PHILIPPINEN-INITIATIVE

Ruhr-Universität Bochum
Fakultät für Philologie

PROGRESS REPORT
ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/23
DECEMBER 2022
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For more information on our *Philippinen-Initiative* please visit our website:  
https://philippinen.blogs.ruhr-uni-bochum.de
The Philippinen-Initiative at Ruhr-Universität Bochum (Germany) is reporting promising news in 2022. Since the recruitment of our collaborator Beatriz Friedel, M.A. at the beginning of the term, several initiatives have been put on track, such as the realization of our Gallery of travel narratives to the Philippines. With Landesspracheninstitut Bochum, a prestigious new project partner for Philippinistic activities is on board, and the research stay of Dr. Stephanie Coo has become an example of academic mobility, after the general drought for years in this field, which has been overcome this term.

We are looking forward to further develop these activities in 2023 with the help of our Philippine partners.

PROF. DR. ROGER FRIEDLEIN
Romanisches Seminar, Ruhr-Universität Bochum
1. TEACHING

A list of courses taught at Romanisches Seminar:

Since the signing of the agreement, there have been courses with Philippinistic content in every term at Romanisches Seminar (Dept of Romance Languages and Literatures) at the Faculty of Philology.

SUMMER TERM 2022 Vicente Blasco Ibáñez: novelista y viajero

Vicente Blasco Ibáñez is one of the emblematic authors of Spanish realism. The seminar focused on his Valencian novels, in particular on La barraca and on his Mediterranean novel Mare nostrum. Moreover, Blasco Ibáñez was a travel writer. In his principal work La vuelta al mundo de un novelista, he describes, among others, his stay on the Philippines and in Indonesia. These three texts constitute a differentiated identity with regional, Mediterranean and cosmopolitan dimensions.

(taught in Spanish and German by Prof. Dr. R. Friedlein)

SUMMER TERM 2022 La conquista en el siglo XX - cinematographic representation of cultural clashes

This master’s degree seminar for advanced students focused on the analysis of movies of the 20th and 21st centuries that examine the period of European expansion and the Conquista in Asia and the Americas. The leading question was to find out in how far the ‘modern’ perspective follows a post-colonial scheme of representing the colonial past. In addition to Ridley Scott’s movie about Christopher Columbus (1992) – an inconsistent heroic rendering of the Italian seafarer – we also watched and analysed movies based on autobiographical accounts from the 16th century. In a comparative perspective, the original texts were compared with their cinematographic representations. The students were also called to do group research of the centenary celebrations of, for example, the voyage of Magellan to the Philippines.

(taught in German by Dr. D. Brunke)

PREVIEW: SUMMER TERM 2023 Relatos de viaje a las Filipinas

Spanish colonialism forms the historical context for a vast number of chronicles from the 16th to the 18th century. In continuation to this tradition, Spanish and Latin-American travellers have produced a great variety of travel writing that span from reports of scientific expeditions to personal narratives of colonial and military officers, simple soldiers and war captives, missionaries, and early tourists.

(taught in Spanish and German by Prof. Dr. R. Friedlein)
On Thursday, 25 November 2021, Prof. Dr. Henning Klöter (Humboldt University Berlin) gave a guest lecture at the Romance Studies Department of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum. The lecture was entitled: *Strategie, Sprache und Silber: Katholische Missionen in Asien im Spiegel chinesisch-spanischer Wörterbücher des 17. Jahrhunderts* (= strategy, language and silver: catholic missions in Asia in the mirror of Sino-Spanish dictionaries of the 17th century). The lecture took place within the seminar *Francisco Xavier: cartas, drama, epopeya* held by Prof. Dr. Roger Friedlein.

In his captivating lecture, Prof. Klöter explained the approach strategies of the Jesuit mission in China. These strategies were not only of a religious nature, but the Jesuits also worked linguistically, among other things. This is of particular interest in south-eastern China, where the language situation is very complex. However, the Chinese view of the Jesuit missionaries at the time was quite different, who valued them mainly as natural scientists. Yet, the interest in mutual trade was able to unite both sides.

