IIAS fellows

IIAS hosts a large number of affiliated fellows (independent post-doctoral scholars), IIAS research fellows (PhD/postdoctoral scholars working on an IIAS research project), and fellows nominated and supported by partner institutions. Fellows are selected by an academic committee on the basis of merit, quality, and available resources. See here a full list of the fellows currently at IIAS, three fellows in the spotlight, and information on how to become an IIAS fellow yourself.

List of fellows

Amineh, Mehdi
Domestic and geopolitical challenges to energy security for China and the European Union
1 Sept 2007 – 1 Sept 2013

Bennett, Gwen
The nation on display: cultural heritage interpretation in China's peripheries and the creation of new national identity narratives
1 Sept 2012 – 28 Feb 2013

Bracken, Gregory
Colonial-era Shanghai as an urban model for the 21st century
1 Sept 2009 – 1 Sept 2013

Cheng, Sinkwan
Conceptual history, the introduction of linear time into the Chinese language, and Chinese modernity
1 Feb 2013 – 1 Aug 2013

Chong, Gladys P.L.
China rejuvenated? Governmentality, subjectivity, and normativity. The 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.
1 Feb 2013 – 1 Aug 2013

Diana, Antonella
Roses and rifles: experiments of governing on the China-Laos frontier
1 Oct 2012 – 31 Mar 2013

Esposito, Adele
Architectural and urban making in Southeast Asian heritage cities: the art of combining endogenous forms and exogenous Inputs. Hoi An (Vietnam) as a case study.
1 Jan 2013 – 31 Nov 2013

Fazila-Yacoobali Zamindar, Vazira
A land in ruins: Gandhara, archaeology and the making of Indian civilization
1 Jan 2013 – 1 Jul 2013

Hoogervorst, Tom
Linguistic evidence for cultural contact across the Bay of Bengal
1 Oct 2012 – 1 Jul 2013

Kawlra, Aarti
Kanchipuram sari as heritage: identity and the politics of culture
15 Sept 2012 – 31 Mar 2013

Kikuchi, Yoshiyuki
Anglo-American connections in Japanese chemistry: the lab as contact zone
1 Sept 2012 – 28 Feb 2013

Kondo, Takako
Translating (Japanese) contemporary art
1 Sept 2009 – 31 Aug 2013

Kragh, Ulrich Timme
An Asian philosophy of history and cultural heritage
4 Jul 2011 – 31 Aug 2013

Mukherjee, Dipika
Negotiating languages and forging identities: Surinamese-Indian women in the Netherlands
5 Oct 2007 – 15 Jan 2013

Ngo, Tak-wing
State-market relations and the political economy of development
1 May 2008 – 1 May 2017

Okubo, Takeharu
The influence of Dutch jurisprudence in late 19th century Japan
1 Apr 2011 – 1 Apr 2013

Paskaleva, Elena
Reading the architecture of paradise: the Timurid Kosh
1 Sept 2012 – 1 Sept 2013

Praust, Karl
Brhaspati, the 'Great Lord' of the Rigveda
15 Aug 2012 – 16 Mar 2013

Ram, Ronki
Dalit cultural heritage in contemporary India
1 Sep 2011 – 1 Sep 2013

Rath, Saraju
Indian manuscripts in the Netherlands: from forgotten treasures to accessible archives
5 Jan 2004 – 31 Mar 2013

Scheen, Lena
Urban renewal in Shanghai: social, cultural and mental implications
1 Sept 2012 – 28 Feb 2013

Sysling, Fenneke
Seeing Southeast Asia through Indian eyes. Physical anthropology and travel experience in the Dutch Indies, ca. 1880-1940
1 Sept 2012 – 28 Feb 2013

Tan, Danielle
From Golden Triangle to Economic Quadrangle: connections, corridors, and reconfiguration of a transnational space in the Upper Mekong Borderlands
1 Feb 2013 – 30 Jul 2013

Yao, Huina
International assistance and domestic politics: a comparative study of the Palestine after 1948 and China during the Anti-Japanese War (1937-1945)
1 Sept 2012 – 31 Oct 2013

