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: Margriet Steleboom
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 Sinic and non-Sinic, 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: 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 to 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; tarikat (mystical orders); delawar (propagation of the faith); and education.

Coordinator: Nico Kaptijn
www.iias.nl/iias/research/dissem

**Indonesianisation and Nationalization**
From the 1920s 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 NWO 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: Indonesianisation (increased opportunities for indigenous Indonesians in the economy) and nationalization, in particular the expropriation of Dutch corporate assets in Indonesia in 1957-58.

Coordinator: 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 PCIAR, 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: Ellen Raven
www.abia.net

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

**Asian Bio-archaeological Research**
Led by:
- Prof. Ruth Chhlim (Departments of Radiology and Anthropology, University of Western Ontario, Canada)
- Prof. El Molto (Departments of Radiology and Anthropology, University of Western Ontario, Canada)
- Prof. Don Brothwell (Department of Archaeology, University of York, UK)

Rapid progress in the life sciences and medical technology over the past decades have revolutionized ancient skeletal studies. These include the extraction of ancient DNA, the use of medical imaging tools like CT scans and isotope studies, and newly available scientific and bio-archaeological tests. This masterclass will explore the role of science and technology in the investigation of the human past, emphasizing the necessity for collaboration between archaeologists, physical anthropologists and experts from the physical and life sciences.

Also presenting:
- Prof. Anne Katzenberg (Dept. of Anthropology, University of Calgary, Canada)
- Prof. Tarekat (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 IDIAP/IIAS research project addresses the implications of population ageing 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 ageing 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/careaged

**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 recently 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 form 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

**New initiatives**

**PIRACY: PREVENTION, INTERVENTION AND RESTORATION**
This programme aims to gain insight into the ways in which the use of and monopoly over marine resources in Asia has changed from the early colonial period to the current period, and 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: Ratna Saptari
www.iias.nl/iias/research/clara

**Asian Bio-archaeological Research**

8-10 December 2005 – Leiden, the Netherlands
IIAS Masterclass on Modern Research Techniques in Asian Archaeology:

**Sciences and Technology in Asian Bio-archaeological Research**

**Announcement**

Deadline for registration: 1 October 2005

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