

# 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

### Gregory Bracken

Coordinator 'The Postcolonial Global City'  
*Colonial-era Shanghai as an urban model for the 21st century*  
1 Sept 2009–31 Aug 2015

### Bernardo Brown

*The circulation of Sri Lankan catholic clergy to Europe, transnational religious networks, and global Christianity in South Asia*  
1 Oct 2013–31 July 2014

### Yung-mau CHAO

Visiting Professor, Taiwanese Chair of Chinese Studies (BICER)  
15 Jan–15 July 2014

### Young Chul CHO

Visiting Professor, Korea Studies Chair (Korea Foundation)  
*i) Nationalism and cultures of (in)security in East Asia*  
*ii) Indigenous IR theory production in Asia*  
1 Sept 2013–30 June 2014

### Romain Dittgen

*Spatial aspects of the Chinese presence in Sub-Saharan Africa*  
2 Jan–30 June 2014

### Ana Dragojlovic

*Indisch genealogy and forms of relatedness: rethinking diaspora and citizenship*  
1 Dec 2013–20 July 2014

### Swargajyoti Gohain

*Imagined places: politics and narratives in a disputed Indo-Tibetan borderland*  
1 Sept 2013 – 30 June 2014

### Jenna Grant

*Technology, clarity, and uncertainty: an ethnography of biomedical imaging in Phnom Penh*  
20 Jan–19 Oct 2014

### Pralay Kanungo

Visiting Professor, ICCR Chair for the Study of Contemporary India  
*Indian Politics*  
1 Sept 2013–31 Aug 2015

### Viet Le

*Representations of modernization and historical trauma in contemporary Southeast Asian visual cultures (with a focus on Cambodia, Việt Nam and its diasporas)*  
15 Dec 2013–15 Aug 2014

### Duccio Lelli

*The Paippalādasamhitā of the Atharvaveda. A critical edition, translation and commentary of kāṇḍa fifteen*  
1 Jan–30 June 2014

### Rohit Negi

*Parks or forests? A situated political ecology of the Delhi ridge*  
21 Mar–15 June 2014

### Tak-wing Ngo

Extraordinary Chair at Erasmus University Rotterdam  
Coordinator 'IIAS Centre for Regulation and Governance'  
*State-market relations and the political economy of development*  
1 May 2008–30 Apr 2017

### Elena Paskaleva

*Reading the architecture of paradise: the Timurid Kosh*  
1 Sept 2012–31 July 2014

### Gerard Persoon

Extraordinary Chair at the Leiden University Institute of Cultural Anthropology and Developmental Sociology  
*Environment and Development: indigenous peoples in Southeast Asia*  
1 Jul 2009–30 June 2014

### Saraju Rath

*Indian Manuscripts in the Netherlands: from forgotten treasures to accessible archives*  
5 Jan 2004–31 Jan 2015

### Carla Risseuw

Coordinator:  
*'Ageing in East and West'*  
1 Jan 2008–30 June 2014

### Masaya Shishikura

*Trans-border humanity through case studies of travelling music and migrating peoples in northeast Asian contexts*  
1 Mar–31 Dec 2014

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Jenna Grant

**Technology, Clarity, and Uncertainty: Biomedical Imaging in Phnom Penh**



I AM WORKING on a book manuscript about biomedicine and technology in Cambodia, provisionally titled, *Technology, Clarity, and Uncertainty: Biomedical Imaging in Phnom Penh*. This project is based on ethnographic and archival research on imaging practices, primarily ultrasound imaging, in clinical settings, and in relation to uneven health-related development efforts since Independence. I have also begun work towards a new project on drug resistant malaria in Cambodia. Across these projects is an interest in relations between knowledge and uncertainty, technologies and modernities, and in practices through which things become tied to a particular place and time, or not.

In the book manuscript, I use the framework of circulation to approach two key questions about imaging practices: First, how do biomedical images work in contexts where biomedicine's authority is unstable? By tracing image production in ultrasound wards and movements outside clinical settings, into personal medical files, fading family albums, and pagodas, I show how the promise of diagnostic clarity about illness or pregnancy is qualified by uncertainties. In different ways, doctors and patients are concerned about the quality of ultrasound images and interpretations, as well as how to relate biomedical images to other modes of knowing what happens inside the body. A second key question is: How does the current proliferation of imaging technologies relate to other postcolonial moments? A not-so-long *durée* of health-related development projects, such as hospital building by the USSR in the 1960s and US corporate philanthropy in the early 2000s, illustrates how technologies configure biomedical modernity despite vastly different imaginaries of public and private good.

It has been a vibrant spring, both in terms of the urban greenery (I grew up in arid Southern California) and the intellectual environment. I have benefited from meeting with faculty and attending workshops and conferences at Leiden University and University of Amsterdam. A program of the 'Bring Your Images' working group and sub\_Stage at Museum Volkenkunde provoked thinking about images as relations, and papers at the 'Buddhism and Social Justice' conference pushed me to reconsider the relation between material and moral goods in Theravada contexts. An invitation to give a talk at the Institute for Social Studies in The Hague allowed me to experiment with the ethnography of biomedical technology 'hand-over' ceremonies as development rituals that illustrates tensions between charity and business.

