

Bios of Some of the Speakers and Panel Chairs

Andrea de la Rubia Gómez-Morán, PhD, is an Art Historian graduated this year at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Having resided in Kathmandu on several occasions, she holds a significant number of publications and conferences in Spain and abroad. Overall, her PhD research analyses the development of avant-garde art in Nepal as a tool for the building of its national and cultural identity.

Ben Campbell is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology at Durham University, UK, and director of its MSc in Sustainability, Culture and Development. His research focuses on poverty, livelihoods and resources in Nepal, on innovation among mountain indigenous communities and on the impacts of environmental conservation measures on local institutions of common property management. With the support of the Durham Energy Institute, he has studied energy transitions in Nepal from fuelwood use to biogas for SMEs at high altitudes. His publications include a monograph *Living between juniper and palm: Nature, culture and power in the Himalayas* (Oxford University Press, 2013), and with his energy research colleagues Campbell, B., Jon Cloke, & Ed Brown (2016) 'Communities of Energy' *Economic Anthropology* 2016; 3: 133–144 .

David Gellner is Professor of Social Anthropology, a Fellow of All Souls College, and an Honorary Fellow of Wolfson College, University of Oxford. His most recent edited book is *Global Nepal: Religion, Culture, and Community in a New and Old Diaspora* (OUP, 2018). An article, 'Masters of Hybridity: How Activists Reconstructed Nepali Society', appeared recently in online open-access first view of the JRAI (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/1467-9655.13025>).

Feyzi Ismail is Senior Teaching Fellow in Development Studies at SOAS and is also currently Lecturer in Media, Communications and Cultural Studies at Goldsmiths. Her areas of teaching and research include neoliberalism and imperialism, NGOs and social movements, and politics and development in Nepal and South Asia. She is active in the anti-austerity and anti-war movements in Britain.

Fraser Sugden is a Senior Lecturer in Human Geography at the University of Birmingham. His current research specialises in the political economy of agrarian change in the context of political transition, migration and climate stress in the Eastern Gangetic Plains. He previously directed the Nepal research programme for the International Water Management Institute in Kathmandu.

Hanna Ketola is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the department of War Studies at King's College London. Her PhD, completed in 2017, examined the politics of women's agency in the context of peacebuilding in Nepal. Her broader research concerns war and peacebuilding with a focus on agency and embodiment, subaltern politics, and ethnographic methods. Since completing her PhD, she worked as a Research Associate in Newcastle University before being awarded the ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship. She is currently working on a monograph based on her PhD research.

Heidi Riley is Assistant Professor in International Relations in the School of Politics and International Relations, University College Dublin. Her main research area is in gender and armed conflict, with a particular focus on the interaction between ideology and masculinity within non-state armed groups. She is also a member of the UCD GLOBUS research team where her work is focused on the EU's contribution to promoting women in peace mediation and negotiations. Heidi is also a member of the working group for the Irish National Action Plan on UNSCR1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and a Board member of Karti Project, an NGO that supports women affected by conflict living in Ireland. Heidi previously worked for the Conflict Resolution Unit at the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and a variety of Irish human rights NGOs. Her early career was in the production and technical side of the performing arts and is therefore a strong advocate for the use of the arts in conflict resolution.

Ian Harper is Professor of Anthropology of Health and Development and Director, Edinburgh Centre for Medical Anthropology (EdCMA) at the University of Edinburgh.

Jeevan Sharma is Senior Lecturer in South Asia and International Development at the University of Edinburgh. He is the author of 'Crossing the Border to India: Youth, Migration and Masculinities in Nepal', Temple University Press, 2018. Currently he is working on his second book on the political economy of development and social change in Nepal. Complete list of his publications and funded projects are available at: http://www.san.ed.ac.uk/people/faculty/jeevan_sharma

Kerstin Rieger is currently working as a PhD researcher for the Global Development Institute at the University of Manchester. She recently conducted a field study in Post-Earthquake Nepal to understand the consequences of interacting hazards, particularly on displaced people and their vulnerability. She is an enthusiastic and dedicated Development Practitioner with a strong interest in disaster response, displacement and sustainable livelihoods, while considering multiple hazards and climate impacts after disasters such as the 2015 Nepali earthquake.

Krishna Adhikari is a research fellow at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University Oxford. Currently the Chair of the Britain Nepal Academic Council, Adhikari is engaged in research in a range of issues including, cooperatives and cohesion; education and inequality; Nepali Diaspora, and British Gurkhas; Caste, Class and Culture (a large grant ESRC funded research of which he was co-investigator). After 12 years as a practitioner and manager in the field of rural development, he did a PhD at the University of Reading (2007) on the dynamics of social capital and community institutions. He edited *Nepalis in the United Kingdom: An Overview* in 2012.

Liana E. Chase is a doctoral candidate in anthropology at SOAS University of London and holds an MSc in social and transcultural psychiatry from McGill University. Situated at the intersection of anthropology and psychiatry, her research ethnographically explores innovative approaches to mental health care emerging in both high- and low-resource contexts. Her ongoing doctoral work focuses on global mental health and post-disaster interventions in Nepal, where she has been involved in medical anthropology research for over a decade.

