

# IIAS Fellowship Programme

Along with the research fellows who are attached to one of the IIAS research programmes, the Institute yearly hosts a large number of visiting researchers (affiliated fellows) who come to Leiden to work on their own individual research project. In addition, IIAS also facilitates the teaching and research by various professorial fellows as part of agreements with Dutch universities, foreign ministries and funding organisations.

## CURRENT FELLOWS

### Mehdi Amineh

Coordinator  
'Energy Programme Asia (EPA)'  
*Domestic and geopolitical challenges to energy security for China and the European Union*  
1 Sept 2007 – 31 Mar 2017

### Alessandro Battistini

*The "Nepalese Anonymous": an original(?) commentary to Ānandavardhana's Devisātaka* (edition and translation)  
15 Oct 2016 – 15 Apr 2017

### Somdev Vasudeva

*Śobhākara's Logic of Aesthetics*  
1 Oct 2016 – 31 Mar 2017

### Debjani Bhattacharyya

*Hydrologics: Property, law and the urbane environment in the Bengal Delta*  
5 Oct 2016 – 31 Mar 2017

### Lung-hsing Chu

*Meeting in Nagasaki: Rethinking Western Influence on Japanese Material Culture in the later Edo Peri*  
1 Oct 2016 – 31 July 2017

### Jatin Dua

*A Sea of Protection: Piracy, Trade, and Regulation in the Indian Ocean*  
1 Oct 2016 – 31 July 2017

### Gregory Goulding

*The Cold War poetics of Muktibodh: a study of Hindi internationalism, 1943-1964*  
1 Sept 2016 – 31 July 2017

### Pralay Kanungo

Visiting Professor,  
India Studies Chair (ICCR)  
*Indian politics*  
1 Sept 2013 - 30 June 2017

### Neena Talwar Kanungo

*The arrival of digital democracy in India: Social media and political parties*  
1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017

### Adam Knee

*Kingdom of the imagination: Thailand in world cinema*  
1 Sept 2016 – 30 June 2017

### Mahmood Kooria

*Malabar in Zanzibar: Asian-African Intersections in the circulation of legal texts across the Indian Ocean*  
1 Sept 2016 – 28 Feb 2017

### Radu Leca

*Myriad Countries: The Outside World on Historical Maps of Japan*  
1 Oct 2016 – 31 July 2017

### Carola Erika Lorea

*Folklore, religion and diaspora: the migration of oral traditions across and beyond the East Bengal border*  
1 Sept 2016 – 30 June 2017

### Giacomo Mantovan

*Sri Lankan Tamil diaspora*  
1 Sept 2016 – 30 June 2017

### Sayana Namsaraeva

*Nested Subjects on the China-Russia-Mongolia border*  
1 June 2016 – 30 Nov 2016

### Steffen Rimner

*The Asian origins of global drug control*  
1 July 2016 – 31 May 2017

### Bal Gopal Shrestha

*Religiosity among the Nepalese Diaspora*  
1 Jan 2015 – 31 Dec 2017

### Sebastian Schwecke

*Informal monetary markets*  
1 Oct 2016 – 31 Jan 2018

### Ady van den Stock

*'Wisdom' as a category of knowledge and a marker of cultural identity: reinterpretations of Wang Yangming in modern China*  
26 Sep 2016 – 26 July 2017

### Emilia Roza Sulek

*The 'caterpillar fungus boom' and its socio-economic consequences for Tibetan pastoral society in Golok, Qinghai Province, China*  
1 Aug 2016 – 31 Dec 2016

### Mayuke Tanabe

*The socio-cultural impact of Japanese-Moroccan cooperation in the fishing industry*  
1 Jan 2016 – 31 Dec 2016

### Yu QIU

*Complicit Intimacy: a study of Nigerian-Chinese intimate/business partnerships in South China*  
1 July 2016 – 31 Dec 2016

### Shu-li WANG

*The Politics of China's cultural heritage on display: Yin Xu Archaeological Park in the making*  
1 Sept 2015 – 31 Aug 2017

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Steffen Rimner

**Macro-region gone missing: the Pacific Rim**



WHAT ATTRACTED ME to Leiden University and to IIAS were, above all, two major qualities. First, Leiden has shown great interest in scholarship on multiple registers of Asia's relations with the wider world. The work of my colleagues here explores the local, national, regional and global aspects of historical change. Second, Leiden's commitment to interdisciplinarity is as conspicuous as it is gratifying. The energetic pursuit of international history and international relations in conjunction is especially close to my heart.

