

THE ANNUAL KATHMANDU CONFERENCE ON

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**NEPAL & THE HIMALAYA**

**28-31 July 2020**

**Social Science Baha, Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies,  
Britain-Nepal Academic Council, Centre for Himalayan Studies-CNRS  
& Nepal Academic Network (Japan)**

**SCHEDULE**

(All times are in Nepal time)

**Day 1: 28 July (Tuesday) SESSION 1: 17:00–18:20**

<p><b>Panel A1</b>  <b>Caring for the Young and the Elderly</b>  <a href="https://zoom.us/j/99436323304">https://zoom.us/j/99436323304</a></p>		<p><b>Panel B1</b>  <b>Continuity and Change in Marriage Rituals</b>  <a href="https://zoom.us/j/96260265497">https://zoom.us/j/96260265497</a></p>	
<p><b>Opening Remarks and Chair</b>  <i>Nirmal Man Tuladhar</i>                  Chair, Social Science Baha  <b>Discussant: Shak Bahadur Budhathoki</b>                  Education Coordinator, Mercy Corps,                  Lalitpur</p>		<p><b>Opening Remarks and Chair</b>  <i>Katsuo Nawa</i>                  Nepal Academic Network (Japan)  <b>Discussant: Seika Sato</b>                  Teikyo University, Japan</p>	
<p><b>Sanjeev Dahal</b>                  PhD candidate,                  Boston College</p>	<p><b>Institutional Care of Children in Nepal Amid Political Conflict, Natural Disaster and Resultant Displacement</b></p>	<p><b>Anisha Bhattarai</b>                  Senior Research Associate, Social Science Baha</p>	<p><b>The Samdhis in Intermarriages: A Study of Evolving Marriage Practices Between Bahuns and Newars</b></p>
<p><b>Sarah Speck</b>  <b>Ulrike Müller-Böker</b>                  Department of Geography,                  University of Zurich</p>	<p><b>Population Aging and Family Change: Effects on the Living Conditions of Older People in Rural Nepal</b></p>	<p><b>Pushpa Palanchoke</b>                  Department of Music, Kathmandu University</p>	<p><b>Ratyaulī: Musical Sexual Socialization at Ghyachok</b></p>
<p><i>BREAK: 18:20–18:50</i></p>			

**Day 1: 28 July (Tuesday) SESSION 2: 18:50–21:00**

<p><b>Panel A2</b>  <b>From Conflict to Federalism</b>  <a href="https://zoom.us/j/95287159667">https://zoom.us/j/95287159667</a></p>		<p><b>Panel B2</b>  <b>Traditional Local knowledge</b>  <a href="https://zoom.us/j/99242571877">https://zoom.us/j/99242571877</a></p>	
<p><b>Chair: Sara B. Shneiderman</b>                  Associate Professor, Dept of Anthropology,                  University of British Columbia  <b>Discussant: Sudeshna Thapa</b>                  Research Officer, Social Science Baha</p>		<p><b>Chair: Magnus Hatlebakk</b>                  Senior Researcher, Chr. Michelsen Institute,                  Bergen, Norway  <b>Discussant: Sangita Thebe Limbu</b>                  University of Oxford</p>	
<p><b>Mahendra Lawoti</b>                  Professor,                  Department of Political Science,                  Western Michigan University</p>	<p><b>Nepali Federalism: Quasi, Pseudo or Real?</b></p>	<p><b>Rajiv Ghimire</b>                  PhD Student,                  Arizona State University</p>	<p><b>Transdisciplinary Approach for Climate Change Adaptation: A Study of Gandaki River Basin</b></p>
<p><b>Vishnu Tandon</b>                  PhD Candidate,                  École Des Hautes Études En Sciences Sociales, Paris</p>	<p><b>Towards Federal Democracy: Participatory Planning in Post – War Federal Setting of Nepal</b></p>	<p><b>Tom Robertson</b>                  Former Executive Director, Fulbright Nepal</p>	<p><b>Man-Made Jungles: How the Tharu Made the Chitwan and Bardiya Grasslands</b></p>

<p><b>Kirpa Ram Bishwakarma</b> Lecturer, Aathabis Education Campus, Dailekh</p>	<p><b>Impacts of Contradictions Among Dalits for Peace-Building in Post-Conflict Nepal</b></p>	<p><b>Nabin Maharjan</b> PhD Candidate, Brock University <b>Nirdesh Shrestha</b> <b>Palistha Sikhraka</b> <b>Pratap Adhikari</b> <b>Roji Maharjan</b> <b>Sarada Rana Magar</b> <b>Saurav Rajbhandari</b> <b>Sujan Oli</b></p>	<p><b>Applicability of Participatory Action Research in Nepalese Context: Nepali Youth Experiences in Studying Youth Community Engagement</b></p>
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**Day 2: 29 July (Wednesday) SESSION 3: 17:00–18:20**

<p><b>Panel A3</b> <b>Moving on after Disasters</b> <a href="https://zoom.us/j/97041638706">https://zoom.us/j/97041638706</a></p>		<p><b>Panel B3</b> <b>Culture as Identity: Fixity and Flexibility</b> <a href="https://zoom.us/j/95162187396">https://zoom.us/j/95162187396</a></p>	
<p><b>Chair: Nabin Rawal</b> Lecturer, Central Department of Anthropology, Tribhuvan University <b>Discussant: Austin Lord</b> PhD Candidate, Cornell University</p>		<p><b>Chair: Heather Hindman</b> Associate Professor, University of Texas at Austin <b>Discussant: Sara Bertotti</b> SOAS, University of London</p>	
<p><b>Nabin Maharjan</b> PhD Candidate, Brock University <b>Nirdesh Shrestha</b> <b>Palistha Sikhraka</b> <b>Pratap Adhikari</b> <b>Roji Maharjan</b> <b>Sarada Rana Magar</b> <b>Saurav Rajbhandari</b> <b>Sujan Oli</b></p>	<p><b>Nepali Youth's Community Engagement in the Post-Disaster Context: Myth or Reality?</b></p>	<p><b>Swosti Rajbhandari Kayastha</b> Lecturer, Museology and Buddhist Collection, Lumbini Buddhist University</p>	<p><b>Museums Fulfilling a Socio-Political Cause</b></p>
<p><b>Sanae ITO</b> National Institute for the Humanities, Tokyo, and Graduate School of Asian and African Studies, Kyoto University</p>	<p><b>Memories and Mourning of the Gorkha Earthquake in Kathmandu Valley, Nepal</b></p>	<p><b>Izumi Morimoto</b> Professor, Faculty of International Studies, Meiji Gakuin University</p>	<p><b>Transforming and Dispersing Sarangi; From Avatar of the Gandharba to Opportunity to Change Society</b></p>
<p><i>BREAK: 18:20–18:50</i></p>			

**Day 2: 29 July (Wednesday) SESSION 4: 18:50–21:00**

<p><b>Panel A4</b> <b>Religion: Explorations and Experiences</b> <a href="https://zoom.us/j/95783896654">https://zoom.us/j/95783896654</a></p>		<p><b>Panel B4</b> <b>Piecing Together the Past</b> <a href="https://zoom.us/j/97269589099">https://zoom.us/j/97269589099</a></p>	
<p><b>Chair: Swosti Rajbhandari Kayastha</b> Lecturer, Museology and Buddhist Collection, Lumbini Buddhist University <b>Discussant: Alfred Pach</b> Senior Social Scientist, International Vaccine Institute</p>		<p><b>Chair: Tom Robertson</b> Former Executive Director, Fulbright Nepal <b>Discussant: Sanjay Sharma</b> PhD Candidate, National University of Singapore</p>	

<p><b>Gaurav Shrestha</b> Education Counselor &amp; Writer at Backbenchers™ Gurgaon, India</p>	<p><b>Rituals and Mediating Space/s (An Eclectic Approach): An Anecdotal (Re)Search for Festivals in Kathmandu Valley (Multiplicity of Ethnographic Instances)</b></p>	<p><b>Srujay Reddy, Cheering Palkit, Aniket Alam</b> Associate professor &amp; students, International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad</p>	<p><b>Mapping the Chortens of Spiti Valley, Himachal Pradesh</b></p>
<p><b>Michael Baltutis</b> Associate Professor, University of Wisconsin</p>	<p><b>Containing, Confining, and Categorizing Indra: A Vedic Deity in Tantric Nepal</b></p>	<p><b>Yutsha Dahal</b> Researcher, Nepal Picture Library, Kathmandu</p>	<p><b>In Search of the Missing Images: Analysing a Feminist Shift in Visual Culture in Nepal</b></p>
<p><b>Richard Bownas</b> Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, University of Northern Colorado</p>	<p><b>Motivations for Christian Conversion Among Rural to Urban Migrants in the Kathmandu Valley</b></p>	<p><b>Shrey Shahi</b> Doctoral candidate in History at Jawaharlal Nehru University</p>	<p><b>Some Aspects of Agrarian Challenges of the Gorkhali Government: From Latter Half of the 18th Century to the First Half of 19th Century</b></p>

