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.

### The Network

**IIAS Fellowship Programme**

**Current Fellows**

**Mehdi Aminie**
Coordinator Energy Programme Asia (EPA)
1 Sep 2007 – 31 March 2019

**Kunthea Chhom**
Sanskrit elements in Old Khmer language: a case-study of boons and curses in epigraphy from ancient Cambodia
1 March 2018 – 31 May 2018

**Jatin Dua**
A sea of protection: piracy, trade, and regulation in the Indian Ocean
1 Oct 2016 – 31 July 2018

**Ana Dragoljic**
Politics of queer affect: Intentionality, mediation, inter-vision in Indic memory work
1 June 2018 – 31 January 2019

**Melinda Fodor**
The Anandadurbari by Ghoshatya, a critical edition with annotated translation, introduction and glossary of selected words
1 March 2018 – 31 Aug 2018

**Manpreet Kaur Janeya**
The aesthetics of schools: meal, distrust, risk and uncertainty
1 Oct 2017 – 31 July 2018

**Prasit Kanungo**
Indian politics: Professor/CCOR Chair of Contemporary India Studies (until 30 June 2018)
1 Sep 2013 – 30 June 2019

**Katsunori Miyazaki**
Rethinking land use in the era of the Anthropocene (Mongolia, Russia, China)
1 Feb 2018 – 31 Aug 2018

**Melinda Fodor**
The Anandadurbari by Ghoshatya, a critical edition with annotated translation, introduction and glossary of selected words
1 March 2018 – 31 Aug 2018

**Carola Erika Lorea**
Metaphor, meaning and oral eggshell: the upside-down language of the songs of Sdhavan
1 Jan 2018 – 30 Dec 2018

**Charlotte Marchina**
Rethinking land use in the era of the Anthropocene
1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018

**Bai Gopal Shrestha**
Religious among the Nepalese Diaspora
1 Jan 2015 – 31 Dec 2018

**William Peterson**
Asian self-representation at World Expositions
1 Jan 2018 – 30 June 2018

**Saraju Rath**
Inscriptional, literary and mercantile scripts of ancient India
1 Jan 2018 – 31 Dec 2018

**Rituparna Roy**
Kolkata Partition Museum project
1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018

**Carolina Cao**
Vietnamese women in the process of nation-building
1 Oct 2017 – 30 Sep 2018

**Xiaosen Song**
Contemporary India Studies
1 Jan 2018 – 30 June 2018

**Sanderden Verstappen**
Recollecting relations: navigating emergent Muslim and Hindu spaces in rural India
1 Sep 2017 – 30 April 2019

