



Digital Ethnography during the Pandemic: A Methodological Turn

Presenter



Sanjay Sharma

PhD in Sociology from the National University of Singapore (NUS)

Physical presence : SIAS Meeting Hall
Virtual presence : <https://bit.ly/fhrss>
Date: 18th of August 2023
Time: 3:30 to 5:00 p.m

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Future Himalayan Research Seminar Series on Environment and Development is a research sharing platform to present recent and ongoing studies where researchers can meaningfully engage with each other and share knowledge. Not limiting itself to presentation and feedback loop, the seminar is also a platform for researcher to build social and intellectual relationship with contemporaries and experts from diverse array of research tradition within the overarching theme. Research seminar series is a bi-monthly event with open access to everyone interested. The seminar is planned for 1.5 hours, with first 45 minutes for presentation and the later half to engage with the audience for discussion and debate.

Seminar Overview

The Covid-19 pandemic took a toll on human lives and profoundly affected their well-being. As physical human interactions were curtailed by the likelihood of the infection, the presenter adopted 'alternative methodologies' like digital ethnography to take his fieldwork forward. The presenter makes a case for 'alternative' methodologies as a 'methodological turn' or is a 'game changer' and can become the 'mainstream' during 'normal' times and not just in crises.

Keywords: Covid-19, digital ethnography, research methodology, kurāgraphy, Gurkha women.



Sanjay Sharma holds a PhD in Sociology from the National University of Singapore (NUS). He works primarily on migration, gender, climate change, governance, and democratization. He uses "alternative" methodologies as his research tools that include visual and virtual ethnography, social media engagements, online archives, and folklore, among others. Lately, he is interested in feminist historiography, decolonial thought, and colonial migrations.

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