

IIAS Announcements

Call for Papers Heritage as aid and diplomacy in Asia

Application deadline: 1 November 2015
Conference dates: 26-28 May 2016
Venue: Leiden, the Netherlands

Organisation: Institute of Sociology, Academia Sinica, Taiwan;
Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore;
International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), the Netherlands

About the conference

In spite of a growing academic interest in the politics of heritage in Asia, few studies have directly questioned the role of international and transnational cooperation in the field of heritage conservation. First, even though the literature has widely addressed the role of UNESCO as a powerful disseminator of international standards of conservation (e.g., Askew 2010; Daly and Winter 2012), it has not yet tackled UNESCO's sociological and institutional complexity, and the full history of the organisation. Secondly, the social sciences have largely neglected other international structures – such as the World Bank, the European Union, USAid, the Asian Development Bank and many others – that have their own engagements in the conservation of heritage in Asia. These organisations often collaborate with UNESCO or participate in bilateral or multilateral initiatives. Many of these initiatives are carried out by states (or regions or cities). Cultural (heritage) diplomacy is a well-thought strategy carried out by some states. Pioneer countries in cultural diplomacy include France, Italy, the Netherlands but also India and Japan. Today, most Asian states are following on that path: in the past years, China, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia have considerably strengthened their investment in regional 'heritage cooperation'. Some of them, like India or Japan, have had a long history of cultural international intervention.

Thirdly, private 'philanthropic' programs like the Agha Khan Foundation, the World Monuments Fund and the Getty Trust have long had a major impact in the management of heritage in Asia. They are now joined by newly established Asia-based foundations, such as Korea's Samsung Foundation, to mention just one. Finally, new connections have recently been drawn between market-driven 'development' schemes explicitly linking 'culture' and 'economic opportunities', as part of the global capital-driven developmentalist discourse, as when World Heritage sites become objects of mass tourism and urban areas are labelled as 'creative'. This new model of 'culturo-capitalism' is fast becoming prominent, as is the global campaign of systematic digitisation of library collections by the multinational Google, 'responsible capitalism', or micro-credit schemes. These essentially capitalist constructions now co-exist with the more traditional state-sponsored heritage practices and with elite-originated private cultural philanthropy.

The relative shortage of historical, sociological, political, and ethnographic research on these multiple incarnations of 'heritage as aid or as diplomacy' is all the more surprising when we consider how cultural and heritage management represents a major area of international cooperation as well as a powerful instrument of 'soft' influence by states, corporate forces and social elites on Asia-based heritage practices. This conference will address the relevant inter-national and transnational actors as objects of study and will engage in a threefold exploration (see website for details):

1. Knowledge production
2. Geopolitics of heritage as diplomacy
3. Ethnographies of international agents and 'cultural experts'

The three themes outlined above chart the area we wish to call 'heritage as aid and diplomacy'.

Topics for papers

Please refer to the website for a list of possible topics to explore in your paper.

Requirements

Paper proposals should include a title, name of author, institutional affiliation, email address, an abstract (300 words) and a brief personal biography (150 words). The proposal should be submitted via the form available on the IIAS website at <http://www.iias.nl/heritageaid> by 1 November 2015. Successful applicants will be notified by 20 December 2015 and will be required to send a draft paper (6000 - 8000 words) by 15 April 2016. Four nights' accommodation and a (partial) travel grant will be provided for all accepted participants.

Conveners

Dr Philippe Peycam, Director, International Institute for Asian Studies, The Netherlands
Professor Michael Hsiao, Distinguished Research Fellow and Director, Institute of Sociology, Academia Sinica, Taiwan
Dr Hui Yew-Foong, Senior Fellow, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore

Conference series

This conference is the last in a series of three, jointly organised by the above mentioned institutions. For information on the series, see the website.

Contact

For enquires about the conference, please contact Ms. Martina van den Haak at m.c.van.den.haak@iias.nl

Website: www.iias.nl/heritageaid

A-ASIA Inaugural Conference

Asian Studies in Africa: Challenges and Prospects of a New Axis of Intellectual Interactions

24-26 September 2015, Accra, Ghana

Organized by the Association of Asian Studies in Africa (A-ASIA) in cooperation with The International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS)

In 2015, the A-ASIA in cooperation with ICAS will organize its first biennial conference. It will be the first conference held in Africa that will bring together a multidisciplinary ensemble of more than 300 scholars from all over the world with a shared focus on Asia and Asia-Africa intellectual interactions.

