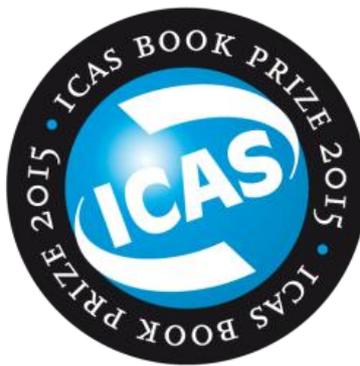


ICAS BOOK PRIZE 2015 Citations and Accolades

Citations Short List Social Sciences



Winner ICAS Book Prize 2015 - Social Sciences

Jinghong Zhang, *Puer Tea. Ancient Caravans and Urban Chic*. University of Washington Press: Seattle / London 2014.

Ancient Caravans and Urban Chic investigates the social life of a once-mundane commodity, puer tea. Taking readers from terraces to forests to luxury hotels, Jinghong Zhang uses classic anthropological methods and reflections on her attendant film-making alongside the powerful centralizing metaphor of *jianghu*, a kind of adjacent reality of murky truths, to relate unique insights into consumption, class, knowledge claims, and even online community in contemporary China. Perhaps most compelling are the ways the rise and fall of puer tea as a desired commodity provides an exploration of ethnicity, indigeneity, and the emergent significance of a supposedly underdeveloped region (Yunnan); all of which are bound up in puer tea, its packaging, its regulation, and the persistent pursuit of authenticity.

Bridie Andrews, *The Making of Modern Chinese Medicine, 1850-1960*. UBC Press: Vancouver / Toronto 2014.

In *The Making of Modern Chinese Medicine*, Bridie Andrews dissolves the persistent binary between traditional and modern medicine, and, more broadly, traditional and modern

society in late 19th and early 20th Century China. So-called Chinese medical modernity results from a contentious and contested history, and Andrews directs readers through debates, personalities, institutions, and dynamic political conjunctures that shaped and were shaped by these contentions. The encounter, and later syncretism, between Western and Chinese medicine refracted through mission, imperialism, and revolution suggest medical modernity is as much about politics as health. Andrews provides a distinctive vantage point from which to appreciate Chinese and Western notions of power and knowledge through a tumultuous period of history.

Manduhai Buyandelger, *Tragic Spirits, Shamanism, Memory, and Gender in Contemporary Mongolia*. The University of Chicago Press: Chicago / London 2013.

Manduhai Buyandelger's magnificent ethnography narrates the oft-discussed 'transition' from socialism in Mongolia through the re-emergence of shamanism among the Buryat community. In a journey enmeshed in the lives of shamans, their clients, their cynics and the landscape of post-socialist Mongolia, *Tragic Spirits* is a commentary on neoliberalism and modernity and the ways in which dramatic ruptures to everyday life recall spiritual pasts in attempts to replace the presence of the state. Gender relations, livelihoods, and intergenerational dynamics all take turns at the forefront of the analysis and are carefully woven into the author's own encounters with contemporary Buryat life in the mutually constitutive material and spiritual worlds.

Robert Cribb, Helen Gilbert and Helen Tiffin, *Wild Man from Borneo: A Cultural History of the Orangutan*. University of Hawai'i Press: Honolulu 2014.

In a dizzying expedition from jungles to museums to theaters and films, *Wild Man from Borneo* presents the cultural history of the Orangutan as a singular figure capable of inspiring deep reflection on human existence, domination, and vulnerability. Written in a flowing and accessible style and laden with compelling illustrations, the book locates the Orangutan in the colonization of Asia and the desire to dominate its human and non-human inhabitants—often by attempting to dissolve the boundaries between the two—and later, in a seeming about turn, in attempts to save Orangutans from environmental destruction driven by humans. Along the way the cultural significance of the Orangutan as a didactic symbol for

human folly appears in an impressive range of outlets from the well-known to the obscure while never failing to engage readers.

