

## Independence and after in Southeast Asia: Old and new interpretations

APRU School of Humanities conference  
14-15 August 2007, Penang, Malaysia

2007 marks the 50th anniversary of Merdeka (independence) for Malaysia. Malaysia attained political independence from British colonial rule in August 1957 through constitutional means. This led to a smooth handing over of power to Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj - the prime minister and architect of Merdeka. Other countries in the region endured years of conflict and bloodshed before independence from colonial rule was achieved, the most recent being Timor Leste in 2002. The notable exception is Thailand which escaped the shackles of colonial domination by remaining the only independent, sovereign nation-state in Southeast Asia.

The discourse of nations achieving political independence and the characterisation of the years that followed as the 'postcolonial' period has long been a mainstay of the academic agenda in studies of Southeast Asia, particularly in the disciplines of history, political science, economics, literature and language, anthropology, and sociology. The road to independence was often long and arduous. The years following the attainment of national sovereignty were equally troublesome with seemingly insurmountable challenges. Whilst Malaysia faced the sensitive issue of managing race relations, the Philippines struggled with a leftist insurgency, Thailand 'seesawed' with weak civilian governments and military juntas. Meanwhile Myanmar was secluded under a military dictatorship, and Cambodia experienced a nightmare following the establishment of a genocidal regime. The ups and downs of nation-building, the maintenance of political stability and economic sustainability are just some of the major issues that faced post-independent nation-states of Southeast Asia.

For more information visit [www.usm.my/APRU/index.html](http://www.usm.my/APRU/index.html) or contact [shakila@usm.my](mailto:shakila@usm.my)

## The political economy of growth, inequality and conflict

ISAS 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on South Asia  
29 – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007, Singapore

Economic, social and regional inequalities constitute major sources of political friction, conflict and even violence. With the rapid socio-economic and political transitions underway throughout South Asia, there is pressing need to research inter-relationships among economic growth, inequality and conflict and to draw out their implications for public policy. The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on South Asia will provide a forum for presenting and discussing results of fresh research on this vital subject, for comparing and learning from national experiences within the region and for promoting future collaboration among scholars of the region. Under the broad rubric of *Political Economy of Growth, Inequality and Conflict*, topics for discussion will include:

- Economic reforms and inequality trends: the politics of measurement and perception
- Growth and inequality under reforms: political causes and consequences
- Political-Economic institutions of governance and growth
- Social and regional inequalities: does faster growth help of hurt?
- Social policies for re-dressing social inequalities: the politics of principles and practices
- What constrains redistribution under unequalising growth: politics or economics?

The theme demands trespassing across disciplinary boundaries and so ISA extends a special invitation to scholars in economics, sociology, anthropology, political science and geography.

\* probable dates for the conference.

For information about ISAS and updates on the conference visit [www.isas.nus.edu.sg](http://www.isas.nus.edu.sg)

Or contact the organising committee:  
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## Rapid urbanisation in Asia

9<sup>th</sup> Asian Urbanisation Conference  
18-23 August 2007, Chuncheon City, South Korea

Rapid urbanisation and city growth in Asian countries have followed different processes that have given rise to a variety of social, economic and political problems. With a view to promoting research on these problems, of which the geographical and economic characteristics are particularly emphasised, the Asian Urban Research Association is holding the 9<sup>th</sup> Asian Urbanisation Conference. The conference, hosted by Kangwon National University, hopes to attract highly qualified and active scholars in the field from various parts of the world, and expand the network of international professional contacts. The aim of the conference is to encourage dialogue and allow participants an opportunity to exchange views and experiences. There will also be an opportunity to analyse the situation of Asian urbanisation and the policies of different countries for their urbanisation processes, grasp new trends of research, evaluate urban and regional planning approaches and the processes per se, and to present research papers for discussion and selection for publication.

**For more information visit:**  
<http://webspaceship.edu/aura/>  
**or contact:**  
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## Thai societies in a transnationalised world

10<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Thai Studies  
9-11 January 2008, Bangkok, Thailand  
Call for papers.  
Deadline 30 September 2007

The 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Thai Studies intends to bring together scholars from all disciplines and intellectual perspectives to discuss the transformation of Thai Societies in a Transnationalised World: how transnationalism affects the nation's life, prospects and identities; what kind of challenges awaits Thai society; how traditions could be modified and new mechanisms devised to cope with current and emerging challenges; and how Thailand can contribute to the world's peace and prosperity. The deadline for abstract and full paper submission is September 30, 2007.

