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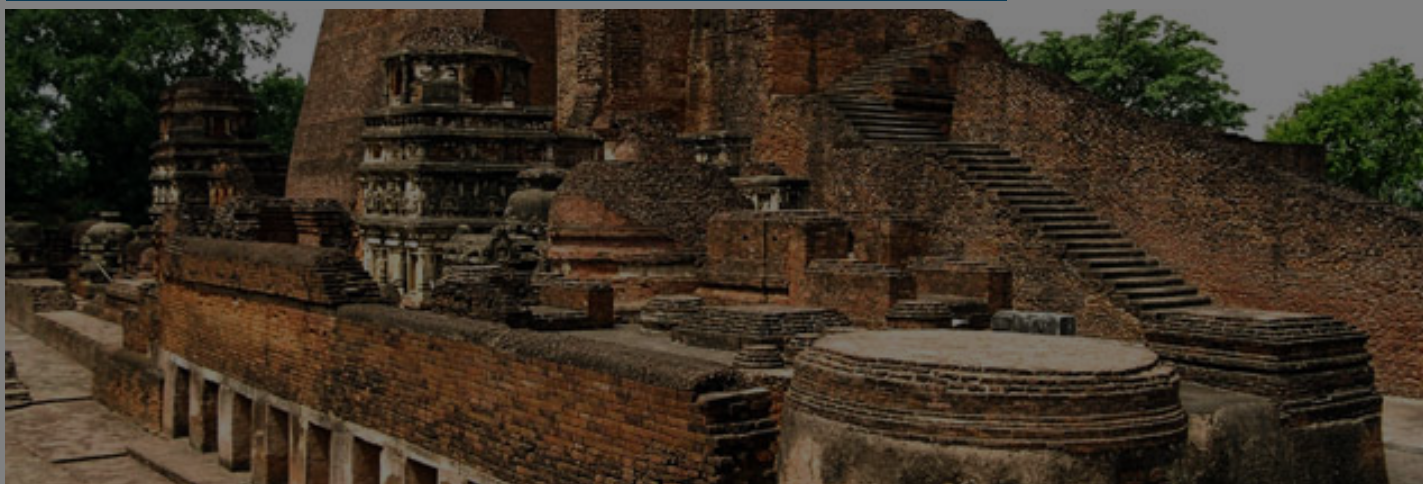
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# Environment, Ecology and Inter-Asian Interactions | call for papers



 nalanda-image

International Institute for Asian Studies in the Netherlands, together with Nalanda University in India, is organising a 2014 conference on cultural heritage. It welcomes papers that investigate the role environmental/ecological and historical factors have played in the changing significance of sites in Asia and/or how these factors (continue to) influence the maintenance and conservation of these sites.

### Deadline

31 July 2013

### Conference dates

6 - 8 January 2014

### Venue

Rajgir Convention Center, Rajgir, Dist: Nalanda, Bihar, India

### Keynote speakers

- Rick Asher (Department of Art History, University of Minnesota)
- Robin Coningham (Department of Archaeology, Durham University)
- Engseng Ho (Cultural Anthropology, History and Duke Islamic Studies Center; Duke University)
- Akira Matsui (Center for Archaeological Operations, Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties)
- Mike Robinson (Ironbridge International Institute for Cultural Heritage, University of Birmingham)

### Call for papers

In Asia, the notion of 'heritage' is often associated with the construction of post-independence nation-state models, the definition of national 'traditions', and the idea of a pre/post-colonial historical national continuity. As a result discussions about 'heritage' are often state-dominated, leaving little room for regional and trans-regional views especially where it concerns inter-Asian interactions. These interactions as well as the establishment of particular

(sacred) sites were often the direct product of environmental or ecological conditions which would furthermore often also assure their continuation and/or conservation over long periods of time. However, over time not only environmental/ecological conditions would change but also geopolitical ones introducing different visitors and even 'owners' to particular sites, changing their cultural, social and political significance.

This conference welcomes papers that investigate the role environmental/ecological and historical factors have played in the changing significance of sites in Asia and/or how these factors (continue to) influence the maintenance and conservation of these sites. In relation to this the conference is also interested in how intangible forms of heritage (folklore, customs, or particular rituals) have similarly been influenced and/or affected. It particularly welcomes papers that introduce an inter-Asian perspective either with respect to the (changing) significance of these sites or in relation to the maintenance and conservation of them as cultural heritage. The conference is open to scholars from a diverse range of backgrounds including (art) history, archaeology, cultural studies, ecology & environment studies and social sciences as well as practitioners ranging from conservationists to managers and activists.

Location

This two-day conference will be jointly organized by the new [Nalanda University](#) and the Netherlands based International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS). Rajgir (Bihar) promises to be an exceptionally interesting location for this conference given its proximity to the ancient site of Nalanda University (a prime example of inter-Asian connections) as well as many other important historical and religious sites such as Bodh Gaya, where Buddhism finds its origin. The conference program will include a full-day of sightseeing. The location for the conference will be the newly built Convention Centre that is equipped with all modern facilities.

Abstract & Program

Please submit your abstract of no more than 250 words before **31 July 2013**. Also include a summary of no more than a 150 words of your current affiliation, research interests and key publications. Presenters may be requested to be discussants and/or chairpersons in other sessions. Presentations will be thirty minutes with fifteen minutes of questions of answers. The presentation of photographic or video-material is not only possible but also highly encouraged. Suggestions for documentary screenings or musical performances that could be included in the evening program are also highly welcome. Please submit your abstract, inquiries and/or suggestions to:

[conferences@nalandauniv.in](mailto:conferences@nalandauniv.in)

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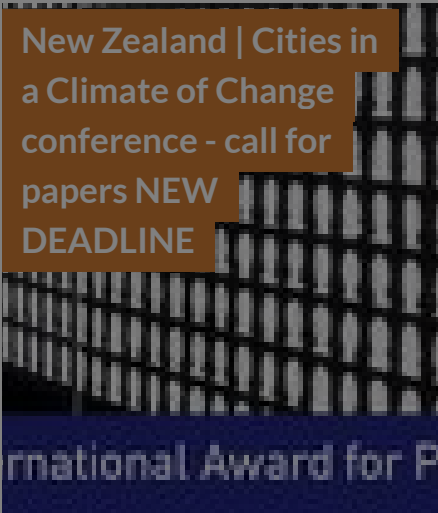
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