Chautari Annual Conference – 2023
Organized by Martin Chautari (MC) | Venue: Martin Chautari, Thapathali, Kathmandu
November 28–30, 2023 (Mansir 12–14, 2080)

Day I (November 28, 2023) Tuesday

09:00 a.m.
Tea/Registration

09:20 a.m. **Opening Remarks: MC**	09:20 a.m. **Opening Remarks: MC**
Hall A	**Hall B**
09:30 a.m. **Panel 1: Mobility, Migration and Livelihood** ***Moderator:*** *Jeevan Baniya, Social Science Baha* **Paper I: Analysing the Issues of *Bhagna*y and *Ghumnay* among the Migrant *Bhariyas* of Nepal in Kalimpong Town, India** *Ambika Rai, PhD Scholar, Centre for Himalayan Studies, University of North Bengal, India* **Paper II: Labor Migration, Income, Skills in Tamang Old House Building: An Ethnographic Study of the 'Sense of Loss' in the Post-reconstruction Context, Sindhupalchowk, Nepal** *Bhim Prasad Rai, PhD Student, Central Department of Anthropology, Tribhuvan University, Nepal* **Paper III: Dynamics of South-South Migration in the Himalayan Region: Exploring Temporariness and Agency of Nepalese Migrants Workers** *Garima Bhandari, PhD Candidate, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, India* **Floor Discussion**	09:30 a.m. **Panel 2: Classroom Diversity, Pedagogy and Examination** ***Moderator:*** *JB Biswokarma, Dignity Initiative/Martin Chautari* **Paper I: Exploring Inclusive Classroom Practices: A Case from Nepal** *Pramod Bhatta, Researcher, Martin Chautari and Tejendra Pherali, Professor of Education, Conflict and Peace, University College London, UK* **Paper II: Climate Change, Offensive Politics and Community Life in Himalayan Region: A Pedagogical Intervention** *Shipra R Upadhyay, Convener, Memory Culture Initiative, India* **Paper III: उच्च शिक्षा: चिटिङ र परीक्षा प्रणाली** *देविराम आचार्य, विद्यावारिधि शोधार्थी, काठमाडौँ विश्वविद्यालय, नेपाल* **Floor Discussion**
11:00 a.m. (Break)	
11:15 a.m. **Panel 3: Street Businesses, Urban Poverty and Technology** ***Moderator:*** *Sabin Ninglekhu, Heritage as Placemaking: The Politics of Solidarity and Erasure in South Asia, Social Science Baha* **Paper I: Street Businesses in Kathmandu: Crushed by the Pandemic, Evicted by the State** *Sudhir Shrestha, Kathmandu University School of Management, Nepal*	11:15 a.m. **Panel 4: Literature, Cinema and Cultural Heritage** ***Moderator****: Priyanka Chatterjee, University of North Bengal, India* **Paper I: The Climate of Contemporary Nepali Novels** *Ujjwal Prasai, Martin Chautari*

Paper II: Baseline Study of Socioeconomic Conditions of Urban Poor Communities in Kathmandu *Pratik Chhetri, Neha Malla, Bonita Sharma, Eva Gyawali, Ritendra Badu, Prapti Giri, Anjila Pandey, Niroj Bhandari and Himanshu Rayamajhi* **Paper III: An Indigenous Technology on the Verge of Extinction** *Sachin Ghimire, Medical Anthropologist, Manmohan Memorial Institute of Health Science, Nepal* **Floor Discussion**	**Paper II: In Search of Nepali Cinema: Examining Filmmaking Practice** *Binod Chhetri, PhD Candidate, Department of Mass Communication, Sikkim University, India* **Paper III: The Trend of Applying 3D Digital Conservation of Cultural Heritage in Nepal** *Xu Mengru, MA Student in Archaeology, Lumbini Buddhist University, Nepal* **Floor Discussion**

12:45 p.m.-1.45 p.m. (Lunch)

1:45 p.m.

Panel 5: The Living Mountain: Intersubjective Readings

Moderator: Andrew Nelson, University of North Texas, USA

Convener of the Panel: Swatahsiddha Sarkar, Professor, Centre for Himalayan Studies, University of North Bengal, India

Panelists:

Paper I: Writing the Mountains: The Living Mountain Forty-five Years Apart
Priyanka Chatterjee, Centre for Distance and Online Education, University of North Bengal, India

Paper II: Mountaineering in Himalaya: Exploring the Dynamics of Anthropocene and the Interplay with Nature
Debaditya Dutta, Assistant Professor in Sociology, Mangalkote College, India

Paper III: The Living Mountain, Himalayan History and the Edge Effect
Somoshree De, PhD Candidate, Centre for Himalayan Studies, University of North Bengal, India

Floor Discussion

3:15 p.m. (Break)

3:30 p.m.

