

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.

FULL LIST OF THE FELLOWS CURRENTLY AT IIAS

Mehdi Amineh

Domestic & geopolitical challenges to energy security for China and the EU
1 Sep 2007 – 1 Apr 2017

Lloyd G. Adu Amoah

Africa/Brazil, India and China relations: understanding Africa's interests & agency
1 May 2013 – 31 Jul 2013

Gregory Bracken

Colonial-era Shanghai as an urban model for the 21st century
1 Sep 2009 – 1 Sep 2013

Sinkwan Cheng

Conceptual history, the introduction of linear time into the Chinese language, & Chinese modernity
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Gladys P.L. Chong

China rejuvenated: governmentality, subjectivity, and normativity. The 2008 Beijing Olympic Games
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Antonella Diana

Roses and Rifles: experiments of governing on the China-Laos frontier
1 Oct 2012 – 31 Mar 2013

Adele Esposito

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

Christina Firpo

The removal of mixed-race children in colonial Indochina (1870-1982)
20 May 2013 – 20 Aug 2013

Mona Iyer

18 May 2013 – 10 Jul 2013

Priya Jaradi

The Baroda Provenance at colonial exhibitions: a provincial, national or Asian modernism? (1875-1939)
1 Jun 2013 – 1 Aug 2013

Ajay K. Katuri

Understanding the vulnerability & risk in light of urban communities
1 May 2013 – 1 Aug 2013

Aarti Kawlra

Kanchipuram sari as heritage: identity & the politics of culture
15 Sep 2012 – 31 Mar 2013

Yoshiyuki Kikuchi

Anglo-American connections in Japanese chemistry: the lab as contact zone
1 Sep 2012 – 31 Aug 2013

Keng We Koh

Asian trade diasporas in the making of colonial Southeast Asia: continuity & change in the Malay world 1816-1870
4 Jul 2013 – 10 Aug 2013

Takako Kondo

Translating (Japanese) contemporary art
1 Sep 2009 – 31 Aug 2013

Shuyu Kong

1) Popular media and cultural public sphere in contemporary China 2) Discreet screening of the foreign film in 1970s & 1980s China
6 May 2013 – 30 Jun 2013

Ulrich Timme Kragh

An Asian philosophy of history & cultural heritage
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Retno Kusumaningtyas

Socio-economically driven internal migration in Indonesia
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Tak-wing Ngo

State-market relations & the political economy of development
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Takeharu Okubo

The influence of Dutch jurisprudence in late 19th century Japan
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Elena Paskaleva

Reading the architecture of Paradise: the Timurid Kosh
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Gerard Persoon

Extraordinary chair at the Leiden University Institute of Cultural Anthropology & Developmental Sociology
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Karl Praust

Bṛhaspati, the 'Great Lord' of the Rigveda
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Ronki Ram

Dalit cultural heritage in contemporary India
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Saraju Rath

Indian manuscripts in the Netherlands: from forgotten treasures to accessible archives
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Florinda de Simini

A study of the Nepalese transmission of the Śivadharmottara, aimed at establishing a critical edition of its second chapter, 'On the Gift of Knowledge' (vidyādānādhyāya), with introduction & English translation
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Alexander Stolyarov

North Indian early mediaeval land grants of the 4th-13th centuries as a kind of historical source
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Fenneke Sysling

Seeing Southeast Asia through Indian eyes. Physical anthropology & travel experience in the Dutch Indies, ca. 1880-1940
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Danielle Tan

From Golden Triangle to Economic Quadrangle: connections, corridors, and reconfiguration of a transnational space in the upper Mekong borderlands
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Albert Tzeng

Framing sociology in Taiwan, Hong Kong & Singapore
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Ping Wang

Zhuangzi, Guo Xiang & Daoism
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Vazira F.Y. Zamindar

A land in ruins: Gandhara, archaeology & the making of Indian civilization
1 Jan 2013 – 1 Jul 2013

