

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

Eva Ambos

The heritagization of the (post-)war in Sri Lanka
15 May 2017 – 15 March 2018

Mehdi Amineh

Coordinator
'Energy Programme Asia (EPA)'
Domestic and geopolitical challenges to energy security for China and the European Union
1 Sept 2007 – 31 March 2018

Elizabeth Cecil

Mapping the Pāsupata landscape: polity, place, and the Śaiva imaginary in Northwest India (7th-10th century)
1 Feb 2017 – 31 July 2017

Haydon Cherry

Down and out in Saigon: stories of the poor in a colonial city, 1900-1940
1 June 2017 – 31 August 2017

Lung-hsing Chu

Meeting in Nagasaki: rethinking Western influence on Japanese material culture in the late Edo period
1 Oct 2016 – 31 July 2017

Lawrence Chua

Bangkok Utopia: modern architecture, urban public space, and the Buddhist spatial imagination in 20th-century Thailand
1 June 2017 – 31 Dec 2017

Jatin Dua

A sea of protection: piracy, trade, and regulation in the Indian Ocean
1 Oct 2016 – 31 July 2018

Gregory Goulding

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

Anna Grasskamp

Maritime material culture in a global context
1 Feb 2017 – 31 July 2017

Laxshmi Greaves

A hoard of Gupta period terracotta temple panels from Katingara, Etah district, Uttar Pradesh
1 April – 31 July 2017

Jiri Jakl

Alcohol in pre-Islamic Java (c. 800-1500 CE): cultural, social, and ritual uses of an 'unholy' brew
15 March 2017 – 15 Aug 2017

Pralay Kanungo

Visiting Professor,
India Studies Chair (ICCR)
Indian Politics
1 Sept 2013 – 30 June 2018

Neena Talwar Kanungo

The arrival of digital democracy in India: social media and political parties
1 July 2016 – 30 June 2018

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

Bindu Menon

Migrant cartographies: migrant media in the Gulf Council Cooperation cities
1 Aug 2017 – 31 May 2018

Sebastian Schwecke

Informal monetary markets
1 Oct 2016 – 31 Jan 2018

Bal Gopal Shrestha

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

Alexander Stolyarov

Database of early mediaeval North Indian land grants: copperplates and publications
19 June 2017 – 19 July 2017

Ady van den Stock

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

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



Laxshmi Greaves

A hoard of Gupta period terracotta temple panels from Katingara, Etah district, Uttar Pradesh

MY FELLOWSHIP AT IIAS began in May this year and I have already benefitted enormously from the inspiring, supportive and convivial environment of the Institute and of the neighbouring Humanities Faculty with its thriving Indology community.

I came to the IIAS after completing my doctorate at Cardiff University and the British Museum on monumental brick temple architecture and terracotta art of early North India. My current project focuses on a substantial and fascinating group of narrative Gupta period terracotta panels dispersed across museum and private collections in North America, Canada, Europe and India. Many of the panels depict scenes from the great Hindu epic, the *Rāmāyaṇa*, and some bear short Brāhmī inscriptions dating to the early fifth century CE, which Professor Peter Bisschop (Leiden University Institute for Area Studies) has been helping me to decipher. Although the panels share a bold, idiosyncratic style and a likeness in scale and finish, they have never been acknowledged as having a single origin. Instead, most of them have been loosely described as hailing from Uttar Pradesh. The obscure provenance suggests that the panels were not unearthed during the course of a legal excavation.

The central aims of my research paper are to draw together this remarkable collection of panels and to put forward an argument for their place of origin being a small archaeological site near the village of Katingara, located in the alluvial plains beside the Kali Nadi river (a tributary of the Ganges) in district Etah, Uttar Pradesh. Katingara will also be positioned within the context of recorded early archaeological sites in the region – a region often overlooked in studies on Gupta art, architecture and archaeology despite being in the heartland of the empire. Importantly, the panels constitute one of the earliest and most extensive collections of terracotta *Rāmāyaṇa* images surviving from the Gupta period and this is the first time since their illicit removal from Katingara that they have been 're-assembled'.

