

Asian Studies

An ESF interdisciplinary programme in the humanities and the social sciences



Asia and Europe are developing new partnerships in many fields of activity. In the twenty-first century the world will see a much more evenly balanced relationship between Asia and Europe in economic, political, and academic respects, than was the case in the preceding century. To promote and develop fruitful and peaceful relations between Asia and Europe, we need a thorough knowledge of developments in Asia. Academics in the social sciences and the humanities have much to contribute to this knowledge. The

study of Asian cultures, economies, and societies is a vast subject area, to which European scholarship has made remarkable contributions. Europe, with its multitude of traditional connections with Asia, must now make an extra effort to continue playing a prominent role in the field of Asian Studies. To achieve this, greater co-ordination of research, based on co-operation between European scholars and among European and Asian researchers, is necessary. The joint study of issues that are of mutual interest to Europe and Asia is therefore one of the main objectives of this ESF programme which has been running since 1994.



Asia Committee
EUROPEAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The European Science Foundation acts as a catalyst for the development of science by bringing together leading researchers and funding agencies to debate, plan and implement pan-European initiatives.

Introduction

The establishment of the ESF Asia Committee in 1994 was closely linked to developments in the relations between Asia and Europe. The post-war reconstruction, the first steps towards an economic and political integration, the constant strain on East-West tensions and, for some countries, the loss of their colonies, were all factors which played a role in diminishing the interest of Europe in Asia after 1945.

After the end of the Cold War and conscious of the rapidly growing significance of (parts of) Asia from an economic and strategic perspective, the European Union (EU) became more aware of Asia's new role. The real dawn of the new awareness was the then Directorate General (DG) I's (now the Directorate-General External Relations) policy paper *Towards a New Asia Strategy*. It stressed the need to strengthen and give a higher priority to Europe's economic and political presence in the region.

Asia itself also began to promote a closer relationship with Europe, which was evident from the initiative taken by the Prime Minister of Singapore in organising the first Asia-Europe meeting (ASEM), held in Bangkok in 1996. At the summit, the then seven member countries of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), plus China, Japan, and South Korea, met the fifteen member countries of the EU to form a new partnership.

It is obvious that both sides began to take more interest in each other for economic reasons. From the EU side, the upgrading of interest in Asia was based on an ambivalent view: that the rise of Asia would have an undoubted impact on European interests, and that this would offer new business opportunities to its private sector which should not be overlooked. The Asian states, for their part, have been more interested in the United States than in Europe in recent times, but they have now begun to reorientate their focus, partly to balance their relationship with the US and partly because of the growing prominence of the EU in world affairs.

During the years of Asia's very successful economic development, a wealth of contacts

was established between the two regions and not only in business – these flourished in many other kinds of human activities, such as in sports, research, the arts, and education.

The subsequent crisis (1997) has not diminished this mutual interest. On the contrary, it makes us even more aware of the need for deeper insight into each other's regions: Asian Studies can play a decisive role here. The importance of Asia in economic, political, and cultural terms can indubitably only increase in the coming decades.

Asian Studies is not a discipline, as it consists of sub-fields comprised of many different disciplines. In Europe it is the domain of a large number of scholars who work within a rich variety of research traditions in small institutions scattered all over the continent. This fragmented situation obstructs the creation of the critical mass required to manage large research programmes: collective international efforts are required to accomplish this. Specialist competence from different countries, research traditions and disciplines must be linked together to give a better understanding of the social, economic, and political processes at work in Asia and Europe and their significance to the further development of both regions. Given this need, the European Science Foundation decided that Asian Studies would be a priority area, and that a committee would be set up as a research-policy platform for networking academic Asia expertise across Europe.

The Asia Committee has been one of the first reactions in academic circles against the consistent neglect of Asian Studies in the individual countries. It is an endeavour to pool European resources to be able to cope more effectively with fragmentation and specialisation.

In contrast to the EU's preponderant emphasis on the stimulation of the natural sciences and technology, the Committee also places particular stress on the importance of the social sciences and humanities as defining and guiding elements in the future of mankind, and it looks to the concept of the *longue durée* as a basic principle in research.

