

ASiA



Asian Studies in Amsterdam

Asian Studies in Amsterdam (ASiA)

ASiA, a joint endeavour of the University of Amsterdam and the International Institute for Asian Studies, promotes the study of Asia through research and outreach in the Amsterdam region. We aim to increase Amsterdam's contact with researchers in and from Asia, as well as introduce contemporary Asian expressions, developments and experiences to the wider public. All individuals and institutions, academic and non-academic, interested in co-operating with ASiA are cordially invited to contact project manager Sikko Visscher at s.visscher@fmg.uva.nl

ASiA facilitates research within the theme 'Making a Living in a Transnational World: Asian Perspectives on Globalisation', based on two research projects at the University of Amsterdam. 'Asia and Europe Compared', headed by Mario Rutten, comparatively assesses social inequality, views and behaviour of the middle classes, labour relations and informalization in Europe and Asia, and aims to provide a fairer assessment of Asia's role in the world today. 'Illegal but Licit: Transna-

tional Flows and Permissive Polities in Asia', headed by Willem van Schendel and Li Minghuan, consists of four projects analysing current migration in its legal and social contexts. For more information on this project please see http://www.nwo.nl/nwohome.nsf/pages/NWOP_6FCJXB_Eng. The 19th European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies (27-30 June 2006, Leiden) will include a round table on borders, border crossing, and associated legal and social regimes. Van Schendel is also the guest editor of a forthcoming special issue of the *IIAS Newsletter* on this topic.

ASiA is proud to co-host the annual Wertheim lecture by David Ludden (University of Pennsylvania) on 12 May 2006 in Amsterdam. For upcoming activities, starting with our agenda for March and April 2006, surf to www.iias.nl/asia

The musical folklore of the peoples of northern Asia

IIAS workshop
20 April 2006
Amsterdam

This workshop by Yuri Sheikin and Tatjana Ignatieva, Arctic State Institute of Culture and Arts in Yakutsk, Republic of Sakha, will be held at the IIAS Amsterdam branch office (location to be announced on www.iias.nl) for students, teachers and

researchers of ethnomusicology, folklore, anthropology, linguistics and phonetics. Sheikin will present the culture of the endangered northern peoples *Chukchee, Udege, Evenki, Forest Nenets* and the *Khanty*, while Ignatieva will present on the musical culture of the endangered *Yukagir* people.

After an introduction on the musical folklore of these peoples, a demonstration of musical examples from shamanism, epic literature, sung improvisations, sound imitations, music of Bear Festivals and round dances will be presented live on traditional musical instruments and on CD (available for participants), with an explanation of the making of these instruments. Participants will have the opportunity to play instruments and to learn the specific art of singing.

Information:
Cecilia Odé, IIAS
c.ode@let.leidenuniv.nl

Culture and commerce in the Indian Ocean

25 - 27 September 2006
Leiden

The burgeoning economies of East and South Asia challenge Indian Ocean scholarship to face new political, cultural and commercial developments, as well as new

identities mapped onto complex cultural exchanges between the global, the diasporic and the local.

The conference will analyse the historical roots of commerce as well as the new markets of the new post-colonial yet globalised era – from spices to Bollywood. The conference will be framed by a cultural studies paradigm, which welcomes historical, social, and cultural analysis and interdisciplinary methods. The conference would like to close with a better idea of why we should value the cultures of the Indian Ocean, old and new, and how the exchange of commodities interacts with cultural value.

Panels will feature 3 papers of 20 minutes each with 10 minutes for discussion after each paper. Parallel sessions may be run. Plenary speeches will be an hour including time for questions.

Organisers:
Henk Niemeijer, Michael Pearson, Peter Reeves, Stephen Muecke, Devleena Ghosh, Chris Nierstrasz, Lola Sharon Davidson
Email: Indian.Ocean@uts.edu.au
www.IndianOceanProject.net

Savifa / South Asia library in Heidelberg

From 1 January 2005, Heidelberg Uni-

versity Library is responsible for the Special Subject Collection 'South Asia' funded by the German Research Council (DFG). The collection, previously in Tübingen, is now housed in the Library of the South Asia Institute in Heidelberg. In addition, the new virtual South Asia library *Savifa* will serve as a gateway to print and electronic media from and about South Asia.