Being at IIAS has also given me the opportunity to begin research on a collaborative paper with Dr Elizabeth Cecil, an IIAS fellow and lecturer at Leiden University (see p.46 of this issue). Our project will investigate some unusual Śaiva images from northern Rajasthan dating to circa the late Kuṣāṇa period (3rd century CE). Some of the features in these images were not absorbed into the iconographic language of religious art in South Asia, formalised to an extent during the Gupta period, and are therefore little understood and highly intriguing.

I have also been making the most of the excellent museums in Leiden and its neighbouring cities, as well as enjoying the delightful architecture and canals. One of the highlights of my stay in Leiden is being able to pop over regularly to the beautiful Hortus botanicus located a few doors down from the IIAS, where I can clear my mind and do a spot of sketching.

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
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





Jiri Jákl

Palacky University, Olomouc, Czech Republic

Liquor in the jar: Alcohol in Java, ca. 800 – 1500 CE

I CAME TO IIAS to finalize my book on 'alcohol in pre-Islamic Java (ca. 800 – 1500 CE)'. From my first sojourn in Leiden as an MA student many years ago, I still remember Leiden's intellectual environment, which has not been changed and remains as challenging as before. The brand-new Asian Library (see pp.44-45 of this issue), with its helpful, professional and dedicated staff, are certain to appeal to anyone who works on Asian cultures, as is the rich and world-famous collection of Asian manuscripts. In particular, however, it is the open-mindedness of my colleagues and friends that makes my second sojourn such a nice and enriching experience.

My research interests lie in the field of the social and cultural history of the maritime Silk Road. In my past research and teaching I have always been trying to understand 'historical change' as a complex event, in which social, cultural, religious, but also material aspects and factors fuse together to result in a particular, often unpredictable, new quality.

Many historical changes are often only fully recognized and experienced by a society after years or decades, when they are finally accepted as representing a 'change'. Following this approach, I find alcohol, and other less well-known intoxicants, to be a particularly rewarding research topic, as it represents an intriguing window into the loves and fears of the societies that existed in the past, in what is now called Indonesia.

Obviously, alcohol is extremely controversial in contemporary Islamic Java. Though representing a relatively marginal intoxicant in modern Java, where tobacco and coffee rule the day, alcohol was an important substance in pre-Islamic Java, as it was and still is on Hindu Bali. Old Javanese texts, especially the texts on *dharma* and ecclesiastical rules, present intoxicating drinks as forbidden, addictive, and impure. Yet, other sources describe alcohol as nourishing, arousing, and important in the social, political, ritual, and medical contexts.

Probably surprisingly for many modern observers, alcohol has, through time, influenced Javanese social, religious, and cultural life in many ways, from the ordinary to the remarkable and unexpected. My book deals with questions such as: Why was alcohol so prominent and widespread in Java before 1500 CE, but disappeared from most social and cultural contexts by the 18th century? Was Islamization the only reason behind this development, as is commonly supposed? The historical records available to us indicate that consumption of alcohol has substantially diminished only during the first half of the 17th century, when other intoxicants, in particular tobacco, became more common. In the 18th century, when substantial segments of Javanese society became more strictly Islamic, alcohol consumption was limited mostly to elites, some non-Javanese ethnic groups, and medical use.

During my affiliation with IIAS, I will give talks in Leiden, Denmark, and possibly Vienna. Apart from working on my book, I engulf myself in occasional visits of Dutch museums and galleries, and spend part of my weekends bird-watching with a couple of friends. And yes, my academic study of alcohol in Java would not be complete without a disciplined consumption of delicious Dutch (and Belgium) beers.

See also p.7 of this issue for an article by Jiri Jákl

IIAS FELLOWSHIPS

Yearly
application
deadlines:
1 March and
1 October

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