History of the ESF Programme in Asian Studies

The idea of launching a European-wide form of co-operation in Asian Studies originated in the Netherlands and France in the early 1990s. The then minister of Research and Technology of France, H. Curien, and the then minister of Education and Science of the Netherlands, J. Ritzen, asked the European Science Foundation for advice on the co-ordination of Asian Studies in Europe. The ESF offered to explore the possibility of establishing a European Committee for Advanced Asian Studies, under the aegis of the ESF. Under the auspices of the ESF Standing Committee for the Humanities, a number of preparatory meetings were held in an attempt to broaden the basis for a European programme in Asian Studies, to define the disciplinary scope, and to set up a working programme. On the recommendation of the ESF Standing Committees for the Humanities and the Social Sciences, the ESF Executive Council decided to establish a programme committee that became the ESF Asia Committee in March 1994. This Committee was composed of leading scholars in the field of Asian Studies, nominated by the ESF Member Organisations, and operated as an independent, academic committee.

During its first mandate the Asia Committee supported and initiated projects that were intended to add value by being organised in a collaboration at the European level. The focus was on multi- and interdisciplinary projects transcending the borders between the humanities and the social sciences. Nevertheless, some room was left for outstanding single-discipline, individual research projects.

A post-doctoral fellowship scheme for leading young scholars, designed to promote mobility between different institutions in Europe and between Europe and Asia, was established. Other activities included: awarding grants for the organisation of interdisciplinary and joint Asian-European workshops, with Asian and broad European participation; the granting of seed-money to the scientifically most promising topics from these workshops to enable the development of larger research programmes with multilateral funding; setting up a database of researchers in Europe;

dissemination of research-related information on European Asian Studies within Europe and world-wide; supporting the professional European Associations in Asian Studies, which work on a regional basis; networking in Europe and with Asia, Australia, and the USA to provide a better platform for increased co-operation between scholars and research institutions in different countries and continents; and, finally, attracting political attention to, and creating synergy in, the broad field of Asian Studies. Support for these activities was given by the Member Organisations of the ESF, by the Dutch and French Governments, by the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange, and the Toyota Foundation.

A second mandate period

After the successful evaluation of its activities the ESF Member Organisations, made up of national research councils and scientific academies, agreed to extend the programme for a second period (1999-2001).

During the first mandate equal amounts of attention were paid to Asian Studies in their broadest sense, modern as well as classical. In close consultation with the ESF Standing Committee for the Humanities and that for the Social Sciences, during the second mandate it was decided to focus even more strongly on research addressing contemporary social, economic, and political developments in Asia. The ESF decided to elaborate in more detail on the conclusions of a strategy paper drawn up by the Asia Committee, entitled *Asia and Europe towards the 21st Century*, and put together a research prospectus, outlining the issues that should be addressed in the future. The eight selected themes, some of which are very specific and others broad and general, can be found in this brochure (see 'Research prospectus for 1999 to 2001' p.5). Needless to say, research on Asia without close co-operation with colleagues from Asia, would be a pointless undertaking. To achieve this co-operation, the Asia Committee is focusing on joint activities with Asian counterparts even more than was the case in the first mandate period. It will stimulate activities aiming at long-term joint research with Asian partners. On the basis of the experience acquired during the Asia Committee's first mandate

period, the modes of operation have been specified and adjusted to the needs of European researchers.

The Asia Committee

The Asia Committee – responsible for the execution of the programme – is an independent academic committee. It is composed of authoritative senior scholars from all European countries which have an interest in Asian Studies. In principle, European countries delegate one person per country. The ESF ensures that the committee membership reflects the disciplinary and geographical areas concerned. The Committee can invite *ad hoc* observers from national governments, from related bodies in the US and Asia and from private foundations, whose contributions to the work of the Committee have been approved by the ESF. Obvious lacunae in the disciplinary coverage of the Committee can be filled by individual experts invited by the Committee to undertake this task.

To ensure that the pan-European character of the Asian Studies programme is maintained, temporary observer status on the Asia Committee may be accorded to representatives from countries which are considering contributing financially to the Committee's work.

The full Committee meets at least once per year. The day-to-day business is conducted by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and ESF Secretary, who may involve other committee members in the preparation of full committee meetings. The Chairman is Professor Thommy Svensson (Gothenburg, Sweden). The Committee's Secretariat is based at the International Institute for Asian Studies in Leiden, the Netherlands (Professor Wim Stokhof). The Vice-Chairman is Professor Jean-Luc Domenach (Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques, Paris), and Mrs Marianne Yagoubi acts as the ESF Secretary to the Committee.

