

20 April 2016 – Message from President

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Dear ASAA members,

Wang Gungwu Prize for Best Article in *Asian Studies Review*

The committee is pleased to [announce](#) that the winning 2015 article is [Margaret Becker](#) for her article, 'Constructing SSLM: Insights from struggles over women's rights in Nepal'.

Becker, from the University of Adelaide, explores the extent to which Nepali women are able to enforce or expand their rights through engagement with the legal system.

The article examines the roles of non-governmental organisations as 'support structures for legal mobilisation' (SSLM) and argues that while legal mechanisms are important they need to be embedded within a multipronged strategy for advancing women's rights.

The article appeared in volume 39, issue 2, June 2015 of the *Asian Studies Review's* special issue on 'Law, Support Structures and the Realisation of Human Rights in Asia' edited by Associate Professor [Andrew Rosser](#) also of Adelaide University.

The Wang Gungwu Prize is an award of \$1,500 and comes with permanent free access on the [Asian Studies Review](#) website thanks to an agreement *ASR Editor*, Associate Professor Michael Barr, secured with Taylor and Francis.

Congratulations to Margaret on her outstanding article!

Ballot coming to seek your approval to change the Constitution

Later today I will send an email from 'Election Buddy' seeking your approval to accept some changes to our constitution as recommended by the ASAA Council.

The Constitution was last amended many years ago before the internet became a commonly used tool. The Council has made a thorough review of the wording and has proposed changes to make it reflect the current mode of operations.

The changes do not alter the aims, objectives, or governance of the Association, rather they clarify the means through which the executive and council communicate with members, the evolution of the composition of our membership and the methods of conducting elections.

The existing constitution can be found at:

<http://asaa.asn.au/about/constitution/>

The proposed changes can be previewed at:

<http://asaa.asn.au/proposed-constitutional-amendments-april-2016/>

ASAA Conference 5-7 July 2016 at ANU

For the latest information on how to participate, visit the [conference website](#).

There is an exciting array of papers already in. If you haven't formed a panel or joined a panel, there is still time to join!

Closing Date for Panel and Paper Proposals: **22 April 2016**

For administrative queries to the Conference Committee, please contact asaa2016@anu.edu.au.

See you there!

National Library of Australia fellowships 2017

Applications for the National Library of Australia (NLA)'s 2017 Fellowships are now open. The Fellowships are open to Australian and international researchers, and established and emerging scholars. They support researchers to make intensive use of the Library's rich and varied collections of Asian language and Asia related materials. Applications for 2017 Fellowships are open until **2 May 2016**. For more details please visit the [NLA's website](#).

Latest Issue of [Asian Studies Review](#), vol 40, no. 2 (2016)

This second issue of 2016 includes a special focus on Singapore and Japan as well as three other articles and rich array of book reviews.

Members can now access the journal via the [Members Only](#) section of the ASAA website. Instructions on how to activate your access are on the last item of this email under 'New Website Access and Issues'.

Articles:

Devleena Ghosh, 'Burma-Bengal Crossings: Intercolonial Connections in Pre-Independence India'

Thienny Lee, 'Defining the Aesthetics of the Nyonyas' Batik Sarongs'

Linda Lumayag, 'Education Needs of Undocumented children in Malaysia'

Special Focus on Singapore:

Gary Rodan, 'Capitalism, Inequality and Ideology in Singapore'

Kenneth Paul Tan, 'Choosing what to remember in Neoliberal Singapore'

Christian Capital: Singapore, Evangelical Flows and Religious Hubs'

Special Focus on Japan

Genaro Castro-Vazquez, 'Childbirth and Social Class in Contemporary Japan'

Jung-Sun Han, 'Relics of Empire Underground: The Making of Dark Heritage in Contemporary Japan'

New website access and issues

We are still struggling to achieve 100% smooth operation with all aspects of the new website. Please accept our apologies for the inconvenience caused. Especially for

those of you who have experienced difficulties with registering or activating your account.

The company responsible has provided us with a set of instructions for members showing you how to reactive your account. Once logged in you can access the online *Asian Studies Review*. These instructions are available on the 'Membership Page' [here](#). Scroll down to 'Join or Renew' to find the [pdf](#) 'Members Reset password'. Remember to use the email address that you have received this Newsletter on. This is the only one that the system recognises.

Again, please accept our sincerest apologies for the ongoing inconvenience this has caused and rest assured we are doing everything we can to bring it to a speedy resolution.

Looking forward to seeing you in Canberra in July.

Louise Edwards
President
Asian Studies Association of Australia