For more information please contact website <http://www.thaiconference.tu.ac.th> or e-mail [thaiconference@gmail.com](mailto:thaiconference@gmail.com)  
The Tenth International Conference on Thai Studies  
The Thai Khadi Research Institute  
Thammasat University  
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Tel 662-6133201-5 ext 22  
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## China: Evolution or revolution?

British Association for Chinese Studies Annual Conference  
6-7 September 2007, Manchester, UK

The British Association for Chinese Studies (BACS) is pleased to announce that its 2007 Annual Conference will be held in conjunction with the Centre for Chinese Studies at the University of Manchester on 6-7 September 2007. BACS will be joined in Manchester by their sister organisation, the British Chinese Language Teaching Society, holding their second BCLTS International Symposium.

The conference theme emerged from a 'China Rising' discussion. After decades of underestimating China's contribution to world culture and its place in the world, in the last few years we have witnessed a Zhongguo re 'China fever', certainly in Europe. We have also seen a counter-reaction with some people claiming China is over-hyped, that it lacks creativity and that the impressive progress China has made in recent years is all down to Western investment and models. What has China's contribution to world culture been? Does China offer alternative models? Are we witnessing a paradigm shift in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Is our discourse on China capable of capturing the immense complexity and challenge China presents? Are we still trapped in modes of understanding that belong to the past and hamper our ability to comprehend the China of today?

These are the questions the central theme seeks to address, critically evaluating the claims of both traditional and contemporary China to creativity and originality.

BACS promotes scholarship on all disciplines relating to China, both traditional and modern, and including China proper, other Chinese-speaking areas and the diaspora. We welcome papers across the whole spectrum.

The BACS Annual Conference welcomes international and UK based participants, both members and non-members, to offer papers or just attend the conference. There will be distinguished keynote speakers in plenary sessions, specialist panels and postgraduate student sessions. For further details visit [www.bacsuk.org.uk](http://www.bacsuk.org.uk)

## CESS 2007

Central Eurasian Studies Society  
8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
18 - 21 October 2007, Seattle, USA

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS) will be held at the University of Washington, hosted by the Ellison Center for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies.

The conference aims to raise topics and discussions relating to all aspects of humanities and social science scholarship on Central Eurasia. The geographic domain of Central Eurasia extends from the Black Sea and Iranian Plateau to Mongolia and Siberia, including the Caucasus, Crimea, Middle Volga, Afghanistan, Tibet, and Central and Inner Asia. Practitioners and scholars in all humanities and social science disciplines with an interest in Central Eurasia are encouraged to participate.

There has been a huge growth in interest in the CESS conference as our society has become more established. Over the past three years, attendance has averaged about 500 per year, with dozens of countries and all major fields of scholarship represented. We expect a similar number to attend in 2007.

For more information visit:  
[http://cess.fas.harvard.edu/CESS\\_conference.html](http://cess.fas.harvard.edu/CESS_conference.html)  
or contact:

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## The Cold War in Asia

Workshop  
Zhongshan University  
1-2 November 2007, Guangzhou, China

The United States and Soviet Union carved out their respective spheres of influence at the end of the Second World War. The contest of these two global powers was a matter of ideological conflict, intermittent with arms race and economic warfare, rather than direct military confrontation. The invention of nuclear weapons made many believe that the arms race could escalate into another world war. This did not materialise and the contest ended with the dissolution of the Soviet Union in December 1991.

The study of the Cold War has flourished in the West as we can see from the works

of John Gaddis and others. But scholars in the Asia region and around the world have just begun to explore its Asian variations as archives have slowly become available. The Cold War in Asia was different than in Europe because it became a hot war with real conflict in Korea and Vietnam. As Chen Jian has argued, Asia, and specifically, China was at the centre of the Cold War. The Asian theatre was complex and dynamic as geopolitics and ideological differences were intertwined with historical links and cultural ties. Since Akira Iriye pioneered the field, too few scholars have explored the Cold War in Asia from Asian perspectives and more importantly the "soft" side of this global as well as regional conflict. The goal of this conference is to challenge the conventional wisdom on the Cold War and launch the study of the Cold War in Asia from an Asian perspective first with a conference that will include the following major themes:

- the propaganda and print war, anti-communist and anti-imperialist
- the ping pong and other styles of "soft" diplomacy
- the social and material legacy, civilian mobilisation for example
- the ideological war/alliance, the Bandung conference for example
- Americanisation/Westernisation of Asian popular culture, movies for example
- the continuing Cold War in Asia, continued American presence in the region

