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Recent Research

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Recent Research

Please communicate news about research to the Nepal Studies Association council-coordinator:

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Affiliated Research Works at CNAS

Damini Vaidya
Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies

Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies (see *HRB*, XI:1-3, 1991:159-60) functions as the academic contact point within the Tribhuvan University system for affiliation of foreign scholars and undergraduate or graduate students working on Nepalese Studies for their post doctoral research, degree or doctoral programme. They can seek affiliation with CNAS through the Research Division, Rector's Office or directly through CNAS, PO Box 3757, Fax: 977-1-227184. The Research Division handles the administrative operational details, including visa formalities while CNAS handles the academic details. Research proposals have to be compatible with the objectives of CNAS for affiliation.

For affiliation procedure the four copies of each following document are required:

1. An application form (which can be obtained from CNAS or the Research Division);
2. A research proposal of research programme;
3. A document of financial support (from a granting agency or one's bank statement);
4. A letter of recommendation of a programme supervisor or a department from home institution;
5. A to-whom-it-may-concern letter from a concerned Embassy in Kathmandu.

Affiliated research scholars will have to maintain a periodic contact with the Centre and lead discussion programmes on their research works at the Centre. They will also have to collaborate or to be in contact with assigned Nepalese counterparts.

Increasing contact and cooperation with foreign scholars working on Nepalese Studies, both within and

outside the country, will be promoted by the Centre through:

- a. exchange of visit by scholars;
- b. joint training programmes for research scholars, Nepalese and foreign;
- c. exchange of information and publication;
- d. joint study/research project;
- e. joint seminar

For further information, write to Ms. Damini Vaidya, Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies, PO Box 3757, Fax: 977-1-227184, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal.

The following are the current affiliated research works at CNAS:

Topic: "A Sunwar-Nepali-English Dictionary"
Investigator: Marlene Lotte Schulze
Objective: To publish a Sunwar dictionary

Topic: "Centre-Periphery Relations in Nepal"

Investigator: Mark David Randelhuber

Objective: To study the effects of urban and villages networks and their centre-periphery relations on the economic growth of the country, Nepal.

Topic: "Social Changes through Agricultural Innovation and Modernization"

Investigator: Blandine Ripert

Institution: Jussieu, Paris

Objective: To study the social changes through the analysis of agricultural innovations which are introduced and developed by the inhabitants; To ascertain the relations between the technical changes and the social structures.

Topic: "Pleasure Garden of Deathless Good Fortune: A Tibetan Buddhist Nunnery in Sherpa Community"

Investigator: Yolanda Van Ede Tieman

Institution: Centre for Asian Studies, University of Amsterdam

Objectives: To study the detail history of Bigu's nunnery from 1934 to 1995; To explore the socio-cultural dimensions of the nuns and their living pattern and style in the broader Sherpa society.

Topic: "A Linguistic Analysis of Dolpo or Humla-Bhotia of North West Nepal"

Investigator: Stephen John Bartram and Cathryn Bartram

Objective: To make a comprehensive investigation on the cultural and socio-linguistic context of Dolpo or Humla people; To make an in-depth linguistic analysis on the chosen language of the area of Humla.

Topic: "The Dynamics of Ethnic Identity in Nepal"

Investigator: Seika Sato

Institution: Tokyo University

Objective: To carry out an ethnographic study of Tamang/Sherpa people of Helambu with special reference to the dynamics of their ethnic consciousness.

Topic: "Local Knowledge and Culture Change in the Himalayas: A comparative Study Among Ethnic Tibetans in Nepal"

Investigator: Rebecca L. Saul

Institution: SOAS, London University

Objective: To study the unique human-environment interactions which occur within high altitude ethnic Tibetan communities, the system of knowledge which support and emerge from these interactions, and the

processes of change which occur within households, knowledge systems and communities.

Topic: "Civil Society, Environment and the Participation of NGOs in the Process of Democratization in Nepal"

Investigator: Harald Olav Skar

Institution: Norwegian Institute of International Affairs

Objective: To study the causes of social change which affect the Terai population after Democracy in Nepal; To study the effects of recent migrants upon environment of Terai.

