

## **Minutes of the MATS Fachrat's meeting (winter semester 2020/21)**

(2 December 2020, 2.00 pm to 3.25pm; conducted digitally via heiConf)

Members of the MATS-Fachrat present:

Michal Chabinski, Dr. Ruixuan Chen, Prof. Dr. Monica Juneja, Dr. Oliver Lamers, Dr. Takuma Melber, Prof. Dr. Michael Radich, Emily Tsui, Benedikt Wirth, Dr. Takahiro Yamamoto

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TOP 1: Minutes of the last MATS Fachrat's meeting (22 June 2020)

TOP 2: conduct of the MATS programme during the pandemics (winter semester 2020/21)

TOP 3: MATS syllabus (summer semester 2021)

TOP 4: applications for teaching assignments and further funding

TOP 5: overview of course evaluations (winter semester 2019/20)

TOP 6: planned events of the MATS programme in the current semester

TOP 7: Varia

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TOP 1: Minutes of the last Fachrat's meeting duly noted.

TOP 2:

Melber reports that 36 students majoring in the MATS enrolled/are enrolling in the Master's in Transcultural Studies Programme. This semester's student cohort includes students inter alia from Chile, China, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Thailand and Turkey. 11 students are German citizens.

Melber reports further that the first semester students were very happy about having the MATS-Orientation Days on-site (in the CATS-lecture hall). But it was a shocking moment when he had to inform them in the afternoon of the second day of the Orientation that all courses and classes of the MATS will be given with virtual formats only. It is consensus of the Fachrat's members: All are aiming for a return to on-site teaching the sooner the better. But this will happen most likely not earlier than summer semester 2021.

#### TOP 3:

Generally speaking, overall approval for the MATS syllabus for the summer semester 2021; the course offers are good as such.

Melber reminds the Fachrat about the decision made in the past about the allocation of courses to modules: 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.

Melber informs about an additional course offer of Brosius and Bublatzky, which are planning to offer students an excursion to Nepal as part of a seminar offer.

Discussion about teaching staff members who will be on leave: Lamers emphasizes that Fuess will be on sabbatical leave and his assistant Yamamoto on parental leave. Are there enough course offers for SEG-students? Melber responds to that an highlights the SEG-course offers. Melber and mainly Lamers will seek Fuess and Yamamot for consultation on how to cover Global Economic History/SEG-topics with a further additional course offer (via teaching assignment?).

Radich, Chen and Lamers report on Ruixuan Chen's semester on leave in 2021.

Chen has a research fellowship at Beijing University in early 2021. Radich and Chen will look for a person to cover Chen's teaching duties in the summer semester 2021.

#### TOP 4:

##### Unpaid teaching assignments:

- Fabienne Wallenwein (50% position), Dr. Gabriele Koch (Yale), Dr. Sophie Roche and Dr. Thomas Stock are applying for unpaid teaching assignment - all approved unanimously.

##### Paid teaching assignments:

- Prof. Ehrhard (1500 EURO) – approved unanimously  
Radich adds his desire to put Tibetan on a more sustainable base.
- Dr. Bentcheva (1500 EURO + 855 EURO travel costs) – approved unanimously. Travel costs approved under reserve: The MATS programme won't pay travel costs if the course will be offered with a virtual format only.
- Dr. Pranaityte (1500 EURO) – approved unanimously.  
Melber will clarify with her if she can actually get a paid teaching assignment. Pranaityte is currently applying for a position at Heidelberg University. Radich and Juneja emphasize that Pranaityte should offer her course with a particular focus on the University collections.

##### Further funding:

- Elwer will offer the Academic Writing in English-course (student assistant contract-basis)

Radich suggests to connect this course in the future much more with the MATS-Colloquium if possible.

- Approval for Oesterreich's and Koch's assignments for 3 honoraria (each for 500 EURO, meaning 1500 EURO in total at a max)
- Approval for Juneja's application for financially supporting an excursion to Duesseldorf (up to 1300 EURO)

#### TOP 5:

Melber points to the five categories of the course evaluations: learning targets, structure of courses, conveyance (are contents easy to understand?), feedback on students' questions and demands/communication with students; acquisition of knowledge.

Lamers and Melber inform about Dr. Kai Töpfer's positive feedback on the MATS-course evaluations.

Course evaluations duly approved by the MATS-Fachrat. Melber will report this result to the philosophical faculty/Dr. Töpfer by email.

#### TOP 6:

Melber informs that a Studiengangbefragung (SGB) – an evaluation of the whole MATS programme – is supposed to take place in January 2021. heiQuality will send a standardized questionnaire to all MATS-students by email. heiQuality is in cooperation with the MATS-office (Melber) already making preparations for the conduct of the SGB.

The SGB is the first step and one part of the Q+Ampelverfahren (re-accreditation of the study programme) which will take place in the winter semester 2021/22. More information about the Q+Ampelverfahren follows most likely in the next Fachrat's meeting at the beginning of the summer semester 2021.

Melber is organizing an online information session about CrossAsia and is in close contact with Miriam Seeger (Stabi Berlin), which is addressed to the MATS-students in particular. This initiative is highly welcomed.

Discussion about the planning of a MATS-Career Day: Melber will clarify with Kristina Biebricher (Career Service) if a Career Day can be offered with a virtual format. The Fachrat tends to postpone the Career Day to a later semester, such an event should be offered on-site.

#### TOP 7:

Melber informs about an email written by Martin Hofmann: He suggests to change the procedure on how students are submitting the grades of import courses. According to Hofmann are some students tending to keep back paper Scheins. Lamers emphasize that the study focus advisors are in charge of the submission of grades of so-called import options. Melber adds: A student must seek his/her respective study focus advisor for course approval BEFORE he/she is taking the

class. Students can't exchange import courses on their own and can't keep back a Schein. Lamers confirms: It is in the end the study focus advisors' decision. All agree to keep up the existing procedure of Schein approval and submission.

Minutes taken by Takuma Melber