Being at IIAS has generated collaborations, too. IIAS fellow Doreen Lee and I co-organized a panel, 'Technology, Technique and Techne in Southeast Asia', for the 2014 American Anthropological Association meetings. By attending to specific temporalities, we hope this panel will shift debates about technology and modernity at the interface of anthropology and science studies. IIAS itself is a wonderful place for independent research, and I am grateful to staff for creating an open and flexible environment in which to work, and for sharing their insider knowledge of Leiden.

## ASC-IIAS Fellowship Programme

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

THIS FELLOWSHIP 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)**



## Swargajyoti Gohain

**Himalaya Bound: Culture, Politics and Imagined Geographies in India's Northeast Frontier**



MY PROJECT AT IIAS is to revise my doctoral dissertation into a book manuscript for publication. After my PhD (Emory University, USA) I was searching for a research position that would support full-time work on my book, and IIAS provided the perfect opportunity. My book *Himalaya Bound: Culture, Politics and Imagined Geographies in India's Northeast Frontier*, now under review with a press, is an ethnographic study concerning culture, identity, and politics in Monyul, a peripheral border region in the Northeast frontier of India. Set against the backdrop of an unresolved border dispute between India and China, my book explores how the minority Monpas of this region seek to alleviate current marginality by imagining community with other Tibetan Buddhists of the Himalayas, invoking a common Tibetan Buddhist cultural past. Drawing on theories from anthropology, cultural geography, and cultural studies, and based on the notion that social and spatial relations are inter-connected, my book shows how contemporary cultural politics in Monyul, led by influential monk Tsona Gontse Rinpoche, imaginatively transform Monyul into a Buddhist place, and part of an inter-connected Himalayan Buddhist circuit. Yet, following "anti-essentialist" notions of space, my book also analyses oppositional forces that undercut singular imaginations of Monyul, such as internal divisions among the Monpas, their regional and national allegiances, as well as the suspicions they negotiate as inhabitants of a disputed territory.

In the last nine months (and one more to go) at IIAS, I have met scholars of South, East, and Southeast Asia, working on different book projects, some on their first book and others on their third or fourth; and my interactions and exchanges with them have vastly helped me, initially, to conceive my book proposal, and later, to restructure my dissertation into book form. The monthly research presentations by fellows at IIAS are a useful forum to compare writing projects with colleagues engaged in similar tasks. My associations with the faculty and involvement with the activities of the Modern South Asia and Buddhist Studies programs in Leiden University, and the University of Amsterdam have been highly beneficial intellectually. Following my term at IIAS, I will be a resident Ratan Tata fellow at the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi University, India, where I will continue work on my book, as well as start a new project on oral history and urban transformations in the disputed Northeast frontier of India.

## Romain Dittgen

**(IIAS-ASC joint fellow)  
From enclaves to new spaces of interactions: hybrid Chinese dynamics in sub-Saharan Africa**



THE RECENT ACCELERATION of Sino-African ties is often depicted as a reflection of China's economic rise and a sign of the constant expansion of global interconnectedness. The flow of capital, products and people from China to Africa has not only generated tangible impacts, but has also introduced visible alterations in host environments. Over the last years, few topics, dealing with China's increasing role on the international stage, have raised the same amount of attention than the growing Chinese presence in Africa. This interest has led to a significant growth of the body of literature on China-Africa, both scholarly and non-academic. However, while the majority of publications have primarily focused on political and socio-economic aspects, there have been very few in-depth studies and ethnographies.

The book manuscript I am working on (based on my PhD thesis) adopts a geographical perspective, often neglected or simply left out, and focuses specifically on the spatial forms and dynamics of Chinese economic ventures in Sub-Saharan Africa. Drawing on two empirical case studies, my research explores the way in which different Chinese entities – a state-owned oil company and privately owned malls – relate to their respective host environment and how these activities evolve over time. Whereas often portrayed as disconnected or "disembedded", not only physically but also metaphorically, I argue that both selected examples are simultaneously characterised by closure and interaction.

My joint six-month fellowship at IIAS and the African Studies Centre provides a stimulating and collaborative work environment to exchange with scholars and widen my understanding of Sino-African links. In addition to the diversity of regular seminars, workshops and roundtables, I particularly enjoy the community of peers and staff with whom I have been able to engage across the institutes and various university departments. Having recently participated in a workshop at Peking University with the ASC and ahead of the Association of Asian Studies in Africa (A-ASIA) Inaugural Conference in Accra in January 2015 (co-organised by IIAS/ICAS), the opportunities and experiences I am able to gain from my inclusion in this community can only deepen the quality of my research.

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: 'Asian Cities', 'Asian Heritages', and 'Global Asia'. However, some positions will be reserved for outstanding projects in any area outside of those listed.

### Asian Cities

The Asian Cities cluster deals with cities and urban cultures with related issues of flows of ideas and goods, cosmopolitanism, *métissage* and connectivity, framing the existence of vibrant "civil societies" and political urban microcultures. It also deals with such issues as urban development in the light of the diversity of urban societies.

### Asian Heritages

This cluster concentrates on the critical investigation of the politics of cultural heritage, and explores the notion of heritage as it has evolved from a Europe-originated concept associated with architecture and monumental archaeology to incorporate a broader diversity of cultural forms and values.

### Global Asia

The Global Asia cluster addresses Asia's role in the various globalisation processes. It 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 go to: [www.iias.nl](http://www.iias.nl)