Keynote Address

Historical Persistence and Social Change
Professor Avidit Acharya, Stanford University, USA

5:00 p.m. (End of Day 1)

Day II (November 29, 2023) Wednesday

09:00 a.m.
Tea/Registration

Hall A	Hall B
09:30 a.m. **Panel 6: Researching Menstrual Health** ***Moderator:*** *Dushala Adhikari, Independent Researcher* **Paper I: Methodological Reflections on Doing Fieldwork on Menstruation as Menstruator in Western Nepal: Positionality, Ethical Dilemma, Hidden Struggle, and Emotional Toll of Researching Sensitive Issues** *Rajya Laxmi Gurung, MPhil in Sociology, Central Department of Sociology, Tribhuvan University, Nepal* **Paper II: Beyond Mary Douglas: Waste Materialities and Menstrual Hygiene Management in Shankharapur Municipality, Nepal** *Sierra Humbert, PhD Fellow, Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen, Denmark* **Paper III: It Begins at Home: Perception and Practices of Menstrual Taboos among Adolescent Girls in Urban Setting of Lalitpur: A Mixed Method Study** *Dikshya Karki, Central Department of Sociology, Tribhuvan University, Nepal and Madhusudan Subedi, Professor, School of Public Health, Patan Academy of Health Sciences, Nepal* **Floor Discussion**	09:30 a.m. **Panel 7: Media, Pandemic and Democracy** ***Moderator:*** *Devraj Humagain, Martin Chautari* **Paper I: Impact of Digital Divides on Media Education in Nepal during Covid-19 Pandemic: Educators' Perspective** *Lekhanath Pandey, Assistant Professor, Department of Journalism, Tribhuvan University and Umesh Pokharel, PhD Student, Tribhuvan University, Nepal* **Paper II: The Impact of Media on Nepal's Transition to Democracy: A Critical Analysis** *Ugyal Tshering Lama Yolmo, PhD Scholar, Department of Mass Communication, Sikkim University, India* **Paper III: Securitization of Covid-19 by Nepalese Media: An Examination of *The Kathmandu Post*** *Ashish Ghimire, MA in International Relations, South Asian University, India* **Floor Discussion**
11:00 a.m. (Break)	
11:15 a.m. **Panel 8: Religion and Law** ***Moderator:*** *Durga Karki, International IDEA* **Paper I: Religion and Secularism in South Asia: Some Reflections on Nepal** *Mohan Kumar Mishra, PhD Student, Department of Political Science, Banaras Hindu University, India* **Paper II: Roman Catholic Government and Mission to Nepal in the Seventeenth Century: An Assessment** *Enrico Beltramini, Notre Dame de Namur University, USA*	11:15 a.m. **Panel 9: Gender, Discrimination and Disability** ***Moderator:*** *Kailash Rai, Martin Chautari* **Paper I: Discrimination Faced by Madheshi Women in Nepal** *Ranju Kumari Yadav, PhD Scholar, Department of Gender Studies, Tribhuvan University, Nepal* **Paper II: Gender and Disability in the Discourse of Social Inclusion** *Neera Adhikari, PhD Candidate, Tribhuvan University, Nepal*

Floor Discussion	**Paper III: Transfer of Parental Socio-economic Characteristics into the Married Couple in Rural Context of Nepal** *Badri Aryal, Assistant Professor, Development Studies, Pokhara University, Nepal* **Floor Discussion**

12:45 p.m.–1.45 p.m. (Lunch)

1:45 p.m.

Panel 10: Institutions and Infrastructure

Moderator: *Sudhir Shrestha, Kathmandu University School of Management, Nepal*

Paper I: Challenges and Opportunities of Digital Agro-advisory Services for Small-holder Farmers
Hritika Rana, Post-Doc Fellow, Department of Development Studies, Kathmandu University School of Arts and Bristi Vaidya, Research Associate, Department of Development Studies, Kathmandu University School of Arts, Nepal

Paper II: Institutional Change of Farmer-managed Irrigation Systems: Experience from Nepal
Jagadish Parajuli, Hallie Eakin, Netra Chhetri and John M. Anderies, Arizona State University, USA

Paper III: Affective Infrastructure: Exploring the Road as a Place-making Politics in Nepal
Shyam Kunwar, Martin Chautari

3:15 p.m. (Break)

03:30 p.m.

