

Himalayas and invested with high value by local populations who believe them to be 'tibetan.' India, continuing trends begun in the colonial period, has been the source of civil administration, market economy, literacy, Hinduism and, recently, Christianity.

Social Sciences in Asia Monograph Series, Brill

edited by Vineeta Sinha and

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We invite contributions to the interdisciplinary Social Sciences in Asia Monograph Series. It publishes original materials and the revised editions of special issues of the Asian Journal of Social Science. A double blind process, two experts would appraise each manuscript. The Social Sciences in Asia Monograph Series welcomes submissions from specialists on any facet of Asia, including sociologists, anthropologists, political scientists, economists, geographers, and historians.

The Social Sciences in Asia Monograph Series was the initiative of the editorial team of the Asian Journal of Social Science at the Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore. It was initially the Asian Social Science Series, with Brill and the Times Academic Press co-publishing the first three volumes between 2001 and 2002. In 2003, the Series became Social Sciences in Asia and henceforth carries only the Brill imprint.

Founded in 1683 in Leiden, Holland, Brill is an academic publisher of repute. It publishes about five hundred new manuscripts and reference books, as well as more than a hundred journals every year. For all queries, please contact Kiat-jin Lee, the Editorial Assistant, at soclkj@nus.edu.sg. In addition, for inquiries about the aptness of your virtually concluded manuscript, please dispatch a book proposal. Furthermore, for questions regarding the suitability of your proposed monograph, please enclose a 150-word abstract.

Welcome to Hong Kong! Call for Papers for the 10th Asian Urbanization Conference

The University of Hong Kong

Hong Kong SAR, China

August 16-19, 2009

www.hku.hk/asia2009

Deadline for submission of abstracts:

15 February 2009

Conference Themes: Theoretical or empirical studies on urban form and process, urban population change including migration, urban systems, quality of life, sustainable development, city marketing and economic development, social justice, urban governance, applications related to GIS, comparative urbanization, and environmental conditions in Asian

cities. Other papers which contribute to an understanding of Asian urbanization are welcomed.

Paper Abstract Submission and Registration: Abstract should be 100 to no more than 200 words and should be submitted online. The abstract should provide information on the research problem, study area, data, methodology, findings, and significance of the research. While the format of your abstract may vary from this format, these contents are useful and informative to the conference participants. Co-authored papers should indicate who is the main presenter and author. Submission of complete paper is strongly encouraged. Selected papers will be considered for publication after the conference.

Conference Secretariat:

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Detailed information of the conference is available at www.hku.hk/asia2009. Please contact the Conference Organizers, Professor Anthony G. O. Yeh or Dr. Roger C. K. Chan of the University of Hong Kong. You may also contact Dr George Pomeroy (Asian Urban Research Association (AURA) Secretary-General) if further information is needed.

'Imag(in)ing the Buddhist Brain'

Leiden Institute for Brain and Cognition

Conference, 20 March 2009

Is brain research beginning to produce concrete evidence for something that Buddhist practitioners of meditation have maintained for centuries, namely that mental discipline and meditative practice can change the workings of the brain and allow people to achieve different levels of awareness? Such transformed states have traditionally been understood in transcendent terms, as something outside the world of physical measurement and objective evaluation. But over the past few years, researchers working with Tibetan monks have been working toward translating those mental experiences into the scientific language of high-frequency gamma waves and brain synchrony, or coordination. The Leiden Institute for Brain and Cognition (LIBC) will organize, on 20 March 2009, the symposium "Imag(in)ing the Buddhist Brain" to address recent developments in this area, among them the question: What claims do meditation traditions make, and are the results of meditation measurable?

Autumn is a hectic time for the ICAS Secretariat. We have to inventarise the books submitted for the ICAS Book Prize and send them off to the members of the Reading Committee. It offers distraction from the tension which builds up as the deadline for ICAS registration draws near. Two days to go and only 300 registrations? But then the 'ICAS miracle' occurs: All of a sudden, over a 36 hour period, registrations come pouring in from across the globe. It comes to an end as abruptly as it started...

