

# ICAS Book Prize 2009 stiff competition

On 27 May the shortlists of the IBP 2009 for the humanities and social sciences were uploaded to [www.icassecretariat.org](http://www.icassecretariat.org). Out of the 89 books received, eight remain on the shortlists, so there was stiff competition this year. The number of publishers on the list is now six out of an original 24. Washington University Press and Duke University Press have two books each on the shortlists, while Harvard University Press, KITLV Press, NUS Press and University of Hawai'i Press are represented with one book each.

Paul van der Velde

The question 'What criteria are used to draw up the longlists and shortlists?' is one we hear often. There are several criteria which determine what is a good book: originality in the treatment of the topic; the depth of the research; opening up a new field of research; being a definitive study on a certain topic; being well written and making clear arguments. The 20 books on the longlists reflect one or more of these criteria and all are possible prize winners. Inclusion on the list is a significant achievement and means that the author belongs in the top tier of Asia scholars.

The eight books on the two shortlists possess a significant number of the criteria mentioned above. The final prize winners clearly have that little extra something which will ultimately convince the whole Reading Committee that these are the books that should win the prizes. The prizes will be awarded during the opening ceremony of ICAS 6 on 6 August 2009.

#### Two prizes for best PhD

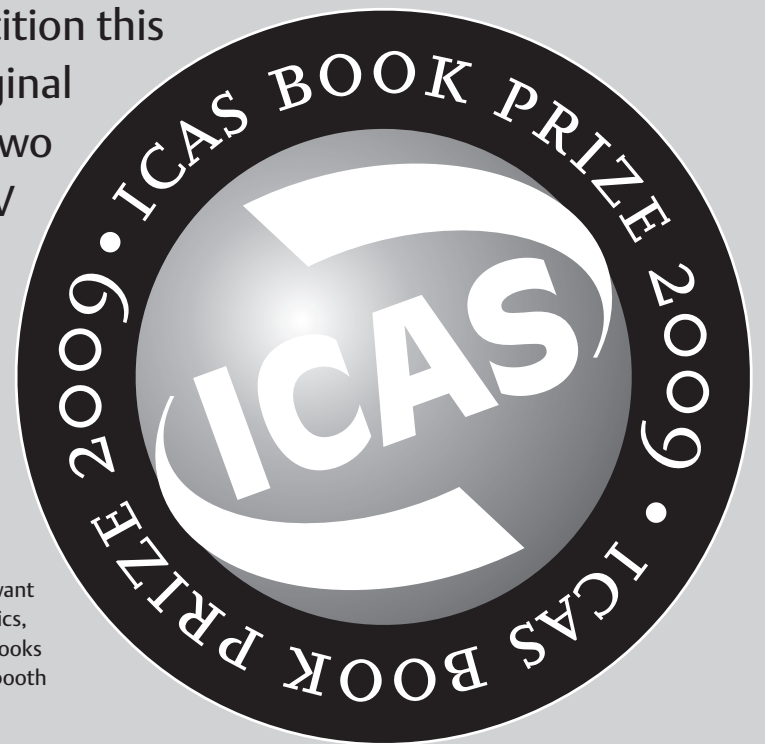
The ICAS Secretariat, having consulted with the Reading Committee, has decided that in order to stimulate worldwide competition among young doctoral candidates, there should be two prizes for best PhD thesis: one for the humanities and one for the social sciences. This is on the grounds that there are also two book prizes in these categories. With this new symmetry we hope that for the fourth edition of the IBP in 2011, more PhD theses will be submitted. In order to actively stimulate participation in 2011, the two prize winners of this year will become members of the IBP PhD Reading Committee. They will also have the task of actively acquiring PhD theses for the IBP 2011. By that time, the works for which they were awarded the IBP 2009 will have materialised as publications in the ICAS Publications Series.

#### Vote for your colleague!

For the 2009 Colleagues' Choice Award we have set up an online voting compass to facilitate the voting process and point you in the direction of books you might want to vote for. Simply ticking buttons on topics, themes and regions will lead you to the books you are interested in. The virtual polling booth will be open until 15 July 2009.