Wang, Ping
Zhuangzi, Guo Xiang and Daoism
1 Feb 2013 – 1 May 2013

Aarti Kawlra
The making of a 'craft tradition' and the politics of cloth in colonial and post colonial south India

THE BOOK MANUSCRIPT I am working on focuses on the biography of a culturally valued cloth, the silk and gold contrast-bordered 'wedding sari' from Kanchipuram in south India, and deals with the twentieth century construction of hand-weaving as an inherited 'craft tradition'. I examine the reformist and revivalist agendas of state and non-state actors and institutions, to foreground the politics of cloth within a wider, hegemonic process of traditionalisation of India's techno-culture in modernity. I view the contemporary status of the Kanchipuram sari as the queen among silk handloom saris from Tamil Nadu as a discursive creation, whereby a cherished past is legitimized and canonized as local, regional, national and, more recently, global 'living' heritage.

Taking the case of the Telugu speaking Padma Saliyar community, whose members are at the helm of the production and exchange of hand woven silk and gold saris in Tamil Nadu, my research poses questions such as: How was hand-weaving sacralised (and spatialised) as artisanal heritage in colonial and nationalist discourses? How did some communities come to be labeled as repositories of a commingled past? Do they continue to be implicated in this process of knowledge production as place-holders of culture or do they have any claims of their own?

My work traverses many disciplinary boundaries (Anthropology and Ethnography, Cultural Studies, History, Art, Design and Technology Studies) and relies on the permeability of epistemic borders. The interdisciplinary focus of the IIAS Critical Heritage cluster, in which my work is located is, therefore, very encouraging. IIAS's roundtable format of bringing together multiple perspectives for critical engagement in an open atmosphere is particularly interesting for me. As a participant at the roundtable on *The Cultural Heritages of Asia and Europe: Global Challenges and Local Initiatives,* in Amsterdam in Aug-Sept 2010, and then again on *Ikat Weaving as Heritage for Sustainable Development,* in Nusa Tenggara Timor (NTT), Indonesia in October 2012, I was able to witness first hand the effectiveness of such a platform for initiating collaborative research and policy work. Conceiving the IIAS roundtable *Cloth, Identity and Power* during my stay at IIAS for the forthcoming International Convention for Asian Scholars, ICAS 8 in Macau later in June this year, is therefore an important milestone for me.

Finally, regular interactions at informal lectures and events with scholars from Area Studies, History, Archaeology and Urban Knowledge Network Asia have not only been personally enriching but have also contributed greatly to a very convivial atmosphere for independent research at IIAS.

Yao Huina
(Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, PR of China) International Assistance and Domestic Politics: A Comparative Study of Palestine after 1948 and China during the Anti-Japanese War (1937-1945)

DURING MY RESEARCH PROJECT AT IIAS, I explored the mutual influence between international assistance and domestic politics by comparing the situation in Palestine after 1948 to China during the Anti-Japanese War (1937-1945). My goal is to contribute to a deepened understanding of the nature, operation mechanisms and practical results of international political, economic and military aid. It will also help the recipient countries/areas to receive more and the right kind of assistance: the kind that aids their own development and maximizes effects.

International assistance is one of the important aspects of international relations. In the history of Asia, many countries/areas have accepted short-term or long-term international assistance because of war, unrest, poverty, or other reasons. In many cases, the provided international assistance had significant effects on the political system of the recipient countries/areas, their government functioning, the existing power structures and power relations, and even on the basic social values and societal development paths. In some cases, these effects were even so powerful that they changed the political structure and tradition of the recipients. In other cases, the international assistance was loaded with the national interests of the donor countries or institutions, and conflicted with the political interests of the recipients. On the other hand, the domestic politics of the recipient itself could also influence the nature and amount of international assistance given and the ways in which it was delivered. These effects in their turn were sometimes so powerful that it led donors to terminate their assistance, or even, in the case of a war situation, to redirect assistance to the other side of the conflict.

