

IIAS Fellowship Programme

In the Spotlight

The International Institute for Asian Studies annually hosts a large number of visiting researchers (research 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. Meet our fellows at www.iias.asia/fellows



Hannah Klepeis

IIAS Research Clusters: Asian Cities, Global Asia
1 October – 31 July 2022

www.iias.asia/profile/hannah-rosa-klepeis

My time at the IIAS allows me to think more deeply about parts of my research that I had to sideline during the writing of my dissertation, such as the social, spatial and economic consequences of urbanisation in China's western regions, local governance, and the role of trans-local connectivities with the Tibetan diaspora in shaping people's social worlds and informing discourses and processes of identity-making.

The research fellowship has so far been inspiring, allowing for a form of productivity that is hard to measure quantitatively but which has allowed me to think in new directions more freely and openly. It is an invaluable experience for a young academic. It's great to forge connections with scholars from different fields and career stages. I hope to be able to engage with scholars at Dutch universities and the various research initiatives and networks in the region during the remaining months of my stay.

The past two years have brought fresh challenges for us as anthropologists, especially with regard to conducting ethnographic fieldwork in China. I am currently outlining a new research project that explores China's social transformations from a global perspective by examining Chinese migration to Europe and related practices of financialisation and citizenship on Europe's margins.

The perspectives and insights of the community at IIAS have been very helpful in framing my present and future research and in stimulating and furthering my curiosity in innumerable topics across Asia. The Institute has also brought friendship and comradeship. I will never forget Christmas. With several IIAS fellows stranded in the same house, we pulled together and created a wonderful potluck dinner; on New Year's Eve, we danced the Viennese Waltz after having grilled Bengali paneer, Assamese meats, and Yunnanese shaokao!

(Re)imagining social transformations in and beyond China

The purpose of my research fellowship at IIAS is to turn my doctoral thesis into a book manuscript. In spite of the restrictions in place since my arrival (most of my time in Leiden has been spent in lockdown or quarantine!), I have managed to spend a lot of time in a very different world, returning to my field site in my thoughts.

My doctoral research is based on long-term fieldwork conducted in Gyelthang, a multiethnic borderland region in southwest China that was officially renamed Shangri-La 20 years ago to further ethnic tourism. Focusing upon its Tibetan Buddhist monastery Ganden Sumtseling, I explore the implications of state-led development and religious policy on the relations that exist between laypeople and monastics and how they inform notions of Tibetan identity and moral personhood.



Trude Renwick

IIAS Research Clusters: Asian Cities, Global Asia
12 March – 12 May 2022

Home Institute: The University of Hong Kong
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vending that deemed migrant street vendors as "greedy" and "bad," the rebranding of Bangkok's luxury malls as "villages" protected by local Brahmin shrines, and the renovation of shophouses into art spaces and bars themed around local Buddhist relics reveal how spirituality fuels debates surrounding the development of the commercial landscape. I am grateful to have the resources and stimulating academic environment in Leiden to further develop this work.

In addition to developing the above book proposal and manuscript, at IIAS, I will perform preliminary archival research for my next project, *Peripheries Mobilized*. This research examines the impact of the Chinese-sponsored Pan Asia Railway on conceptions of periphery and frontier in Thai and Lao cities along its central route. Beginning with the case of Khon Kaen, I will look at how, as key nodes along this new railway network, previously "peripheral" urban outposts of these nation-states have become the central foci for the Thai and Lao governments, as well as the private sector. State-led investments

in the creative industries in urban agricultural centers like Khon Kaen have paved the way for an influx of "creatives," who are reversing the traditional movement of labor out of this city as they reshape its image. I am therefore especially interested in exploring early images, writings, and drawings of creatives and officials in this region beginning in the mid-19th century.

The large community of scholars at IIAS doing work on urban studies in Asia and the BRI drew me to Leiden. As a result, I have confidence that my time spent here will foster collaborations with scholars engaged in the Asian Cities and Global Asia clusters and push my research in new and unexpected directions.

I am especially excited at the opportunity to spend time exploring Leiden with my partner Felice and our dog Roo Paw, who will be joining me for the duration of my stay. We look forward to ambling about nearby cities, visiting my grandmother's hometown just outside of Dusseldorf, and, as an avid sailor, I hope to find myself on a sailboat at some point during our stay in the Netherlands.

Examining spaces of commerce, infrastructure and spiritual practice in Thailand and the world

I am thrilled to begin my research period in Leiden this March. My work examines the intersection of commercial, infrastructural, and spiritual space in Thailand. While in The Netherlands, I look forward to investigating these topics through archival research,

spending time in the IIAS office and university libraries, and engaging with other scholars based in the region.

My book manuscript, *Eat Pray Shop*, unpacks who has the right to engage in commerce and shape the commercial landscape. This ethnography examines the uneasy symbiosis of commercial and spiritual space in Bangkok and contributes to a growing body of scholarship on globalization, inequality, and urban beautification in Asia. Cases like the 2016 restrictions on street

IIAS Fellowship Possibilities and Requirements



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.



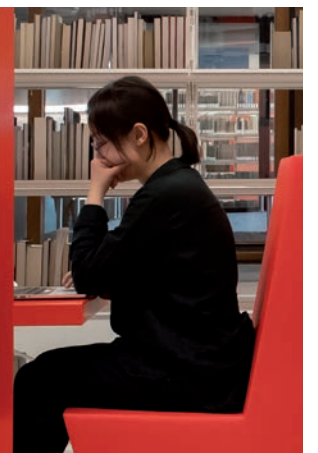
Combine your IIAS fellowship with two extra months of research in Paris

When applying for an IIAS Fellowship, you have the option of simultaneously submitting an application for an additional two months of research at the Fondation Maison des sciences de l'homme (FMSH), in Paris, France, immediately after your stay in Leiden.



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.



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