



# NEWSFLASH

Volume 4, Issue 1 • February 16, 2024

Welcome to the first issue of our Newsflash for the year 2024. We share with you some exciting updates and important announcements, including info about our upcoming Annual Meeting scheduled for April 20, 2024. A lot is happening at NACA. Our organization continues to thrive, and our members have contributed fascinating updates for your perusal. We extend our gratitude to all who have contributed content for this edition.

In the research highlight section, Dr. Arun KC provides insights from his recent fieldwork in Nepal, focusing on farmers' perception of

climate change and their adaptation to its impacts on agriculture and rural livelihoods. We are also delighted to announce two significant collaboration efforts already in progress in Nepal. Firstly, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Daayitwa Abhiyaan Nepal, and secondly, an upcoming workshop on manuscript writing in collaboration with the Tribhuvan University Global Initiative. This issue also features the spotlights on two esteemed colleagues, Drs. Alton Byers and Reena Lamichhane Khadka, along with regular sections of our NACA Newsflash. We hope you find this edition informative and engaging.

## In This Edition

NACA General Assembly 2024	3
Research Highlights	4
Member Spotlights: Alton Byers and Reena Lamichhane Khadka	6-7
Welcoming New Members	8
NACA-Daayitwa Abhiyaan Nepal Collaboration	9
Manuscript Writing Workshop	11
Recent Publications	12
Events and Announcements	19
Nepal Corner	22



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# NACA Annual Meeting 2024

We are excited to announce our 2024 Annual Meeting, which will be held on April 20th, 2024 at 10am - 1:00pm EST via Zoom. **Please mark your calendar.**

A promotional graphic for the NACA Annual Meeting 2024. On the left, a laptop screen displays a Zoom meeting with several participants. A QR code is positioned below the laptop. To the right, the NACA logo (Nepali Academics in America) is shown above the text 'Annual Meeting 2024'. A red circular stamp with the words 'Save the date' is placed over the text. Below this, the date and time 'April 20, 2024 (10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Eastern Time)' are listed, along with a location pin icon and the URL 'https://nepaliacademics.org/event-5618229'. At the bottom right, it states 'This is a members only event'.

This is an important gathering for us to come together as a community and reflect on our accomplishments and discuss our collective future. We will also have a featured speaker and panel discussion at the meeting. Further details, including the agenda, speaker, and panel information, will be provided closer to the date.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Annual Meeting (virtual).

Register for the meeting at: <https://nepaliacademics.org/event-5618229>

# Research Highlights

## **Arun Khatri-Chhetri, Ph.D.**

Senior Climate Change Advisor, Global Food Security and Livelihoods Program  
*Save the Children International, Washington DC*

### ***Climate Change Adaptation Study in Nepal***



*“Climate change is a globally created problem that must be addressed by local actions”,* with this understanding, I have been traveling around Africa and Asia. I meet and collaborate with communities and people to explore opportunities and constraints of climate change adaptation in vulnerable communities and households. In the last quarter of 2023, I had an opportunity for research travel to Nepal to engage and discuss with the communities and households in Udayapur and Sindhuli Districts. My goal was to know how local farmers perceive climate change, its impacts on their agriculture and livelihoods, and adaptation strategies they apply to address the impacts. My visit was to set up an in-depth climate adaptation study that is funded by the USAID.

With the help of Save the Children Nepal and local implementing partners in Udayapur and

Sindhuli, I met with many farmers and their groups who were direct beneficiaries of the USAID funded project that had a goal of building resilient agriculture and livelihoods in Nepal. That project’s activities focused on adaptive and transformational changes in managing climate risks in agriculture and livelihoods.

First, I explored how farmers perceive climate change. Very few farmers directly understood climate change in its scientific definition; however, they mentioned changing weather patterns very easily. Changes in rainfall patterns, particularly monsoon periods and erratic rainfalls, increasing frequency and severity of droughts and floods, increasing insect/pest damages, and increasing hot days were observed by the majority of the farmers.

Second, I checked with the local farmers whether those changes have impacted on agriculture or not. While many farmers clearly realized the loss of crops and decreasing yields over time, it is hard for them to isolate climate change impact from other damages. I checked the current level of input use such as, type of seeds and seed replacement rate, nutrient application, irrigation, insect/pest control, and tillage practices. I observed that low input crop production is gradually declining productivity over time. Climate change was not the only one factor to blame in reducing agricultural productivity. This climate change and input use nexus needed to be further explored to see the real impact of climate change in agriculture.

