ICAS Book Prize 2017

The ICAS Book Prize (IBP), established by the International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS) in 2004, and sponsored by The Asian Library at Leiden University (Netherlands) since 2015, aims to create an international focus for academic publications on Asia.

Paul van der Velde

THE IBP IS THE LARGEST region-, theme-, and discipline-transcending book prize in the field of Asian Studies. Jury prizes are awarded to the best books in both the Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Collegues’ Choice Award gives the academic community the opportunity to vote for their own favourite publication. Another indispensable component of the IBP is the inclusion of dissertations; Alex McKay, Chair of the ICAS Dissertations Reading Committee, tells us more about this aspect of the Prize in his article below.

The seventh edition of the IBP will take place on 20 July 2017, on the day before the conference of the Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS) was held in Leiden (the Netherlands), ICAS has become the largest gathering of its kind.

SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1998 when the first International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS) was held in Leiden (the Netherlands), ICAS has become the largest gathering of its kind in the field of Asian Studies. From 20-23 July 2017, is expected to attract approximately 20 countries had been accepted for the IBP Dissertation Awards from recent doctoral candidates at 95 universities in more than 20 countries. Each year, ICAS has become the largest gathering of its kind.

The 'new' language editions

The sixth edition of the IBP (2016) included for the first time, dissertations submitted in languages other than English. This was part of the ongoing push by ICAS to increase the diversity of the publication list. Since then, the IBP has continued to receive submissions in languages other than English, and the number of submitted titles has increased significantly.

The PhD pitch

The PhD pitch is an important event for recent PhDs, as it provides them with an opportunity to present their research to an audience of interested scholars, publishers and potential employers. The PhD pitch is also a valuable opportunity for recent PhDs to gain valuable networking and professional development opportunities.

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