



## Monash Asia Institute Bulletin (4/2010)

2 June 2010

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### Monash Asia Institute and Monash News

#### Item 1. [Monash-EU collaboration: Erasmus Mundus Scholars](#)

The Monash Asia Institute is pleased to announce the arrival in early June of 4 students from the EU's Erasmus Mundus program - the Master of International Crisis Management. The students are coming to Monash University for three months to complete their dissertations about specific issues in the Asia Pacific Region - in particular post conflict East Timor and the ongoing environmental crisis in Indonesia. The four students are Mr Wiet Vandormael (Université catholique de Louvain), Ms Natalie Spiesser (Ruhr-Universität Bochum), Ms Barbara Agneray (Université Paul Cezanne Aix Marseille) and Mr Claassen Sytske (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen).

The masters students will be joined by four senior scholars from the Network of Humanitarian Action (NOHA) consortium of EU universities:

Dr Alexandra Bui, Université Paul Cézanne Aix-Marseille III, France  
Dr Eduardo Ruiz Vieytez, Director, Institute of Human Rights Pedro Arrupe, University of Deusto  
Prof Amine Aït-Chalaal, Université Catholique de Louvain.  
Dr Hans-Joachim Heintze, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany.

In the coming weeks the Monash Asia Institute will be announcing a series of

research seminars designed to showcase the work of the EU students and senior scholars. Information about these seminars will be posted on the MAI homepage which can be found at:

<http://www.monash.edu.au/mai/>

## **Item 2. PhD Confirmation Seminar**

Friday 25 June 2010 10:00 am to noon  
Room H5.95, Building H  
Monash University Caulfield campus

### **Educational provisions for girls in Rural India under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan**

Harman Kullar, PhD candidate, Monash Asia Institute

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), meaning 'education for all', is an Indian Government program which aims to improve primary level education. SSA was started in 2001 under the auspices of the national Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). Improvement is sought in both the quality and extent of education - one aim being to achieve universal attendance to the end of primary school by 2010. Another is that the education received must be 'useful and relevant'. It is expected that universal literacy will be attained once these aims are achieved.

Improving education in India has been a long and arduous process and, as everywhere, harder in rural areas. Girls' education in rural regions is a major challenge and the SSA recognises this. But has the program made a difference. Given the complexity of regional variations in India, National aggregates are insufficient to understand the relevant issues: hence this study undertakes a close analysis of three Indian states: Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Rajasthan.

**Harman Kullar** is originally from India. She studied at St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi before coming to Australia for postgraduate education. She completed a MEd at Latrobe University with a thesis on "Education provisions for the Mentally Retarded in Northern India". She then taught for almost two years in a Victorian state school. She is currently undertaking a PhD at the Monash Asia Institute, Monash University on an Australian Post Graduate Award on issue of girl's education in rural India. In October 2009 Harman received one of the inaugural Prime Minister's Australia Asia Endeavour Awards and will study girls' education in rural China later in 2010 while based in Beijing. The PM's award enables her to extend her Indian focus into a comparative framework.

Enquiries: [MAI.Enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au](mailto:MAI.Enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au) with 'Rural Indian girls' education' in the subject heading of the email.

### **Item 3. Buddhism forum**

Sunday 27 June 2010, 9:00am to 6:00pm  
Room H116, Monash University, Caulfield Campus

#### **Buddhism Today – One Founder, Many Paths**

The Buddhist Council of Victoria is coordinating this forum in partnership with the Monash Asia Institute and the UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations – Asia Pacific, Monash University.

Further information, including the program and list of speakers, is available at [www.arts.monash.edu.au/psi/buddhism-today/](http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/psi/buddhism-today/)

Bookings essential - Please contact Peggy Page on 98576899 or 0412 590 624, Email: [pkpage@optusnet.org.au](mailto:pkpage@optusnet.org.au)

### **Item 4. 18th Biennial Conference (ASAA)**

<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/asaa2010/>

The 18th Biennial Conference of the Asian Studies Association of Australia (ASAA) will be held at the University of Adelaide from 5 - 8 July 2010.

