

Fifth Annual Himalayan Policy Research Conference

Nepal Study Center

Thursday, October 14, 2010, Concourse Hotel, Wisconsin, Madison
Pre-conference Venue of the 39th South Asian Conference at the U. of Wisconsin, Madison

I. Program Outline

(Version 3, revised Oct 4, 2010)

Welcome (8:20 – 8:30 a.m., Capital A Ballroom)

Session 1: Poverty Issues: 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. – (Capital A Ballroom)

Chair: Stephanie Smith, University of New Mexico, USA

1. Moving out of chronic poverty: Community level study on poverty over the time
S.A.N.C. Samaraweera, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka
Rupika Abeynayake, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka
2. India's poverty eradication efforts: Some vital questions
Mohd Saeed Khan, Aligarh Muslim University, India
Ghazala Aziz, Aligarh Muslim University, India
3. Geographic isolation and poverty among indigenous peoples in Nepal
Gyanesh Lama, Washington University in St. Louis, USA
Palsang Lama, Tribhuvan University, Nepal
4. Hunger and coping mechanism among tribes in India: A case study of Melghat
Neilratan Shende, Indian Institute of Technology, India

Discussants: Neilratan Shenda (paper 1), Mukti Upadhyay (paper 2), Rupika Abeynayake (paper 3), Gyanesh Lama (paper 4)

Session 2A: Resources and Environment – I: 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon (Capital A Ballroom)

Chair: Neelmani Verma, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, India

1. Developing soil erosion indices in Nepal using distributed modeling
Keshav Bhattarai, University of Central Missouri, USA
2. Economics of urban drainage system: A case study of Cuttack City, Orissa, India
Jogasankar Mahaprashasta, Christ College, India
3. Environmental attitude and water treatment behavior of the residents in Kathmandu Valley
Hari Katuwal, University of New Mexico
Mona K Qassim, University of New Mexico
Jose Pagan, University of New Mexico
Alok Bohara, University of New Mexico

Discussants: Jogasankar Mahaprashasta (paper 1), Hari Katuwal (paper 2), Keshav Bhattarai (paper 3)

Session 2B: Political Issues – I: 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon (Capital B Ballroom)

Chair: Keith Leslie, Support to Participatory Constitution Building in Nepal Project, UNDP, Nepal

1. The dynamics of Madhesi identity in Nepal: The moderating role of pluralistic politics
Pramod Kantha, Wright State University, USA
2. Spatial and temporal analysis of civil war
Shikha Basnet, University of Pittsburgh, USA
3. Media contribution in transfer of power to people in Nepal
Binod Agrawal, TALEEM Research Foundation, India

Discussants: Shikha Basnet (paper 1), Binod Agrawal (paper 2), Pramod Kantha (paper 3)

**Nepal Study Center Presentation
&
Lunch Break**

12:00 p.m. to 1:20 p.m.

Session 3A: Resources and Environment – II: 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. – (Capital A Ballroom)

Chair: Keshav Bhattarai, University of Central Missouri, USA

1. Sedimentation and economics of reservoir management
Biswo Poudel, University of California Berkeley
2. Conflict resolution and institutional arrangements for flood disaster management on Indo-Nepal fringe: Focus on Koshi Basin
Neelmani Verma, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, India
3. Local people's perception on climate change, its impact and adaptation practices in Himalaya to Mountain regions of Nepal
Krishna Tiwari, Tribhuvan University, Nepal
Mohan K Balla, Tribhuvan University, Nepal
Keshav D Awasthi, Tribhuvan University, Nepal
Bishal K Sitaula, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway

Discussants: Krishna Tiwari (paper 1), Biswo Poudel (paper 2), Neelmani Verma (paper 3)

Session 3B: Development Issues – I: 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Capital B Ballroom)

Chair: Krupasindhu Pradhan, Udaya Nath Autonomous College of Science and Technology, India

1. Looking for stability: Holistic policy analysis in light of rapid development among Kham Tibetan herding groups
J. Marc Foggin, Plateau Perspectives, USA
Jared Phillips, University of Arkansas, USA
2. Economic growth and human development in South Asia: Experience of selected countries
Ranjit Singh Ghuman, Punjabi University, India
Amarjit S. Bhullar, University of Northern British Columbia, Canada
3. Is postmodernism compatible with the development studies? The case of Nepal
Ravi Bhandari, St. Mary's College of California, USA

Discussants: Ravi Bhandari (paper 1), Jared Phillips (paper 2), Amarjit S. Bhullar (paper 3)

Coffee Break: 3:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Session 4A: Political Issues – II: 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. (Capital A Ballroom)

Chair: Pramod Kantha, Wright State University, USA

1. An opportunity for improving service delivery through local governance in Nepal
Yam Sharma, Ministry of Finance, Nepal
Abdu Muwonge, World Bank, USA
2. Federalism Dialogue: Voices from below in state restructuring in Nepal
Keith Leslie, Support to Participatory Constitution Building in Nepal Project, UNDP, Nepal
Krishna Khanal, Tribhuvan University, Nepal
Krishna Hachhethu, Tribhuvan University, Nepal

Discussants: Keith Leslie (paper 1), Abdu Muwonge (paper 2)

Session 4B: Agriculture, Industry, Health and Finance – I: 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. (Capital B Ballroom)

Chair: Abhaya K Nayak, National Institute of Science Education and Research, India

1. Measurement and determinants of production efficiency of farmers in Nepal
Satis Devkota, Wayne State University, USA
Mukti Upadhyay, Eastern Illinois University, USA
2. Exchange rate misalignment in Nepal: A case study
Anjan Pandey, American University, USA

Discussants: Anjan Pandey (paper 1), Mukti Upadhyay (paper 2)

Session 5A: Development Issues – II: 4:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. (Capital A Ballroom)

Chair: Ravi Bhandari, St. Mary's College of California, USA

1. Micro, small and medium enterprises and economic development of Orissa
Krupasindhu Pradhan, Udaya Nath Autonomous College of Science and Technology, India
Santosh Munda, UTI Asset Management Company Ltd., India
2. Use of modern technology in rural development: A case study of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Odisha
Abhaya K Nayak, National Institute of Science Education and Research, India
Sukhmaya Swain, AXIS Bank Ltd, India
3. Impact of industrial environment on socio-economic conditions of workers: A study of coal industries in Odisha
Abhaya K Nayak, National Institute of Science Education and Research, India
Krupasindhu Pradhan, Udaya Nath Autonomous College of Science and Technology, India
Santosh K Munda, Udaya Nath Autonomous College of Science and Technology, India

Discussants: Ranjit Singh Ghuman (paper 1), Krishna Khanal (paper 2), Krishna Hachethu (paper 3)

Session 5B: Agriculture, Industry, Health and Finance – II: 4:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. (Capital B Ballroom)

Chair: Abdu Muwonge, World Bank, USA

1. Factors in health initiative success: Learning from Nepal's newborn survival initiative
Stephanie Smith, University of New Mexico, USA
2. Swine flu: A preliminary study of the planning and policy of Nepal to combat the H1N1 pandemic
Rojee Rajbanshi, University of Findlay, USA
3. The economic cost of health problems due to indoor air pollution at the household level in Tamil Nadu
B.P. Chandramohan, Presidency College, India
S. Karthikeyan, Presidency College, India

Discussants: B.P. Chandramohan (paper 1), Stephanie Smith (paper 2), Rojee Rajbanshi (paper 3)

Conference ends at 5:45 p.m.