

IIAS Fellowship Programme

Along with the research fellows who are attached to one of the IIAS research programmes, the Institute yearly hosts a large number of visiting researchers (affiliated fellows) who come to Leiden to work on their own individual research project. In addition, IIAS also facilitates the teaching and research by various professorial fellows as part of agreements with Dutch universities, foreign ministries and funding organisations.

Current Fellows

Mehdi Amineh

Coordinator Energy Programme Asia (EPA)
1 Sept 2007 – 31 March 2019

Kunthea Chhom

Sanskrit elements in Old Khmer language: a case-study of boons and curses in epigraphy from ancient Cambodia
1 March 2018 – 31 May 2018

Jatin Dua

A sea of protection: piracy, trade, and regulation in the Indian Ocean
1 Oct 2016 – 31 July 2018

Ana Dragojlovic

Politics of queer affect: intentionality, mediation, intervention in Indisch memory work
1 June 2018 – 31 January 2019

Melinda Fodor

The Ānandasundari by Ghanaśyāma. A revised critical edition with annotated translation, introduction and glossary of selected words
1 March 2018 – 31 Aug 2018

Manpreet Kaur Janeja

The aesthetics of school meals: distrust, risk and uncertainty
1 Oct 2017 – 31 July 2018

Pralay Kanungo

Indian politics
Professor/ICCR Chair of Contemporary India Studies (until 30 June 2018)
1 Sep 2013 – 30 June 2019

Neena Talwar Kanungo

The arrival of digital democracy in India: social media and political parties
1 July 2016 – 30 June 2019

Carola Erika Lorea

Metaphor, meaning and oral exegesis: the upside-down language of the songs of Sādhana
1 Jan 2018 – 30 June 2018

Charlotte Marchina

Rethinking land use in the era of the Anthropocene (Mongolia, Russia, China)
1 Feb 2018 – 31 Aug 2018

Katsunori Miyazaki

Research of the Siebold Collection
1 April 2018 – 9 Sep 2019

William Peterson

Asian self-representation at World's Fairs
1 Jan 2018 – 30 June 2018

Saraju Rath

Inscriptional, literary and mercantile scripts of ancient and medieval India
1 Jan 2018 – 31 Dec 2018

Rituparna Roy

Kolkata Partition Museum project
1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018

Bal Gopal Shrestha

Religiosity among the Nepalese Diaspora
1 Jan 2015 – 31 Dec 2018

Xiaosen Song

Vietnamese women in the process of modern Vietnam's nation-building
1 Oct 2017 – 30 Sep 2018

Sanderien Verstappen

Rerouting relations: navigating emergent Muslim and Hindu spaces in rural India
1 Sept 2017 – 30 April 2019

Tingfai Yu

Class as a method to localise queer studies: towards inter-Asian articulation
1 April 2018 – 31 Jan 2019

Qiaoyun Zhang

Cultural heritagization in times of crisis: a Chinese experience
1 Sept 2017 – 30 June 2018

In the spotlight



Manpreet K. Janeja

The aesthetics of school meals: (dis)trust, risk, and uncertainty

“Food insecurity and malnutrition continue to be matters of concern globally. They generate various contested interventions such as the National Healthy Schools Programme (UK) and the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (India), underpinned by visions of the ‘inclusive growth’ of ‘healthy publics’ in ‘food-secure healthy futures’. Such schemes have sought to manage issues of hunger, inequality, taste, nutritional guidelines, and socio-cultural norms and practices amidst changing economic,

political and social demands, with relative degrees of success. Located against the backdrop of such issues, my current monograph, the focus of my IIAS fellowship, is grounded in long-term ethnographic

fieldwork on school meals in England. *The Aesthetics of School Meals: (Dis)trust, Risk, and Uncertainty* (under contract) is an urban ethnography of the anxious everyday engagements of Muslim/Hindu migrants of South-Asian (Indian/Bangladeshi/Pakistani) heritage in England with ‘healthy’ school meals as entangled in wider historical and variegated networks of perceived risks and uncertainties. It unpacks the interactions of health with the dynamics of (dis)trust and mistrust integral to such networks, thereby revealing implications for configurations of ‘public health’ and ‘multiculturalism’, amidst calls to rethink

‘cultural diversity’ and forms of ‘integration’ in an increasingly volatile Europe.