The lecture also presented important historical personalities who approached China linguistically at that time, whether by learning the language, such as Mateo Ricci, or by writing a work, such as Nicolas Trigault’s dictionary or Martino Martini’s grammar of the Chinese language. The lack of mention of tone marking in the dictionaries - which is, however, fundamentally important in the Chinese language - shows us that these research works, which continue to be valuable, have not been able to free themselves of their European perspective.

The link to Prof. Dr. Klöter’s website:

https://www.iaaw.hu-berlin.de/de/region/ostasien/seminar/mitarbeiter-innen/personal/henning-kloeter
3. RESEARCH

DR. DIRK BRUNKE holds a full-time research position funded by the DFG (German Research Foundation) for his project on Spanish and Portuguese chronicle narratives to Latin America and SE Asia.

DR. DIRK BRUNKE is currently working on his postdoc project *Voyage – shipwreck – captivity. Compassion and autobiography in the era of expansion*. This research project (October 2022–September 2025) focusses on the topic of compassion in a corpus of texts that comprises autobiographical narratives of the era of Spanish and Portuguese expansion to South East Asia and the Americas. In the first stage of the project, Dr. Dirk Brunke discussed the project’s hypothesis and analytical perspectives both with colleagues from Germany (e.g. Prof. Dr. Anita Traninger, Freie Universität Berlin) and from Latin America (e.g. Prof. Dr. Myriam Merchán, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador).

The project analyses voyage, shipwreck and captivity reports, written in or about Southeast Asia and particularly, the Spanish Philippines. In historical perspective, these stories of affliction acknowledge the centrality of misery familiar from the religious context of the (com-)passio and the devotio moderna, i.e. the piety movement which, since the Middle Ages, has aspired to strengthen faith, amongst other things, by compassionately reliving the Passion of Christ. In contrast to this specifically religious function of compassion, however, the authors of the texts in question do not make use of their experiences of distress to strengthen their faith. In contrary, they employ the emotion of compassion – and, of course, other emotions like fear or astonishment – to describe affective reactions to the newly discovered cultures and spaces. The analysis of the cultural context of the functions of generating compassion will reveal that a literary dimension of compassion opens up in texts – reports –, which are not genuinely poetic. The fact that the experiences of affliction are put into an affective rhetorical discourse enables the suffering to be emotionally comprehended in the act of reading, and, indeed, that the reading becomes an aesthetic moment of experience for the compassionate or sympathetic reader. Thus, the experiences made overseas can be transmitted over time and distance.
Research conference “Einsatz der Affekte: Momente der Alteritätserfahrung im Schrifttum der europäischen Expansion 1460–1700” (Employing the affects: Moments of alterity in the literature of the time of European expansion 1460–1700)

The research conference took place from 30-March to 1-Apr 2022 at Ruhr-Universität Bochum. It has been funded by the Institute of Romance languages and literatures (RUB) and was organized by Dr. Dirk Brunke (RUB) and his colleague Prof. Dr. Hendrik Schlieper from the University of Paderborn. The 12 participants of the conference discussed various topics, authors and texts from different perspectives and countries (Spain, Portugal, France, Italy). The results will be published in spring 2023.

Einsatz der Affekte:
Momente der Alteritätserfahrung im Schrifttum der europäischen Expansion
1460–1700

Forschungskolloquium an der Ruhr-Universität Bochum
30. März – 1. April 2022


Kontakt
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Ruhr-Universität Bochum
Romanisches Seminar
✉️ dirk.brunke@rub.de
DR. SANDRA ISSEL-DOMBERT has received a grant of DFG (German Research Foundation) for her project on migration linguistics in contact situations (Lisbon, Macau, Manila). This year, she has done extensive research and has presented her results at a number of conferences.

