



**First Annual Himalayan Policy Research  
Conference  
Nepal Study Center**



Thursday, October 19, 2006  
Madison Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club  
Madison, Wisconsin

Pre-conference Venue of the  
35th South Asian Conference at  
The University of Wisconsin--Madison  
(October 19-22, 2006)

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**Nepal Study Center  
The University of New Mexico**

## Welcome!

On behalf of the scholars, professionals, policy practitioners, and the friends of Nepal Study Center, we would like to welcome all the participants to the First Annual Himalayan Policy Conference at this pre-conference venue of the University of Wisconsin's 35<sup>th</sup> Annual South Asian Conference.

Nepal Study Center was established at the University of New Mexico two years ago with an objective to promote policy research activities related to the Himalayan region, Nepal, and the countries in South Asia. NSC takes this policy research theme broadly to include issues related to development, democracy, conflict and the environment. NSC is dedicated to creating platforms to enhance knowledge sharing.

NSC's research capacity-building activities include two e-journal publications (*Himalayan Journal of Development and Democracy* and *Liberal Democracy Nepal Bulletin*), the annual Himalayan Policy Research Conference, and maintaining an electronic repository to allow scholars to upload, store, and disseminate policy research. This pre-conference is an important milestone for us, and we are very grateful to those who are participating in the First Himalayan Policy Research Conference. The ultimate goal of the NSC and its friends is to form an *Association for Himalayan Policy Research*.

We are grateful to the University of Wisconsin's 35<sup>th</sup> Annual South Asian Conference for giving us a pre-conference venue. We also would like to thank those who have provided financial support to Nepal Study Center to conduct this conference. Our supports include: Dr. Phil Ganderton, Department of Economics, University of New Mexico; Dr. Upendra Mahato, President of Non-Resident Nepali International Coordination Council (NRN-ICC) and Mr. Jiba Lamichhane, Executive Member of NRN-ICC, Russia. A complete list of the donors is given in this brochure. We would also like to acknowledge the help provided by the staff and the graduate students of the Department of Economics, UNM and the goodwill and support of many friends of NSC.

Sincerely,

Nepal Study Center, UNM



Alok K. Bohara, PhD

Professor, Department of Economics, University of New Mexico  
bohara@unm.edu

Dr. Mukti P. Upadhyay,

Associate Professor, Eastern Illinois University

Dr. Vijaya R. Sharma,

Faculty Associate, University of Colorado, Boulder

Dr. Ambika P. Adhikari,

Faculty Associate, Arizona State University

Dr. Gyan Pradhan,

Associate Professor, Westminster College

# First Annual Himalayan Policy Research Conference

## Nepal Study Center

Thursday, October 19, 2006, Madison Concourse Hotel and Governors' Club,  
Pre-conference Venue of the 35<sup>th</sup> South Asian Conference at the University of Wisconsin-- Madison,  
(October 19-22, 2006)

Department of Economics, The University of New Mexico 1915 Roma Ave NE, MSC05 3060, Rm. 1019 Albuquerque, NM 87131  
<http://nepalstudycenter.unm.edu>, Ph: 505-277-5903, [nsc@unm.edu](mailto:nsc@unm.edu)

## Program Outline

<b>AR:</b> Assembly Room (1 <sup>st</sup> floor) <b>CR:</b> Conference Room #4 (2 <sup>nd</sup> floor)
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### Welcome (8:15-8:25am, Room AR)

### Session 1: 8:30 AM – 10:10 AM, Choose A or B.

#### **Session 1A: Health, Gender, and Trafficking, 8:30 AM – 10:10 AM (Room AR)**

*Chair: Jeffrey Drope, University of Miami*

1. Investigation of pre-clinical damage of lens from smoke exposure in Nepalese women  
*Amod Pokharel, University of California at Berkeley*
2. The psychological consequences of internal migration  
*Amod Pyakuryal, University of Akron*
3. Sex trafficking in Nepal: survivor characteristics and long term outcomes  
*Mary Crawford, University of Connecticut*  
*Michelle Kaufman, University of Connecticut*
4. Sex for sale: an investigation into the status of Nepali women as a root cause of sex trafficking  
*Michelle Kaufman, University of Connecticut*  
*Mary Crawford, University of Connecticut*

Discussants: Vijaya R. Sharma, University of Colorado (1); Michelle Kaufman, University of Connecticut (2); Amod Pokharel, University of California at Berkeley (3); Mallika Shakya, World Bank (4);

