Monash Asia Institute Bulletin
May 2015

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Dear MAI colleagues and peers,

The MAI Research Day brought to us an astonishing breadth of expertise in Asian research being done at Monash University. Ranging from disciplines as varied as Tibetan Buddhism and tourism in the Indo-Pacific, from inter-faith weather stations to ethnomusicology in South East Asia, from the history of literature in Afghanistan to how we may learn about human history from the travel and transplantation of various plant species, the MAI Research Day was an eye-opening and inspiring occasion to bring together scholars from Monash who are engaging with Asia. Many thanks to all the scholars who shared their work and we hope some exciting interdisciplinary collaborations result from this exchange of ideas. A big thanks to Dr Max Richter for his able organisation of the day.

The MAI Research Day came upon the heels of another rich seminar that brought together feminist scholars working on the area of bride-prices and dowries in a changing Asia. Dr Julian Millie convened a panel with Dr Sara Niner, Dr Samanthi Gunawardana, Dr Swati Parashar and visiting scholar, Dr Eka Srimulyani: their presentations shed light on a complex interweave of traditional customs with the forces of globalised migration and neoliberal economic values in the social sphere.

May was also a month of literature at MAI. In collaboration with the School of Languages, Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics, we hosted two Indonesian writers on two occasions. First, Indonesian Studies, with the lead of Dr Paul Thomas and Dr Yacinta Kurniasih, welcomed the esteemed writer, Ayu Utami, to a packed crowd, at her talk on critical spiritualism. Then we felicitated the emerging writer, Ni Made Purnamasari, who is visiting Melbourne at the moment as a guest of the Emerging Writers Festival. Andre Dao and Gillian Terzis, two young Australian writers of Asian origin, also spoke about the Island to Island program that EWF undertook in Indonesia last year. We were treated to two Balinese mask dance performances (topeng) by Dr Jonathan McIntosh of the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music.

June is promising another opportunity for deep engagement with Asia, this time on the topic of gender-based violence, urban transport and public space in metropolitan India. Four researchers from India will come together in an interdisciplinary workshop with transport engineers, social scientists and industry experts, to discuss the issue of travel safety for women in transforming societies in developing countries. All welcome.

Dr. Mridula Nath Chakraborty (Acting Director)
The next MAI Bulletin is scheduled for Monday 3 August 2015. If you have news on any events or other announcements that you would like us to include, please forward this to MAI-Enquiries@monash.edu, by Monday 27th July 2015.

MAI SEMINAR/ FORUM

◆ National Imperatives, Local Values: the case of Timor-Leste

Date: Tuesday 16 June, 2015, 4.00pm-6.00pm,
Venue: ACJC Seminar rooms, Building H, 8th floor (H8.06)

Anthropology, Centre for South East Asian Studies & Monash Asia Institute

by Visiting Scholar Professor David B. Hicks, Stony Brook University, US
Professor Hicks’ specialities are kinship systems, oral literatures, and ritual life of the people living in East Timor as well as in neighbouring Indonesia, in Flores. He has written five books, Tetum Ghosts and Kin (1976; 1988; 2004), Structural Analysis in Anthropology (1978), A Maternal Religion, Kinship and Religion in Eastern Indonesia (1984), and Cultural Anthropology (1996 with Margaret A. Gwynne). He has published articles in the American Anthropologist, The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Society. In 2004-2005 he received a Fulbright Award to carry out field research and teach in the National University in East Timor.