Topic: "Research Methodology on Colloquial Tibetan Language"

Investigator: Andrea J. Abianti

Institution: University of Wisconsin

Objective: To explore the relations between literal Tibetan and Colloquial Tibetan; to show the relations between the Lhasa dialect and dialects from other parts of Tibet.

Topic: "The Theravada Buddhist Revival Movement in Nepal"

Investigator: Lauren G. Leve

Institution: Princeton University

Objective: To examine the re-emergence of Theravada Buddhism in Twentieth Century Nepal; To elucidate the trend of Theravada practitioners in the context of their caste and social norms.

Topic: "Working Women: The Productive and Reproductive Roles of Women Working in the Carpet-Making Industry in Kathmandu, Nepal"

Investigator: Christina S. Moffat

Institution: McMaster University, Canada

Objective: To describe the child care done by the carpet weaving mothers; To measure the health of infants and children whose mothers work on carpet weaving factory; To determine how mothers perceive their work in relation to their child care responsibilities; To compare the child care and health of the children whose mothers work at home and factory production setting.

Topic: "Independent Study Abroad"

Investigator: Liesle Messerschmidt

Institution: University of Oregon

Objective: To examine various Nepalese Women's issues in the post-democracy of Nepal; To be

acquainted with the language, culture and social norms and values of the Nepalese people.

Topic: "Painting Shifts in the Construction of Social Inequality: A Woman's Income-Generating Project in Nepal"

Investigator: Coralynn Val Davis

Institution: University of Michigan

Objective: To analyze the historical and changing roles of women's painting in the Mithila society.

Topic: "The Social and Cultural Situation of Women in the Newar Community"

Investigator: Makiko Habazaki

Institution: Tokyo University

Objective: To study the way of women's direct or indirect participation in the Newar traditional and formal social organizations; To elucidate women's activities on the rites of passage, festivals and other rites; and to study women's activities in informal structures and their personal network.

Topic: "The English Language Planning and Policy in Nepal"

Investigator: Sonia J. Eagle

Institution: Kanda University of International Studies, Canada

Objective: To study the language planning and policy in regard to the English teaching and learning in Nepal; To compare these planning and policies with those of Japan.

Topic: "The Impact of Modernity on Newar Family Pattern in the Kathmandu Valley"

Investigator: Mark Andrew Pickette and Rebecca Andrew Pickette

Objective: To assess the impact of the centralized bureaucratic state on Newar society; To assess the impact of the mass media on Newar society; To assess the effect of rapid population growth in the Kathmandu valley - their traditional homeland; To assess the impact of mass education in Nepali and English media with particular focus on the status of girls.

Topic: "Patterns of Property: A Study of Resources Management and Land Tenure Among the Singuwa of Eastern Nepal"

Investigator: Samuel Taylor Brown

Institution: University of Cambridge

Objective: To assess and compare the local institutional arrangements for resource management

between communities of the Taplejung area and the eastern Terai; To provide a useful analysis of these institutions, their Structure and function that can be used to formulate effective development and conservation strategies, To expand and challenge certain theoretical assumptions and models of property systems, land tenure and collective actions.

Topic: "Household Strategies Among the Urban Poor"

Investigator: Karen Valentin

Institution: University of Copenhagen

Objective: To study the family/household structure of the urban poor in city areas of Kathmandu; To study their concepts upon child and childhood; To present the causes of increasing street children in Kathmandu.

Topic: "Life Styles and Experiences of Nepali Children"

Investigator: Rachel G. Baker

Institution: Durham University, UK

Objective: To document the life courses of children living in Kathmandu who have migrated from rural communities or who have left their families; To understand how children themselves perceive their move to the city and their future career; To place the strategies adopted by these children and families in the wider social, cultural and economic context of Nepal.

