



## Lived experiences of vulnerability and struggle for prosperity among rural households in Nepalese mid-hills

### Presenters



**Kamal Devkota**  
PhD Researcher (KU  
Leuven, Belgium)



**Dil Khatri, PhD**  
Executive Director, SIAS and  
Researcher at SLU, Sweden

Physical presence : SIAS Meeting Hall  
Virtual presence : <https://bit.ly/sias-fhrss>  
Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2024  
Time: 3:30 to 5:00 p.m

### About Future Himalayan Research Seminars

*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

While the studies on vulnerability focused more on environmental threats including climate and disaster related stresses, we tried to understand livelihood vulnerability through documenting experience of everyday stressors and struggle for prosperity. Drawing on repeated household surveys and life story interviews we analyze how households navigate livelihoods and struggle to prosper. In this seminar, we discuss livelihood threats and their responses and argue that vulnerability is not produced through a one-time event, rather, it is generated through social structure and accumulation of effects of multiple threats. For most of the households, migration abroad has been a primary choice to maintain livelihoods and prosper, however, we can rarely find a household with improved wellbeing because of remittance. There are multiple attempts with cases of failure resulting in distress and indebtedness. Households primarily rely on social networks in the time of difficulties and support from government and non-government agencies is limited. There remain policy and procedural aspects behind the limited responses from local governments and other organizations in the time of distress.

## Presenters Profile

**Kamal Devkota** is now pursuing his PhD at the University of Leuven (KU Leuven). By using a political ecology lens, his PhD research is largely focused on how power and authority shape access to water in urbanizing towns. Prior to this, he did a Master's degree in Development Studies. He has also completed an Environmental Leadership Course from the University of California, Berkeley and a short course on Environmental Governance from the University of Edinburgh. Prior to joining his PhD, Mr. Devkota worked at SIAS for 10 years in different capacities. He was largely engaged in research and linking research into local government policy and bringing the lessons to national discourses. He is now engaged as a visiting researcher at SIAS and contributes through the joint publication, facilitation and participation to the policy dialogues, discussion series, strategic discussions and project development.

**Dil Khatri** holds PhD in Rural Development from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala and MA in Development Studies from the International Institute for Social Studies (ISS), The Hague. Besides his role as an executive director of SIAS, he is associated with the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) in Sweden as a Researcher. He is involved in a number of policy-relevant research on the issues related to environmental governance i.e. community forestry, human-nature relations, and climate change adaptation primarily focusing on the Himalaya. Theoretically, his works are informed from the interrelation between knowledge, power and access/control in resource governance. He has published widely in a wide range of international peer-reviewed journals. He is currently serving as the chief editor of the New Angle (Nepalese Journal of Social Science and Public Policy). His earlier work with ForestAction Nepal was related to policy-oriented research on forest and climate change. Before joining ForestAction Nepal in 2010, he had worked as a development practitioner on community forestry and rural livelihoods.

### Organized by:



### Connect us



SIAS is a Kathmandu-based research institute involved in Nepal and in South Asia in several social science and environmental issues. Its research utilizes recent knowledge in Nepal and globally to understand, unravel and interpret unfolding social, political, economic and environmental dynamics. SIAS also promotes critical dialogues on research, policy and practice interface.