## 4. Seeing from the Neighbourhood: States, Communities and Human Mobility

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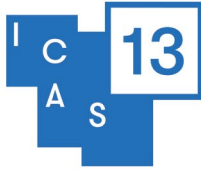
*This theme welcomes proposals with a broader disciplinary and geographical perspective as well as proposals that connect these perspectives to the Indonesian context.*

### The local context

As early as the 14th century, Surabaya emerged as a major urban settlement that developed into Indonesia's second-biggest city. The rapid urbanization and industrialization during the colonial period created complex legacies which affected but were not limited to the position of the traditional neighbourhood (kampung). The term kampung in Surabaya and elsewhere in Indonesia has obtained a more derogatory meaning in modern days as a place where the authorities wanted to exert their power or even demolish it in the name of development. They see the kampung as backward in terms of its infrastructure and therefore unsuitable for the urban environment. At the same time, distinct urban landscapes that mix elements of rurality (the so-called "village-community") flourished in many parts of Asia, especially in Southeast Asia. Even in the Khmer language, kampung is used to denote a port or haven, indicating the dynamic mobilities between people in many cities at the dawn of the region's Age of Commerce. With this in mind, a kampung is not only a site but also a communal way to see the world and to be in the world. Attempts at moulding collective human settlements into functional, class-based, ethnic compartmentalisations imposed by state and corporate norms – that have elsewhere succeeded in fragmenting societies – have so far failed to fully obliterate this truly Indonesian but also Southeast Asian way of living in society. The kampung spirit has something to teach the world!

### This thematic cluster

This thematic cluster will critically explore the complicated interaction of community, society and state in Asia and beyond. The cities of this extremely diversified region continue to occupy multifaceted profiles due to differences in the processes of nation-state construction and the varying levels of economic and institutional development. The presence of a major transnational corporate complex that possesses the financial strength and authority to shape these cities, frequently in conjunction with local authorities, complicates large-scale urban transitions. These transformations are often carried out with the complicity of local authorities. Contributions that look at how local communities address issues as diverse yet connected as neighbourhood(s), land-based, water-based and amphibious settlements, rural–urban–peri-urban migration, urban infrastructures (both built and digital), state-led

gentrification projects, formal and informal urban publics and questions of living close to borders, be it forests, coastlines, rivers, mountains and the like, are also welcome in this thematic cluster.

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.