

Announcements

Call for papers

The Humanities Reborn: Chinese Humanities in the 1950s and their Foundations

Workshop, March 2010
Asien-Afrika-Institut,
University of Hamburg

Deadline for abstracts: 1 March 2009

This project examines the content and rules of academic work in China during the 1950s, specifically the then newly established fields of history, literary criticism, and philosophy. The 1950s are considered as crucial for the formation of PRC humanities.

In an interdisciplinary approach the workshop also invites scholars working on the humanities in the early phase of the Soviet Union in order to discuss similarities and differences in the development of the humanities. The workshop will focus on the following topics:

- 1) Interrelation between party line and academic discourse
What were the aims and means in conducting campaigns such as anti-Hu-Shi-campaign with regard to the humanities? Are there any patterns of ritualized communication? Party line and academic discourse: top down and bottom up relation?
- 2) Institutions and academic associations and networking
What were the working conditions in Chinese academia? What was the role of the academic associations? What kinds of bonds and networks did there exist?
- 3) Academic conventions
What were the new forms of academic writing in terms of conventions of quotation, argument, and proof? Which new terms were introduced as standard?
- 4) Academic content elements
Which were the underlying theories and ideologies? Which works were considered as canonical within socialist humanities?

Papers can be submitted in either English or Chinese.

Deadline for abstracts (English or Chinese): 1st March 2009

Contact: Yvonne Schulz Zinda, Marie-Theres Strauss, Wang Weijiang humanities-reborn@gmail.com

Husi Bei Ala Timor Sira Nia Liman – From the Hands of our Ancestors

The art and craft of Timor-Leste - Arte no artesantu Timor-Leste
22 November 2008 - 12 July 2009

Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
Darwin, Australia

This international exhibition will present the traditional and contemporary art and crafts of Timor-Leste. The national collection of Timor-Leste will be complemented with works from the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. This comprehensive, collaborative exhibition of the textiles, ceramics, wooden carvings and body adornment of Timor-Leste will give insights into the distinctive living cultures of this young nation.



A Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory exhibition in partnership with the national Directorate of Culture, Timor-Leste
(Detail) Timor-Leste, Ceremonial Mask, 20th Century, Hand-carved hardwood, 22 cm x 15.5 cm x 9 cm

For further information: <http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/museums/exhibitions/upcoming.html>

The 18th New Zealand Asian Studies Society International Conference 2009

6-8 July, 2009
Victoria University of Wellington,

This will be an open, multidisciplinary conference. Participants are invited to submit panel or paper proposals presenting original research on any Asia-related topic. Proposals for panels are welcome. We can accept only one paper submission per person. Emerging scholars and postgraduate students are particularly welcome. For more information, please see the conference website: <http://www.nzasia.org.nz/conference.html>

Paper presentations will be allocated 30 minutes (20 minutes presentation and 10 minutes discussion). Shorter papers with more time for discussion are welcome. Panels will normally comprise three paper presentations.

Submission of Abstracts

Paper abstracts, single spaced and no longer than 200 words, must be submitted electronically as Microsoft Word email attachments before 15 March 2009 to the chair of the organising committee:
stephen.epstein@vuw.ac.nz

On your abstract please indicate the following:

- Title of paper or panel
- Author(s) and/or panelists
- Contact details for the author(s) and panelists
- Three to four keywords

The IISS Announces 5th Regional Security Summit: The Manama Dialogue

12 – 14 December 2008

Bahrain

The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) is pleased to announce that the 5th Regional Security Summit: The Manama Dialogue will take place from 12 to 14 December 2008 in Bahrain.

The Manama Dialogue is the primary security forum in the Gulf and facilitates the engagement of the national security and foreign policy establishments of the region with critical external powers. In 2008, the 5th anniversary meeting will draw together the highest concentration to date of policy-makers involved in regional security, and delegations will once again comprise a measured blend of prime ministers, defence ministers, foreign ministers, national security advisors, and military and intelligence chiefs.

On- and off-the-record events designed to foster the advancement of foreign policy characterise The Manama Dialogue. The skeletal agenda is available at: <http://www.iiss.org/conferences/the-iiss-regional-security-summit/iiss-regional-security-summit-agendas/>.

This summit will be held at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Manama. Attendance and participation is by invitation only. Press invitations will be issued at the end of October.

