

Editorial

In the previous editorial, this publication was described as a platform for Asian Studies in a broad sense. Readers' reactions suggest that the paper is perceived to be more than just a mixed bag and that many appreciate the choices we make.

Within the field of Asian Studies, the *IIAS Newsletter* could see its task as being to pick up new and promising areas of research. Obviously, simply stimulating any uncharted area whatsoever is not a justifiable goal in itself, but I do find it worth pursuing to provide a space for themes that, whilst specifically Asian, are of universal interest. In this issue, international security and Asian views on genomics and biotechnology feature prominently alongside more traditional and equally important topics in fields such as linguistics and economics. One field of research that has emerged over the last decade has therefore been chosen as the current theme, namely 'Asian Homosexualities'. Here, Giovanni Vitiello has managed to compile articles of both a generally descriptive and personal kind. These articles, and those on international security, biotechnology, and genomics show how issues may be of universal interest, but at the same time may be potentially divisive. The specific articles in this theme, however, not only stimulate this field of research, but also provide an insight for those in other fields. To my mind, this can only be fruitful for further discussion and understanding.

Regarding the newsletter itself, it is my pleasure to announce that my colleague Lena Scheen, who collaborated in the completion of this past issue, will continue working at the IIAS, while Natasja Kershof has now joined us as editor for the issues to come. We hope you appreciate this issue and as always welcome your comments. **← Maurice Sijm**