The USAID funded project has promoted several so-called climate smart agriculture technologies and practices hoping to address climate change impact in agriculture. Some of them were improved irrigation (micro-irrigation), drought resilient seeds, improved crop nutrient

management, integrated insect/pest management, and provision of climate information and agro-advisories to the farmers. Interestingly, many farmers participated in the training provided by this and several other projects, and have received those technologies to implement in their farms, but very limited farmers continued implementation. I observed three factors that played a major role to continue or dis-continue the use of provided technologies and knowledge received from the training. First, perceived benefits were lower than expected; second, some technologies needed continuous investment, and third, market systems were not well developed for continuous access to technologies and services.

In my observations, farmers are not considering climate change as a major threat in agriculture and are not seriously taking actions for adaptation to challenge climate. Who is going to convince them to continue adoption of climate smart technologies and practices in their farms?



Discussion with a women's group on the adoption of climate-smart agriculture in Udayapur District

# Member Spotlights

## **Alton Byers, Ph.D.**

Senior Research Scientist, Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research (INSTAAR)  
*University of Colorado Boulder*



Alton C. Byers, Ph.D. is a Senior Research Scientist with the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research (INSTAAR) at the University of Colorado/Boulder. He is a mountain geographer, conservationist, and mountaineer specializing in applied research, high altitude ecosystems, climate change, glacier hazards, and integrated conservation and development programs. His current research is focused on a detailed study of high-altitude landforms in the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area, Nepal; solid waste management systems in high mountain protected areas; and as consulting editor for a new book titled *World Atlas of Mountains* by UniPress, U.K.

Dr. Byers' work has been recognized by the Sir Edmund Hillary Mountain Legacy Medal from the Nepali NGO Mountain Legacy; David Brower Award for Conservation from the American Alpine Club; Distinguished Career Award from Association of American Geographers; Ecosystem Stewardship Award from The Nature Conservancy; and as an Honorary Lifetime Member of the Nepal Geographical Society.

Dr. Byers has published widely on a range of scientific and popular mountain topics and is an author and co-editor of *Mountain Geography: Human and Physical Dimensions* (University of California Press at Berkeley, 2013). His most recent book, *Khumbu Since 1950* (ECS Publishers/Kathmandu) is a unique collection of historic photographs of the Mount Everest region and its Sherpa people, co-authored by the photographer Lhakpa Sonam Sherpa. Through his affiliation with NACA Dr. Byers continues to enjoy regular discussions, feedback, and new directions for his research from a large circle of Nepal scholars, colleagues, and friends.



## Reena Lamichhane Khadka, M.S., Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Biomedical Education, College of of Osteopathic Medicine  
*California Health Sciences University*



Dr. Reena Lamichhane Khadka is Associate Professor of Biomedical Education and Director of Academic Achievement at California Health Sciences University-College of Osteopathic Medicine (CHSU-COM) in Clovis, California. Her areas of specialty are microbiology-immunology, molecular biology, and emerging infectious diseases. Before joining CHSU, Dr. Lamichhane Khadka served as Associate Professor of Biology at Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana for 10 years and as Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia from 2009 to 2012. She earned her PhD in Biology from New Mexico State University, Las Cruces and her Master of Science in Microbiology from Tribhuvan University, Nepal.

Dr. Lamichhane Khadka's research focuses on microbes of global health importance and encompasses three key areas: a) mechanisms of bacterial antimicrobial resistance; b) link between microbiome, pathogenesis and immunity; and c) microbial pollution of water, food, and medicine. She has published in widely recognized journals and has secured intramural and extramural funding, including the National Science Foundation Grant for International Research Experience for Students (NSF-IRES) and the Freeman Foundation ASIANetwork Grant for international collaborative research. Her current research projects with medical students at CHSU-COM aim to explore: the link between human oral microbiome and atherosclerosis; immunotherapy in orthopedic manipulations to target *Staphylococcus aureus*; and community engagement through research on Valley fever.

Dr. Lamichhane Khadka plans to continue her scholarly collaborations in the USA and Nepal, engaging students in research that are impactful to their discipline, community and beyond. She looks forward to expanding her contributions and engagements through NACA.



# New Members

We are excited to welcome our new members (From December 15, 2023 to February 15, 2024). Their names are listed below without any particular order. We thank them for their support.

NAME	MEMBERSHIP LEVEL	AFFILIATION
Rajan Parajuli	General Member (Life) *Changed from (Annual)	North Carolina State University
Kalpana Poudel Tandukar	General Member (Life)	University of Massachusetts Amherst
Suman Karki	General Member (Annual)	University of Alabama at Birmingham
Shyam Sharma	General Member (Annual)	Stony Brook University (State University of New York)
Pratibha Shrestha	General Member (Annual)	Washington University in Saint Louis
Shambika Raut	Student Member (Annual)	The Ohio State University
Ujjwol Paudel	Student Member (Annual)	Arizona State University

We also want to recognize our colleagues, especially Arati Maleku, Sadeep Shrestha, Shashidhar Belbase, for helping us recruit new members.

