

Himalaya, Climate Change and Development

A Seminar Series

Support by the British Academy International Partnership and Mobility Award

2013-2015

The seminar series is intended to bring together a committed group of scholars to intellectually engage with the challenges presented by climate change as it interfaces with contentious politics and development. The political transition in Nepal coincides with evidence that the Himalayas will suffer some of the most significant impacts from climate change, raising fears about Nepal's long-term ability to adapt to such rapid political and environmental changes. In addition, the Himalayas are portrayed as the 'water towers' of Asia, with glacial melt water feeding all the major river systems of Asia. As such, Nepal's adaptive capacity (or lack thereof) is rapidly becoming a major focus both nationally and internationally when climate change issues arise.

The seminar series therefore seeks to build a trans-national learning platform to tackle the question: how can we understand and improve the relationships between resource governance, adaptive capacity and political transition in Nepal? And how can we reframe current approaches to research, policy and practice for better results? Our focus is on exploring ways to achieve inclusive, equitable and resilient approach to tackling the intertwined challenges of climate vulnerability and political instability.

The seminars are intended to provide a forum for learning and reflection on key topics related to the overall theme. They capitalise upon the presence of visiting scholars in Kathmandu together with leading Nepali intellectuals interested in these topics. This seminar series is primarily meant for young and emerging researchers, civil society activists and academics, who are keen to take interdisciplinary and reflective approach to research, policy analysis and activism. Participation is open to all post-graduate scholars (MSc and above, or equivalent experience) but applications are required.

In Collaboration with:



University of Edinburgh Centre for South
Asian Studies



ForestAction Nepal



Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies
(SIAS)



Women Leading for Change in Natural
Resource Management



Wind Power Nepal

Seminars will be held approximately every two months over a 24 month time frame. Participants are expected to attend all the seminars, do the prescribed reading in advance, and arrive prepared for active engagement.

This seminar is part of British Academy supported initiative, the key aims of which are to enhance capacity in the partners on political transition and environmental change research, to understand the role of research in conflict resolution, and to train a new generation of Nepali and UK scholars equipped with research expertise for tackling complex social-environmental issues.

Presenters will be from various backgrounds with multidisciplinary professionals and currently engaging in extensive research, policy advisory and academic activities.

Participants are encouraged to write an essay and give a presentation at the end of the series. Those who are keen to advance the research will have the opportunity of having their writings considered for a publication (an edited volume or a Journal special Issue).

Participation is free and no compensation will be provided to speakers or participants.

Fifth Seminar Details:

Topic: “Political transition and gender integration in climate change adaptation in Nepal: Everyone's agenda and no one's agenda”

Date: Aug 3, 2014 (2:00-4:00 PM)

Venue: Local Development Training Academy (LDTA), Jawalakhel, Lalitpur

By: Manohara Khadka

Manohara Khadka



Dr Manohara Khadka is a woman scientist/researcher and development practitioner dedicated to transformative change in natural resource sector in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region. She has a PhD from the International Institute of Social Studies (Erasmus University Rotterdam), the Netherlands and an MSc in Natural Resources Management from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway. She started her career as a forester in Nepal's Forests Department; and she then worked for non-governmental sector working in rural development, community forestry, agriculture and research fields in Nepal and beyond. For the past 18 years, Dr. Khadka has been engaged extensively in programmatic, policy and research aspects of forestry, water resource and agricultural development with a focus on gender, social inclusion, and institutional processes. Currently she is a Gender Specialist at ICIMOD, Nepal. Her recent research includes work on policy and institutional analysis of natural resources, and gender aspects of biodiversity conservation and management, pastoral livelihoods, REDD+, climate change adaptation and water resource management planning.