Panel 11: School Education History

Moderator: *Pratyoush Onta, Martin Chautari*

Paper I: Hundred Years of Nepali Varnamala and the Loss of Its Diversity
Deepak Aryal, Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya

Paper II: पूर्वी नेपालको शैक्षिक विस्तारमा महानन्द सापकोटा र नेपाली भाषा प्रचारक संघ (वि.सं. १९९३–२०१२)
देवेन्द्र उप्रेती, मार्टिन चौतारी

Paper III: सन् १९५० अघि र पछि : दाप्चाका तामाङ जातिको शिक्षामा पहुँच
सन्जिला मोक्तान, मार्टिन चौतारी

Paper IV: गुरुङको औपचारिक शिक्षामा पहुँच : मणिसिंह गुरुङ र गोर्खा पाठशाला, शिलाङको कथा (सन् १९१५–१९५०)
रुख गुरुङ, मार्टिन चौतारी

Floor Discussion

5:30 p.m. (End of Day 2)

Day III (November 30, 2023) Thursday

09:00 a.m.
Tea/Registration

Hall A	Hall B
09:30 a.m. **Panel 12: Ritual, Ethnicity and Identity Politics** ***Moderator:*** *Janak Rai, Tribhuvan University* **Paper I: Cultural Values of *Rifu* among the Gurung (Tamumai): An Anthropological Study** *Shanti Gurung, Padma Kanya Multiple Campus, Nepal* **Paper II: Shaping a Sacred Place: The Changing Ritual-scape of Satya Nārāyaṇa (Harigaon, Kathmandu)** *Jiajing (Iris) Mo, PhD Candidate, Department of Archaeology, Durham University* **Paper III: Constructing Ethnicity and Identity of Bantawa Rai in Eastern Nepal** *Raju Kumar Rai, PhD Student, Central Department of Sociology, Tribhuvan University, Nepal* **Floor Discussion**	09:30 a.m. **Panel 13: Conflict, Suffering and Peacebuilding** ***Moderator:*** *Seira Tamang, Martin Chautari* **Paper I: Natural Resource Governance Conflicts in Federal Nepal: Prospects for Peacebuilding** *Shradha Khadka, Prakash Bhattarai, Susmita Puri, Anish Khatri and Dibesh Sayami, Centre for Social Change, Nepal* **Paper II: Politics and Peacebuilding: Mapping the Sixteen Years since the Comprehensive Peace Accord in Nepal** *Rajendra Sharma, Research Associate, Social Science Baha, Nepal* **Paper III: Assessment of Psychological Harm Suffered during the Maoist Insurgency and the Judicial Approach Towards it in Nepal** *Bishal Bajgain and Swosti Bastola, Kathmandu University School of Law, Nepal* **Floor Discussion**
11:15 a.m. **Panel 14: Gender, Ageing and Re-imagination of Nepali Diaspora** ***Moderator:*** *Darshan Karki, International Water Management Institute (IWMI)* **Paper I: Plastic Smiles, Cheerful Looks and *Bolne Bāni*: Training Future Air Hostesses in Nepal's Private Cabin Crew Training Schools** *Anne Kukuczka, PhD Student, Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich, Switzerland* **Paper II: Eng-Ageing: Emerging Social Institutions and Caring Communities for the Old in Nepal** *Sarah Speck and Samira S. Hüsler, Institute for Ageing Research, University of Applied Sciences Eastern Switzerland (OST)*	11:15 a.m. **Panel 15: Youth, Masculinity and Dialogue** ***Moderator:*** *Ujjwal Prasai, Martin Chautari* **Paper I: Art-based Dialogue as a Tool to Promote Social Cohesion and Trust Building among Youth** *Kalpana Rana Magar, Kaleli Nyaichyai, Pawan Roy, Shradha Khadka and Prakash Bhattarai, Centre for Social Change, Nepal* **Paper II: चिया गफ : The Pedagogical Potential of *Chiya Gaph* in Kathmandu's Youth Sector** *Phoenix Kenney, PhD Candidate, Education and Youth Development, University of Cambridge, UK* **Paper III: Who Will be a Gurkha? Locating Military Aspirations and Masculinity of Nepali Youths** *Sanjay Sharma, Independent Scholar, Nepal*

Paper III: A Guthi and Chautari for Suburban Texas? The Translation and Re-imagining of Nepali Political Concepts in the Diaspora *Andrew Nelson, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Programs, Department of Anthropology, University of North Texas, USA* **Floor Discussion**	**Floor Discussion**
12:45 p.m. **Closing Remarks and Feedback**	
1:00 p.m. - onwards (Lunch)	
Note: *Each paper presenter will summarize his/her paper within 15 minutes. A designated moderator will share his/her comments on all papers in the panel in 10 minutes, and remaining time will be available for floor discussion.*	