# NACA-Daayitwa Collaboration

NACA and Daayitwa/GovLab have formalized a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signifying a strategic alliance to advance research-based decision-making in Nepal's governance. One of the NACA's strategic goals is *Engaging with educators,*

*researchers, policy-makers, planners, and practitioners for evidence-based analysis and understanding of the emerging policy issues in Nepal* and this partnership is a major step to engage with policymakers, planners, and practitioners in Nepal.



MoU signing (from left) Dr. Nisha Onta (Executive Director, *Governance Lab*), Dr. Gyan Nyaupane (President, *NACA*), and Dr. Pukar Malla (Chairperson of *Daayitwa* and *Governance Lab*), December 28, 2023, *Daayitwa Abhiyaan* Office, Lalitpur

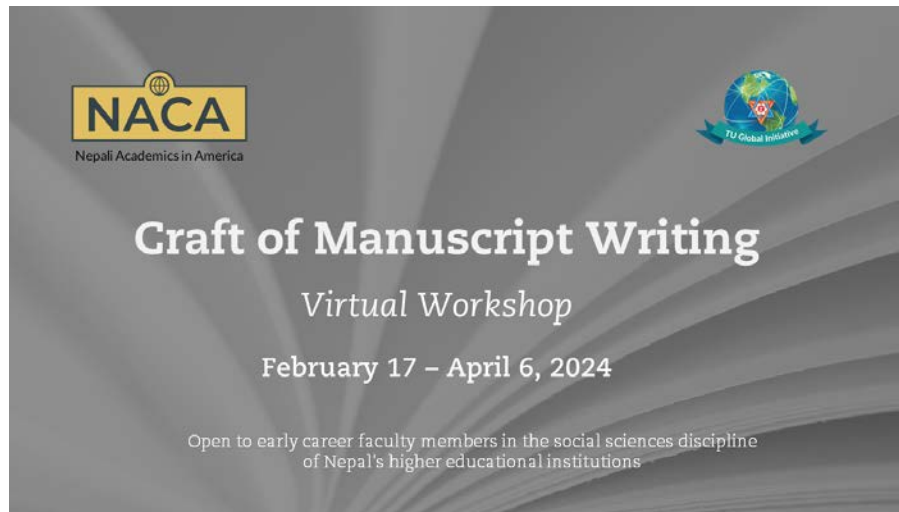
Both NACA and Daayitwa Abhiyaan (DA) found a shared goal of supporting research-based policy and practice in Nepal. The comprehensive agreement outlines three major areas of collaboration including research mentorship for Daayitwa fellows,

visiting scholar program, and knowledge-sharing events. DA will provide an innovative platform for NACA members who want to work with government partners and lead to the sustainable development of Nepal.

1. Engage with Fellowship Program:
    - a. Mentorship support: NACA members will assist in Daayitwa's Nepal Public Service Fellowship program with research mentorship support. The fellow works with the legislature, elected officials, and high-level government agencies. The fellows can be graduate students studying in the US. NACA is currently soliciting interested members to join our [roster](#) which will be made available to the Daayitwa/GovLab mentorship program. List yourself and edit your expertise.
    - b. NACA will offer a few sessions on research, academic writing, methods, and data analysis, during the fellows' orientation program;
    - c. The mentors can be appointed as "Research and Policy Fellow", or "Senior Research and Policy Fellow at Governance Lab/Daayitwa Abhiyaan.
  2. Visiting Scholar Program: Establish a residential visiting scholars program and provide admin support and space, and organize knowledge-sharing events. If you are visiting Nepal, please let us know so that you can take advantage of this program. You can engage with policy briefs related to your research.
  3. Research and Knowledge Sharing Collaboration: Collaborate on large and small research and policy forums, conferences, and symposiums.
- DA has announced applications from potential fellows among Nepali students and recent graduates in Nepal and abroad
- Learn more about [the Fellowship](#) and apply for [the Fellowship](#)
- If you are interested in getting involved in this collaboration, please feel free to contact Gyan Nyaupane ([gyan@asu.edu](mailto:gyan@asu.edu)) or Udaya Wagle ([Udaya.Wagle@nau.edu](mailto:Udaya.Wagle@nau.edu)).