In 2015 he published Rhetoric and the Decolonization and Recolonization of East Timor which argues that during the 1974-5 period the Timorese majority had little understanding of political events which can be better understood in terms of the contrast between the political culture of the capital Dili and the rest of the country. From this he draws lessons about how transformations in governance from the traditional to the legal can occur.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

◆ Australasian Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy 2015 Conference

Monash Asia Institute and Monash University have the pleasure of hosting the Australasian Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy (ASACP) 2015 Conference

ASIAN PERSPECTIVES ON MIND, ACTION and CULTIVATION

Is it possible that by engaging Western and Eastern philosophy, we can reach a new understanding of the nature of reality, mind, and human action? This conference explores these and other questions and presents a vibrant dialogue that has been championed in Australia since 1958 between distinguished philosophers in Asian, comparative and Anglo-analytic traditions.
KEYNOTE Speakers

Prof. Graham Priest on *The Net of Indra*
Commentary by Prof. Alan Hájek

Prof. Arindam Chakrabarti on *God/No One Knows: Objective Existence Claims and Refutations of Idealism,*
Commentary by Prof. Graham Oppy

Prof. John Makeham on *Xiong Shili’s Understanding of the Relationship between the Ontological and the Phenomenal*
Commentary by Prof. Frank Jackson

Max Charlesworth Memorial Lecture

Prof. Morny Joy on *From Theories of Action to Activism: Investigating Continuities in the Work of Paul Ricoeur, Hannah Arendt, and Indian Women Thinkers/Activists*

There will also be a range of papers from national and international academics and postgraduate students on a range of topics to do with Mind, Action and Cultivation.


◆ **MAI international Conference in Taipei: All I need is love? Nation, affect and aversion in a post-imagined-community Asia**

**Date:** 23-24 October 2015  
**Venue:** National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei

Organized by - Graduate Institute of Mass Communication, National Taiwan Normal University & Monash Asia Institute, Monash University

We are observing the rise of salient expression of love and loyalty for the nation and comparable communities—accompanied often by the display of aversion against various “others.” Jingoistic thinking and action are justified in the name of national interest and dignity; criticisms of the nation-state are met with suspicion, even condemnation. In such an atmosphere, the state subtly looks for opportunities to reclaim its legitimacy. Yet a twisted sense of pride and victimhood generated among people can easily turn its back on the state. Socio-economic predicament and reformulated historical knowledge are just some triggers behind such new affective modes of belonging. Moreover, civil society and network mediation played pivotal and complex roles in the rise of nation-related affect and aversion. Often, a supreme attachment to nation-states and to other ethno-religious, communal identifications became favoured at the cost of cosmopolitan engagement with cultural diversity in our globalizing world.
This workshop brings the above concerns in the Asian and inter-Asian contexts under focus and intensive discussion. Some questions we hope to understand better are as follows:

What are the driving forces behind the expression and performance of nation-related affect and aversion in contemporary Asia? How is this attempt at identification different from a representational paradigm of imagined communities as well as from the conventional understanding of nationalism and patriotism? How does aversion against imagined “others” turn into an attack against marginalized people within the nation (such as ethno-racial minorities, recent migrants, and those who have sympathy with an Asian country under attack)? How has the vicious circle of inter-Asian jingoism been generated with the rise of China, the popularity of Korean media culture and lingering issues of Japanese colonial history? How have the states in Asia responded to various affective developments? How have social media and internet communication mobilized nation-related affect and aversion, and how have people intervened? Is it possible to foster inclusiveness and cosmopolitan action without negating affective attachment to nation-states? How and whether would transnational collaboration work as an effective method of intervention?

Confirmed speakers include: Ien Ang (University of Western Sydney), Kim Hyun Mee (Yonsei University), Kwai-Cheung Lo (Hong Kong Baptist University), Eva Tsai (National Taiwan Normal University), and Koichi Iwabuchi (Monash University).

We plan to publish an edited volume from the papers presented at the symposium through Asian Cultural Studies: Transnational and Dialogic Approaches, a new book series by Rowman & Littlefield International.

◆ The Ninth International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS 9)

Date: 5-9 July 2015

Venue: Adelaide, Australia - Please check out www.ICAS9.com

The acceptance letters for ICAS 9 were posted mid-December. A list of the accepted panel topics and a schedule for the convention is now available online. We are pleased to announce that the first keynote speech will be delivered by Professor Takashi Shiraishi of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (Tokyo), a distinguished Asian studies scholar.