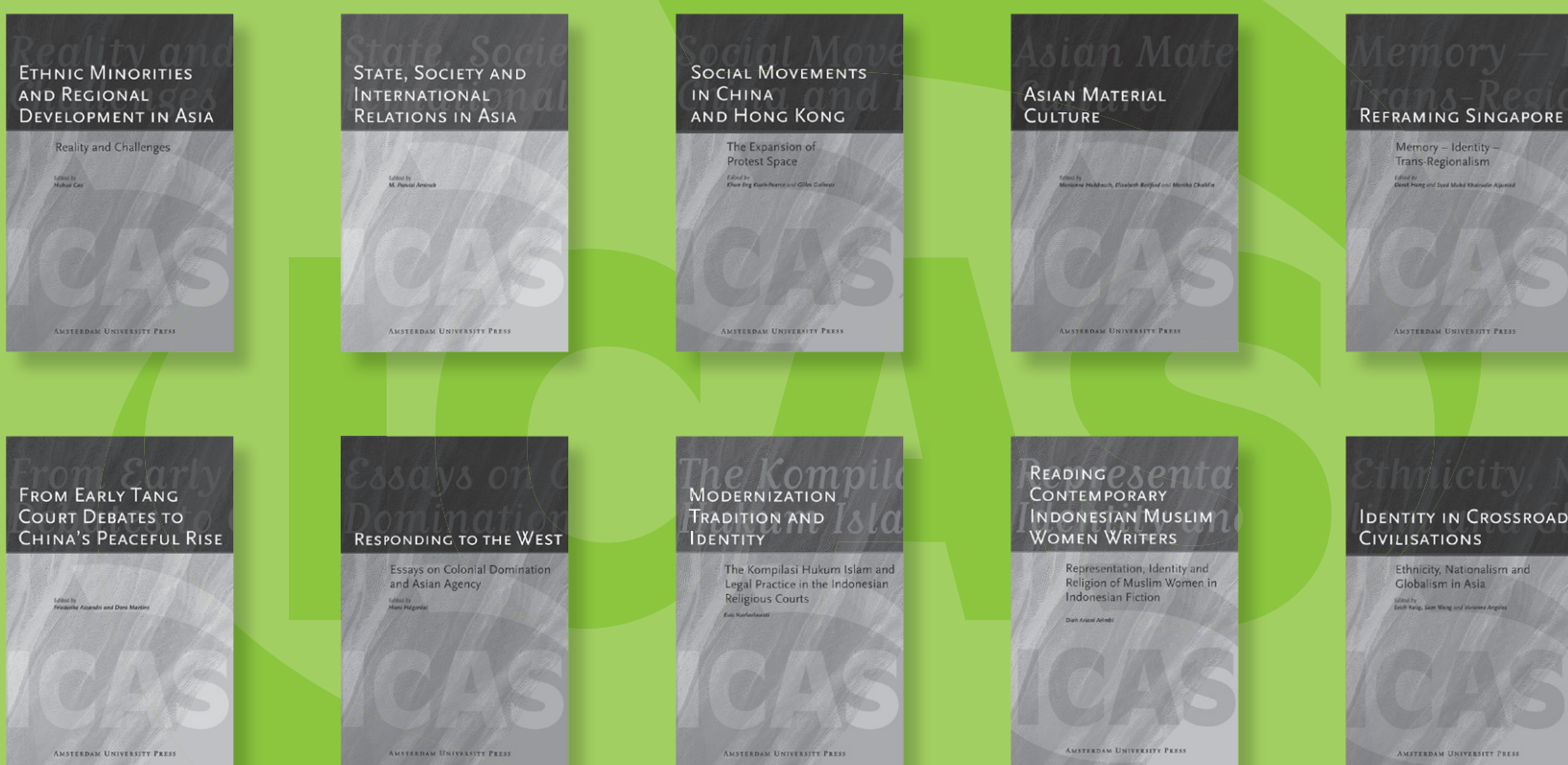
You can vote from the full lists of 89 titles submitted. Everyone can follow the voting process at [www.icassecretariat.org](http://www.icassecretariat.org). We hope that authors will mobilise their networks to gain votes for their books. The Colleagues' Choice Award is all about involving as many Asia scholars as possible in the the voting process. The winner of this prize – which consists of a ticket to the venue of ICAS 2011 and free accommodation for the duration of the convention – surely knows how to interest other people in his or her writings: an indispensable quality for any scholar in the increasingly competitive globalised field of Asia Studies!

