

CONFERENCE ON
INTER-ASIAN CONNECTIONS III: HONG KONG
JUNE 6-8, 2012

CALL FOR WORKSHOP PAPERS
DEADLINE: Friday, June 24, 2011

Workshop Title:

Networks of Religious Learning and the Dissemination of Religious Knowledge across Asia

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Networks of religious learning make up an important part of inter-Asian connections. They account for significant flows of educational migration, and play a considerable role in defining and re-defining the relations between countries and their people.

In this workshop, we trace the connections of religious learning across Asia, including West Asia and the Gulf. While well-developed bodies of literatures exist on institutions of religious learning within certain countries, very few studies thus far take account of the role religious education plays in structuring transnational connections between and within Asia. In addition, most extant studies on international education, in particular at the university level, focus on “secular” education, whereas little is known about educational migration between institutions of religious learning. Finally, the fact that networks of religious learning often feature prominently in countries’ cultural foreign policy is yet to be reflected in scholarship – we know very little about the organization and finances states provide to attract foreign students to their institutions of religious learning, and conversely, to facilitate or limit the emigration of students to institutions of religious learning outside their purview.

We invite papers that focus on the transnational travel of people and religious ideas both with a contemporary or historical focus. Principally, proposals on any topic relating to the themes outlined above are welcome. Specific paper topics could include, but are not limited to:

- women in transnational religious education
- the diffusion of the Jami’at al-Tabligh and its recruitment methods across Asia
- transnational Shi’a networks of religious learning
- Aligarh Muslim University and Al-Azhar, two transnational learning centers?
- the role of the Pakistani madrassas in the making of the Taliban movement
- the revival of Najaf and Karbala as international centers of religious learning
- the Sangh Parivar’s attempts at re-Hinduising the children of the Indian diaspora in South East Asia
- Buddhist educational networks across Asia – the case of Dalit converts studying in South East and East Asia
- Qum: reaching out to Central Asia?
- the teaching of Tibetan Buddhism in India
- the seminar of Deoband, a pan-Islamic seminar?
- comparisons between different state approaches to facilitating or constraining transnational religious education.

For additional details and application guidelines, please visit the Conference website: <http://www.ssrc.org/programs/pages/interasia-program/conference-on-inter-asian-connections-iii-hong-kong-june-6-8-2012/>.