

# International Conference on Anthropology of Nepal and the Himalayas

Conference Dates: 20-21 July 2025

Conference Venue: Nepal Administrative Staff College, Jawalakhel, Nepal

Central Department of Anthropology  
Tribhuvan University



## Conference Schedule

## Conference Schedule, Day I

Start	End				
<b>Day I, 20 July 2025, Sunday</b>					
7:30 onwards		<b>Registration</b> (in front of Brihaspati Hall – Auditorium)			
7:30	9:00	<b>Breakfast</b> (Dining Hall – Behind Brihaspati Hall)			
9:00	9:45	<b>Inauguration</b> <i>Chief Guest: Prof. Deepak Aryal, Vice-Chancellor, Tribhuvan University</i> (Brihaspati Hall – Auditorium)			
9:45	10:00	<b>Break</b>			
10:00	11:30	<b>Keynote Address</b> <b>Hierarchy, Belonging, Resistance: From Buddhist Rituals to Dalit Activism</b> <b>Professor David Gellner</b> (Brihaspati Hall – Auditorium)			
11:30	11:45	<b>Break</b>			
		<b>Room 1</b> <b>Brihaspati</b>	<b>Room 2</b> <b>Pathibhara</b>	<b>Room 3</b> <b>Janaki</b>	<b>Room 4</b> <b>Manjushree</b>
11:45	13:00	<p><b>Panel A1 – Digital Space, Digital Divide</b> <i>Chair: Dovan Rai, Body &amp; Data</i> <i>Venue: Brihaspati Hall</i></p> <p><i>Being Agile: Navigating the Physical and Digital Spaces of Mobility among High-Skilled Nepali IT Workers</i> <b>Avash Piya, Kathmandu University</b></p> <p><i>Navigating the Digital Divide: Cultural Hybridization and Identity Transformation in Rural Nepal</i> <b>Prakash Upadhya, PN Campus</b></p> <p><i>Conscious and Unconscious Solidarity: Undermining Women’s Voice in Digital Space</i> <b>Sita Mademba, Tribhuvan University</b></p>	<p><b>Panel B1 – Indigenous Knowledge and Resistance</b> <i>Chair: Mukta Lama, Tribhuvan University</i></p> <p><i>Defending Land and Sovereignty: Indigenous Resistance to Sustainable Energy Production in Bojheni, Nepal</i> <b>Aruna Limbu, Tribhuvan University</b></p> <p><i>Protection of Traditional Knowledge in India, Politics and Law: Searching for Solutions Beyond TRIPs</i> <b>Mayank Kapila, M.S. College, Motihari</b></p> <p><i>Living alongside the National Park: An Ethnographic Study of Human-Wildlife Conflict and Unintended Consequences in the Langtang National Park, Nepal</i> <b>Dil Raj Rai, Tribhuvan University</b></p>	<p><b>Panel C1 – Culture and Symbolism</b> <i>Chair: Amish Raj Mulmi, Author</i></p> <p><i>Sacred Nature: Symbolism and Spiritual Ecology in Upper Mustang, Nepal</i> <b>Damodar Tripathi, Tribhuvan University</b></p> <p><i>The Long-Term Festive Mood of Dashain-Tihar: An Ethnographic Study from Kathmandu and Jhapa Districts</i> <b>Mamata Lamichhane, Tribhuvan University</b></p> <p><i>“福运” : The cultural symbols of Tibetan collectibles of used items</i> <b>Xinyue Yang, Sichuan University</b></p>	<p><b>Panel D1 – Sex and Masculinity</b> <i>Chair: Meeta S Pradhan, Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies</i></p> <p><i>Shifting Sexual Behaviors among Adolescents (15–18 Years): An Anthropo-Legal Inquiry into Generational Norms and Legal Awareness in Nepal</i> <b>Aastha Dhungel, Kathmandu University, and Reema Dhungel, Tribhuvan University</b></p> <p><i>Kamjori and the Crisis of Masculinity: Male Infertility, Vulnerability, and the Biomedical Gaze in Nepali Infertility Clinics</i> <b>Gaurav Lamichhane, IACER</b></p> <p><i>Dealing with Masculinity and Changing Narratives with Young Boys</i> <b>Sanjog Thakuri, Tribhuvan University</b></p>
13:00	14:00	<b>Lunch</b> (Dining Hall – Behind Brihaspati Hall)			

