

# Encouraging young talent

## IIAS Masterclasses and Summer/Winter Schools

SINCE 1996 IIAS has been organising masterclasses and Summer Schools to enable talented graduate and PhD students or young postdocs from both Asia and Europe to have intensive intellectual interaction with leading figures in Asian Studies.

Since 2011 the format has changed somewhat. IIAS now organises an annual Summer (or Winter) School, consisting of a four-day masterclass, intended for excellent PhD students and led by renowned scholars in their field. The Summer/Winter Schools aim to contribute to the nurturing of a multidisciplinary community of young Asia experts, and address topics pertaining to one of IIAS' three clusters: Asian Cities, Global Asia and Asian Heritages.

### The 2013 Macau Winter School: Urban Hybridity in the Post-Colonial Age

Co-organised with the University of Macau, the Macau Winter School (16-20 December 2013) welcomed participants from Europe, America, Asia and Australia, and was run by three world-renowned scholars in the fields of Asian post-colonial hybridity: Prof. Akhil Gupta (UCLA), Prof. Eng seng Ho (Duke University) and Prof. Michael Herzfeld (Harvard University).

### 2014 Summer School in Chiang Mai, Thailand

The 2014 IIAS Summer School, 'Reading Craft: Itineraries of Culture, Knowledge and Power in the Global Ecumene', will be held at Chiang Mai University from 18-22 August 2014. It will explore the theoretical issue of the knowledge and practice of culture, against the backdrop of historically contingent case studies featuring transnational circulations of craft.

Discussions will revolve around critical reflections on crafts in Asian contexts. Academic Directors: Prof. Pamela Smith (Columbia University), Prof. Françoise Vergès (Center for Cultural Studies, London/Collège d'études mondiales, Paris) and Dr Aarti Kawlra (Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi).

### Application Deadline:

Friday 14 February 2014, 9.00 am CET

For more information see [www.masterclasses.asia](http://www.masterclasses.asia)

To help secure the future of Asian Studies, IIAS stimulates involvement starting from the graduate level by means of different measures and activities. Examples are the IIAS masterclasses and Summer/Winter Schools and the National Master's Thesis Prize in Asian Studies.

## IIAS National Master's Thesis Prize in Asian Studies

EACH YEAR, IIAS awards a prize for the best master's thesis in the broad field of Asian Studies in the humanities or social sciences, written at a Dutch university. The Prize consists of the honorary title 'Best Master's Thesis in Asian Studies' and a three month IIAS fellowship to write a PhD project proposal or a research article.

In total 16 excellent theses competed for the 2013 award, covering a wide academic field ranging from architecture, to history, philosophy, anthropology, political science and other fields. During the award ceremony on 3 December 2013, chairman of the IIAS Board, Professor Henk Schulte Nordholt, said that all submitted theses revealed a productive combination of disciplinary rigor and in depth regional knowledge, calling this a "happy marriage between disciplines and area studies".



This year's prize went to Tabitha Speelman from Leiden University, for her thesis: 'Fast and forward? High-speed rail reform in China and what it costs to whom.'

*This thesis contrasts perspectives of the state with its top down blueprints and the lived experiences of travellers and ordinary people on the ground. In doing so, the author uncovers the weakness in an ideologically driven development model that is exclusively geared*

*towards success. Intended to speed up national integration, the fast train also creates new inequalities by leaving behind marginalized areas and lower classes. As such the train – and the risks it involves – is a telling metaphor of China's overheated development.*

Henk Schulte Nordholt

For more information on the shortlisted theses and next year's Thesis Prize, see: [www.iias.nl/masters-thesis-prize](http://www.iias.nl/masters-thesis-prize)

## MA courses on Critical Heritage Studies of Asia and Europe

OVER THE LAST YEARS, IIAS has been intensively engaged with Leiden University and targeted Asian partners in the development of a programme to complete two interrelated Master's in heritage studies, at Leiden University and an Asian partner university, consecutively. This has already resulted in the option to focus on critical heritage studies within the Leiden MA in Asian Studies.

### Leiden

As of September 2013 it became possible for students to opt for the focus on *Critical Heritage Studies of Asia and Europe* within the History, Arts and Culture of Asia specialisation of the Leiden University MA in Asian Studies. The curriculum includes courses in critical approaches to heritage studies and heritage and policy making, as well as a number of electives that focus on heritage management, specific subjects/regions of Asia, and/or the study of Asian languages. Inspired and supported by the IIAS Asian Heritages research cluster, the curriculum allows students to explore the contested character of all representations of culture, the plurality of notions of heritage in Asian and European contexts, and the way distinct and conflicting values of indigenous, local communities and official state discourses are negotiated.

### Asia

In the foreseeable future the successful completion of the programme at Leiden University will give access to a second one-year MA programme in heritage studies at an Asian partner university (including Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia, the National Taiwan University, or Yonsei University in South Korea). After completing both programmes, graduates will, in addition to the two separate degrees from both universities, also receive a certificate for the combined programme in Critical Heritage Studies.

### Information and application

For information see: <http://tinyurl.com/masters-in-leiden>. When applying for admission, please add "Critical Heritage Studies" to the application form. On a case-by-case assessment, it is possible for students to enroll in the programme starting from the second semester of this academic year (2013-2014).

The *Critical Heritage Studies of Asia and Europe* focus is supervised by Dr Adele Esposito from IIAS and the Leiden University Institute for Area Studies (LIAS) ([a.esposito.2@umail.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:a.esposito.2@umail.leidenuniv.nl))

# IIAS National Master's Thesis Prize 2014

IIAS offers an annual award for the best national master's thesis in the field of Asian Studies, in the Netherlands.

### The Award

- The honorary title of 'Best Master's Thesis' in Asian studies
- A maximum three month stipend (€ 1,500 per month) to work at IIAS, in order to write a PhD project proposal or a research article

### Criteria

- The master's thesis should be in the broad field of Asian Studies, in the humanities or social sciences
- The thesis must have been written at a Dutch university
- Only master's theses which have been graded with an 8 or higher are eligible
- The thesis must have been evaluated in the period 1 October 2013 – 30 September 2014
- Both students and their supervisors can apply

### Submission

Please submit four hard copies of the master's thesis and a cover letter including the grade awarded and your contact details

### Deadline

1 October 2014, 9.00 am  
Submissions should be sent to:  
Secretariat  
International Institute  
for Asian Studies (IIAS)  
P.O. Box 9500  
2300 RA Leiden  
The Netherlands  
[iias@iias.nl](mailto:iias@iias.nl)