

Monash Asia Institute Bulletin

November 2011

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Monash Asia Institute and Monash News

Item 1. From the MAI Director's Desk

This is an exciting period for Asian Studies at Monash University. We have begun working on ways to combine the strengths of MAI and the Arts and other Faculties, and through this to sustain and build further on Monash as a world leader of higher education in Asian Studies and intellectual and grass-roots engagement in Asia.

Transfer of the administration of the two MAI coursework Masters Degree programs to the Arts Faculty is currently in process. We will provide more information on this when the transfer is complete.

Iain Sinclair is kindly helping us to update essential material for the MAI Website (such as this Bulletin), and we anticipate more help soon as the MAI website begins moving to its new template and look. Over time we will be asking for contributions to the MAI site.

The final MAI Bulletin for the year is scheduled for Thursday 1st December 2011. If you have news on any events or other announcements which you would like us to include, please forward this to mai-enquiries@monash.edu, by Friday 25th November 2011.

Item 2. MAI Special Seminar on Comparing Chinese and Indian Economic Development and Capitalism

Compressed Capitalism and Development: Primitive Accumulation, Capitalist Maturity, and Petty Commodity Production in India and China
by Professor Anthony P. D'Costa, Asia Research Centre, Copenhagen Business School

Wednesday 2nd November 2011, 12 noon - 1.30 pm
Monash Asia Institute, Room H5.95, Level 5, Building H, Monash University Caulfield Campus

Lunch will be provided. For catering purpose, please RSVP by Tue 1st Nov, 4 pm - email: mai-enquiries@monash.edu

ABOUT THE SEMINAR

The global capitalist system is at a particular historical juncture since its contemporary development has been accompanied by a dilution of the capitalist core away from western (and Japanese) centers of accumulation to China and India. Of the many questions that this shift raises, perhaps the most salient ones are whether China and India are converging with the west and what the nature of capitalism is in these countries. In other words, is the accumulation model in China and India different from the dominant OECD economies or have they evolved in a different way that makes the Asian variety of capitalism quite different and perhaps historically contingent? Prof D'Costa argues that convergence is a long shot because capitalism in these countries is "compressed". By this, he means that the various phases of historical capitalism are experienced at the same time in these countries. There are three integrated parts to this compression: primitive accumulation (the recent rapidity of the alienation of land from the peasantry), capitalist maturity (a process by which local capitalists, with the help of the state, have matured technologically and commercially), and the persistence of petty commodity production (the informal,

unorganized sectors). These three legs of accumulation provide the dynamism of growth in India and China in an interdependent, reinforcing way.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Anthony P. D'Costa is the A.P. Möller-Mærskke Foundation Professor in Indian Studies and Research Director at the Asia Research Centre, Copenhagen Business School. Prior to this appointment in 2008 he was with the University of Washington for eighteen years. He has written extensively on the global steel, Indian automobile and IT industries, globalization, development, innovations, and industrial restructuring. His most recent books are *A New India? Critical Reflections in the Long Twentieth Century* (edited 2010) and *The New Asian Innovation Dynamics: China and India in Perspective* (coedited, 2009). He is a member of Nordic NIAS Council and the Nordic Centre in India.

Item 3. MAI Roundtable Discussion 'Current Indian Student Situation in Melbourne'

Wednesday 2nd November 2011, 2.00 - 3.00 pm

Monash Asia Institute, Room H5.95, Level 5, Building H, Monash University Caulfield Campus

ABOUT THE DISCUSSION

This discussion is open to all Monash staff and students and interested members of the public. Our objective is to provide Mr Maseeh Rahman (Visiting Indian Journalist) with a wide range of perspectives about the current question of Indian students studying in Melbourne. Scholars who have worked on this topic are encouraged to join us and share their insights. One key question that we will address is: how has the situation in Melbourne for Indian students changed during the last few years? Have things improved? What has been driving change? Can we speak of the Indian student issue without addressing the wider issue of international students in Melbourne?

