

Call for Papers:

**Opening Conference 'Modern India in German Archives'**

Date: January 30-31, 2015.

Venue: Humboldt-University Berlin, Department of South Asia Studies, Institute of Asian and African Studies, Invalidenstr. 118.

Deadline: November 15, 2014; extended to December 15, 2014

Organizers: Centre for Modern Indian Studies, Göttingen; Institute of Asian and African Studies, Berlin; Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin.

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Since the early modern period, a variety of short- and long-term exchange relations have developed between the German-speaking parts of Europe and the Indian subcontinent. In the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, individual travelers and missionaries arrived in India, and since the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries institutional and economic connections between the Germanophone Europe and the Indian subcontinent have acquired an increasing importance. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, many Indian nationalists were increasingly attracted to Germany. Simultaneously, the reception of Indian religions and philosophy was gaining ever more influence in academic and public discourses in Germany. Furthermore, since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, economic relations between India and the German-speaking parts of Europe have intensified. These extensive historical entanglements do not only testify to a variety of processes of mutual influence but have also entailed the production of a multiplicity of historical sources, which are today stored in the archives of state institutions, universities, business organizations, various foundations and private estates.

The abundance, diversity and scientific potential of these holdings in German archives have been appreciated insufficiently so far. To the international community of historians of India, these resources can open up new research perspectives that have remained obscured by an excessive fixation on British colonial archives. The largely unexplored source materials not only call for a reconstruction of the history of German-Indian entanglements since the 18<sup>th</sup> century, they also encourage the development of innovative research questions in comparative and global history, which might be of interest and inspiration for issues of transnational historiography at large.

Recording and analyzing these India-related archival sources is at the heart of a new long-term research project, funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), entitled "Modern India in German Archives" (*Das Moderne Indien in Deutschen Archiven*, MIDA). MIDA has divided its tasks among three academic institutions: the Centre for Modern Indian Studies (CeMIS) at the University of Göttingen, the Institute of Asian and Africa Studies (IAAW) at the Humboldt University in Berlin and the Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO), also located in Berlin.

All three institutions invite participants for the inaugural conference of the project, which will be held in Berlin on 30th-31st January. The aim of the workshop is to provoke comprehensive discussions about the multiple facets of German-Indian history based on hitherto less known sources in German archives.

Through an interdisciplinary approach, we wish to illuminate specific aspects of this history and also the methodological and practical challenges of research, which arise when working with India-related sources in German archives. Invited are not only scientists whose research engages with the abovementioned archival sources, but also representatives of the archives, which house India-related archival holdings.

Proposals for contributions, including an abstract and letter of motivation, are invited and need to be submitted by 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2014. The abstracts can be submitted in German or in English and should not exceed one page. Each presentation will be allotted a speaking time of 20 minutes with a subsequent discussion.

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For further information on MIDA see: <https://iaaw.hu-berlin.de/suedasien/forschung/projekte/das-moderne-indien-in-deutschen-archiven-1706-1989-mida>