



## THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR LADAKH STUDIES

2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Papers (Deadline for Abstract submission: Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016)

*Current Western Himalayan Research*

18th Colloquium of the International Association for Ladakh Studies (IALS)

Bedlewo, Poland, 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> May 2017

The 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of the International Association for Ladakh Studies (IALS) will be jointly organized by the Board of Polish Academy of Sciences, Humboldt University Berlin, and the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, Poland. It will be held at the Bedlewo Conference Centre near Poznan, Poland from Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

The conference theme will focus broadly on *Current Western Himalayan Research* with the aim of gathering together senior and independent researchers, postgraduate students, and practitioners from across all academic disciplines. Whilst precedence is given to Ladakh-oriented research, we wish also to encourage studies that focus upon the wider Himalayan belt, including the neighboring high-altitude areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Pakistan. The conference will have an interdisciplinary character as is the tradition and trademark of IALS colloquia.

We are now accepting abstracts of up to 400 words. If you wish to apply, please complete the attached application form and submit using the following email address: [Ials2017bedlewo@gmail.com](mailto:Ials2017bedlewo@gmail.com)

### **Proposed sessions' structure:**

We strongly encourage participants from various scientific disciplines to submit an abstract in the following sessions:

- Cultural and social change
- Religious transformations
- Economic transformation in rural areas
- New data in Himalayan studies
- Climate change: resilience and adaptation

- Development practices
- Health and wellbeing
- Historical issues and history of art

Following the requests received from some of the participants we propose a few additional panels with hope they will find your interest:

- Conservation/restoration of cultural heritage of the Himalayas
- Zaskar as cultural phenomena
- Nubra, and its relations to neighboring regions
- Buddha life and its depictions in art

Please be so kind and state in your application in which panel you would prefer to be assigned. It will help us a lot in our organizational work and in addition let us avoid misunderstandings or faux pas.

In addition, we still invite suggestions and proposals for additional panel sessions, although please inform us swiftly of any such an intention, indicating with whom you would like to cooperate or convene such a panel.

### **Documentary films**

We are also issuing a call for good documentary films for those with visual research related to the region and themes of the conference. The process for proposal is the same as for paper abstracts. However, please state the format you would like to present the documentary footage.

All paper proposals will be subject to review by the conference committee before final acceptance. The most important consideration is that papers must represent the results of original research, and not simply a restatement of existing knowledge based on the work of well-known authors.

### **Conference fee:**

Senior researchers: 250 Euro  
Students: 210 Euro  
Sponsored fee: 140 Euro

We are very pleased to be able to offer 25 sponsored fees to candidates with high quality abstracts, but who would otherwise be unable to attend the conference due to insufficient financial support. We will reserve 15 sponsored places for participants/students from South-Asia, with the remaining 10 reserved for non-South Asian students, who cannot demonstrate support from their institutions of affiliation.

Participants qualifying for sponsored fees will be accommodated in double and triple rooms.

The conference fee is all-inclusive and covers the costs of: accommodation at the conference center, banquet and grill dinner, all meals and refreshments, conference booklet, excursions, and transportation between Poznan and Bedlewo.

### **Terms and deadlines:**

The Call for Papers and Documentary Films will remain open until Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016, with final decisions being communicated by mid-November 2016. However, we strongly encourage those wishing to apply for a sponsored place to submit their abstracts as early possible. We anticipate many applications for sponsored places, and early submission will allow the conference committee time to review applications and finalize sponsorship details.

### **IALS membership:**

Membership of the IALS is an essential requirement for conference participation. Papers will be accepted only from fully paid-up members. If you wish to submit an abstract but are currently not a member of the IALS, you can join by visiting the following website: <http://www.ladakhstudies.org/membership.html>. Current biennial IALS membership fees are INR 800 for citizens of India and South Asian countries, and UKP 28, Euro 40 or USD 60 for non-South Asian members. Full time students qualify for two years' membership at half the full rate.

### **Travel grants:**

In addition to sponsored fees, the IALS has ten Euro 100 grants toward the costs of travel, which we will be able to offer candidates who can demonstrate financial constraint. We have never agreed the amount! Given the limited funds available for grants, the IALS encourages those wishing to participate at the Bedlewo conference to actively seek additional sources of funding. Where necessary, the IALS be happy to provide letters of reference in support of such applications.

Members who decide to apply for partial funding offered by the IALS are required to submit an extended abstract (800-1000 words) and a letter of application. In their letters of application, eligible participants are requested to include personal details such as age, occupation, educational qualifications, a statement of motivation (why they wish to participate in the conference), together with information of any other funding applied for. Please bear in mind that our limited funds can only benefit a small number of participants, and competition will be fierce. The procedure will be stringent, and decisions will be based foremost on the quality

of the presentation, followed by consideration given to the region of field study, and subject matter to ensure the widest possible representation of disciplines.

Note: It will not be possible for the conference organizers and the IALS to offer the same candidate both a sponsored fee and a travel grant.

### **Further information:**

For additional information on registration, travel grants and other details, please visit the IALS website: [www.ladakhstudies.org](http://www.ladakhstudies.org). Downloads could be done from the webpage of the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology Nicolaus Copernicus University: <http://www.etnologia.umk.pl/index.php/ials-2017-bedlewo> or <http://www.etnologia.umk.pl/ials2017>

### **About the place:**

Bedlewo Conference Centre is equipped with all modern facilities: single, double and triple rooms with private baths, and we even offer a sauna, small gym, billiards and table tennis for enthusiasts of evening sports. Maybe for the first time we can organise sporting competitions amongst Himalayan researchers! The conference centre really is a wonderful place; please take a look at pictures linked on conference homepage.

We look forward to welcoming you at Bedlewo in 2017, and to offering the unforgettable atmosphere of spring in Poland combined with probably the best international company of scholars united by a common interest in the Himalaya.

### **Conference Secretaries:**

Rafal Beszterda, Poland

Diana Lange, Germany

### **Proposals should be sent directly to the conference mailing address:**

[ials2017bedlewo@gmail.com](mailto:ials2017bedlewo@gmail.com)

In cases where special assistance is required, please find below additional contact details:

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