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JOHANNES GUTENBERG  
UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ

# UTOPIAS FROM ASIA

An International and Interdisciplinary  
Symposium in Santiniketan

On the Occasion of  
the 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday Anniversary  
of Rabindranath Tagore

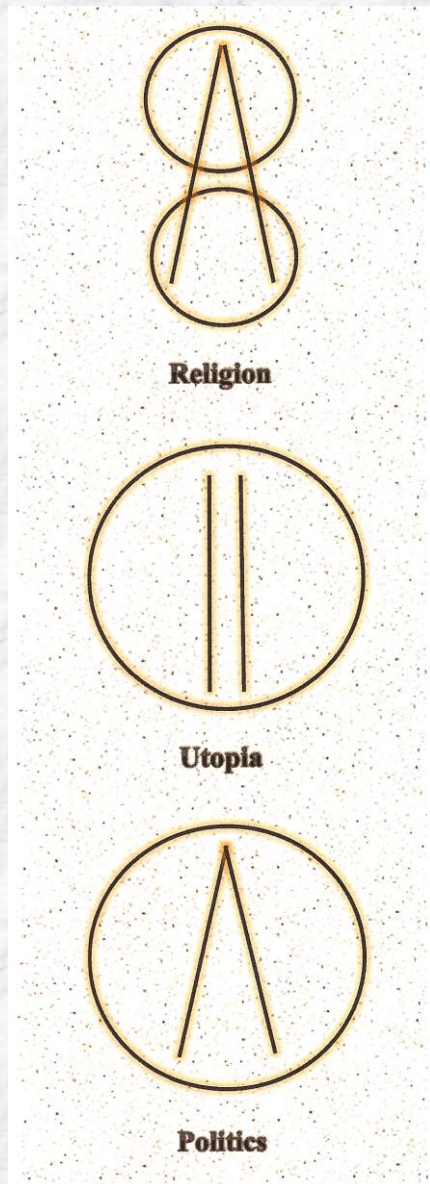
An Asian Impact Activity

In memoriam Momoyo Okura

16-17 November 2011

Visva Bharati University  
Art Centre of the Santiniketan Society  
of Visual Art and Design

Santiniketan • India



Research on utopia has predominantly dealt with Western concepts of utopian thinking, touching on Asian impulses only marginally. It therefore seems promising to dedicate a symposium specifically to *Utopias from Asia*, concentrating and further elaborating on the Asian impact of utopian thinking on the Western hemisphere. The *Institute of Indology* of the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany, in collaboration with the *ASIATICUM: Society for the Promotion of Studies East and West*, the *Visvabharati University*, and the *Art Centre of the Santiniketan Society of Visual Art and Design*, India, take the occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore to organise an international and interdisciplinary symposium on *Utopias from Asia* at Santiniketan, the world-renowned centre of culture and learning, founded by the eminent Nobel laureate, Tagore, himself.

## Programme

### 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011 (Wednesday)

9.30 hrs • Opening addresses  
 Prof. Sushanta Duttgupta, Vice-Chancellor (Visva Bharati University)  
 Prof. Dr. Udaya Narayana Singh, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Visva Bharati University)  
 Prof. Jogen Chowdhury, Director (Art Centre of the Santiniketan Society of Visual Art and Design)  
 Prof. Dr. Konrad Meisig (Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz)

Messages from  
 The Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Kolkata  
 The Directorate General Cultural Heritage Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany  
 German-Indian Round Table (GIRT), Frankfurt

10.00 hrs  
 Keynote address  
 Prof. Dr. Konrad Meisig (Mainz)  
 'Utopia – A Definition'.

10.30 hrs • Tea break  
 Chair person: Dr. Martin Kämpchen (Santiniketan)  
 10.45 hrs • Prof. Dr. Swati Ganguly (Visva Bharati University)  
 'Rabindranath's ashram experiment in Santiniketan'.  
 (Working title)

11.30 hrs • des. Dr. Kasturi Dadhe (Mainz)  
 'The concept of a feminine-self: veiled and unveiled, in Rokeya Sakhawat's Hossain's 'Sultana's Dream', 'Padmarag' and 'Abarodhbasini'.

12.15 hrs • Lunch

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Chair person: Prof. Dr. Swati Ganguly

14.00 hrs • Dr. habil. Luong Van Ke (Hanoi)  
 'From Utopia to Reality: Some Experiences on Political Transformation in Viet Nam'.

14.45 hrs • Tea break

15.00 hrs • Dr. habil. Marcus Stiglegger (Siegen)  
 'Kaiju eiga: Utopias and Anti-utopias in Japanese Cinema'.

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16.30 hrs: Annual General Meeting of the ASIATICUM – Society for the Promotion of Studies East and West

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Evening: Performance of the Tagore dance drama 'Valmiki Pratibha'  
 Arrangement: Dr. Amartya Mukherjee

### 17<sup>th</sup> November 2011 (Thursday)

Chair person: Dr. Ivo Ritzer

9.00 hrs • Dr. Sonja Wengoborski (Mainz)  
 'Exploring the space between the possible and the impossible: Observations from contemporary South Asian literature'.

9.45 hrs • Prof. Dr. Masako Sato (Tokyo)  
 'Seeking Utopia beyond Modernization – A Movement in the Asian Structural Change in the 20th Century'

10.30 hrs • Tea break

10.45 hrs • Prof. Dr. Kumkum Bhattacharya (Visva Bharati University)  
 'Utopia in praxis'.

11.30 hrs • Dr. Marion Meisig (Mainz)  
 'Unity of Politics and Nature – The Appearance of the Mythical Beast Qilin in China'.

12.15 hrs • Lunch

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Chair person: Dr. habil. Marcus Stiglegger

14.00 hrs • Dr. Ivo Ritzer (Mainz)  
 'Ninkyō Eiga: Yakuza, Knights and Utopias of Chivalry in Japanese Cinema'.

14.45 hrs • Prof. Soumik Nandi Majumdar (Visva Bharati University)  
 'Rabindranath Tagore's Utopia Visualised in his Paintings'

15.30 hrs: Tea break

15.45 hrs • Prof. Dr. Konrad Meisig (Mainz)  
 'Buddhist Utopias'.

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Cultural Programme