Paul van der Velde  
ICAS Secretariat  
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7 August 2009 ICAS 6, Daejeon, Korea

Join us at the book launch of ten new volumes in the ICAS Publications Series



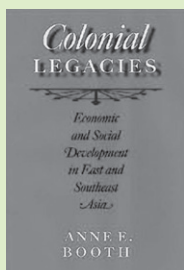
All ICAS 6 participants can claim two free volumes of their choice from the ICAS Publications Series (as long as stocks last) using the vouchers in the delegate pack.

Orders for further volumes may be placed with Amsterdam University Press at [www.aup.nl](http://www.aup.nl)

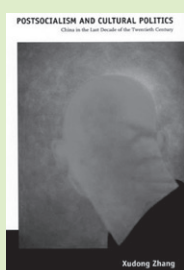
### Shortlist Social Sciences



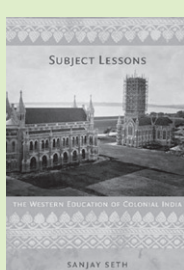
*Being "Dutch" in the Indies: A History of Creolisation and Empire, 1500-1920*  
by Ulbe Bosma and Remco Raben  
(translated by Wendie Shaffer)  
Published 2007 by NUS Press  
Paperback, ISBN 978-9971-69-373-2



*Colonial Legacies: Economic and Social Development in East and Southeast Asia*  
by Anne E. Booth  
Published 2007 by University of Hawai'i Press  
Hardback, ISBN 978-0-8248-3161-5



*Postsocialism and Cultural Politics: China in the Last Decade of the Twentieth Century*  
by Xudong Zhang  
Published 2008 by Duke University Press  
Paperback, ISBN 978-0-8223-4230-4



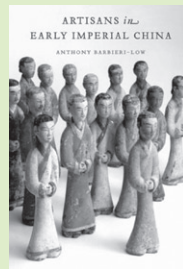
*Subject Lessons: The Western Education of Colonial India*  
by Sanjay Seth  
Published 2007 by Duke University Press  
Paperback, ISBN 978-0-8223-4105-5

### Shortlist PhD Social Sciences

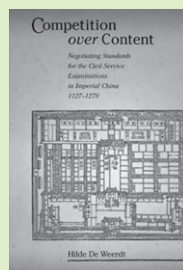
*Building Political Parties from the Bottom Up: A Case Study of Four Parties' Branch Management in Malang, Indonesia.*  
by Ulla Fionna  
Defended 2008

*The Politics of Islamic Law: Local Elites and Colonial Authority in Malaya, India and Egypt.*  
by Iza Hussain  
Defended 2008

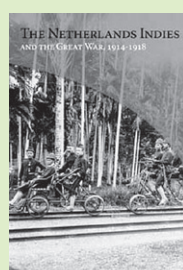
### Shortlist Humanities



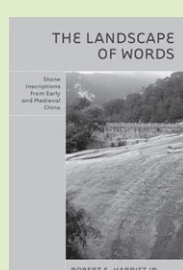
*Artisans in Early Imperial China*  
by Anthony Barbieri-Low  
Published 2007 by University of Washington Press  
Hardback, ISBN 978-0-295-98713-2



*Competition over Content: Negotiating Standards for the Civil Service Examinations in Imperial China (1127-1279)*  
by Hilde De Weerd  
Published 2007 by Harvard University Press  
Hardback, ISBN 978-0-674-02588-2



*The Netherlands Indies and the Great War, 1914-1918*  
by Kees van Dijk  
Published 2007 by KITLV Press  
Paperback, ISBN 978-90-6718-308-6



*Landscape of Words: Stone Inscriptions from Early and Medieval China*  
by Robert Harrist Jr.  
Published 2008 by University of Washington Press  
Hardback, ISBN 978-0-295-98728-6

### Shortlist PhD Humanities

*Contesting Imaginaires in Death Rituals during the Northern Song Dynasty*  
by Mihwa Choi  
Defended 2008

*Sounds of Articulating Identity, Tradition and Transition in the Music of Palau, Micronesia.*  
by Birgit Abels  
Published 2008 by Logos Berlin  
ISBN 978 3 8325 1866 0

There are several criteria which determine what is a good book: originality in the treatment of the topic; the depth of the research; opening up a new field of research; being a definitive study on a certain topic; being well written and making clear arguments.

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social sciences