The Asia Committee reports to the Standing Committees for the Humanities and the Social Sciences and the ESF Executive Council. The programme is managed as an ESF scientific programme. Accounting follows the rules for ESF *à la carte* programmes.

Aims and objectives

The aims of the ESF Asia Committee are to:

- promote innovative scholarship on Asia;
- co-ordinate European research on Asia and strengthen the community of researchers on Asia;
- promote the building-up and dissemination of knowledge, relevant to understanding contemporary Asia;
- integrate various disciplinary approaches into the study of Asia;
- promote interdisciplinary and border-transcending co-operation in research on Asia;
- improve research co-operation between Europe and Asia.

Modes of operation

The tasks of Asia Committee are to stimulate, co-ordinate, and support Asian Studies in Europe by the following means:

● international workshops

Awards for the organisation of workshops, symposia, summer courses, or conferences.

● short-term grants for pilot studies and programme development

Support for short-term post-doctoral fellowships for pilot studies, and international, joint research programmes between European (Asian, Australian, and American) research centres.

● database of researchers

Enlargement and maintenance of the directory/database of researchers from the European professional associations dealing with specific regions in Asia;

● support for co-ordination and strengthening research infrastructure

Supporting networking among researchers, especially in less well-connected areas of Europe; maintaining close contacts with congruent bodies in Asian countries, Australia, and North America.

● publication of workshop results

Support for publications resulting from ESF workshops.

Information channels

Information about the ESF Asia Committee and its activities is published in the International Institute for Asian Studies' (IIAS) Newsletter, which appears three times per year. The Newsletter may be obtained from the Asia Committee's Secretariat, which is based at the IIAS. This information, in an updated form, is also accessible through the Internet: <http://www.iias.nl/esfac/>

Finance

At present, thirteen countries have agreed to support the ESF programme in Asian Studies. The programme follows a system of mixed funding: *à la carte* contributions are made by ESF Member Organisations, national governments, including the Nordic Council of Ministers, and private foundations in Asia. The total budget for the Committee's activities is approximately 200 000 Euros annually over a three-year period. The bulk of this sum is intended to fund international workshops and conferences, and for short-term grants for pilot studies and programme development.

Research prospectus for 1999 to 2001

To achieve the above-mentioned aims, besides continuing to address research topics considered relevant to the relationship between Asia and Europe, in particular, the new Asia Committee will call upon disciplines in the humanities and social sciences to study developments in contemporary Asia against their cultural and historical backgrounds. The Committee focuses on the following research themes:

1. welfare systems and models of social security;
2. demographic change;
3. security and regionalisation;
4. value systems and cultural heritage;
5. changing labour relations in Asia;
6. knowledge systems, environment, international business operations, and transmission of technology;
7. institutional frameworks for company/ industrial development and for the

internationalisation of business in Asia;

8. 'asianisation' of politics, democracy, and human rights.

1. Welfare systems and models of social security

Historically, East and Southeast Asian societies have been characterised by strong communal and egalitarian institutions. Informal ways and means have been developed to spread incomes and resources through patronage, kinship, village solidarity, and to introduce subtle restrictions on abuse of power. These systems have been subjected to stress during the rapid growth of Asian economies, which has resulted in the rise of new middle classes and new patterns of consumption. However, it was a fairly small segment of the total population which benefited most from the expanding economy. Poverty did decrease, but since the beginning of the 1990s the decline has ground to a halt, or has even been reversed. The on-going process of privatisation has implied that state-driven systems of social security have not shared in the expansion. On the contrary, the formal sector of the economy, with the concomitant security of employment and social provisions, has seemed to be going into a decline rather than increasing. The cost of healthcare, education, and housing has gone up, particularly after the recent Asian economic crisis.

The absence of formal schemes of social security is particularly frightening for the very large segment of the work-force, both rural and urban, which has to survive on low wages. Informal systems of social security, based on kinship, religious, or localised networks are no longer operative. This problem, the decline of the formal sector, and the simultaneous breaking up of local networks, needs to be examined.