ABOUT OUR INDIAN VISITOR

Mr Maseeh Rahman worked as a reporter in Bombay (Mumbai) for more than 25 years and was amongst the first to report on critical events such as the Bombay riots of 1992/1993. After moving to New Delhi, he continued to report on Bombay for another twenty years in addition to investigative reports on Indian politics in general. He is widely regarded as one of India's best informed and analytical journalists.

Item 4. Performance of Wayang Golek (West Javanese rod puppets) by Professor Kathy Foley

Thursday 24th November 2011, 6.15 pm for a 7 pm start

The Monash University Museum of Arts (MUMA) Foyer, Building F, Monash University, Caulfield Campus

We are proud to announce a special performance of Wayang Golek (West Javanese rod puppets) by Professor Kathy Foley (UC Santa Cruz), accompanied by the Putra Panji Asmara ensemble.

This event is free and will include some refreshments before the show; however, please note that the foyer capacity is limited to around 100 people.

Professor Foley's performance, and the postgraduate 'Performing Asia' workshop preceding it, has been made possible by a School of Political & Social Inquiry grant in Monash University's Arts Faculty.

Item 5. An Interdisciplinary Dialogue Conference – The 3rd Engaging with Vietnam

Theme: Beyond EAST-West dialogues: Implications for Research and Knowledge Production

4th – 5th December 2011

University of Social Sciences and Humanities – Vietnam National University Hanoi, Vietnam

The Conference wishes to engage with problems, challenges and proposals associated with the adoption of 'Western' theories in research about Asian contexts and how local 'Asian' cultures and scholarship may mediate them. The conference would particularly like to encourage East–West dialogues and Asia–Asia conversations, in which scholars engage in a dialogical sharing of how knowledge produced and/or developed by 'Asian' thinking and scholarship could contribute to the social sciences and humanities as well as Asian studies in Asia. We would like to see how these dialogues and conversations could create a platform for meaningful knowledge production for, by, with, and in Asia, and how this process may impact research and scholarship in other parts of the world. The organisers would also like to encourage conversations where the notions of 'East', 'West', 'Asia' and 'local knowledge' are problematised. Likewise, we are interested in engaging with alternative concepts.

This conference is organised by: Monash University Australia, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University Hanoi; and sponsored by: Monash University, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University Hanoi, The Australian Embassy in Vietnam, Vietnam Airlines.

Further information on this conference can be found at
<http://www.education.monash.edu.au/staff/ednews/article.php?id=1989>

Item 6. 'Kantata Takwa' movie DVD is now released by Between Three Worlds

Kantata Takwa [Cantata of Devotion] is a 70-minute non-narrative, Islamic oriented, experimental fiction-documentary musical film, centred on the huge 'Kantata Takwa' pop concert held in Jakarta at the Senayan Stadium on 23 June 1990 by some of Indonesia's most important contemporary artists. The film presents numerous allegorical scenes dramatising political repression and the dilemmas of artists at the time; excerpts or restages songs from the concert; and contains a dynamic acted reading by WS Rendra of one of his major poems. The film is both oneiric in character and full of energy. It shows dissatisfaction with the excesses of Suharto's New Order already present in the society in 1990, dissatisfaction able to be channelled openly, into the public eye, for a short time at least, if provided with a framework such as this concert.

Total Running Time: 70 minutes. PAL system format. No region coding. English subtitles by David Hanan and Basoeki Koesasi, Monash University. A set of notes contextualising the film is provided as a PDF file on the DVD. Cover illustration courtesy of Gotot Prakosa.

Prices: AUD \$300 for public libraries; \$180 for universities; and \$110 for all others.

Postage and Handling: Within Australia: AUD \$10 for up to 4 DVDs; Outside Australia: AUD \$20 for up to 4 DVDs; Free postage for more than 4 DVDs to inside and outside Australia addresses.