14:00	15:30	<p><b>Panel A2 – Digitalizing Identities</b>  <i>Chair: Avash Piya, Kathmandu University</i>  <i>Venue: Brihaspati Hall</i></p> <p><i>Challenges and Opportunities Faced by Voice-Over Artists in the Global Digital Era</i>  <b>Bhawani Niraula, Tribhuvan University</b></p> <p><i>Orienting the Occidental: Bangladeshi Anime Fans, Hyperreality, and the Quiet Rejection of the Popular</i>  <b>Mahjabin H. Akhi, Jahangirnagar University</b></p> <p><i>From Access to Ability: Bridging Digital Skills Gaps in Higher Education</i>  <b>Bipin K. Acharya, Patan Multiple Campus, and Biplav Acharya, Victoria University</b></p> <p><i>Digital Social Spaces and Modern Interaction</i>  <b>Kamal Sharma and Subash KC, Tribhuvan University</b></p>	<p><b>Panel B2 – Peasantary and Transformation</b>  <i>Chair: Fraser Sugden, University of Birmingham</i></p> <p><i>Transformation of Peasantry due to the Impact of Market Economy: A Case Study of Hemja village, Kaski</i>  <b>Vishnu Acharya, PN Campus</b></p> <p><i>Market and Transformation of Tharu Culture: A Case of Changed Everyday Life of Tharu in Western Nepal</i>  <b>Anil Belbase, Tribhuvan University</b></p> <p><i>The Construction of Urban Identity in a City in Flux: An Ethnographic Study of the New Dwellers in Butwal City, Nepal</i>  <b>Amrit Bhandari, Tribhuvan University</b></p> <p><i>Precarious Life Condition of the Telugu Community: Livelihood &amp; Housing</i>  <b>S. M. Samin, Alliance Française de Dhaka</b></p>	<p><b>Panel C2 – Ethnography of Earthquakes</b>  <i>Chair: Shyamu Thapa Magar, Tribhuvan University</i></p> <p><i>The ‘Talking Hyam’: An Ethnographic Study of Social Memory, Myth, and Experiences of Local Epidemics in the 2015 Post-Earthquake Context of Nepal</i>  <b>Bhim Rai, Tribhuvan University</b></p> <p><i>From Home to House: Questioning Reconstruction Project in the Post-2015 Earthquake Context in Nepal</i>  <b>Bidur Timalina, Tribhuvan University</b></p> <p><i>Stories of ‘Her’ Deaths: An Ethnographical Telling of Gendered Narratives of the 1991 Uttarkashi Earthquake</i>  <b>Vishnupal Panwar, Ambedkar University</b></p> <p><i>Dhun (Rhythm) as a Resilience of the 2015 Earthquake</i>  <b>Sujindra Rai, Tribhuvan University</b></p>	<p><b>Panel D2 – Border, Space, Culture</b>  <i>Chair: Xing Li, The Chinese University of Hong Kong</i></p> <p><i>Belonging Beyond Border: Tamang Ethnicity in Nepal and Darjeeling</i>  <b>Lipika Nath, University of Delhi</b></p> <p><i>Kalimpong as an Entrepot: A Transcultural Contact Zone for the International Trade of Buddhist Material</i>  <b>Pragya Sharma, Independent Researcher, India</b></p> <p><i>Names That Bind: Personal Naming System and Bhote Identity among the Bhote Community of the North-Eastern Region of Nepal</i>  <b>Jag Bahadur Budha, Tribhuvan University</b></p> <p><i>Tourism and Inter-Ethnic Relations in the Khumbu Region of Nepal</i>  <b>Khadga Narayan Shrestha, Tribhuvan University</b></p>
15:30	15:45	<b>Break</b>			