Hence, the state-run social welfare arrangements in Western European societies, which were established to create social peace and stability during the industrialisation process, are at present being carefully studied by some Asian countries. This is happening just at a time when strong voices are being heard in Europe advocating the need to dismantle the costly welfare institutions and state insurance systems in favour of privately organised security arrangements and Asian-style kinship and "familism".

These two opposite approaches to social security appear to be merging in the globalisation process. The direction of the fusion is of utmost importance for the way the world will be organised in the future, and presents an urgent field for joint Asian-European research at both macro- and micro-levels.

2. Demographic change

Asian cities are growing in size and population number at an unprecedented rate. Whereas in 1950 one in six Asians lived in cities, by the year 2000 it was one in three; and while in 1950 most of the million cities were to be found in Europe and North America, at the beginning of the third millennium most mega-cities (with over 10 million inhabitants) are in Asia, including Tokyo-Yokohama, Shanghai, Bombay, Jakarta, and Manila. Net immigration from rural areas has usually been a more important contributor to urban growth than natural increase. The opportunities that Asian cities offer their residents diverge markedly. On the one hand, many rural migrants find it difficult to make a living in poorly-paid, uncertain industrial jobs or the self-employed informal sector. On the other hand, businessmen and professionals can afford a luxurious lifestyle. In lay-out and architecture, cities eclectically follow both global trends and various indigenous Asian models.

The extremely rapid urban development offers a wide range of research topics. One cluster of questions concerns the globalisation of architectural trends, the applicability of European models of city planning in Asia, and the international competition between cities for investors through the creation of imaginative, high-quality urban space. An ongoing issue within particular cities is the conflict over space between various actors, public and private, large and small. Attention paid to this conflict over urban space can revitalise the study of survival strategies of the uprooted masses. Finally, the urban environmental problems, in particular in the mega-cities, are becoming more pressing by the day. These problems include traffic congestion and air pollution, ground-water extraction exceeding natural refilling, solid waste disposal and industrial pollution of surface water.

Besides the study of urbanisation processes, other kinds of demographic change can also be studied fruitfully through European-Asian co-operation. The problem of a rapidly ageing population, which exists in big cities but in Asia is most pressing in the rural areas, can be usefully approached from a comparative perspective. This item is closely linked to that on social security (Theme 1).

3. Security and regionalisation

The competition for resources such as oil, gas, water and timber assumes new proportions in the face of the predicted population growth in some areas, notably China. Examples are the problems in the South China Sea and the investments of big companies in Central Asia or in Papua (formerly Irian Jaya). Asia looks to Europe with its long history of forming and dissolving regional political, economic, and military alliances. What will be the future role of organisations such as ASEAN and SAARC (not to mention APEC and ASEM)? By what kinds of regional agreements are stability and security best served?

European and Asian approaches towards security differ, and so does the scientific conceptualisation of security in the wider sense. In contrast to a specifically European approach towards security, developed in the context of *détente*, the different political, social, economic and security structures of Southeast and East Asia have engendered a new approach which has become widely known as 'comprehensive security'. It recognises that stability in the region relies not only on a legally underpinned balance structure, but is also contingent on the overall social, political, and economic stability which in turn must take into account the discontinuous diversity of history and culture of the societies in the region.

4. Value systems and cultural heritage

Asia is the birthplace of a number of world religions and value systems such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Taoism and Confucianism. Religions and value systems from the West are also widely dispersed in Asia. The co-existence of these systems has been unproblematic in many instances, but there have also been violent clashes between adherents of the different creeds, especially between Hindus and Muslims. A range of

research questions, relevant to present-day society can be formulated:

How do these religions and value systems react to a changing economic environment, and how does this impact upon the attitudes and behaviour of the adherents of the different communities? What is the role attributed to these beliefs and cultural values in the perception of identities? Does economic growth promote secularisation and is this identical to loss of traditional values? Can the rise of various kinds of fundamentalism be predicted, and if so, what are the developments in society that kindle these anti-modernist movements? What conditions govern a peaceful co-existence between different beliefs? What is the role played by religions and value systems in the redefinition of new cultural identities?

The exchange of cultural goods between Asia and Europe predates the colonial period. Since time immemorial texts and ideas, arts and crafts have flowed in both directions. Europe is a vast repository of cultural goods from Asia. This is where an important responsibility of European research lies, namely to make Asian collections and materials stored in European museums, libraries and archives accessible to research and to the wider public.

