

Minutes of the MATS Fachrat's meeting (winter semester 2019/20)

(4 November 2019, 4.00 to 5.45pm)

Members of the MATS-Fachrat present:

Dr. Ruixuan Chen, Prof. Dr. Monica Juneja, Dr. Oliver Lamers, Dr. Takuma Melber, Prof. Dr. Michael Radich, Emily Ngai Kai Tsui (until 4.15pm), Dr. Takahiro Yamamoto

TOPIC 1: Student QSM budget request

TOPIC 2: Minutes of the last MATS Fachrat's meeting (09. May 2019)

TOPIC 3: MATS Orientation Days 2019/new first semester MATS students

TOPIC 4: MATS syllabus (summer semester 2020)

TOPIC 5: teaching assignments and further funding applications

TOPIC 6: Information from the GPA

TOPIC 7: MATS-Career Day

TOPIC 8: Study Exchange Abroad

TOPIC 9: Varia

TOPIC 1:

Tsui and the MATS Fachschaftsrat (student body representatives) are applying for a funding of a "new" media research workshop with student QuaSiMi. Tsui presents a short draft of the workshop to the Fachrat and requests to include the workshop in the official MATS syllabus. Melber, Lamers and Radich make clear that the workshop must be related with a MATS course. Otherwise students can't take the course for credits. Moreover, a convincing proposal and more information about the workshop's content and study aims are requested.

Other first ideas regarding the usage of student QuaSiMi are according to Tsui the organization of a more internal transcultural lecture series (organized by students, maybe Sophie Florence) and a Transcultural Studies student conference.

Tsui informs further that Benedikt Wirth is in charge of the MATS Fachschaftsrat finances. Wirth will get in touch with Petra Kourschil (HCTS finance office) soon to pre-discuss the Fachschaft's application for student QuaSiMi to the STURA. The

Fachschaft will also stay in contact with Takuma Melber regarding the student QuaSiMi funding application in general.

Oliver Lamers informs that 14 000 EURO per year are necessary for funding the CATS library. A sum from the HCTS is requested as well and Lamers kindly asks the MATS student representatives to discuss within the MATS student body a potential financial contribution (student QuaSiMi). To his knowledge, the student bodies of other CATS-institutes will financially contribute as well to guarantee a working CATS library. The funding would not only guarantee more and longer opening hours of the library but also a certain amount of CATS-student assistant jobs. Tsui/the MATS Fachschaftsrat will stay in touch with Lamers and Melber regarding this issue.

Tsui has to leave the meeting.

TOPIC 2:

Minutes of the last MATS Fachrat's meeting duly noted.

TOPIC 3:

Melber informs that the MATS Orientation Days have taken place in the last week of the lecture-free period as usual. He is grateful for the support of Martin Hofmann, MATS-office student assistant Christian Küker and Lamers regarding the organization and conduct of the MATS Orientation Days.

The MATS admission board (Brosius, Radich, Melber) evaluated 70 applications from more than 15 countries in total. 46 applicants have been admitted to the MATS programme. 33 students enrolled eventually to the MATS programme in the winter semester 2019/20. All members of the MATS Fachrat present agree that this is a good and manageable number of MATS first semester students.

TOPIC 4:

The MATS syllabus for the summer semester 2020 and the courses offered are good as such. Melber emphasizes the decision made by the Fachrat in the past regarding the allocation of courses to modules: In summer semesters more or less all MATS-seminars are allocated to Focus 1, Focus 2, Mobility and Research 1 and Mobility and Research 2. This decision was made as response to a high demand for flexibility. However, it is a little different in winter semesters when more introductory and skills-related courses are needed.

Lamers and Melber inform that Cathrine Bublitzky is thinking about a semester on leave: Potential replacements are Dr. Carsten Wergin together with Dr. Marlene Harles (visual culture + feminism).

Juneja informs that she will be on sabbatical leave in the summer semester 2020 and winter semester 2020/21. Prof. Melanie Ulz will replace her in the summer semester 2020.

Lamers in his function as successor of former GPTS coordinator Jule Nowoitnick will organize the conduct of the GPTS Colloquium in the summer semester 2020 together

with Fuess and Brosius. Kurtz and Radich are responsible for the GPTS reading class.

Melber draws attention to the student desire for more courses on 'transculturalism', transcultural theories and methodologies. At the moment only Sophie Roche is offering such kind of methodological courses. Radich and Juneja emphasize that the lecture 'Introduction to Transcultural Studies' (mandatory for all MATS students) is covering 'transcultural questions' pretty much. Yamamoto shows interest in offering courses on transcultural methodologies or skills-related courses in future semester.

TOPIC 5:

At the beginning Melber gives the general information that the MATS programme receives each year a sum of around 30 000 EURO (QuaSiMi). This money can be spent for teaching assignments, excursions etcetera.

