

NACA NEWSFLASH

News and Events for the Friends of NACA

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NACA Event

NACA Second Annual Virtual Conference

*Conference Theme: **Recovery and Resilience in an Uncertain World***

April 15-16, 2022

The world has gone through many calamities and often bounced back swiftly. Natural disasters such as hurricanes, wildfires, earthquakes, flooding, pandemics, etc. claim lives and physical structures. This year's conference will focus on resilience and recovery in the post-disaster world.

Submission Categories: Individual papers or organized sessions do not necessarily have to be within the conference's theme. Any papers advancing the knowledge in academic disciplines will be considered. You can submit your paper under the following categories:

- Organized session (one paragraph proposal, speaker/moderator/discussant information, and 3-4 individual paper abstracts),
- Individual paper abstract (author information and ≤100 word long abstract),
- Student paper for competition: Graduate students can submit papers in this category. A complete manuscript must be submitted by the deadline. Monetary award and certificate of recognition will be given to top three presenters,
- Three-minute paper: All ideas you want to present in one slide in three minutes.

Meeting Dates: April 15-16, 2022

Paper Submission Deadline: March 1, 2022

Paper Acceptance Notice: March 11, 2022

Meeting Registration Deadline for Accepted Submission: April 1, 2022

For other details and paper submission, go to the [2022 NACA Conference](#) site.

Conference Registration Fees

NACA Members:	US \$10
Non-members (includes NACA membership for those eligible):	US \$35
Students from the United States and countries other than Nepal:	US \$10
Participants, students, and attendees from Nepal:	Waived

For question contact: [Dr. Krishna P. Paudel](#), Conference Chair

Members Spotlight

Bishwa S. Koirala, Ph.D.



Dr. Bishwa S. Koirala is an Associate Professor of Economics and Quantitative Methods and a director of Assurance of Learning (AoL) in the Thomas School of Business at the University of North Carolina- Pembroke (UNCP). Economist by training, his teaching areas include business analytics, and applied and core economics classes. Dr. Koirala is specialized in the field of Environmental and Natural Resources Economics, and his research focuses on non-market valuation, climate change impact assessment and public policy analysis that support sustainable economic development. He has published several peer-reviewed articles in various international journals. Currently, he serves as a member of the editorial team of American Business Review.

Dr. Koirala received a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of New Mexico and a Master from

the University of Brandeis in Sustainable International Development after receiving an MS in Environmental Management from Sydney, Australia and an Undergraduate in Civil Engineering from the Tribhuvan University, Nepal.

Dr. Koirala started his academic career from St. Louis University, Missouri. Earlier, he was an advisor to the National Planning Commission of the Government of Nepal, a Program Advisor to Rural Energy Development Program-UNDP/Nepal, and an environmental consultant at the IUCN Country Office Nepal.

Dr. Koirala enjoys international teaching and study abroad programs. He has taught economics to MBA students at Schmalkalden University of Applied Sciences, Germany and Yangtze Normal University, China as an invitee. Under the study abroad program, he has taken Business students from UNCP to Anahuac University, Mexico and is currently working to take Business Students from UNCP to the Kathmandu University School of Management, Nepal.

Currently, Dr. Koirala serves on the NACA Newsflash editorial team and the Membership Committee.

Members Spotlight

Neelam Chandra Poudyal, Ph. D.



Dr. Neelam Chandra Poudyal is currently an Associate Professor of Natural Resources Policy and Human Dimensions in the Department of Forestry, Wildlife, & Fisheries at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA. He is currently engaged in research and teaching at undergraduate and graduate levels.

Dr. Poudyal earned a B.S. degree in Forestry from the Institute of Forestry, Pokhara, Nepal, an M.A. degree in Geography from Western Illinois University, USA, and a Ph.D. in Natural Resources from the University of Tennessee, USA. He also completed a post-doctoral training at the University of Georgia.

Dr. Poudyal is an applied social scientist studying human dimensions and economic issues of natural resource management. He combines a variety of theories and methods in social science to answer management and policy questions in natural resource conservation and management. His recently completed and ongoing projects examine a broad range of topics to understand and predict decision-making behavior of

stakeholders (e.g., landowners, hunters, anglers and general public) in forestry, wildlife, and fisheries management contexts. Findings of these research have been published in more than 100 articles in journals of various professional societies and interdisciplinary journals of broader conservation and management impact. While his research work has mostly been focused in the United States, he has directly or indirectly collaborated on projects around the world including Nepal, China, Jordan, Peru, and Australia.

