

MARTIN CHAUTARI INVITES YOU TO A LECTURE

Mahila Tamang's Books

by

Michael Hutt

Martin Chautari Seminar Hall, Thapathali, 12 July 2015 (Sunday), 3:00pm

This presentation of a piece of research in progress, based largely on literary research and interviews conducted in Kathmandu, will focus on the production and consumption of works of Marxist realist fiction in Nepal. It takes as its starting point the contents of a bookcase belonging to an ex-Maoist combatant now living in retirement in Kathmandu and the 'syllabus' promulgated by the then Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) for the ideological training of its cadres. It goes on to chronicle the process by which selected works of fiction came to be translated into Nepali from Russian and Chinese, and the extent to which Maoist cadres were inspired and influenced by these works during the course of the 'People's War' in Nepal between 1996 and 2006. Finally, the discussion moves to a consideration of the concept and definition of 'world literature' in this context.

Michael Hutt completed a BA in South Asian Studies, majoring in Hindi literature, in 1980 and a Ph.D. on the history of the Nepali language and its literature in 1984, both at SOAS. In 1987 he returned to SOAS as a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow, and has been engaged in teaching and research relating to Nepal and the Himalaya ever since. He was Head of the South Asia Department from 1995-1999, and has served as both Associate Dean (2002-2004) and Dean (2004-2010) of the Faculty of Languages and Cultures. He has been a member of the executive committee of the Britain-Nepal Academic Council ever since its foundation in 2000, and its chairman since 2010. He has also served two terms as editor of the *European Bulletin of Himalayan Research*. His recent books are: *The Life of Bhupi Sherchan: Poetry and Politics in Post-Rana Nepal* (2010, Oxford University Press) and *Eloquent Hills: Essays on Nepali Literature* (2012, Martin Chautari).

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This is a public event and participation is open to all.