I have conducted a pilot project (*Waiting for Food in India*) on Mid-Day Meals in urban schools which will form the basis of a future research initiative. Future research plans also include further developing interests in gender, youth, and migration in cities across Europe and Asia. After excitingly hectic years of getting a new education programme off the ground, in addition to teaching and administration under the aegis of my academic job, the IIAS fellowship has offered me a tranquil and congenial space to explore possibilities of harnessing some of these ideas, and initiating conversations with scholars in Leiden and Amsterdam across disciplines, including anthropology, history, philosophy, and area studies. The fellowship continues to give me opportunities to interact with diverse audiences through: research seminars; a planned event at IIAS with Michael Herzfeld (Harvard University) on my just-released co-edited book *Ethnographies*

of *Waiting* (Bloomsbury 02/2018); forthcoming presentations/discussions including those in Brussels, Copenhagen, and Edinburgh (annual-workshop of the Bangladesh Studies Network I initiated, now in its fourth year). Engaging with the inviting range of lunch-time lectures at IIAS and seminars across Leiden’s Humanities and Social Sciences institutes/networks, Leiden University’s fabulous library resources, Amsterdam University’s stimulating anthropology walking-seminars in the Dutch dunes, and the immensely rewarding intellectual and social interactions with fellow fellows at IIAS are making this fellowship an unforgettable experience. Adding to this further, are the warm and welcoming IIAS staff, and the Spring Outings to the marvellous Dutch art museums, the lovely tulip-fields in the ‘Keukenhof’ and the stately ‘Binnenhof’ Dutch government complex in The Hague. And of course, for the foodie and food anthropologist in me, the plethora of stalls at the Leiden Saturday market along the canal is an absolute delight!”



Charlotte Marchina

INALCO - Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales Rethinking land use in the Era of the Anthropocene (Mongolia, Russia, China)

“My current research deals with land use in Mongolian nomadic pastoralism. Under the influence of the market economy and western world views, land as private property has become widespread. The aim of this project is an in-depth study of the confrontations, assimilations and negotiations that occur in the tension between

this imported model of dealing with land and the local perspectives on their relationship with the environment that exist among the Mongolian herders in Mongolia, Russia and China.

According to Mongolian beliefs and practices, the landscape is inhabited by invisible entities, master spirits of the land (*gazryn ezen*). Traditionally, humans should not disturb them, and must preserve environmental resources. It is people who belong to a place, and not the other way round. Therefore, land privatisation implemented by the Russian and Chinese governments creates challenging meeting points in terms of the existing relationships with the land. I investigate how Mongol herders, in the three countries where they live, redefine, or not, the role they assign

themselves in the environment that they share with other (non-human) beings.

My seven-month stay in Leiden (February-August 2018) is dedicated to data processing and the writing. I am currently working on my first monograph (to be published both in French and English) that will address the spatial and political features of Mongolian nomadic pastoralism. Although very few researchers here in the social sciences are working on Mongolia and Siberia, thanks to IIAS’ extended network, I could quickly connect with researchers from Dutch universities (e.g., Amsterdam, Utrecht, Nijmegen) working on related issues in other geographical areas. Seldom have I had such an opportunity to expand and strengthen my own international network.

IIAS offers me a fantastic opportunity to think and write in a stimulating environment that encompasses not only different disciplines and areas, but also academic and non-academic expertise. As a researcher

from a purely academic world who, due to my work on sustainability-related issues is increasingly receiving requests from field professionals (NGO, embassy staff), I hugely benefit from the framework of interconnected academic and non-academic fields of expertise.

I myself am committed to the transfer of knowledge to wider audiences of non-specialists, in particular by varying the tools and media, in past and future projects (photograph exhibitions, book of proverbs, graphic novel...). In this respect, it was a huge privilege to meet, during my first weeks in the Netherlands, Joost Grootens, a Dutch graphic designer whose work I admire a lot. It is very likely that he will design the numerous maps included in the book I am working on. Last but not least, coming back to the Netherlands, where, in a previous life I lived for nine years and which I still consider to be my second home, turns this already remarkable opportunity into a unique experience.”



Qiaoyun Zhang

*Cultural heritagization in times of crisis:
a Chinese experience*

“As a fellow of the Asian Heritages cluster at IIAS and a cultural anthropologist, I have mainly been working on a project titled ‘Cultural heritagization in times of crisis: a Chinese experience’, investigating if, and how, heritagization is an effective measure for the culturally-sensitive recovery of the Qiang ethnic minority in South China, following the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake. Based on 15 months of dissertation fieldwork and building on my dissertation analyses, I explore three aspects of the Chinese state-led nomination of Qiang culture for the status of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), and the resulting safeguarding practices after it was awarded, as a means to rescue and protect the Qiang culture. First, I examine how the heritage regime and audit culture influence the urgent heritagization planning after the earthquake. Secondly, I look at heritagization as a process of knowledge production and identity formation for the Qiang and the Chinese state. Finally, I reflect on the radical transformation of the perceptions and practices of the Qiang ICH, and the ICH-centered cultural recovery planning in China.