DR. SANDRA ISSEL-DOMBERT conducted different field research as part of the research project:

- One-month field research stay for data collection in Metropolitan Manila (March/April 2022)
- Two-month field research stay for data collection in Madrid and cooperation in a migration linguistic project with the Universidad Alcalá de Henares (01.06.-15.08.2022)

DR. SANDRA ISSEL-DOMBERT presented preliminary findings at the following conferences:

- XXXe CILPR 2022 - at the University of La Laguna
  Title: Encuentros entre la lingüística colonial y la lingüística de la migración: las actitudes lingüísticas de lxs migrantes filipinx en Cataluña

- ILPE V: Quinto Coloquio Internacional: Ideologías lingüísticas en la prensa escrita: el caso de las lenguas románicas at Universidad Nacional de La Plata and Universidad Nacional de tres de Febrero Buenos Aires (28.09.2022)
  Title: Ideologías lingüísticas sobre lxs migrantes en los medios de comunicación españolas: el caso de las Filipinas, ex-colonia de España

- Invited lecture in the context of the "Romance Colloquium XXXVII: Romance Languages and Colonialism" at Leibniz University Hannover (19.11.2022)
  Title: Romanische Sprachen und Kolonialismus in Asien: Linguistic Landscapes in Metro Manila
One example of current student research:

CLAUDIO GEHRS is currently writing his Master of Education thesis on the topic of the V Centenario and Quincentennial.

Claudio Gehrs

Almost 500 years ago, on September 6, 1522, the ship Victoria reached the Spanish port of Sanlúcar de Barrameda, thus completing the first historically documented circumnavigation of the globe after a three-year voyage. This event had far-reaching consequences not only for Spain. The expedition opened up new trade routes between the various continents, proved the roundness of the earth and can even be seen as the beginning of globalization. On the downside, it also paved the way for the later colonization of the Philippines by the imperial aspirations of the Spanish Kingdom. The expedition was initiated and led by Ferdinand Magellan, who died in the Battle of Mactan, and was completed by Captain Juan Sebastián Elcano.

In Spain, this historic expedition was commemorated during the centennial V Centenario. But not only Spain celebrates the events around the first proven circumnavigation of the world of mankind, also other countries, such as the Philippines, have decided to also create a centennial, the Quincentennial. It quickly becomes apparent that the centenaries differ greatly in terms of what is celebrated and why it is celebrated, so in this paper I set myself the goal of analyzing and comparing the different discourses in the two countries regarding the centenaries and in terms of their key terms as well as their underlying concepts. For this purpose, I look at the discourses that can be found on the official websites of the Quincentennial and the V Centenario on the one hand, and on the other hand, how the public discourse on the centenary celebrations manifests itself, whether further strands of discourse or even counter-discourses can be found here, for which purpose newspaper articles in the Philippines and Spain, respectively, are consulted.
5. PUBLICATION PROJECT

PROF. DR. R. FRIEDLEIN and BEATRIZ FRIEDEL ABLANEDO (eds.): Gallery of authors on the Archipelago (working title)

Within the context of Philippine-studies at Ruhr-University Bochum, a publication project of a book on personalities who, thanks to their travels and their perspective, have connected Europe and Southeast Asia with their work, is currently in progress. There will be one article dedicated to each personality with a total of about 20 pages, including the annotated text and some accompanying illustrations. The articles in question consist of profiles of people, preferably travelers in the Philippines or Filipinos in Europe, whose works have dealt with the theme of a trip or stay in the Philippines; in the case of Filipinos traveling to Europe, the aim is to convey some of the experience or perspective. The idea is to comment on texts and stories of people who have traveled between Europe (mainly Spain) and Southeast Asia (mainly the Philippines). These texts can be epistolary, they can be a diary.... in short, they contain something related to their perspective as travelers, as strangers in a country, whether it is Spain or the Philippines.