Add your name to our [Roster of NACA Experts](#)

# Manuscript Writing Workshop



NACA is currently organizing, in collaboration with the Tribhuvan University's Global Initiative (TUGI), a virtual workshop *Craft of Manuscript Writing* designed for early career faculty in social sciences of several higher education institutions of Nepal. It directly addresses two of the NACA's strategic goals: 1) *Engaging with educators, researchers, policy-makers, planners, and practitioners for evidence-based analysis and understanding of the emerging policy issues in Nepal*, and 2) *Providing information and resources for young professionals and scholars aspiring to be future academics*.

This virtual workshop will run from February 17 to April 6, 2024, and the facilitators and participants will meet each Saturday morning in Nepal (Friday in the US) over the eight weeks period to collaborate and complete digitally enhanced learning

modules. This interdisciplinary workshop covers some of the key steps of research manuscript preparation widely practiced in globally recognized peer-reviewed journals. These include, but not limited to, standard peer-view process, research question and design, literature review, reference management, research methods, and overall manuscript organization.

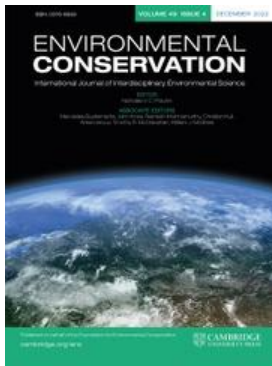
On behalf of NACA, this workshop is led by Bhuwan Thapa, Arati Maleku, and Sadeep Shrestha. The TUGI is a program under the Centre for International Relations at the TU. Directed by the Vice Chancellor's Office, the TUGI organizes discussions, exchanges, and networking and collaborations between diaspora scholars and scholars working at TU and beyond. For more information, contact NACA EC [info@nepaliacademics.org](mailto:info@nepaliacademics.org) or the TUGI at [global.cir@tu.edu.np](mailto:global.cir@tu.edu.np)

# Recent Publications



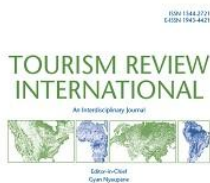
**Byers, A. C.**, Somos-Valenzuela, M., Shugar, D. H., McGrath, D., Chand, M. B., & Avtar, R. (2023). Brief Communication: An Ice-Debris Avalanche in the Nupchu Valley, Kanchenjunga Conservation Area, Eastern Nepal. *EGUsphere*, 2023, 1-8.

This article highlights a comparatively large ice-debris avalanche that occurred sometime between August 16 to 21, 2022 in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area. The avalanche was not catastrophic but exemplifies a style of mass movement that may become increasingly common as air temperatures rise in the region.



Dixit, S., **Poudyal, N. C.**, Silwal, T., **Joshi, O.**, Bhandari, A., Pant, G., & Hodges, D. G. (2024). Perceived benefits, burdens and effectiveness of a buffer zone programme in improving protected area–people relationships. *Environmental Conservation*, 1-11.

We assessed how residents perceive the benefits and burdens of Nepal's Buffer Zone (BA) programme and how this relates to their perceptions of change in the Protected Area (PA)–people relationship. Survey results showed that residents' perceptions of PA–people relationships had improved since the BZ programme's implementation.



**Nyaupane, G. P.** (2023). The Role of Tourism in Sustainable Development Within Local??? Global Dynamics. *Tourism Review International*, 27(3-4), 177-186.

This article integrates tourism, a burgeoning service industry, into the local-global and conservation-development nexus. It posits tourism as a mutually acceptable common ground for both local and global communities in the conservation and development agenda.





Clark, C., & **Nyaupane, G. P.** (2023). Cross-Border Tourism and Community Solidarity at a Militarized Border: A Photo Elicitation Approach. *Journal of Travel Research*, 00472875231195734.

This paper analyzes how community solidarity influences border processes at the highly militarized U.S.-Mexico border using a photo-elicitation method. The paper further discusses how borders are reinforced through militarization and border wall, but softened through shared affinity and tourism. This paper offers insights into the infamous border wall and explores various nuances related to cross-border tourism, biodiversity conservation, and ecological restoration



Lichtenstern, C. R., & **Lamichhane-Khadka, R.** (2023). A tale of two bacteria–*Bacteroides fragilis*, *Escherichia coli*, and colorectal cancer. *Frontiers in Bacteriology*, 2, 1229077.

In this paper, we review the current evidence that associates *B. fragilis* and *E. coli* with colorectal cancer individually, and their potential synergistic roles in the pathogenesis of colorectal cancer. We also discuss future directions for further understanding the pro-carcinogenic synergistic mechanisms in the gut microbiome and their potential benefits in improving prevention and screening measures of colorectal cancer and associated diseases. This is one of the first reviews that discusses bacterial pro-carcinogenic synergisms in the context of colorectal cancer.



