

IIAS Reports



our work with our peers and the conveners, within the collegial and supportive environment of the masterclass, expanded our methodological and theoretical lens, pushing us to think deeply of the wide array of practices, social issues and configurations of power.

As Aniek Smit, one of the student participants, shared: "I met with inspiring people from various disciplines, who were all able to look beyond their own topic and discuss migration in a more general sense. As a historian of migration, it was interesting to talk to people from Area Studies who were very familiar with the Asian context, whereas my focus up to this date had been more on the migrants in my study." Likewise, Helene Ilkjaer reflected: "For me, the Summer Programme was a great chance to meet Ph.D. fellows and professors working in and on Asia, and it was very inspiring to learn about the wide range of topics and methods that the others were engaged in. The Summer Programme really broadened my regional scope, and it has helped direct my focus beyond the narrow national context of the country I'm working in."

World Wide Asia: Asian Flows, Global Impacts

Thien-Huong Ninh

Report of the second IIAS Summer Programme in Asian Studies, 27 Aug – 1 Sept 2012, Leiden, the Netherlands

THE SECOND International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) Summer Programme, *World Wide Asia: Asian Flows, Global Impacts*, gathered graduate students and researchers across academic disciplines and regions of the world in Leiden, between 27 August and 1 September 2012. The event started with a four-day masterclass followed by a two-day international conference during which the participants examined how the flows of people, goods, capital and ideas within and from the Asian continents have been transforming the global landscape.

Organized by IIAS, in partnership with the Leiden Global Interactions (LGI) research profile at Leiden University, this year's summer programme was directed by three leading scholars in, respectively, the fields of global migration history, the history of globalization, and modern Asian history: Prof. Leo Lucassen (Leiden University), Prof. Adam McKeown (Columbia University) and Prof. Radhika Singha (Jawaharlal Nehru University). The event followed last year's summer programme on *Heritage Conserved and Contested: Asian and European Perspectives*. Twenty-two graduate students, including myself, participated in the masterclass. Prof. Henk Schulte

Nordholt, Chairman of the IIAS Board, opened the class and encouraged us to cultivate Asian perspectives on historical and contemporary forms of migration and their impact on shaping global-local landscapes, practices, relationships and structures. He pointed out that 'border crossing' assumes that borders exist before migration, although, for many cases in Asia, migration precedes the configuration of borders. Therefore, how do Asian networks and flows, which at times may have been subsidized and then revitalized, continue to challenge political concepts such as citizenship and shape market forces and institutions?

Coming from various standpoints and academic training, the students aimed to provide insights into this question through intensive and interactive workshop-style discussions of our dissertation research during the masterclass. From Korean migrant workers in China to Japanese migration in Brazil and ethnic Vietnamese in Cambodia, the wide spectrum of our research interests examined the multiple conditions, processes and effects of globalization and historical global forms pertaining to Asian mobilities. The opportunity to share

Above: Summer School attendees outside the Peace Palace, The Hague, Netherlands.

I particularly liked the interactive and eclectic structure of the programme, which encouraged lively discussions and creativity without compromising individual focus. In our theme-based groups, we had the opportunity to present our work and received constructive feedback from peers of similar research interests. We were also at times intentionally divided into groups that cut across these themes, which forced us to engage with perspectives beyond our academic backgrounds. Individual consultation meetings with the conveners and excursions to the Peace Palace and immigrant communities in The Hague provided additional opportunities to develop and contextualize our projects. The masterclass ended on a high note with our group presentation about a hypothetical research project we would carry out based on lessons and ideas we had learned during the past four days.

The programme wrapped up with a two-day conference on Asian migrations, featuring many international scholars and attracting more than 100 attendees. Topics of the panels ranged from subaltern mobilities to commodity networks, citizenship, and modernity and self-making. In addition to the opportunities of meeting and interacting with the conference panellists, four of us from the masterclass were also invited to present our research in one of the conference sessions.

For more information about past and future IIAS Summer Programmes, please visit www.summerprogramme.asia

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UKNA Roundtable



First UKNA Roundtable in Delft, the Netherlands (5-6 November 2012)

On 5-6 November the Urban Knowledge Network Asia (UKNA) held its first annual Roundtable, which brought together scientific representatives and a number of researchers from the 14 partner institutes of the UKNA research exchange network. The venue was the Faculty of Architecture at the Technical University in Delft, one of the Dutch partners in the network.

