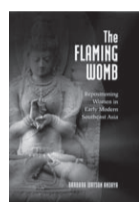
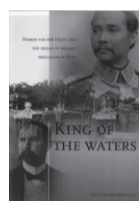


The ICAS Book Prize: A Showcase for Asia Studies

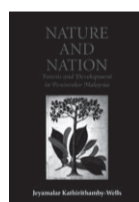
Longlist Humanities



The Flaming Womb
Repositioning Women in Early Modern Southeast Asia
 by Barbara Watson Andaya
 Published 2006 by University of Hawai'i Press
 Hardback, ISBN 978-0-8248-2955-1



King of the Waters
Homan van der Heide and the Origin of Modern Irrigation in Siam
 by H. ten Brummelhuis
 Published 2005 by KITLV Press
 Paperback, ISBN 978-90-6718-237-9



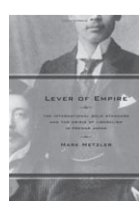
Nature and Nation
Forests and Development in Peninsular Malaysia
 by Jeyamalar Kathirithamby-Wells
 Published 2005 by IAS Press
 Paperback, ISBN 978-87-91114-49-6



Selfless Offspring
Filial Children and Social Order in Medieval China
 by Keith Nathaniel Knapp
 Published 2005 by University of Hawai'i Press
 Hardback, ISBN 978-0-8248-2866-0



Tibet and Nationalist China's Frontier
Intrigues and Ethnopolitics 1928-49
 by Hsiao-Ting Lin
 Published 2006 by UBC Press
 Hardback, ISBN 978-0-7748-1302-0



Lever of Empire
The International Gold Standard and the Crisis of Liberalism in Prewar Japan
 by Mark Metzler
 Published 2006 by University of California Press
 Hardback, ISBN 978-0-520-24420-7

Comments by the chairman of the ICAS Book Prize Reading Committee (whose identity is confidential at the time of writing)

How does the ICAS Book Prize differ from other prizes offered, such as those awarded during AAS?

The biennial ICAS Book Prize (IBP) has a remit which covers the whole of Asia. Other book prizes in the field of Asia Studies, including those awarded during the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asia Studies (AAS), generally relate to specific regions such as East or Southeast Asia. The IBP is a global competition and a global platform for Asia Studies. As a result, the number of submissions is much larger. For the IBP 2007, a total of 80 books were submitted by 32 publishers.

Why is the IBP split into separate categories for humanities, social sciences, and the Colleagues' Choice award?

The humanities and social sciences categories reflect the two major fields within Asia Studies. We thought it was a good idea to have two prizes instead of one. These categories are judged by an international Reading Committee consisting of six specialists from different areas of study. Only the name of the Secretary of the Reading Committee is made public before the awards ceremony, (held during the opening session of ICAS). This guarantees the highest possible degree of objectivity.

The winner of the IBP Colleagues' Choice is decided by fellow Asia Studies scholars. Votes are cast using a virtual polling booth. For the 2007 prize, voting is open until 15th July. You can vote for any book from the full list of 80 titles submitted. Everyone can follow the voting process at www.icassecretariat.org. There are various built-in security checks, and the Secretariat also reviews the voting data after polling closes, to ensure that there have been no irregularities. The winner of the IBP Colleagues' Choice Award is announced during the awards ceremony at ICAS.

Why was a prize for best PhD thesis included (theses are, after all, not real books)?

They are on their way to becoming books, and ICAS assists the PhD prize winner in realising that goal by facilitating publication of his or her dissertation through an academic publisher.

How does the Reading Committee carry out its work?

Once they have received all the submitted books in January, the Reading Committee splits into two. Each group decides on a longlist consisting of ten books. This is made public during the AAS Annual Meeting in March/April. Then, each member draws up a personal list of ten favourites, giving 100 points to what they consider the very best book, 90 to their second choice, 80 to their third and so on. On the basis of these scores, the IBP Secretary prepares the shortlists consisting of three books per category. These, along with the PhD shortlist consisting of two theses, are made public via www.icassecretariat.org at the end of July. On the day before the opening ceremony of the ICAS conference in August, the 'decision dinner' takes place and the winners are chosen. Along with the winner of the Colleagues' Choice Award, they are announced at ICAS by reading out their respective citations. The prizes for the best studies in the humanities and social sciences consist of Eur 2,500 each.* Needless to say, the workload of the Reading Committee is very heavy, but it is a worthwhile task. So far, members of the Reading Committee have found it a rewarding experience which gives them an excellent overview of current developments in the broad field of Asia Studies.

What criteria are used to draw up the longlist and the shortlist?

There are several criteria which determine what is a good book: originality in the treatment of the topic; the depth of research; opening up a new field of research; being a definitive study on a certain topic; being well written; making clear arguments. All the ten books on the longlist reflect one or more of these criteria and all are possible prize winners. Inclusion on the list is a significant achievement and means that the author belongs in the top tier of Asia scholars. The three books on the shortlists possess a significant number of the criteria mentioned, and the prize winners clearly have that little extra something which will ultimately convince the whole Reading Committee that their books should win the prizes.

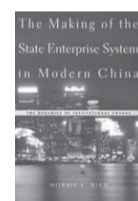
How has the ICAS Book Prize gained the respect of authors, publishers and readers in such a short space of time?