ICAS 9 is being held in conjunction with the annual/biennial conferences of the Chinese Studies Association of Australia (CSAA), the South Asian Studies Association of Australia (SASAA) and the Malaysia and Singapore Society of Australia (MSSA). ICAS participants will be able to attend these conference sessions at no additional cost, providing unprecedented opportunities for networking and new research linkages. The deadline for proposals for these parallel conferences is 15 February.
In addition it is still possible to submit proposals for the ICAS Book Presentation Carousel and the PhD Pitch until 30 March. These platforms offer unique opportunities to boost attention for your book or dissertation.

More than 200 books from 50 renowned publishers and 50 dissertations in the field of Asian studies were submitted for the sixth edition of the ICAS Book Prize. The Reading Committees are currently reviewing the entries and preparing the long lists. In addition we also offer you the opportunity to vote for your favorite book. The polling booth for the IBP Colleagues’ Choice Award will open mid-March.

At ICAS 9 there will be an exhibition hall, accommodating booths from international publishers and institutes. It offers an ideal opportunity to promote your institute or publications. For more information on reserving a booth, advertising in the program book or other sponsorship opportunities, please refer to the brochure. Furthermore, various initiatives are being developed for linking ICAS 9 to the lively cultural scene of Adelaide, such as a film festival and the launch of the famed OzAsia Festival.

Please check out [www.ICAS9.com](http://www.ICAS9.com) and our Facebook page for the latest news and updates.

◆ **What is Socialist about Socialist Law? Exploring Epistemic and Institutional Change in Socialist Asia**

from Monash Business School

**Date:** 28 and 29 October, 2015

**Venue:** University of Hong Kong

Over fifty years ago, communist states across Asia turned to the Soviet Bloc for inspiration in developing their legal systems. They enacted constitutions, laws and established institutions that, with varying degrees of faithfulness, replicated Soviet regulatory models. Much analysis about subsequent legal reforms in these countries presupposes a linear transition from socialist legalism to liberal legalism. This conference aims to explore alternative reform trajectories. It posits that political legal and economic changes have not entirely transformed the institutional structures and epistemic settings that supported socialist law and institutions.

Rather than a linear transition, legal reform in this region is variegated and complex—raising the question, what is socialist about laws and legal institutions in contemporary socialist Asia?

The Asia Pacific Business Regulation Group, Monash Business School, Monash University and the Asian Law Centre at The University of Melbourne, together with the Faculty of Law at Hong Kong University and the Centre for Rights and Justice at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, will host the two day conference at the University of Hong Kong on 28 and 29 October, 2015.
The Conference will be open to invited speakers and will allow contributors an opportunity to present their papers and receive feedback from colleagues involved in the same project.

Download Flyer: APBRG_flyer_conference_announcement-2 (1)

For further information please contact
Professor John Gillespie Director Asia Pacific Business Regulating Group, Monash Business School Monash University
Phone 99032292
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◆ MAI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE -Trans-Asian migration: Beyond “ethnic communities”

Date: 24 -25 November 2015
Venue: ACJC Seminar rooms, Building H, 8th floor (H8.06)

CALL FOR PAPERS

◆ International Conference on Lao Studies

Please submit abstracts in English

When: Friday, 08 July 2016 to Sunday, 10 July 2016
Where: Thammasat University; Bangkok, Thailand

The Faculty of Liberal Arts, Thammasat University and the Center for Lao Studies (CLS) are pleased to announce that the Fifth International Conference on Lao Studies (ICLS V) will be held from July 8 to 10, 2016 on the Tha Phrachan campus in Bangkok, Thailand. The main objective of the conference is to promote Lao studies, broadly defined, by providing an international forum for scholars to present and discuss various aspects of Lao Studies.

Theme

The theme of the Fifth International Conference on Lao Studies is

“Lao PDR in the ASEAN Context,” with particular (though not exclusive) emphasis on the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

All Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states have committed to creating a region which is highly competitive, equitable in economic development and fully integrated into the global economy. The establishment of the AEC in 2015 will bring
enormous opportunities as well as great challenges for the individual member countries in the region, especially for Lao PDR.

