INTER-ASIAN CONNECTIONS I: DUBAI

SITES OF ASIAN INTERACTION – IDEAS, NETWORKS AND MOBILITY
EDITED BY TIM HARPER AND SUNIL AMRITH (CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2014)

This book sheds light on the history of political and religious globalisation in modern Asia, transcending both national and imperial boundaries, while expanding the range of methodologies and sources brought to bear on studying Asia’s modernity. It illuminates how ideas travelled across Asia, and how they changed in the process. The essays in this book appeared originally as a special issue of Modern Asian Studies in March 2012. This book edition also includes an essay by Tim Harper, which first appeared in Modern Asian Studies in November 2013.

Workshop, “Sites of Inter-Asian Interaction.”

SITES OF ASIAN INTERACTION
MODERN ASIAN STUDIES, VOLUME 46, SPECIAL ISSUE 2
EDITED BY TIM HARPER AND SUNIL AMRITH (CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2012)

Much recent literature on Asian transnationalism has focused on Asian elites and on textual modes of interaction, notably focusing on the writings of pre-eminent Asian intellectuals and literary figures. In thinking about spaces of interaction, this issue aims to broaden the focus of discussion to include non-elite Asians and their interactions with each other. By focusing on spaces—real and virtual—these papers begin to conceive of new ways of capturing changing geographical imaginations and the fluidity of borders and boundaries across Asia.

Workshop, “Sites of Inter-Asian Interaction.”

WORLDING CITIES: ASIAN EXPERIMENTS AND THE ART OF BEING GLOBAL
EDITED BY ANANYA ROY AND AIHWA ONG (BLACKWELL, 2011)

Worlding Cities is the first serious examination of Asian urbanism to highlight the connections between different Asian models and practices of urbanization. It includes important contributions from a respected group of scholars across a range of generations, disciplines, and sites of study.

Workshop, “Inter-Referencing Asia: Urban Experiments and the Art of Being Global.”
MIGRANT WORKERS IN ASIA: DISTANT DIVIDES, INTIMATE CONNECTIONS
EDITED BY NICOLE CONSTABLE (ROUTLEDGE, 2010)

This book provides rich and provocative comparative studies of South and Southeast Asian domestic workers who migrate to other parts of Asia. These studies range from Hong Kong, Macau, and Singapore, to Yemen, Israel, Jordan, and the UAE. Conceptually and methodologically, this book challenges us to move beyond established regional divides and proposes new ways of mapping inter-Asian connections.

Workshop, 'Distant Divides and Intimate Connections: Migrant Domestic Workers in Asia.'

DISTANT DIVIDES AND INTIMATE CONNECTIONS
PART 1: CRITICAL ASIAN STUDIES, VOLUME 40, NUMBER 4
PART 2: CRITICAL ASIAN STUDIES, VOLUME 41, NUMBER 1
EDITED BY NICOLE CONSTABLE (ROUTLEDGE, 2008 & 2009)

This series illustrates the intimate connections and the distant divides that characterize the lives and experiences of migrant domestic workers - in the Middle East (West Asia) as well as in East and Southeast Asia - often rendering the workers isolated among intimate strangers and vulnerable to abuse, but also offering possibilities for sources of support and advocacy.

Workshop, 'Distant Divides and Intimate Connections: Migrant Domestic Workers in Asia.'

INTER-ASIAN CONNECTIONS II: SINGAPORE

RELIGIOUS NETWORKS IN ASIA AND BEYOND
ENCOUNTERS, NUMBER 4, SPRING 2011
EDITED BY PETER VAN DER VEER (ZAYED UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2012)

Over the past several decades, the economies of Asia have been growing exponentially. But as a result, the political and financial networks of this region have been subject to focus, almost to the exclusion of other narratives. Here, Peter van der Veer shifts the focus onto the religious networks of the region, in this special issue featuring papers from five Inter-Asian Connections participants. Crucially, though, he emphasizes how embedded religious actors are within not only religious networks, but also political and economic ones. He therefore examines the ways in which religion connects people, offers them opportunities to travel and link up, and enables the movements of people and trade across the world. By examining Christian, Buddhist and Muslim networks across Asia and with the West, this book offers vital analysis for researchers of both modern religion as well as students of politics and trade economics.