Asian archives also contain valuable European source materials on the local histories of Asian countries. Only through Eurasian collaboration can these historical, art-historical, and archaeological sources be made fully available.

5. Changing labour relations in Asia

One of the effects of globalisation is a rapid change in labour relations. The basic question here is whether the Asian countries have chosen or will choose trajectories similar to or different from those for which the Western economies opted. At a macro-level the debate has focused on the East Asian countries. But the cultural and religious contexts in the different regions are very diverse, giving rise to different trajectories to the global market, currently under severe pressure from global financial institutions and the increasingly transnationalised large companies.

Labour relations are changing radically in Europe. Labour and its collective organisations are under pressure and legislation is opening up the labour market. European and American industry see this as a means to increase global competitiveness. Prior to the Asian economic crisis, in their search for new ideas, Western business leaders and politicians referred to the then successful models of East and Southeast Asian industrialisation. These had been inspired by the West, but were built upon endogenous cultural, social, and political dynamisms challenging existing theories of labour relations and working life, which so far rest empirically only on studies of Western Europe, North America, and Japan.

Systematic comparative research which addresses contemporary as well as historical perspectives and links macro- and micro-levels of analysis is thus needed. Five interrelated themes seem to be of strategic importance: the labour process, labour mobility, labour consciousness, labour legislation, and the gendered nature of labour relations. This theme is clearly related to Theme 1 on 'Welfare systems and models of social security' and Theme 8 on 'Asianisation of politics, democracy, and human rights.'

6. Knowledge systems, environment/ international business operations and transmission of technology

This theme focuses on the role that East-West relations play in global environmental issues. What are the structure and content of environmental relations between Asia on the one hand and Europe and North America on the other, and what are their impact on the global ecosystem? How are global environmental issues affected by – and in turn affect – relations between Asia and Europe/ North America? Over-exploitation of natural resources threatens global biodiversity. It has forced millions of people to leave their homelands, creating a new category of environmental refugee. And this is what lies increasingly at the heart of political conflicts. Many of these problems are transnational in origin and are especially acute in Asia. For example, some of the most important marketers of tropical timbers and the most fervent defenders of the trade are found in Southeast Asia; whereas some of the most important timber consumers, and critics of

the trade are found in Europe and North America. In these and other issues, the most strident disagreements are between the nations of Asia and Europe/North America. These environmental issues have an impact not only on both East and West, they are now entrenched as issues by East-West relations. Topics to be addressed are:

- the politico-economic study of the international trade and industry for East-West environmental relations, the role of international aid agencies and bankers in these relations, East-West green marketing and eco-tourism;
- the ways in which ideas about nature and environment flow between East and West, how environmental and political legitimacy is created, and the role of indigenous knowledge as opposed to modern science;
- natural resource management and conservation, the relations between gender and the environment and the quality of urban life;
- the comparative cross-cultural study of perceptions of nature and cultural constructs of environmental danger and sustainability; and
- inward and outward foreign direct investments and other modes of international business and their role in technology transfer, environmental issues, and sustainable development in Asia.

7. Institutional frameworks for company/industrial development and for internationalisation of business in Asia

Industrial development never proceeds independently of its specific institutional and historical context. This is just as true of Asian industrialisation as it was true of industrial development experiences in Europe. Therefore, no 'normal' pattern of industrial accumulation is given. Instead, the challenge is to identify a multitude of industrial pathways or trajectories, each of which is embedded in the national socio-cultural and socio-political context. By means of comparative analysis it is possible to develop generalisations on the relationships between policies, selected institutions and development patterns and specify the conditions under which these bounded generalisations are valid. The overriding aim will be to acquire a better, more systematic understanding of the