Before joining the University of Tennessee, Dr. Poudyal worked at the University of Georgia's (UGA) Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources as a faculty of Natural Resources Recreation and Tourism, and taught classes on ecotourism and sustainable development, protected area management, and conducted research on economics and human dimension of outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism. Over the years, he has served as Associate Editor of Journal of Forestry and Human Dimensions of Wildlife and editorial board of Land Use Policy, and Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism. He was also nominated to the Science and Technology Board of the Society of American Foresters. From 2014-2017, he was elected to the Executive Council of the International Association of Society and Natural Resources.

Before coming to the United States, Dr. Poudyal briefly served as community forestry officer at the National Trust for Nature Conservation, where he worked on projects related to community-based conservation and forest management around Chitwan National Park.

Dr. Poudyal is a life member of the NACA and currently chairs the Institutional Affairs Committee.

Recent Peer-reviewed Publication

Eakin, H. C., **Parajuli, J.**, Hernández A. B., & Yogya, Y. (2021). Attending to the social-political dimensions of urban flooding in decision-support research: A synthesis of contemporary empirical cases. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change*, e743. <https://doi.org/10.1002/wcc.743>. Authors synthesized insights from 128 empirical case studies of processes of public decision-making pertaining to infrastructural flood risk adaptation in urban areas. They focused on urban flood risk adaptation efforts because of the growing threat of flooding in urban areas globally, the technical orientation of such investments and the social equity issues associated with urban flood exposure and response. They concluded with a discussion on the potential obstacles in the research community for deeper engagement with the social and political dimensions of adaptation decision support, and ways to address such obstacles.

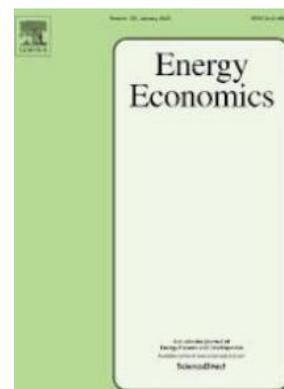
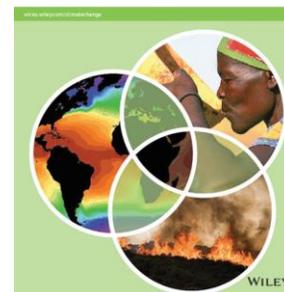
Ishtiaque, A., Estoque, R. C., Eakin, H., **Parajuli, J.**, & Rabby, Y. W. (2022). IPCC's current conceptualization of 'vulnerability' needs more clarification for climate change vulnerability assessments. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 303, 114246. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2021.114246>. In this short communication, authors identified three key reasons for low adoption of the AR5 conceptualization in climate change vulnerability assessments, and urged the IPCC Working Group II to clarify how the current conceptualization of 'vulnerability' can facilitate standalone climate change vulnerability assessments.

Paudel, J. (2021). Environmental Disasters and Property Values: Evidence from Nepal's Forest Fires. *Land Economics*, 98 (1), 1-22. Available at: <http://le.uwpress.org/content/early/2021/10/13/le.98.1.110519-0159R2.abstract>. This paper showed that the incidence and intensity of forest fire events have a strong negative effect on self-reported property values among households in Nepal. Results suggest that property values decline by 4.48% for every additional unit increase in the number of forest fire incidents over the last year. These estimates suggest that policymakers should prioritize wildfire risk awareness and fire prevention programs in areas with higher levels of declined property values associated with recurring forest fire incidents.

Ryu, H., & **Paudel, J.** (2021). Refugee Inflow and Labor Market Outcomes in Brazil: Evidence from the Venezuelan Exodus. *Population and Development Review*. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1111/padr.12452>. Authors found that the inflow of Venezuelan refugees lowered labor force participation and employment rate but did not have a significant impact on hourly wages in Brazil. Their estimates show that labor force participation among less educated individuals decreased by a larger magnitude, while females lost jobs in informal and self-employed sectors. These findings contribute to a better understanding of the short-term economic consequences of hosting refugees in developing countries.

Shakya, S., Basnet, S., & **Paudel, J.** (2022). Natural disasters and labor migration: Evidence from Nepal's earthquake. *World Development*, 151, 105748. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2021.105748>. Authors showed that the number of work permits issued to Nepalese individuals for international migration decreased significantly in districts severely affected by the 2015 earthquake. Their findings indicated that the effect of the earthquake on international labor migration is statistically significant and negative only among males. These results provide strong evidence that natural disasters induce significant changes in labor market outcomes in a developing country setting.

