

IIAS Announcements

Vietnam & Korea as 'longue durée' subject of comparison: from the pre-modern to the early modern periods

Conference, 3-4 March 2017; Hanoi, Vietnam

THIS CONFERENCE is the first of a two-part conference "In comparison: Korea and Vietnam in history", an initiative directed by IIAS, and jointly organized by Seoul National University, Asia Centre (Seoul), Vietnam National University (Hanoi), International Institute for Asian Studies (Leiden), Leiden University (Leiden) and École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (Paris). The second part, focusing on the contemporary Korean and Vietnamese conditions from 1945 onward, will be held in Korea in the following year.

"Vietnam and Korea as 'longue durée'" will focus on these two major regional nations and societies in Asia; as great kingdoms in the pre-modern period they developed, sometimes within and sometimes outside of the Sinitic 'tributary' system, strong political organizations and original civilizations. The vicissitudes of the modern and contemporary periods, first with the experience of colonial subjugation, then international warfare and civil conflicts resulting in division of the two countries set much connections and parallels in the two countries' trajectories. Today, Vietnam and Korea continue to stand at the edge of the two great ideological systems that shaped the twentieth century, socialism and capitalism, yet in a divergent ways – Vietnam being reunified and having entered post-communist-pro-capitalist State authoritarianism while Korea remains divided between two models of statehood and governance.

This conference is conceived as an exploratory exercise to identify points of connections in which scholars of Vietnam and Korea could confront their work and engage their paradigms. As an ongoing project historically grounded in contemporary perspective situated within the larger Asia-global spectrum, as well as for practical sake, the conference will focus on two conventionally agreed historiographies of the countries: their 'pre-modern' and 'colonial' periods. An underlying question the conference aims to address is how the Korean and Vietnamese states and their civil societies, concepts that shaped during the tributary system, became formulated during the modernisation period.

Info and registration: www.iias.asia/vietnamkorea
Proposals are no longer being accepted for the conference.

Call for applications

'Weaving Knowledge': Summer School on Lanna weaving & dyeing

6-23 July 2017; Chiang Mai, Thailand
Sponsored by the Center for Science & Society, Columbia University (USA), Chiang Mai University, IIAS, and the Dorothy Borg Foundation.
Co-convenors: Nussara Tiengkate, Pamela H. Smith, Annapurna Mamidipudi

THIS TWO-WEEK WORKSHOP aims to engage both the theory and practice of craft knowledge by requiring participants to learn the Lanna techniques of weaving alongside expert weavers, while engaging with the scholarly challenge of making embodied craft knowledge explicit. As the students are trained in crafts by practitioners in a weaving workshop near Chiang Mai, they will discuss concepts such as tacit expertise and technological literacy, pedagogy in sensory and material knowledge, innovation and sustainability in traditional technological cultures, with the practitioners, as well as invited scholars and activists in history, anthropology, and sociology from around the world. Set in the rural environment around Chiang Mai, this workshop will bring together three convenors: one historian of science and technology, one weaving/craft expert, and one scholar of development practice in craft, to guide the group of doctoral candidates in reflexive practice – both of weaving and writing.

For more information,
see <http://iias.asia/summerschool2017>



IIAS Annual Lecture 2016 with Peter Frankopan

After the Silk Roads: Asia, Europe, and the Discovery of the Americas
Thursday, 8 December 2016, 4pm
Leiden University Academy Building, Leiden, the Netherlands

HISTORIAN DR PETER FRANKOPAN is Senior Research Fellow at Worcester College (University of Oxford) and Director of the Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research. He works on the history of the Mediterranean, Russia, the Middle East, Persia, Central Asia and beyond, and on relations between Christianity and Islam. He also specializes in medieval Greek literature, and translated *The Alexiad* for Penguin Classics (2009). Following his much acclaimed book *The First Crusade: The Call from the East* (2012), he published *The Silk Roads: A New History of the World* in 2015, which was *The Daily Telegraph's* History Book of the Year 2015, and in July 2016, the paperback topped the *Sunday Times Non-Fiction* charts. The British historian William Dalrymple described the book as a "historical epic of dazzling range, ambition and achievement" (Observer).