On the first day of the Roundtable, the UKNA partners strategized about the research outputs of the network. They agreed to invite research contributions from scholars in the network within three (for now) broad thematic areas. The first thematic area is *The Future of Cities*, which will examine critical issues that define urban life and the future of urbanization in Asia. The second area is *Cities by and for the People*, which will explore how residents and civic groups shape Asian cities. The third theme is the *Idea of the City*, representing an epistemological approach to cities, and looking at the question of how knowledge about Asian cities is acquired and shaped, and by whom.

Each thematic working group will be led by a Steering Committee composed of three or four individuals from UKNA institutes in the three main geographical areas represented in the network ('Greater China', India and Europe/USA). The Steering Committees will determine the focal topic(s) to be covered by their respective thematic areas, and will decide on

the format of research outputs and activities. In addition to UKNA scholars, outside researchers are also welcome to contribute to any of the three established working groups, provided that their research is of a multi-disciplinary nature and addresses the topics to be explored.

On the second day, the Roundtable hosted a forum on the situation of urban heritage within urban planning and redevelopment in Europe and Asia. This forum was open to UKNA scholars as well as an external audience of policy makers, academics, and researchers. The city of Delft was used as a case study in the discussion; lessons learned from planning approaches in that locale (and more widely in the Netherlands and Western Europe) were critically compared and contrasted with experiences in Asian cities. In the morning, Ilse Rijnveld, Advisor of the Department of Monuments at the Municipality of Delft, spoke about the evolution of heritage management approaches in the city. This was followed by a walking tour of the city center, which exposed UKNA scholars and outside experts to the changing face of urban 'heritage' in various neighborhoods of Delft.

In the afternoon, Dr. Paul Meurs of the TU Delft Faculty of Architecture delivered a presentation on urban heritage policies in the Netherlands, in which he discussed the growing emphasis in Dutch cities on 'cultural value as a motor for redevelopment'. This was followed by a presentation by Dr. Zhang Bing, Chief Planner of the China Academy of Urban Planning and Design, on the urban heritage management trends and challenges in Beijing.

The next UKNA Roundtable will be held under the auspices of the ICAS 8 conference in Macau, in June 2013.

For questions about UKNA or the three thematic focal areas identified at the Delft Roundtable, please contact Dr. Paul Rabé, Coordinator of UKNA. Paul is based at the UKNA Secretariat at IIAS in Leiden (p.e.rabe@iias.nl). More information about UKNA can be found on the network's website: <http://www.ukna.asia>

Above: Street scene, Delft, the Netherlands. Illustration by Simone Bijlard, Lumen Architectuur lumenarchitectuur.nl

The Urban Knowledge Network Asia (UKNA)

The Urban Knowledge Network Asia is an academic research exchange network on urbanization in Asia, coordinated and administered by the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), which brings together over 100 researchers from 14 different institutes in India, 'Greater China', Europe and the United States. UKNA is funded by a €1.25 million grant awarded by the Marie Curie Actions 'International Research Staff Exchange Scheme' (IRSES), which is part of the European Union's Research Executive Agency Seventh Framework Program. UKNA was launched in April 2012 and will run for a period of four years. Its key objective is to nurture new forms of multi-disciplinary and policy-relevant knowledge on Asian cities. This will be achieved via a combination of research staff exchanges, targeted case study-based research, seminars and roundtables focused on three core substantive focal areas: urban environment, housing and neighborhoods, and urban heritage.

The fourteen partner institutes of UKNA are: Ambedkar University, Delhi; the College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Beijing University of Technology, Beijing; the China Academy of Urban Planning and Design, Beijing; CEPT University, Ahmedabad, India; the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, Shanghai; the Development and Planning Unit, University College London; the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris-Belleville, France; the Department of Architecture at Hong Kong University; the International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, the Netherlands (the coordinating institute of UKNA); the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bengaluru; the School of Architecture at Tianjin University, Tianjin, China; the Faculty of Architecture of Delft University of Technology, Delft, the Netherlands; the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities at the University of Macau; and the Sol Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. In addition, UKNA has two strategic partner institutes: the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore; and the Graduate Institute of Planning and Building, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan.