

## **EastAsiaNet 2014 Award for Academic Books and Articles granted**

At the 11<sup>th</sup> EastAsiaNet research workshop and business meeting held at Halifax Hall, the University of Sheffield in April 2014, the Board approved the jury to reach a decision on the second EastAsiaNet Awards for Academic Books and Articles. In June 2014, the jury agreed the two winners.

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 of their doctoral degrees.

The 2014 EastAsiaNet Award for a book was granted to *Florian Schneider* of Leiden University (Ph.D. from the University of Sheffield) for *Visual Political Communication in Popular Chinese Television Series* (Leiden: Brill 2012). The jury unanimously lauded this impressive work, which provides a systematic analysis of popular contemporary TV series in China as well as a highly persuasive analysis of their political implications. The book demonstrates how direct official censorship does not explain the common elements of the political discourse found in these programmes. Instead self-censorship, commercial incentives, bias in the rating systems, and so on, are of crucial significance.

The 2014 EastAsiaNet Award for an academic article goes to *Jens Sejrup* of Lund University (Ph.D. from the University of Copenhagen) for his paper, 'Instrumentalized History and the Motif of Repetition in News Coverage of Japan-Taiwan Relations,' *Pacific Affairs*, vol. 85, no. 4, pp. 745–765. The jury unanimously praised the careful, thorough and creative way Japanese and Taiwanese newspapers were analysed. The paper shines a penetrating light on how the repetition of historical stereotypes was pivotal in the construction of Taiwanese modernity in the context of Japan's own modernization. Its use of over 1500 newspaper entries stands out as an exemplary use of data, enabling the author to offer robust evidence in support of his analysis.