

Editorial

Jeevan R. Sharma and Michael T. Heneise

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2218/himalaya.2022.7788>

As the sun sets on HIMALAYA's 50th year of publishing, first as the Nepal Studies Association Newsletter (1972-1980) and then the Himalayan Research Bulletin (1981-2003), we again celebrate the journal's legacy, while also looking forward to a bright tomorrow. While publishing the highest quality scholarship on the peoples, histories, sciences, cultures, religions, politics, languages, and geographies of the Himalayan region remains a top priority, we believe HIMALAYA's growth as a peer-reviewed interdisciplinary and open access journal must also be oriented towards serving as an academic platform for critical discussion and debate of key developments in Himalayan studies. This is only possible with a sincere, decided inclusion and wholehearted engagement with in-region scholars representing the full depth and breadth of in-region scholarship, from Nepal, India, and Bhutan, to China,

Pakistan, and Afghanistan. We have taken significant steps in this direction by engaging more intentionally with contributors, but also in reaching out to editors, copyeditors, reviewers, and indeed typesetters, artists, and photographers, working independently, and within universities, and research centres across India, Nepal, and Bhutan especially. And indeed, many of the volumes and issues over the past decade have increasingly been shaped by these critical in-region energies, ideas, and talents. But we have a long way yet to travel in achieving the full vision of critical inclusivity for the journal, and we look forward to hearing from and being guided by readers, editorial board members, contributors, and reviewers alike.

In this issue we feature a special section edited by former HIMALAYA editor Arjun Guneratne featuring three articles on Tharu Identity. And we follow

these with four omnibus articles touching on themes of caste, Tibetan pilgrimage, kinship, and identity. We have a perspective piece by long-term contributor Geoff Childs, a wonderful photo essay by Paola Tiné, and a rich selection of seven book reviews. Finally, we are also very excited to include a conference report summarizing the recent 'Himalaya Futures' Himalaya Studies Conference, organized by the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies (ANHS), and held at the University of Toronto from October 13-16.

Like most scholarly publishing, the pandemic impacted timely publication of issues of HIMALAYA. This was unavoidable as it not just impacted submissions but more critically peer reviews, production and fulfilment of the journal. As we emerge out of the pandemic, we are catching up with the delayed publication of the issues, and we aim to bring the next issue of HIMALAYA (Issue

42.1) within the next two months that will honour and recognise the sustained and generous support offered by Macalester College for hosting the journal and support in the production process.

A number of scholars working in the Himalayan region met both virtually and in-person at the Himalayan Studies Conference in Toronto which was a great success and attracted just over 200

participants in 47 sessions. During the conference, the journal hosted a roundtable chaired by our managing editor Stefan Lueder 'HIMALAYA: The Future Role of the ANHS Journal as a Medium for Knowledge Production' where past and present editors (Mona Bhan, David Citrin, Sienna Craig, Mark Turin, Ishani Dasgupta, Michael Heneise and Jeevan Sharma) took part in the discussion on the challenges in sustaining the publication of HIMALAYA.

As always, thank you for reading HIMALAYA, and for your continued support of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies.

Jeevan R. Sharma and
Michael T. Heneise

Editors, HIMALAYA