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Canton and Nagasaki compared, the beginning and the end of Dutch, Chinese and Japanese relations

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News

IIAS Fellow Symposium

TO REFLECT ITS BROAD SPECTRUM of research themes, the International Institute for Asian Studies held a symposium on 17 December, 2009, during which three IIAS researchers showcased their work in progress to their professional colleagues in the Netherlands:

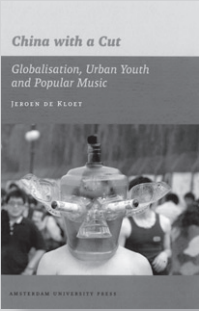
Kalsang Gurung
Where Do They Come From? Expansion of Shenrab Miwo's Ancestors

Ya-Pei Kuo
The Second Encounter between Confucianism and Christianity: Chinese Conception of 'Religion' and Missionary Discourse of Jiao

Richard Boyd
The Comparative Politics of Rent Seeking and Development

Each presentation was followed by the comments of a discussant. The symposium was open to all: MA and PhD students, researchers and lecturers.

As part of the same event, IIAS launched a new IIAS/Amsterdam University Press book: *China with a Cut: Globalisation, Urban Youth and Popular Music* by Jeroen de Kloet.



The winner of the National MA thesis prize was also announced. This award consists of the honorary title of Best MA Thesis in Asian Studies and a 3 months fellowship at IIAS to write a PhD project proposal or a research article. The prize was awarded by Professor Henk Schulte Nordholt, chairman of the IIAS board.

The Research Cooperative: an online network for the research publishing community

PETER J. MATTHEWS, of the National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka, and founder of The Research Cooperative describes the origins and aims of this new online network for students and researchers which aims to facilitate their work being published in 'a suitable form that will reach suitable audiences'.

The Research Cooperative is a result of my long involvement with research and research publishing in different countries, disciplines, and linguistic settings. In 2001, I asked a computer programmer to customise a standard online bulletin board so that offers and requests could be made for help with editing and translation. The original site attracted a few hundred members, but little activity. The members could not easily learn about each other, and could not communicate outside the work forums provided. There was little room for free association and serendipity. In 2008 I adopted a generic social network system created by Ning.com. At little cost, commercial advertising has been removed, and management of the site requires no programming knowledge.

Since May 2008, more than 1000 people have joined. Our members come from a wide spectrum of countries, linguistic settings, and disciplines, and include researchers, research students, science writers, editors, translators, illustrators, publishers and others.

The Research Cooperative is distinct from all other research-related networks that I know of. Our purpose is not to encourage online discussion of research topics – innumerable sites already provide such opportunities.

- We are strictly focused on developing a broad community that can:
1. Raise the quality of manuscripts submitted for publishing,
 2. Promote more effective communication among all the people involved in research-based writing and publishing,
 3. Promote the spirit of mutual support among researchers, so that they help each other and publishers through reading, editing, translation, peer review and in other ways, and
 4. Give inexperienced editors, translators, illustrators and others opportunities to offer volunteer or low-cost trial services, in order to gain experience and become professional, if that is their goal.

I view the Research Cooperative as an experiment in applied anthropology. Like any other human community, the research publishing community needs to recognise itself as a community, it needs to recruit new members in order to maintain physical continuity, and it needs to transfer knowledge from older to younger generations. The Research Cooperative has been created to help students and researchers worldwide get their work published in a suitable form that will reach suitable audiences. The academic world cannot exist without communicating with society in general. Our logo shows two individuals facing out to the world, while giving each other mutual support, back to back. The logo symbolises the basic individuality and communality of all researchers, and all people.

Finally, I would like to note that an exponential increase in publishing initiatives in recent years has not been matched by an exponential increase in the human networks needed to support publishing. Publishers need not only contributors, but also editors, translators, reviewers, and readers. There can be no effective public library of science (in the broadest sense) if our efforts are spread across too many initiatives, online and in print. The Research Cooperative can help, but only to the extent that we succeed in building a large membership that includes publishers, while staying focused on the main bottlenecks in research communication: writing, editing, translation, review.