#### **Session 1B: Environment, 8:30 AM – 10:10 AM (Room CR)**

*Chair: Joel Heinen, Florida State University*

1. Urban Sprawl in Kathmandu Valley of Nepal from 1964-2003: a challenge for urban policy makers and planners  
*Keshav Bhattarai, Central Missouri State University*
2. On the evaluation of an environmentally damaging project  
*Biswo Poudel, University of California at Berkeley*
3. Assessing vulnerability to multiple environmental stressors: a policy perspective in adapting to climate change in Nepal  
*Netra Chhetri, Arizona State University*  
*Ambika Adhikari, Arizona State University*

Discussants: Ambika Adhikari, Arizona state University, (1); Netra Chhetri, Arizona State University (2); Keshav Bhattarai, Central Missouri State University (3)

**Session 2: 10:15 AM – 11:55 AM, Choose A or B.**

**Session 2A: Education and Democratization, 10:15 AM – 11:55 AM (Room AR)**

***Chair: Mary Crawford, University of Connecticut***

1. A pedagogical experiment on liberal democracy in South Asia  
*Jeffrey Drope, University of Miami*
2. Civic literacy and democratization in Nepal  
*Khadga K.C., Nagasaki University, Japan*
3. Reflections on the state of democratic transition process in South Asia  
*Pramod Kantha, Wright State University*
4. Development and discontentment in South Asia (with special reference to North-East India)  
*Ajailiu Niunmai, University of Hyderabad, India*

**Discussants:** Kamal Upadhyay, University of New Haven (1); Gyan Pradhan, Westminster College (2); Mallika Shakya, World Bank (3); Pramod Kantha, Wright State University (4)

**Session 2B: Resource Conservation, 10:15 AM – 11:55 AM (Room CR)**

***Chair: Keshav Bhattarai, Central Missouri State University***

1. On the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Nepal and its implications for regional waterfowl conservation  
*Joel Heinen and Jay Sab, Florida International University*
2. Issuing annual permits for harvesting thatch grass as compensation to local people in Nepal: does this policy have effects on conservation attitude?  
*Jay Sab and Joel Heinen, Florida International University*

**Discussants:** Biswo Poudel, University of California at Berkeley (1); Netra Chhetri, Arizona State University (2)

**Lunch Break: 12:00 Noon – 1:20 PM**

**Introduction to Nepal Study Center: 1:20 PM – 1:45 PM**

**Session 3: Politics, Democracy, and Conflict I, 1:50 PM – 3:05 PM (Room AR)**

***Chair: Saurav D. Bhatta, University of Illinois at Chicago***

1. Relative deprivation and civil conflict in Nepal  
*Karen Macours, Johns Hopkins University*
2. Understanding Nepali conflict: between new wars and old wars  
*Chandra D. Bhatta, London School of Economics*
3. The plight of the forgotten ones: civil war and internal displacement in Nepal  
*Prakash Adhikari and Mani Nepal, University of New Mexico*

**Discussants:** Khadga K.C., Nagasaki University, Japan (1); Karen Macours, Johns Hopkins University (2); Chandra D. Bhatta, London School of Economics (3)

**Session 4: Politics, Democracy, and Conflict II, 3:10 PM – 4:25 PM (Room AR)**

***Chair: Pramod Kantha, Wright State University***

1. Spheres of exclusion in democratizing Nepal  
*Mahendra Lawoti, Western Michigan University*
2. Rising ethno-cultural nationalism in Nepal: postmodern delusion or democratic illusion?  
*Nanda Shrestha, Florida A & M University*  
*Dev R. Dabal, Tribhuvan University, Nepal*
3. Comparative study of federation proposals for Nepal  
*Vijaya R. Sharma, University of Colorado at Boulder*

**Discussants:** Nanda Shrestha, Florida A & M University (1); Prakash Adhikari, University of New Mexico (2); Mahendra Lawoti, Western Michigan University (3)

**Coffee Break: 4:25 PM – 4:40 PM (Room AR)**

**Session 5: Development and Poverty Alleviation, 4:40 PM – 5:55 PM (Room AR)**

***Chair: Alok K. Bohara, University of New Mexico***

1. Determinants and consequences of chronic vs. transient poverty in Nepal  
*Saurav D. Bhatta, University of Illinois at Chicago*  
*Suman Sharma, Tribhuvan University, Nepal*
2. Growth, poverty, and income distribution in Nepal: an interactive approach  
*Mukti Upadhyay, Eastern Illinois University*  
*Gyan Pradhan, Westminster College*
3. Nepal and Bhutan: development strategies and growth  
*Dharmendra Dhakal, Tennessee State University*  
*Gyan Pradhan, Westminster College*  
*Kamal Upadhyaya, University of New Haven*

**Discussants:** Mukti Upadhyay, Eastern Illinois University (1); Amod Pyakuryal, University of Akron; (2) Saurav D. Bhatta, University of Illinois at Chicago (3)

**Conference concludes at 5:55 P.M**

## Venue Information and Hotel Accommodation

Conference Venue: Sessions will be held at the Assembly Room (**AR**) (1<sup>st</sup> floor) and Conference Room (**CR**) No. 4 (2<sup>nd</sup> floor).