In Leiden, many understand that one country's perspective just won't do. The burgeoning internationalization reflected by IIAS extends beyond its walls. I see it also at the Institute of History and the new spate of teachers and scholars in International Studies at the campus in Den Haag. Little wonder, then, that the Times Higher Education ranked Leiden's Arts and Humanities faculty at the top of European continental universities in 2015-16!

Before my arrival from Japan this summer, I was fortunate to have received an international education. I took my B.A. at the University of Konstanz, continued at Yale University, did language studies in China, Taiwan and Japan and received my Ph.D. in international history at Harvard University in 2014. Since then, I have held fellowships at Yale and Oxford and taught at Columbia in an appointment at the university's only global teaching program.

At IIAS, I am finishing my first book for Harvard University Press. Based on multi-lingual, archival research in eleven countries, the book recasts the origins of global drug control in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. It ranges from the Opium Wars to the League of Nations to explore how social, ideological, economic and political forces created a global regime of oversight that cut straight into the financial interests of all great empires. The results were deep and wide-ranging, from transnational movements to multi-imperial cooperation, the non-governmental foundations of global governance, state compliance in international law and defining features of international public health crises.

In my past research and teaching, I have been fascinated by the Pacific Rim (or "trans-Pacific" relations) as a largely neglected macro-region. Classic world maps bring the Atlantic Ocean center stage, whereas the Pacific finds itself awkwardly cut in two. Yet, Pearl Harbor is in Hawaii, North Korea projects its nuclear power across the Pacific and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) means what it says. Beyond these examples, the Pacific Rim has historically played a critical role in international society and global politics throughout the nineteenth and twentieth century. Migration, trade, ideas, culture and political tensions have "flowed" across these waters despite the vast distances involved. Shouldn't we try to understand why?

Along similar lines, my publications include "Beyond the Call of Duty: Cosmopolitan Education and the Origins of Asian-American Women's Medicine," in *Asia Pacific in the Age of Globalization*, a contribution to the Palgrave Macmillan Transnational History Series, and an article on the Chinese-American-Cuban-Peruvian connection in the "coolie trade", to appear in the November issue of the *Journal of Global History*. During my stay at IIAS, I will give talks in Leiden, the UK and possibly Japan.

Leiden's intellectual vitality, collegiality and open-mindedness have made my stay a great pleasure. Beyond my stay at IIAS, I do hope to find a job somewhere in the world, preferably resonating with the themes outlined above.

## Gonda Fellowships for Indologists

FOR PROMISING YOUNG INDOLOGISTS at the post-doctorate level, it is possible to apply for funding with the J. Gonda Foundation, to spend three to six months doing research at IIAS. Please send your application to the J. Gonda Foundation by the appropriate deadline below. The J. Gonda Foundation of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) supports the scholarly study of Sanskrit, other Indian languages and literature, and Indian cultural history. In addition to enabling Indologists to spend time at IIAS, the foundation offers funding for projects or publications in Indology of both researchers and scientific publishers, as well as PhD grants.

**Application form:** [www.knaw.nl/en/awards/subsidies/gonda-fund](http://www.knaw.nl/en/awards/subsidies/gonda-fund)  
**Application deadline:** 1 April and 1 October every year



## ASC-IIAS Fellowship Programme

A joint fellowship offered by the African Studies Centre and the International Institute for Asian Studies

THIS FELLOWSHIP is intended for researchers specialising in Asian-African interactions. It aims to attract researchers whose work is informed by current theoretical debates, in the social sciences and humanities, on global connectivities and who are able to critically engage with shifting paradigms in 'area studies' beyond the ways in which these have traditionally been conceived in the West. We are particularly interested in receiving fellowship proposals that go beyond a mere analysis of current issues associated with African-Asian comparative economic developments or Chinese investments in Africa – although none of these themes, if appraised critically and for their societal consequences, will of course be excluded. Our definition of Asia and Africa is broad and inclusive, Asia ranging from the Middle-East to the Pacific Coast, and Africa from North-Africa to the southern tip of the continent.

