

1991

Conference Planning Digest

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CONFERENCE PLANNING DIGEST

Members of the Association are urged to use this regular space in the newsletter to organize a panel or convey other news that would be of interest to the membership. Individuals wishing to participate on a panel with an already designated theme should contact the organizer.

The Conference Committee's task is to initiate and coordinate Himalayas-oriented panels at annual meetings of the major professional organizations in all major disciplines represented by the Nepal Studies Association membership. The more strongly identifiable the presence of Nepal and Himalayan studies is at such conferences, the greater will be the impact of our work as a collective body rather than as isolated individual efforts.

I would like to thank those who have already made our recent efforts a success and urge NSA members to take a leadership role in setting the intellectual agenda of Himalayan studies.

Bruce Owens
Conference Committee Chairman
2130 North Oakly Ave
Chicago, IL 60647

Office: 312 702-8562 FAX: 508-793-3030
Home: 312 486-6105

I. Annual Conference on South Asian Studies, Madison, Wisconsin

For a variety of reasons, this conference has become the focal one for Himalayan specialists. The Conference Committee encourages members to plan on attending panels and to come for the short Nepal Studies Association membership meeting and other special events that will be held in 1993. Forms may be requested by fax. Proposal forms will be sent in March. Paper and panel proposals may be sent or faxed before May 15th of each year to:

Conference Coordinator
Center for South Asian Studies
1236 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Dr.
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, WI 53706

Phone: (608) 262-9690 Fax: (608) 265-3062

1993 South Asia Conference, Madison, Wisconsin November 5-7

The deadline for paper proposals is May 15th, 1993 (see above).

The Nepal Studies Association Executive Council will meet in Madison on Thursday evening, Nov 4

The Nepal Studies Association General Membership meetings will be Saturday Nov. 6 at 5:30 in Lowell Hall.

Preliminary Report of 1992 South Asia Conference, Madison, Wisconsin November 6-8
Panels and Paper Titles from 1992 Conference (abstracts to appear in HRB Vol. 12):

Pre-Conference: *Visual Anthropology on Newar Religion*

Ter Ellingson, Linda Iltis, Barbara Johnson, Todd Lewis, Bruce Owens, Michael Witzel

Newar Trade with Tibet Chair: Linda Iltis

Todd Lewis, "Newar Merchants, Buddhist Networks, and Tradition in Diaspora" and "A Lhasa Trader's Photograph Collection"

Siddhartha Tuladhar, "Dharma Sau, Sons and Grandsons: A History of a Newar Trading Family"

Ted Riccardi, "A History of the Gorashar"

Social and Cultural Boundaries in Nepal I Chair: Anne Parker

Anne Parker, "Multi-Ethnic Interface in Eastern Nepal: A Study from the Kosi Hills"

David Holmberg, "Untouchability in Egalitarian Society: Tamang/Blacksmith Relations from a Tamang Perspective"

Mary Cameron, "Asking (Maagnu) and Waiting: The Constitution and Meaning of Intercaste Boundaries in Far Western Nepal"

Social and Cultural Boundaries in Nepal II Chair: Barbara Brower

Discussant: Naomi Bishop

Kamal Adhikary, "Where do Magar Women Stand?"

Calla Jacobson, "Folklore and Cultural Boundaries in Nepal: Tensions of Identity"

Barbara Brower, "History, Geography, and Variability among Solukhumbu Sherpa"

Vincanne Adams, "Khumbu Sherpas and Transnational Boundaries"

Educational Progress, and the Future for Education in Nepal Chair: Hugh Wood and Jack Graham

Individual Papers in other Panels:

Arjun Gunaratne, "Building a Base: Community Development and Peasant Resistance in Nepal's Dnag Valley"

Ted Riccardi, "Gorashar: A Life in Two Worlds"

Paul Benjamin, "Local Development and Governance in Nepal Since the Demise of the Panchayat"

Richard Tucker, "The Forest is More than Trees: Non-Timber Forest Products"

Laurie Hovel, "Travel and Tibet: Horizons Lost, Found, and Transgressed"

The Nepal Studies Association Executive Council was held on Thursday evening, November 5.

The Nepal Studies Association General Membership meetings were held Nov. 7 at 5:30 p.m. in Lowell Hall.