There are both similarities and differences between Palestine after 1948 and China during the Anti-Japanese War (1937-1945). The similarities are, among others: (a) they both fought for the survival of the nation and national sovereignty under very difficult circumstances; (b) they both needed, and accepted, international assistance; (c) in both cases different political factions existed; (d) in both cases the interaction between international assistance and domestic politics was significant. The differences are, among others: (a) China is a big country while Palestine is a small area without an established state; (b) China experienced a large scale war within a period of eight years while Palestine has experienced many conflicts of different sizes, over a long period of time; (c) the international assistance they accepted in various manners differed in nature and quantity; (d) there were differences in the ways in which and the extent to which domestic politics affected international assistance.

My stay with IIAS was a great opportunity to meet and interact with scholars from different countries, cultures and research backgrounds who presented different approaches to similar research questions, which enriched my own study. IIAS provided a stimulating platform for discussion, connecting with peers and enlarging my professional network. I very much enjoyed the comfortable atmosphere and appreciated the kind and open-minded staff.

Shrawan Kumar Acharya
(UKNA exchange fellow
from CEPT University, India)
Inner City Revitalization
and Heritage Conservation

IIAS Postdoctoral Fellowships

MY WORK AS UKNA FELLOW with IIAS contributes to a larger research project in which I attempt to explore the appropriate paradigm for internalizing heritage in the urban development strategy in emerging economies. During my three-month stay in the Netherlands, I looked at the experience of heritage conservation in urban development policy, in a number of Dutch cities.

High on India s national development agenda is the plan to enhance the competitiveness of urban centers in order to attract investments and to stimulate the economic growth of the hinterland. A prime concern here is the revitalizing and redevelopment of the old city area, which is characterized by high density, congestion and environmental degradation. In this area there is a notable shift from state controlled and planned intervention to neo-liberal market-oriented development strategies, which means that the redevelopment and revitalization of the old city is also being propelled by the advantages of its central location and high land values. Very often the neo-liberal physical revitalization strategies are in con ict with heritage resources, often leading to their destruction and replacement by modern, in most cases western imitation, architectural structures. Such con icts are common across all countries. Wanton revitalization has adversely a ected and destroyed old neighborhoods, mostly low-income housing and associated city heritage.

Of late there is increasing concern for heritage and community conservation, with more cities giving importance to heritage issues in the development strategy. In fact, heritage conservation is even becoming important for neo-liberal urban development policy as place marketing . The attempt to internalize heritage conservation in the development planning process has been considerably in uenced by European and American theory and practice. In India, the appropriateness of such strategy is now increasingly a subject for debate. European countries and the USA have a long tradition of heritage conservation, but they have also witnessed large scale city renewal and revitalization e orts, often at the cost of old neighborhoods and communities.

My present research explores the di erent experiences in these countries as well as the question how they have reconciled the existing conservation and revitalization contradictions. After earlier and similar research in countries such as India, China, Vietnam and the USA, the three-month project with IIAS consisted of detailed case analysis of a number of Dutch cities, involving literature review, discussions with experts and important stakeholders, and eld visits.

WE ARE PARTICULARLY interested in researchers focusing on one of the Institute s three thematic clusters: Asian Cities , Asian Heritages , and Global Asia . However, some positions will be reserved for outstanding projects in any area outside of those listed.

Asian Cities
The Asian Cities cluster deals with cities and urban cultures with related issues of ows of ideas and goods, cosmopolitism, *métissage* and connectivity, framing the existence of vibrant civil societies and political urban microcultures. It also deals with such issues as urban development in the light of the diversity of urban societies.

Asian Heritages
This cluster concentrates on the critical investigation of the politics of cultural heritage, and explores the notion of heritage as it has evolved from a Europe-originated concept associated with architecture and monumental archaeology to incorporate a broader diversity of cultural forms and values.

Global Asia
The Global Asia cluster addresses Asia s role in the various globalization processes. It examines examples of and issues related to multiple, transnational intra-Asian interactions as well as Asia s projection in the world. Historical experiences as well as more contemporary trends will be addressed.

For information on the research clusters and application form go to: **www.iias.nl**

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