

Meeting of the MATS-Fachrat on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (2.00 – 3.52 pm); conducted virtually via heiConf

**Participants: Prof. Christiane Brosius; Hikari Bun; Dr. Oliver Lamers (left at 3.35pm); Dr. Takuma Melber; Martin Morales Brücher; Prof. Michael Radich (left at 3.20pm)**

## **AGENDA**

TOP 1: Minutes of the last MATS Fachrat's meeting (02 December 2020)

TOP 2: conduct of the MATS programme in the current summer semester 2021

TOP 3: MATS syllabus (winter semester 2021/22)

TOP 4: applications for teaching assignments and further funding

TOP 5: Studiengangbefragung (SGB/winter semester 2020/21)

TOP 6: Q+Ampel (re-accreditation procedure of the MATS programme)

TOP 7: events of the MATS programme, i.a. how to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the programme

TOP 8: Varia

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### **TOP 1:**

minutes of the last Fachrat's meeting duly noted

### **TOP 2:**

General discussion about the conduct of MATS-teaching during the pandemic. Radich emphasizes the importance of staying in close contact with students and the importance of the so-called Open Forum offered by Takuma Melber on a bi-weekly or at least monthly basis. According to Radich consider neighboring CATS-institutes the MATS-Open Forum as role model.

Melber explains that the course of Dr. Stock has been cancelled. Too many students dropped this course within the first two weeks of the lecture period. Furthermore, the seminar 'Urban Transformation and Placemaking' with a DAAD-funded excursion to Kathmandu (Nepal) has been moved to the upcoming semester due to the pandemic.

Melber informs that the evaluation of all MATS-courses will be conducted – this time online via a link – in the second half of June. He will provide all MATS-teaching staff members with the respective links in the next couple of days.

Lamers and Melber inform about a new examination rule and regulation of the Philosophical Faculty: members of the Mittelbau can supervise MA-thesis now and should not supervise more than 3 in total (!) per year. Lamers explains that he has informed all respective Mittelbau-persons of the HCTS about this new examination regulation. Melber adds that respective members of the Mittelbau need to apply actively for the 'Prüfungsbefugnis'. Lamers emphasizes further that the supervision of MATS-MA-thesis by persons of the Mittelbau has to be considered as the exceptional case only. The regular case is supervision by the HCTS-professors. Lamers and Brosius add that persons such as Martin Hofmann or Cathrine Bublatzky are already now supervising many BA-thesis per year. Brosius sees necessity to discuss this further with colleagues of the anthropology institute regarding the supervision of thesis there.

### **TOP 3:**

The MATS-syllabus looks good as such. Juneja starts a discussion about the number of introductory seminars necessary in the winter semester. Decision: Two SEG-seminars, two VMC-seminars and one KBR-seminar are required. These intro seminars are open for MATS-first semester students only. All other seminars will count – as in previous semesters – to the last four modules of MATS-study.

Radich informs that in the next semester Dr. Rolf Scheuermann will offer a Tibetan language course. All are happy about continuing with offering Tibetan language courses which contributes to the 'uniqueness' of Heidelberg University's Transcultural Studies Programme.

Melber informs that he is already in contact with Jennifer Bürk regarding the Basic Research Skills Course. Melber is looking for a second person to offer the second skills course. He is further looking for three advanced students as student assistants for the introductory lecture/tutorial courses. This needs to be further discussed with the professors of the Introduction to Transcultural Studies-Lecture.

Due to the re-accreditation of the MATS-programme in the winter semester 21/22 the teaching load of Melber will be reduced to 2 SWS. Andreas Eichleter shall replace one of his seminars (teaching assignment co-funded with 700 € by the Philosophical Faculty).

A general interest in focusing more on 'Academic Writing in English'. Radich emphasizes that some MATS-students are still lacking academic writing skills. Melber and the representatives of the MATS-student body add that the MATS-Fachschaftsrat would like to spend many for a second Academic Writing in English course. One course shall be offered by Sophie Florence, head of the HCTS-publication office. Discussion about a second person able to offer such a writing class. Juneja, Brosius, Radich and Melber recommend Joshua Elwer, Mhairi Montgomery, Clare Harris and Emily Hyatt. Melber will check the options.