Suggested topics for the Fifth ICLS include, but are not limited to:

- Laos’ trade integration within AEC
- Special economic zones (SEZs)
- Export survival
- Roles of the private and public sectors
- Human resources and effects on local employment
- Migration
- Infrastructure demands
- Balancing development growth and environmental conservation
- Tourism
- Traditional knowledge and cultural expressions in economic development
- Impacts on cultures and life ways
- Lao language, culture, and history
- Art, literature and music
- Buddhism
- Border Trade and culture
- Isan Regionalism
- Architecture
- Education
- Environment and Health
- Rural Development
- Other topics

Submissions for consideration may be individual paper presentations, panels, exhibits, posters, artistic and musical performances, and/or cultural activities. Comparative perspectives are welcome and encouraged.

The following are included within the target groups of the conference:

1. All self-identified ethnic groups of Lao PDR (e.g. Lao, Khmu, Hmong, Iu-Mien, Akha, Phouan, Phou Tai, Nyouan, etc.);
2. Lao/Thai Isan and other ethnic Lao groups in Thailand (e.g. Lao Song, Phouan, Phou Tai, etc.)
3. Ethnic Lao living in Cambodia
4. Cross-border ethnic groups living in Vietnam, China, Burma, Thailand and Cambodia (e.g. Akha, Hmong, Phouan, Ieu-Mien, Khmu, Tai Lue, Tai Dam, Lahu, Brao, etc.)
5. Overseas diaspora originally from Laos or descendants of people from Lao PDR (including Lao Americans, Hmong Americans, Khmu Americans, French Lao, Australian Lao, Canadian Lao, etc.)

Procedures and Timelines

**Deadline for submissions:** Please submit abstracts in English before **October 31, 2015.**
1. Abstracts should be submitted electronically, preferably as a Microsoft Word document in an e-mail attachment to ICLS2016@gmail.com (see below for specific instructions regarding preparation of abstracts).

2. The conference committee will review abstracts and send an acceptance letter (via email) in December 2015 with scheduling information and other instructions for submitting final abstract statements and full versions of papers.

3. Abstracts and full versions of conference papers will be collected for distribution online.

Abstract preparation guidelines:

INDIVIDUAL PAPERS will be grouped into panels by the conference committee. Submissions should include the following information:

- Title of the paper
- Name, institution, address and email address of paper presenter
- Abstracts (250 words or less) with identified keywords
- Related conference topic(s)

PANEL submissions should include 3 to 4 scholars presenting formal papers and 1 or 2 discussants. Panels will be approximately 75 to 90 minutes. Panel organizers are requested to supply the following information:

- Title of the panel
- Conference theme(s) related to the panel
- Name, institution, address and email of the panel organizer
- Name, institution, address and email of each paper presenter
- Names, institutions, addresses and email of the panel discussants
- Abstract (250 words or less) describing the panel as a whole

Contact information:

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BOOK PUBLICATIONS:

◆ **The European Union and India - rhetoric or meaningful partnership? (Co-authored by Professors Winand and Vicziany and Dr Datar)**

Using both historical insights and contemporary policy analysis, authors Professor Pascaline Winand, Marika Vicziany and Poonam Datar investigate whether the social, economic and political interests of the EU and India are genuinely compatible. Leaders in both regions have been promoting the relationship for many decades, but the authors scrutinise their words to discover whether they are merely rhetorical gestures or reflect genuine complementarities. They also investigate the motivation behind the relationship, and provide an in-depth analysis of the areas of mutual interest and conflict. The book examines these issues in the context of the history of the EU–India relationship, alongside contemporary policy concerns.

◆ **Asian Horizons: Giuseppe Tucci’s Buddhist, Indian, Himalayan and Central Asian Studies**

*Congratulations to Dr David Templeman and Dr Angelo Andrea Di Castro on the arrival of their book Asian Horizons* published in honour of the great scholar of Asia, Professor Giuseppe Tucci (1894–1984). Through the work of present-day scholars, both senior and emerging, this volume represents their efforts to maintain the impetus of the profound legacy Tucci left. Renowned to this day as a founding scholar in an extraordinarily wide variety of disciplines, as well as being an explorer of hitherto largely unknown lands, such as Tibet, Tucci gained a deep knowledge of Asia through a familiarity with its people, places and literature. His contribution to modern scholarship is nothing less than remarkable. The volume reflects the broad variety of topics in which Tucci himself displayed deep interest and serves as an homage to his work.

