Heidelberg: Springer 2011). Junior faculty and PhD candidates participate in almost all of the research projects concerned with the history of East Asia. One example is the project *Historicising Violence* that has examined how East Asian and European societies attempted to cope with the experience of extreme violence in the context of the Mongolian invasion (*Historicizing the "Beyond": The Mongolian Invasion as a New Dimension of Violence?*, edited by F. Krämer, K. Schmidt and J. Singer, Heidelberg: Springer 2011). Since its inception in 2008, the Graduate Program in Transcultural Studies has also supported several relevant PhD dissertations (e.g., M. Seeger, *Zähmung der Flüsse: Staudämme und das Streben nach produktiven Landschaften in China im 20. und beginnenden 21. Jahrhundert* [Taming the Rivers: Dams and the Struggle for Productive Landscapes in China during the 20th and at the Beginning of the 21st Century], Heidelberg 2012; R. Tontini, *Muslim Sanzijing: Shifts and Continuities in the Definition of Islam in China*, Heidelberg 2012).

Studies in East Asian history conducted at the Cluster build on existing strengths at Heidelberg but strive to open new avenues of inquiry. Four areas of interest can be discerned: the history of political thought; the history of the book and other media; economic history; and intellectual history. In the area of political thought, in addition to research mentioned above in the sections on Chinese and Japanese Studies, particular emphasis is placed on studies in the history of concepts. This focus mirrors growing interest in East Asia itself in the formation and development of the political, social and philosophical lexicon that has come to shape contemporary discourses. Efforts are underway to form a thematic network including partners in China/Taiwan (at Fudan University and Academia Sinica), Japan (Kansai University) and Korea (Hallym Academy). Published work includes the following articles and book chapters: R. Wagner, "China 'Asleep' and 'Awakening': A Study in Conceptualizing Asymmetry and Coping with It, *Transcultural Studies* no. 1 (2011), pp. 4–135; idem, "Ritual, Architecture, Politics and Publicity during the Republic: Enshrining Sun Yat-sen," in: *Chinese Architecture and the Beaux-Arts*, edited by J. Cody, N. Steinhardt and T. Atkin, Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press 2011, pp. 223–278; J. Kurtz, "Domesticating a Philosophical Fiction: Chinese Translations of Immanuel Kant's 'Things in Themselves'," in: *Concept and Communication* 7 (2011), pp. 165–202; and idem,

“Translating the Vocation of Man: Liang Qichao (1873–1929), J. G. Fichte, and the Body Politic in Early Republican China,” in: *Why Concepts Matter: Translating Political and Social Thought*, edited by M. Burke and M. Richter, Leiden: E. J. Brill 2012, pp. 153–176. Another project in this field, directed by T. Maissen, G. Dharampal-Frick and B. Mittler, is entitled “Nationising the Dynasty” and investigates the practices and symbols used by dynastic rulers in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Asia and Europe in attempts to appropriate the new notion of the “nation-state” to bolster the legitimacy of their rule. All these studies and a number of further projects set to begin in the second funding period conceive of conceptual formations in East Asia as local refractions of global processes of concept creation and adaptation.

The histories of media and the book are traditional strengths of East Asian Studies at Heidelberg. Several Cluster projects explore exchanges of encyclopaedic knowledge between Asia and Europe. Building on work begun at the Institute of Chinese Studies, R. Wagner has continued his studies on the role of encyclopaedias on late imperial China with the edited volume *Chinese Encyclopaedias of New Global Knowledge (1870–1930): Changing Ways of Thought* (co-edited with M. Doleželová-Velingerová, Heidelberg: Springer 2013). The project *Migrations of Encyclopaedic Knowledge and Power*, initiated by M. Herren-Oesch and B. Mittler, traces the genesis and transformation of encyclopaedic writing in Western Europe, Russia, South and East Asia since the nineteenth century and documents the multifaceted entanglements that have shaped local forms of this genre in different languages and nations (*Hidden Grammars of Transculturality: Shifting Powers of Encyclopaedic Writing*, edited by M. Herren-Oesch and Barbara Mittler, in press). The global dimension of modern Chinese mass media is a further area of interest. C. Yeh reconstructs the formation of a national cult of stardom in her analyses of “entertainment newspapers” that flourished in early twentieth-century Shanghai and Beijing, and B. Mittler follows the rise of Chinese women’s magazines in her project *A New Approach to the Popular Press in China: Gender and Cultural Production, 1904–1937*. Further studies in this area explore French-Jesuit publishing activities in Shanghai (J. Kurtz, “Messenger of the Sacred Heart: Li Wenyu [1840–1911] and the Jesuit Periodical Press in Late Qing Shanghai,” in: *From Woodblocks to the Internet: Chinese Publishing and Print Culture in Transition, circa 1800 to 2008*, edited by C. Brokaw and C. Reed, Leiden: E. J. Brill