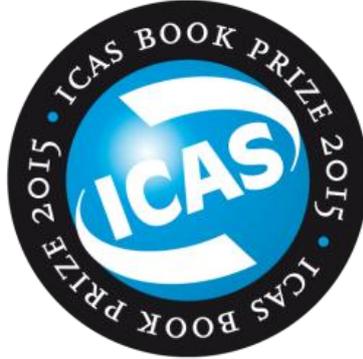
Tina Harris, *Geographical Diversions: Tibetan Trade, Global Transactions*. University of Georgia Press: Athens 2013.

In *Geographical Diversions* traders, their families, and the goods they peddle—especially wool—across shifting geographic and political frontiers are the centerpiece of an ethnographic re-mapping of the Himalayas. Effortlessly moving between transnational, national, and local scales, Tina Harris invites us into the lives of traders who resist and collaborate with authorities, seize the opportunities of rapid infrastructure development and new pathways between India, China, and Nepal, while at the same time developing tactics for maintaining their livelihoods in the face of these changes. The analysis does not end with the traders, and Harris uses their experiences to challenge lazy assumptions about globalization, and argues for a more grounded understanding of the particular nature of economic change driven by events rather than seismic shifts in production and characterized by fixity as much as mobility.

Philip Taylor, *The Khmer Lands of Vietnam. Environment, Cosmology and Sovereignty*. NUS Press and NIAS Press: Singapore / Copenhagen 2014. Asian Studies Association of Australia.

A rich ethnography of in-between peoples in an in-between space, *The Khmer Lands of Vietnam* explores the life-worlds of the Khmer Krom community within and across state boundaries. By drawing on Khmer Krom cosmology and its relationship to ways of conceptualizing and adapting to a rapidly changing ecology in the lower-Mekong, Taylor locates a small community at the epicentre of a bold scholarly challenge to the ways sovereignty, displacement, and identity are commonly understood and studied. In doing so the book uncovers sacral and symbolic imaginaries in the mapping of territory, borders, and nation.

Accolades Social Sciences



Publishers Accolade for Outstanding Production Values

Alban von Stockhausen, *Imag(in)ing the Nagas: The Pictorial Ethnography of Hans-Eberhard Kauffmann and Christoph von Fürer-Haimendorf*. Arnoldische Art Publishers: Stuttgart 2014.

Startlingly beautiful, *Imag(in)ing the Nagas* is also bittersweet. The images of European ethnographers have been so influential in the construction of ethnic categories that have subjected the Nagas to various forms of rule, yet here they are re-presented alongside von Stockhausen's compelling 'back-story' and critical analysis. The arrangement of images and text is vital to making this work, and the book achieves this perfectly.

Most Accessible and Captivating Work for the non-Specialist Reader

Accolade

Robert Cribb, Helen Gilbert and Helen Tiffin, *Wild Man from Borneo: A Cultural History of the Orangutan*. University of Hawai'i Press: Honolulu 2014.

In a dizzying expedition from jungles to museums to theaters and films, *Wild Man from Borneo* presents the cultural history of the Orangutan as a singular figure capable of inspiring

deep reflection on human existence, domination, and vulnerability. The cultural significance of the Orangutan as a didactic symbol for human folly appears in an impressive range of outlets from the well known to the obscure while never failing to engage readers.

Specialist Publication Accolade

Hans Ulrich Vogel, *Marco Polo Was in China. New Evidence from Currencies, Salts and Revenues*. Brill: Leiden / Boston 2013.

Long-awaited and thorough expert approach to Marco Polo in China by covering all accessible sources and materials during and in the aftermath of Marco Polo's stay in the region.

Best Teaching Tool Accolade

Li Narangoa and Robert Cribb, *Historical Atlas of Northeast Asia 1590-2010. Korea, Manchuria, Mongolia, Eastern Siberia*. Columbia University Press: New York 2014.

Using maps with brief textual segments, the Historical Atlas of Northeast Asia provides a time-lapse of territorial rearrangement, emergence and erasure of populations, and the creation of sovereign territorial units – and their limitations. Valuable teaching tool for students in a wide range of various disciplines.

Ground-Breaking Matter Accolade

Lynette J. Chua, *Mobilizing Gay Singapore. Rights and Resistance in an Authoritarian State*. Singapore. NUS Press 2014.