interaction between, on the one hand, the institutional frameworks for policy formulation and implementation, and on the other, economic growth and the various patterns of industrial transformation or stagnation observed in the Asian high- and lower-performing economies. A long-term perspective will be necessary to grasp the significance of the various types of state-led and market-led industrialisation strategies that are being pursued. It would be of particular interest to focus on the political and institutional preconditions for the sustained high growth rates in some of the East and Southeast Asian countries and compare these with the conditions obtaining and the results achieved in other countries such as India. It would undoubtedly be important to study the types and modes of government intervention in great detail. Developments in China would need to be treated as a special case in this context. With the recent difficulties faced by several of the high-performing Asian economies, the research agenda is likely to shift from the macro-economic policy framework and the general institutional arrangements for policy implementation to a special consideration of the role of the financial markets and the institutions and other factors affecting capital flows. There are lessons to be learned for other Asian countries from both the past successes of the high-performing economies and from the financial crises these countries have recently faced. Besides this, studies of the global repercussions of economic growth, stagnation, and recovery in parts of Asia are likely to reveal basic features of international economic and financial processes which also impact upon the European economies.

Another topic to be addressed concerns the governmental policies/strategies for company development, especially for the development of female and family entrepreneurship and small and medium-sized enterprises.

Moreover, attention should be paid to the internationalisation/globalisation of firms, industries, and economies as a crucial component of Asian industrial and commercial development.

8. 'Asianisation' of politics, democracy, and human rights

During what has been called 'the third wave of democratisation', plural liberal polities

have been established in many parts of Southern and Eastern Europe, Africa and Latin America. But liberal ideas have secured only a few successes in Asia. Constitutional democracy prevails in Japan and India. South Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines and Thailand have established or re-established, multiparty systems and reasonably free elections, but in terms of transparency and division of powers their political systems suggest that they cannot be classified as democracies in the Western sense. Demands for more political openness have been suppressed, most notably in China, Indonesia, Burma, North Korea, Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia. From a Western perspective, Asia is the least democratic of the world's five continents. In Asia there has been an intense discussion, reinforced by the financial crisis, on the applicability of Western models of democracy. In many quarters, there has been a rejection of these in favour of Asian versions of governance and human rights, built on the community rather than the individual, on consensus rather than opposition, on strong government rather than pluralism and decentralisation. These ideas and visions have been promoted through various avenues, among them the joint Asian declaration at the Vienna Conference, the Bangkok Declaration, and the Committee for a New Asia.

Asian countries have been claiming to provide an alternative to Western ways of modernity and prosperity. As a result of some of these countries' enormous economic successes, combined with the rapprochement between socialist and non-socialist regimes after the end of the Cold War, these achievements have been studied and seen as examples in other parts of the world. History has witnessed 'the first wave of Asianisation of politics', unfolding in the part of the world in which the majority of mankind lives and towards which the centre of economic gravity has been moving for more than two decades.

For the future, it is of great importance to understand the political effects of the recent financial crisis in East and Southeast Asia. Will it promote the development of a more transparent and democratic rule that is claimed to be necessary to financial adjustment, or, alternatively, will the Asian economies emerge from the crisis economically and industrially more competitive than before, with polities intact?

It is important for social science theory on global processes that Asian polities and their reactions to Western democracy and human rights be studied from a comparative perspective. Investigation of this requires a multidisciplinary and combined Asian-European approach, including, among other methods, studies of the different historical trajectories, the various institutional frameworks, case studies of local political values and practices, and conceptual and semantic analyses.

Survey of previous activities

Selected workshops

1995

European Thought in China: the scientific revolution in the early 17th century

20-23 March, Paris, France

The Canon in Southeast Asian Literatures

5-7 April, London, United Kingdom

South Arabian Migration Movements in the Indian Ocean; the Hadhrami case c. 1750 to 1967

27-29 April, London, United Kingdom

State and Ritual in East Asia

28 June - 1 July, Paris, France

Central Asia's Place in the World

21-26 August, Copenhagen, Denmark

East Asian Voices

11-14 September, Rotterdam, the Netherlands

Asian Rural Entrepreneurs in Comparative Perspective

5-6 October, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Identity and Canon - Canon as Means of Modernisation in Japan and Europe

11-13 October, Berlin, Germany

1996

Second International Conference on Hani/Akha Culture

12-18 May, Chiang Mai/Chiang Rai, Thailand

Seafaring Communities in the Indian Ocean (4th century B.C. - 15 Century A.D.)

