

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

Roslina Abu Bakr

Social interactions in the Malay Manuscripts
1 Nov 2014 – 1 Nov 2016

Hajime Akitomi

The comparative study of labor, employment & globalization labor between the Netherlands & Japan
1 Apr 2015 – 1 Apr 2016

Mehdi Amineh

Coordinator 'Energy Programme Asia (EPA)'
Domestic & geopolitical challenges to energy security for China & the European Union
1 Sep 2007 – 31 Mar 2017

Samson Bezabeh

Reshaping of state-society interaction in the Horn of Africa by the presence of Chinese sponsored cross-border infrastructure projects
1 May – 31 Dec 2015

Gregory Bracken

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

Hannah Bulloch

Intimate relationships & the politics of personhood in the Philippines
13 Apr – 12 May 2015

Chunhong CHEN

Urban heritage preservation in China
1 Sep 2014 – 31 Aug 2015

Sayandeb Chowdhury

Photographic practices & regimes in colonial Calcutta
15 Apr – 9 Jul 2015

Yuehtsen (Juliette) Chung

Visiting Professor, Taiwanese Chair of Chinese Studies
1 Sep 2014 – 30 Jun 2015

Farabi Fakhri

Colonial participation of the creation of urban spaces. The municipality of Bandung in the early 20th century
1 Jun – 31 Aug 2015

Valérie Gelézeau

New geographies of urban cultures in the Korean world – convergence and divergence
1 Mar 2015 – 29 Feb 2016

David Geary

The limits of heritage and the making of a World Buddhist Centre in Bodh Gaya
1 Jul – 31 Aug 2015

Haoqun GONG

Practising (Patibad) Buddhism: Body techniques & religious publicity in urban Thailand
1 Aug 2015 – 31 Jul 2016

Jenna Grant

Technology, clarity, & uncertainty: an ethno-graphy of biomedical imaging in Phnom Penh
20 Jan 2014 – 30 Sep 2015

Jie GUO

Spectacular embodiments: British & Chinese representations of colonial encounters in the Yunnan-Burma borderlands, 1880-1945
1 May – 15 Aug 2015

Yike HU

Quantitative study of the urban national park, boundary marketing, design & management
20 Mar – 19 Sep 2015

Pralay Kanungo

Visiting Professor, India Studies Chair (ICCR)
Indian Politics
1 Sep 2013 – 31 Aug 2015

Nicolay Kradin

Nomadic imperial urbanization & movement of people, empires, & technologies in Mongolian Far East
1 Mar – 31 May 2015

Hao LI

Urbanisation strategy of China's western region
1 Feb – 30 Apr 2015

Julia Martínez

Chinese indentured labour in the French Congo
1 Apr – 30 Jun 2015

Tak-wing Ngo

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

Thien-Huong Ninh

The new chosen people: Religion & race in the Vietnamese diaspora?
1 Aug – 30 Sept 2015

Saraju Rath

Indian manuscripts in the Netherlands: from forgotten treasures to accessible archives
5 Jan 2004 – 31 Jan 2016

Tina Shrestha

Transnational suffering narratives: Documenting Nepali migrant-communities in Europe & Southeast Asia
1 Mar – 31 Dec 2015

Bal Gopal Shrestha

Religiosity among the Nepalese Diaspora
1 Jan – 30 Jun 2015

Karan Singh

Syncretic heritage: Sidhis of India (A diasporic African community in India)
1 May – 30 Jun 2015

Shilpa Sumant

Preparing the second volume of the critical edition of Śrīdhara's Karmapañjikā – Jātasamsthāh: basic rituals for one who has been born
1 May – 31 Oct 2015

Lei WANG

The transformation & development of the old industrial city
1 Mar – 30 May 2015

Juan WU

A Study of Legends of King Ajātaśatru/Kūṇika in Indian Buddhist & Jaina Traditions
1 Jan 2015 – 30 Jun 2015

Hui XU

The optimal allocation of public facilities, especially in the process of urban renewal, urban integration & urban combination
2 Mar – 29 May 2015

Xiaomei ZHAO

Spirit of urban heritage: Place-making in the metropolis in the globalized age
26 Jan – 8 Mar 2015
& 20 Jul – 30 Sep 2015

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Valérie Gelézeau

Blooming time for my 'New geographies of urban cultures in Korea'

AS A KOREAN STUDIES SCHOLAR, I was already acquainted with IIAS publications, events, and bustling activities. But only recently did I decide to apply for a fellowship; after several effervescent years engaged at my mother institution, the EHESS in Paris, I longed for a few months to concentrate on a new project. Arriving in Leiden when the 'Keukenhof' is in full bloom, when other fellows arrive from all over the world, and with this project to focus on, seems just a dream come true!