In a political climate known for paternalism and civic restrictions, Singapore's gay activists pursue a pragmatic form of activism, often at significant personal cost. Pragmatism embeds activism in a cultural and legal context that requires challenge from within; a much less spectacular case to analyze but one that resonates deeply with social movements across Asia.

Edited Volume Accolade

Niko Besnier and Kalissa Alexeyeff (eds.), *Gender on the Edge: Transgender, Gay, and Other Pacific Islanders*. University of Hawai'i Press: Honolulu 2014.

This is a unique work combining four topics on the edge: gender, transgender, non-hetero-normative Pacific Islanders and the Pacific Islands themselves. For just this exclusive attempt also, this edited volume deserves a broad audience and applaud.

Best Art Book Accolade

Venka Purushothaman (ed.), *The Art of Sukumar Bose: Reflections on South and Southeast Asia*. ISEAS Press: Singapore 2013.

Bose's art is diverse in its influence, form, and location, yet at its heart is a pan-Asian sensibility and commentary on postcoloniality captured in this edited collection. The essays work as standalone pieces and as a collection, accompanied by brilliant reproductions of Bose's work.

Citations Short List Humanities



Winner ICAS Book Prize 2015 - Humanities

Adam Clulow, *The Company and the Shogun: The Dutch Encounter with Tokugawa Japan*. Columbia University Press: New York 2014.

The Company and the Shogun takes a fresh approach to the study of European power in Asia during the early modern period. Thoroughly researched and thoughtfully argued, Clulow uses the case of the 17th century Dutch East Indies trade company interactions with Tokugawa Japan to interrogate European-centric historical tropes about the rise of the West and European conquest in Asia during this time. Clulow argues that rather than being aggressive merchant pirates who laid the groundwork for early colonialism, the Dutch became loyal vassals who were forced to adopt a subordinate role to the Shogun. With its accessible prose and important implications, this book should be a requirement for students of world history and all of those concerned with the issue of colonial encounters and east-west relations.

Beverley Bossler, *Courtesans, Concubines, and the Cult of the Female Fidelity*. Harvard University Asia Center: Cambridge / London 2013.

Courtesans, Concubines, and the Cult of the Female Fidelity is a finely crafted history that re-examines the role of women in the Northern Song, Southern Song, and Yuan dynasties of the 10th-14th centuries. Elegantly written and meticulously researched, the book explores literary representations of courtesans, concubines, and loyal wives, in an era of Neo-

Confucian morality and the rise of entertainment culture. As a study of representations of women written by men, this book also gives readers important insight into the masculine world. Bossler provides a sophisticated analysis that draws important conclusions about family life, social mobility, Neo-Confucianism, masculinity, and sexuality in the political world. With its rich detail and nuanced analysis, this book will have an important impact on our understanding of gender in pre-modern Asian history.

Michelle Caswell, *Archiving the Unspeakable. Silence, Memory, Photographic Record in Cambodia*. The University of Wisconsin Press: Madison 2014.

Archiving the Unspeakable is a fascinating and thought-provoking book which takes an innovative approach to studying the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia, one of the most important events of Twentieth century Asian history. The book focuses on one of the most iconic—and recognizable—pieces of material evidence left from the Democratic Republic of Kampuchea (1975-1979): the thousands of identity photographs taken of victims at Tuol Sleng Prison before Khmer Rouge cadre interrogated, tortured, and killed them. Caswell successfully combines approaches from archival studies, public history, the history of memory, and the study of material culture to trace how these photographs came to take on a life of their own - from their use in Khmer Rouge record keeping, to asserting competing truths during the human rights tribunals, to helping survivors shape Cambodian historical memory, and finally to commercial uses.

Theresia Hofer, *Bodies in Balance: The Art of Tibetan Medicine*. University of Washington Press in association with the Rubin Museum of Art: Seattle 2014.

Originating in an exhibition at the Rubin Museum, *Bodies in Balance* focuses on visual representations of the “Buddhist science of healing.” It is profusely and beautifully illustrated, a credit to the publishers. But *Bodies in Balance* also contains 12 articles on issues related to Tibetan medicine which provide a balanced selection of social, scientific, religious and historical perspectives on the subject. Each is by a recognised expert in their field and the essays are of a uniformly high quality that ensures that this work will be both an introduction to the subject and the standard source for specialists for many years to come. Notes, glossary and an extensive bibliography all contribute to make this not only an art book but an outstanding work of reference.