**Tingfai Yu**
As a class to localise queer studies: the post-colonial study of the family
1 April 2018 – 31 Jan 2019

**Qiaoyun Zhang**
Cultural hybridisation in times of crisis: a Chinese experience
1 Sep 2017 – 30 June 2018

### In the spotlight

**Manpreet K. Janeya**

**The aesthetics of school meals: (dis)trust, risk, and uncertainty**

Food insecurity and malnutrition continue to be matters of concern globally. They generate various contested interventions such as the National Healthy Schools Programme (UK) and the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (India), underpinned by visions of the ‘inclusive growth’ of ‘healthy publics’. ‘Food secure healthy futures’. Such schemes have sought to manage issues of hunger, inequality, taste, nutritional guidelines, and socio-cultural norms and practices amidst changing economic, political and social demands, with relative degrees of success. Located against the backdrop of such issues, my current monograph, the focus of my IIAS fellowship, is grounded in long-term ethnographic fieldwork on school meals in England. The Aesthetics of School Meals: (Dis)trust, Risk, and Uncertainty (under contract) is an urban ethnography of the anxious everyday engagements of Muslim/ Hindu migrants of South-Asian (Indian/Bangladeshi/Pakistani) heritage in England with ‘healthy’ school meals as entangled in wider historical and variegated networks of perceived risks and uncertainties. It unpacks the interactions and the ‘risking’ networks through which health with the dynamic and how we mistrust integral to such networks, thereby revealing implications for configurations of ‘public health’ and ‘multiculturalism’, amidst calls to rethink ‘cultural diversity’ and forms of ‘integration’ in an increasingly volatile Europe. A revisiting those in Brussels, Copenhagen, and Edinburgh (annual-workshop of the Bangladesh Studies Network) I initiated, now in its fourth year. Engaging with the inviting range of lunch-time lectures at IAS and seminars across Leiden’s Humanities, Social Sciences Institutes/ networks, Leiden University’s fabulous library resources, Amsterdam University’s stimulating anthropology walking-seminars in the Dutch dunes, and the immensely rewarding intellectual and social interactions with fellow IAS researchers in the Netherlands, I have conducted a pilot project (Waiting for Food in India) on Mid-Day Meals in rural schools which will form the basis of a future research initiative. Future research plans also include further developing interests in gender, youth, and migration in cities across Europe and Asia. After excitingly hectic years of getting a new education programme off the ground, in addition to teaching and administration under the aegis of my academic job, the IAS fellowship has offered me a tranquil and congenial space to explore the possibilities of harnessing some of these ideas, and initiating conversations with scholars in Leiden and Amsterdam across disciplines, including anthropology, history, philosophy, and art studies. The fellowship continues to offer me some opportunities to interact with diverse audiences through: research seminars; a planned event at IAS with Melinda Fodor (Harvard University) on my just-released co-edited book Ethnographies of Waiting (Bloomsburg 02/2018); further co-edited a book with researchers here in the social sciences are in the Anthropocene: nomadic pastoralism. Although very few researchers here in the social sciences are working on Mongolia and Siberia, thanks to IAS’ extended network, I could quickly connect with researchers from Dutch universities (e.g., Amsterdam, Utrecht, Nijmegen) working on related issues in other geographical areas. Seldom have I had such an opportunity to expand and strengthen my own international network. IAS offers me a fantastic opportunity to think and write in a stimulating environment that encompasses not only different disciplines and areas, but also academic and non-academic expertise. As a researcher from a purely academic world who, due to my work on sustainability-related issues is increasingly receiving requests from field professionals (NGO, embassy staff), I hugely benefit from the framework of inter-connected academic and non-academic fields. I myself am committed to the transfer of knowledge to wider audiences of non-specialists, in particular by varying the tools and media, in past and future projects (photograph exhibitions, book of proverbs, graphic novels, etc.). In this respect, it was a huge privilege to meet, during my first weeks in the Netherlands, Josot Grootens, a Dutch graphic designer whose work I admire a lot. It is very likely that he will design the numerous maps included in the book I am working on. Last but not least, coming back to the Netherlands, where, in a previous life I lived for nine years and which I still consider to be my second home, turns this already remarkable opportunity into a unique experience.”

**Charlotte Marchina**

**INALCO - Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales**

**Rethinking land use in the era of the Anthropocene**

In light of the confrontations, assimilations and inter-Asian articulation of the Anthropocene, in particular by varying the tools and media, in past and future projects (photograph exhibitions, book of proverbs, graphic novels, etc.), I am increasingly receiving requests from field professionals (NGO, embassy staff). I hugely benefit from the framework of inter-connected academic and non-academic fields. I myself am committed to the transfer of knowledge to wider audiences of non-specialists, in particular by varying the tools and media, in past and future projects (photograph exhibitions, book of proverbs, graphic novels, etc.). In this respect, it was a huge privilege to meet, during my first weeks in the Netherlands, Josot Grootens, a Dutch graphic designer whose work I admire a lot. It is very likely that he will design the numerous maps included in the book I am working on. Last but not least, coming back to the Netherlands, where, in a previous life I lived for nine years and which I still consider to be my second home, turns this already remarkable opportunity into a unique experience.”