Anup, K. C., Hallo, J. C., Duffy, L. N., Sene-Harper, A., & **Thapa, B.** (2023). Expanding domestic tourism in Nepal: an analysis of homestays in the COVID-19 era. *Current Issues in Tourism*, 1-15.

This study aimed to assess the potential, challenges, and policies regarding domestic tourism in community-based homestays (CBHs) in COVID-19 era, focused on CBHs throughout Nepal. This study found that CBHs initially prioritized domestic guests after seeing the high potential of domestic tourism during international travel restrictions. Domestic guests consider homestays as a learning center and a place to enjoy traditional food, culture, and hospitality. The number of guests traveling to CBHs decreased primarily due to COVID-19 and secondarily due to road problems, tourism attractions, and publicity issues.



Baniya, R., An, Y., & **Thapa, B.** (2023). Green hotel selection: the effects of social learning and eco-labels. *Tourism Review*, 78(1), 245-259.

The purpose of this study is to investigate the individual and combined effect of social learning and eco-labels on the green hotel selection. This study concluded that social learning and eco-labels individually could not influence tourists to select green hotels. However, the interaction of positive performance social learning with eco-labels could potentially influence tourists' green hotel selection. Therefore, internalizing green hotel performance from trusted sources and external validation bring behavioral changes among tourists to select green hotels



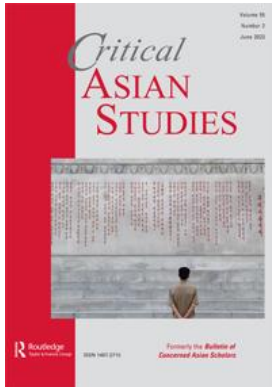
**Paudel, J.** (2023). Do environmental disasters affect human capital? The threat of forest fires. *Economics of Education Review*, 97, 102463.

Using satellite-based data on the incidence of forest fires, I show that fire radiative power from fires in Nepal result in a decline of likelihood of completing middle school among exposed individuals. Fires widen human capital disparities between individuals that attend government schools and those that attend private schools. Results show that fires cause economic damage and food insecurity that, in turn, result in disinvestment of school supplies, higher grade repetition and lower middle school completion.



**Paudel, J.** (2023). Challenges in water and sanitation services: Do natural disasters make matters worse? *Review of Development Economics*, 27(4), 2565-2582.

Using district-level variation in peak ground acceleration from Nepal's 2015 earthquake, I show that the severity of earthquake is associated with a decline in water treatment and toilet services even in earthquake-affected areas where aid for water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services was allocated for disbursement. Results indicate that effective implementation of WASH-related aid can partially mitigate disaster-induced adverse outcomes related to water treatment.



Amburgey, E., **Gurung, T. W.**, Gurung, Y. T., & Craig, S. R. (2023). The co-production of disasters: how the nexus of climate change, tourism, and COVID-19 increases socioeconomic vulnerability in Mustang, Nepal. *Critical Asian Studies*, 1-24.

The paper delves into the Mustang community's response in Nepal to the intertwined challenges of climate change and COVID-19's detrimental effect on tourism. It highlights how the pandemic has economically stressed Mustang, yet fostered a revival of traditional governance and social networks, with the compounding factors of climate change and migration adding depth to the region's future tourism and resilience.



Robertson, C., & **Nyaupane, P.** (2023). Sociotechnical Change: Tracing Flows, Languages, and Stakes Across Diverse Cases| The Stadium as Sociotechnical Change. *International Journal of Communication*, 18, 7.

Featured in a special forum on sociotechnical change, this paper highlights how stadia play a significant role in urban development. We establish stadia as technologies that change the relationships between the material and the sociocultural elements of their surroundings through complex local and global networks. Through tracing SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California, we explore how the stadium mobilizes flows of state funding for transit infrastructure; and convenes a network of security actors and local and federal resources, ultimately producing uneven outcomes for community members.



**Khanal, A. R.**, Timilsina, R. H., Sharma, B., Pokharel, B., & Aryal, R. (2024). Contaminated water and an indication of risk: examining microbial contamination in the water used by consumers and commercial growers in fresh produce systems in Nepal. *Journal of Food Protection*, 100228.

Our findings indicate that due to the high contamination rate of water used in fresh produce systems in Nepal, particularly the water used for washing, a considerable portion of the fresh produce in Nepal is deemed unsafe for raw consumption. We suggest coordination among multiple sectors and levels for interventions, policy discussions, and strong monitoring systems for intended regulations.