Paid teaching assignments:

- Prof. Ehrhard: (1500 EURO) – approved unanimously
- Dr. Carsten Wergin (1500 EURO) – approved unanimously.
Radich emphasizes that Wergin needs to give more information about the particular transcultural approach of his course offer. Melber will ask Wergin to rewrite his course description accordingly.
- Dr. Jamila Adeli (1500 EURO + travel costs up to 500 EURO) – approved unanimously

- The course offer submitted by Dr. Sophie Roche and Prof. Dariush Rashim needs further clarification. Radich is asking for a more precise proposal and for clarification if and if so, why money is needed to fund Prof. Rashim (travel/living costs?). He also draws attention to the course description which is lacking a transcultural approach. Lamers and Juneja respond that Sophie Roche as former junior research group leader has to teach for her Venia Legendi.

Result: Approval in principle for Sophie Roche's teaching assignment. The question if she is actually applying for a paid teaching assignment request further clarification. Melber will contact her.

- Academic Writing in English class on a HiWi contract basis.

Melber and Juneja recommend Mekhala Dave for teaching this particular course – approved unanimously

Unpaid teaching assignments:

- Russell O Riagain – approved unanimously but under the condition that he will have defended his doctoral thesis by the beginning of the lecture period (doctorate needed).

Further applications:

- After a short discussion approval for funding the MATS office student assistant position (Christian Küker): 24 working hours monthly until the end of the summer semester 2020 (September 2020) = approximately around 400 EURO per month; approved with evaluation.

- Excursion to the REM in Mannheim (Wergin's seminar on provenance and repatriation): 155,50 EURO for him and 13 students – approved unanimously
- HiWi support for administrative tasks of Prof. Harald Fuess regarding study exchange-organization: 25 hours per month from November 2019 to March 2020. Fuess will try to use DAAD money for funding this student position but if this should not work the position's funding will be covered with MATS-QuaSiMi – approved unanimously
- CATS Library (see also TOPIC 1): 1500 EURO for the current year (2019) and 3000 EURO for the next year – approved unanimously

TOPIC 6:

Klaus Kempter (head of the GPA) and Miriam Pough (GPA) informed Melber about a handful of MATS students which have deregistered from Heidelberg University before they have had finished their MA study officially. Melber contacted the respective MATS students. They have deregistered because of – according to them – misinformation received from a HCTS professor (in the MATS-Colloquium?). Melber emphasizes that this is a serious issue. He will inform all MATS-teaching staff about this 'deregistration issue' in the next institute's meeting as well as the MATS-students. The MATS website includes now a respective paragraph about keeping the enrollment until graduation. Kempter and Melber arranged a 'gentlemen's agreement' for this semester – the deregistration (ahead of regular completion of study) will have no further consequences for the respective MATS students. Kempter is considering this as an exceptional case. In the future deregistration from Heidelberg University (exmatriculation) might have consequences for students.

The MATS examination office (Marian Gallenkamp) was in charge of the administrative procedure regarding the enrollment of students minoring in Transcultural Studies. Now the MATS Fachrat puts the MATS study programme coordinator (Takuma Melber) in charge of this as well as in the procedure regarding the import/recognition ('Anerkennung') of credit points (e.g. gained during a previous/uncompleted study) – approval unanimously.

TOPIC 7:

Dr. Kristina Biebricher (Career Service) who has organized and conducted a MATS Career Day on 7 June 2019 would like to offer a further MATS Career Day. Costs for a one-day-workshop: 700 EURO.

Workshop agenda-proposal (designed by Biebricher):

- 1.) self-assessment of students (skills, strengths, values, career interest, preferred work style)
- 2.) exploration (online resources, informational interviews, job search strategies, career opportunities in Germany)
- 3.) preparation (job applications, simulation of interviews)
- 4.)

Melber who has participated in the last MATS Career Day as an observer explains that Ms Biebricher is aware the 'weak points' of the last MATS Career Day. This time she wants to focus more on how to write CVs, this was the main student demand (see evaluation report of the last workshop/MATS Career Day).

Radich, Lamers and Melber welcome the workshop offer of Ms Biebricher who is an 'external' (non-MATS related) professional. It follows a discussion on why the demand for a Career Day was so high last time – maybe for the simple reason that the MATS covered the whole costs? Radich and Melber suggest to limit this workshop offer to advanced MATS students (at least 3rd semester) and to those in particular who are close to graduation. Juneja, Radich and Lamers suggest that student QuaSiMi could be used for partial financing of future MATS career days. The Fachrat authorizes Melber to organize a MATS Career Day taking place in the current semester (e.g. in January 2020). Costs (700 EURO) fully covered with QuaSiMi – approved unanimously.

TOPIC 7:

Melber reports on behalf of Prof Harald Fuess who is in charge of the exchange study abroad opportunities: Last week an information session about study abroad has taken place. Yamamoto (JD coordinator) will inform this week together with Kyoto University's JD coordinator Dr. Björn-Ole Kamm about studying at Kyoto University and the JD option of the MATS programme in particular.

The MATS programme is offering 5 places for a study exchange abroad at Jiao Tong University in Shanghai.

Fuess signed declarations of intent with Hanoi University (Humanities and Social Sciences) and Qingdao University.

TOPIC 8:

Nothing further

Minutes taken by Takuma Melber