Combining the perspectives of cultural geography and Korean studies, my project seeks to better problematize what I call the 'Korean world' (North and South Korea, and the Korean diaspora) by entering the urban terrain comparatively. That North and South Korea greatly diverge is only too well-known by both common and scientific knowledge. Yet locally, I rather observe the convergence: the importance of apartments as housing form, the planning and use of public parks, where having a picnic (*sop'ung*) is a popular Sunday event for middle class families, the rehabilitation of the riverbanks in Seoul and Pyongyang, the importance of new history museums that tell a different story of the nation. At all those intertwined levels of urban space and practice, comparison triggers questions about how the fabric of cities articulates with two societies that share a common urban history on the *longue durée*, but chose radically opposite ways to modernize and urbanize since the division occurred midway through the 20th century.

While the main purpose and ultimate goal of this IIAS fellowship project is to elaborate the synopsis of a monograph on urban cultures in the Koreas (which will be my third singled-authored book), this project rests on three simultaneous works in progress. The first topic leads me to analyze scholarly geographical discourses on capitals in South Korea; I discuss how the Korean case challenges the capital as a single static center and the matrix/product of the territorial dynamics of nation-states. This chapter in the making will stand in a volume that I am currently editing on Korean capital cities, which will be published in the fall by the new Korean Studies series of the Collège de France in Paris.

In the second topic, an ongoing fieldwork, I focus on the development since 2003 of an urban mega-project (Songdo City in South Korea), studying residential neighborhoods where the planning of housing and public spaces meets the actual urban experience of the original residents. The final focus is grounded on very long term efforts to prepare the condition for a first comparative seminar on city planning in North Korea.

Like many scholars, I have several things growing in my garden, which will blossom during my stay at IIAS. The intellectual environment in Leiden seems perfect for that; I can develop long standing connections with Leiden University Institute for Area Studies (LIAS), and benefit from the exceptional resources of the East Asian library, especially the one developed on North Korea. Within IIAS, I also look forward to developing new active collaboration with scholars engaged like myself in the Asian Cities cluster, but also with other IIAS clusters (Global Asia, and Asian Heritages).

My term here only just started and it has been a blooming time for my research – and not only because the IIAS organized a friendly May 1st outing at the Keukenhof gardens! Already, the presentation I delivered on Songdo in March gave me useful feedback. I meet every day dynamic international scholars, with equally fascinating projects. Learning more about them at the IIAS lunch lectures is a pleasure. Now that I think of it, the intense colors of the Keukenhof's tulips are indeed a perfect symbol of my stay here, and I am extremely grateful to both the IIAS for granting me this fellowship, and the EHESS for letting me seize this great opportunity.

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





Tina Shrestha

Transnational suffering narrative: documenting Nepali migrant-communities in Southeast Asia and Europe

MY AIM AT IIAS IS TWOFOLD. First, I am working to convert my doctoral dissertation into a book manuscript *Working the Paper: Nepali Suffering Narration, Compassion, and the US Asylum Process* for publication. This project is based on 24 months of ethnographic fieldwork (among Nepali migrants and asylum seekers and their legal advocates in New York City) on socio-legal practices, particularly the co-production of suffering-testimonials and narratives. Second, I am initiating a new project—building on the theoretical foundations laid by my dissertation—on the emergence and conceptualization of *dukkha*, or suffering, at the intersection of specific transnational migration of Nepalis to Europe and Southeast Asia.

In the book manuscript, I bring into conversation the scholarly literature on contemporary U.S. immigration and critical asylum regimes, using the frameworks in legal anthropology, humanitarianism, and phenomenology.

My analysis centers on two key issues: 1) the formation of diverse migrant subjectivities as refugees and asylum seekers in the US are forged in a dialectic between people negotiating the socio-legal category of 'asylum seeker' and integrating into the US society as 'migrant workers'; and 2) the contemporary US asylum process as a paradigmatic case for the co-production of 'suffering testimonials', where asylum advocates and legal experts employ, embody, and self-consciously reproduce rationales to practice compassion as an important extension of the everyday performance of membership in a liberal, democratic state.

The new project expands the argument in my dissertation on the conceptualization of suffering as an unstable category that Nepalis adhere to through shared social practices—as a concrete moral responsibility and an outcome of negotiating competing socio-existential values. In particular, it draws on phenomenological approaches and debates on suffering by re-thinking the conceptual divide between the moral and the material examine the specific ways that the term *dukkha* itself may extend across distinctly situated ambiguities and continuum in the context of transnational Nepali migration. More broadly, suffering as-a-lived-experience and a powerful narrative within the contexts of Nepali migration to Europe and Southeast Asia is of primary interest for me.

Being at IIAS has provided me with a vibrant intellectual community and a collegial atmosphere to pursue my writing and engage with scholars. Since being at IIAS, I have attended several academic events, including the Photo Exhibition titled *Picturing Asia*, the Asian Modernities and Traditions talk, and monthly presentations by IIAS fellows. An invitation to give a talk (last month) allowed me to share my research with other fellows, where I received helpful comments and participated in an engaging conversation afterward. At the University of Amsterdam (UvA), I have also the opportunity to meet scholars working on their book projects and migration-related projects in Europe. I currently attended workshops organized by MoMat (*Moving Matters*) that bring together advanced graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and junior scholars working on the themes of migration. Recently, I was an invited guest speaker in the course titled *Asian Perspectives in the Anthropology Department* at UvA.

IIAS FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULES

**Application
deadline
1 February**

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

