



CALL FOR PAPERS/PORTFOLIO: MOVING ASIA ON THE MOVE

1. MOVING ASIA

The increasingly pervasive forces of globalization, the rise of education levels, the improvement of transport and communication systems, are evidently at work across Asia, from the more developed of East Asian countries to the transitional economies of Southeast Asia. Asian political institutions, social relations and imaginaries are changing. The Asian Mobilities portfolio seeks to shed light on the pathways that have led Asian societies to such development and the manners in which they have experienced mobility. We aim to help rethink mobility at a time when Asian governments, Asian economies and Asian studies scholars are catching on the idea of an "Asia in motion." To do so, we invite works that help us think how the past informs the present and move beyond disciplinary boundaries.

Considering mobility in Southeast Asia, for instance, implies a questioning of the continuing relevance of the nation-state as the default unit of historical analysis. Recent facts eroding the importance of the nation-state (transnational migrations, movement of capital, etc.) usually help make the case against this unit. But, history, with an attention to mobilities, sheds light on what moves in the shadows of the nation-state: the environment, animals, diseases, landscapes, water, floods, disasters, etc. For example, looking at the energies and fuels that powered mobilities invites us to interrogate the different types of transport technologies and the making of a region on the move.

In a sense, the Asian Mobilities portfolio aims at harnessing the energies of researchers around the globe and powering new ways to think about mobility and what mobility does to our default units of thinking, such as the nation-state.

2. MOVING ASIANS

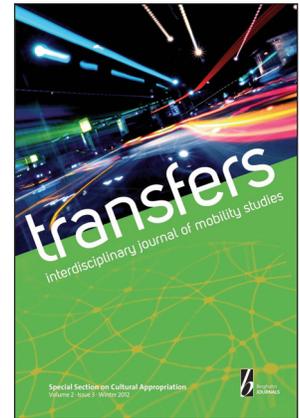
The portfolio invites works from researchers from all backgrounds, at historically established institutions, from diasporic organizations or from the recently formed hubs of scholarly research within Asia. Asian voices come from many different directions, some old, some new, in many different forms, some from expert scholars, some from practitioners or artists, and we seek to become a powerful conduit for them. Indeed, migrations from and within Asia operate on the uneven terrain of globalization, affecting individual trajectories, family structures, etc. The Asian Mobilities portfolio seeks to question these connections and disconnections between the local and global.

The Asian Mobilities portfolio also seeks to include those whose works look at the connections within Asia, between Asia and Africa, Asia and Latin America or between Asia and Oceania. In so doing, we would like to encourage readers to de-familiarize themselves from Western norms, help them rethink mobility outside of a Western framework and move away from defaulting to Western mobilities as template. In this sense, the Asian Mobilities portfolio seeks to connect with the other non-Western portfolios.

3. ON THE MOVE

The Asian Mobilities portfolio also connects with the Mobility and Media portfolio. Asia has become a site of operation for many mobile technologies, from transport technologies to mobile communication, from electric vehicle innovations in East Asia to mobile phone payment in India. Therefore, not only do we welcome the works of transport historians, but we also invite those whose works in anthropology follow the tracks of mobile money within and from Asia, for example. The Asian Mobilities portfolio will thus stay on the move with the media and technology that create, enable or impede forms of mobility.

By paying attention to the ways technologies and media inform mobilities, by inviting us to look to the past to understand the present, by questioning the relationships between the local and the global, the Asian Mobilities portfolio seeks to construct pathways to move mobilities studies forward.



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