

Minutes of the MATS-Fachrat's meeting (15 May 2018/summer semester 2018)

9-11.30am/KJC room 221

MATS-Fachrat's members present: Brigitte Berger-Goeken, Iris Böttcher, Prof. Christiane Brosius, Dr. Christine Bublatzky, Marian Gallenkamp, Dr. Martin Hofman, Ekaterina Kalugina, Prof. Joachim Kurtz, Dr. Takuma Melber (responsible for the minutes)

TOPICS

1. Minutes of the last Fachrat's meeting
 2. development of the MATS-programme
 3. general evaluation of the MATS-study programme (Studiengangsbefragung) and the individual evaluation of seminars in the last semester
 4. budget, curriculum, teaching assignments and applications
 5. (replacements in diverse) Committees of the MATS-study programme
 6. Miscellaneous
-

TOPIC 1

minutes of the last MATS-Fachrat's meeting (8 November 2017) duly noted

TOPIC 2

Melber reports briefly on the development of the MATS-programme: In the last winter semester 124 students (MATS as major subject) were enrolled in the MATS; 100 persons applied for the MATS in the last year and 42 joined the MATS-programme. Melber reminds: The deadline for MATS-applications (international applicants) is as every year on June 15th!

TOPIC 3

Discussion about the general evaluation of the MATS-study programme (Studiengangsbefragung (SGB)) and the individual course evaluation in the last semester

In the SGB students emphasized their desire to broaden the MATS-programme's focus in regional terms including the Mediterranean, Middle East, Central Asia and even Latin America. More seminars on Europe are needed. The Fachrat agrees on the last point and will try to include more topics in the syllabus which are in regional terms close to the main regional foci of the MATS-programme.

The MATS- website could be better meaning be more often updated. Gallenkamp and Melber explain that the MATS-office is on the one hand updating the MATS-office regularly and inform on the other hand about a coming relaunch of all HCTS-websites. For this reason updates are limited to information most needed.

Students wish to include more content towards current events in the individual courses. It is common consent among the Fachrat's members: course contents should be much more balanced in these terms.

Gallenkamp and Melber emphasize the fact that there is some kind of disbalance on the student side as well: some of the MATS-students are able to do research independently, some are needing guidance as much as possible.

Discussion about the Focus Advisors' opinion: Melber reports briefly about a talk with Franziska Koch, who has the impression that the MATS-students are on a good way. She gave him the impression to be quite happy about the new cohort of first semester MATS-students. Bublatzky emphasizes that she can't share this opinion and only a few MATS-students would show up in her office.

Melber and Gallenkamp report about the still existing problem of the supervision of students' MA-thesis and consultation. Gallenkamp emphasizes that the review of MA-thesis takes too much time in some cases and a disbalance among the professors exists what the supervision of MA-thesis supervision concerns. Some professors refuse supervision completely or refuse to function as second supervisor. Kurtz and Brosius underline that sometimes students also come up with wrong topics what makes it actually difficult to give them proper supervision. However, students have a right to get supervision and graduation. Hofmann and Bublatzky agree what this general problem concerns and report about the experiences of the focus advisors. Brosius reminds the MATS-Fachrat's member that the Clusterprofessors will hold a separate meeting to discuss the supervision problem.

Students have the impression that the workload in the MATS-study programme is too high; however, pointing at the SGB-result the Fachrat members agree that the students' workload is actually NOT too high. Main problem is the individual organization and scheduling on the students' side. Some students are also facing linguistic problems (English).

Brosius draws attention on the issue and danger of plagiarism and refers to page 19 of the SGB: according to one student opinion student assistants might be able to plagiarize. Brosius emphasizes that the employment of students as student assistants must be understood as an offer/possibility in terms of a future academic career for students. Kurtz emphasizes that the opinion stated on page 19 of the SGB is a personal view, the members of the MATS-Fachrat agree with this.

However, on the student side a desire for more transparency exists concerning job offers in house.

Böttcher and Kalugina as student representatives ask for a bibliography on transcultural studies. Response: A lot of information about transcultural publications of HCTS-members are online. But Gallenkamp and Melber are willing to highlight this point on the MATS-website.

Discussion about the individual evaluation: all Fachrat members agree with Kai Töpfer's (dean's office of the Philosophy Faculty) statement that the MATS-courses achieved a very good result in total. Only some courses should be redesigned especially those mainly presentation driven.

TOPIC 4

Because of the structural and personal changes to come in the upcoming semesters all regular MATS-seminars (seminars with focus introductory character excluded) will count towards all modules meaning the modules Focus 1&2, Mobility and Research 1&2 to offer MATS-students highest flexibility in the MATS study programmes.

Seminars with focus introductory seminar will count for the intro-module and skills module only. These seminars will be open for MATS-first semesters only!

Joachim Kurtz and Monica Juneja will hold the introductory lecture. They will discuss how to cover SEG. One option might be Kerstin von Lingen, who will presumably substitute Harald Fuess in the upcoming semester.

Decisions on diverse applications:

- Michael Falser, who is expected to substitute Monica Juneja in the upcoming winter semester, shall be to give his courses on a weekly basis (one abstention from voting)
- Jennifer Pochodzalla substitutes Franziska Koch (on maternal leave) (unanimously)
- Teaching assignment for Samantha Schramm (1500 EURO). But she should offer her course at least on a bi-weekly basis (unanimously)
- Teaching assignment for Elena Bernardini (1500EURO, unanimously)
- Teaching assignment for Sophie Roche (2500 EURO; she should revise the title of her course (unanimously)
- Teaching assignment for Eliane Etmüller (1500/1800 EURO, confirmed under the condition that she is still available in the upcoming semester)(unanimously)
- Teaching assignment for Sochi Naraoka (2500 EURO); he should change the topic of his course (not on WWI and Japan/Asia) (unanimously)
- Applications of the MATS-Fachschaft:
 - “student bank” application refused (unanimously)
 - Approval for a block seminar on the Middle East(100%, funded by the MATS-Fachschaft)
 - Approval for an Academic Writing Course (funded by student money, 2000 EURO)

TOPIC 5 - Decisions about replacements/establishment of MATS-committees

- Admission Board: Brosius, Radich, Melber
- Examination Board: Juneja, Fuess, Hofmann
- Exchange Study: Bublatzky, Fuess, Yamamoto and one person who gives a KBR-introductory seminar

TOPIC 6 - Miscellaneous

Marian Gallenkamp informs the Fachrat that the MATS-examination office will be closed by the end of this year. It is expected that some of his duties can be (at least) partially be outsourced to the GPA; the majority of the MATS-examination office duties have to be covered by persons of the MATS-programme. It is expected that the directorate and Oliver Lamers will inform about all these changes in the near future.

minute-taker: Takuma Melber