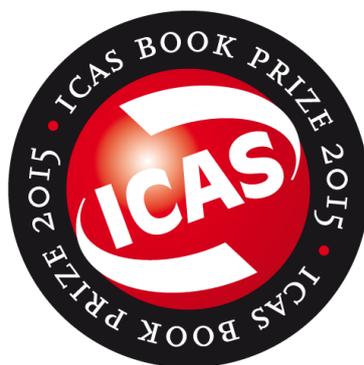
John N. Miksic, *Singapore and the Silk Road of the Sea 1300-1800*. NUS Press and National Museum of Singapore: Singapore 2013.

Singapore and the Silk Road of the Sea 1300-1800, published by the National University of Singapore, is a ground-breaking study of Singapore and its role in the regional long-distance maritime trade during the pre-colonial period. An archaeological-historical study, it draws on a vast range of written and material sources (many uncovered by the author), to create new understandings of the past and indeed the present. Miksic presents a rich and detailed body of information concerning the economic and social history of the region and skilfully applies this to his analysis. In adopting the image of the "Silk Road" from Central Asian studies he provides an immediately comprehensible model that makes this work accessible to those from different disciplines and those seeking comparative insights. Personal recollections and biographical sketches enliven the narrative and the work is well-illustrated and presented. It is a work of lasting scholarship.

Khoo Salma Nasution, *The Chulia in Penang: Patronage and Place-Making around the Kapitan Kling Mosque 1786-1957*. Areca Books: Penang 2014.

This is a comprehensive study from multiple perspectives of the great mosque established by the Tamil Muslim community in Penang in the early 19th century. Primarily an engaging social history, *The Chulia in Penang* places the sacred site at the centre of a wide-ranging enquiry into the evolution of a diaspora and the role of the mosque as an expression of that community's identity. Issues of gender, diet, architecture, and many others are used to illustrate the social and economic worlds of the mosque, as well as its religious processes. Accessible to both students and scholars and illustrated with a wealth of historical photographs and drawings, this is an important work, a model of its kind and one to enjoy as well as to enlighten. The depth of research is remarkable, and the range of enquiry admirable.

Accolades Humanities



Publishers Accolade for Outstanding Production Values

Inha Jung, *Architecture and Urbanism in Modern Korea*. University of Hawai'i Press: Honolulu 2013.

Architecture and Urbanism in Modern Korea is a superbly presented book, one both scholarly and attractive, representing the highest publishing standards.

Most Accessible and Captivating Work for the non-Specialist Reader Accolade

Jeffrey W. Alexander, *Brewed in Japan: The Evolution of the Japanese Beer Industry*. University of Hawai'i Press: Honolulu 2014.

Brewed in Japan tells readers as much about colonialism, war, reconstruction, culture, and national identity as it does about the beer business.

Specialist Publication Accolade

Daria Berg, *Women in the Literary World in Early Modern China*. Routledge: Oxon 2013.

Women in the Literary World in Early Modern China is a fascinating window into the elite community of women writers and how the literary world portrayed women and girls in the period.

Best Teaching Tool Accolade

K.W. Taylor, *A History of the Vietnamese*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge 2013.

A History of the Vietnamese is a comprehensive examination of more than 2,000 years of history. With its accessible prose and rich, encyclopaedic detail, it is essential reading for undergraduate and graduate classes.

Ground-Breaking Matter Accolade

Richard Pearson, *Ancient Ryukyu*. University of Hawai'i Press: Honolulu 2013.

Ancient Ryukyu introduces us to the early history of this Okinawan archipelago in a manner both stimulating and informative. Rich in archaeological detail and historical insights.

Edited Volume Accolade

Oliver Pye and Jayati Bhattacharya, *The Palm Oil Controversy in Southeast Asia*. Institute of Southeast Asian Studies: Singapore 2012.