Workshop, 'Inter-Asian temple and trust networks within and out of Southeast Asia.'
Students of transnational flows, while pertinently highlighting the growing assertion of ‘sovereign free actors’ at the expense of ‘sovereign bound actors’ in what they call postinternational politics, have almost completely ignored the transnationalization of religions, except from the point of view of fundamentalisms and related terrorist networks. Sociologists have paid more attention to this development. But these studies, which have mostly focused on the impact of migrations, have tended to under estimate the resilience of state boundaries and have often neglected the circulation of ideas, especially from the point of view of the learning networks—the very object of this Special Issue which concentrates on one particular creed: Islam.

Workshop, “Networks of Religious Learning and the Dissemination of Religious Knowledge across Asia.”

Three articles in this CAS feature collection—those by Candela, Harrar, and Fisher Onar—were first written for a workshop entitled “Shifting Geopolitical Ecologies and New Spatial Imaginaries,” during the third Inter-Asian Connections conference, held in June 2012. The aim of the workshop was to identify and bring into discussion emerging mental, cultural, and political conceptions of spatial categories in Asia. Workshop organizers Çaglar Keyder and Ravi Arvind Palat provide an introductory chapter, and Palat provides background and context for the articles in his own article, “Maps of Time, Clocks of Space: Changing Imaginaries of Asia.”

Workshop, “Shifting Geopolitical Ecologies and New Spatial Imaginaries.”
RESCUING TASTE FROM THE NATION: OCEANS, BORDERS AND CULINARY FLOWS

This special issue examines culinary linkages and sensory geographies across national boundaries, and highlights alternative spatial configurations of taste. From the politics of tea to the transnational pathways of turtle soup, papers attend to culinary cultures, systems of preparation, and forms of knowledge that escape or challenge a strictly national circumscription. This issue developed out of the ‘Rescuing Taste from the Nation’ workshop at the 2013 Inter-Asian Connections IV: Istanbul conference, directed by Krishnendu Ray and Cecilia Leong-Salobir, who wrote the introductory essay of this special issue with workshop participant Jaclyn Rohel. A number of the papers presented at the workshop appear in this issue, as well as an Epilogue by InterAsia Steering Committee member Prasenjit Duara.

Workshop, “Rescuing Taste from the Nation: Oceans, Borders and Culinary Flows.”

SPECIAL FOCUS: INTER-ASIAN (POST)NEOLIBERALISM? ADOPTION, DISJUNCTURE, AND TRANSGRESSION, 2015

The concept of post-neoliberalism that was formulated based on the political, social and economic development in some of the Latin America countries highlights changes in several realms: an extension of welfare and welfare rights, an increase in state intervention in economy, and a more participatory democracy to varying extend in different countries. The workshop organizers regarded this conceptual haziness in the formulation of post-neoliberalism as an opportunity to rethink whether or not possible alternatives to neoliberalism were emerging in another geographical setting: Asia, a region which seems to pose a challenge to neoliberal globalisation in the first place, especially because of its developmentalist past that is generally characterised by a “selective protection of domestic markets from foreign import competition; domestic control over the capital market; and an aggressive industrial policies to upgrade manufacturing and generate export strength” (Hill, 2007).

Workshop, “After Neoliberalism? The Future of Postneoliberal State and Society in Asia.”
In the aftermath of electoral victories by populist political leaders around the world, we see a new genre of scholarship on global mediatized populism, a Zeitgeist or world spirit of our times whose rise has been enabled by and through media, gaining considerable public traction. In contrast to both European and Latin American contexts which were the focus of earlier studies of media and populism, the mass-mediated spectacle of popular politics is a relatively new phenomenon across much of Asia and the Middle East. Across the InterAsian region, only since the last decade of the 20th century have government-monopolized propagandist architectures of television been replaced by commercial news channels. In the intervening years, media—both old and new—have become privileged domains of politics for the first time. The essays in this Special Section disaggregate the idea of a singular media logic of populist politics and examine instead the institutional and political-economic dynamics of mediatization, and the variegated structures of media fields, in which contemporary forms of populist politics are embedded.