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CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES ON SOUTH ASIA: TRADITION AND CHANGE IN IDEAS AND PEOPLE

The Korean Studies Center, University of Hawaii at Manoa, sponsored a conference on "Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on South Asia: Tradition and Change in Ideas and People" on March 18, 19, and 20, 1987. Following is an abridged program with abstracts of papers presented.

March 18th

Gerald Berreman, keynote speaker (Professor of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley): "Chipko: Women, Men, and Grassroots Environmentalism."
Discussant: Leslie Sponse, Anthropology, University of Hawaii (UHM).

Session I: Human Environment Interrelationships

Chair: Brian Murton, Geography, UHM

Bhishna Bajracharya: "Deforestation in Nepal"

Sumitra Gurung: "Perceptions of Land Hazards in the Himalaya"

Joe Mansberger: "The Evolution of the Concept of the Sacred Tree in Indian Society"

David Zurich: "Ecology and Change: Village Life in the Rupti Zone, Western Nepal"

Lee Siegel (Professor of Religion, UHM) "Indra's Net: Magic and Conjuring in India"

Session II: Human Environment Interrelationships (cont.)

Chandra Gurung: "People's Participation and Rural Development: A Conflict"

Jamuna Ramakrishna: "Cooking Fuels and Health in Rural India"

Bhim Subedi: "Population Movement and Population Policy in Nepal"

March 19th

Session III: Crossing Borders

Herbert Barringer and Gene Kassebaum: "South Asians as a Minority in the United States: The Effect of Education, Occupations and Gender on Income"

Ben Barber: "Saffron and Denim: Hippies and Sadhus in the Search for Enlightenment"

Margy Robinson: "Song and Dance in Teaching Hindi"

Session IV: Philosophy and Social Action

Asanga Tilakaratne: "Orthodox Theory and Popular Practice of Theravada Buddhism in Sri Lanka"

Hafiz Emadi: "Islamic Fundamentalism and Socialism: Conflict of Two Visions"

Cromwell Crawford: "Ram Mohan Roy and the Fight for Women's Rights in India"

March 20th

Judith Justice, keynote speaker (Associate Professor, University of California, Medical Center, San Francisco) "Impact of Foreign Aid on Culture and Health in South Asia"

Session V: Anthropological Perspectives on Continuity, Change and Adaptation in South Asia

Ernestine McHugh: "Symbolic Modes of Adaptation: Religion as a Personal Resource"

Ram Chhetri: "Tibetan Refugees in Nepal: Socio-economic and Demographic Adaptation"

Chuck Brooks: "Cultural Manipulation: Sincerity and Cynicism of Indianized Westerners in India"

Gregory Maskarinec: "The Rulings of the Night: Nepali Jhakri Oral Texts and the Preservation of Tradition"

Session VI: Politics and Change

Walter Patrick: "Internal Migration and Health"

Malati Das: "Changes in Welfare Policies in India"

Robina Bhatti: "Militarization and Political Conflict in South Asia"

**Selected Abstracts of the South Asia Research Symposium,
Korean Studies Center, University of Hawaii at Manoa,
March 18-20, 1987**

Bajracharya, Bishna. Deforestation in Nepal.

The forests in Nepal have been disappearing rapidly with serious consequences in terms of soil erosion and loss of crops, homes and lives. Though large scale landslides and erosion are naturally occurring phenomena, in the hills of Nepal, deforestation has aggravated these processes further. Deforestation in Nepal is the result of high demand on forest resources—i.e., fuelwood for cooking and heating, fodder for livestock and encroachment on forests for expansion of agricultural land. The paper will first discuss the primary causes for deforestation in Nepal. Then a review of the present forest management policies of Nepal will be done to study its inherent strengths and weaknesses and suggest policy measures for improvement.

Gurung, Chandra. People's Participation and Rural Development: A Conflict.

It has been recognized in many developing countries that development efforts will not be successful unless local people participate. Nepal has accepted this notion of development strategy, and efforts have been geared since mid-1970's to secure local people's cooperation. However, the results and achievements have been minimal, although, traditionally, people's participation was the key factor for the local level development. The thesis of this paper is that the educational level awareness among the people is still very low to recognize the drastic changes proposed from the center. Traditional leaders still control the masses. A development strategy that will have a negative impact to the authority of these leaders will not generate local people's support. Thus, failure to achieve development goal is inevitable. The development strategy, therefore, proposed here ought not to threaten the authority of these people, rather how to assimilate them in the development efforts in order to bring successful results.

Gurung, Sumitra. Perceptions of Land Hazards in the Himalaya.