**Day 3: 30 July (Thursday)**

**SESSION 5: 17:00–19:00**

<p><b>Panel A5 Spaces and Resources</b></p> <p><a href="https://zoom.us/j/94879610488">https://zoom.us/j/94879610488</a></p>		<p><b>Panel B5 Governance and Accountability: Stakeholder Engagement</b></p> <p><a href="https://zoom.us/j/95425565404">https://zoom.us/j/95425565404</a></p>	
<p><b>Chair and Discussant: Arjun Kharel</b> Research Coordinator, Social Science Baha</p>		<p><b>Chair: Hari Sharma</b> Social Science Baha <b>Discussant: Nabin Rawal</b> Lecturer, Central Department of Anthropology, Tribhuvan University</p>	
<p><b>Sanju Koirala,</b> Senior Program Officer (Water, Energy and Gender), Policy Entrepreneurs Incorporated, Bakundole, Lalitpur</p>	<p><b>Role of Migration in Driving Water Induced Disaster</b></p>	<p><b>Shak Bahadur Budhathoki</b> Education Coordinator, Mercy Corps, Lalitpur</p>	<p><b>The Dynamics of Financial Accountability in Nepal's Community Schools</b></p>
<p><b>Shristi Shakya</b> Research Associate, Policy Entrepreneurs Incorporated</p>			
<p><b>Urmi Sengupta</b> Senior Lecturer, School of Natural and Built</p>	<p><b>(Un)Making of Tundikhel: Ruptured Space and Spatial Estrangement</b></p>	<p><b>Prabin Nanicha Shrestha Nirmal Rijal</b> Equal Access International, Kathmandu</p>	<p><b>Changing Dynamics of Radio Audience Interactivity in Nepal: 'Audience Want</b></p>

Environment, Queen's University			Change! Radio Needs the Change!
<b>Sese Ma</b> Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies Kyoto University	<b>Neither 'Pet' nor 'Pest': Exploring Individual Decision-Makings on Creative Usage of Space Among Himalayan Feral Dogs in Langtang, Nepal</b>	<b>Seika Sato</b> Teikyo University	From 'Failed Development' to 'Inclusive Development'?: Views of Janajati and Dalit Women
<i>BREAK: 19:00–19:30</i>			

<b>Day 3: 30 July (Thursday)</b>	<b>SESSION 6: 19:30–21:00</b>
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<b>Panel A6</b> <b>Nationalism by Any Other Name</b> <a href="https://zoom.us/j/91222654001">https://zoom.us/j/91222654001</a>		<b>Panel B6</b> <b>Family Occupation and Social Mobility</b> <a href="https://zoom.us/j/97517133723">https://zoom.us/j/97517133723</a>	
<b>Chair: Jeevan Baniya</b> Assistant Director, Social Science Baha <b>Discussant: Amit Gautam</b> Research Associate, Social Science Baha		<b>Chair: Lopita Nath</b> Professor, University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, Texas <b>Discussant: Ritika Singh</b> Research Associate, Social Science Baha	
<b>Subodh Chandra Bharti</b> PhD candidate, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	<b>Foreign Policy of Nepal: Shifts and Opportunities</b>	<b>Badri Aryal, Durga Devkota, Prem Bhandari, Anoj Chhetri, Naba Raj Devkota</b> Agriculture and Forestry University, Nepal	<b>Continuity and Change of Farming and Non- Farming Occupations in Between Father and the Son</b>
<b>Suraj Kushwaha</b> Undergraduate Student, Princeton University	<b>Nation Building at Altitude: How the Indian Military Sustains War on the Siachen Glacier</b>	<b>Young Hoon Oh</b> Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, University of California	<b>Social Connectivity: 'New' Sherpas and the Recent Evolution of Himalayan Mountaineering</b>

<b>Day 4: 31 July (Friday)</b>	<b>SESSION 7: 17:00–18:20</b>
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<b>Panel A7</b> <b>Heritage and Expertise in Nepal's Post-Earthquake Reconstruction</b> <a href="https://zoom.us/j/96243323463">https://zoom.us/j/96243323463</a>	
<b>Chair and Discussant: Deepak Thapa</b> Director, Social Science Baha	
<b>Manoj Suji</b> Senior Research Associate, Social Science Baha	<b>Discourse of Post-Earthquake Heritage Reconstruction: A Case Study of Bhaktapur Municipality</b>
<b>Nabin Rawal</b> Lecturer, Central Department of Anthropology, Tribhuvan University	<b>'Expert Knowledge and Expertise in the Aftermath of April 2015 Nepal Earthquake'</b>

*BREAK: 18:20-18:50*

**Day 4: 31 July (Friday)**

**SESSION 8: 18:50–20:10**

**Panel A8**

**Survival Strategies of the Bhutanese Refugees in the United States**

<https://zoom.us/j/95392167889>

**Chair and Discussant: *Mahendra Lawoti***

Professor, Department of Political Science, Western Michigan University, USA

**Lopita Nath**

Professor and Chair of the History Department,  
Coordinator of Asian Studies University of the  
Incarnate Word San Antonio, Texas

**A Decade Later: Challenges and Success Stories of  
Bhutanese Refugee Resettlement in the United  
States**

**Jennifer Yanez-Alaniz**

A poet and community activist, USA

**Immigrant Communities, Sustainable Living  
and the Cielo (Community) Gardens:  
Bhutanese Refugees in San Antonio**