**Application deadline:** 15 March and 15 September each year.  
**For more information and application form, go to:** [www.iias.nl/page/asc-iias-fellowship-programme](http://www.iias.nl/page/asc-iias-fellowship-programme)





## Emilia Roza Sulek

### Caterpillar fungus boom in Tibet

ARE THERE TIBETAN pastoralists who thrive in China's new economy, and do the stories about the 'ecological resettlement' (see pages 4-5 in this issue) tell the whole truth about Tibet's pastoral society? I wrote my dissertation about such economically successful pastoralists and came to the IIAS to transform it into a book manuscript.

In my book, I analyse a regional economic boom based upon the trade in caterpillar fungus, an expensive medicinal resource endemic to the Tibetan plateau. This trade witnessed a gradual rise in popularity after the economic reforms of the 1980s, and in the early 2000s it grew to such a size that it became compared to a 'gold rush'. Wild harvesting and sale of caterpillar fungus became the main source of income for the pastoralists in regions such as Golok where I conducted my research. This research revealed that the pastoralists not only earn their income from caterpillar fungus, but also use profits to transform their lives and environments in novel ways. In my book, I analyze the complex character of this transformation, ranging from changes in pastoral production to infrastructural investments. The pastoralists, as pictured in this study, appear as active agents of change who use their new-found prosperity to accomplish their own goals. They demonstrate human agency and skills often neglected in studies devoted to Tibetan pastoral societies of China.

The IIAS is where I always wanted to go. I subscribed to the Newsletter during my undergraduate years in Warsaw and imagined the Institute with its multi-disciplinary approach as the place where I could fully develop my interests. In fact, the first report from my fieldwork, a crime story entitled "Tseren's last gold rush", I published nowhere other than in *The Newsletter* (issue #46)! Since my childhood I have also always wanted to go to the Netherlands. My uncle worked at the flower fair in Aalsmeer and I remember all his stories and postcards from that time. Leiden is a good match to my imagination. It has fertile soil for working on my book and offers inspiration on other levels. I like the canals with their still water at night, numberless bridges (I have to think about van Gogh and Hiroshige) and seagulls waiting to steal your *broodje*. I enjoy the North Sea air and the *Hollandse Nieuwe* at the market. I engulf myself in Leiden's history, discovering its hidden gems: the clock (from before the pendulum era!) in the Hooglandsche Kerk, the oasis-like alms-houses and the Café De Bonte Koe, which was meant to be a butcher's shop. It's a pity they don't serve *Jenever* in *Leidse flessen*! My anthropology of daily life would not be complete without the Netherlands' best kept secret: its food, which, as many other things, is *lekker*.

# IIAS FELLOWSHIPS



The International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) in Leiden, the Netherlands, invites outstanding researchers to apply for a fellowship to work on a relevant piece of research in the social sciences and humanities.

WE ARE PARTICULARLY interested in researchers focusing on one of the Institute's three thematic clusters. However, some positions will be reserved for outstanding projects in any area outside of those listed.

### Asian Cities

The Asian Cities cluster explores modes of urban development, and deals with cities and urban cultures with related issues of flows and fluxes, ideas and goods, cosmopolitanism and connectivity at their core, framing the existence of vibrant 'civil societies' and political micro-cultures. Through an international knowledge network, IIAS aims to create a platform for scholars and urban practitioners focusing on Asian cities 'in context' and beyond traditional western norms of knowledge.

### Asian Heritages

This cluster focuses on the politics of culture and cultural heritages in Asia. It addresses a variety of definitions associated with cultural heritage and their implications for social agency. In general, the cluster engages with a broad range of concepts and issues related to culture and cultural heritage, and their importance in defining one's identity vis-à-vis those of others.

### Global Asia

The Global Asia cluster examines examples of and issues related to multiple, transnational intra-Asian interactions as well as Asia's projection in the world. Historical experiences as well as more contemporary trends are addressed.

Research projects that can contribute to new, historically contextualised, multidisciplinary knowledge, with the capacity of translating this into social and policy relevant initiatives, will be privileged.

For information on the research clusters and application form visit our website:

[www.iias.nl](http://www.iias.nl)