Continuous human interaction with nature, adjustments to land hazards, and transformation of large parts of mountain areas into agriculturally-oriented land are characteristics of life in the Kakani-Kathmandu area of the middle hills, Nepal. As a part of the broader research of "Highland-Lowland Interactive Systems Project" of UNU and UNESCO'S MAB Committee this ethnographic study is an attempt to determine perceptions and response of the local people to mountain hazards and to assess its implications for future land use policy. The study revealed richness in the environmental knowledge and language vocabulary to express local people's understanding of landscape, land use practices and erosional processes. This acquired knowledge is used in the transformation of land use practice to feed the growing populations and adjusting to increasing incidence of landslide problems. Additional sociomethodological techniques are suggested for future perceptual studies.

Chhetri, Ram B. The Tibetan Refugees in Nepal: Sociocultural and Demographic Adaptation and Change.

The studies of Tibetan refugees after 1959 have revealed important aspects of Tibetan religion, history, lifestyles, symbolism in Tibetan culture and the politico-religious institutions. However, a study of adaptation and change among the Tibetan refugees with a combination of demographic and anthropological perspectives is still lacking although refugees elsewhere have attracted considerable attention from scholars interested in the study of sociocultural and demographic dynamics. The paper, which is a step toward filling this gap, discusses the definition of refugees, the causes of refugee movements, and the adaptations and change among refugees in the host sociocultural setting with reference to the Tibetans in Nepal. Studies on refugee and immigrant adaptations are reviewed and the relevance of the concepts, models, and theories on adaptation and change are noted for the study of Tibetan refugees in Nepal. It argues the adaptation framework which lends itself to an interactionist or assimilation in looking at the causes and consequences of Tibetan refugeeism in particular and the sociocultural processes in the South Asian societies in general. The discussion is primarily based on the various documents on the Tibetans in exile published by the Information Office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama located in India and my own observations of the Tibetans in Nepal.

Maskarinec, Gregory G. The Rulings or the Night: Nepali Jhakri Oral Texts and the Preservation of Tradition.

One of the most common forms of controlled spirit possession throughout Nepal is that which is undertaken by jhakris. A jhakri is a particular kind of spirit intercessor, a local specialist who manipulates states of possession in order to negotiate the alleviation of various misfortunes, personal and impersonal, corporal and incorporeal, which afflict his clients. To clarify exactly what kind of spirit intercessor a jhakri is and to clarify what kinds of afflictions he undertakes to cure, are the two central themes of this paper. I intend in fact to demonstrate that these two themes of identity and etiology are inseparably related, reflecting two aspects of a single world view.

McHugh, Ernestine L. Symbolic Modes of Adaptation: Religion as a Personal Resource.

Culture can be conceived as a resource for individuals in that it provides a symbolic system in terms of which both inner feelings and external events can be understood. At times of crisis especially, people draw on sources of social and psychological support provided in a given cultural context. At the interstices of the two great traditions of Tibetan Buddhism and Hinduism, the Gurungs of Nepal incorporate some of the values and perspectives of each, while remaining culturally distinct. The analysis of the life histories of two Gurung women shows how they use religious beliefs and activities to come to terms with drastic changes in their life situations. The congruence (or lack of same) of their responses with the prevailing cultural ideology of Gurungs will be discussed.

Ramakrishna, Jamuna. Cooking Fuels in India.

The main use of energy in rural India is in domestic activities, that is, in cooking and space-heating. The cooking fuels people rely on primarily are biofuels--wood, crop residues, and animal dung. This pattern in place for centuries, shows few signs of change. There are, however, increasing indications of pressure as once slack resources become scarce and people shift to less efficient fuels. There have been many attempts to reduce energy use, increase fuel supply, and develop alternative energy sources. One of the chief means by which the energy conservation goal was to be achieved was by introducing improved cooking stoves to rural areas.

This paper presents field data on the pattern of cooking fuel use in a North Indian and a South Indian village. These data show that (1) a single type or species of cooking fuel is rarely used; (2) crop residues and dung are far more prevalent cooking fuels than firewood; and (3) cooking fuels are still relatively infrequently bought. The implications of these findings for conserving energy in rural India and for the improved cooking stove program are discussed.

Subedi, Bhim. Population Movement and Population Policy in Nepal.

Social scientists have recently paid much attention to the study of migration at the expense of population movement in Nepal. Based on the secondary sources the paper provides a general national picture of population movement and government responses to the movement. The continuity and change in the nature of population movement is stressed in describing the pattern of movement. Government policies relating to population movement are seen as a response to the changing nature of the movement. It is observed that on the one hand the programs and policies have always focussed on the concern of destination areas, and on

the other hand, the policies and programs have overlooked the population in the context of the spatial distribution of resources. The paper urges making the investment policies in different sectors of economy complimentary to the rural development and in the light of the present flow of population movement. Finally, it stresses for strong motivation among the authorities to translate policies and programs into action.