30 June - 6 July, Lyon, France

European Chinese and Chinese Domestic Migrants: common themes in international and internal migration

3-5 July, Oxford, United Kingdom

(Tele)Communications Policies in Western Europe and Southeast Asia: cultural and historical perspectives

29 August - 1 September, Bruges, Belgium

Chinese Business Connections in Global and Comparative Perspective

10-12 September, Beijing, People's Republic of China

Asian Minority Cultures in Transition: diversity, identities and encounters

12-15 December, Münster, Germany

1997

Forgeries of Dunhuang Manuscripts in the Twentieth Century
30 June - 2 July, London, United Kingdom

Sustainable Urban Development in Southeast Asia
17-19 September, Liverpool, United Kingdom

From Kaifeng to Shanghai - Jews in China
22-26 September, Sankt Augustin, Germany

Opting out of the 'Nation', Identity Politics and Labour in Central, South and West Asia, 1920s - 1990s
14-16 November, Antalya, Turkey

Encompassing Knowledge: indigenous encyclopedias in Indonesia in the 17th-20th centuries
8-10 December, Leiden, the Netherlands

Bihar in the World
16-23 December, Patna, Bihar, India

1998

Asian Concepts of Comprehensive Security and their Implications for Europe
23-25 January, Zushi, Japan

Religion and Economy in East Asia (China, Japan, Korea)
16-19 March, Blaubeuren, Germany

The Economies of Southeast Asia in the 1930s Depression
2-4 April, London, United Kingdom

Time and Society in Modern Asia
Co-financed by the IIAS-NIAS Strategic Alliance
11-13 June, Copenhagen, Denmark

Religious Diffusion and Cultural Exchange
7-9 September, Hamburg, Germany

First International Workshop on the Hmong/Miao in Asia
11-13 September, Aix-en-Provence, France

Co-management of Natural Resources in Asia: a comparative perspective
Co-financed by the IIAS-NIAS Strategic Alliance
16-18 September, Cabagan, the Philippines

1999

Chinese Transnational Enterprises and Entrepreneurship in Prosperity and Adversity: South China and Southeast Asia during the twentieth century
26-27 August, Hong Kong, People's Republic of China

Preservation of Dunhuang and Central Asian Collections
7-12 September, St Petersburg, Russia

Mongolians from Country to City: floating boundaries, pastoralism, and city life in the Mongol lands during the 20th century
28-30 October, Copenhagen, Denmark

2000

Migration, Urban Development and Demographic Change in Punjab 1890s-1990s
19-20 February, Coventry, United Kingdom

Good Government, Eastern and Western Perspectives
1-3 March, Seoul, Korea

Interpreting Asian Cultures in Museums: displays, activities, strategies
15-17 March, London, United Kingdom

Demographic Developments and Value Change in Contemporary Modern Societies - East Asian and Western societies in comparative perspective
16-17 March, Bonn, Germany

Indigenous People: the trajectory of a contemporary concept in India
7-9 April, Uppsala, Sweden

Building the Social Safety-Net for Asian Societies in Transition
27-29 April, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

Gender and the Transmission of Values Systems and Cultural Heritage(s) in South and Southeast Asia
May, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Brokers of Capital and Knowledge: producer services and social mobility in provincial Asia
8-10 May, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

The Last Decade of Migration from the People's Republic of China to Europe and Asia
25-26 May, Budapest, Hungary

Human and Regional Security around the South China Sea
2-4 June, Oslo, Norway

Medicine in China. Health techniques and social history
21-23 June, Paris, France

Centre and Periphery in Southeast Asia
7-8 July, London, United Kingdom

Selected Research Fellows

(in chronological order of selection)

Dr Francoise Delvoye (Paris)
At: International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, the Netherlands
Period: November 1995 - November 1996
Title: *Social and Literary History of Court Musicians in Western India, 14th-18th centuries*

Dr Christoph Kleine (Marburg)
At: École Française d'Extrême Orient, Kyoto, Japan
Period: May 1996 - May 1997
Title: *A Study of the Form, Nature and Function of Buddhist Hagiographical Literature, with Particular Reference to the Traditions of China, Korea and Japan*

Dr Cecilia Milwerz (Copenhagen)
At: Institute for Chinese Studies, Oxford, United Kingdom
Period: August 1996 - August 1999
Title: *Establishing Civil Society in the People's Republic of China*

Dr Hanne de Bruin (Leiden)
At: Institut Français de Pondichéry, India
Period: September 1996 - September 1997
Title: *Oral Communication in South Indian Society*

