



### Traditional music theatre by the Kattaikkuttu Sangam

Kattaikkuttu is popular music theatre from Tamil Nadu, South India, which combines intense singing, comical parts, improvisation and ritual traditions. A Kattaikkuttu performance is played by twelve actors and three musicians at night. It is rooted in rituals and religion and is an essential part of life of South Indian rural communities.

From 21 January till 1 February the Kattaikkuttu Sangam from Kanchipuram will tour the Netherlands with two performances of this expressive and colourful music theatre from rural India. The audience is invited to watch the make up before the play and cultural anthropologist Hanne de Bruin will explain the performance.

Concept & direction: P. Rajagopal, Hanne M. de Bruin  
Costumes: Hanne M. de Bruin  
Actors: P. Rajagopal, B. Saravanan, N. Ramalingam, K. Maheswaram  
Musicians: R. Kumar (harmonium), T. Rangasami (mrdangam/dholak), C. Chandiran (mukavinai)

#### 'The eighteenth day': about the meaning of war

'The eighteenth day' (*Pattinettam nal*) is a shortened version of a traditional full night performance. The theme comes from the famous Indian Mahabharata epic. The play opens with King Duryodhana in impressive costume who reflects on his own acts in the horrible war between families. All his 99 brothers are killed, as well as his friend Karna. With the dead in his eyes he talks to the god Krishna and the other survivor, the clown

#### 'Bhima and the flower'

Youth performance  
This episode from the Mahabharata is like a fairytale about greed, beauty and exile. The strong Bhima tries to find the beautiful Madaara flower for his wife Draupadi. On his journey he meets in a match the Monkey god Hanuman.

The Kattaikkuttu Sangam, directed by P. Rajagopal, looks after the economic and artistic interests of actors in Tamil Nadu and cares for the education of young actors. Together with Hanne M. de Bruin, he has raised a union, theatre centre and youth theatreschool.

More information  
[www.kattaikkuttu.org](http://www.kattaikkuttu.org)

**Kalai Manram** supports the Kattaikkuttu Sangam in the Netherlands.  
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### Chinglish.com: Chinese-English email

Few analysts or trend-watchers will disagree. The internet and China are fueling globalization and the world economy. Chinese and English are the most widespread languages on the web today. Combining them in a meaningful manner would lead to an interesting alliance.

Chinglish.com, a Dutch startup run by a group of Chinese engineers who studied and worked in the West and a group of for-

eigners who studied and worked in Greater China, has picked up the gauntlet. Its vision is that Chinese and English, already major languages in education, business, and tourism, will continue to gain in importance, and that the world is becoming increasingly bilingual.

Interpreting the word chinglish as a contraction of the words Chinese and English, it suddenly becomes a semantic novelty. Semantic not only in the sense that the word is re-inventing itself, changing its original meaning of bad English, but also in the web sense by making ample use of the semantic web and FOAF & RDF technologies, allowing for more efficient querying.

Hundreds of millions of young Chinese are doing everything within their power to master the English language as it is the surest ticket to professional advancement. Simultaneously, tens of millions of foreigners are looking to improve their Chinese language and culture skills. Knowledge of the Chinese language is no longer the exclusive domain of scholars.

Chinglish.com intends to meet the needs of Chinese-English communities by building into its portal maximum flexibility between simplified Chinese, traditional Chinese, and English. All content is presented in a chinglish format, i.e. Chinese and English text in juxtaposition, complemented by a language toolbar facilitating the overall language learning process.

Will the Chinese language really start appearing in European, South American, and African newspapers, the way English has been making an appearance in Chi-



nese media? Maybe not, but come what may, Chinese will not be replaced by a phonetic or characterless system any time soon. A slow but continuing trend of what could be called chinglification will be more likely.

In September 2005, a test version of the new Chinese-English email system went live at <http://beta.chinglish.com>. What sets chinglish apart from conventional webmail in the tradition of yahoo and hotmail are the language features such as translation and pronunciation tools, fully integrated into the email environment. Moreover, switching between Chinese and English has been made very simple. It is also possible to use both a Western and a Chinese name on the same email account.

This 'one system, two characters' represents China's paradoxical relation with itself, the rest of the world, and the internet. What remains to be seen is whether chinglish.com will truly be able to live up to the role it aspires to. The challenge is certainly bigger than mere semantics.

More information:  
[www.chinglish.com](http://www.chinglish.com)

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## Fellowships at the International Institute for Asian Studies

IIAS invites postdoctoral researchers to apply for fellowships in Leiden or Amsterdam. The institute focuses on the interdisciplinary and comparative study of Asia in the humanities and social sciences, and their interaction with other sciences. IIAS research covers South, East, Southeast and Central Asia. IIAS Fellows are offered office facilities, while the institute will mediate in gaining access to libraries, archives and other institutions in the Netherlands. Fellows may be asked to give a lecture or organise a workshop, remain in contact with European researchers, and make due reference to IIAS in (future) publications, (partly) made possible through research done during your stay.

