

## EastAsiaNet Award for Academic Books and Articles granted in October 2012

At the 10th EAN research workshop and business meeting held at the CIDOB Foundation of Barcelona in October 2012, the first *EastAsiaNet Awards for Academic Books and Articles* were granted. The purpose of the EastAsiaNet Award is to recognize and encourage exemplary scholarship in contemporary East Asian studies with a social science focus. This does not exclude relevant input from the humanities or from a historical perspective. The EastAsiaNet Award is bestowed upon junior scholars, before or within five years after their doctoral degrees.

The first EastAsiaNet Award for a book was granted to **Christian Goebel** of the University of Duisburg-Essen for *The Politics of Rural Reform in China: State Policy and Village Predicament in the Early 2000s* (Abingdon/New York: Routledge 2010). The jury unanimously lauded the high academic quality of this work as an example of innovative research published by a recent PhD of the EastAsiaNet thematic network with relevance for the Social Sciences.

The Award for an academic article goes to **Mark Pendleton** (University of Sheffield) for his paper *Subway to Street: Spaces of Traumatic Memory, Counter-memory and Recovery in post-Aum Tokyo*. In this article, published in *Japanese Studies* 31:3 (2011), Mark Pendleton revisits the murderous attack perpetrated by members of the Aum Shinrikyô sect on the Tokyo subway. He presents and analyses the way in which the traumatic events have been mediated by those affected through their creation of counter-memories, and convincingly places these developments in the larger context of the 'terrain of historical memory', concluding with thoughts on the larger issue of how historical trauma are resolved. This article stands out as an exceptional piece that deals in a sensitive and thought-provoking way with a complex and demanding topic.

A special honourable mention in the 2012 EastAsiaNet Award in the article category has been granted to **Marco Fumian** (Ca'Foscari University Venice) for his paper *The Social Construction of a Myth: An Interpretation of Guo Jingming's Parable*. With his analysis of the recent literary phenomenon Guo Jingming, published in *Oriental Archive* 78 (2010), Marco Fumian incisively lays bare the social and commercial context surrounding the novel *Enchanted City*, and reveals how a very popular author was, apparently not unwillingly, coopted to serve cultural and political ends by the cultural establishment. This article combines literary insights with a remarkable understanding of the marketing of contemporary culture in China, thus providing an indispensable introduction to the contested world of Chinese youth.