For information on conference venue and hotel accommodation, please contact Concourse Hotel <http://www.concoursehotel.com/>.

Hotel Contact: Mike Ferguson, Sales Manager, The Madison Concourse Hotel & Governor's Club, 1 West Dayton Street, Madison, WI 53703, Phone - 608.294.3016, Fax - 608.257.8454, email – [mferguson@concoursehotel.com](mailto:mferguson@concoursehotel.com) (Limited rooms available at discount rates for HPRC participants)

Alternate accommodation: Best Western *Inn on the Park* (608-257-8811), walking distance from the conference venue; Doubletree Hotel Madison 525 W. Johnson Street, Madison, Wisconsin (608-251-5511)

Participants are personally responsible for funding and organizing their travel, hotel accommodations, food and all other expenditures related to their attendance in the conference. The organizing committee is unable to provide any funding for the participants. However, organizers will provide refreshments at the conference at no cost to the participants.

**Conference Fees** will be collected at the conference venue. You may pay in cash or with a check made to the *Nepal Study Center*.

\$20 students

\$30 others

## Financial Support and Acknowledgement

The Nepal Study Center and the conference organizing team would like to acknowledge financial contribution being made by various individuals and organizations.

- Dr. Upendra Mahato, President NRN ICC: \$1000.00
- Mr. Jiba Lamichhane, Executive Member NRN ICC, Russia: \$1000.0
- Professor Phil Ganderton, Chair, Department of Economics, UNM: \$500.00
- Mr. Naresh Koirala, Vancouver, Canada: \$200.00
- Dr. Alok K. Bohara: UNM, \$2,500.00 (faculty development budget donated to NSC to purchase computing and seminar equipments)

NSC would like to encourage all the friends of NSC to continue their financial support so that it can successfully undertake various tasks: update software, run conferences, produce proceedings, maintain electronic research repository (under construction), advertise and publish journals (*HJDD* and *LDNB*). NSC is a not-for-profit organization registered under the College of Arts and Sciences, University of New Mexico.

Please make your tax deductible contribution payable to *Nepal Study Center* at the following address: Attn: Ms. Angela Torrez; Department Administrator II; Department of Economics; University of New Mexico; Albuquerque, NM 87131,

USA; Phone: (505) 277-5304; Fax: (505) 277-9445; Email: [atorrez@unm.edu](mailto:atorrez@unm.edu). Contact Ms. Torrez for any direct wire transfer information.

NSC would like to thank Dr. Jugal Bhurtel, Dr. Dharmendra Dhakal, Dr. Kamal Upadhyaya, Dr. Gaury Adhikary, Maria Daw, Mike Milligan, and Steven J Archambault for their support and encouragement.

## **I. About Nepal Study Center**

The creation of the Nepal Study Center (NSC) at the University of New Mexico in 2004 was an important milestone in knowledge sharing among a global network of Nepali and non-Nepali scholars who are interested in policy work on the Himalayan region, Nepal and the countries in South Asia. The Center is broadly interested in the issues of development, democracy, conflict and the environment. To enhance the scholarly network and policy research, NSC is engaged in a variety of activities:

- Research,
- Publication of e-journals and newsletter,
- Creation of electronic research repository,
- Educational collaboration with universities in USA and Nepal
- Conferences and Workshops.

NSC's academic and policy related activities relate to the advancement of knowledge regarding economic development, environment, trade, health, socio-economic issues, gender and ethnic biases, governance, poverty, knowledge economy, globalization, water resources, democratization, human rights, and conflict resolution in the region. The Center is registered within the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of New Mexico as a not-for-profit foundation.

It is hoped that this conference and future research activities and collaborations will result in pertinent, accurate, and cutting-edge research on the economic and political aspects of the region. To accomplish this mission, NSC has set the following goals:

### ***Nepal Study Center Mission***

- By the establishment of electronic journals and online discussion forums, to allow Nepalese and others to quickly and easily exchange information for research collaboration.
- To recruit talented and enterprising graduate and post-doc students from Nepal and the Himalayan and South Asian region, and provide an environment for the high-quality training of these students.
- Form networks of contacts in Nepal and worldwide to facilitate research collaboration.
- Organize conferences focusing on the economics and politics of the South Asian region.
- Develop student and professor exchange programs with partner universities in Nepal.
- Use cutting-edge research techniques to examine and research the economics and politics of Nepal and the South Asian region.
- Increase policy researchers' influence in national discussions of Nepal and the South Asian and Himalayan area.
- Focus academic efforts on Nepal and the region and expand the knowledge base available regarding that region.

