1. Uneven Geographies, Ecologies, Technologies and Human Futures

The goal of ICAS 13 is to facilitate global transdisciplinary conversations and to link such conversations with local realities. The broader scope and description of this theme can be found under the 'thematic cluster' header which provides ideas and examples of proposal topics that can be submitted under this theme. If you think your proposal fits in multiple themes, please choose the one that you believe suits best.

ICAS 13 would like to introduce the local realities in these transdisciplinary conversations, the explanation of the theme starts off with a note on 'local context' intended to highlight connections between heterogeneous Asian Studies research and the particular perspective from Surabaya, Indonesia.

This theme welcomes proposals with a broader disciplinary and geographical perspective as well as proposals that connect these perspectives to the Indonesian context.

The local context

Countless examples of Indonesian folklore and literature narrate how people adapt and cope with the region's 'natural elements'. In East Java, numerous ancient traditions depict the beauty of volcanoes like Bromo-Semeru and Ijen craters, but also their potential catastrophic consequences for humans. The sea is likewise both a source of life and sometimes the origin of disastrous tsunamis. Disasters, natural and human-made, are an everyday reality of the Indonesian life. However, in recent decades, the Indonesian government has been employing various sophisticated technologies to mitigate the disasters' effects on society. In doing so, it has brought together the latest technology and ancient inherited wisdom in coping with the dangers of the natural environment.

This thematic cluster

The uncontrolled transformation of the globe, the melting glaciers and receding coastlines, has accelerated with the impact of mining, marine and coastal engineering, single crop agriculture, infrastructure development suck as dams, highways, urban mega-projects, nuclear testing, space exploration, genetic engineering, artificial intelligence (AI), and the like. The succession of catastrophic floods as well as cases of air and water pollution emergencies have now become the norm. Under this broad thematic cluster, we invite contributors to discuss questions associated with human-technology-nature interactions. Topics include ecological vulnerabilities and their impact on human futures – landslides and soil erosion, drought, excessive rainfalls, and other forms of ecological degradations. In addition, new and sophisticated technologies, including the Internet, have variously transformed the society and the environment we live in. This theme invites discussion of geopolitical issues arising from modes of global governance such as surveillance platforms, regulations and policies, and emergent international coalitions, new alignments and competitions.

These topics can be explored through various formats of engagement, including papers, panels, roundtables, posters, audio-visuals and other media, to ensure a broad forum of academic and civic exchanges. We also welcome you to share other formats and ideas; to propose activities, workshops and exhibitions to enrich the exchange of knowledge and experiences.