**Angelo Andrea Di Castro** teaches archaeology at Monash University. He has conducted many archaeological investigations in Italy, Nepal, western China and published on Asian cultures, art and archaeology. He specialises in South and Central Asia, in particular India, Gandhāra, and the Himalayan regions. His research is currently focused on the archaeology of the Kashgar oasis (Xinjiang, China) and the cultural interactions between the Mediterranean world and Central Asia.

**David Templeman** has worked for many years on the writings of the 16–17th century Tibetan lama, Taranatha. He is working on a translation of that lama’s massive autobiography and has recently co-authored (with John Powers) A Historical Dictionary of Tibet. He is an Adjunct Research fellow at Monash Asia Institute, Monash University.

**Independent Chinese Documentary: Alternative Visions, Alternative Publics**

*Independent Chinese Documentary: Alternative Visions, Alternative Publics* offers an accessible account of China’s contemporary independent documentary culture, considering how independent documentaries probe, question and challenge the dominant ideas and narratives circulating in China’s state-sanctioned public sphere.


**OTHER:**

**Toyota Foundation Grant: “Trans-Asian Multiculturalism”**

We are delighted to announce that Professor Koichi Iwabuchi, Director of the Monash Asia Institute, has been successful in securing Toyota Foundation funding of 6.4 million yen for an international collaborative project he is leading on reconsidering multiculturalism from a transAsian/East Asian perspective. The project aims to promote transAsian connections and involves 5 academics collaborating with cultural practitioners to organise and research creative/experimental events (film festival in Taipei in March 2016 & Multicultural festival in Seoul in March 2017).

The success rate of applications to the Toyota Foundation is less than 5%, so Professor Iwabuchi is to be congratulated on his success in this extremely competitive environment. Further details are available at [http://www.toyotafound.or.jp/english/program/funded_projects_rgp.html](http://www.toyotafound.or.jp/english/program/funded_projects_rgp.html)

**Chief Executive Officer at the IITB-Monash Academy**

At the IITB-Monash Academy, Dr Murali Sastry was appointed as Chief Executive Officer from 1 June 2015. He is one of India’s leading nanotechnologists and brings with him close to 25 years research experience in the field of materials chemistry with a focus on nanotechnology. At the Faculty of Arts, we look forward to enhanced collaboration with IITB-Monash Research Academy in the newly launched dual-badged PhD program in the Arts.

**FROM MATHESON LIBRARY**
Relocation of the Asian Studies Research Collection in the Matheson Library

The Asian Studies Research Collection (ASRC) has been relocated within the Matheson Library. The collection move and the closure of the ASRC service point and reading areas are due to the commencement of refurbishment work within the Library. The new temporary location for the Collection (until approximately mid-2016, when the refurbishment is due to be completed) is the Matheson Store compactus on the Lower Ground Level of the Matheson Library. All books and journals in the collection are available on open access in this location. The Asian Studies Research Collection service point has permanently closed and all enquiries should be directed to the main Information Point. If you would like assistance from a member of the ASRC staff, you can request this at the Information Point or contact us by email or phone to arrange a meeting. The telephone number for ASRC enquiries is 99059178. Also use this number for all enquiries regarding access to ASRC special collections.

Aline Scott Maxwell
Senior Asian Studies Librarian

About the MAI Bulletin

The Monash Asia Institute Bulletin incorporates news items from the research centres of the Monash Asia Institute, partner organisations and other groups working to promote Asian Studies in Australia.

For further information about the Monash Asia Institute, this Bulletin and our events: http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/mai/ To unsubscribe, please send an email to: Monash-Asia-Institute Enquiries, MAI-Enquiries@monash.edu