The Palm Oil Controversy in Southeast Asia is a model for such collections; a tightly focused enquiry into an important topic by a broad range of specialists.

Best Art Book Accolade

Theresia Hofer, *Bodies in Balance: the Art of Tibetan Medicine*. University of Washington Press: Seattle 2014.

Bodies in Balance: the Art of Tibetan Medicine is a beautifully illustrated and produced reference work with accompanying essays that showcases an intricate and esoteric visual world.

Colleagues' Choice Award



Khoo Salma Nasution, *The Chulia in Penang: Patronage and Place-Making around the Kapitan Kling Mosque 1786-1957*. Areca Books: Penang 2014

This is a comprehensive study from multiple perspectives of the great mosque established by the Tamil Muslim community in Penang in the early 19th century. Primarily an engaging social history, it places the sacred site at the centre of a wide-ranging enquiry into the evolution of a diaspora and the role of the mosque as an expression of that community's identity. Issues of gender, diet, architecture, and many others are used to illustrate the social and economic worlds of the mosque, as well as its religious processes. Accessible to both students and scholars and illustrated with a wealth of historical photographs and drawings this is an important work, a model of its kind and one to enjoy as well to enlighten. The depth of research is remarkable, and the range of enquiry admirable.

Best Dissertations Citations and Accolades

Humanities Citations



Winner ICAS Dissertation Prize 2015 - Humanities

Deokhyo Choi, *Crucible of the Post-Empire: Decolonization, Race, and Cold War Politics in U.S.-Japan-Korea Relations, 1945-1952*

This exceptionally rich study examines the complex interrelated histories of decolonization in Korea and Japan in relation to U.S.-Japan-South Korea Cold War containment policies. The dissertation is groundbreaking in its radical departure from conventional historiographies that analyze the U.S. and Soviet occupations of Korea (1945-1948) and the U.S./Allied occupation of Japan (1945-1952) as separate national histories. Instead, Choi takes the “Korean minority question” as his primary methodological site, and convincingly shows how an inter- and transnational framework reveals fundamentally new insights into post-Empire Japan and Korea. The outcomes of his work will significantly impact the field of East Asian history at large.

Vannessa Hearman, *Dismantling the ‘Fortress’: East Java and the Transition to Suharto’s New Order Regime (1965-68)*

“On a warm afternoon on the outskirts of Jakarta in 2007, Harsutejo recounted the loneliness of life behind bars in Malang’s Lowokwaru Prison in the closing months of 1965.” Drawing on

a large number of oral history interviews and military and government reports, this compelling dissertation uncovers the silenced history of the mass killing and persecution of leftist activists in East Java. Its thoughtful analysis of both the individual motivations and desires of the activists *and* the socio-political processes leading up to the violence, provide crucial new insights into the transition to Suharto's New Order regime, as well as political violence and activism itself. The dissertation shows the importance of the study of lived experiences to any understanding of post-independence East Java and forces its reader to rethink questions of individual and collective responsibility, the complexity of memory, and historical justice.

Leonie Schmidt, Visions of the Future: Imagining Islamic Modernities in Indonesian Islamic-themed post-Suharto Popular and Visual Culture

This clearly and compellingly written study convincingly traverses the disciplines of mediastudies, cultural studies, critical theory, Islamic studies and area studies. In showing how Indonesia is simultaneously modernizing and Islamizing, it emphasizes that popular culture constitutes an important battleground for the display as well as the construction of emerging Islamic modernities. The dissertation focuses on wide-ranging case studies, from rock music, film and contemporary art, to shopping malls and self-help books. While a quite eclectic range of theories are being used, in conjunction with a wealth of data, Schmidt succeeds to establish her own voice, which is rare. The dissertation's method of interweaving separate fields, of critical and provocative engagement with theory and its wide empirical scope make this work highly innovative, creative and original.

All three finalist dissertations stand out in their clear language, innovative methodologies, and compelling ideas. However, the committee was particularly impressed by one dissertation for its strong and provocative arguments, its theoretical novelty, and daring personal voice. It is with great pleasure that the committee awards the Best Dissertation for the Humanities prize to Deokhyo Choi for his dissertation "Crucible of the Post-Empire: Decolonization, Race, and Cold War Politics in U.S.-Japan-Korea Relations, 1945-1952".