This conference, in collaboration with the University of Adelaide and Flinders University, will focus on the theme **Crises and Opportunities: Past, Present and Future.**

Keynote speakers are:

#### **Asia - Where Will It Be in the 21st Century?**

Tan Sri Dr Mohd. Munir - Chairman, Malaysia Airlines and Senior Visiting Fellow, London School of Economics, Southeast Asia International Affairs Programme.

#### **The "Tibetan Question" between East and West**

Prof Wang Hui - Tsinghua University, Beijing, China. Prof Wang Hui has been nominated as one of the World's top 100 intellectuals by Foreign Policy [www.townsendcenter.berkeley.edu/resid\\_hui.shtml](http://www.townsendcenter.berkeley.edu/resid_hui.shtml).

Other invited speakers in forums within the conference include:

- Asian Studies Women's Forum: Dr Maznah Mohamad, National University of Singapore

- 2010 Flinders University Asia Centre Annual Lecture: Assoc Professor Goh Beng Lan, National University of Singapore
- Australia India Council (Canberra) and the South Asian Studies Association of Australia: Dr Asghar Ali Engineer, Centre for Study of Society and Secularism, Mumbai India (See details in Item 5 of this Bulletin)
- Australia India Institute: Dr Atreyee Sen, Research Council United Kingdom (RCUK) Fellow (See details in Item 6 of this Bulletin)

There will also be a number of special events within the conference, including:

- Malaysian Agriculture in Transition, 1960-2010  
Speaker: Dr Colin Barlow
- Law and Religion in Traditional and Contemporary China  
Speaker: Associate Professor Benny Tai Yiu Ting, University of Hong Kong
- Roundtable: The Engaging State - South Australia and the Asia Pacific
- Roundtable : India's Look East Policy: Challenges and Prospects

Registration, Papers & Panels are invited for the conference.

A draft program will be available in early June for all delegates at:  
<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/asaa2010/>

### **Item 5. Dr. Asghar Ali Engineer, Keynote Speaker at the ASAA**

Sponsored by the Australia India Council and the South Asian Studies Association of Australia)

Dr. Asghar Ali Engineer  
Centre for Study of Society and Secularism  
Website: [www.csss-islam.com](http://www.csss-islam.com)

### **Muslims in modern India: mass prejudice, government apathy and poor leadership.**

Indian Muslims are the largest religious minority in India numbering 150 million, second only to the number of Muslims in Indonesia. But sadly it is one of the most backward minorities, economically as well as educationally. According to the Sachar Committee Report (this committee was appointed by the Government of India) Muslims are slipping below even Dalits (untouchables) on both these measures. More than one-third of Muslims live

below the poverty line. What is worse they are the victims of strong religious prejudice. Most of the majority community thinks they were responsible for Partition and the creation of Pakistan in 1947. As well they face repeated communal riots. Terrorist attacks have deepened these prejudices. Consequently they feel insecure.

However this is not the whole story, though an important part of it. On the positive side, Indian Muslims benefit from living in the world's largest secular democracy and so enjoy fundamental rights and freedoms which Muslims in other Islamic countries do not.

But the tragedy is that the Muslim leadership is quite backward and even opportunistic. It has done hardly anything to launch educational and economic projects for Muslim uplift. Instead the conservative Ulemas find it more lucrative to bring in Arab money to open more and more madrassas.

Thus Indian Muslims are the victims of government apathy on one hand, and of their own leadership's vested interests and orthodoxy on the other.

For details on session and panel for the ASAA Conference, see:  
<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/asaa2010/>

#### **Item 6. Dr Atreyee Sen, Keynote Speaker at the ASAA**

Sponsored by the Australia India Institute  
(A consortium consisting of the universities of Melbourne, La Trobe and New South Wales)

Dr Atreyee Sen  
Research Council United Kingdom (RCUK) Fellow  
University of Manchester, United Kingdom

#### **Surviving violence, contesting victimhood: communal politics and the creation of child-men in urban Indian slums.**