15:45	17:15	<p><b>Panel A3 – Migration and Belonging</b>  <i>Chair: Sagar Raj Sharma, Kathmandu University</i>  <i>Venue: Brihaspati Hall</i></p> <p><i>Migration Brokerage in Nepal: Critical Ethnographic Perspectives on Culture, Morality, and Regulation</i>  <b>Jeevan R Sharma, University of Edinburgh</b></p> <p><i>A Study on the Nepali White Cap Army In the French Foreign Legion in the Light of Labour Migration</i>  <b>Susma Rai, Tribhuvan University</b></p> <p><i>From Muluk to Desa, from Dukha to Abundance: Memory and the Politics of Return Among the Burmelis</i>  <b>Anurag Lamsal, Tribhuvan University</b></p> <p><i>A School for the Gorkhalis: Gorkha Pathshala and Mani Singh Gurung in Shillong, India, 1915–1950</i>  <b>Rukh Gurung, Martin Chautari</b></p>	<p><b>Panel B3 – Negotiating Identity and Rituals</b>  <i>Chair: Lipika Nath, University of Delhi</i></p> <p><i>Poverb, An Art of Negotiation in the Hunter–Gatherer</i>  <b>Man B Shahu, Tribhuvan University</b></p> <p><i>Navigating Identity through Cultural Blending: An Autoethnographic Narrative of a Nepalese Woman’s Multicultural Journey</i>  <b>Sheela Lama, Tribhuvan University</b></p> <p><i>Negotiating Identity and Belonging: A Study of Peripheral Tamang Birth Rituals, Nepal</i>  <b>Sirjana Tamang, Tribhuvan University</b></p> <p><i>Anthropological Study of the Gurung Death Rituals, Kaski, Nepal</i>  <b>Sujita Gurung, Tribhuvan University</b></p>	<p><b>Panel C3 – The Anthropology of Roads</b>  <i>Chair: Nabin Rawal, Anthropologist</i></p> <p><i>The End of the Earth: Tibetan Refugee-built Roads in Northern India</i>  <b>Khando Langri, Stanford University</b></p> <p><i>Situation of Trafficking in Persons during Road Maintenance (Dhankhola Lamahi) in Lumbini Province of Nepal</i>  <b>Shyamu Thapa Magar, Tribhuvan University</b></p> <p><i>Changing by Road: The Road and Economic and Social History of Tamang Village in Rasuwa on the China–Nepal Border</i>  <b>Wu Di, Yunnan University</b></p> <p><i>Questioning Geographic Proximity: Remoteness and Seasonality Dynamics in the Lowland of Morang, Nepal</i>  <b>Lagan Rai, Tribhuvan University</b></p>	<p><b>Panel D3 – Shaping Cultural Heritage</b>  <i>Chair: Uma Bhandari, Tribhuvan University</i></p> <p><i>Shaping Clay, Shaping Life: An Ethnographic Study of Traditional Potters in Bhaktapur</i>  <b>Sunita Gaishe, Khopa College</b></p> <p><i>From “Bolachhen” to “Pottery Square”: Continuity and Change in Pottery Craftsmanship in the Heart of Bhaktapur</i>  <b>Prawesh Rai and Trilok Prajapati, IACER</b></p> <p><i>Cultural Resilience in a Transforming World: Challenges and Opportunities for Meitei Manipuri Cultural Heritage Preservation in Bangladesh</i>  <b>G.H. Mohiuddin Ahmad Munna, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology</b></p> <p><i>Changing Cultural Landscapes of the Sherpas of Solukhumbu: Negotiating Modernity and Tradition</i>  <b>Aras Kumar Gurung, North–Eastern Hill University</b></p>
17:15	17:30	<p>Break</p>			
17:30	18:00	<p><b>BOOK LAUNCH</b>  <b>The Agrarian History of Nepal: The Political Economy of Agro–Ecological Change (2025)</b>                  Fraser Sugden, Suresh Dhakal, and Janak Rai                  (Brihaspati Hall – Auditorium)                  High Tea</p>			

Start	End	<b>Day II, 21 July 2025, Monday</b>			
7:30	8:45	<b>Breakfast</b> (Dining Hall – Behind Brihaspati Hall)			
		<b>Room 1</b> <b>Brihaspati</b>	<b>Room 2</b> <b>Pathibhara</b>	<b>Room 3</b> <b>Janaki</b>	<b>Room 4</b> <b>Manjushree</b>
8:45	10:15	<p><b>Panel A4 – Gendered Identities and Agencies</b> Chair: Mohini Gupta, Aarhus University Venue: Brihaspati Hall</p> <p><i>Kitchen, Food, and Gender Identity: An Empirical Study Among Brahmins Women in Kathmandu Valley</i> <b>Mithu Regmi, Tribhuvan University</b></p> <p><i>Gender and Kinship in Gurung Death Rituals: Women's Social Position through Funerary Roles</i> <b>Shanti Gurung, Tribhuvan University</b></p> <p><i>Negotiating Economic Agency: Women's Participation in Local Economies in Nagaland, India</i> <b>Pheloseno Shaiza and Nini K. Rotokha, North-Eastern Hill University</b></p> <p><i>Inherited Futures: Education as a Gift Among Gurkha Women in Post-1990 Nepal</i> <b>Sanjay Sharma, Aarhus University</b></p>	<p><b>Panel B4 – The Anthropology and Emotionality of Agriculture</b> Chair: Uddhav Rai, Independent Scholar</p> <p><i>Critical Ethnography on Perceptions of the Agricultural Occupation among Young People, Jhapa, Nepal</i> <b>Ashok Kumar Pathak, Tribhuvan University</b></p> <p><i>Tears in the Tea Cup: The Hidden Pain Behind Green Gold</i> <b>Amit Bhowmick, Nur Mohammad Smriti Mahavidyalaya</b></p> <p><i>Doing Kheti in Neoliberal State: A Reflection of Farmer (Anthropologist)</i> <b>Tanka Subba Mabuhang, Tribhuvan University</b></p> <p><i>Agricultural Attachment among the Gorkha Muslims: Past, Present, and Future</i> <b>Faruk Hossian, University of Chittagong</b></p>	<p><b>Panel C4 – Anthropology of Music</b> Chair: Anna Stirr, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa</p> <p><i>Pheri Culture: Ethnographic Insights into the Indigeneity and Identity Politics of Nepal's Pheriwala Jogi (Phree) Community</i> <b>Krishna Jogi, Tribhuvan University</b></p> <p><i>An Ethnomusicological Perspective on Indigenous Music of Gandharva: Youth Rediscovering Folk Music in Nepal</i> <b>Asim Thapa, DAV (NEB) College</b></p> <p><i>Influence of South Korean Pop and Drama among Bangladeshi Youth and Societal Response</i> <b>Mayeesha Mehrin, Jahangirnagar University</b></p>	<p><b>Panel D4 – The Fragile Body, The Fragile Mind</b> Chair: Jeevan R Sharma, University of Edinburgh</p> <p><i>Gender Norms and Reproductive Health: A Qualitative Study of Adolescent Girls' SRHR Experiences in an Urban Slum in Sylhet, Bangladesh</i> <b>Nazmus Sakib, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology</b></p> <p><i>Mental Illness in Nepal: Perceptions, Narration, Stigma, and Coping Mechanisms</i> <b>Pragati Adhikari, Tribhuvan University</b></p> <p><i>Role of Family in Social Protection of Persons with Disability</i> <b>Indra Bahadur Bhujel, Tribhuvan University</b></p> <p><i>Women, Climate Crisis and Mental Health: Resilience and Adaptation Strategies in Sunamganj District, Bangladesh</i> <b>Nishamoni Sinha, Israt Jahan Epti, Rehnema Nahrin Mim, and Faria Binte Arif, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology</b></p>
10:15	10:30	<b>Break</b>			