For more information visit: <http://cooperative.niing.com>



Marloes van Houten wins IIAS MA Thesis Prize

ON THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER 2009, Prof. Henk Schulte Nordholt (Chairman of the IIAS Board) awarded Marloes van Houten (University of Amsterdam) the first IIAS MA Thesis Prize in the field of Asian Studies written at a Dutch university.

Marloes van Houten won the prize, which consists of an IIAS fellowship, for her thesis entitled 'Nepal's Civil War and its Impact. Conflict impact, social capital and resilient institutions in the CPN-Maoist heartland communities of Nepal'.

Her thesis, which was supervised by Prof. Gerd Junne (University of Amsterdam), is a successful combination of political science and anthropology. Marloes van Houten investigates the post conflict situation in a relatively isolated region in Nepal. She combines a theoretically informed political analysis with a good sense for local variations and a bottom up approach which is illustrated by moving life histories, while she also provides relevant policy recommendations. An impressive achievement.

The 5 nominees for the Best MA Thesis Prize were:

Miriam L. Brenner (University of Amsterdam)
Hammer, Sickie and Igil. A study of the evolution of Tuvan music.

Farabi Fakhri (Leiden University)
Political Java in Modern times. The political thoughts of Tjipto Mangoenkoesoemo and Noto Soeroto 1908-1930.

Marloes van Houten (University of Amsterdam)
Nepal's Civil War and its Impact. Conflict impact, social capital and resilient institutions in the CPN-Maoist heartland communities of Nepal.

Rosalien van der Poel (Leiden University)
Rijk Palet. Chinese exportschilderkunst overzee.

Dermott J. Walsh (Leiden University)
Re-Visiting Nishida's Ethnics. The influence of confucianism in An Inquiry into the Good.

New online, peer-reviewed journal Korean Histories

The idea behind *Korean Histories* is a simple one: to present new perspectives on Korean history. This new biannual, peer-reviewed, online journal focuses on historiography as a social process in Korea. It is devoted to research that also relies on sources other than conventional written historical documents and highlights the role such unconventional sources play in the formation of historical visions of groups and communities, but also of historians, professional and non-professional alike.

Social representations of Korean Histories reveal much about the production, contents, dynamics and functions of historical narratives in society, in particular when unconventional, easily accessible and non-hegemonic media such as music, art, religious concepts, the internet, blogs, advertisements or literary texts are used.

Korean Histories is a platform for articles that engage these issues. In order to present and enhance the understanding of both widely accepted and alternative perspectives on Korean history, the journal embraces a wide range of topics, approaches and periods, united by the introduction and/or use of unconventional and informal sources and a continuous awareness of the social functions of historiography.

Korean Histories welcomes original research articles, research notes and book reviews. The journal will also make source material available that is in the public domain. Its editors-in-chief are based at Leiden University and the Academy of Korean Studies

The first issue is now available online at: www.koreanhistories.net

Korean Histories is a part of the Leiden University Centre for Korean Studies' research project History as Social Practice: Unconventional Historiographies of Korea. This project is sponsored by a generous grant from the Academy of Korean Studies in South Korea.

For more information, please contact the managing editors:
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The 2nd international conference on ‘Canton and Nagasaki compared’, examining the beginning and the end of Dutch, Chinese and Japanese relations, took place 29 November - 4 December 2009

Rosalien van der Poel



SOME 30 SCHOLARS from Japan, China, the Netherlands, Taiwan, Thailand, France and United Kingdom came together for the second international academic conference on the ancient port cities of Canton and Nagasaki held from November 29 to December 2, 2009 in Tokyo and on December 3 and 4, 2009 in Nagasaki. The general theme of the conference, organised by the University of Tokyo in cooperation with Nagasaki University, was the beginning and the end of Dutch, Chinese, Japanese relations at these two flourishing port cities in the 17th, 18th and first half of the 19th century. Ports characterised as ‘two hotbeds of information gathering’ by Leonard Blussé, Leiden University.

Philip de Heer, ambassador of the Netherlands in Japan and Shi Guanghe, Counsellor of the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Japan, prefaced the conference with some words of welcome and both emphasised the importance of this international gathering and the research on the history of both port cities from a comparative angle. Haneda Masashi, Director of the Institute of Oriental Culture, University of Tokyo, remarked that the potential of the conference lay in building a road towards a new world history: ‘It is important to seek a methodology through which to look at Eurasia and the rest of the world as one, rather than depending on existing modes of historical description that are based on nation states and a duality between Europe (the Occident) and Asia (the Orient). A national history does not exist. At the least it is a matter of regional history, but the real point at issue is that we realise it is all about ‘world history’.

