

Experience Day South and Southeast Asian Studies

24 November 2023



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Introduction

A student of South and Southeast Asian Studies will tell you all about your first year at this programme.

Lecture

Title

Time and the Future in Southeast Asia

Short description

This lecture is about Southeast Asian perceptions of time and the future, and how these have changed in the last 100 years or so. Broadly speaking, cyclic and fatalistic understandings of time, associated with beliefs in fortune-telling and prophecy, have given way to an idea of the future as amenable to human direction. This does not mean, however, that religion and prayer have been replaced by science and reason. On the contrary, modernization in Southeast Asia has been accompanied by religious revival, perhaps partly because modernity brings with it new types of uncertainty about the future.

Lecturer: Prof. dr. David Henley (d.e.f.henley@hum.leidenuniv.nl)

David Henley is professor of Contemporary Indonesia Studies at Leiden University. He has published on the subjects of nationalism, regionalism, and ethnicity; on environmental, demographic and agricultural history; on sustainability and natural resource management; on state formation and colonial expansion; on political institutions and ideology; on economic development and finance; and on the comparative economic histories of Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. His most recent research has been on the politics of religious sound in Indonesia, on Southeast Asian regional identity, and on cultures of the human body in Southeast and Northeast Asia.

Seminar

Title

'The Tibetan Language: Loved, Feared, Endangered (?)'

Short description

What is Tibetan? But really, what IS Tibetan? Why does this language even matter and why should we care? There is a massive amount of unstudied, little understood Tibetan literature, at the same time there are fears that it will not be long before the Tibetan language will go extinct. How do we, and should we, at universities and elsewhere deal reconcile these notions? In other words, this lesson will be about literature, language rights, linguistics and everything in between.

Lecturer: Dr. Berthe Jansen (b.k.jansen@hum.leidenuniv.nl)

Berthe Jansen is Assistant Professor of Tibetan Studies at Leiden University. She has a PhD in Buddhist Studies from the same university. Jansen has wide academic interests but most have to do with the confluence of religion and society. Her monograph *The Monastery Rules: Tibetan Monastic Organization in Pre-modern Tibet* came out in 2018 with University of California Press. Jansen had a Dutch government grant (NWO) to research the relationship between Buddhism and law in pre-modern Tibet (2016-2022). She is now the PI of the ERC Starting Grant Project *Locating Literature, Lived Religion, and Lives in the Himalayas: The Van Manen Collection* (2023-2028). Jansen is also a translator and interpreter of (Buddhist) Tibetan.

Q&A

Do you have any questions regarding the programme? The student will answer them all at the Q&A.

Preparation

Find a newspaper article from the past year that reports, in some way or the other, on the Tibetan language. We will discuss your findings in class.