For information on providing press coverage or to receive additional information, please contact dialoguepress@iiss.org or reference <http://www.iiss.org/conferences/the-iiss-regional-security-summit>.

The Wellington Conference on Contemporary China Institutional Dynamics and the Great Transformation of China

13-15 April, 2009

Victoria University of Wellington
Wellington, New Zealand

An international conference sponsored and organized by the New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre

The New Zealand Conference on Contemporary China is an annual event organized by the New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre. The conference series brings together leading China scholars every year to examine, debate and advance scholarship on key issues in contemporary China studies. This year's conference is held in Wellington, New Zealand and the theme for the conference is the role of institutions in China's great transformation.

Over the past 30 years since the launch of economic reform and opening in December 1978, China has seen fundamental economic transformation and unprec-

edented social and political changes. The grand scale and contested nature of the transformation has generated great scholarly interest. Of particular scholarly value is the growing interest in the role of institutions in the shaping of the new economy, new politics and new society of China.

Today, few scholars would dispute that institutions matter. The question is perhaps how exactly they matter in particular national and historical settings. Moreover, institutional analysis is increasingly facing challenges from diverse national experiences and institutional environments. On the other hand, there are a large number of studies on China's transformation, but not many from a unifying intellectual approach involving a multi-disciplinary investigation. There is also a great deal of scholarly interest and research activities in China itself on institutions and Chinese political economy, but this has not received the wider scholarly attention it deserves.

This conference is designed to address these issues. We hope to bring institutional analysis and China studies together to address some of the core questions interesting to both China scholars and those of institutional theory.

We are inviting paper proposals on any aspects of the conference theme and welcome participation of scholars from any discipline of the social sciences, particularly in economics, political science, sociology, law and international relations. We will publish selected papers as an edited volume by an international publisher.

We are particularly interested in case studies on more specific issues such as property rights, the hukou system, the danwei system, the dual-track system, politics and markets, constitutional order, party and electoral systems, international organizations, rules and norms etc. Participants will address some of these questions:

- How do institutions form, evolve or change in the institutional environment of China?
- Does China's transformation vindicate the distinction between formal and informal institutions?
- What is culture from an institutionalist point of view?
- How do institutions relate to what we want to explain: as causes, effects, or more as party to a dynamic interaction?
- How do we measure institutional change and effects?
- Does evidence from China challenge the basic premises of the new institutionalism or does it provide an opportunity for us to improve on its conceptual frameworks and methodology?

Many of these questions have been asked elsewhere, but the China phenomenon arguably provides an ideal empirical basis to search for clearer answers. Those interested to give a paper at the

conference shall forward their paper proposals (title and 150 word abstract) to Dr Xiaoming Huang (xiaoming.huang@vuw.ac.nz), Chair of the Conference Organising Committee, no later than 30 January 2009.

Registration details for the conference and acceptance letters will be sent shortly after that.

Third International Sanskrit Computational Linguistics Symposium

15-17 January 2009
Hyderabad, India

The third International Symposium on Sanskrit Computational Linguistics will take place at the University of Hyderabad on 15th and 16th January 2009, followed by a one day workshop on 17th January 2009 on issues related to tagging of Sanskrit linguistic resources at various levels.

This symposium follows upon the successful two international Sanskrit computational linguistics symposia hosted by INRIA, France and Brown University, USA in October 2007 and May 2008 respectively.

For more information: <http://sanskrit.inria.fr/Symposium/Symposium3.html>

Tribal Cultures at the British Museum and SOAS

23 October 2008 – 13 April 2009

'Between Tibet and India: cultural diversity in the eastern Himalayas' runs from 23 October 2008 to 13 April 2009 at the British Museum in Room 91. This exhibition is the result of a SOAS research project funded by the ESRC and directed by Dr. Stuart Blackburn (South Asia). Admission is free

The exhibition displays the diversity of tribal cultures in Arunachal Pradesh, a little-known state bordering on Tibet in northeast India. The state is home to about 1 million people, consisting of approximately 35 tribal groups who speak (with one exception) Tibeto-Burman languages. Many practice a form of animism; some practice Tibetan Buddhism or Theravada Buddhism; a few follow Hinduism or Christianity.

The exhibition focuses on two tribes, the Tibetan Buddhist Monpa and the animist Apatani, highlighting their ritual practices and material culture in historical perspective.