The conference is organised by the Centre for Chinese Studies, University of Manchester; East Asian languages and Civilisation, Harvard University and the School of Humanities, Zhongshan University. For more information, please contact Miss Catriona Dobson:  
[catriona.dobson@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:catriona.dobson@manchester.ac.uk)

## Emotions and East Asian social life

Summer School  
3 - 8 September 2007, The Isle of Procida, Naples, Italy

Due to increasing economic and social links between Europe and the East the cross-cultural understanding of emotions is becoming a highly-valued and sought-after skill. Understanding emotions is as important as language in the success of cross-cultural communication. For this reason the University "L'Orientale" of Naples – an institution with a strong background in East Asian emotion research – has developed a topic-related summer school, the first of its kind in Europe.

*Emotions in East Asian Social Life: Theory and Practice* will offer an excellent opportunity for students and professionals to gain expertise in all aspects of East Asian emotion management. The courses, given by an international team of experts, will be invaluable not only for students of East Asian studies, but for anyone interested in improving their intercultural communication skills.

For further information visit [www.iuo.it/emotion\\_summer\\_school](http://www.iuo.it/emotion_summer_school) or contact:  
Professor Paolo Santangelo:  
[psantan@iuo.it](mailto:psantan@iuo.it)  
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## Societies in transformation

**8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Asia Pacific Sociological Association**  
**19-22 November 2007, Penang, Malaysia**  
**Call for papers**  
**Deadline 22 October 2007**

Rapid globalisation, coupled with economic liberalisation and financial deregulation, has opened up the economics of the Asia Pacific region. Increasing wealth generation is heralded as a sign of great personal and notional success, while large numbers of people remain marginalised in poor paying and insecure jobs. Youth are under extreme pressures in terms of successful education and gaining secure employment. The media glorifies the consumer revolution, and we see increasing use of new technologies which are changing forever the very fabric of work, family life, health and culture in the countries of the Asia Pacific. The region is seemingly now more integrated, with unprecedented levels of tourism, migration, and economic and cultural linkages. But, are the nations of the region, and their populations, becoming more divided, united or are they funda-

mentally unchanged over the past two decades?

The 8<sup>th</sup> conference of the Asia Pacific Sociological Association (APSA) aims to explore the various dimensions of the rapid social transformation of the Asia Pacific. Papers that empirically or theoretically address the themes of social transformation, in its diverse forms, are particularly welcome.

Deadline for registration : 22 October 2007  
 Submission of full paper : 22 October 2007

The conference is co-sponsored by the School of Social Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), and the Centre for Asia Pacific Social Transformation Studies (CAPSTRANS), University of Wollongong, Australia.

For more information visit [www.asiapacificsociology.org](http://www.asiapacificsociology.org) or contact:

The Secretariat

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## Call for Papers

### Conference



### Anthropology of Elites Methodological and Theoretical Challenges

**24-25 January 2008**  
**Amsterdam, The Netherlands**

How do structures of power shape our society? This question lies at the core of many of the social sciences. Within anthropology, an understanding of power is central to many theories; however, the study of those groups which hold significant power (i.e. elites) is far less central within the discipline. Our conference explores anthropological approaches to studying elites.

An important book that deals with many of these issues is *Elite Cultures, Anthropological Perspectives* (Routledge, 2002), edited by Cris Shore and Stephen Nugent. This collection contains several highly relevant methodological and theoretical angles and interesting ethnographic examples. However, there has been little occasion for in-depth discussion on the matters raised in Shore and Nugent's book since. Therefore, to further our ethnographic knowledge and deepen methodological and theoretical debates on elites we wish to create a platform of discussion in the form of the conference: 'Anthropology of Elites, Methodological and Theoretical Challenges'. The conference will address the following themes:

1) Methodological questions regarding the study and ethnographies of elites. As Shore states, elites do not always recognise themselves as elites. It is a term of reference rather than self-reference (Shore 2002: 3). How, therefore, do we deal with this problem when studying elites? Moreover, elites are allegedly difficult to research. What are the different experiences regarding this matter? Finally, in anthropology the main research method is ethnographic fieldwork based on intensive participant observation, something that is often not feasible in the study of elite groups. How can we tackle these methodological shortcomings? Does anthropology have the right tools for studying elites? And furthermore, what ethical questions arise when studying elites?