Marilena Frisone is a PhD candidate in Social Anthropology at the University of Cambridge. She researches on religious change, ethics and cultural translation among Nepalese followers of Japanese New Religions in Kathmandu.

Mark Liechty is Professor of Anthropology and History at the University of Illinois at Chicago, USA. A South Asianist by training, his research has focused on modern culture and history of Nepal resulting in books on middle-class consumer culture in Kathmandu, tourism history in Nepal, and (currently) the history of hydropower development in Nepal.

Michelle is a public health registrar in Yorkshire and the Humber working at the University of Sheffield. Her research interests are in political epidemiology and understanding what data is most influential and to whom to inform policy and action to reduce child health inequality.

Mikkel Vindegg is doctoral research fellow at the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Oslo (2016-2019). He is currently writing a PhD dissertation based on eighteen months of research in a Kathmandu valley town, which takes energy distribution and consumption as a starting point for analysing the intersection of infrastructural instability, relations to the state, and development in Nepal.

Monalisa Adhikari is a PhD candidate studying International Relations at the University of Edinburgh. Funded as a part of the Political Settlements Research programme, her work focuses on emergent power engagement in peace processes. and the impact of external interventions on the political settlements in fragile and conflict-affected states. She has carried out research in India, China, Nepal and Myanmar.

Pia Noel is a PhD Candidate in Social Anthropology. Her background is in Psychology and Global Mental Health. She is currently working on her doctoral thesis looking at the impact of mental health and psychosocial support interventions 3 years post-disaster on the mental health sector in Kathmandu.

Punam Yadav is the Co-Director of the Centre for Gender and Disaster at the Institute of Risk and Disaster Reduction at UCL. She is also the General Secretary of Britain-Nepal Academic Council. She started her professional career as a development practitioner in Nepal and worked for over ten years with various International and National NGOs before starting her academic career. She has a number of publications including her academic monograph 'Social Transformation in Post-conflict Nepal: A Gender Perspective', published by Routledge in 2016. Dr Yadav's research interests include women, peace and security; gendered impacts of conflict on women, process of social transformation, conflict-induced internal displacement, South Asia and Nepal.

Samuele Poletti completed his Ph.D. in Social Anthropology at the University of Edinburgh in 2018. His research activities focus on the perception(s) of death in the Sinja Valley of Jumla District (Western Nepal), and how this may shed light upon the ways in which people make sense of existence.

Sanjay Aryal is a PhD Candidate at the University of Essex. His PhD research project is looking at the impact of migration on care chain among Nepalese care workers in the UK. He has professional experience of more than fifteen years with not-for-profit making organisations in Nepal including United Nations. He has expertise on project development, coordination and management; ethnographic fieldwork and qualitative research design. His research fields of interest are migration, gender, human rights, low-income countries.

Sara Bertotti is the recipient of an e-FileReady Scholarship to complete a PhD on Law and Peace Agreements at SOAS (London), where she is also a Graduate Teaching Assistant for the course International Protection of Human Rights. The objective of Sara's research is to widen the current understanding of the role of law during the transition from conflict to peace with a particular focus on the crucial node of the making of peace agreements. As part of her research, Sara carried out fieldwork in Kathmandu researching the 2006 Comprehensive Peace Accord.

Saraswati Dawadi is currently a PhD student at the Open University, England. She has earned MA: TESOL from Lancaster University as a Hornby Trust Scholar 2013/2014. Prior to starting her study in England, she was a lecturer at Tribhuvan University, Nepal for nearly eight years.

Scott Justice has lived in South Asia for over 20 years working in research and development in agricultural mechanisation and rural development, on issues around technical, socio-economic, and markets for scale appropriate machinery for South and SE Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Stacy Leigh Pigg is Professor of Anthropology at Simon Fraser University, near Vancouver, Canada. Dr. Pigg's research explores the global interconnections and uneven translations produced through medicine, science, and development. Her ethnographic research in Nepal has been published in numerous articles on the creation of public knowledge about AIDS, on the cultural impact of national ideologies of modernization, on how "development" schemes look and feel to the people who are their targets, and on the relation between western medicine and traditional healing – projects that all emerged from her long-standing interest in the negotiation of differing frameworks of meaning as this occurs under conditions of social inequality. Dr. Pigg served as Editor of the journal *Medical Anthropology: Cross-Cultural Studies in Health and Illness* from 2000-2006, and is the incoming Editor of *American Ethnologist* (2019 – 2022). She is co-editor (with Vincanne Adams) of *Sex in Development: Science, Sexuality, and Morality in Global Perspective* (Duke University Press).

Tracy Fehr is a Sociology PhD student at the University of Colorado Boulder. Her research focuses on gender, development, human rights, and transitional justice in Nepal.

Ulrik Høj Johnsen is a PhD student at Department of Anthropology, Aarhus University, and works as a curator in Moesgaard Museum. Since December 2016 he has carried out fieldwork in the Kathmandu Valley. In his project, he is seeking to establish the value of a museum collection, which was collected in the Kathmandu Valley in the late 1950s.