For order details of this title and/or other DVD titles, please visit our website
www.monash.edu/mai/films/

Item 7. News from Dr Ahmad Naser Sarmast, Research Leader of 'The Revival of Afghan Music (ROAM) Project'

Dr Ahmad Sarmast, MAI Adjunct Research Fellow and the Founder and Project Director of the Afghanistan National Institute of Music (ANIM), reported that the ANIM faculty ensemble of traditional instruments won the Special Prize of the Festival, the Public & Audience Award at the 8th International Music Festival Sharq Taronalari Competition held in Samarqand, Uzbekistan.

The Revival of Afghan Music (ROAM) Project is a cooperative effort of the Monash Asia Institute, the Monash School of Music - Conservatorium, the Monash Science Centre, and the Friends of ROAM. The idea for the ROAM project was initiated and developed by Dr Ahmad Sarmast.

The ROAM Project, under the leadership of Dr Ahmad Sarmast, aims to rebuild and promote music education and research in music through the reopening of the only school of music in the country, which was destroyed and closed during the country's civil war. This initiative has the full support of the Afghanistan Ministry of Education. The Kabul Vocational Music School began its operation in 2008 with some 150 students, and recently it has been upgraded to the level of a specialised college/institute of music and renamed the Afghanistan National Institute of Music (ANIM). The Institute, which focuses on vocational music training and a musical revival, will provide high quality core education and specialist training in Afghan traditional, as well as Western music. ANIM will also serve as a research centre for ROAM and study of Afghan music in the country.

Details of Dr Ahmad Sarmast's Revival of Afghan Music Project can be found at MAI website

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

Item 8. Newspaper Articles on MAI Research Project 'Towards Sustainable Living: The Sukunan program in Java, Indonesia'

Two articles written by Dr Lea Jellinek, MAI Adjunct Research Fellow and Research Leader of the project '*Towards Sustainable Living: The Sukunan program in Java, Indonesia*' recently appeared in the Jakarta Post.

Tobadiono: Developing his community (11th October 2011)

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2011/10/11/tobadiono-developing-his-community.html>

Junaidi : Crazy about waste (25th October 2011)

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2011/10/25/junaidi-crazy-about-waste.html>

Details of Dr Lea Jellinek's research project '*Towards Sustainable Living: The Sukunan program in Java, Indonesia*' can be found at MAI website

<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/mai/research/sukunan/>

News from other institutions

Item 9. Workshop on Beyond the Xinjiang Problem

3rd - 4th November 2011, 9.00 am - 4.30 pm

Hedley Bull Lecture Theatre 1, The Australian National University

Sessions on 3rd November are open to the public*. Please RSVP by 26th October to tom.cliff@anu.edu.au.

Sessions on 4th November are by invitation only.

This interdisciplinary workshop brings together scholars whose work examines the details of the human-level interactions that take place in both the rural and the urban settings of Xinjiang. The aim is to go beyond ethnic conflict and realist geopolitics in thinking about Xinjiang's past, present and future.

*The Opening Address and First Workshop Session will also be available on the IU-Bloomington Campus by videoconference on 2nd November, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the International Programs Building, 201 N. Indiana Avenue. RSVP to panasia@indiana.edu. Remaining sessions will be recorded and made available on <http://iu.edu/~panasia/events/xinjiang/>.

Item 10. Lecture and Tea Gathering: The 20th Anniversary of the Chado Urasenke Tankokai Melbourne Association

Chado Urasenke Tankokai Melbourne Association will host a Lecture and Tea Gathering to celebrate its 20th anniversary at NGV International (The National Gallery of Victoria).

Soshitsu Sen XVI, Grand Master of the Urasenke Chado Tradition will travel from Japan to help us celebrate this special anniversary. At the lecture, Grand Master will talk about "the spirit of Tea", after viewing a video presentation introducing Chado (the Way of Tea). At the tea gathering, four different settings reflecting on the theme "tsunagu" (loosely translated as "to connect") will be presented.

Guests are invited to enjoy two settings. A different type of traditional sweet and tea will be served will be served at each setting. Experience 500 years of Chado, the Way of Tea.

