



NACA 2021 INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

April 16 and 17, 2021 (10:00 AM - 01:30 PM EST)

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM (LAST UPDATED April 10, 12pm EST)

DAY 1 - APRIL 16 (FRIDAY)

Times are in EST

10:00 - 10:45 OPENING SESSION

WELCOME REMARKS, **Udaya Wagle** (President, NACA)

KEYNOTE SPEECH, **Amir Sapkota** (University of Maryland), *Emerging Knowledge on Climate Change: Responding to Threats and Opportunities*

Zoom link: (register to get the link)

BREAK (5 MINUTES)

10:50 - 11:35 CONCURRENT PANEL SESSIONS

PL16-01, HIGHER EDUCATION POLICIES AND PRACTICES

Organizer: **Udaya Wagle** (Western Michigan University)

Moderator: **Brijesh Thapa** (Oklahoma State University)

Zoom link: (registrants only)

Panelists: **Udaya Wagle** (Western Michigan University), **Satis Devkota** (University of Minnesota Morris), **Amina Singh** (Kathmandu University), **Kapil Dev Regmi** (University of British Columbia)

PL16-02, SCIENTIFIC FOREST MANAGEMENT IN NEPAL: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES AND PATHS FORWARD

Organizer/Moderator: **Rajan Parajuli** (North Carolina State University)

Zoom link: (registrants only)

Panelists: **Dinesh Paudel** (Appalachian State University), **Suman Bhattarai** (Institute of

Forestry, Tribhuvan University), **Dil Bahadur Khatri** (South Asia Institute of Advanced Studies, Nepal), **Omkar Joshi** (Oklahoma State University)

BREAK (5 MINUTES)

11:40 - 12:30 CONCURRENT PAPER PRESENTATIONS

PR16-01, DISASTER RISKS IN THE HIMALAYA

Organizer/Moderator: **Milan Shrestha** (Arizona State University)

Zoom link: (registrants only)

Presenters: **Nitesh Khadka** (Chinese Academy of Sciences) *The Status of Glacial Lakes, GLOF Risk and Mitigation in Nepal Himalaya*; **Rijan Bhakta Kayastha** (Kathmandu University) *Glacial Hazards in the Nepal Himalayas*; **Milan Shrestha** (Arizona State University) *A Tale of Mismatched Priorities in Disaster Risk Mitigation in Solukhumbu, Nepal*; **Dinesh Paudel** (Appalachian State University) *Geopolitics of Disaster in the Nepal Himalaya*

PR16-02, PROTECTED AREAS, FOREST GOVERNANCE AND LIVELIHOODS

Organizer: **Omkar Joshi** (Oklahoma State University)

Moderator: **Nilesh Tilimilsina** (University Wisconsin, Steven Points)

Zoom link: (registrants only)

Presenters: **Ram Pandit** (University of Western Australia) *Protected Areas and Socio-economic Impacts: Evidences from a Meta-Analysis*; **Rajesh Bista** (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) *Socio-economic and Ecological Factors Driving Cropland Abandonment in the Community-Forest Landscape*; **Ganesh Pant** (University of Southern Queensland, Australia), *Habitat Suitability for Rhinoceros in Nepal*; **Baburam Bhattarai** (Forest Action, Kathmandu, Nepal), *Equitable Sharing of Benefits from Tiger conservation: Beneficiaries' Willingness to Pay*

BREAK (5 MINUTES)

12:35 - 01:25 CONCURRENT PAPER PRESENTATIONS

PR16-03, CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN THE HIMALAYA

Organizer/Moderator: **Netra Chhetri** (Arizona State University)

Zoom link: (registrants only)

Presenters: **Alton Byers** (University of Colorado, Boulder), *Sustainable Solid Waste Management in the Sagarmatha National Park and Buffer Zone, Nepal*; **Jeremy Spoon** (Portland State University) *Indigenous and Rural Everyday Lives in Nepal's Changing Mountain Landscapes*; **Neelam C. Poudyal** (University Tennessee, Knoxville) *Understanding Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation in the Khumbu Region*; **Netra Chhetri** (Arizona State University, Tempe) *At Risk: Future of Food in the Himalaya*

PR16-04, SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

Organizer: **Shankar Ghimire** (Western Illinois University)

Moderator: **Alok Bohara** (University of New Mexico)

Zoom link: (registrants only)

Presenters: **Shankar Ghimire** (Western Illinois University), *Public-Private Education and the Labor Market Outcomes in Nepal*; **Anup KC** (Clemson University), *Role of Policymakers and Operators towards Tourism Revival in the Era of COVID-19 in Nepal*; **Santosh Bhatt** (Oak Ridge National Lab) *Case for Development of Research Reactor in Nepal for Sustained Socio-Economic Growth*; **Shes Kanta Bhandari** (Institute of Forestry, Tribhuvan University), *Species Composition, Diversity, and Carbon Stock in Trees Outside Forests in Middle Hills of Nepal*

DAY 2 - APRIL 17 (SATURDAY)

10:00 - 10:45 CONCURRENT PANEL SESSIONS

PL17-01, TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN NEPAL

Organizer: **Krishna P. Paudel** (USDA Economic Research Service)