This paper explores the effects of communal tensions and poverty on child identity politics in an urban slum. My ethnographic landscape is Sultanpur, a communally sensitive Muslim-dominated ghetto in the northern quarters of Hyderabad (a city in southern India), which witnessed the emergence of armed vigilantism among male children. Large sections of the local boys (aged between 9 and 14 years) conspired and coordinated themselves into child squads (bacchon ke fauj) to patrol the slum edges and borders, and also to establish a disciplinary control over certain aspects of ghetto life. For example, the child squads not only prevented members of other communities (nationalistic Hindus, professional mediators of peace, Hindu NGO workers, secular Hindus desiring access to the local dargahs, etc), from entering or passing through the slum, they also acted as deliverers of social justice (the boys organized public beatings of Muslim women accused of 'love-alliances' with non-Muslims). In my paper I show how the power, presence and

practices of the child squads substantially upturned traditional structures of male and female authority, and contested conventional notions of male childhood in a marginalized, volatile urban space. I argue that the emasculation of defeated Muslim men, unrelenting social, sexual and physical attacks on the 'male-ness' of a poor Muslim community, and the everyday deprivations faced by ghetto children impacted the boys in Sultanpur, and the latter adopted violent collective identities to compensate for the loss of male pride in the adult-child world. I show how these nascent masculinities, created and sustained within the moral and social economy of impoverished male children, enabled the latter to triumph over experiences of violence and victimhood.

For details on session and panel for the ASAA Conference, see:  
<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/asaa2010/>

### **Item 7. Monash Asia Institute presenters at the 18th Biennial Conference of the ASAA**

A large team of more than 10 PhD and Masters students and Staff of the MAI will be presenting papers at the conference. Reflecting the multi-disciplinary strength of research at the Monash Asia Institute, these papers will focus on a wide range of topics including:

- Women's Empowerment in the Tibetan Diaspora
- The Female Protector of Yolmo's Hidden Land (Buddhist Nyingma religious tradition)
- Newar Buddhism
- India's Military Power
- Military modernisation of China and implications for India
- Australia-India Partnership in Fighting Terrorism
- Counter Terror Policing and Social Cohesion in Delhi: The 2008 Batla House Encounter
- Life in a Patriarchal Space: A study of crime against women in Delhi (1999-2008)
- Refugees or infiltrators? The question of Bangladeshis in India
- Energy Crisis and the rise of Renewable Energy in India
- Guiding the Protection of the Displaced?: A Comparative Study of Sri Lanka and Burma
- Air Asia
- Fiji English and national identity

Additionally there will be special panel on academic publishing presented by the MAI Press and South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies Publications Officer. The Publications Officer of Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) Press will also be presenting in this panel.

For details on session and panel for the ASAA Conference, see:  
<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/asaa2010/>

## **Item 8. Climate Change Forum**

July-August 2010

### **Climate Change and the Livelihoods of People on the Indo-Gangetic Basin**

From early July to mid August, the Monash Sustainability Institute (with the Monash Asia Institute and other Monash and international partners) is running a 5 week forum to identify the key issues arising from climate change and its likely impact on the Indo-Gangetic plain. The project is funded by AusAid.

For further information: [Paul.McShane@msi.monash.edu.au](mailto:Paul.McShane@msi.monash.edu.au)

## **Item 9. Giuseppe Tucci Symposium**

Friday 1 October 2010, 10am to 5pm

First Floor, Building H, Monash University (Caulfield campus)

900 Dandenong Road Caulfield East, Victoria 3145, Australia

### **Giuseppe Tucci - Explorer and Extraordinary Scholar Celebrating Asian Cultures**

The last great European explorer in Asia, Giuseppe Tucci (1894–1984) walked through the sands and the mountains of Asia in search of the vestiges of ancient cultures. He mastered languages including Latin, Chinese, Sanskrit and Hebrew and discussed philosophical problems in Sanskrit with Indian pundits.

Ahead of his time, he recognized the internationalist nature of Buddhism, and charted its spread into areas that scholarship had not yet investigated. He had profound knowledge in the fields of philology, history, philosophy, psychology, history of religion, and ethnography. His dignified, literary writing style was highly regarded by his fellow scholars. He initiated research in anthropology, archaeology and history in Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nepal. Tucci is remembered internationally for his contribution to the study of Tibetan culture, history and religion, fields in which he was the pre-eminent scholar over several decades.

The lead-up to the symposium will include a series of films about Tucci, Italian culture and explorations of Asia at the Institute of Italian Culture in Melbourne, and [a two-day forum for post-graduates](#) before the main event.