The show features contemporary and historical photographs, old and new textiles, audio recordings of a shaman's chant and rare film footage from the 1940s, plus an early 20th century painted, cotton map of a pilgrimage site where Tibetans exchanged valuable objects (metal bells, brass plates, beads) with local populations.

Tibetan cultural influence is evident throughout much of the state, especially in these objects traded across the high

Himalayas and invested with high value by local populations who believe them to be 'tibetan.' India, continuing trends begun in the colonial period, has been the source of civil administration, market economy, literacy, Hinduism and, recently, Christianity.

Social Sciences in Asia Monograph Series, Brill

edited by Vineeta Sinha and

Syed Farid Alatas

Department of Sociology

National University of Singapore

We invite contributions to the interdisciplinary Social Sciences in Asia Monograph Series. It publishes original materials and the revised editions of special issues of the Asian Journal of Social Science. A double blind process, two experts would appraise each manuscript. The Social Sciences in Asia Monograph Series welcomes submissions from specialists on any facet of Asia, including sociologists, anthropologists, political scientists, economists, geographers, and historians.

The Social Sciences in Asia Monograph Series was the initiative of the editorial team of the Asian Journal of Social Science at the Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore. It was initially the Asian Social Science Series, with Brill and the Times Academic Press co-publishing the first three volumes between 2001 and 2002. In 2003, the Series became Social Sciences in Asia and henceforth carries only the Brill imprint.

Founded in 1683 in Leiden, Holland, Brill is an academic publisher of repute. It publishes about five hundred new manuscripts and reference books, as well as more than a hundred journals every year. For all queries, please contact Kiat-jin Lee, the Editorial Assistant, at soclkj@nus.edu.sg. In addition, for inquiries about the aptness of your virtually concluded manuscript, please dispatch a book proposal. Furthermore, for questions regarding the suitability of your proposed monograph, please enclose a 150-word abstract.

Welcome to Hong Kong! Call for Papers for the 10th Asian Urbanization Conference

The University of Hong Kong

Hong Kong SAR, China

August 16-19, 2009

www.hku.hk/asia2009

Deadline for submission of abstracts:

15 February 2009

Conference Themes: Theoretical or empirical studies on urban form and process, urban population change including migration, urban systems, quality of life, sustainable development, city marketing and economic development, social justice, urban governance, applications related to GIS, comparative urbanization, and environmental conditions in Asian

cities. Other papers which contribute to an understanding of Asian urbanization are welcomed.

Paper Abstract Submission and Registration: Abstract should be 100 to no more than 200 words and should be submitted online. The abstract should provide information on the research problem, study area, data, methodology, findings, and significance of the research. While the format of your abstract may vary from this format, these contents are useful and informative to the conference participants. Co-authored papers should indicate who is the main presenter and author. Submission of complete paper is strongly encouraged. Selected papers will be considered for publication after the conference.

Conference Secretariat:

Centre of Urban Studies and Urban

Planning Tel: (+852) 2859-2721

The University of Hong Kong

Fax: (+852) 2559-0468

Pokfulam Road Email:

asia2009@hku.hk

Hong Kong SAR, China

Homepage: www.hku.hk/asia2009

Detailed information of the conference is available at www.hku.hk/asia2009. Please contact the Conference Organizers, Professor Anthony G. O. Yeh or Dr. Roger C. K. Chan of the University of Hong Kong. You may also contact Dr George Pomeroy (Asian Urban Research Association (AURA) Secretary-General) if further information is needed.

'Imag(in)ing the Buddhist Brain'

Leiden Institute for Brain and Cognition

Conference, 20 March 2009

Is brain research beginning to produce concrete evidence for something that Buddhist practitioners of meditation have maintained for centuries, namely that mental discipline and meditative practice can change the workings of the brain and allow people to achieve different levels of awareness? Such transformed states have traditionally been understood in transcendent terms, as something outside the world of physical measurement and objective evaluation. But over the past few years, researchers working with Tibetan monks have been working toward translating those mental experiences into the scientific language of high-frequency gamma waves and brain synchrony, or coordination. The Leiden Institute for Brain and Cognition (LIBC) will organize, on 20 March 2009, the symposium "Imag(in)ing the Buddhist Brain" to address recent developments in this area, among them the question: What claims do meditation traditions make, and are the results of meditation measurable?