Lecture of Soshitu Sen XVI

Date: Saturday, 5th November 2011

Time: 2 - 4 pm

Venue: Clemenger Auditorium, Ground Floor, NGV International

Cost: Free (Places are limited, bookings are not taken)

Tea Gathering

Date: Sunday, 6th November 2011

Time: 1st session 5:30pm-7pm, 2nd session 7pm-8:30pm

Venue: The Great Hall, NGV International, 180 St Kilda Road, Melbourne

Cost: \$30 per person (including two different kinds of tea and sweets)

Information on booking and enquiries can be found at

<http://www.dengonnet.net/melbourne/columns/articles/8728>

**Item 11. Discussion Panel 'Is Australian politics becoming less diverse?'
A panel about diversity, political participation and citizenship**

**Thursday 10th November 2011, 3.30 - 5.00 pm
Wood Theatre, Arts West Building, University of Melbourne**

Speakers include Dr Berhan Ahmed, Dai Le, Peta-Jane Madam, Prof Don Nakanishi, Tchen Tsebin, The Hon Maria Vamvakinou MP.

At the start of the 20th century, new migrants and migrant families were the backbone of Australia's fledgling democracy. Prime Ministers such as Chris Watson, Andrew Fisher and Billy Hughes were all born overseas.

As the roots of Australia's many new migrant communities deepen, Australian democracy faces new challenges. Understanding the place of diversity within Australian citizenship and political representation deepens the democratic values of Australians from all kinds of migrant backgrounds.

The panel is supported by the Asian Australian Studies Research Network (AASRN) and the University of Melbourne's Asia Institute as part of the conference program for the 'New Communities, New Racisms' conference, to be held on 10th and 11th November 2011. This event is open to the public and free. The format will be an MC moderated discussion, followed by a Q&A.

More Information

<http://demoiaus-citizenship.blogspot.com/>

<https://twitter.com/#!/aasrn>

<http://asianaustralianidentities.org/>

**Item 12. Australasian Association of Buddhism Studies (AABS) Inaugural
Melbourne Seminar**

**Friday 11th November 2011, 5.30 pm
ACJC Seminar Room, Level 8, Building H, Monash University Caulfield
Campus**

This seminar includes two 30-minute presentations by Professor Adrian Snodgrass on '*Role Reversals in Buddhist Rituals*', and by Dr Peter Friedlander on '*Conflict and Peace in Buddhism*'.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Adrian Snodgrass

Professor Adrian Snodgrass is Adjunct Professor with the Centre for Cultural Research. He is an internationally renowned authority in Buddhist studies and Buddhist art. He also researches in the area of hermeneutical philosophy and its application to knowledge production and cross-cultural understanding. He is editor of

The Architectural Theory Review and Architectural Theory, and his books on Buddhism have become classics in the field.

Peter Friedlander

Peter Friedlander teaches Hindi and Buddhist Studies. After he left high school he lived in India for five years where he learned Hindi in Varanasi and became fascinated with the study of South Asian cultures and traditions. His research interests include Hindi teaching pedagogy, the history of religion in South Asia and Buddhist studies. He is currently involved in research on the interaction of Asian and Western Buddhist and Hindu traditions and the issue of how Buddhists see India, and how India sees Buddhists.

Item 13. Final Symposium for the ARC Linkage Project 'Conciliation Narratives'

Conflict and Conciliation Across Empires: Objects and Performances in Historical Perspective

17th-18th November 2011

Elisabeth Murdoch Theatre, University of Melbourne

This symposium is free, however, RSVP is requested for catering purposes. Please contact Ms. Sharon Harrison on sharonmh@unimelb.edu.au

ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

This 2-day symposium seeks to explore how the legacies of colonial negotiations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples have contributed to nation building and the popular historical imagination in Australia and other locations in the Asia-Pacific, from the era of European colonization to the present.

The symposium features contributions from academics, curators and artists in the examination of imperial histories of contact and conciliation, and of diplomacy 'on the ground' in these varied locations. Speakers will consider how objects, images and political performances—both non-Indigenous and Indigenous—frequently work together to both inscribe and consolidate and resist or subvert dominant narratives of colonial settlement. Comparative and transnational perspectives across and within European empires in the region are included.

