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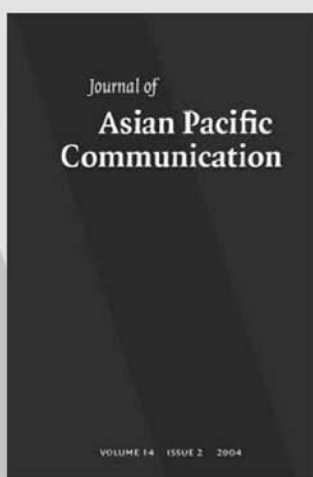
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Projects and events

> Projects and events

ICAS Book Prizes call for readers

The International Convention of Asia Scholars' book prizes aim to create an international focus for publications on Asia while increasing their worldwide visibility. All scientific books published in 2003 and 2004 on Asian topics are eligible. Three prizes will be awarded: (1) best study in the humanities; (2) best study in the social sciences; and (3) best PhD dissertation. The prize consists of € 2500 for each of the books while the best PhD dissertation will be published. Winners will be announced during ICAS 4 (20-24 August 2005) in Shanghai. Five copies of the book must be sent to the ICAS secretariat (for guidelines please see www.icas-secretariat.org). The deadline for submissions is **31 December 2004**.

We are currently searching for senior scholars to participate in the reading committees. Those interested, please contact Paul van der Velde:
p.van.der.velde@let.leidenuniv.nl

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12th Gonda Lecture by Sheldon Pollock: *The Ends of Man at the End of Premodernity*

The 12th Gonda lecture will be held on **3 December 2004** at the Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences, Amsterdam. Sheldon Pollock will examine literary, political and social-ethical theory – central to defining the 'life-goals' of pleasure, power, and moral order – of scholars in Varanasi in the last century before the coming of European modernity. Pollock's first aim is to understand the nature of this knowledge in relation to the histories of the disciplines of which they were part, within the specificities of seventeenth-century thought. A second aim is to measure the distance between the Indian episteme and its European peer,

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The conference aims to promote closer relations between young Asian historians and their Indonesian counterparts. It is hoped that cooperation will be strengthened between young Indonesian historians from institutions in Jakarta, Surabaya, Semarang, Bandung, Den Pasar, Makassar, Padang, Medan and Ambon and their colleagues from India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Taiwan, China, Japan, South Africa and the Netherlands.

For more information see www.tanap.net or email: h.e.niemeijer@let.leidenuniv.nl
Conference organizer: Bambang Purwanto: b.purwanto@mailcity.com

Book launch: *The Taoist Canon: A Historical Companion to the Daozang*

The Taoist Canon: A Historical Companion to the Daozang, edited by Kristofer Schipper and Franciscus Verellen (University of Chicago Press. pp.1800, 3 vols., ISBN 0-226-73817-5) catalogues and describes all existing texts within the Taoist Canon. It sets out the contents of the *Daozang* chronologically: the first volume ranges from antiquity through the Middle Ages; the second spans the modern period. Introductions throughout these first two volumes outline the evolution of Taoism and its spiritual heritage. The third volume offers biographical sketches of frequently mentioned Taoists, multiple indexes, and an extensive bibliography. The book launch will take place on **14 January 2005** at the L'École française d'Extrême Orient (L'EFEO), Paris, France. For further information please contact Franciscus Verellen (EFEO) verellen@efeo.fr or Marloes Rozing (IIAS) m.rozing@let.leidenuniv.nl

Asia-Europe Colloquy on Universities of Tomorrow

The Asia-Europe Colloquy on Universities of Tomorrow will be held **16-19 February 2005** in Luxemburg. The Colloquy will address the relationships between universities and society, markets and economy, trends in the international system and technological advancements, and their possible implications for universities in the 21st century. The aim of the conference is two-fold: to foster inter-regional dialogue on the major trends and chal-

lenges confronting universities and institutions of higher learning in Asia and Europe, and to explore prospects for closer co-operation between universities. The conference is organized by ASEF and the University of Luxembourg, and receives support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Keynote speakers from Asia and Europe will discuss: different images of universities of the future; understanding the challenges for universities and institutions of higher learning; case studies on responses and strategies to address challenges; impetus for and barriers to innovation in higher education; and synergies between universities and economy/society. On the third day of the conference, workshops will address critical issues for universities in Asia and Europe in the face of current trends and future challenges.

For more information please visit the website: <http://www.aeh.asef.org/> or contact Bastiaan van de Loo, Co-ordinator, ASEM Education Hub: bastiaan@asef.org

Kuttu Festival 2005



The Kattaikkuttu Sangam is organizing a five-night long theatre festival in Punnjarasantankal Village (near Kanchipuram, Tamilnadu, South India) on **1-6 March 2005**. The Kuttu Festival 2005 will offer a rare opportunity to experience a myriad of known and unknown theatre genres in a traditional village setting.

The Festival programme combines an unconventional mixture of tradition, ritual and contemporaneity. All four South Indian states will be represented by important theatre traditions: Kathakali (Kerala), Yakshagana (Karnataka), Vitinatakam (Andhra Pradesh) and Kattaikkuttu (Tamilnadu). The Festival programme will include a contemporary dance performance by Attakalari from Bangalore, Brigitte Revelli's modern marionette theatre from Kerala and a Bharata Natyam performance by the Dhananjayans from Chennai.