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Lloyd G. Adu Amoah

Africa/Brazil, India and China relations: understanding Africa's interests and agency



MY PRESENCE in Leiden and the IIAS has some serendipity about it. I was originally planning to do my fellowship at the African Studies Center (where I am a fellow) down at Wassenaarseweg 52, which is just a spitting distance from IIAS's perch on Rapenburg 59. A roundtable at an idyllic game resort in Lusaka (Zambia), which led to the setting up of the Association of Asian Studies in Africa (AASIA), changed my research fellowship trajectory. In Lusaka I met Philippe Peycam, the energetic director of IIAS. I was convinced the IIAS was custom tooled for the demands of my specific research interest. The rest as they say is history. I turn to my specific research interest then while at the IIAS, in the canal-strewn very-European city of Leiden.

In earlier works I have analyzed, for example, the ways in which China constructs her soft hegemonic power in Africa via architecture and construction; the expressions of African agency in Africa-China relations through migratory flows from the continent; the ideational import of China's success for public policy theorizing for developing polities, and the strategic questions that the rise of new powers (Brazil, India and China) raises for African polities. My considered view is that at this key juncture in Africa's history, in which the makings of a multi-polar world is in palpable evidence, it is crucial that some critical light is shed on the underlying reasons (beyond the stylized narratives) and forms (especially

institutional) by which the emerging powers Brazil, China and India are interacting with Africa and on Africa's role in shaping such interactions –and what all this portends for the future of the world.

My research at the IIAS is directed at producing a book that will attempt to link all of my earlier works and reflections into a longer, denser narrative focused on understanding Africa's place and future in the grand schemes of these emergent powers, Africa's own strategic maneuvers and the geo-political, economic and strategic import for the world. The book will be engaged with empirico-theoretical questions set within a critical multidisciplinary framework. For example, is the claim made in the literature, that China is a new imperial power solely seeking her interests in Africa as opposed to the other view that China is in Africa as a friend, an accurate way to understand Africa-China relations? Can Africa-China relations be theorized differently based on the empirics of this ever-evolving relationship? What defines Africa-India relations? Is Brazil Africa's reluctant or partially engaged partner?

The energy at the IIAS is infectious. I am looking forward to a long mutually rewarding relationship while I contemplate the surfeit of bicycles, narrow streets and the almost eerie quiet of my street Rijnsbergerweg in the university city of Leiden!

Danielle Tan

From Golden Triangle to Economic Quadrangle: connections, corridors, and reconfiguration of a transnational space in the upper Mekong borderlands



My fellowship at IIAS provides me with the opportunity to rewrite my dissertation into a book publication. This step is all the more important as French scholarship on former Indochina is little known to the Anglo-Saxon academia because of the language barrier. Originally, my PhD dissertation in political science entitled *From communism to neoliberalism: the role of Chinese networks in the transformation of the state in Laos*, shed light on how globalization has transformed the practices and modes of exercising power in Laos, since the country has engaged in a process of economic liberalization in the late 1980s. My research focused on the mountainous borderlands of northern Laos, which crystallize all the challenges the country is currently facing. Since the end of the Cold War, the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) –a regional integration process supported by the Asian Development Bank –has witnessed the revival of the ancient caravan trade routes and networks that once traversed the region. In the proximate uplands, where Burma, Thailand and Laos intersect in the junctures of the notorious Golden Triangle, massive Chinese investment and migration have reshaped local political economies.

The book will particularly explore the ways in which the world's second largest drug producing area has been restructured into a series of tourism and casino hubs under the banner of the GMS' special economic zones (SEZs). Frequently viewed as Chinese enclaves and lawless domains, I argue that this borderlands

region is in fact a site of fervent local state activity and intentionality, key planks in state efforts at consolidating lowland rule and extending state sovereignty. I will demonstrate how local lowland states strategically leverage Chinese presence and activity in the borderland SEZs in order to discipline their peripheral subjects.