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For more information and an IIAS fellowship application form see the IIAS website at: [www.iias.nl](http://www.iias.nl)  
For specific information, please contact Amis Boersma or Wouter Feldberg at: [iiasfellowships@let.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:iiasfellowships@let.leidenuniv.nl)



## Dealing with the Gods (De Goden Verzoeken)

Exhibition on rituals in the Hindu religion  
17 December 2005 - 10 September 2006  
Tropenmuseum Amsterdam

On 17 December 2005 the Tropenmuseum in Amsterdam launched the exhibition *Dealing with the Gods: Rituals in Hindu Religion*. The display introduces visitors to the deities, traditions, fragrances and colours of Hindu religion. Following the path of wealth, wisdom or love, visitors make their way through the Hindu world. Hundreds of items are presented, ranging from domestic shrines, prints and objects to temple statues made in India especially for the exhibition. A highlight of the collection is a 1,000 year old figure of the Hindu sun god Surya.

The central theme is contact between Hindus and their gods; many different rituals make this contact possible. Exuberant celebrations mark festivals such as Holi and Divali, other customs relate to birth, marriage and death, while many simple practices are for everyday use. Whether it's in the temple or at work, at home or in the car, the gods, for Hindus, are everywhere.

With India as the backdrop, the imagery of Bollywood and the hundreds of objects presented in the exhibition provide a magnificently colourful and theatrical show. Rarely shown exhibits from the museum

are displayed alongside remarkable loans from museums as well as private collections. A range of audiovisual material accompanies the classical Indian objects.

Visitors have a choice of three personal routes through life to experience the exhibition: the path of wisdom (linked to the god Ganesha), the path of love (linked to the god Krishna) or the path of wealth (linked to the goddess Lakshmi). Each path provides a key with which to start interactive presentations. This allows visitors to participate in rituals, to receive small (digital) gifts and to find extra information. Each path teaches visitors how to Deal with the Gods.

For more information and visual material:

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T. +31 (0)20 - 5688418  
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<http://home.planet.nl/~j.e.m.houben>  
[www.jyotistoma.nl](http://www.jyotistoma.nl)

### Oral masterpieces online

New Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity Ceremony  
[www.unesco.org/culture/intangible-heritage/35eur\\_uk.htm](http://www.unesco.org/culture/intangible-heritage/35eur_uk.htm)

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

## Images of the 'wildman' in Southeast Asia

IIAS Masterclass, 7-10 February 2006, Leiden

Led by:

**Gregory Forth** (Professor of Anthropology, University of Alberta and IIAS senior fellow)

Featured speakers:

**Jet Bakels** (Independent researcher, Amsterdam)

**David Bulbeck** (School of Archaeology and Anthropology, Australian National University)

**Raymond Corbey** (Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University)

Southeast Asia has been the site of a series of representations of hairy manlike creatures, partly interpretable as 'crypto-species' and comparable to the better known Himalayan 'yeti' and North American 'sasquatch' or 'bigfoot'. Remarkably, these Southeast Asian figures have received virtually no attention from anthropologists or scholars in related disciplines. To the extent that these figures have been considered, they have been treated as imaginary constructs and subsumed in ethnographic writing as spiritual beings. The recent discovery of *Homo floresiensis* and the hypothetical linking of the palaeoanthropological discovery with local categories of putative 'wildman' suggest the need to reconsider indigenous representations. This masterclass pursues how anthropologists should understand local reports of 'wildman' and how their occurrence as components of local folk zoologies and cosmologies may challenge time-honoured analytical principles and categories of social and cultural anthropology.

Registration and information:

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Seeking proposals for short films  
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Please *email* us a short synopsis of your idea,  
your CV, your photo and a paragraph on  
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# JAPAN *aktuell*

### Call for Papers

*Japan aktuell* is an internationally refereed academic journal published by the Institute of Asian Affairs, Hamburg that focuses on current developments in Japan. The bimonthly journal has a circulation of 500 copies and reaches a broad readership in academia, administration and business circles. Articles to be published should be written in German or English and submitted exclusively to this publication.

*Japan aktuell* is devoted to the transfer of scholarly insights to a wide audience. The topics covered should therefore not only be orientated towards specialists in Japanese affairs, but should also be of relevance to readers with a practical interest in the region.

The editor welcomes contributions on contemporary Japan that are concerned with the fields of international relations, politics, economics, society, education, environment or law. Articles should be theoretically grounded, empirically sound and reflect the state of the art in contemporary Japanese studies.

All manuscripts will be peer-reviewed for acceptance. The editor responds within three months.

Research articles should not exceed 10,000 words (incl. footnotes and references). Manuscripts should be submitted to the editor in electronic form (stylesheet: [www.duei.de/ifa/stylesheet](http://www.duei.de/ifa/stylesheet)).

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