**Melinda Fodor**

**The Anandadurbari by Ghoshatya, a critical edition with annotated translation, introduction and glossary of selected words**

According to Mongolian herders and practices, the landscape is inhabited by invisible entities, master spirits of the land (gazryn ezen). Traditionally, humans should not disturb them, and must preserve environmental resources. It is people who belong to a place, and not the other way round. Therefore, land privatization implemented by the Russian and Chinese governments creates challenging meeting points in terms of the existing relationships with the land. I investigate how Mongol herders, in the three countries where they live, redefine, or not, the role they assign themselves in the environment that they share with other (non-human) beings. My seven-month stay in Leiden (February-August 2018) is dedicated to data processing and the writing. I am currently working on my first monograph (to be published both in French and English) that will address the spatial and political features of Mongolian nomadic pastoralism. Although very few researchers here in the social sciences are working on Mongolia and Siberia, thanks to IAS’ extended network, I could quickly connect with researchers from Dutch universities (e.g., Amsterdam, Utrecht, Nijmegen) working on related issues in other geographical areas. Seldom have I had such an opportunity to expand and strengthen my own international network. IAS offers me a fantastic opportunity to think and write in a stimulating environment that encompasses not only different disciplines and areas, but also academic and non-academic expertise. As a researcher from a purely academic world who, due to my work on sustainability-related issues is increasingly receiving requests from field professionals (NGO, embassy staff), I hugely benefit from the framework of inter-connected academic and non-academic fields. I myself am committed to the transfer of knowledge to wider audiences of non-specialists, in particular by varying the tools and media, in past and future projects (photograph exhibitions, book of proverbs, graphic novels, etc.). In this respect, it was a huge privilege to meet, during my first weeks in the Netherlands, Josot Grootens, a Dutch graphic designer whose work I admire a lot. It is very likely that he will design the numerous maps included in the book I am working on. Last but not least, coming back to the Netherlands, where, in a previous life I lived for nine years and which I still consider to be my second home, turns this already remarkable opportunity into a unique experience.”
As a fellow of the Asian Heritages cluster at IIAS and a cultural anthropologist, I have mainly been working on a project titled ‘Cultural heritagization in times of crisis: a Chinese experience’, investigating it, and how, heritagization is an effective measure for the culturally-sensitive recovery of the Qiang ethnic minority in South China, following the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake. Based on 15 months of dissertation fieldwork and building on my dissertation analyses, I explore three aspects of the Chinese state-led nomination of Qiang culture for the status of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), and the resulting safeguarding practices after it was awarded, as a means to rescue and protect the Qiang culture. First, I examine how the heritage regime and audit culture influence the urgent heritagization planning after the earthquake. Secondly, I look at heritagization as a process of knowledge production and identity formation for the Qiang and the Chinese state. Finally, I reflect on the radical transformation of the perceptions and practices of the Qiang ICH, and the ICH-centered cultural recovery planning in China.

The 10-month fellowship at IIAS has greatly helped me accomplish this project. Obtaining the fellowship soon after my PhD helped me grow into a more mature scholar-teacher at one of the world’s leading research institutions on Asian Studies. I am first and foremost grateful for the opportunities and friendships with colleagues worldwide.

Cultural heritagization in times of crisis: a Chinese experience

Qiaoyun Zhang

Become an IIAS Fellow

IIAS Fellowship possibilities and requirements

Apply for an IIAS fellowship

The International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) in Leiden, the Netherlands, invites outstanding researchers to apply for an IIAS 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 research clusters: ‘Asian Heritages’, ‘Global Asia’ and ‘Asian Cities’. However, some positions will be reserved for outstanding projects in any area outside of those listed.

For more information about our research clusters, see pp.52-53 of this issue of the Newsletter and www.iias.asia

Application deadlines: 1 March and 1 October

Apply for an IIAS-ASCL fellowship

The IIAS-ASCL joint 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.

Application deadlines: 15 March and 15 September

Apply for a Gonda fellowship

The Gonda fellowship is aimed at post-doctoral candidates who have recently completed a PhD and are interested in a career in Asian Studies. It is designed to provide young scholars with the opportunity to build their research profile through publication and participation in the scholarly community.

Application deadlines: 1 April and 1 October

Information and application forms: www.iias.asia/fellowships

Also read Qiaoyun Zhang’s article “Heritage making after the earthquake. Safeguarding the intangible heritage of the Qiang people in China” in the Focus section of this issue.