

Join the new Leiden Anthropology of Asia Network!

Erik de Maaker

Asia Research Cluster, Institute of Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology
www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/social-behavioural-sciences/cultural-anthropology-and-development-sociology/research/asia-cluster

Leiden Anthropology Blog: 'Anthropologies of and with Asia, at Leiden University'
www.leidenanthropologyblog.nl/articles/anthropologies-of-and-with-asia-at-leiden-university

Leiden University has many anthropologists working on Asia, spread across different faculties and institutes. Besides the Institute of Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology,¹ this includes the Leiden Institute for Area Studies,² the Van Vollenhoven Institute,³ and the International Institute for Asian Studies.⁴ Until fairly recently, the Leiden University Profile Area 'Asian Modernities and Traditions' (2011-2018) played a significant role in creating bridges between scholars located across Leiden University; AMT facilitated high-profile lectures and workshops and fostered and enabled new research initiatives.⁵ Its demise has created a lacuna not filled by the new Institutional Profiles that have been instated since.

To address the real and dire need for new institution-wide Asia oriented initiatives, the CADS Research Cluster Asia⁶ has created the 'Leiden Anthropology of Asia Network' (the RC Asia is one of the five Research

Clusters of the CADS Institute). In a very well attended online network meeting across five break-out groups, held in December 2021, we discussed how we might create synergy to our research and strengthen collaborations with academic colleagues spread out across the rapidly growing number of academic institutions in Asia. While many participants are anthropologists by discipline, the event also included colleagues from closely related fields such as history and political science. Participants at the meeting indicated that they wanted more peer-level academic interaction. Also, they expressed the need for a new institution-wide initiative that can increase the impact of the important contributions Leiden University can make to the Anthropology of Asia. Such institutional support can significantly strengthen the global impact of research done, in line with the ambition of Leiden University to deliver academic education and produce knowledge with a truly global reach.

Network ambitions

Leiden Anthropology has a very long history of contributing to cultural knowledge production about Asia. Anthropology, as a discipline, proceeds from the premise that adopting a comparative perspective can create insights into how categories and concepts are embedded in specific societal contexts. But what academic knowledge constitutes and how it is taught continues to change over time, and it requires further revision to reflexively engage with the inequalities that mar today's world. Engaging with issues such as these, the Leiden Anthropology of Asia Network, specifically, aims to make an active contribution to decolonising academia.

The network wants to create a lively community of scholars that, through (among others) brown bag talks, reading groups, and perhaps story-sharing seminars, is conducive to redefining connections to

Asia in what will hopefully be soon a post-pandemic world. We also intend to share grant opportunities, inform each other about new research projects, and share opportunities for international exchange and cooperation. Our initial event was a great starting point for reinvigorating connections. It brought out the wealth of disciplinary and interdisciplinary expertise on Asia in Leiden.

Would you like to join our network? Please contact the CADS Research Cluster Asia!

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Notes

- <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/education/study-programmes/bachelor/cultural-anthropology-and-development-sociology>
- <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/humanities/institute-for-area-studies>
- <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/law/institute-for-the-interdisciplinary-study-of-the-law/van-vollenhoven-institute>
- <https://www.iias.asia>
- <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/research/research-projects/humanities/asian-modernities-and-traditions>
- <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/social-behavioural-sciences/cultural-anthropology-and-development-sociology/research/asia-cluster>

The Focus



The Review



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We are currently inviting submissions for issue #93, to be published in October 2022. We welcome four types of contributions:

The Study

These are research essays of 1400-1700 words (for one-page articles) or 2500-3600 words (for two-page articles) on any topic in Asian Studies. Please include 2-3 images with your submissions.

The Study

The Focus

Each issue of *The Newsletter* includes a special section called "The Focus" that compiles multiple articles on a particular theme. The Focus is put together by an external guest editor. If you would like to propose a theme for a Focus section, please contact the editorial team.

The Review

For the print edition, we typically select book reviews from our reviews website. To write a review for the website, please browse available titles at www.iias.asia/the-review.

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The Tone

Find more information about submission procedures and style guidelines here: www.iias.asia/contribute.

For examples of previously published issues, please use the link below: www.iias.asia/the-newsletter.

Research essays for The Study in issue #93 should be submitted by 1 July 2022. All article submissions, Focus and Tone proposals, and any other enquiries can be sent directly to the editorial team at thenewsletter@iias.nl.

Paramita Paul,
Chief Editor of The Newsletter, IIAS



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