Ten central themes

To make the conference a coherent whole, all papers were clustered round ten central themes to compare the cities with each other. Below is a short impression of all given papers:

The beginning of the system

At the first session three speakers gave a comprehensive overview of the beginning of the trade system between the West and the East. Leonard Blussé (Leiden University) sketched the organisation, hierarchical meaning and practical execution in outline of Dutch court journeys to Peking and Edo – the tribute system in Qing China and Tokugawa Japan. Dong Shaoxin (Fudan University, Shanghai) discussed the impact of Portuguese-Dutch conflicts on the Macao-Nagasaki trade in the early 17th century. Dhiravat Na Pombejara (Chulalongkorn University, Thailand) presented his paper *The English EIC and its Siam-Japan Trade, c.1612-1626*.

Government and trade

The papers of the second session included the trade links under separate control in early Modern East Asia by Iwai Shigeki (Kyoto University). A lot of new and interesting research material came out of the lecture *Qing Dynasty Hui merchants’ trade activities in the background of trade between East and West and their influence* by Wang Zhenzhong (Fudan University, Shanghai). His paper reiterated the importance of the hinterland for the port cities in China, which flourished because of the well-organised trade system and commercial trade routes in the hinterland. Oka Mihoko (University of Tokyo) gave a good analysis of the circumstances of foreign captives, particularly Southern Europeans, in Guangzhou and Nagasaki,

Above:
The trading stations (*hongs*) at Canton National Museum of Ethnology (Museum Volkenkunde), unsigned, c. 1780.

Inset:
Group portrait showing all participants of the conference.



in the 16th and 17th centuries. She also examined the ramifications of their treatment on the subsequent relationship between foreign captives and the maritime control systems adopted by the political authorities in China and Japan.

Links between Canton and Nagasaki

The paper *Book road: from China to Nagasaki* by Zhou Zhenhe (Fudan University, Shanghai) informed the audience about the import of large quantities of books from China (*Kanseki*) in Edo Japan. This Sino-Japanese book trade was of great significance to the cultural exchange between the two countries, as well as the book history of China. Yoshida Tadashi (Tohoku University, Sendai) sketched the transmission of vaccination to Japan by the Chinese route. The first vaccinations were introduced in Macao and Canton in 1805 but it wasn’t until circa 1849 that a Japanese doctor successfully vaccinated three children in Nagasaki. The study of Zhang Wenqin (Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou) *From ‘Ri Ben Ji Yu’ to ‘Ao Yi’* can help us track the historical path of cultural exchange between East and West as well as the language exchange between China and foreign countries.

Trade and institutions

The theme of trade institutions was highlighted by four papers among which *Economic links with Ayutthaya* by Shimada Ryuto (Seinan Gakuin University, Fukuoka). Ryuto examines the maritime trading patterns and its changes in East Asia during the early modern period. François Gipouloux (CNRS, France) gave an insight into the phenomenon of risky business and the management of uncertainty. He combined economic history, business history and company law history in order to better understand similarities and differences between forms of maritime ventures in the Mediterranean world and the South China Sea between the 13th and 17th century. The paper of Liu Yong (Xiamen University) described how the Dutch super-cargoes led the European protest against the establishment of the Co-hong in 1760, and failed. This event illuminated the huge divergence between European and Chinese perceptions of the Sino-European trade and their attitudes towards it. Lissa Roberts (University of Twente) tried to answer the question what role did Canton and Nagasaki play in the history of science? Roberts presented the two port cities as concentrated centres of accumulation –of specimens, experts and customers –where formal and informal modes of governance managed the global circulation of knowledge and skill.

Merchants and people at port cities

In her lecture *The factory and the people in Nagasaki: otona, talk, comprador* Matsui Yoko dealt with the Deshima-otona, the official responsible for the Dutch compound, and the compradores, suppliers of the daily commodities needed by the Dutch factory. Yoko considers these officials within the context of the Nagasaki city system. Isabel van Daalen (Het Japan-Nederland Instituut, Tokyo) presented two short overviews of how interpreters in Canton and Nagasaki earned supplementary income, using members of the Namura interpreter family as a case study.