Dr Joachim Mittag (Bielefeld)
At: Center for Asian, African and Amerindian Studies/International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, the Netherlands
Period: September 1996 - September 1998
Title: *Chinese Historiography of Qing Scholarship*

Dr Ines Zupanov (Paris)
At: School of Oriental and African Studies, London, United Kingdom
Period: November 1996 - November 1998
Title: *Jesuit Missions in India (16th - 18th century). Ethnography, theology and social engineering*

Dr Brigitte Piquard (Louvain)
At: Centre d'Etudes de l'Inde et de l'Asie du Sud, Paris, France
Period: May 1997 - May 1998
Title: *Folk Political Representations of National Pakistani Leaders*

Dr Cristina Eghenter (Jakarta)
At: Department of South-East Asian Studies of the University of Hull, United Kingdom
Period: June 1997 - June 1999
Title: *The Use of Migration and Trading Routes in the Interior of Borneo - A study in the history of economic and social networks*

Dr John Hutnyk (Manchester)
At: Institute of Ethnology of the University of Heidelberg, Germany
Period: June 1997 - June 1998
Title: *Selling South Asian Popular Youth Culture: music, technology, and television for export*

Dr Giovanni Vitiello (Rome)
At: International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, the Netherlands
Period: August 1997 - December 1998
Title: *Exemplary Sodomites: pornography, homoeroticism and sexual culture in late imperial China*

Dr Martin Ramstedt (München)
At: International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, the Netherlands
Period: December 1997 - December 2000
Title: *Hindu Dharma Indonesia: the Hindu-movement in present-day Indonesia and its influence in*

relation to the development of the indigenous culture of the Toraja (Aluk Todolo) in South Sulawesi

Dr Evelyne Micollier (Aix-en-Provence)

At: International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, the Netherlands
Period: July 1998 - July 2000
Title: *Practices and Representations of Health and Illness in the Context of Chinese Culture. Interactions with social facts (illness prevention and human reality of AIDS)*

Database

In 1998 the ESF Asia Committee, in co-operation with the International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, published a Guide to Asian Studies in Europe (GASE). This guide provides a survey of researchers, institutes, university departments, museums, and newsletters in the field of Asian Studies in Europe. It contains information on approximately 5 000 European Asianists. The Institute for Oriental Studies in Moscow provided data on Russian scholars in Asian Studies. Part of the database was financed by the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange. The database on which the GASE was based is continually being up-dated at the International Institute for Asian Studies.

Professional European Associations for Asian Studies

In its goal to co-ordinate European research on Asia and strengthen the community of researchers on Asia, the ESF Asia Committee has contributed to the work of European Associations in the field of Asian Studies. Grants for board meetings have been awarded to the Association for Korean Studies in Europe (AKSE), the European Association for

Chinese Studies (EACS), the European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS), the European Association for South Asian Studies (EASAS), the European Society for Central Asian Studies (ESCAS), and the European Association for Southeast Asian Studies (EUROSEAS).

ICAS

The ESF Asia Committee played an important role in the organisation of the First International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS), which was held in Noordwijkerhout, the Netherlands, in June 1998. The ICAS was jointly organised by the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), and the ESF Asia Committee. The Committee contributed directly to the organising committee and indirectly by financing panels organised by the professional European organisations.

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<http://www.esf.org/asia>

Cover picture:

An example of the modern
transference of ancient cultures. The
Byodo-In temple on the Hawaiian
island of Oahu is a modern replica
of a Japanese temple.

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European Associations for Asian Studies

The Asia Committee has established links with six European associations in the field of Asian Studies.

- Association for Korean Studies in Europe, AKSE (<http://www.dur.ac.uk/~dmu0rcp/aksepage>)
- European Association of Chinese Studies, EACS (<http://www.soas.ac.uk/eacs>)
- European Association for Japanese Studies, EAJS (<http://eajs.org>)
- European Society for Central Asia Studies, ESCAS (<http://www.let.uu.nl/~escas/>)
- European Association for Southeast Asian Studies, EUROSEAS (<http://iias.leidenuniv.nl/institutes/kitlv/euroseas>)
- European Association for South Asian Studies, EASAS (No website available yet)