The 'ICAS miracle':

Preparing for ICAS 6 in Daejeon in August 2009

PAUL VAN DER VELDE

The registration count for ICAS 6 in Daejeon now stands at 1200: 700 individual registrations and 500 through the more than 100 organised panels which have been submitted. As I write, the deadline for the institutional panels has not yet passed but extrapolating from ICAS 5 in Kuala Lumpur we expect between 30 to 50 panels of this kind. The number of expected participants (excluding observers, visitors, exhibitors and so on) will be in between 1100 and 1500.

There were just over 200 applications for financial assistance, which is meant, in particular, for young scholars not older than 35. In the end, it's likely that around a hundred of the applicants will qualify for funding. It's been noticeable this time that 80 percent of the applicants are from India. Does this mean that the Indian government is not actively supporting the participation of Indian scholars in international conventions? We also noted that applicants have been hesitant about using the new online 'Colleagues Calling' facility, but we hope that for the next ICAS, participants will come to appreciate this as a useful forum for making contact with colleagues.

ICAS Book Prize (IBP)

A rich harvest of books has reached the desk of the secretary of the IBP. In all 89 books were submitted by 24 publishers worldwide: 42 in the category Humanities and 47 in the Social Sciences. For the first time more books in the social sciences were submitted which clearly marks a shift in field of research from traditional to contemporary Asia studies. It came as no surprise that many of the books are about East Asia (39), but surprisingly Southeast Asia is the subject of 27 books while South Asia counts 13 publications. Eleven books are about Asia in general. Noticeable is that no books on Central Asia were submitted. Popular themes dealt with from different disciplinary or comparative angles are: art and culture, (auto)biography, colonies, diasporas and migration, economy, education, gender and identity, health and medicine, international relations and politics, law, literature, media, religion and society. Clearly there is shift from traditional to contemporary studies Asia studies. In all only five edited volumes were submitted but it should be pointed out that ground breaking edited volumes certainly stand a chance of winning one of the ICAS book prizes.

In the category best PhD only 12 theses were submitted which must be a fraction of all theses written on Asia. For the fourth edition of the ICAS Book Prize in 2011 we will estab-

lish a separate reading committee consisting of three young doctors from Asia, America and Europe who will scout for theses and use their networks to at least triple the number of theses in 2011.

For the 2009 Colleagues Choice award we have set up an online voting compass to streamline the process and point you in the direction of books you might want to vote for. Simply ticking buttons on topics, themes and regions leads you to the books you are interested in. We also hope authors will mobilise their networks for the Colleagues Choice award.

The long lists of the IBP will be announced on the ICAS website at the beginning of February and the short lists will most likely be announced at the Annual Meeting of the AAS in Chicago 26-29 March 2009. The prizes will be awarded during the opening ceremony of ICAS 6 on 6 August 2009.

ICAS Publications Series

The ICAS Secretariat is in constant touch with the editors of ten books based on contributions to ICAS 4 in Shanghai and ICAS 5 in Kuala Lumpur, which will find their way into the ICAS Publications Series, published by Amsterdam University Press. They will be ready before August 2009. The titles vary from State, Society and International Relations in Asia to From Marginal to Mainstream: Asian Literary Voices and from Reframing Singapore: Memory, Identity to Trans-Regionalism to Asian Material Culture. We hope many participants of ICAS 6 will send in their papers for the edited volumes which will come out of ICAS 6. On the ICAS website you will find the guidelines for the preparation of articles.

The ICAS 6 Secretariat

The local host, Chungnam National University Center for Asian Regional Studies, in close cooperation with Daejeon City and the Daejeon Convention Centre, is working hard to have its secretariat fully operational by the beginning of December. A Professional Conference Organiser (PCO) is in charge of the practical organisation. From December onwards all questions relating to ICAS 6 should be directed to the ICAS 6 secretariat. On the ICAS 6 website (www.icassecretariat.org) you will find practical information on hotel deals, how to pay the registration fees and how to get there. The first task of the ICAS 6 Secretariat will be sending out letters of acceptance to participants. This letter will include practical information on ICAS 6.