10:30	12:00	<p><b>Panel A5 – Caste, Gender, and Performativity</b> Chair: Kumud Rana, Lancaster University Venue: Brihaspati Hall</p> <p><i>Dalits Behind Bars: “Karagama Dalit”</i> <b>Gopal Nepali (Badi) and Ujjwal Sundas, Samata Foundation</b></p> <p><i>The Weaponization of Women as Battlegrounds: The Gendering of Caste in Nepal</i> <b>Prarthana Dixit, Ashoka University</b></p> <p><i>From Oracle to Icon: Performing Subaltern Divinity in Kerala’s Possession Rituals</i> <b>Shyam Prakash M, Central University of Jharkhand</b></p> <p><i>Rethinking Caste through Humanism: Jai Prithvi Bahadur Singh’s Theories in Comparative Perspective</i> <b>Krishna Adhikari, Oxford University</b></p>	<p><b>Panel B5 – Resources and Policies</b> Chair: Mayank Kapila, M.S. College</p> <p><i>Managing Common-Pool Resources: Community-Based River-Stretch Management Practices in Nepal’s Karnali River Basin</i> <b>Bupendra Shahi, Nepal Open University</b></p> <p><i>What is in the Place Names? Myth and History of Place-People Relations among the Rai People in Sawa Village, Bhojpur</i> <b>Jailab Rai, Tribhuvan University</b></p> <p><i>Exploring Anthropological Approaches to Public Policy in Nepal</i> <b>Lal Bahadur Pun, Kathmandu University School of Management</b></p> <p><i>Resilience Practices of the trans-Himalayan Nomadic Yak Herding Community of Upper Mustang, Nepal</i> <b>Man Bahadur Khatri, Tribhuvan University</b></p>	<p><b>Panel C5 – Traditions in Transition: Local Wisdom and Challenges</b> Chair: Sabin Ninglekhu, Social Science Baha</p> <p><i>Mountain Medicine Elsewhere: The Crafting of a New Medical Landscape in Nepal</i> <b>Alex Yu, University of Toronto</b></p> <p><i>Revitalizing Local Health Traditions: Home- and Community-Based Health Practices in Nepal</i> <b>Bamdev Subedi, Jawaharlal Nehru University</b></p> <p><i>Contribution of Folk Wisdom to Ecological Restoration: A Sustainable Approach from Mithila, Bihar, India</i> <b>Manish Kumar, Mahatma Gandhi Central University</b></p> <p><i>Narratives on Discourse of Tribal Religion: A Pathway of Assimilation, Conversion, and Political Debates in the Context of the Oraons</i> <b>Sweetey Kujur, University of North Bengal</b></p>	<p><b>Panel D5 – The Social Life of Chronic Illnesses</b> Chair: Kapil Dahal, Tribhuvan University</p> <p><i>Undernutrition Among Indian Tribal Adults: A Review</i> <b>Saheli Biswas, Vidyasagar University</b></p> <p><i>Obesity, Hypertension, and Their Socio-Economic and Lifestyle Correlates Among Rural Adults of Daspur-I Block, Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal, India</i> <b>Mahua Chanak and Kaushik Bose, Vidyasagar University</b></p> <p><i>Association of Lifestyle and Body Composition with Blood Pressure among the Elderly Santals of Jungle Mahal Area, West Bengal, India</i> <b>Kazi Nafisa Sultana, Vidyasagar University</b></p> <p><i>Health and Illness Narratives: Storytelling as Agency, Belonging and Community</i> <b>Jhabintra Bhandari, Tribhuvan University</b></p>
12:00	13:00	<p><b>Lunch</b> (Dining Hall – Behind Brihaspati Hall)</p>			
13:00	14:30	<p><b>Panel A6 – Power and Ideology</b> Chair: Prem Phyak, Columbia University Venue: Brihaspati Hall</p> <p><i>Humanity and Power Exercise in Nandi Gram at Gausala, Kathmandu, Nepal</i> <b>Srijana Thapaliya, Tri-Chandra Multiple Campus</b></p> <p><i>Crisis of Minorities’ Existence Caused by Inhumane Behaviour in Dahal’s Kaalpatra</i> <b>Pimala Neupane and Prakash Rai, Bhaktapur Multiple Campus</b></p>	<p><b>Panel B6 – Rituals and Religions</b> Chair: Chiara Letizia, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)</p> <p><i>Role of Buddhism in Politics of Religion: A Study on Tai Khanti Ethnic Group of North East India</i> <b>Franky Boro, Dibrugarh University</b></p> <p><i>Mass She Goat Sacrifice and Survivals of Stone Age Culture in the Communist Village in Pyuthan</i> <b>Madhu Giri, Tribhuvan University</b></p>	<p><b>Panel C6 – Indigeneity in the Time of Climate Change</b> Chair: Pasang Yangjee Sherpa, The University of British Columbia</p> <p><i>The Impact of Environmental Change on the Health and Well-being of the Elderly Population in India</i> <b>Sayantani Banerjee, Nagaland University</b></p> <p><i>A Two-Front Crisis: Impacts of MGNREGA Halt and Climate Change on the Livelihoods of the Lepcha Tribe in Gitabling, West Bengal, India</i> <b>Gaurav Sharma, North Bengal University</b></p>	<p><b>Panel D6 – Anthropometric Realities and Gendered Health</b> Chair: Saheli Biswas, Vidyasagar University</p> <p><i>Evaluation of Nutritional Status of Adult Kora Males of Bankura District, West Bengal, India</i> <b>David Benjamin Hansda, Vidyasagar University</b></p> <p><i>Growth Pattern of Santal Adolescent Boys of Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal, India</i> <b>Pijush Kanti Roy, Vidyasagar University</b></p>

