

# Gisela Bonn Award 2020

Award ceremony: 11.02.2022,  
as part of the Republic Day event of the Honorary Consulate of India

DEUTSCH-INDISCHE  
GESELLSCHAFT  
E.V.



Indian Council for Cultural Relations

# GISELA BONN-AWARD

2020



*The Indian Council of Cultural Relations donated 1996 this prize in appreciation of Professor Dr. Gisela Bonn, the exceptional expert and supporter of the German-Indian-Relations. The chairman of the German-Indian-Association e.V. is by law the chairman of the jury of this prize.*

*The Gisela Bonn Prize is annually awarded for extraordinary achievements in the field of the German-Indian-Relations. It is meant to foster the work of young scientists and journalists. The prize is not bound to a specific theme and relates as well to the political and economical as well as to the cultural aspects in the relations of both States.*

**Dr. phil. Marie Elisabeth Mueller has been awarded the Gisela Bonn Award 2020.**


*The longtime Broadcast Journalist and Educator - at the Media University Stuttgart, University of the Fine Arts Berlin, University of Nairobi in Kenya - is specialized on Digital Journalism and Online Communication. She collaborates closely with international partners at universities and global media houses, with a focus on India.*

*Together with her Indian colleague Professor Devadas Rajaram and her German colleague Professor Harald Eichsteller is she the editor of the Media Series „Now Media“ at Nomos. With new studies about innovative methods in storytelling, communication and marketing, often written by young graduates. In spring 2021 her new book “Social Storytelling” was published at Rheinwerk, an innovative, collaborative book together with Devadas Rajaram and top experts in the media and film industry. Soon also in English at Routledge, London, UK.*



**M**arie Elisabeth Mueller is awarded the Gisela Bonn Award 2020 for her extraordinary achievements as a founding member and mentor of the new “Gundert Museum and Study Center” in Kerala. The centre is at the heart of the new “Cultural Heritage Circuit” in Thalassery, and will be opened in 2022/23.

Dr. Mueller donated her private, systematic library to the centre and shipped the library to Thalassery. “My work in India and other Non-European regions made me aware of how difficult or even near to impossible it is in many world regions to have access to specialised literature, educational books and affordable schooling materials”, says the laureate. “That motivated me to donate my large library to the people in Kerala and the new Dr. Hermann Gundert-Centre. I’m always committed to make an impact through cultural and educational work, and I’m glad to be able to foster the spirit of the amicable German-Indian relations. Kerala has a strong network of libraries. The people love to read and to learn together. And all the libraries are also used as social meeting points. Books are for readers, not for shelves. I’m so excited that my books will be used by many readers. I’m a proud mentor for the development of the new centre.”



The media scientist who holds a Ph.D. from the University of Constance is passionate about the education of youth in India and cross-cultural exchange. The Gundert centre with its specialisation on German and European culture is part of a holistic cultural “heritage project” in Thalassery and Kannur. The “heritage project” aims to establish a lively and interactive learning space for a broader public about the centuries-old cultural achievements of artists and scholars in Kerala. Parts of the heritage were developed together with open-minded European partners. Not all Europeans who arrived as missionaries remained missionaries. Some blended in with the Indian communities, and left as friends. To the latter belonged the Stuttgart born Dr. Hermann Gundert and his wife Julie - in Germany better known as the grandparents of Hermann Hesse, the winner of the nobel prize in literature.

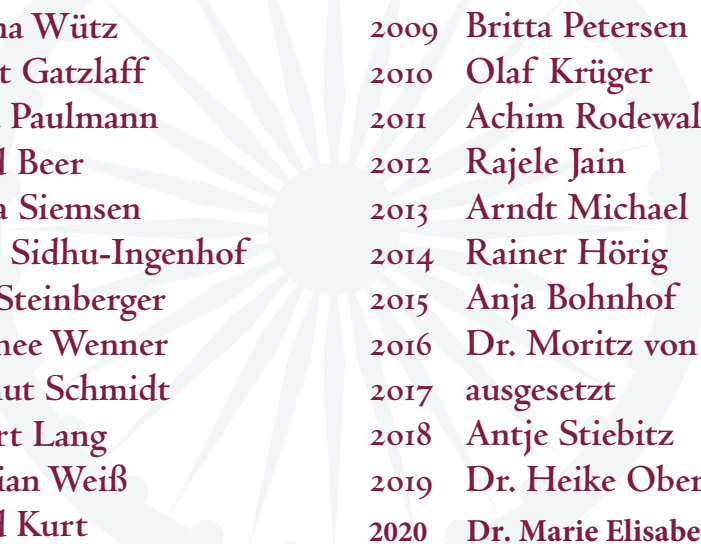
Until today both Gunderts are vividly remembered in Kerala, und their work is highly appreciated. Hermann Gundert wrote and published in collaboration with local scholars the first grammar of Malayalam as well as the first dictionary in Malayalam and English. The couple also participated for many years in teaching and building the until today excellent educational system for boys and girls in Kerala. The Gundert Bungalow, where at last Gundert taught and lived next door, has been restored and will accommodate the new centre.

“My donation encompassed a collection with about Ten Thousand books which I have hand- picked and systematically built over the last thirty years”, explains Marie Elisabeth Mueller. “Most books are on German literature, language, philosophy, and partly also books for learners of German as a foreign language. Furthermore you’ll find English literature from diverse world regions, international art books, books on the history of the 20. Century, the Holocaust, both World Wars, eventually also Contemporary TV Series and classical European music.”

The Gisela Bonn Award comes with a travel to India. We heartily congratulate the prize winner 2020 and look forward to the ceremony at the Republic Day Ceremony on February 11, 2022, in Stuttgart and to her travel report.



## Laureates of the of the GISELA BONN Award



1997	Martina Wütz	2009	Britta Petersen
1998	Margot Gatzlaff	2010	Olaf Krüger
1999	Hanna Paulmann	2011	Achim Rodewald
2000	Roland Beer	2012	Rajele Jain
2001	Andrea Siemsen	2013	Arndt Michael
2002	Anette Sidhu-Ingenhof	2014	Rainer Hörig
2003	Karin Steinberger	2015	Anja Bohnhof
2004	Dorothee Wenner	2016	Dr. Moritz von Brescius
2005	Hartmut Schmidt	2017	ausgesetzt
2006	Herbert Lang	2018	Antje Stiebitz
2007	Christian Weiß	2019	Dr. Heike Oberlin
2008	Ronald Kurt	2020	Dr. Marie Elisabeth Mueller



Bundesgeschäftsstelle  
Deutsch-Indische Gesellschaft e.V.  
Oskar-Lapp-Str. 2 · 70565 Stuttgart  
Telefon: 0711 / 29 70 78  
Telefax: 0711 / 299 1450  
E-Mail: [info@dig-ev.de](mailto:info@dig-ev.de)

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