The end of the system

In the course of the 19th century various factors brought about the end of the trade systems. Murakami Ei (Yokohama National

Univeristy) made a comparison between the end of the Canton and the Nagasaki trade control systems. In Canton, the system collapsed dramatically and entirely, and it took a long time to rebuild a new system. In Nagasaki, the trade control system was succeeded by the treaty ports system with relative ease. These differences also influenced the manner in which China and Japan later embraced modernisation. Using a series of Cantonese export paintings, documents from the Chinese and American diplomatic archives of the 1840s and 1850s, English journals published in Canton, and some westerner’s letters and diaries, Jiang Yinghe (Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou) investigated the background and construction of the American Garden at Canton quay from 1842 to 1857. The paper *Guangzhou and the last days of Siam’s tribute to China after the Opium War* by Murao Susumu (Tenri University) and Masuda Erika (Academica Sinica, Taipei) focused on the activities of Siamese tributary missions in Guangzhou during the 1850s, a period when Siam gradually seceded from the Chinese tributary system.

Export of arts

With her paper *Japanese export paintings in the 19th century* Ito Shiori (Chiba City Museum of Art) examined the activity of Kawahara Keiga (1786-1865?). She classified Japanese export paintings in two overlapping categories: paintings which ‘happened to be exported’ and paintings which were ‘made to be exported’, and as a result provided a new vision for both Japanese export paintings and Chinese trade paintings. Anne Gerritsen (University of Warwick) presented some initial comparisons between Western observations of manufacturing porcelains for export in 17th century China and Japan, through the ports of Canton and Nagasaki. Her examination of contemporary travel accounts revealed interesting differences. Liu Zhaohui (Fudan University, Shanghai) explored the historical background of Rua Central, Rua dos Mercadores and Rua das Estalagens in Macau, where Kraak porcelains were unearthed, and investigated their relationship with the ceramic trade in the 17th century. With her paper *Chinese and Japanese export lacquer: the beginning and the end*, Cynthia Viallé (Leiden University) attempted to answer questions such as why would the Chinese be exporting Japanese lacquerwares when there was also a large scale production of pieces for export for the European market? Who were the Chinese supplying with these Japanese export lacquers? And, what was the difference in Chinese export and Japanese export lacquer objects?

Towards modernity

Among other papers, Ren Seikichi (Nagasaki University) spoke about the construction of a cultural sphere in cities around the China Sea. Himeno Junichi (Nagasaki University) compared six photographers, who took photographs at both or either Canton and Nagasaki between the 1840s to 1860s. In doing so, he contributed to the understanding of modernity and colonisation and, moreover, the meaning of world history. George Wei (University of Macao) investigated and portrayed the importance of the contribution of Canton and Macao to China’s modernisation.

Views from the west

Zhou Xiang (Sun Yat-sen University) researched the observations of American male traders, recorded in their correspondances. These letters, written in Canton and Macao, reveal the important role of American traders in the establishment of Sino-American diplomatic relations. Wulan Remmelink (Leiden University) showed us a two-way, intercultural exchange of scientific knowledge through botanical illustrations in her paper *Botanical illustrations: an instrument for Eastern-Western scientific exchange in late 18th and early 19th century Nagasaki and Canton*.

Challenges to the system

Documents relating to the voyage of the English ship, *The Return*, which docked in Nagasaki in the summer of 1673, were the subject of of Timon Screech’s paper (University of London), *The projected English return to Japan in the 1670s*. Using these documents, Screech considered how and why –half a century after the withdrawal of the English East India Company in 1623 –the voyage back to Japan was planned and also the reasons for its ultimate failure. At this last session Toyooka Yasufimu (University of Tokyo) researched the British occupation of Macao in 1809 as a foretaste of the transformation of Sino-English relations. In the final paper of the conference, *The ensign of the Bakufu: a prehistory of Hi-no-maru*, Matsukata Fuyuko (University of Tokyo) described how Japanese vessels identified themselves in the Tokugawa period and how they later tried to show their affiliations to Western-style warships.

Everyone hopes the transactions of the conference will be published in the course of 2010.

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