		<p><i>Reading Father Joshi and Son Shastri as Hindu Nationalist Ideologues</i> <b>Niraj Lawoju, Sichuan University</b></p>	<p><i>Communicating Virtue Ethics: Bayāns of Pir Nasīr-ud-Dīn Nasīr Gīlānī (1949–2009) In the Global Era</i> <b>Simin Huang, Quaid-i-Azam University</b></p> <p><i>Myriads of Myths: Creating and Sustaining the Structure of Power – An Ethnographic Study of a Hindu Hill Temple in Nepal</i> <b>Durlav Rayamajhi, Independent Researcher, Nepal</b></p>	<p><i>Geography as a Marker of Vulnerability in Climate-induced Disaster: an Ethnographic Study of June 2021 Flood in Chame Village, Manang</i> <b>Dipendra Lama, Tribhuvan University</b></p> <p><i>Perceptions on Climate Change among the Wambule Rai: An Ethnographic Study of Sokmatar Village in the Eastern Hill Region of Nepal</i> <b>Shubha Karna Rai, Tribhuvan University</b></p>	<p><i>Anthropometric and Body Composition Differences between Pre-menopausal and Post-menopausal Women of Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal, India</i> <b>Sreeparna Sen and Kaushik Bose, Vidyasagar University</b></p> <p><i>Vasomotor Symptoms and Hypertension: Comparison between Three Ethnic Groups, Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal</i> <b>Kaustav Dhar, Vidyasagar University</b></p>
14:30	14:45	<b>Break</b>			
14:45	16:15	<p><b>Panel A7 – Nepali State and Challenges: Gellner’s Contributions and Beyond</b> Chair: Krishna Adhikari, Oxford University Venue: Brihaspati Hall</p> <p><i>Borders without Barriers: Cross-Border Harmony and Shared Resilience in Kutiyakabhar</i> <b>Deepak Chandra Bhatt, Far Western University</b></p> <p><i>Privilege, Overachievement, and Equity: Nepal’s Preferential Policies in an International Perspective</i> <b>John Whelpton, The Chinese University of Hong Kong</b></p> <p><i>New Nepal: Federal in Form, Unitary in Substance</i> <b>Krishna Hachhethu, Tribhuvan University</b></p> <p><i>From the Monastery to the Living Room: Reorienting the Study of Newar Buddhism</i> <b>Austin Simoes-Gomes, University of Toronto</b></p>			
16:15	17:00	<p><b>CLOSING CEREMONY</b> (Brihaspati Hall)</p>			