The first slot of every Festival night (9 to 10:30 P.M.) will be devoted to performances for/by children. The second slot (10.30 to 12 P.M.) showcases special productions. Performances after 12 P.M. feature select-

ed episodes from the Mahabharata performed in different theatre genres. Some of the Kattaikkuttu performances of the Festival will coincide with the rituals of the Paratam (Mahabharata) Festival to take place simultaneously at the Draupadi Temple of Punnjarasantankal.

For more information please email us: kuttu_festival@vsnl.net or visit: www.kattaikkuttu.org/festival2005

STORMA: linking ecological and socio-economic constraints of land use and conservation

Tropical rainforests are disappearing at an alarming rate, causing unprecedented losses in biodiversity. Rainforests are also important carbon sinks. Despite the recognition of the value of these and other public goods provided by tropical rainforests, the rainforests of Asia, Africa, Australia and Latin America continue to be threatened by human encroachment.

The analysis of policies and socio-economic and ecological determinants that stabilize or threaten tropical forest margins demands a holistic, interdisciplinary scientific approach. Such an approach has been adopted by the research program *Stability of Rainforest Margins in Indonesia* (STORMA). Funded by the German Research Council, the program since 2000 is jointly run by the Universities of Göttingen and Kassel in Germany, and the Agricultural University of Bogor and the University of Palu in Indonesia.

The symposium organized for **19-22 September 2005** at the Georg-August-University of Göttingen, Germany, will feature three interconnected thematic foci for interdisciplinary research. These focus on the changes in the extent and intensity of agricultural and forest land use in tropical forest margins, and their implications for rural development and for conservation of biodiversity, soils and water:

- Sustainable management of agro forestry systems
- Ecological and socio-economic impacts of different forest use intensities
- Integrated spatial modelling of land use in tropical forest margins

For further information please contact: Daniel Stietenroth, Coordinator STORMA, Email: symp2005@gwdg.de <http://www.storma.de/symp2005>

NIOD study extended to Bersiap Period

The Dutch Government and representatives of the Indies Dutch Community in the Netherlands agreed in December 2000 on the necessity of an in-depth historical study on the effects of decolonization on the Indies Dutch Community over the period 1930-1960. After long negotiations, the study was awarded to the Netherlands Instituut voor Oorlogsdocumentatie (NIOD), the Dutch Institute for World War II research, in 2001.

Not long thereafter the Indies Dutch community discovered that an essential part of the agreement had not been implemented: detailed research on the damage and losses suffered by the Indies Dutch during the Bersiap-period in Indonesia, September-December 1945. The Indisch Platform (IP), representing the Indies Dutch community, protested and a new series of talks began with the government. Indies Dutch organizations like the Kinderen uit de Japane Bezetting en Bersiap (KJBB) also petitioned the Dutch Parliament. Under pressure from Parliament, Indies Dutch organizations, and researchers within the NIOD project, the responsible Ministry decided on 14 June 2004 to extend the NIOD research project to include the Bersiap period.

The decision met unanimous approval within the Indies Dutch community and the IP, which expressed its expectation that justice would now be done for the Dutch survivors of the Bersiap period, at least by documenting exactly what happened in Java in those turbulent months in the autumn of 1945.

In a remembrance speech on 14 August at the Monument of the Indies War in the hall of the old Lower Chamber of Parliament, the Chamber's representative, MP Jan Rijpstra, expressed his sympathy for the Indies Dutch community and IP campaign to include the Bersiap period in the NIOD study. He revealed that among the political parties in Parliament, there was general sympathy for the position of the IP, and welcomed the decision of the State Secretary to extend the study, the financial consequences of such an extension notwithstanding.

For more information, please see the NIOD website: <http://www.niod.nl/> or contact Herman Th. Bussemaker: h.bussemaker@planet.nl



Data Input at ITTM, Kalimpong, 2004
Barbara Gerke

Tibetan Medical Texts: Data Input Project International Trust for Traditional Medicine Kalimpong, India

To contribute to the study, translation and preservation of classical Tibetan medical texts, ITTM, a public-charitable Trust in the North-Eastern Himalayas has been preparing electronic versions of key Tibetan medical works, covering the period from the 9th to 19th centuries CE. This is an ongoing project, financed by the contributions of visiting scholars. It began in March 1999 and was initially sponsored by the Asian Classic Input Project (ACIP), New York.

The project generates income for Tibetan refugee women in Kalimpong, trained at ITTM. Since July 2000, Diki Choden Bhutia and Chaying Lhamo have been working full-time. All texts are typed in twice, then compared electronically and checked again for typing errors. The key medical text *The Four Medical Tantras* (Tib. *rgyud bzhi*) has yet to be fully translated and published in English. The corpus of Tibetan medical texts is enormous; translation of the main works will require decades. Original texts are unindexed; electronic searches will enhance the accessibility of Tibetan medical literature.

Please visit www.ittm.org for details on ITTM projects and a summary of the works available in the database. We aim to present the data online and on CD-ROM as soon as corrections are completed. We are also actively searching for further funding. For details please contact Barbara Gerke at ITTM:

info@ittm.org or barbara.gerke@anthropology.oxford.ac.uk

People interested in contributing to the *Tibetological Collections & Archives Series*, please contact Henk Blezer, Leiden University, h.w.a.blezer@let.leidenuniv.nl