The conference, through panels and roundtables, will seek to assess the prospects for Asian studies in Africa in a global context by addressing a number of theoretical and empirical questions that such enterprise will raise: How should Asian studies be framed in Africa? Are Asian studies relevant for Africa? What is the current state of capacity (institutional, intellectual, personnel, and so on) for Asian studies in Africa and can this be improved and how? How does (and must it?) Asian studies dovetail into the broader field of 'Area studies' as it has been developed, mainly in Western institutions? Are new narratives required for understanding the very visible contemporary presence of Asia in Africa and Africa in Asia? What is the current state of research on Africa-Asia (transnational) linkages?

Registration

If you would like to attend this conference as an observer, register via the form provided at: <http://www.africas.asia/registration-0>



Call for Abstracts Indian medicine: between state and village

Application deadline: 1 October 2015
Workshop dates: 23-24 June 2016
Venue: Leiden, the Netherlands

Convener: Dr Maarten Bode, Adjunct Research Faculty at the Department of Anthropology, University of Amsterdam (UvA), the Netherlands, and Adjunct Faculty at the Institute of Trans-disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology, Bangalore, India. Organisation: International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS)

About the workshop

The workshop takes the sensibilities of Indian medicines as its point of departure. Themes to be discussed in the workshop are: Indian medicines as tangible and intangible heritage; Indian medicines as health security for

the poor; Indian medicines as identity markers (for the nation, for local communities, and for Westerners in search of Indian spirituality). An important cross-cutting theme is the quest for legitimation and acceptance. For example by linking Indian medicines to the global project of 'Evidence-based Medicine' and to Indian knowledge systems. Contributions from medical anthropology (the actors' point of view) and Science and Technology Studies (social construction of medical knowledge) are especially welcome. However, papers from other theoretical orientations are also greeted.

An important question is if and how Indian nationalist politics affect the recognition, ownership, and management of the wide spectrum of traditional medicines in contemporary India. Social-cultural research shows that on the national level we see debatable – either unintentional or intentional – attempts at reifying, ossifying and nationalizing Indian medicines as Ayurveda. The suggestion is that Ayurveda as India's national medicine is a discrete medical system and that it provides the codified substrate for the many local forms of herbal based Indian medicine practiced today. Though this perspective has been contested as an act of appropriation, labelling local forms of Indian medicine as Ayurveda can also be seen as an act of empowerment. What is needed is a dialogue between two important stakeholders: the Indian state and local communities. By discussing the interactions between global, national and local forms of Indian medicine the workshop wants to contribute to such a dialogue.

The meeting, organized by the International Institute for Asian Studies, the Netherlands, will take the form of a series of discussions of new academic papers, submitted in advance of the workshop. A peer-reviewed selection of the (revised) papers will subsequently be prepared for publication in the scholarly journal *Asian Medicine: Tradition and Modernity* (IASTAM, Brill).

Submission details

Abstracts of no more than 300 words, with a short CV, should be submitted via the form available on the IIAS website at <http://www.iias.nl/indianmedicine> before 1 October 2015. You will be informed before 1 November 2015 if your abstract has been accepted. Selected participants are expected to submit their completed papers before 15 April 2016.

Travel and accommodation

The International Institute for Asian Studies provides hotel accommodation for three nights to all selected participants. Participants are expected to cover their own travel expenses. Very limited financial support may be made available to specific scholars residing in Asia and some junior or low-income scholars from other parts of the world. If you would like to be considered for financial support, please submit the Grant Application form in which you state your motivation for your request. Please note that the workshop operates on a limited budget, and we will not normally be able to provide more than a partial coverage of the travel expenses. The form should be submitted before 1 October 2015. Requests for funding received after this date will not be taken into consideration.

Contact

For enquires about the workshop, please contact Ms. Martina van den Haak at m.c.van.den.haak@iias.nl

Website: www.iias.nl/indianmedicine



Ballimaran public Ayurvedic hospital in Delhi.

Rethinking Asian Studies in a Global Context

DURING THE UPCOMING MONTHS several exciting and promising events will take place within the framework of the IIAS pilot-programme Rethinking Asian Studies in a Global Context.

The Rethinking Asian Studies programme is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in New York and coordinated by IIAS in collaboration with numerous institutions in Asia,

the United States, Europe and Africa. Its overarching objective is to reconsider conventional area studies and (as part of this effort) to enrich area study disciplines by fostering a greater appreciation for the humanities, in order to overcome what is considered to be a general devaluation of the humanistic disciplines in the U.S., Europe and many parts of Asia.