Moderator: **Gaurab Aryal** (University of Virginia)

Zoom link: (registrants only)

Panelists: **Shankar Ghimire** (Western Illinois University); **Gokul Paudel** (CIMMYT, Nepal);
Naba Raj Pandit (CIMMYT, Nepal); **Huma Neupane** (Tribhuvan University)

PL17-02, THE PLIGHTS OF NEPALI MIGRANT WORKERS DURING THE COVID-19

Organizer/Moderator: **Nalini S. Chhetri** (Arizona State University)

Zoom link: (registrants only)

Panelists: **Nalini S. Chhetri** (Arizona State University); **Sharu Joshi** (Nepal Policy Institute); **Khagendra Dhakal** (King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok);
Kedar Neupane (Nepal Policy Institute)

BREAK (5 MINUTES)

10:50 - 11:40 CONCURRENT PAPER PRESENTATIONS

PR17-01, FOOD, ENERGY AND WATER

Organizer: **Jeevan Vaidya** (Sunbridge Solar Nepal)

Moderator: **Sushil Adhikari** (Auburn University)

Zoom link: (registrants only)

Presenters: **Suraj Neupane** (Tribhuvan University), *Innovation in governing groundwater levels in Nepal*; **Rita Thapa** (Golden Gate International College, Nepal) *Can biochar offer a solution to Nepal's food security?*; **Jayash Paudel** (Boise State University) *Why are People Energy Poor? Evidence from Ethnic Fractionalization*; **Reena Lamichhane-Khadka** (Saint Mary's College), *A fast and affordable method for assessing microbial quality of water in resource-limited settings*

PR17-02, INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Organizers: **Rupak Shrestha & Phurwa Gurung** (University of Colorado, Boulder)

Moderator: **Dinesh Paudel** (Appalachian State University)

Zoom link: (registrants only)

Presenters: **Anudeep Dewan** (University of British Columbia), *Erasures of Salvation: Indigenous Knowledge in Development*; **Phurwa Gurung** (University of Colorado Boulder), *Challenging Infrastructural Orthodoxies: Political and Economic Geographies of a Himalayan Road*; **Nyima Dorjee Bhotia** (Independent Researcher), *Moving in, Moving Up, Moving Out: Process of Walungga Migration*; **Rupak Shrestha** (University of Colorado, Boulder) *The Border Came In-between Us: Indigeneity and Intimate Social Worlds at the Borderlands*

PR17-03, ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN THE US

Moderator: **Bhuwan Thapa** (University of Missouri)

Zoom link: (registrants only)

Presenters: **Nilesh Timilsina** (University Wisconsin, Steven-Points) *The Potential of Wood Heat Energy in Wisconsin Public Schools (K-12)*; **Rojan Baniya** (University of Florida) *CSR Reporting in Practice: Content Analysis of Tourism SMEs' Websites*; **Ajit Ghimire** (Louisiana State University) *Oxidation of Polyaromatic Hydrocarbons Based on the Synergy of EPFRs and PAHs in PM surface.*

BREAK (5 MINUTES)

11:45 - 12:30 CONCURRENT PANEL SESSIONS

PL17-03, TOURISM & DEVELOPMENT IN THE HIMALAYAS: SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC FORCES

Organizer/Moderator: **Gyan Nyaupane** (Arizona State University)

Zoom link: Registrants only

Panelists: **Gyan Nyaupane** (Arizona State University); **Brijesh Thapa** (Oklahoma State University); **Sanjay Nepal** (University of Waterloo, Canada); **Dallen Timothy** (Arizona State University)

PL17-04, ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Organizer/Moderator: **Devi Gnyawali** (Virginia Tech)

Zoom link: Registrants only

Panelists: **Devi Gnyawali** (Virginia Tech); **Shova Thapa Karki** (University of Sussex, UK); **Tom Hammett** (Virginia Tech); **Binod Shrestha** (Kathmandu University School of Management, Nepal)

BREAK (5 MINUTES)

12:35 - 01:20 CONCURRENT PANEL SESSIONS

PL17-05, ACADEMIC SUCCESSES, CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS IN PUBLIC HEALTH – THE US & NEPAL

Organizer/Moderator: **Sadeep Shrestha** (University of Alabama, Birmingham),

Zoom link: Registrants only

Panelists: **Sunita Shakya** (Kent State University); **Sanjeeb Sapkota** (NRNA Health Committee); **Dinesh Neupane** (Johns Hopkins University); **Madhav Bhatta** (Kent State University); **Menuka Karki** (Baylor College of Medicine); **Rashmi Shrestha** (New York University)

PL17-06, CLIMATE RESILIENT IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE IN NEPAL

Organizer/Moderator: **Arun Khatri-Chhetri** (UVM/CIAT)

Zoom link: Registrants only

Panelists: **Bhuvan Thapa** (University of Missouri), **Jagadish Parajuli** (Arizona State University), **Rajiv Ghimire** (Arizona State University), **Jeevan Baidya** (SunBridge Solar Nepal)

01:20 - 01:30 CONCLUSION SESSION

CONCLUDING REMARKS, **Netra Chhetri** (Co-Chair Program Committee, NACA)

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/91595881726>
