



HIMALAYA, the Journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies

Volume 32
Number 1 *Ladakh: Contemporary Publics and
Politics No. 1 & 2*

Article 5

8-2013

From the Editor

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.macalester.edu/himalaya>

Recommended Citation

. 2013. From the Editor. *HIMALAYA* 32(1).

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.macalester.edu/himalaya/vol32/iss1/5>

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by the DigitalCommons@Macalester College at DigitalCommons@Macalester College. It has been accepted for inclusion in HIMALAYA, the Journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Macalester College. For more information, please contact scholarpub@macalester.edu.



FROM THE EDITOR

This will be my last issue as editor of *Himalaya*. I am delighted to turn the journal over to the very capable hands of Mark Turin and Sienna Craig, who will share the responsibilities of editorship. Mark is a linguist and anthropologist whose research focuses on language endangerment. He teaches at both Yale and Cambridge, and is also known to many readers of this journal as the Director of the Digital Himalaya Project and the World Oral Literature Project. Sienna Craig teaches at Dartmouth College, and is an anthropologist who studies the relationship of traditional medical systems to biomedicine in Tibet and the Tibetan regions of Nepal. The journal is undergoing an extensive redesign under their direction and will eventually move to a two issues per volume format. I have been working with both of them over the last several months to ease the journal's transition to its new home in Hanover, NH.

I have published six issues of the journal since I took over as editor, including this one. Five of them have been on special themes. Of about 45 articles submitted to *Himalaya* during my time as editor, 33 were eventually published. We were able to reprint the articles from these themed issues as volumes in a book series in Nepal, the joint effort of Himal Books, the Social Science Baha and the ANHS. This book series makes available in an affordable format the scholarship published in *Himalaya* to an audience in the region. I am especially pleased with two volumes that focused on topics that have had relatively little attention in our pages: Nepali Dalits and the Nepal Tarai. Other themes included Ethnicity and Inequality in Nepal and Development in Tibet. The present issue also focuses attention on an area new to the journal: Ladakh. These are the first research articles on Ladakh that we have ever published, and both this issue, as well as the earlier one on Development in Tibet, reinforce our claim to be an organization whose scope is the Himalaya as a whole.

As I finish my term as editor, I would like to record my gratitude to numerous people who have made my work possible over the years. My predecessor, Barbara Brower, was the editor from 1992 to 2008, and she produced 20 issues of the journal. She transformed it from a news bulletin into an outlet for scholarship and provided the solid foundation that made it possible to turn *Himalaya* into a peer-reviewed journal. My own work as editor has illuminated for me what an enormous effort must have gone into the production of those 20 issues; her work is a significant contribution to the development of Himalayan Studies. I am grateful to the former provost at Macalester, Dianne Michelfelder, who agreed to bring the journal to Macalester and provided it with significant financial support, and to her successor Kathy Murray, who continued Macalester's policy of support to *Himalaya*, including significant support for the first Himalayan Studies Conference that was held here in 2011. That support allowed us to produce the journal without worrying how it would be paid for (always a problem for earlier editors, who had to depend on the inconstant flow of subscription revenue), and it allowed the association to use its membership dues to expand its activities. The impact of this financial support has been multiplied many times over by freeing up membership revenue to support the development of Himalayan Studies through other initiatives.

Macalester College has supported the journal in other ways. Most significantly, Terri Fishel, Director of the Library, was instrumental in putting us on the map by having our back issues scanned and put online at no cost to us. This greatly increased our visibility; since we went online in the summer of 2008, there have been 136,858 downloads from the journal's online archive (as of May, 2013). The most popular download has been "Four Nepali Short Stories", translated by Theodore Riccardi and published in *Himalayan Research Bulletin* (as *Himalaya* was known until 2003); it has been downloaded 3,156 times. The least popular was the back cover of one issue, which was downloaded (alas) just once. Most importantly, there is almost complete open access to the journal's contents since its inception; only the latest issue is unavailable online. Even this last barrier is likely to be eliminated. Our web presence has also made it possible to submit articles online and manage editorial tasks (such as recruiting reviewers) more efficiently. It has also greatly increased the number of unsolicited submissions to the journal, which have come from around the world: Nepal, India, Australia, the UK and the United States.

The Macalester Library has also undertaken the layout of the journal and the preparation of copy for the printer, at no cost to the Association. Here my thanks are due both to Terri Fishel for committing the library's resources to this, and to her assistant Jacki Betsworth, who undertook, with the help of her student workers, the time consuming and laborious task of laying the journal out in InDesign. I am most grateful to Jacki and to Spencer Retelle, Oleh Zaychenko, Lilly Bock-Brownstein and Erin Porter, all students at Macalester, as well as to Lindsay Skog at Portland State, who worked hard to make *Himalaya* the professional looking publication that it is. Margo Dickinson, the administrator of the Anthropology Department at Macalester, has handled the

correspondence that flowed into her office, which did double duty as *Himalaya's* office. She made my work a lot easier.

Numerous members of the association have helped with the production of the journal, most especially Tom Robertson and Jessica Vantine Birkenholtz, who were the Book Review Editors during my tenure. They did a splendid job and I am grateful to both of them, as I am to Geoff Childs and Megan Adamson Sijapati, who were the Associate Editors until the ANHS summoned them to other tasks where their skills were sorely needed. I am grateful to David Gellner, Tatsuro Fujikura, Kathryn March and Todd Lewis for their service on the editorial board. Finally, I thank the many people, too numerous to name individually, who agreed to referee the articles that were submitted during my tenure as editor; many served cheerfully on more than one occasion. Reviewing the scholarship of one's peers is an important component of the work we do as scholars, and I am grateful to all of our reviewers for being so willing to step up when asked.

Thank you to all of you!

Arjun Guneratne
May, 2013



AN AMCHI (PRACTITIONER OF TIBETAN MEDICINE) FROM DOLPO, NEPAL, GRINDING HERBS TO MAKE MEDICINES. DRAWING: TENZIN NORBU LAMA