Humanities Accolades



Most Accessible and Captivating

Vannessa Hearman, *Dismantling the 'Fortress': East Java and the Transition to Suharto's New Order Regime (1965-68)*

Ground-Breaking Subject Matter

Philip Bradford Yampolsky, *Music and Media in the Dutch East Indies: Gramophone Records and Radio in the Late Colonial Era, 1903-1942*

Specialist Publication

Jamie Jungmin Yoo, *Materiality and Writing: Circulation of Texts, Reading and Reception, and Production of Literature in Late 18th-Century Korea*

Social Sciences Citations



Winner ICAS Dissertation Prize 2015 - Social Sciences

Tutin Aryanti, *Breaking the Wall, Preserving the Barrier: Gender, Space, and Power in Contemporary Mosque Architecture in Yogyakarta, Indonesia*

This dissertation beautifully weaves together architectural analysis, ethnographic methods, postcolonial feminist theory, and poststructuralist visual theory to examine the mosques of Yogyakarta and the broader landscape of gendered social relations they constitute and are constituted by. In this rigorous and detailed account, the material and immaterial structures of gendered religious life appear as thoroughly intertwined sites of contestation, where notions of control, empowerment, representation, and transformation are negotiated through the politics of sex segregation. Aryanti puts forward a wonderfully multifaceted picture of religious space, complicating critical readings of the disciplinary functions of mosque architecture by shedding light on the understudied and hidden spatial practices of the women who occupy them.

Tallyn Gray, *Justice and Transition in Cambodia, 1979-2014: Process, Meaning, and Narrative*

Compellingly written, meticulously researched, and theoretically sophisticated, this dissertation unravels the complex narratives of justice that have shaped Cambodia's history of violence. From trial processes to informal rituals of memorialization, Gray moves deftly from authorized to marginalized narrative forms in order to rethink the very processes that

give meaning to the terms that have come to define Cambodian collective and intergenerational memory: genocide, transition, and justice itself. This is a bold and ambitious project—one that not only contributes to our knowledge of the contemporary Cambodian experience but that demonstrates how modes of narrative theory oft dismissed as ‘postmodern’ might be redeployed to critically examine how stories of violence are ordered into hierarchies and to open new debates about the vital place of storytelling in the pursuit of historical justice.

David Kloos, *Becoming Better Muslims: Religious Authority and Ethical Improvement in Aceh, Indonesia*

This remarkable historico-anthropological dissertation offers a crucial rethinking of the role of religious agency in the inner lives of Muslims in Aceh and in their pursuit of individual spaces for moral action. While accounts of agency often slide into familiar images of resistance and complicity, Kloos provides a subtler and more nuanced picture, taking seriously attempts by state and religious authorities to penetrate individual lifespaces, while detailing the complex and often ambiguous ways individuals fashion their own spheres of ethical living. Notable for its astute grounding of rich ethnographic material in deep archival research, “Becoming Better Muslims” provides fascinating insights into the particularities of Achenese religiosity, delivering an important corrective to prevailing accounts of Achenese exceptionalism and the images of piety, fanaticism, and Islamic militancy they produce.

While all three finalist dissertations make important contributions to their respective fields of inquiry, one of them stood out for its uniquely transdisciplinary approach to its object of study, its compelling combination of theoretical depth and empirical material, and its subtle yet evocative writing. For these reasons, the committee is thrilled to award the Best Dissertation for the Social Sciences prize to Tutin Aryanti’s *“Breaking the Wall, Preserving the Barrier: Gender, Space, and Power in Contemporary Mosque Architecture in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.”*

Social Sciences Accolades



Most Accessible and Captivating

David Kloos, *Becoming Better Muslims: Religious Authority and Ethical Improvement in Aceh, Indonesia*

Ground-Breaking Subject Matter

Tallyn Gray, *Justice and Transition in Cambodia, 1979-2014: Process, Meaning, and Narrative.*

Specialist Publication

Anke Marion Hein, *Cultural Geography and Interregional Contacts in Prehistoric Liangshan.*