This symposium has been convened by Penny Edmonds, Kate Darian-Smith and Julie Evans (all University of Melbourne). It is part of the ARC funded Linkage project LP0776803: 'Conciliation Narratives and the Historical Imagination in British Pacific Rim Settler Societies'. The Industry partners for this project are the National Museum of Australia, Museum Victoria, and Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.

Recent Events

Item 14. PhD Mid-candidature Review: Mr Gidi Ifergan

Challenging and Dismantling Certainty: Rhetoric of Negation in 14th Century Tibet

Wednesday 26 October 2011, 11 am - 1 pm

Monash Asia Institute, Room H5.95, Level 5, Building H, Caulfield campus

ABOUT THE TOPIC

What if spiritual liberation cannot be a result of spiritual or religious practice?

This study examines the problem of religious/spiritual practice in relation to liberation from human existence which is essentially dissatisfactory in the teachings of Longchenpa, the great Tibetan scholar from the 14th Century. Longchenpa extensively and intensely wrote about the negation of practices showing them to be insufficient means to Liberation. In order to escape the dilemma and to overcome the problem of spiritual practices' futility, and to affect a possibility for one to have at least a "taste" of Buddha nature/liberation/pristine awareness he was able to develop a suitable device. Mr Ifergan showed that Longchenpa was able to take his rhetoric of negation and transform its comprehension to pedagogy of negation that could affect one's apprehension of one's Buddha nature/liberation pristine awareness.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Mr Gidi Ifergan has a BA degree with Double Major, Economics and International Relations, from Hebrew University, Jerusalem, and MA (MPhil) Religious Studies, Eastern Philosophies and Sanskrit Studies with thesis; "The Dimension of Praxis in Śaṅkara's Philosophy", Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv.

Item 15. Symposium 'Word and Image: East and West'

28th - 29th October 2011

The University of Sydney

Art Gallery of New South Wales

This symposium was organised by Giorgia Alù and Francesco Borghesi of the Department of Italian Studies, The University of Sydney.

ABOUT THE SYMPSIUM

The purpose of the symposium was to bring together scholars and researchers from different backgrounds (historical, literary, theoretical or philosophical) in order to discuss and compare the mutual interdependence of words and images, the mixed mediality of the visual and the verbal, and the way they have been interlacing in different geographical and cultural areas, from Europe and the US to the Middle East and the Asia Pacific region, throughout the years. Discussions would therefore focus on the different modalities one medium has been included in the other in the

Western and Eastern cultures, as well as the way the interaction of word and image has contributed to challenge the East/West binary.

The symposium had been generously supported by the China Studies Centre (The University of Sydney), as well as by the School of Languages and Cultures, the Power Institute and the School of Letters, Art, and Media (The University of Sydney), and the China Research Centre (University of Technology, Sydney). It had also been kindly supported by IAWIS-International Association of Word and Image Studies.

Further information was available at

www.sydney.edu.au/arts/conferences/index.php/east_west/2011

Item 16. Website of the month: The Weblog of the Inter-Asia Popular Music Studies (IAPMS) Group
<http://interasiapop.org/>

The Inter-Asia Popular Music Studies (IAPMS) Group was formed in August 2007 by scholars around Asia who are working on the issues of the popular music in/around Asia. Now members are from China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, the Philippines and beyond.

Their members are involved in two intellectual communities (among others). One is the Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Society (IACSS), a “regional” society for cultural studies. The other is the International Association for the Study of Popular Music (IASPM), the “global” association for popular music studies. As a research group representing “popular music” and “Asia” in each community, IAPMS Group is actively seeking its role within both communities, although it is not formally a subordinate part to any of these organizations.

Scholars and students as well as writers and activists who are working in the area of popular music in/around Asia are invited to join and contribute to their weblog. To join the group, please contact asianpopstudies@gmail.com.

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/>

To unsubscribe, please send an email to: Monash-Asia-Institute Enquiries, MAI-Enquiries@monash.edu