IIAS also offers a vibrant academic environment as well as tremendous resources and networks that are beneficial to develop new research projects. To name a few, I am currently co-editing with Pál Nyíri (VU Amsterdam) a volume gathering the most recent academic research findings on the ways in which China's rise has been profoundly affecting the socio-political and economic background in the Southeast Asian region. To initiate a comparative analysis on this topic with other areas, I will be organizing a joint seminar with Jessica Achberger, currently Research Fellow at the African Studies Centre (ASC). Lloyd G. Adu Amoah, a new Research Fellow at IIAS, specialized on contemporary Africa-China-India-Brazil relations will actively be engaged in the discussion. This workshop reflects the IIAS initiative to develop Asian studies in Africa. At last, during the ICAS conference in Macau, I will discuss a new collaboration with the University of Macau, the National University of Singapore (ARI), and Institut d'Asie Orientale (Institute of East Asian Studies - IAO-CNRS, France) to investigate the nexus between 'Casino and Development' in Southeast Asia, China and beyond.

Tom Hoogervorst
Challenging notions
of pre-modern cultural
contact across the
Bay of Bengal



SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA have been intermittently in contact for the past three millennia. My present research at the IIAS, facilitated by a Gonda Foundation grant, enables me to explore new perspectives on interethnic relations between these two regions. More specifically, I am investigating the extent to which historical linguistics is able to challenge our perspectives on the so-called 'Indianisation' of Southeast Asia, a now-controversial term shaped by paradigms of civilisational hierarchy and other trends of colonial thought. By moving beyond the oft-described role of Sanskrit as a vehicle of Indian culture, I focus on the poorly understood function of vernacular South Asian languages – both Indo-Aryan and Dravidian – and their associated speech communities in the complex social events that led to the transmission of Indian culture to ancient Southeast Asia. The lexical data that form the basis of this study are analysed in conjunction with the latest insights from archaeology and history.

These interdisciplinary ambitions inevitably entail keeping track of multiple academic disciplines, all entitled to their own conventions and methodologies. In this regard, the dynamic academic environment of IIAS has enabled me to pursue my goals much more efficiently. What is the quickest way to separate 'pure' Sanskrit words from ungrammatical forms (*apabhramśa*)? Put the words on a list and email it to my colleague who examines Nepalese Śaiva manuscripts. What is the best place to obtain much-needed insights in Indo-Aryan historical phonology? At the coffee machine, while having a chat with a fellow Gonda-scholar who specialises in several ancient Indo-European languages whose very names elude all but an arcane few. How can we make linguistic technicalities more palatable to an audience of non-linguists? Discuss the topic with the researcher-next-door who studies cultural heritage and textile artisanship.

Due in part to these considerable advantages, my research at the IIAS has thus far enabled me to detect an ancient non-Sanskrit substrate in the languages of insular Southeast Asia. Unlike the better known Sanskrit element in this region – mostly restricted to 'high' cultural contexts such as religion, architecture and literature – the encountered loanwords often refer to practical matters in the domains of agriculture, metallurgy and trade. Other insights gained through my focus on language as a tool to reconstruct cultural contact fall beyond the pre-modern scope of the present study. That being said, serendipitous encounters of New Indo-Aryan (Hindi, Bengali, etc.) and especially Tamil loanwords into Malay, Javanese and related languages beg for a renewed interest in the more recent role of the Bay of Bengal as a zone of interaction. The trans-Asiatic networks that form the core of my research persisted into the colonial epoch of Indian Ocean history, influenced it, and eventually outlived it.

IIAS Postdoctoral Fellowships

The International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) in Leiden, the Netherlands, invites outstanding researchers to work on a relevant piece of research in the social sciences and humanities with a postdoctoral fellowship. The deadlines for applications are 1 April and 1 October.

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 flows of ideas and goods, cosmopolitanism, *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 globalisation 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 are addressed.

Research projects that can contribute to new, historically contextualised, multidisciplinary knowledge, with the capacity of translating this into social and policy relevant initiatives, will be privileged.

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