The IBP prize is widely reported in respected publications such as the *IAS Newsletter* (circulation 26,000),

Longlist Social Sciences



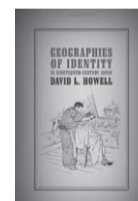
Bad Youth
Juvenile Delinquency and the Politics of Everyday Life in Modern Japan, 1898-1945
 by David R. Ambaras
 Published 2005 by University of California Press
 Hardback, ISBN 0-520-24579-2



The Making of the State Enterprise System in Modern China
The Dynamics of Institutional Change
 by Morris L. Bian
 Published 2005 by Harvard University Press
 Paperback, ISBN 0-674-01717-X



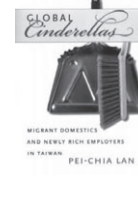
As Borders Bend
 by Xiangming Chen
 Published 2005 by Rowman & Littlefield
 Paperback, ISBN 0-7425-0094-2



Geographies of Identity in Nineteenth-Century Japan
 by David L. Howell
 Published 2005 by University of California Press
 Hardback, ISBN 0-520-24085-5



Fertility, Food and Fever
Population, Economy and Environment in North and Central Sulawesi, 1600-1930
 by D.E.F. Henley
 Published 2005 by KITLV Press
 Paperback, ISBN 978-90-6718-165-5



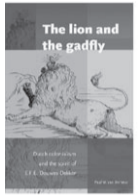
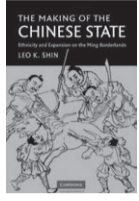
Global Cinderellas
Migrant Domestic and Newly Rich Employers in Taiwan
 by Pei-Chia Lan
 Published 2006 by Duke University Press
 Paperback, ISBN 978-0-8223-3742-3



ACADEMIC PUBLISHING TODAY



Longlist Humanities



***The Lion and the Gadfly*
Dutch Colonialism and the Spirit of E.F.E.
Douwes Dekker**

by Paul W. van der Veur
Published 2006 by KITLV Press
Hardback, ISBN 90-6718-242-7

***Singing the Classical, Voicing the Modern*
The Postcolonial Politics of Music in South
India**

by Amanda J. Weidman
Published 2006 by Duke University Press
Paperback, ISBN 978-0-8223-3620-4

The Merchants of Zigong

by Madeleine Zelin
Published 2006 by Columbia University Press
Hardback, ISBN 0-231-13596-3

the AAS Newsletter, and other newsletters and journals in specific fields of Asia Studies, H-Asia and a host of websites too numerous to mention. Judging from the quality and the number of books submitted, (80 book from 32 well-known publishers for the 2007 prizes) it's clear the IBP is gaining recognition. The prize winning books and the prize winners are of course our best ambassadors.

What does winning the ICAS Book prize mean to an author?

So far there have been three winners. (Elizabeth C. Economy, Christopher Reed and Sam Wong). Talking to them makes it abundantly clear that the prize has influenced their lives both on a personal level (the experience of accepting an award before an audience of over 1,000 peers), and in their careers. For one author, winning the IBP has launched a successful academic career. For another winner it has meant a mid-career boost. They are regularly invited to give lectures as IBP prize winners, and have experienced increased book sales as a result of special mentions in catalogues and book prize winner logos on their books.

How does ICAS hope to see the IBP develop over the coming years?

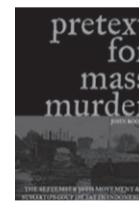
We are convinced the Colleagues' Choice Award will prove to be a huge success. It will increase the

awareness amongst scholars that Asia Studies is a broad and vibrant field of academic endeavour, with clear trends which can be discerned through the the books submitted. We hope to continue to see more PhD theses submitted. IBP 2007 received ten theses, all of such a high academic standard that deciding on a shortlist will prove no easy task. That said, for IBP 2009 we hope to see the number of theses submissions tripled. The ten we received this year represent only a fraction of what is written.

Since its inception, the ICAS Book Prize has been about increasing the visibility of Asia Studies worldwide. We hope that the IBP will continue to attract wider publicity, beyond the field of Asia Studies itself. We have made a great start, the ICAS 2005 Book Prizes presented at the Shanghai conference received wide media attention in China, and the prize winners were interviewed by radio stations in their home countries. One prize winner's book will be translated into Chinese, and because it has won the IBP the publishers have tripled the print run.

*At the time of going to press, the prize for the Colleagues Choice Award has not yet been decided.

Longlist Social Sciences



The Transformation of Chinese Socialism

by Chun Lin
Published 2006 by Duke University Press
Paperback, ISBN 978-0-8223-3798-0

***Final Days*
Japanese Culture and Choice at the
End of Life**

by Susan Orpett Long
Published 2006 by University of Hawai'i Press
Paperback, ISBN 978-0-8248-2964-3

***Pretext for Mass Murder*
The September 30th Movement and
Suharto's Coup d'État in Indonesia**

by John Roosa
Published 2006 by University of Wisconsin Press
Paperback, ISBN 0-299-22034-6

***Historicizing Online Politics*
Telegraphy, the Internet, and Political
Participation in China**

by Yongming Zhou
Published 2006 by Stanford University Press
Paperback, ISBN 0-8047-5128-5