

# IIAS Research Programmes & new initiatives

## > Programmes

### **Socio-Genetic Marginalization in Asia**

The development and application of new biomedical and genetic technologies have important socio-political implications. This NWO/ASSR/IIAS research programme aims to gain insight into the ways in which the use of and monopoly over genetic information shape and influence population policies, environmental ethics and biomedical and agricultural practices in various Asian religious and secular cultures and across national boundaries.

Coordinator: Dr Margaret Sleeboom  
www.iias.nl/iias/research/genomics

### **The Syntax of the Languages of Southern China**

This project aims to achieve a detailed description and in depth analysis of a limited number of syntactic phenomena in six languages, both Sinitic and non-Sinitic, spoken in the area south of the Yangtze River. The project will systematically compare these descriptions and analyses to contribute to the development of the theory of language and human language capacity, through the study of non-Western languages.

Coordinator: Dr Rint Sybesma  
www.iias.nl/iias/research/syntax

### **Islam in Indonesia: The Dissemination of Religious Authority in the Twentieth and Early Twenty-First Centuries**

Forms and transformations of religious authority among the Indonesian Muslim community are the focus of this research programme. The term authority relates both to persons and books as well as various other forms of written and non-written references. Special attention is paid to the production, reproduction, and dissemination of religious authority in the fields of four sub-programmes: *ulama* (religious scholars) and *fatwas*; *tarekat* (mystical orders); *dakwah* (propagation of the faith); and education.

Coordinator: Dr Nico Kaptein  
www.iias.nl/iias/research/dissemination

### **Indonesianisasi and Nationalization**

From the 1930s to the early 1960s, the Indonesian economy transformed from a 'colonial' economy, dominated by the Dutch, to a 'national' one in which indigenous business assumed control. Shifts in command and management of the economy are closely related to economic structure and political alignment. This NIOD project explores this transformation, studying the late-colonial era as well as the Japanese occupation, the Revolution and the Sukarno period. Two issues are given special attention: Indonesianisasi (increased opportunities for indigenous Indonesians in the economy) and nationalization, in particular the expropriation of Dutch corporate assets in Indonesia in 1957-58.

Coordinator: Prof. J. Thomas Lindblad  
www.iias.nl/iias/research/indonesianisasi

## > Networks

### **ABIA South and Southeast Asian Art and Archaeology Index**

The *ABIA Index* online database covers publications on prehistory, archaeology, and art history, material culture, epigraphy, paleography, numismatics, and sigillography of South and Southeast Asia. IIAS is the centre for regions outside Asia, with support from the Gonda Foundation. Between 2002 and 2006 the project is coordinated by PGIAR, Colombo, with support from the Central Cultural Fund. Offices have also been opened at the IGNCA, New Delhi, and the Research Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences, Universitas Indonesia, Jakarta. *ABIA Index* volume 1 is available at IIAS. Volume 2 is available at www.brill.nl

Coordinator: Dr Ellen Raven  
www.abia  
www.iias.nl/host/abia

### **Changing Labour Relations in Asia (CLARA)**

Labour relations in different parts of Asia are undergoing diverse historical processes and experiences in terms of their national economies, their links with international markets and the nature of state intervention. This programme aims to understand these changes comparatively and historically, focusing on five overlapping themes: the labour process, labour mobility, labour consciousness, gendered labour and labour laws and labour movements.

Coordinator: Dr Ratna Saptari  
www.iias.nl/iias/research/clara

### **Transnational Society, Media, and Citizenship**

This multidisciplinary network studies the complex nature of contemporary cultural identities and the impact of the globalization of information and communication technologies (ICTs) on the (re)construction of these identities. Although the programme is based in the Netherlands, the projects are carried out at numerous fieldwork sites.

Coordinator: Prof. Peter van der Veer  
www.iias.nl/iias/research/transnational

## > New initiatives

### **The Development of Space Technology in Asia**

The space age has dramatically impacted on all nations. In Asia, the 'space-faring nations' – India, China and Japan – have achieved considerable success in building up indigenous space technologies and applications. Other Asian nations have readily adopted these applications, including satellites for telecommunications, for gathering data on the weather, and environmental and earth resources. IIAS is launching this new research initiative and has initiated a series of workshops on the topic.

www.iias.nl/iias/research/space

### **Piracy and Robbery on the Asian Seas**

Acts of piracy loom particularly large in Asian waters, with the bulk of all officially reported incidents of maritime piracy occurring in Southeast Asia during the 1990s. This is of serious concern to international shipping, as the sea-lanes between East Asia, the Middle East, and Europe pass through Southeast Asia. IIAS and the Centre for Maritime Research (MARE) are currently identifying issues and concerns, and are delineating core elements of an interdisciplinary research programme on piracy and robbery at sea in Asia.

www.iias.nl/iias/research/piracy

### **Care of the Aged: Gender, Institutional Provisions and Social Security in India, Netherlands and Sri Lanka**

This IDPAD/IIAS research project addresses the implications of population aging for the social security and health care of elderly people. As the experience of ageing is highly gendered and can vary according to class, caste, and religion, the project seeks to capture the dimensions, characteristics and trends related to aging among different social and economic groups, with an emphasis on women. This comparative study of the Netherlands, Sri Lanka, and India draws on diverse experiences of development to contextualize the aging process.

www.iias.nl/iias/research/aged

### **Conflict, Security and Development in Central Eurasia: Towards Regional Economic Co-operation**

This research fits into the wider field of comparative studies on regionalism in International Relations. The project will study the complex interplay between nation building and regional cooperation in Central Eurasia, focusing on the possibilities for, and impediments to, the creation of mutually supportive relationships between national policies for development and policies aiming for regional cooperation. The period under study is from 1991 to the present.

www.iias.nl/iias/research/centraleurasia

## A N N O U N C E M E N T



Leiden, the Netherlands  
22-25 February 2005

IIAS Masterclass on  
Modern Research Techniques  
in Asian Archaeology:

# Southeast Asia: A Centre of Ancient Urbanism?

Lecturer:

Prof. John Miksic (*Southeast Asian Studies Programme, National University of Singapore*)

The main theme of this masterclass will be the study of ancient urban sites. Prof. Miksic will discuss strategies for fieldwork, and techniques for survey and excavation, which he and his students have used on ancient city sites in Java, Singapore, Burma, and Cambodia. Attention will be given to two specific techniques, Energy Dispersive X-ray Fluorescence (EDXRF) of ceramics, glass, and metals, and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) of human skeletal materials. In addition, he will touch upon the link between research design and theory building.

Local Organizer:

IIAS in cooperation with the Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University

Featured speakers:

Dr Ian Glover (*University College London, UK*)  
Dr Bion Griffin (*University of Hawai'i, USA*)  
Dr Pierre-Yves Manguin (*L'Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient in Paris, France*)

IIAS invites last year Master's and PhD students from the Netherlands, Europe and Asia to apply. Students are expected to provide a description of their research interests and to prepare data and questions received from the organizers one month prior to the masterclass. To guarantee quality and the exchange of knowledge, the number of participants will be limited.

Accepted students may participate free of charge. Post-doctoral scholars and professional archaeologists may participate by registering and paying a fee of € 50.

For further information:

www.iias.nl/ancienturbanism

Deadline for registration:

1 December 2004

Registration and Information:

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