**Khanal, A. R.,** Mishra, A. K., & Lien, G. (2023). Assessing the impact of risk-reducing strategies on food security: evidence from an emerging economy. In *Managing Risk in Agriculture: A Development Perspective* (pp. 67-82). GB: CABI.

Using a production function augmenting risk-reducing strategies and data from specialty crop growers in India, we found that farm diversification and the adoption of good agricultural practices could help farmers enhance productivity by expanding the revenue potential of the portfolio of the combined agricultural enterprises.



Dhungana, P., & **Khanal, A. R.** (2023). Spending on farm ripples to the region: agritourism impacts. *Frontiers in Environmental Economics*, 2, 1219245.

Our findings in this paper indicate that the expansion of agritourism could bring economic development at both the farm and state level, particularly in states like Tennessee, where agriculture is an important industry and tourism is expanding.



**Shakya, S.** (2023). Positive Bank-to-Bank Spillovers. *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*, 58(5), 2228-2261.

In this paper, I provide the first evidence of positive spillover effects in lending behavior from one bank to another. In the context of the housing market, I show that such spillover effects occur between banks that engage in home lending in the same geographic region. I show that a bank located in a given housing market increases its lending if other banks receive positive liquidity shocks to their deposit base. The lending behavior of those receiving positive shocks has a positive impact on home prices, which further leads other banks in the area to respond with increased lending.



Song, Y., **Gnyawali, D.,** & Qian, L. (2024). From early curiosity to space wide web: The emergence of the small satellite innovation ecosystem. *Research Policy*, 53(2), 104932.

With a focus on the small satellite innovation ecosystem, this paper systematically examines how a nascent ecosystem develops into a thriving one. Employing a conceptualized composition approach, we conduct an in-depth qualitative study on the emergence of the modern small satellite ecosystem from 1981 to 2017. We demonstrate a dynamic process through which a seed innovation gradually grows into a thriving ecosystem without a centralized sponsor. We explicate how tensions arise within an evolving ecosystem and how forces hindering specialization delay the emergence process.



Wei, S., Pour, N. G., Tiruvadi-Krishnan, S., Ray, A. P., Thakur, N., Eddy, M. T., & **Lamichhane, R.** (2023). Single-molecule visualization of human A2A adenosine receptor activation by a G protein and constitutively activating mutations. *Communications Biology*, 6(1), 1218.

A recent study from the Lamichhane Lab highlights the impact of a G protein and constitutively activating mutations on the conformational equilibria of the human A2A adenosine receptor (A2A AR). The study proposes a mechanism that alters the population of a crucial intermediate state, which is essential for GPCR activation. The human A2A AR is a class A GPCR that serves as a target site for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases, including Parkinson's disease and cancers.



Liu, T., Khanal, S., Hertslet, G. D., & **Lamichhane, R.** (2023). Single-molecule analysis reveals that a glucagon-bound extracellular domain of the glucagon receptor is dynamic. *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, 299(9).

Using single-molecule fluorescence microscopy, the group demonstrated that the glucagon-bound extracellular domain (ECD) of the glucagon receptor (GCGR) is dynamic. This exciting observation has not been explored previously. Glucagon is a hormone produced by the pancreas and plays a key role in regulating blood glucose levels, and the GCGR is an important target for treating type 2 diabetes.



Maitra, P., Miller, R., & **Sedai, A.** (2023). Household welfare effects of ROSCAs. *World Development*, 169, 106287.

We find that Rotating Savings and Credit Associations (ROSCAs, (also known as Dhikuti in Nepal)) membership increases household assets, consumption, energy efficiency and school expenditure, but only in rural areas. We argue that the persistence and success of ROSCAs depends on social ties, which are often stronger in rural communities.



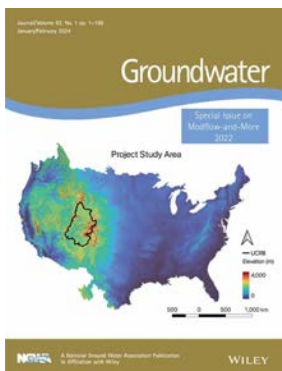
Tulungen, C., & **Pradhanang, S. M.** (2024). Assessment of Climate Change Effects of Drought Conditions Using the Soil and Water Assessment Tool. *Agriculture*, 14(2), 233.