Vyas, S., **Khatri-Chhetri, A.**, Aggarwal, P., Thornton P, Campbell, B.M. (2022). The gap between intent and climate action in agriculture. *Global Food Security*, 32: 100612. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gfs.2022.100612>. This paper presents a new framework for monitoring climate action by countries/regions, based on four dimensions—intent, need, scope and readiness for implementing adaptation and mitigation in agriculture.



Job Opportunities, Research Grants and Awards

Post-Doctoral Research Scholar - Human Environment Systems at Boise State University.

Boise State University has a three-year of funding available for a research scientist/postdoctoral scientist focused on analyzing the efficacy and unintended consequences of policies intended to encourage sustainable land use practices. The position requires strong spatial and quantitative modeling skills, a broad understanding of policy impact analysis, and experience with counterfactual and quasi-experimental statistical analysis techniques.

For more info, visit:

<https://jobs.boisestate.edu/en-us/job/496061/post-doctoral-research-scholar-human-environment-systems>

Research Grants and Awards

Dr. Jayash Paudel received a research grant from the World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) to conduct econometric research on the linkage between global wildfires and economic inequality.

Dr. Jayash Paudel is appointed a fellow at the Global Labor Organization.

Nepal Corner

Human and wildlife conflict increasing in Nepal

<https://kathmandupost.com/editorial/2022/01/17/braching-the-barrier>

Nepal's economy is doing poorly

<https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2022/01/17/stagflation-looms-large>

Nepali blogger who wrote under pseudonym finally comes out of the shadows

<https://www.nepalitimes.com/here-now/maila-baje-is-sanjay-upadhya/>

Good news about freshwater dolphins in Nepal

<https://www.nepalitimes.com/latest/freshwater-dolphin-comeback-in-nepal/>

New policy by Nepal Electricity Authority to encourage use of electric vehicles

<https://www.nepalitimes.com/latest/nepal-backs-evs-to-boost-hydro-electricity-uptake/>

Bardia National Park awarded for doubling the tiger population in ten years

<https://deshsanchar.com/2022/01/27/606892/>

Nepal Connection



Nepal Study Center (NSC) was established at the University of New Mexico in 2005. One of its primary goals was to bring together Nepali diaspora knowledge pool residing in North America and to connect it back to the Himalayan region. As one of the first such organizations, NSC began organizing annual conferences (16th concluded), panel discussion, policy deliberations, graduate seminars, and e-publications. On a broader scope, the objective was to create a knowledge transfer platform to develop, share, restore, and promote policy-oriented research on issues that are not only pertinent to countries around the Himalayan region but are translatable to other countries with similar geographical, socio-demographic, and economic backgrounds.

The platform welcomes issues or scholars beyond the boundary of Nepal. Given the growing track record and activities of the center, NSC began attracting economics students (more than a dozen) for doctoral studies from Nepal and the countries in the Himalayan region. Over the years, close to a dozen field research has been conducted in Nepal on a wide range of issues such as, climate change, early childhood growth, urban ecology, waste management, air pollution, natural disaster, gender hygiene, COVID-19 pandemic just to name a few, covering a diverse geographic region like Kavre, Bagmati, and districts in Lumbini Province. In collaboration with the local partner and a college in Siddharthanagar and with the help of the National Science Foundation, NSC and its interdisciplinary team of scholars has set up a research hub named Lumbini Center for Sustainability (LCS). The LCS platform is open to anyone interested to conduct research and/or outreach projects in Western

Nepal. NSC has also developed a *sustainable development action lab* concept to bridge the gap between the classroom and the field to enrich the undergraduate learning experience. Using Nepal as a living laboratory, students take their classroom ideas and solutions from UNM and implement them in the field in Nepal. Some examples include water and air pollution monitoring, environmental arts and awareness, and air pollution dashboard.

Building on its recent field research results in areas of water quality, waste management, air pollution, cancer, and HPV vaccination, NSC is working to develop some implementable interventions and conduct, if possible, some randomized control trials. The center is also undertaking some new research project ideas on topics such as covid awareness & training, remote health care access through telehealth, pollution alert system, and the management and preservation of the Rohini River urban forest and wildlife refuge.

For more information and or collaborative interest, please contact:

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