

Introduction

Asia in Focus

A Nordic journal on Asia by early career researchers

The scope and number of academic journals is broadening each year yet publish or perish remains a serious reality for early career academics. Over the years at NIAS – Nordic institute of Asian Studies we have engaged in helping new scholars at Nordic member institutions reach an audience outside their own turf by giving courses on how to publish and on how to publish the best manuscripts for a global readership.

By launching the Asia in Focus journal, we take this one step further and offer early career researchers a unique opportunity to publish their work: we provide more focused guidance and feedback than they would get from a mainstream journal, and give full recognition and respect to the stage they are at on their academic career ladder. We are proud that this new activity is so well linked to our other core activities here at NIAS, and it may even be viewed as a necessary addition to our student and researcher support program (SUPRA) and our academic publishing unit, NIAS Press.

As with other scholarly publications, we demand quality, adherence to styles and guidelines and we have a well-qualified editorial committee. As a direct consequence of these unique differences, we are able to access an extremely wide pool of early career colleagues attending Nordic academic institutions, and with them provide readers with original and well-informed analyses of current Asian issues in an open access format.

In this issue of Asia in Focus the authors have a variety of different backgrounds. We feel strongly that it is academically healthy to engage with researchers from many different parts of the world in order to present diverse approaches on particular areas of specialty, with the ultimate ambition of learning from one another.

Each issue will present a selection of the manuscripts submitted, hence there is no binding theme. In this issue you will find works on: family policies in Japan; popular resistance in China; challenging business communication between Finns and Chinese; the liberation of bonded labor in Nepal, and two more on the political culture of the country; and finally an article on problems related to migration from rural to urban areas in Bangladesh.

Enjoy the read, and should you want to submit your own contribution, please do not hesitate to contact us at asiainfocus@nias.ku.dk

Regards,

Geir Helgesen,
NIAS Director