For the 2016 IIAS Annual Lecture, Peter Frankopan will discuss the fascinating history of the relations between Europe and Asia after the demise of the Silk Roads and following the European discovery of the Americas. The discovery of the maritime routes between Western Europe and Asia have often been described as the main contributing factor to the end of the Silk Roads and the cause of a drastically changed relationship between Asia and Europe. However, at the time that the first Portuguese and Spanish sailors set foot in South and Southeast Asia, they also discovered the enormous mineral wealth of the Americas. This development not only had a disastrous influence on local societies and cultures in the Americas, but also enriched the colonial Spanish and Portuguese empires and enabled them to expand their influence and maritime trade across large swaths of Asia. It provided the wealth to buy local products much in demand in Europe, thereby also affecting the local economies of South, Southeast and East Asia.

Registration is required.
Please register by webform at www.iias.nl/frankopan.

International MA Double Degree 'Critical Heritage Studies of Asia & Europe'

IN MARCH AND APRIL THIS YEAR, the final official documents were signed for the establishment of an international Double Degree MA programme in 'Critical Heritage Studies of Asia and Europe'. Initiated by IIAS and built upon a series of workshops and conferences organised since 2010, this Double Degree programme involves the Leiden University Institute for Area Studies, the Department of Anthropology of the College of Liberal Arts (National Taiwan University), the Graduate Institute of Building and Planning, College of Engineering (National Taiwan University), and the Graduate School of International Studies (Yonsei University, South Korea).

Concretely, the Double Degree programme consists of an independent one-year MA course at Leiden University, which, upon completion, is recognised as part of an independent two-year MA programme at one of the Asian partner universities. In this way, students from National Taiwan University and Yonsei University can spend the second year of their two to three year MA studies at Leiden University. Vice versa, graduates of the Leiden University MA programme can choose to do a consecutive second year of heritage studies at one of the three partner institutions in Asia. Upon successful completion of the Double Degree programme, students will have obtained two separate MA degrees, one from their home university and one from the partner institution, and a certificate for the Double Degree in Critical Heritage Studies of Asia and Europe, issued by the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS).

The institutions involved in the Double Degree programme consider Asia as a fertile source of both theoretical and methodological insights in the highly contested area of heritage. Since colonial times, European-based concepts and technical approaches to conservation have dominated the understanding of heritage in Asia, in most cases through the top-down imposition of ideas and processes. It is this hegemonic discourse, usually promoted by developmentalist states in Asia and elsewhere, as well as various processes of indigenous response, that the Double Degree programme intends to highlight. The programme focuses in particular on the politics of heritage and the questions of its legitimacy. Who controls heritage? What is the role of heritage in the constructed narratives of nationalism? How is heritage being used as a cultural practice to shape the discourses on nation-building and nation-branding?

The courses will prepare students to work in academic research, spatial planning, museum management, tourism industries, and heritage conservation across Europe and Asia. Students will study heritage as a means of rethinking relations between Asia and Europe in terms of mutual respect and exchange.

The Double Degree is an initiative of the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) at Leiden University, which for some years has been promoting the field of critical heritage studies through courses, workshops, conferences, and publications. It also forms part of the wider ambition of IIAS to spread the production of knowledge about Asia by establishing a platform for continuing dialogues between universities located in Asia and beyond.

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Dynamic borderlands: livelihoods, communities & flows

5th Conference of the Asian Borderlands Research Network
12-14 December 2016; Kathmandu, Nepal

THE 5TH ASIAN BORDERLANDS CONFERENCE in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 12-14 December 2016, is organised by Social Science Baha, the Asian Borderlands Research Network (ABRN) and the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS).

Placing special emphasis on borders and cross-border flows of people and objects that have not been highlighted in previous conferences, conference panels will address questions such as: What new borderland flows, corridors and paths are (or have been) taking shape, and what impacts do they have on livelihoods and communities; How can we use these Asian cases to rethink social theories of various kinds? Anyone interested in the theme is welcome to attend. Registration is required.

Information and registration:
www.asianborderlands.net