## II. Accomplishments

In less than two years, the Center has made several noteworthy accomplishments. This record has been produced with volunteer time and energy and with limited resources.

- The Center has established **two electronic journals**, *Himalayan Journal of Development and Democracy* (HJDD), and *Liberal Democracy Nepal Bulletin* (LDNB): <http://nepalstudycenter.unm.edu/journals/journals.htm>
- The Center collaborated with the **Liberal Democracy Nepal** forum and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in Washington, DC, to conduct a highly successful workshop in DC in October 2005. The proceedings were published and posted on the Center's website as a special issue of the LDNB journal. <http://nepalstudycenter.unm.edu/journals/LDNB/issues.htm>
- NSC organized its first annual **Himalayan Policy Research Conference** at the pre-conference venue of the University of Wisconsin Annual Conference on South Asia.
- The Center has showcased **seminars** by two distinguished scholars and policy makers from Nepal at the University of New Mexico (Dr. Ram S. Mahat, former and current Finance Minister of Nepal, and Dr. Shankar Sharma, former Vice Chairman of the Planning Commission of Nepal)
- NSC is working to create an electronic research repository, **Himalayan Research Papers Archive**, which will allow scholars to upload, store, and disseminate policy research through the open-access repository system Dspace created at MIT.
- The Center has just concluded an **educational collaborative project** with the University of Miami. The project, Designing Liberal Democracy, brought the US and Nepali students together for discussion and deliberations, and uses NSC's bulletin board as an interface. This trial project is led by Professor Jeff Drope of Miami (Spring 2006). <http://nepalstudycenter.unm.edu/internationallinkages.htm>
- NSC is conducting important **research** on several areas that are highly relevant for the economic development of a developing country like Nepal. Two publications have appeared in the highly reputed journals *Land Economics* and *Journal of Conflict Resolution*.
- The Center publishes an **electronic newsletter** that contains announcements and has a column named Insight for short policy research pieces. <http://nepalstudycenter.unm.edu/Viewpoint.htm>
- NSC has become an attractive **venue for graduate studies**. There are currently five doctoral students at UNM's Political Science and Economics Department. Many scholars interested in studies related to Nepal and the surrounding Himalayans region have explored the possibilities of working with the NSC for fellowship and post-doctorate academic work. NSC has granted two such self-funded requests, including one from the Vice Chancellor of the Kathmandu University.

We believe that these activities are valuable in promoting knowledge sharing. There are a number of Nepali and non-Nepali scholars involved in the NSC's mission.



### III. Call for Paper Submission for e-journals (HJDD and LDNB)

*Himalayan Journal of Development and Democracy (HJDD)*, a peer-reviewed interdisciplinary academic journal, invites high quality papers on development, democracy, conflict, and environmental issues relating to the Himalayan or the South Asian region. The submitted papers should provide robust **analyses of issues** important to the region and yield significant **policy implications**. We consider development issues in a broad socio-economic perspective to include growth, poverty, income distribution, urban sprawl, food security, education, environment, industrial and labor issues, trade, technology, regional development, health care, gender and ethnicity, and child labor. HJDD also welcomes papers on democracy, conflict resolution, and political transition.

*Liberal Democracy Nepal Bulletin (LDNB)* focuses on the contemporary political economy, democratic development, good governance, international relations, and conflict resolution in Nepal and invites high quality **essays** and analytically presented **non-technical commentaries** for publication.

Electronic submissions are accepted for both journals. For guidelines on submission and related matters, please visit <http://nepalstudycenter.unm.edu/journals/>. Send your inquiries to Professor Alok K. Bohara, Nepal Study Center, Department of Economics, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131, U.S.A. (505) 277-5903, [Bohara@unm.edu](mailto:Bohara@unm.edu).

### IV. Himalayan Policy Research Repository

One of the objectives of the Nepal Study Center is to create synergy among Himalayan and South Asian policy researchers from all over the world. It hopes to attract manuscripts and working papers for sharing through its electronic repository. This electronic research repository will allow researchers from anywhere in the world to upload their research work for dissemination. Using the open access Dspace technology, NSC hopes to house research manuscripts, working papers, and high quality analytical research reports. The uploading process and the guideline will be available on the web in the near future.

### V. Association for Himalayan Policy research

Through various scholarly activities, NSC aims to create a **global network** of scholars, professionals, and policy practitioners interested in the policy and development of Nepal and the Himalayan region. Eventually, NSC plans to create an *Association for Himalayan Policy Research*. Journal publications and Himalayan-focused conference at Wisconsin University are important activities contributing to this collaboration, and our initial attempt to create this network has been very successful. Many scholars from the US, Europe, Far East, Australia, and Nepal are joining this network.