

# Growing up

ICAS 8 in Macau is a landmark event for IAS. It is not just because, as host of the ICAS Secretariat, IAS was privileged to work with colleagues from tens of institutions and hundreds of individual scholars worldwide, including in particular our colleagues from Macau University, our partner for the event. It is also because, on the occasion of ICAS 8, the Institute will celebrate its twentieth anniversary. Since its creation in 1993, IAS has grown to become, let's not be afraid of saying so, *the* global meeting ground and network builder in the field of Asian studies.

Philippe Peycam



WITH ITS PUBLICATION The Newsletter, its website, its fellowship programmes, and with its numerous research projects under the three thematic clusters of Urban Asia, Critical Asian Heritage Studies and Global Asian Connectivities, IAS reaches out to thousands of individual researchers or aspiring ones on all continents and in all world regions. IAS's 'constituency' is thus global, hence the fortunate 'International' in its name. Indeed, headquartered in the historical university city of Leiden, IAS is decidedly and ineluctably a Dutch institution

in both its spirit and its *modus operandi*. Undoubtedly, as a founding member of the European Alliance of Asian Studies, IAS is clearly a committed European institution. But above all, and perhaps because of its origins, IAS stands as the most extravert transnational 'public space' for Asian studies.

For one thing, all its activities are collaborative. Nearly two thirds take place outside Europe, in most cases in Asia. Its fellows come from every region of the world, without discrimination. The Newsletter is the periodical of Asian studies – and not just the institute's mouthpiece. This assumed internationalism has enabled IAS to help develop a number of thematic trans-regional networks, such as its Urban Knowledge Network Asia, and the joint graduate programme in Critical Heritage Studies between Leiden, Gajah Madha and National Taiwan universities; it has also enabled IAS to assist in the establishment of the first pan-African network on Asian studies. This assumed cosmopolitanism is perceptible in the interactions occurring between the IAS fellows, where individuals with the most diverse backgrounds and interests work closely alongside each other, learn from each other and often decide to organize a joint event or write a joint article together.

You will get a glimpse of IAS's healthy inclusiveness in Macao, where the institute, for its twentieth anniversary, is sponsoring or co-sponsoring 10 panels and round-tables. Topics will range from the "Effects of UNESCO Politics on Local Notions of Heritage", "Redefining the Relationship between Sciences and Society in Europe and Asia", "Defining Asian Studies in Africa", or on the social role of Asian artists. These IAS-supported events demonstrate the current vitality of the field of Asian studies, and bear testimony to IAS's undiminished vibrancy as it enters a more mature age.

We look forward to seeing you in Macao!

Philippe Peycam, Director IAS

## Books and Accolades

Paul van der Velde, ICAS Secretary

### The Convention

The International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS) is the premier international gathering in the field of Asian Studies. Founded in 1997, ICAS is a platform for representatives of academia and civil society to focus on issues critical to Asia and by implication to the rest of the world. ICAS is an active accelerator of research.

ICAS is organized by local hosts (universities, organizations, and cities) in cooperation with the ICAS Secretariat, which is hosted by the International Institute for Asian Studies in Leiden (IIAS). IIAS is administered by Leiden University, which itself has a strong century-long tradition in Asian studies.

ICAS offers the local host a unique opportunity to profile itself in the world of Asian studies and the convention itself connects in a dynamic way to the city where it is held. ICAS attracts participants from over 60 countries to engage in global dialogues on Asia that transcend boundaries between academic disciplines and geographic areas.

Since its first convention in 1998, ICAS has brought together more than 15,000 academics at seven conventions. At these meetings, publishers and organizations in the field of Asian studies display their products in the ICAS Exhibition hall, which is open to the public. This space also hosts cultural performances and a documentary festival.

### From Macau to Adelaide

After previous editions in Leiden, Berlin, Singapore, Shanghai, Kuala Lumpur, Daejeon and Honolulu, ICAS 8 will be held in Macao (24-27 June 2013). The local host is the University of Macao and its venue is the Venetian Macao Resort Hotel. The more than four century long interaction between Western and Chinese traditions in Macao, the first and last European colony in Asia, has left the city with a unique blend of cultural diversity, modernity, and cosmopolitanism. A new and special feature of this convention is the publication, in cooperation with the *Macao Daily Times*, of the *ICAS 8 Daily*, which will report daily on what is happening at ICAS 8.