Zurick, David. Ecology and Change: Village Life in the Rapti Zone, Western Nepal.

Ecological stress in hill village systems combine with external, mainly development-related, pressures for change, to fundamentally transform the parameters for cultural adaptation in mountain communities of the Nepal Himalaya. The paper identifies and analyzes: (1) village subsistence processes that contribute to increasing levels of environmental degradation; (2) arrangements to deal with intensified local pressure on village resources, and; (3) salient features in the regional environment which contribute both to changes within the local human-environment system, and changes in the wider political economy.

Please note that abstracts for Drs. Gerald D. Berreman and Judith Justice were not available.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE-SEMINAR OF NEPALESE STUDIES

The International Conference-Seminar of Nepalese Studies was held in Stockholm, June 9-12, 1987. The Conference was organized by The Scandinavian Institute of Asian Studies, and sponsored by The Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities. Below is a partial list of papers and authors.

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| Michael Allen: | "Processions and Ritual Journeys in Newar Religion" |
| Ian Alsop: | "The Capuchins and the King: Padre Vito and Balagovinda's Little Book" |
| Heinz Bechert: | "The Original Buddha and the Recent Buddha: A Preliminary Report on Buddhism in a Gurung Community" |
| R. Becker-Ritterspach | " <u>Dhunge-Dharas</u> in the Kathmandu Valley: Continuity and Development of Architectural Design" |
| Ernest Bender: | "Nepal- The Jain Connection" |
| Horst Brinkhaus: | "Zur Religiösen Toleranz in der Geistesgeschichte des Nepal-Tals" |
| Ter Ellingson: | "The Mathematics of Newar Buddhist Music" |
| Adalbert Gail: | "The <u>Dvadasadityah</u> in <u>Kva Baha</u> " |
| David Gellner: | The Perfection of Wisdom: A Text and its Uses in <u>Kwa Baha</u> , Lalitpur" |
| Ingemar Grandin: | "Expressions of Ethnicity and Politics in <u>bhajan</u> -singing" |

- John Gray: "The Parbatiya Household in the Kathmandu Valley: Context for Continuity and Change"
- Neils Gutschow: "Bisket-Jatra of Bhaktapur"
- Reinhard Herdick: "Naikap- Eine von Newars Gepraegte Siedlung Aendert Seine Sakralen Formen"
- Linda Iltis: "Pilgrimage Power and the Concept of Place in Swasthani vrata"
- Hiroshi Ishii: "Change of Sana-guthi in a Newar Village"
- Todd Lewis: "Red Robes and Buttered Tea: Newars and Tibetans in the Kathmandu Valley"
- Siegfried Lienhard: "On Some Key-terms in Newar Buddhism"
- John Locke: "Buddhist Themes on the Toranas of Newar Monasteries"
- Axel Michaels: "Sivaratri in Deopatan"
- Pirkko Moisala: "Urbanization of Gurrung Culture- A Study of Gurrung Music in Kathmandu"
- Ulrike Müller-Böker "Traditional Technology in the Kathmandu Valley: The Utilization of the Soils and Sediments"
- Luciano Petech: "Chinese and Tibetan Materials on the Nepalese Quinquennial Missions"
- Declan Quigley: "Social Mobility and Social Fragmentation in the Newar Caste System"
- Theodore Riccardi: "Change and Continuity in the Kathmandu Valley: The Archaeological Perspective"
- Mary Slusser: "On an Indian Kalamkari Honoring the Navadurga of Bhaktapur"
- William Smith: "Two Nepalese Versions of the Mahiravana Tale of the Ramayana"
- Carl Suneson: "The Krsnacaritra- Some Observations on a Classical Newari Drama"
- Gérard Toffin: "L'organisation sociale des brahmanes Rajopadhyaya de la vallée de Kathmandu"
- Gautam Vajracharya: "The Locales of Managrha and Kailasa-Kuta-bhavana: Old Problem, New Approach"

TIBET TODAY

The Asian Studies Committee of Carleton College presented a symposium on the people, culture, art and religion of Tibet on March 6 and 7, 1987. The following presentations were made:

James J. Fisher (Carleton College): "Tibet: An Introduction with Slides"

Melvyn Goldstein (Case Western Reserve): "Nomads of the Northern Plateau"

Films on Tibet: Requiem for a Faith, Tibetan Buddhist Monastic Life, Cycles of Interdependence

Dorothy Fickle (Curator of Asian Art, Nelson-Atkins Museum, Kansas City):
"Tibetan Religious Art"

Jose I. Cabezon (Carleton College): "Tibetan Buddhist Monestaries: Before, During and After the Cultural Revolution"

Geshe Lobsang Donyo (Deer Park Buddhist Center, Madison, Wisconsin):
"Western Tibet: Personal Reminiscences and Modern Realities"