The 10-month fellowship at IIAS has greatly helped me accomplish this project. Obtaining the fellowship soon after my PhD helped me grow into a more mature scholar-teacher at one of the world’s leading research institutions on Asian Studies. I am first and foremost grateful for the colleagues I have met at the institute. Not only did we share and constructively comment on each other’s work, we also formed a scholarly community, through workshops and forging future collaborations. Secondly, IIAS provides an extremely comfortable and friendly working environment that allows me to concentrate on my research and writing, thereby assisted by the always readily available support from the IIAS staff. Thirdly, the libraries and other research resources made available to me by the institute are invaluable. The newly opened Leiden University Asian Library is undoubtedly one of the best of its kind. Fourthly, working in Leiden and within close proximity to the University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam Free University and other institutions, I am able to engage in conversations and lectures with experts in China Studies, Anthropology, Emergency Management Studies and Heritage Studies. Finally, Leiden is absolutely a lovely place to live and study. As a Chinese scholar trained in the USA, the IIAS fellowship offers me a precious cultural journey into the European continent for the very first time.

I have spent a very productive and pleasant time at IIAS. In addition to the aforementioned project, I contributed an article to the Focus section of this issue (pp.36-37), and a review of a book about the Wenchuan earthquake recovery to newbooks.asia. I wrote a number of other articles on homeland reconstruction and disaster tourism and revised my dissertation for publication. Moreover, I gave five lectures in and outside Leiden and developed inspiring friendships with colleagues worldwide. The valuable resources and sweet memories gained through such intellectual exposure and international experience are definitely distinguishing assets for my future work as a university professor and cultural scholar.”

Also read [Qiaoyun Zhang's](#) article “Heritage making after the earthquake. Safeguarding the intangible heritage of the Qiang people in China” in the Focus section of this issue.



Become an IIAS Fellow

IIAS Fellowship possibilities and requirements



Apply for an IIAS-ASCL fellowship

The IIAS-ASCL joint fellowship is intended for researchers specialising in Asian-African interactions. It aims to attract researchers whose work is informed by current theoretical debates, in the Social Sciences and Humanities, on global connectivities and who are able to critically engage with shifting paradigms in ‘area studies’ beyond the ways in which these have traditionally been conceived in the West.

Application deadlines:
15 March and 15 September

Apply for an IIAS fellowship

The International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) in Leiden, the Netherlands, invites outstanding researchers to apply for an IIAS fellowship to work on a relevant piece of research in the social sciences and humanities.

We are particularly interested in researchers focusing on one of the Institute’s three thematic research clusters: ‘Asian Heritages’, ‘Global Asia’ and ‘Asian Cities’. However, some positions will be reserved for outstanding projects in any area outside of those listed.

For more information about our research clusters, see pp.52-53 of this issue of the Newsletter and www.iias.asia



Combine your IIAS fellowship with two extra months of research in Paris

When applying for an IIAS Fellowship, you may also choose to apply for an additional two months of research at the Collège d’études mondiales of the Fondation Maison des sciences de l’homme (CEM-FMSH), in Paris, France.

Collaborating with IIAS, CEM-FMSH has agreed to provide three two-month fellowships each year for scholars who have been awarded an IIAS fellowship. This grant from CEM-FMSH will enable selected candidates to carry out research in Paris for a further two months immediately after their stay in Leiden.

If you are interested in this option, please complete the relevant section of the IIAS application form.

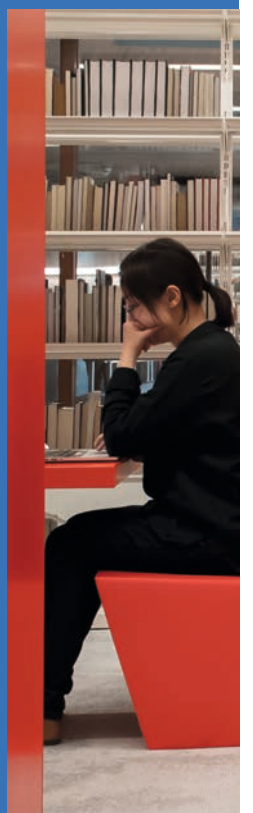
Application deadlines:
1 March and 1 October



Apply for a Gonda fellowship

For promising young Indologists at the post-doctorate level it is possible to apply for funding with the J. Gonda Foundation of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) to spend three to six months doing research at IIAS.

Application deadlines:
1 April and 1 October



Information and application forms:
www.iias.asia/fellowships