The collection covers India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Tibet (up to 1950) – academic literature from and about these countries with a focus on literature, language, history, politics, anthropology, art history, religion and philosophy. The library holds more than 265,000 volumes and 500 current periodicals with an annual increase of approximately 5,000 volumes.

Work on *Savifa* began in January 2005. The aim is to create a gateway for scholars and students to information – in both printed and electronic form – from and about South Asia. The newly published *Savifa-Guide* is a database for South-Asia-related Internet resources, catalogued according to the bibliographic standards of the *Dublin Core Metadata Initiative*. Other components will be a metasearch engine, allowing users to simultaneously search online catalogues of South Asia Studies libraries as well as bibliographic databases and the current contents of 206 topical periodicals.

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Asia Research Institute



National University of Singapore

POSITIONS AT THE ASIA RESEARCH INSTITUTE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

Applications are invited for a **3 month (Senior) Visiting Research Fellowships** at the Asia Research Institute (ARI), National University of Singapore to commence on **2 January 2007, 2 April 2007, 2 July 2007**.

The positions are intended for outstanding active researchers on Asian topics, with a balance anticipated between senior and junior, the Asian region and the world. **At least one published outcome is expected, and applicants who do not normally publish in English will be encouraged and assisted to do so.** Interdisciplinary interests are encouraged. "Asia" as a research field is defined loosely in terms of the region in which Singapore is positioned. Interested applicants are invited to consult our website at www.ari.nus.edu.sg for application details. **Closing date: 31 May 2006**

Address for applications and references:
Human Resources, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, AS7, Level 4, 5 Arts Link, Singapore 117570, Fax: (65) 6779 1428, Email: joinari@nus.edu.sg

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Public Lectures

Sharia and national law in the Muslim world

Thursdays from 9 March till 22 June 2006
11.15 – 12.15 h.
Leiden University, Faculty of Law
Steenschuur 25, room A144

Public lectures 'Sharia and national law in the Muslim world'
These public lectures by prominent international scholars will address the role and position of Sharia (Islamic law) in national legal systems across the Muslim world. The lectures include historical, legal and sociopolitical aspects. The selected countries are Pakistan, Morocco, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Iran and Nigeria.

9 March	Prof. Jan Michiel Otto, Leiden University Sharia and national law: Introduction
23 March	Prof. Martin Lau, University of London, School of African and Oriental Studies Sharia and criminal law in Pakistan
30 March	Prof. Ruud Peters, University of Amsterdam Historical development of the relation between sharia and national law
6 April	Prof. Leon Buskens, Leiden University and Utrecht University Sharia and family law in Morocco
13 April	Dr. Nadjma Yassari, Max Planck Institute for Foreign Private and Private National Law, Hamburg Sharia and national law in Afghanistan
4 May	Prof. Frank Vogel, Harvard University Sharia: national law in Saudi Arabia
11 May	Prof. John Bowen, Washington University in St. Louis Sharia, adat and national law in Aceh, Indonesia: a people's perspective
18 May	Dr. Sami Zubaida, University of London, Birkbeck College Sharia and national politics in Iran
1 June	Dr. Katerina Dalacoura, London School of Economics Sharia, human rights and international relations
8 June	Prof. Abdullahi An-Naim, University of Emory The future of sharia: secularism from an Islamic perspective
15 June	Prof. Philip Ostien, University of Jos, Nigeria Sharia and national law in Northern-Nigeria
22 June	Prof. Gilles Kepel, Institut de Sciences Politiques, France Sharia and Islam-based terrorism

Van Vollenhoven Institute for Law, Governance and Development
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Among the services currently offered:

- Access to HEIDI the online catalogue of the Heidelberg University Library to search the holdings of the Library of the South Asia Institute
<http://www.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/Englisch/helios/kataloge/heidi.html>
- Monthly acquisition lists with alerting services, which can be subscribed to by sending an email to effinger@ub.uni-heidelberg.de
http://www.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/helios/nel_ssg/Suedasien.html
- Electronic Document Delivery Service which ensures articles from journals and collective works will be digitized within 24-48 hours and delivered as PDF files
<http://www.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/helios/ssgs/Welcome.html>
- Online Contents SSG Südasiens offering access to table of contents of 206 journals on culture, politics and languages of South Asia
<http://www.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/Englisch/helios/fachinfo/www/suedasien/olc.htm>
- Full text server of the University Library as a publication platform for research on South Asia
<http://www.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/helios/heidok-ssg.html>

