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From the Editor

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FROM THE EDITOR

The present issue of *Himalaya* is the most ambitious we have so far produced in the history of the journal and certainly the bulkiest. It consists of nine articles first presented at the 12th Seminar of the International Association of Tibetan Studies (IATS) held at the University of British Columbia in August 2010. They have been edited for this issue by Geoff Childs, Ken Bauer, Andrew Fischer, and Sienna Craig, for whose hard work on this issue I am most grateful. Together, these essays from a variety of disciplinary perspectives examine the economic, environmental and social consequences of the rapid transformation taking place in Tibetan society. These essays and the themes they address are discussed more fully in the guest editors' introduction to this volume. Because of the unusually large size of this issue, we have not included our usual conference and dissertation reports.

The preparations for the First Himalayan Studies Conference at Macalester are now complete and we have put together an exciting and varied program. Seventy-five people will be presenting papers, and we have 22 panels on themes ranging from "Religion in the Himalaya" to "Human Dimensions of Nature Conservation." The panels are listed on the next page. The conference begins at 8:30 a.m. on Friday and ends at 11:15 a.m. on Sunday.

I encourage everyone who will be presenting at the conference to submit their papers to the journal. Acceptance of submissions of course is subject to the journal's review process, which usually involves evaluation of each manuscript by two independent referees.

In addition to the panels we will have three plenary speakers. David Gellner of Oxford University will give the keynote address on Friday evening. His talk is entitled "Upland Region or 'a World of Peripheries'? Some Thoughts on Himalayan Identities." The talk will be followed by the all-conference dinner (the cost of dinner is included in the registration fee, but we need you to tell us whether you will attend the dinner when you register, so we know how many to prepare for). The two other plenary speakers will be Drone Rasali, the founder of nepaldalitinfo.com and Pratyoush Onta of Martin Chautari. Drone Rasali will speak on "Envisioning an equitable space for marginalized people in Nepal: A journey of small strides contributing to 'change' for social justice." The title of Pratyoush Onta's talk is "The past and future of Nepal Studies in Nepal."

The Himalayan Studies Conference will meet in conjunction with the 60th annual meeting of the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, one of the largest regional conferences of the Association for Asian Studies. The two conferences will be fully integrated and will share a common program, and participants at both will be able to attend panels in either conference. Indeed, a few of the panels with Himalayan themes include people who submitted individual paper proposals for the MCAA. When the MCAA is included, we will have about 55 panels presented at this joint conference, with nearly 200 people attending.

We look forward to your presence in St. Paul in October.

Arjun Guneratne
September 2011

List of Panels

Friday, October 28