We hope to repeat this feature at ICAS 9, which will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre, in Australia, from 5 to 9 July 2015. It will be hosted by an internationally networked team of experts, spearheaded by Adelaide's three leading universities: University of Adelaide, Flinders University and the University of South Australia (see p. 29).

### Fifth edition of the ICAS Book Prize

The fifth edition of the ICAS Book Prize (IBP) will be celebrated at ICAS 8 in Macao, with the awards ceremony taking place on 25 June 2013. Its main sponsor is The Kingdom of the Netherlands. The biennial IBP is a global competition that provides an international focus for publications on Asia, while at the same time increasing their visibility worldwide. The IBP is now established as the premier award for Asian Studies publications. From an initial 'Long List' and subsequent 'Short List', (see p. 28) the Prizes are awarded for the outstanding English-language works in each of the following categories: Humanities, Social Sciences, PhD thesis, in addition to the Colleagues Choice Award.

For this fifth edition no less than 250 books and 100 theses were submitted. Two prizes of 2500 euros each

will be awarded for excellent books in the Humanities and Social Sciences. These academic fields will also recognize two outstanding PhD dissertations. The books and dissertations are assessed by international Reading Committees. Another feature of the IBP is the Colleagues' Choice Award. The academic community is given the opportunity to cast a vote online for their favourite book.

### Reading Committee Accolades

The success of the IBP has, however, meant that the number of works submitted for consideration for the ICAS Book Prize has greatly increased since its inception, making the judging process even more difficult (from 50 submissions in 2005, to 250 in 2013). In view of the overwhelming response to the competition, we have therefore decided to institute a new category: *The Reading Committee Accolades*.

These Reading Committee Accolades stand entirely independent from the established Prizes, and it is thus quite possible that works will receive an Accolade, even though they have not been included on the long or short lists in each prize category. No work in any category will receive more than one award (Prize/Accolade). The authors whose works are selected for these Accolades will be awarded three books of their choice from the IBP list. The Reading Committee Accolades will be awarded during the IBP prize ceremony in Macao.

Reading Committee Accolades for the Humanities and Social Sciences will be given for each of the following categories:

- 1 Publishers Accolade for outstanding production values;
- 2 Most accessible and captivating work for the non-specialist reader Accolade;
- 3 Specialist publication Accolade;
- 4 Teaching tool Accolade;
- 5 Ground-breaking subject matter Accolade;
- 6 Edited volume Accolade.

Reading Committee Accolades for the PhD theses will be given for the following categories:

- 1 Most accessible and captivating work for the non-specialist reader Accolade;
- 2 Specialist publication Accolade;
- 3 Ground-breaking subject matter Accolade.

The Accolades will allow the judging process to recognize notable works in the field that do not, for a variety of reasons, contend for the main prizes. They not only allow the judges to commend other works that are particularly noteworthy, but also honour the efforts of Asia scholars worldwide.

The deadline for submissions for the sixth edition of the IBP is 15 September 2014.

If you are unable to join us at ICAS 8 in Macao, then you will be able to find the IBP winners on our website soon after the awards ceremony (end of June).

Find more information on the ICAS website:  
[www.icassecretariat.org](http://www.icassecretariat.org)



### The Newsletter and IAS

The International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) is a post-doctoral research centre based in the Netherlands. IIAS encourages the multi-disciplinary and comparative study of Asia and promotes national and international cooperation.

The Newsletter is a free quarterly publication by IIAS. As well as being a window into the institute, The Newsletter also links IIAS with the community of Asia scholars and the worldwide public interested in Asia and Asian studies. The Newsletter bridges the gap between specialist knowledge and public discourse, and continues to serve as a forum for scholars to share research, commentary and opinion with colleagues in academia and beyond.

[www.iias.nl](http://www.iias.nl)

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