



## **Mumbai Münster Institute of Advanced Studies (MMIAS)**

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## **Report on the Study India Day 2023**

**on**

## **The Indian Ocean as Memory Space: Perspectives from Law and Literature**

The English Department of the University of Münster and the collaborative Research Centre 1385 “Law and Literature” hosted its annual Study India Day on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023, in partnership with MMIAS (the Mumbai Münster Institute of Advanced Studies), University of Mumbai.

The Welcome Address was given by Prof. Dr. Klaus Stierstorfer, Vice Dean FB09 and Director, Study India Programme. Professor Stierstorfer spoke of the long-standing collaboration between the universities of Münster and Mumbai and the Interdisciplinary Study India Certificate Course. The Hon. Mr. Sanjay Jaswal, Frankfurt, Consul General of India to the Federal Republic of Germany, was the guest of honour at the function. The Hon. Jaswal appreciated the long and fruitful academic collaboration between the universities of Münster and Mumbai and of the close ties between India and Germany.

The Keynote Lecture entitled “India at 75. Diasporic Impacts - Constitutionalism and Contra-Constitutionalism” was delivered by Advocate Pheroze Nowrojee, Senior Counsel, High Court of Kenya, and Author. He spoke about the common laws between the East African colonies and British India and the subsequent influence of the Constitution of independent India on the constitutions of decolonised Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. He also spoke of the relationship between the Indian Diaspora and the Indian nation.

After the keynote talk there was a Panel Discussion on “The Indian Ocean as Memory Space”. Presentations were made by Prof. Dr. Saugata Bhaduri (JNU, New Delhi), Prof. Dr. Nilufer Bharucha (Director, MMIAS, University of Mumbai), Prof. Dr. Simi Malhotra (Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi) and Prof. Dr. Sridhar Rajeswaran (Board Member, MMIAS, Mumbai). The panellists spoke about the laws that governed the maritime trade in the Indian Ocean, memoirs written by Indian diasporics on their lives in East Africa, role of Indian slaves in pre-colonial South Africa and the exchange of trade, commerce, spread of religions and culture from South India to South East Asia.

The talks were attended by faculty and students of the University of Münster, students of the Study India Certificate Course and exchange students from India.

The Study India Day was followed by a Reception.