#### **TOP 4:**

Applications for teaching assignments (unanimously approved):

- unpaid teaching assignments for Lina Pranaityte and Sophie Roche
- paid teaching assignments for Dr. Rolf Scheuermann (1500 Euro); Andreas Eichleter (1500 EURO partially funded by the Philosophical faculty (700 Euro)); Sophie Florence (1500 Euro, funded with student QuaSiMi) plus one further person who will offer the second Academic Writing in English course (1500 EURO)

Further funding applications (unanimously approved):

- student assistant for the MATS-office (24 hours/monthly in the winter semester 2021/22 and summer semester 2022). Melber adds that Christian Küker will leave the MATS-office as student assistant most likely at the end of the summer semester 2021. He is already searching a successor.
- Juneja's application for an excursion to the Museum of Islamic Art in Berlin (up to 4000 EURO in total)

Melber informs at this point about the account balance, which is more than 60.000€. The MATS-programme saved money the last months – in this case thanks to the ongoing pandemic.

#### **TOP 5:**

A general discussion about the results of the Studiengangsbefragung. All agree that the result of the SGB as such is a very good and positive one. However, there is still room for improvement. It seems to be questionable how and to which extent this time's SGB is representative/falsified due to the special pandemic conditions.

#### **TOP 6:**

Melber informs about the Q+-Ampelverfahren, the reaccreditation of the whole MATS-study programme and draws attention to the information sent in advance to all Fachrat's members. The programme shall be re-accredited until WiSe25/26.

A date for a potential so-called Q+-Ampel-Klausurgespräch together with Dr. Kai Töpfer (SBQE) is already fixed: February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022. As study programme, we aim for avoiding a Klausur.

Melber informs further that the evaluation of external reviewers are supposed to arrive not earlier than mid-June 2021. The MATS-study programme needs to react on the evaluation by mid-November (deadline is November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021).

The MATS-Fachrat makes the decision (unanimously) to build a Q+Ampel-Arbeitsgruppe to work on the respective report. Suggested members for the Arbeitsgruppe: Brosius as speaker of the MATS-programme and the Arbeitsgruppe (if Brosius can't make it to the meetings Juneja shall replace her), Melber as coordinator of the MATS-programme and the person who will write and submit the report (Melber attended a respective information session in March 2022 offered by the heiQuality). A further person from the Mittelbau/study focus advisors is required for the

Arbeitsgruppe. Lamers and Melber suggest Martin Hofmann; Melber will contact him soon. According to Melber it would be good to have two student members in the Arbeitsgruppe, too. All members of the Arbeitsgruppe should have good command of German (ideally native speaker level). Bun and Brücher will discuss this with fellow MATS-students and inform Melber about the two MATS-students to nominate for the Arbeitsgruppe.

**TOP 7:**

Discussion about a MATS-Career Day to be offered on-site. The offer by Christina Biebricher is still pending and should be offered as soon as the University will be returned to on-site events. Biebricher focuses in her event on the self-assessment of students (skills, strengths, career interests etcetera) as well as the topic 'how to find jobs (mainly in Germany and/or academia)'. The organization of the MATS-Career Day shall be discussed in the next Fachrat's meeting.

This year, the MATS is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Discussion: how to celebrate the anniversary: on-site or online? The Fachrat decides Brosius, Lamers and Melber are being in charge of the the MATS 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary-organization.

**TOP 8:**

Brosius informs about a first exchange of ideas with colleagues at Ca'Foscari Venice about organizing a Double Degree-programme. So far there is no consensus about the shape of such kind of a double degree. One buzz word is so far 'Global EurAsia'.

The Fachschaft's representatives ask for getting access to a permanent room for students ('Fachschaftsraum'). Lamers had to leave the meeting earlier, that's why Melber explains that there is at the moment no room capacity in the HCTS due to ongoing construction work. As Lamers explained earlier, is this a matter which needs to be discussed on a broader level in the CATS-Rat.