Autumn is a hectic time for the ICAS Secretariat. We have to inventarise the books submitted for the ICAS Book Prize and send them off to the members of the Reading Committee. It offers distraction from the tension which builds up as the deadline for ICAS registration draws near. Two days to go and only 300 registrations? But then the 'ICAS miracle' occurs: All of a sudden, over a 36 hour period, registrations come pouring in from across the globe. It comes to an end as abruptly as it started...

The 'ICAS miracle':

Preparing for ICAS 6 in Daejeon in August 2009

PAUL VAN DER VELDE

The registration count for ICAS 6 in Daejeon now stands at 1200: 700 individual registrations and 500 through the more than 100 organised panels which have been submitted. As I write, the deadline for the institutional panels has not yet passed but extrapolating from ICAS 5 in Kuala Lumpur we expect between 30 to 50 panels of this kind. The number of expected participants (excluding observers, visitors, exhibitors and so on) will be in between 1100 and 1500.

There were just over 200 applications for financial assistance, which is meant, in particular, for young scholars not older than 35. In the end, it's likely that around a hundred of the applicants will qualify for funding. It's been noticeable this time that 80 percent of the applicants are from India. Does this mean that the Indian government is not actively supporting the participation of Indian scholars in international conventions? We also noted that applicants have been hesitant about using the new online 'Colleagues Calling' facility, but we hope that for the next ICAS, participants will come to appreciate this as a useful forum for making contact with colleagues.

ICAS Book Prize (IBP)

A rich harvest of books has reached the desk of the secretary of the IBP. In all 89 books were submitted by 24 publishers worldwide: 42 in the category Humanities and 47 in the Social Sciences. For the first time more books in the social sciences were submitted which clearly marks a shift in field of research from traditional to contemporary Asia studies. It came as no surprise that many of the books are about East Asia (39), but surprisingly Southeast Asia is the subject of 27 books while South Asia counts 13 publications. Eleven books are about Asia in general. Noticeable is that no books on Central Asia were submitted. Popular themes dealt with from different disciplinary or comparative angles are: art and culture, (auto)biography, colonies, diasporas and migration, economy, education, gender and identity, health and medicine, international relations and politics, law, literature, media, religion and society. Clearly there is shift from traditional to contemporary studies Asia studies. In all only five edited volumes were submitted but it should be pointed out that ground breaking edited volumes certainly stand a chance of winning one of the ICAS book prizes.

In the category best PhD only 12 theses were submitted which must be a fraction of all theses written on Asia. For the fourth edition of the ICAS Book Prize in 2011 we will estab-

lish a separate reading committee consisting of three young doctors from Asia, America and Europe who will scout for theses and use their networks to at least triple the number of theses in 2011.

For the 2009 Colleagues Choice award we have set up an online voting compass to streamline the process and point you in the direction of books you might want to vote for. Simply ticking buttons on topics, themes and regions leads you to the books you are interested in. We also hope authors will mobilise their networks for the Colleagues Choice award.

The long lists of the IBP will be announced on the ICAS website at the beginning of February and the short lists will most likely be announced at the Annual Meeting of the AAS in Chicago 26-29 March 2009. The prizes will be awarded during the opening ceremony of ICAS 6 on 6 August 2009.

ICAS Publications Series

The ICAS Secretariat is in constant touch with the editors of ten books based on contributions to ICAS 4 in Shanghai and ICAS 5 in Kuala Lumpur, which will find their way into the ICAS Publications Series, published by Amsterdam University Press. They will be ready before August 2009. The titles vary from State, Society and International Relations in Asia to From Marginal to Mainstream: Asian Literary Voices and from Reframing Singapore: Memory, Identity to Trans-Regionalism to Asian Material Culture. We hope many participants of ICAS 6 will send in their papers for the edited volumes which will come out of ICAS 6. On the ICAS website you will find the guidelines for the preparation of articles.

The ICAS 6 Secretariat

The local host, Chungnam National University Center for Asian Regional Studies, in close cooperation with Daejeon City and the Daejeon Convention Centre, is working hard to have its secretariat fully operational by the beginning of December. A Professional Conference Organiser (PCO) is in charge of the practical organisation. From December onwards all questions relating to ICAS 6 should be directed to the ICAS 6 secretariat. On the ICAS 6 website (www.icassecretariat.org) you will find practical information on hotel deals, how to pay the registration fees and how to get there. The first task of the ICAS 6 Secretariat will be sending out letters of acceptance to participants. This letter will include practical information on ICAS 6.

