

# IIAS Research Programmes & New Initiatives

## Programmes

### Socio-Genetic Marginalization in Asia

The development and application of the new biomedical and genetic technologies in Asian religious and secular cultures has substantial socio-political implications. This NWO/ASSR/IIAS research programme aims to gain insight into the ways in which the use of and monopoly over genetic information shape and influence population policies, environmental ethics, and biomedical and agricultural practices in various cultures and across national boundaries.

**Coordinator: Dr Margaret Sleenboom**  
[www.iias.nl/iias/research/genomics](http://www.iias.nl/iias/research/genomics)

### The Syntax of the Languages of Southern China

This project aims to achieve a detailed description and in depth analysis of a limited number of syntactic phenomena in six languages, both Sinitic and non-Sinitic, spoken in the area south of the Yangtze River. On the theoretical side, it will compare these descriptions and analysis systematically in order to contribute to further developing the theory of language and human language capacity, through a study of non-Western languages.

**Coordinator: Dr Rint Sybesma**  
[www.iias.nl/iias/research/syntax](http://www.iias.nl/iias/research/syntax)

### Islam in Indonesia: The Dissemination of Religious Authority in the Twentieth and Early Twenty-First Centuries

Forms and transformations of religious authority among the Indonesian Muslim community are the focus of this research programme. The term authority relates both to persons and books as well as various other forms of written and non-written references. Special attention is paid to the production, reproduction, and dissemination of religious authority in the fields of four sub-programmes: *ulama* (religious scholars) and *fatwas*; *tarekat* (mystical orders); *dakwah* (propagation of the faith); and education.

**Coordinator: Dr Nico Kaptein**  
[www.iias.nl/iias/research/dissemination](http://www.iias.nl/iias/research/dissemination)

### Indonesianisasi and Nationalization

During the period from the 1930s to the early 1960s, the Indonesian economy transformed from a 'colonial' economy, dominated by the Dutch, to a 'national' one, in which indigenous business assumed control. This NIOD project explores this transformation, studying the late-colonial situation as well as the Japanese occupation, the Revolution and the Sukarno period. The shifts in the command and management of the economy are closely linked to both economic structure and the political alignment. Two issues are given special attention: Indonesianisasi (increased opportunities for indigenous Indonesians in the economy) and nationalization, in particular the expropriation of Dutch corporate assets in Indonesia in 1957/58.

**Coordinator: Prof. J. Thomas Lindblad**  
[www.iias.nl/iias/research/indonesianisasi](http://www.iias.nl/iias/research/indonesianisasi)

### ABIA South and Southeast Asian Art and Archaeology Index

The *ABIA Index* online database covers publications on prehistory, archaeology, and art history, material culture, epigraphy, paleography, numismatics, and sigillography of South and Southeast Asia. The project receives financial support from the Gonda Foundation and is coordinated by PGIAR, Colombo, with further support from the Central Cultural Fund. The Leiden office is based at the IIAS and offices have also been opened at the IGNCA, New Delhi, and the Research Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences, Universitas Indonesia, Jakarta.

**Coordinator: Dr Ellen Raven**  
[www.abia.net](http://www.abia.net)

### Changing Labour Relations in Asia (CLARA)

Labour relations in different parts of Asia are undergoing diverse historical processes and experiences in terms of their national economies, their links with international markets, and the nature of state intervention. This programme aims to build a comparative and historical understanding of these changes, focusing on five strongly overlapping themes namely, the labour process, labour mobility, labour consciousness, gendered labour, and labour laws and labour movements.

**Coordinator: Dr Ratna Saptari**  
[www.iias.nl/iias/research/clara](http://www.iias.nl/iias/research/clara)

### Transnational Society, Media, and Citizenship

This integrated multidisciplinary network programme studies the complex nature of contemporary cultural identities and the role which globalization of information and communication technologies (ICTs) plays in the (re)construction of these identities. Although the programme is based in the Netherlands, the projects are conducted at numerous fieldwork sites.

**Coordinator: Prof. Peter van der Veer**  
[www.iias.nl/iias/research/transnational](http://www.iias.nl/iias/research/transnational)

## New Initiatives

### The Development of Space Technology in Asia

The space age has had dramatic effects on all nations and especially in Asia where India, China and Japan have achieved considerable success in building up indigenous space technology and applications, and have become what is known as space-faring nations. Meanwhile, other Asian nations have readily adopted applications. Well-known applications include satellite telecommunications, weather satellite services, and more recently by environmental and earth resources satellites. New and innovative satellite applications are being created each year with potential revolutionary effects. The IIAS is launching a new research initiative and has initiated a series of international workshops on this topic.

[www.iias.nl/iias/research/space](http://www.iias.nl/iias/research/space)

### Piracy and Robbery in the Asian Seas

Acts of piracy loom particularly large in Asian waters, with the bulk of all officially reported incidents of maritime piracy occurring in Southeast Asia during the 1990s. Southeast Asian waters are particularly risky, a factor that is of serious concern for international shipping, as the sea-lanes between East Asia, the Middle East, and Europe pass through Southeast Asia. The IIAS and the Centre for Maritime Research (MARE) are currently identifying issues and concerns, and are delineating core elements of an interdisciplinary research programme on piracy and robbery at sea in Asia.

[www.iias.nl/research/piracy](http://www.iias.nl/research/piracy)

### Care of the Aged: Gender, Institutional Provisions, and Social Security in India, the Netherlands, and Sri Lanka

This IDPAD/IIAS research project, aims to research the implications of the process of population ageing for the social security and health care of aged people. As the experience of ageing is highly gendered and could vary according to class, caste, and religion, this project seeks to capture the dimensions, characteristics, and trends related to ageing among different social groups and economic categories and with an emphasis on the feminization aspect. This comparative study of India, Sri Lanka, and the Netherlands draws on multiple experiences of development to contextualize ageing.

[www.iias.nl/iias/research/aged](http://www.iias.nl/iias/research/aged)

[ a d v e r t i s e ]

## Vacancy: Documentalist for

The 'Islam in Indonesia: The Dissemination of Religious Authority in the Twentieth and Early Twenty-First Centuries' programme studies four important aspects: *fatwa*, *tarekat*, *dakwah* and education (for more information see [www.iias.nl/iias/research/dissemination](http://www.iias.nl/iias/research/dissemination)). This joint research programme, carried out by the IIAS and the Centre for Maritime Research (MARE) within the framework of the agreement for cooperation between the two institutes.

For this project we are looking for a **documentalist** who is able to identify and transcribe religious personalities who play a role in the dissemination of these materials in a database according to the project's needs.

**Requirements**

- a relevant master's degree
- command of both Indonesian and English
- knowledge of Indonesian history and culture
- experience in data processing

The documentalist will be posted at the International Institute for Asian Studies in Leiden, Netherlands, and will work under the supervision of Prof. Nico Kaptein for a period of one year starting no later than 15 April 2004. Salaries are negotiable. Salaries conform to the Collective Labour Agreement for the University of Leiden.

Send your application (in English), including a CV and references, by email or fax **before 15 April 2004**, to Mrs J. Stremmelaar, International Institute for Asian Studies, P.O. Box 9515 • 2300 RA Leiden • the Netherlands. Tel: +31-71-527 4162. Fax: +31-71-527 4162. Inquiries: [j.stremmelaar@let.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:j.stremmelaar@let.leidenuniv.nl)