

EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

We are delighted to present you a new special issue of Pacific Geographies, this time focussing on public art. In the emerging countries of the Asia-Pacific region the recognition of culture is on the rise, noticeably among the young generation who are expressing their appreciation for the murals of the local graffiti scene. This special issue also shows that graffiti art is not an underground culture anymore but that it's increasingly being used by local governments for place-making and community development, and thus also as a means of tourist development and income generation.

The first article introduces public art in Jakarta. The Indonesian capital has become the founding site of the first Southeast Asian graffiti network known as "Ladies on Wall". For these young women in Indonesia, graffiti is a means of empowerment and an expression of creativity.

The following two contributions present examples of public art in Vietnam. Hien Nguyen, co-founder of the non-profit association "Pho Ben Doi", introduces Vietnam's first annual, inter- and multi-disciplinary community art show located in the Central Highlands city of Dalat, Vietnam. Its ultimate goal is to transform Dalat into a unique cultural destination of Southeast Asia. And, Le Dieu Anh introduces another pioneering public art project, the transformation of traditional fishermen villages in Central Vietnam into a public art space. This activity mainly served to strengthen community and tourist development and was implemented in a participatory way with the support of various donors and well-known artists as well as students.

Two excerpts of school poster exhibitions, co-published by APSA, complement this special issue. Both present graffiti art, one in the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong and the other one in Cambodia's capital Phnom Penh. Both convey impressions of the vibrant local scene and of the wide variety of graffiti styles in each city.

The last page of this issue refers to a recently published book, a highly interesting compendium highlighting the whole architecture spectrum of Phnom Penh and particularly its valuable New Khmer Architecture (NKA) heritage. At the same time, it also introduces innovative architects who build upon the NKA tradition and transfer their principles into state-of-the-art green architecture forms. Co-publisher of this volume is Walter Koditek, a long-time APSA-member.

We sincerely hope you enjoy your readings of this issue.

The managing editors, Michael Waibel & Matthias Kowasch

Pacific Geographies

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The PG provides an interdisciplinary academic platform to discuss social, cultural, environmental and economic issues and developments in the Asia-Pacific region.

In order to uphold scientific standards, the PG is implementing a peer-review process. Articles marked as „scientific papers“ have been peer-reviewed by two external reviewers. Articles marked as „research notes“ have been peer-reviewed by one external reviewer and a member of the editorial board. All other articles have been reviewed by the editorial board. Contributions receive a Digital Object Identifier (DOI).

The Association for Pacific Studies (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Pazifische Studien e.V., APSA) was founded in 1987 at the Department of Geography of the University of Technology in Aachen. Activities include workshops, conferences, public lectures and poster exhibitions. The book series PAZIFIK FORUM was initiated in 1990. In 1992, it was complemented by the journal PACIFIC NEWS. APSA-Members receive the PACIFIC GEOGRAPHIES at no cost as a membership benefit.

The APSA sees itself as one of the largest scientific networks in Germany for academics and practitioners with an interest in the Asia-Pacific region as well as academic exchange.

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COVER PICTURE

Impression from the "Pho Ben Doi
2019 | Into Art Hills" Mural Art
Project during the day of the
opening in Dalat, Vietnam
Source: © Hien Nguyen