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<th>Colaborator</th>
<th>Author</th>
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<tr>
<td>J.Álvarez Menéndez</td>
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<td>G. Arnscheid</td>
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<td>D. Brunke</td>
<td>Ramón Vilaró</td>
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<td>L. Castellví</td>
<td>Jaime Gil de Biedma</td>
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<td>St. Coo</td>
<td>Ramón González Fernández</td>
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<td>L. Elizalde</td>
<td>Eduard Toda / Cañamaque</td>
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<td>L. Franken</td>
<td>Luis de Oteyza</td>
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<td>B. Friedel</td>
<td>Avelina Correa / Manuel Leguineche</td>
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<td>R. Friedlein</td>
<td>Vicente Blasco Ibáñez / Pere Vergés i Birba</td>
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<td>A. Hug</td>
<td>José Rizal</td>
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<td>I. Martí</td>
<td>Oleguer Junyent y Joan Marín Balmas</td>
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<td>C. Minguillán</td>
<td>Julio Palacios</td>
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<td>I. Müller</td>
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<td>Navarro</td>
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<td>D. Özcan</td>
<td>Manuel Calvo Hernando</td>
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<td>P. Poza</td>
<td>Josep Joaquim Bonet i Serra</td>
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<td>I. Rath</td>
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<td>A. Ruiz Gutiérrez</td>
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A list of the authors of travel narratives covered in the book as well as the authors of the commentaries.
Visit of the Consul General of the Philippines to RUB

The Consul General of the Philippines, MARIE YVETTE BANZON ABALOS, visited the Department of Romance Studies at Ruhr-Universität Bochum on 21 March 2022 to learn about the activities of the Philippines Initiative and to initiate new joint projects.
Our website **PHILIPPINEN-STUDIEN** has been put online in order to register our activities, which have their main focus in academic research and teaching, but also include divulgation activities directed to the public outside of the university.

[https://philippinen.blogs.ruhr-uni-bochum.de](https://philippinen.blogs.ruhr-uni-bochum.de)

**Video about the Boxer Codex**

The video „Die Boxer-Handschrift – iberisch-südostasiatischer Kulturkontakt im 16. Jahrhundert“ (= "The Boxer-manuscript - Iberian-Southeast Asian cultural contact in the 16th century") presents a central testimony to the collaboration of Spanish and Portuguese chroniclers and Filipino-Chinese illustrators and was recorded by PROF. DR. ROGER FRIEDLEIN (duration: 29. minutes). The manuscript was produced at the end of the 16th century in Manila for the Spanish court. It is the most important pictorial testimony of the Tagalo people and their neighbours from this period and shows parallels to Chinese and European manuscript tradition.
8. GUEST RESEARCHER DR. STEPHANIE MARIE COO

Dr. Stephanie Marie Coo is the Philippine-Chinese author of the multi-awarded book, *Clothing the Colony: Nineteenth-century Philippine Sartorial Culture, 1820-1896* (Ateneo de Manila University Press, 2019), which received Leiden University’s (Netherlands) IIAS-ICAS biennial International Book Prize 2021 for Best Book in Humanities, the 39th National Book Award 2022 and the John C. Kaw Prize for Best Book on History. Between 2019 and 2020, she was a Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellow (EU Horizon2020-Athenea3i) at the Universidad de Granada (Spain) and NOVA School of Law-Universidade Nova de Lisboa (Portugal). She obtained her PhD in History (summa cum laude) from Université Nice Sophia Antipolis (France), Master of Arts in History from the Ateneo de Manila University (Philippines). She holds an Associate Professorship at the Department of History of the Ateneo de Manila University, where she has been teaching since 2002 and where she served as Chair of the Internationalization Committee and Coordinator for Internationalization.

Currently, she is at Ruhr-Universität Bochum, for a project supported by the Office of Senator Loren Legarda, the Philippine Consulate-General in Frankfurt and the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs – Foreign Service Institute. Working with Prof. Dr. Roger Friedlein of RUB’s Fakultät für Philologie, her next book focuses on *Los Manilos: Spanish Sojourners in the Philippines in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.* She draws from her research at the different archives in Spain, making use of the Güell-Lopez Family correspondences, photographs and corporate records from the Arxiu Nacional de Catalunya, the Casa Brusi collection at the Archivo Histórico de la Ciudad de Barcelona (AHCB) and the Archivos Familiares at the Archivo Histórico Provincial de Cantabria in Santander.
The Landesspracheninstitut (LSI) is organizing for the first time in February 2023 a Tagalog intensive course in cooperation with the Department of Romance Studies (Romanisches Seminar) of Ruhr-Universität Bochum and the Philippine Consulate General for university teachers, students of all faculties as well as for external participants.

The flyer for the Tagalog intensive course at the LSE: