



Asian Studies Association of Australia (ASAA)
19th Biennial Conference 2012
The University of Western Sydney
July 11 - 13, 2012



CALL FOR PAPERS

Knowing Asia: Asian Studies in an Asian Century

The 19th Biennial Conference of the Asian Studies Association of Australia (ASAA) will be held on the Parramatta Campus of the University of Western Sydney, 11 to 14 July, 2012, hosted by the Institute for Culture and Society, the School of Humanities and Communication Arts, and the Centre for the Study of Contemporary Muslim Societies at the University of Western Sydney. The theme is 'Knowing Asia: Asian Studies in an Asian Century'.

In the past few decades massive economic, political, social and cultural transformations have taken place in the region known as Asia. In the process, it has acquired an increasingly prominent place in the world. Whether or not this 'rise of Asia' merits talk about a coming 'Asian century', it is clear that the historical context for the study of Asia has irrevocably changed.

Four major considerations are at play here. First, increasing globalisation has led to growing interpenetration and interdependence between different parts of the world. This problematises prevailing boundaries, not least those between 'Asia' and 'the West'.

Cross-border interactions and transnational connections across and beyond the region are now vital determinants of local and national conditions in all parts of Asia. As a consequence, now more than ever, such local and national situations cannot be meaningfully studied without consideration of the constitutive role of the broader regional and global context. At the same time, studies of global significance must increasingly include studies of what is occurring in Asia.

Second, economic development throughout the region has given rise to the emergence of complex and vibrant new societies for which descriptors as 'traditional' or 'postcolonial' are inadequate, and whose understanding can no longer be pursued through using Western modernity as a benchmark. These societies are becoming modern in their own ways, requiring new concepts and tools for analysis.

Third, these recent transformations have led to a burgeoning interest in studying Asia among scholars who do not call themselves 'Asianists', for example in cultural and media studies, gender and sexuality studies, and human and urban geography. Thus, while specialist area studies and the disciplinary cores of political science, history, languages and so forth remain central, intellectual engagement with Asia has widened considerably.

Fourth, and crucially, as modern Asian societies mature there are new generations of Asian scholars who conduct research and scholarship on and within their own societies, establishing their own, intraregional scholarly networks. For these scholars, Asia is not 'other', as is still often the case for Western scholars.

In short, as Asia becomes an increasingly prominent, complex and self-confident region in the world, the meanings and potentials of 'knowing Asia' require fundamental rethinking at multiple levels.

The conference will encourage reflection on the implications of these shifts on the field of Asian studies, both in Australia and internationally. In this light, we are seeking panel proposals which are organised around themes. At the same time, the conference will be open to general papers as well as area-specific panels.

Possible themes include (in no particular order):

- 'Chindia' in the 21st century: myth or reality?
- Transnational Asia: the role of English
- Australia – Asia interactions
- Nations and their boundaries in a global age
- The politics of heritage, nature and the environment
- Urban cultures and social transformation
- Race, ethnicity and multiculturalisms
- Media and popular culture
- Cultural diplomacy and cultural policy
- Asian Studies in Australian universities
- New Asian hegemonies?
- Transport, mobility and tourism
- Translating texts, translating culture
- Gender, sexuality and queer studies
- Sport and society in Asia
- Asian regionalism
- Technology and society
- Asian modernities
- Religion and secularism

Confirmed Keynote Speakers

Professor Lily Kong

Vice-President (University and Global Relations), and Acting Exec Vice-President (Academic Affairs), Yale-NUS College, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Professor Ji-Hyun Lim

Professor of History, Director of the Research Institute of Comparative History and Culture
Hanyang University, Seoul

Professor Prasenjit Duara

Raffles Professor of Humanities, Director, Asia Research Institute, and Director of Research, Humanities & Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Paper and Panel Proposal

Paper and panel proposals addressing the conference themes are invited. Proposals spanning one or more themes are especially welcome.

- Individual paper proposals (200-300 words)
- Panel proposals (200 words for the panel concept and 200-300 words on each panel paper)

Please click here to submit your abstract, or visit the following URL:

<https://www.conferenceonline.com/index.cfm?page=booking&object=abstract&forceHB=1&id=240>

Should you have any problems submitting your abstract online, forward to: s.martinez@uws.edu.au

The deadline for abstract submissions is **February 28, 2012**.

Notification of acceptance will be **March 15, 2012**.

Convenors

Distinguished Professor Ien Ang, Institute for Culture and Society, University of Western Sydney

Associate Professor Judith Snodgrass, School of Humanities and Communication Arts, University of Western Sydney

For more information on the conference, please visit http://www.uws.edu.au/ics/events/asaa_conference