More information: www.rethinking.asia

Upcoming workshops

Sharpening the Edges: Instating State and Power in Indian Ocean History. An Agenda for Critical Research and Teaching

Date: 17 August 2015
Place: Leiden, The Netherlands

Co-conveners:
Prof. Michael Lan, Princeton University, USA;
Prof. Nira Wickramasinghe, Leiden University
Institute for Area Studies (LIAS).

THIS WORKSHOP will bring together a group of fifteen scholars, some invited and others selected through a call for papers to discuss the state of research and teaching in the burgeoning field of Indian Ocean history. For historical reasons linked to former colonial empires and continued relations between them and their erstwhile colonies, interest in the Indian Ocean is more visible in the fields of teaching and research in institutions in Europe and Asia, than in the USA. In keeping with the overall Mellon programme, Rethinking Asian Studies, the workshop aims at triangulating a dialogue between Euro-American and South and Southeast Asian scholars.

Beyond the State's Reach: Casino Spaces as Enclaves of Development or Lawlessness?

Date: 21-22 August 2015
Place: Siem Reap, Cambodia

Co-conveners:
Dr. Danielle Tan, Lyon Institute of East Asian Studies (IAO-CNRS); Prof. Brenda Yeoh, Asian Research Institute (ARI), National University of Singapore;
Prof. Tak Wing Ngo, University of Macau.

Partner and host:
Dr. Krisna Uk, Center for Khmer Studies (CKS)
Siem Reap, Cambodia.

THIS PART OF THE PROGRAMME aims at studying Southeast Asia based on networks, processes, transitions, polyvalence, and fluidity, in opposition to the concepts of the nation-state or the region. This workshop seeks to better understand the transitional zones that have emerged in the wake of the encounter between local communities, new migratory circulations and the global economy. The multiplication of mega casino resorts in Asia is emblematic of these new spaces created across local and global scales. Over the past few years, the belief has taken root that the gaming industry is a powerful tool for economic development. The workshop purposes to bring together scholars from different fields and theoretical approaches to interrogates the immediate and long-term socio-political impacts of casino-oriented development in Singapore, Macau, Taiwan, and Southeast Asia, where migration, employment, economic aspiration and social cohesion have been issues of contention.

City Theory for the New Millennium

Date: 20-21 October 2015
Place: Shanghai, China

Conveners:
International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS);
Dr. Paul Rabø, Urban Knowledge Network Asia (UKNA);
Prof. Anupama Rao, Columbia University/Barnard College;
Dr. Philippe Peycam, International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS).

Partner and host:
Prof. Tu Qiyu, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS)
Shanghai, China.

THE FOCUS OF THIS EVENT will be the knowledge about cities (research approaches, theories, curricula, literature), especially cities in Asia. At issue is how urban expertise can be framed in a more integrated fashion, by joining social sciences with humanities-based knowledge, to inform applied expertise, and vice versa. A second objective is to explore how these new forms of city knowledge and theory can contribute to re-shaping humanistic higher education including culturally and historically-grounded regional studies.

New IIAS Publications

Asian Cities: Colonial to Global

Gregory Bracken (ed.)
ISBN: 9789089649317
Release date: 15-06-2015
Amsterdam University Press; Series: Asian Cities

WHEN PEOPLE LOOK AT success stories among postcolonial nations, the focus almost always turns to Asia, where many cities in former colonies have become key locations of international commerce and culture. This book brings together a stellar group of scholars from a number of disciplines to explore the rise of Asian cities, including Singapore, Macau, Hong Kong, and more. Dealing with history, geography, culture, architecture, urbanism, and other topics, the book attempts to formulate a new understanding of what makes Asian cities such global leaders.

Gregory Bracken is an Assistant Professor at the Architecture Faculty of Delft University of Technology and a Research Fellow at the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS).

Shanghai Literary Imaginings

Lena Scheen
ISBN: 9789089645876
Release date: 15-06-2015
Amsterdam University Press; Series: Asian Cities

THIS BOOK DRAWS ON a wide range of methods including approaches from literary studies, cultural studies, and urban sociology to analyse the transformation of Shanghai through rapid growth and widespread urban renewal. Lena Scheen explores the literary imaginings of the city, its past, present, and future, in order to understand the effects of that urban transformation on both the psychological state of Shanghai's citizens and their perception of the spaces they inhabit.

Lena Scheen is assistant professor/faculty fellow at New York University Shanghai (NYU Shanghai).

For ordering information go to:
www.iias.nl/publications