2010, pp. 81–110) and the role of paratexts in the introduction of European technology and science in China (J. Kurtz, “Framing European Technology in Seventeenth-Century China: Rhetorical Strategies in Jesuit Paratexts,” in: *Cultures of Knowledge: Technology in Chinese History*, edited by D. Schäfer, Leiden: E. J. Brill 2011, pp. 209–232). An edited volume on *Paratexts in Late Imperial Chinese Book Culture* that has emerged from an international conference held at the Cluster in 2010 is in preparation.

Economic history is a new focus of East Asian Studies at Heidelberg, represented above all by H. Fuess. In his studies, H. Fuess follows the formation of modern consumer culture in East Asia through the example of the transnational history of Japan’s beer industry (*Capitalism and Consumer Culture: A Transnational History of Beer in Japan*, in preparation). Further studies are devoted to East Asia’s maritime history and its interpretation (D. Mervart, “A Closed Country in the Open Seas: Engelbert Kaempfer’s Japanese Solution for European Modernity’s Predicament,” in: *History of European Ideas* 35, 3 [2009], pp. 321–329). M. Dusing (Newcastle/Heidelberg) has published a monograph on the history of the small Japanese port city of Kaminoseki that traces the changing sense of identity of the citizens of this forgotten outpost at the fringe of the Pacific world throughout the twentieth century (*Hard Times in the Hometown: A History of Community Survival in Modern Japan*, Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press 2012). The project *The Asian Sea* brings a similar microhistorical approach to bear on the study of the entangled narratives in which shared experiences of maritime and littoral interactions are remembered in East Asia. The international conference *The Asia-Pacific Maritime World: Connected Histories in the Age of Empire*, selected papers from which are currently prepared for publication, examined the extent to which analogies to F. Braudel’s notion of the “Mediterranean world” may help or hinder our understanding of East Asian interactions.

East Asian intellectual history is the last field of research strengthened through the Cluster. Studies in this area cover a broad thematic spectrum but share an interest in issues of historical epistemology. They explore the effects of transcultural encounters on the conditions of possibility of knowledge and certainty in changing historical and social settings. One example is the Japanese-mediated appropriation and transformation of European logic in China (J. Kurtz, *The Discovery of Chinese Logic*, Leiden: E. J.

Brill 2011) that led not only to a reinterpretation of forgotten texts from Chinese antiquity but also helped to introduce new standards of validity in social and political discourse. Reconstructing the implicit criteria embodied in discursive practices that were replaced by these aggressively promoted new standards, is the aim of the project *Making Powerful Arguments* that probes the rhetoric of veracity and certainty in late imperial Chinese legal, medical, mathematical, astronomical and exegetical literature. Other projects in the history of knowledge broadly conceived explore the interconnectedness of medical and religious practices in medieval China and Japan (A. Andreeva and D. Steavu-Balint [eds.], *Embryological Discourse and Reproductive Imagery in Chinese and Japanese Religions*, in preparation) and analyse transcultural aspects of East Asian cartography (e.g., M. Hofmann, “Karten als Textinterpretationen: Beispiele aus Xu Wenjings *Yugong huijian*” [Maps Interpreting Texts: Examples from Xu Wenjing’s *Yugong huijian*], in: *KartenWissen: Territoriale Räume zwischen Bild und Diagramm* [Mapping Knowledge: Territorial Spaces between Image and Diagram], edited by S. Günzel and Lars Nowak, Bielefeld: Transcript 2012, pp. 119–136).

The Cluster’s digital humanities unit, the “Heidelberg Research Architecture” (HRA), has enabled many projects outlined above to include computational methods in their analyses and compile digital data that is made available to the scholarly community. The following resources are among the most widely used databases of historical interest maintained at the Cluster: *Heidelberg Encyclopedia Database* (HEIDENC) (http://www.zo.uni-heidelberg.de/sinologie/digital_resources/heidenc/); *Thesaurus Linguae Sericae* (<http://tls.uni-hd.de/>); *Wissenschaftssprache Chinesisch* [Modern Chinese Scientific Terminologies] (<http://wsc.uni-hd.de/>); *Chinese Women’s Magazines in the Late Qing and Early Republican Periods* (<http://womag.uni-hd.de/index.php>) and *Chinese Entertainment Newspapers* (<http://www.sino.uni-heidelberg.de/xiaobao/>). One goal of the second funding period is the development of an open database structure that integrates all these resources and offers open access via a single search interface.

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