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Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies and Martin Chautari invite you to  
**Discussion on**  
**Fragmented public authority and state un/making in the 'new' Republic of Nepal**  
**By**  
**Andrea Nightingale**  
**Venue:** Martin Chautari Seminar Hall, Thapathali  
**Date:** Thursday, Dec 22 2016 (Poush 07, 2073) **Time:** 3:00 pm

Questions of state formation and public authority have been at the top of the development and political agenda in Nepal since 2006. The post 2006 so-called political transition has been characterized by rising ethnic tensions, violence, strikes, and a bewildering kaleidoscope of leaders gaining political leverage, only to be marginalized again. In 2015, the Constitution was finally adopted immediately following the earthquakes and amidst violent protest from groups who feel their needs were marginalized in the final version. In this paper we are concerned to probe how struggles over different technologies of government help throw into relief the various terrains within which public authority is claimed and contested and as a result, help to expose the limits of the state. Using the forestry sector as an ethnographic lens, we argue that we see both a profound failure of the state to provide services and stable governance as well as an ability to continue to reproduce itself and to function in some contexts. It is therefore important to understand public authority during this period as both stable and unstable; and at times, instability is what helps to perpetuate particular imaginaries of the Nepali state.

*Andrea Nightingale is a Geographer by training and presently Chair of Rural Development in the Global South at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) in Uppsala, Sweden. She is also a Professor II the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU), International Environment and Development Studies, Noragric. Her current research interests include: climate change adaptation and transformation debates; public authority, collective action and state formation; and feminist work on emotion and subjectivity in relation to theories of development, collective action and cooperation. She previously worked at the School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg, Sweden and the University of Edinburgh, Geography, School of GeoSciences, Scotland. Most of Nightingale's research has been done in Nepal and Scotland, but she also has projects in Sweden, Kenya and Mozambique. Her PhD students have worked in Tanzania, Nepal, Burkina Faso, Brazil, the Cook Islands, Canada, and Scotland. She has a MA and PhD from the University of Minnesota, Department of Geography where she was also a MacArthur Scholars Fellow, and a BSc in Biology from Bates College in Maine.*

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