Major international speakers from various disciplines will present papers; see: <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/mai/tucci/>

RSVP (essential for catering purposes)  
[David.Templeman@adm.monash.edu.au](mailto:David.Templeman@adm.monash.edu.au) or  
[andrea.dicastro@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:andrea.dicastro@arts.monash.edu.au)

## **News from other institutions**

### **Item 10. Call for papers: IETEC 2011**

16-19 January, 2011  
Taylor's University College, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

#### **International Engineering and Technology Education Conference (IETEC 2011)**

Call for Papers and workshops

The International Engineering and Technology Education Conference (IETEC11) aims to foster cooperation in engineering and technology education to enhance educational policy developments, learning, teaching and research.

Authors are invited to submit scholarly papers that seek to advance knowledge and understanding of innovation and entrepreneurship and its implications in engineering and technology education. The papers include abstract, introduction, state-of-the-art, objectives, methodologies, results and references.

Papers presented at the conference will be considered for the best paper awards. Selected papers will be invited to publish in a special issue of the International Journal of Quality Assurance in Engineering and Technology Education or the Journal of Engineering Science and Technology.

More information at: <http://www.ietec.my>

Please forward your paper submission electronically to Arun Patil:  
[a.patil@cqu.edu.au](mailto:a.patil@cqu.edu.au)

**Submission deadline:** 30 July 2010

### **Item 11. Call for papers**

CALL FOR PAPERS - due date July 2010

2nd International Graduate Students Conference on Indonesia

**Indonesia and the New Challenges: Multiculturalism, Identity and Self  
Narration**

3 and 4 November 2010.

Postgraduate School of Gadjah Mada University (Sekolah Pascasarjana UGM) Jalan Teknika Utara Pogung Yogyakarta 55281

Contemporary Indonesia is going through a dynamic process of development changes but not without its complexities and multi perspective problems on its population self reflection. The democratic reforms have become a key springboard for the Indonesian people to struggle for their autonomy, rights, and freedom of expression. Because Indonesia is a multicultural society with the tremendous diversity in term of ethnicities, religions, social classes, political parties and gender orientation, this makes the situation a challenging one that needs to be analyzed systematically. Despite such diversities, the common practice of claiming for the sake of self and a particular group interest has been a dominant discourse in everyday life practice. Nevertheless, the robust role of media thus strengthens the struggle of different groups, who demands for their recognition in their everyday works of life.

In this multicultural society, the question of identity has becoming a prominent subject of discussion. Identity seen as an ongoing human development process has challenged the definition of the mainstream view, which believes and defends the influence of nature on self. People are also starting to argue for their rights instead of their marginality. In particular, the people with different identities are asking to be recognized as subject in social practice. By that, the self narration is then utilized as an alternative in negotiating position and power. These are the new challenges in the contemporary Indonesia for the government, the practitioners, the academic community and the society at large to debate and reconcile for the betterment of a multi-cultural understanding in a pluralistic society.

This 2nd International Graduate Students Conference on Indonesia invites graduate students who are doing research in this topic area or interested in Indonesia to present their paper examining these issues from the perspective of contemporary Indonesia. The presenters are encouraged to come from different disciplines of knowledge.

Details: [http://www.pasca.ugm.ac.id/en/news.php?news\\_id=80](http://www.pasca.ugm.ac.id/en/news.php?news_id=80)

Contact: Arum Candra, S.S (Organizing Committee)

Handphone: +62 85645460245, Email: [figcindonesia@gmail.com](mailto:figcindonesia@gmail.com)

## **Item 12. Website of the month: Handmade Indian books**

Indian publisher, Tara Books, won an award at Bologna for its book 'Do'. Like most of their other books, all copies are handmade. Here is their website and a couple of YouTube pages about their methods. There are 100 screen print pulls to print the average 32 page picture book, half a million pulls for an

edition of 5000 copies, all bound by hand. And the books are easily affordable.

[http://www.tarabooks.com/books/books/handmade-books/?page\\_number=1](http://www.tarabooks.com/books/books/handmade-books/?page_number=1)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=om6i3enGZ8c&feature=related>

This one is about their book 'Tsunami':

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZFWtvvgZYo&feature=related>

### **About the MAI Bulletin**

The Monash Asia Institute Newsletter 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 and this newsletter:

<http://www.monash.edu.au/mai/>

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