Topic: "The Lhasa Newars: Trans-Himalayan Traders"

Investigator: Cesare Vispegnani

Objective: To analyze the cultural and artistic aspects of the Newars' presence in Tibet;

To analyze the daily life of this community in Lhasa, their relations with other groups, especially the Tibetans and their presence in the social life of the adoptive country; To delineate the routes followed by the Newar traders and collect the poems, songs, ballads and folk tales composed about those courageous merchants.

Topic: "Representations of the past and Changing Constructions of Rai Identity"

Investigator: Susan Irene Hangen

Institution: University of Wisconsin

Objective: To study the role of increasing active Rai cultural organizations in promoting Rai identity; To analyze how Rais are drawing upon and creating representations of the past as means of creating continuity between older and newer constructions of Rai identity.

Topic: "Sociolinguistic Research Among Speakers of Eastern Tamang"

Investigator: Bryan Keith Varenkamp

Objective: To determine the dialect boundaries and the degree of understanding among varieties of eastern Tamang; To assess the integration of eastern Tamang speakers into the national context; To evaluate the eastern Tamangs' proficiency in and use of Nepali - the national language.

Topic: "The Social Construction of Capital in Newar Society"

Investigator: Katherine N. Rankin

Institution: Cornell University

Objective: To investigate how people store and think about wealth; To investigate how 'markets' in land, labour and credit function in Sankhu; To assess how the Newar guthis, caste system, life-cycle rituals and *dan* constitute different forms of social capital; To appraise how local beliefs and practices about capital generate a critique or endorsement of global processes of economic restructuring.

Topic: "Economic Evaluation of the Cheuri Tree: A Market Research Study"

Investigator: Jennifer Soveswine

Institution: Yale/Nepal Institute of Forestry Project and King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation

Objective: To quantify the amount of marketable products produced by the Cheuri trees and the amount of Cheuris used in it; To do chemical analysis of the cheuri oil; To explore other potential uses of the cheuri and its products.

Topic: "The Ethnohistorical construction of Tamang Gender"

Investigator: Kathryn S. March

Institution: Cornell University

Objective: To study the Tamang local experience shaped by their incorporation into larger Nepal; To study the relations between Tamang men and women transformed in these processes; To study historical and contemporary Tamang culture specially on textile and song; To study the Tamang gender within the wider processes through which the modern Nepalese state formed and expanded its authority

Topic: "Histories and Localities: Transformation in Western Tamang Socio-Polity"

Investigator: David H. Holmberg

Institution: Cornell University

Objective: To study the socio-political history of western Tamang communities in the last century; and To reconstruct and give voice to local construction of history and identity in Nepal.

Topic: A Jirel-Nepali-English Dictionary

Investigator: Esther Strahm and Anita H. Maibum

Objective: To publish a practical dictionary of Jirel designed for native speakers; To publish a standard dictionary of Jirel aimed at scholars interested in Jirel.

Topic: "Traditional and Western Medicines: What do Nepalese People think?"

Investigator: Clair Ballester

Objective: To review the medical methods and treatments actually practiced in Nepal; To study the possible relationships between the people's belief and the behaviour upon different practices - Ayurvedic, Allopathic and Jhakris.

Topic: "Female Identity and the Relationship between the Sexes in a Bhotia-society"

Investigator: Eva Schwab

Institution: University of Vienna

Objective: To find out the economic, social and ideological status of women in the context of their overall role in society; To draw a comparison between the various phases of life with a view to tracing the development of identity.

Topic: "Transformations of Health in Rural Nepal"

Investigator: Deborah L. Zvosec

Institution: University of Hawaii

Objective: To investigate Nepalis' medical beliefs and their effects on the use of local and western medicines; To investigate the health outcomes of these therapeutic practices; and To find out the implications of these beliefs, practices, and health outcomes with specific reference to tuberculosis.

Topic: "Madyamika Philosophy in Early Tibetan Buddhism"

Investigator: David Ruslin Mellins

Objective: To investigate the development of Madyamika Philosophy during the initial phase of Tibetan Buddhism, and To analyse the nature of the transmission of Madyamika Philosophy into Tibetan culture during the eighth and ninth centuries.