II. Association for Asian Studies Meetings (313) 665-2490

a. **1993 AAS - Los Angeles, California (March 25-28) Pre-registration deadline March 1.**

b. **1994 AAS - Boston, Massachusetts (March 24-27)**

CALL FOR PAPERS: Panel Proposal Deadline: August 1

Members interested in giving a paper for any of these panels should contact the organizer directly *no later than* a month before the proposal deadline

III. American Academy of Religion

a. **1993 AAR Meetings: Washington DC 11/20-11/23**

CALL FOR PAPERS: Panel/Paper Proposal Deadline: March 1.

Phone: (404) 727-7920

Fax: (404) 727-7959

Religion in South Asia: Section - Contact Linda Hess 510 642-4577

Ritual Studies: Group - Contact - Contact Catherine Bell 408 554-4035

Comparative Studies in Religion - Contact Thomas Coburn 315 379-5131

Religion and the Social Sciences - Contact James Jones 914 962-2002

Buddhism: Section - Contact Jan Nattier 812 855-2492 jnattier@ucs.indiana.edu)

Himalayan and Tibetan Religions Consultation - Contact Co-Chairs for further information: Todd T. Lewis (508) 793-3436 or Anne Klein (713) 285-5201. - The consultation seeks to draw together scholars who have done research on the religious traditions of the Muslim, Pakari, Tibetan, and Tibeto-Burman ethnic groups found across the Himalayan region. The religions include "frontier" forms of Hinduism, Islam, and Buddhism, as well as myriad indigenous traditions. To explore the unique data, themes, and methodological issues arising from the study of Himalayan and Tibetan religions. Future paper proposals might address a broad range of topics and approaches: 1. Religious Syncretism; 2. Shamans, Oracles, and Divination; 3. Minority Religious Traditions in Tibet; 4. Religious Dimensions of State-Ethnic Conflicts; 5. Sacred Centers and Pilgrimage. Preference given to innovative papers likely to stimulate discussion.

- Invited Themes for 1993:

- 1) Later-day Intersectarian Discussions and Disputes
- 2) The Category of Experience in Ritual Meditation or Philosophy
- 3) 11th - 13th century Bon and Buddhism
- 4) Native Constructions of Tradition
- 5) Panels on other themes

Preliminary Report of 1992 AAR Meetings (San Francisco, November 21-24)

Himalayan and Tibetan Religions Consultation

Panel Theme: Politics and Religion in Nepal and Tibet

Richard Kohn. "The Goddess Who Stands at the Door: Sorceresses and Other Liminal Figures in Tibetan Iconography"

John Newman. "Antinomian Precepts in the Buddhist Tantras"

Stan Mumford. "The Tibetan Death Horoscope: An Ethnography of Village Lama Performance"

Ronald Davidson. "Trans-Himalayan Coronation: Tibetan Perceptions of Translators as Feudal Lords"

Georges Dreyfus. "Cherished Memories, Cherished Communities: Proto-Nationalism in Tibet"

b. **1994 AAR Meetings: Chicago, Illinois Deadline (February 1994)**

IV. American Anthropological Association

- a. 1993 Meetings (Washington DC, November 17-21)
- b. 1994 Meetings (Atlanta, Georgia, November 30 - December 2)

CALL FOR PAPERS: Proposal deadline: April 1

Phone: - (202) 232-8800

Preliminary Report of 1992 AAA Meetings (San Francisco, December 2-6)

Participants and Papers:

Ernestine McHugh - "Locating the Forest Man: Meaning and Cultural Models in Nepal"

Dorothy Holland and Debra Skinner - "Songs and the Making of Gendered Selves in Nepal"

Panel: New Perspectives in the Anthropology of Nepal

Andrew Russell - "Rethinking Human Ecology: Anthropology and Environment in the Nepalese Context"

David Gellner - "Newar Ethnicity and National Politics"

Jana Fortier - "Production Webs and Nepalese Exchange Relations"

Kamal Adhikary - "Quivers in the Quiet Hills: Voices Against Development Politics of Nepal"

Paul Benjamin - "Local Governance in Nepal Since the Demise of the Panchayat System"

Judith Justice - "Politics and Health in Nepal"

V. Association of American Geographers

- a. 1993 Meetings (Atlanta, April 6-9)
- b. 1994 Meetings (Berkeley, April 6-10)

CALL FOR PAPERS: Deadline September 15 1993 (202) 234-1450

EMAIL: AAG@GWUVM.BITNET

Special Nepal and Tibet Conferences

The Anthropology of Nepal: People, Problems and Processes

Held September 7-14, 1992. Hotel Vajra, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Prof. Michael Allen, Dept. of Anthropology,

University of Sydney, New South Wales, 2006, Australia; Phone: 692-2360; Fax 692-4203.

Preliminary Report - A published volume of the papers is forthcoming in Sept. 1993.