2) What can the anthropology of elites contribute to elite studies in general? Shore notes that elites have been of much concern to sociologists, historians and political scientists, but anthropologists have hardly studied them at all (ibid 2002: 10). However, an anthropological approach is important for understanding elites from 'within'. In order to get a better grip of power structures in societies we have to understand the dynamic of elite cultures, and how elites employ their influence and power. We would like to pursue this debate at the conference by focussing on ethnographies of elites. Further, our aim is to deal with this matter in a debate with other social scientists involved in studying elites, in order to stimulate a multi-disciplinary approach in the study of elites.

3) What can ethnographies of elites contribute to anthropology in general? Shore argues that studying elites 'provides a useful focus for addressing important anthropological and sociological concerns including language and power; leadership and authority; status and hierarchy; ideology and consciousness; social identities and boundary-maintenance; power relations, social structure and social change' (ibid 2002: 9). One of the most renowned ethnographies of elites Abner Cohen's *Politics of Elite Culture* (University of California Press, 1981), for instance, addresses a range of these concerns. However, since the publication of Cohen's work there have been developments, such as increasing modernisation, globalisation and transnationalism that have become core in anthropological research. Thus, we would like to establish what the variety of recent ethnographies of elites might contribute to understanding how elite studies relate to larger anthropological debates.

### Important dates:

- 15 September 2007: deadline for submission of abstracts (max. 400 words) including brief CV of author(s) (max. 100 words)
- 15 November 2007: deadline for submission of papers (max. 8.000 words) Abstracts and papers should be written in English.

### Please forward your submission to:

The organising committee: Professor Dr. Jon Abbink, Dr. Sandra Evers, Tijo Salverda  
 E-mail: [t.salverda@fsw.vu.nl](mailto:t.salverda@fsw.vu.nl)

Any further queries or requests for information on the conference should be sent to the above e-mail address.

## Rising China in the age of globalisation

**International Conference of the UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland / Irish Institute for Chinese Studies**  
**16-18 August 2007, Dublin**

China's rapid growth over the last quarter of a century has propelled it to become the world's fourth largest economy in 2006 and potentially it's largest in the foreseeable future. This development has seen China's 1.3 billion people begin a process of integration into the global economy and become a major driving force in the process of globalisation, particularly since joining the World Trade Organisation in 2001. There has been increasing interest and speculation as to the rising China and its cultural, social, political and legal practices today which have to be recognised and reconsidered within the context of globalisation.

This two day conference will be co-organised by University College Dublin and Renmin University of China and sponsored is two day conference will be co-organised by University College Dublin and Renmin University of China and sponsored by the Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban).

The conference aims to provide a forum for researchers, academics, practitioners and government officials and business executives to share up-to-date findings and developments in the fields of Chinese culture and language, Chinese economy and business, and the Chinese political and legal system in the era of globalisation.

For more information:  
[www.ucd.ie.china](http://www.ucd.ie.china)  
[elva@conferencepartners.ie](mailto:elva@conferencepartners.ie)

[ advertisement ]

# SieboldHuis

## シーボルト・ハウス

### The first worldwide ethnographic collection about Japan, the Siebold Collection, in a historical Dutch canal house.

The SieboldHuis in Leiden offers the best from the old and new Japan in a house of historical stature; prints, lacquer ware and ceramics, fossils, herbaria, prepared animals, coins, textiles, old maps and hundreds of other treasures. All has been collected in Japan between 1823 and 1830 by the Bavarian physician Philipp Franz von Siebold. Siebold was sent as a physician to the Dutch trading post in Japan by the Dutch government, with the special assignment to collect as much information as possible about this mysterious country. Siebold collected a magnitude of objects in a wide range of fields: botany, zoology, mineralogy and geography, as well as daily objects, artefacts, models, industrial raw materials and semi manufactured products. He returned in 1830 and bought the house at the Rapenburg to live in and to show his Japanese collection. Siebold was known for decades as the Japan specialist in Europe. In 2004 the magnificent building was restored to its old splendour and nowadays, it houses seven exhibition rooms, each with their own atmosphere. In addition, it offers a varied program of temporary exhibits and numerous Japan-related activities.

### TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

*Calligraphic arts of Ogawa Toshu and students from the University of Leiden*  
 20 juni 2007 – 29 juli 2007

*Summer in the SieboldHuis – Okinawa, the other Japan, prints from Yuusuke Namihira*  
 3 August 2007 – 9 September 2007

*Fleeting Instant – Photos by Lucienne van der Mijle*  
 28 September 2007 – 9 December 2007

### ACTIVITIES

*Leiden Film Festival – Japanese movies in the SieboldHouse*  
 31 Oktober 2007 – 4 November 2007

*Siebold lecture series – Thursdays 11, 18 and 25 November 2007, 6 p.m.*

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