For further information please visit our interim website at <http://www.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/helios/fachinfo/www/suedasien/Welcome.html> or contact one of the three academic librarians:

Eleonore Schmitt
Eleonore.Schmitt@urz.uni-heidelberg.de
Sonja Stark-Wild
Sonja.Stark-Wild@urz.uni-heidelberg.de
Nicole Merkel
merkel@sai.uni-heidelberg.de

International symposium on Asia-Pacific studies

**15-17 November 2006
Havana City, Cuba**

The Center for Studies on Asia and Oceania (CEAO) invites you to the International Symposium on Asia Pacific Studies to be held at our center. Our first convocation will address contemporary economic developments and political and security trends in the Asia-Pacific region.

Summaries should be sent in digital format through e-mail or as .TXT or .DOC files and should not exceed one sheet. The deadline is 31 October 2006. For further information please contact: Ana Delia Soltura / Head of Public Relations
Center for Studies on Asia and Oceania (CEAO)
20 Street and 7ma. avenue.
Miramar, Playa
Havana City, Cuba P. C. 11 300
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Fax (537) 202 60 38

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isael@ceao.co.cu

Christianity and cultures: Japan and China in comparison (1543-1644)

**30 November - 2 December 2006
Macau**

This symposium aims to bring together leading Sinologists and Japanologists researching the history of Christianity in Japan and China. It takes as its point of departure the 400th anniversary of the death of Alessandro Valignano, S.J. (1539-1606), one of the first Europeans to articulate a clear policy of religious and cultural engagement with China and Japan.

The symposium aims to foster comparison and interdisciplinary inquiry. Its format of short formal presentations and interactive panel discussions will allow scholars to present their own research and explore jointly with other specialists similarities and differences between new expressions of Christian culture in the two countries. Themes include early Christian texts in translation, works of art, the development of new forms of Christian ritual and local community organization in late Ming China and Warring States / early Tokugawa Japan.

Scholars will also explore the unique role played by Macau, the port-city that was at the diplomatic, economic, and religious crossroads between East Asia and Europe and that facilitated these encounters between faith and culture. The event is co-sponsored by the Macau Ricci Institute, China, and the Ricci Institute at the University of San Francisco Center for the Pacific Rim, U.S.A. The official languages of the symposium will be English, (Mandarin) Chinese, and Japanese. Simultaneous translation will be provided.

For detailed information and updates, please visit: <http://www.usfca.edu/ricci> and <http://www.riccimac.org>

Sex, power and slavery in the Indian Ocean world

Call for papers

The international conference *Sex, Power and Slavery: The Dynamics of Carnal Relations under Enslavement in the Indian Ocean World* (Africa from the Cape to Cairo divide eastwards, the Middle East, South and Southeast Asia, Australasia and the Far East) will be held at McGill University, Montreal, Canada, 19-21 April 2007.

Abstracts by: 1 August 2006
Acceptance notice by: 1 October 2006
Paper submission by: 1 February 2007

Themes:

- Sexual relations between the enslaved
- Sexual relations between the enslaved and non-slaves
- Sexual relations within maroon communities
- Sex slave traffic
- Structures of sexual enslavement
- harems
- Concubines
- Eunuchs
- Homosexuality and enslavement
- Enslaved children and sex
- Rape
- Affective relationships within the enslaved community and between the enslaved and non-slaves
- Sex and the enslaved household
- Enslavement, sex and the slave-owning household
- Enslavement, sex and disease
- Enslavement, sex and taboos
- Sex and enslavement as reflected in traditions, myths and literature
- Sex as slave agency.

Papers (original unpublished material) will be pre-circulated and the conference organised in thematic sessions led by discussants. Authors will NOT present papers.

Registration fee by 1 March 2007: US\$150 (\$60 for students).

Contact: Gwyn Campbell:
gwyn.campbell@mcgill.ca