

28 July-1 August 2024

Surabaya, Indonesia

### 3. Prosperity, the Pains of Growth and its Governance

*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.*

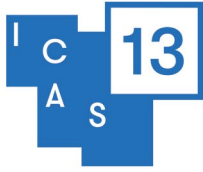
*This theme welcomes proposals with a broader disciplinary and geographical perspective as well as proposals that connect these perspectives to the Indonesian context.*

#### The local context

Today, people in East Java province are on average at least 5.5 times more productive and richer than they were 40 years ago, as a stroll through Surabaya's business district will confirm. Nationwide, the average Indonesian has become at least 3.5 times richer within the same time span. More people managed to escape from poverty and the country increasingly moved away from a predominantly rural to an urban economy. In 2022, 55 per cent of East Java's population and 57 per cent of Indonesia's population lives in urban areas. Matching a typical 'southern' (as in the Global South) Asian pattern, this significant improvement of material welfare took place in a relatively short period of time, making a number social excesses and tensions – which can be seen as growing pains – inevitable. Surabaya, for example, is on its way to becoming a large agglomerated metropolitan centre. As a result, it experiences rapid suburban development and has its shares of acute transportation and infrastructure problems, phenomena of gentrification, slums, and environmental degradation. Such processes of economic development through 'creative destruction' make traditional and artisanal industries and their practitioners fade away. Meanwhile rent-seeking distorts the effective reallocation of limited resources amongst many of the city's inhabitants.

#### This thematic cluster

The unwavering pursuit for material prosperity, and the social and ecological price at which it comes, forms the basis of this effort to bring together scholarship on political economy. Both on a micro and macro scale, this interdisciplinary cluster invites explorations of the parameters, indices, policies and ideologies undergirding economic growth, from productivity, labor, capital, markets to financial regulations, governance mechanisms and their costs (the 'pains'). We take the topic of economic prosperity and its growing pains in Asia as our central point of inquiry open to all disciplines of study. Through multi-disciplinary approaches and experiences, we want to critically assess this desire for material growth and the new tensions it reveals across societies, from everyday politics to the philosophical limits of the quest itself.



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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.