The study uses the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) to predict Southern Rhode Island, USA drought conditions. Drought indicators such as the Soil Moisture Deficit Index (SMDI) and Evapotranspiration Deficit Index (ETDI), as well as Indicators of Hydrological Alteration (IHA) calculation, help predict the frequency and severity of historical droughts in the area under historical and climate change scenarios. The models predicted an increase in water-stressed days and the indicators showed severe water deficits, an increase in zero flow days, and low flow duration under the worst climate scenarios.



Shrestha, S. G., & **Pradhanang, S. M.** (2023). Performance of LSTM over SWAT in Rainfall-Runoff Modeling in a Small, Forested Watershed: A Case Study of Cork Brook, RI. *Water*, 15(23), 4194.

The common practice of developing rainfall-runoff models with physically based and spatially precise representations of hydrological processes is data-intensive and computationally expensive. In this paper, Shrestha et al compared the physically based models (SWAT) with the data-driven model of Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) with a Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) architecture. Studies have indicated that LSTM models perform well in watershed hydrology studies. The study showed that LSTM was competitive with SWAT in flow prediction even under limited data availability.



Panthi, J., Boving, T., **Pradhanang, S. M.**, & Ismail, M. (2023). Time-Lapse Geophysical Measurements for Monitoring Coastal Groundwater Dynamics in an Unconfined Aquifer. *Groundwater*.

This study demonstrated the effectiveness of non-invasive geophysical techniques, specifically the time-lapse electrical resistivity imaging method, in conjunction with groundwater monitoring, to monitor coastal groundwater dynamics in an unconfined aquifer at varying time scales and hydrogeological settings present at formerly glaciated sites worldwide.

# Events and Announcements

## Daayitwa Nepal Public Policy Fellowship 2024

Great opportunity for graduate students or recent graduates in Nepal and abroad who would like to contribute to the public policy realm in Nepal, directly working with elected officials or government agencies in Nepal. The application deadline is approaching fast. We are calling on our NACA student members. Learn more about the fellowship by visiting [the Daayitwa website](https://daayitwa.org).

NACA is proud to be partnering with the Daayitwa Nepal/the Governance Lab Nepal to mentor the selected public policy fellows.

**Apply at:** [DNPFF 2024 Application Form](#)

**Deadline:** February 22, 2024.

The image is a composite. On the left is a promotional poster for the 'Daayitwa Nepal Public Policy Fellowship 2024'. The poster has a blue and white color scheme with a background image of a traditional Nepali temple. It includes the Daayitwa logo at the top left, which consists of a stylized 'd' and 'a' in a circle. The text on the poster reads: 'Want to Strengthen Nepal's Governance System? Daayitwa Nepal Public Policy Fellowship 2024'. Below this, there are four blue boxes with white text: '11 YEARS (2013-2023)', '182 FELLOWS', '74 GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS', and '28 PARLIAMENTARIANS'. To the right of these boxes are three orange buttons with white text: 'APPLY NOW', 'PRIORITY DEADLINE: 22 FEBRUARY, 2024', and 'REGULAR DEADLINE: 1 MARCH, 2024'. Below the buttons is the website 'www.daayitwa.org'. At the bottom left of the poster is a QR code and the URL 'tinyurl.com/DNPFF2024APPLICATION'. At the bottom right are logos for 'GOVERNANCE LAB', 'NACA', and 'NEPAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY'. On the right side of the image is a woman with dark hair, wearing a black top, smiling and pointing her right hand towards the poster. She is holding a document that appears to be a report or a book. The document has a blue header with the text 'Entrepreneurial Ecosystem of' and 'Ministerial Hon. Gagan Thapa'. The document also contains several paragraphs of text and a section titled 'KEY FINDINGS'.