Paper Abstracts to appear in Volume 12 of HRB.

Panel Topics:

The Anthropology of Resource Management - (Convenor Dr. Ram B. Chhetri, *Tribhuvan University*, and Robert Fisher, *University of Western Sydney, Hawksbury*)

In recent years the management of natural resources, especially forest resources has been an important theme in the anthropology of Nepal. Anthropologists have contributed to resource management through studies of indigenous knowledge of forest and other resources and studies of resource use. More recently there has been an increased concern with the control and management of resource use, especially through local organisations.

Increasingly anthropologists have become involved in policy formation and in the design and implementation of projects concerned with resource management, especially in the community forestry program.

This session is aimed at researchers and practitioners involved in anthropological and sociological aspects of resource management in Nepal. It should be of interest to non-anthropologists, especially sociologists and geographers, as well as to anthropologists.

It is envisaged that the session will include papers on local systems of forest management, grazing land livestock management as well as papers dealing with the implementation of resource management projects.

Women and Development - (Convenor Ms. Indra Ban, *Dilli Bazaar*)

Contributors to this session are invited to consider both the part played by women in development projects in Nepal and the various ways in which such projects impinge on the social lives of women. Issues examined will include the gender implications of rural development projects, the impact of industrialization on the social position of urban women, women and changing health practices, the media and gender stereotypes, etc.

Medical Anthropology - (Convenor Dr. Peter Webster, *University of Wellington*)

Medical Anthropology has loomed large in recent research in Nepal with scholars, both local and overseas, examining such topics as indigenous systems of diagnosis and healing, the social consequences of the introduction of western medical practices, the relationship between religious belief and bodily health, etc. Contributors to this session will pay particular attention to the politics of competitive health practices in both rural and urban contexts.

Urbanism in Nepal - (Convenors Dr. Alex Kondos, *University of New South Wales* and Mr. Ananda Shrestha, *Tribhuvan University*)

Urbanism is a rapidly increasing feature of Nepalese social life and in this session contributors will examine some of the key features of both its traditional and new forms. The emphasis throughout will be on a distinctively anthropological contribution to the understanding of problems of urban living, that is to say, an understanding based primarily on prolonged fieldwork in small face-to-face communities. While some papers may be essentially of a descriptive nature.

It is envisaged that most of them will also deal with a range of empirical and theoretical issues centering on Nepalese urban life. Papers will cover such topics as: communalism, urban semiotics, urban conflicts, urban lifestyles, industrialization and poverty.

The State and the People - (Convenor Dr. Vivienne Kondos, *The University of Sydney*)

The panel will address theoretical and empirical questions dealing with state - subject relations. These may cover issues like: nationalism, ethnicity, bureaucratic processes, the "democratic movement" and changes impelled by the revolution of 1990.

SASON CONFERENCE

Structure and Transition: Society, Poverty and Politics in Nepal

Held September 4-6, 1992, Kathmandu, Nepal

Bhanu Timseena, General Secretary, Sociological/Anthropological Society of Nepal (SASON)

P.O. Box 4771, Kathmandu, Nepal.

The Sociological/ Anthropological Society of Nepal (SASON) held its first national congress in Kathmandu on September 4-6 1992, on the theme: *Structure and Transition: Society, Poverty and Politics in Nepal*. The theme encompasses a number of issues conventionally explored as elements/processes of Nepali society and culture. These include, among others, ethnicity, caste, class, language, religion and gender; regional, state and interstate processes, economy and polity; resource ownership, use and management; demography, governance; decentralization; national integration; development and underdevelopment; and correlates and dynamics of poverty and poverty alleviation policies and measures.

SASON cordially invites you to become a member of SASON.

SASON offers four categories of international membership:

General membership US \$15 (or equivalent) open to those with BA or above in Sociology/Anthropology

Student membership US \$10 (or equivalent) open to college-level students in Sociology/Anthropology

Life Membership US \$150 (or equivalent) open to professional Sociologists and Anthropologists

FOR SAARC AREA RESIDENTS:

General - US \$5

Student - US \$3

Life - US \$50

Membership fees should be drawn in favor of SASON and addressed to Agricultural Development Bank, Ratna Park, Kathmandu, Savings Acct. # 572751.

Tibetan Symposium 1992: The Contented Heart

Held October 9-11, 1992

Pacific Asia Museum, Pasadena, CA

Symposium papers presented will be published in a book.

Tibetan Symposium Chair, 929 North Ogden Drive

West Hollywood, CA 90046; Phone: (213) 239-1289