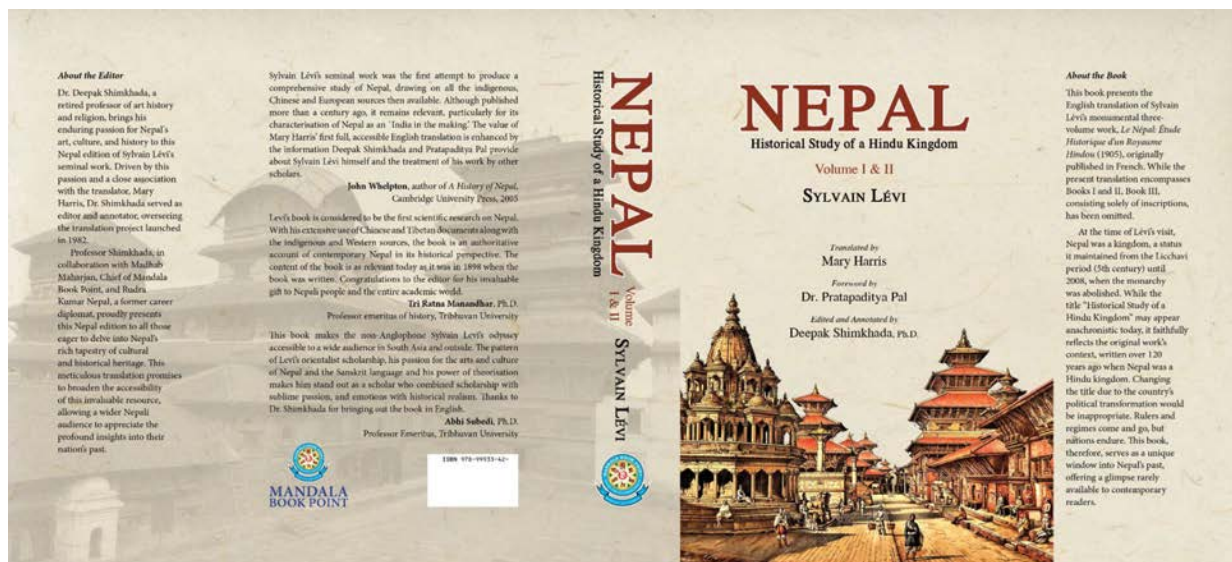
# Awards and Updates



**Deepak Shimkhada, Ph.D.**  
Adjunct Professor,  
Chaffey College, USA  
President, Indic Foundation  
([www.indic.org](http://www.indic.org))

Dr. Deepak Shimkhada has finished editing the Nepali edition of Sylvain Lévi's magnum opus in French, *Népal: Étude Historique d'un royaume Hindou*, to be published by Mandala Book Point in January 2022. Lévi's original 2-volume work was published in 1905, which was later translated in English by Mary Harris. This edited book will provide a unique window into Nepal's past that is rarely available to contemporary readers.

John Whelpton, the author of *A History of Nepal* (2005), wrote in the preface: "*Sylvain Lévi's seminal work was the first attempt to produce a comprehensive study of Nepal, drawing on all the indigenous, Chinese, and European sources then available. Although published more than a century ago, it remains relevant, particularly for its characterisation of Nepal as an 'India in the making.'* The value of Mary Harris' first full, accessible English translation is enhanced by the information Deepak Shimkhada and Pratapaditya Pal provide about Sylvain Lévi himself and the treatment of his work by other scholars."



## **Join the NACA Listserv**

NACA has recently launched a listserv at <https://groups.google.com/g/nepaliacademics>. After our soft launching for testing and technical fixes, the NACA Listserv is now open to everyone. Please join the listserv now and start receiving important and time-sensitive announcements and posts, which we hope will enhance our networking and communications more effective.

To join, visit <https://groups.google.com/g/nepaliacademics> or send an email to "[nepaliacademics+subscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:nepaliacademics+subscribe@googlegroups.com)"

To post a message, email "[nepaliacademics@googlegroups.com](mailto:nepaliacademics@googlegroups.com)"

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# Nepal Corner

## **Draft of Higher Education Act 1980 prepared.**

The act to systematize overall higher education management in Nepal has been drafted and is available on the Ministry of Education website for comments.

<https://english.khabarhub.com/2024/23/336947/>

## **Enrollment is declining in institutions providing technical education.**

The number of institutions providing technical education in Nepal increased substantially from 2017 to 2022, but the enrollment rate declined almost 40% during the same period.

<https://kathmandupost.com/national/2024/01/27/schools-grapple-with-dwindling-enrollment-in-ctevt-diploma-programmes>

## **The migration of physicians leads to shortages in Nepal.**

Nepali doctors are moving abroad for lucrative pay and vibrant careers

<https://nepalitimes.com/here-now/grass-is-greener-overseas-for-nepals-doctors>

## **Tribhuvan University (TU) Vice-chancellor Search Continues**

14 shortlisted candidates for position of TU vice-chancellor to undergo interviews on February 18, 2024

<https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/interview-of-14-shortlisted-candidates-for-post-of-tu-vice-chancellor-to-be-held-on-february-18/>

Some are recommending a complete reevaluation of contentious nominees

<https://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/reevaluate-contentious-nominee-for-tus-vc>

Publish your accomplishments, updates, or any sharable news (e.g., grants, awards, publications, new job, promotion, fieldwork experience) in our next issue. Our members want to hear about other members, and the Newsflash has been a valuable tool to our mission: Engage, Network, and Collaborate. Submit the items [here](#).

For feedback or comments, email us at [info@nepaliacademics.org](mailto:info@nepaliacademics.org).

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