

# NACA NEWSFLASH

News and Events for the Friends of NACA

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## NACA Event

SECOND ANNUAL VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

### Recovery and Resilience in an Uncertain World

April 15-16, 2022

#### DAY 1 (APRIL 15, 2022)

**Keynote Speech:** Binod Tiwari, Professor and Associate Vice President of Research, Cal State University, Fullerton, California  
 Title: Lessons Learned from Past Earthquakes - Resilience, Recovery, and Renewal

**Concurrent Session 1:** Youth Entrepreneurship; Biomedical Sciences and Technology I –The Composition, Structure, and Interactions of Cellular Molecules

**Concurrent Session 2:** How to Land a Tenure Track Job (Panel); Natural Disaster I: Himalayan Glaciers, Disaster Risks, and Resilience

#### Day 2 (April 16, 2022)

**Key Session on Health:** The Critical Role of Health Equity in the Post-Disaster World

**Concurrent Sessions 1:** Nepal’s Forestry at a Crossroad; Biomedical Sciences and Technology II – Frontiers in Neuroscience; Agricultural Economics

**Concurrent Sessions 2:** Natural Disaster II: Monitoring, Assessment, and Uncertainty; Water Resources and Water Quality; Economics of Nepal

**Concurrent Session 3:** Association of Nepalese Mathematicians in America (ANMA) Activities; Impact of Covid-19; Biomedical Sciences and Technology III – Drug Discovery: Target, Design and Delivery.

NACA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
NACA ANNUAL REPORT

Detailed Conference Program is available on NACA website  
<https://nepaliacademics.wildapricot.org/2022conference/program>  
 Registration is required to attend the conference

## Members Spotlight

### Buddhi Raj Gyawali, Ph.D.



Dr. Buddhi Raj Gyawali is a Professor of Geospatial Applications, Climate Change, and Human Dimensions of the Environment at Kentucky State University. He is also the Graduate Coordinator of the Master of Environmental Studies Program and the Director of NSF-HBCU-UP- Preparing the Pipeline of Next Generation STEM Professionals.

His research uses geospatial techniques, demographic, and spatial data to study the human-environment relationship, land cover change, water and soil qualities, agroecosystems, regional poverty, farm diversifications, sustainability, and adoption of geospatial technologies at the small-scale farm level. Dr. Gyawali has secured multidisciplinary competitive grants to design and implement geospatial science in STEM curricula and minor and certificate programs in Geospatial Technology. These grants have supported M.S. thesis of more than 15 graduate students, over 40

undergraduate STEM majors to participate in experiential research projects, and about 90 high school rising juniors to participate in Summer Apprenticeship Program at Kentucky State University since 2014. Besides research, he enjoys teaching GIS and remote sensing-related courses.

At present, Dr Gyawali serves as the President of the Southern Rural Sociological Association and the Associate Editor of the *Journal of Rural Social Sciences*. He also serves in the Kentucky Governor's Advisory Council for Geographic Information Systems. Besides, he is a Board Member of the Association of Nepalese in Midwest America and the advisor of the Association of Nepalese in Kentucky.

As a life member of NACA, he believes that NACA has provided an academic forum to exchange ideas, experiences, and opportunities to enrich professional growth and collaborative research in Nepal and the USA. He is interested in seeing NACA's active role in engaging diasporas for advancing academic institutions in Nepal to enhance their educational and research capacity. He is a strong advocate of NACA's mission and would love to work more closely for its advancement. Dr. Gyawali can be reached via email at [buddhi.gyawali@kysu.edu](mailto:buddhi.gyawali@kysu.edu).

## Members Spotlight

### Jayash Paudel, Ph. D.



Carolina State University, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. At Boise State, he teaches courses in microeconomic theory and environmental economics. Some of his professional highlights include research grants from the World Institute for Development Economics Research, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and Idaho National Laboratory.

His involvement with NACA entails active participation during the inaugural annual conference in April 2021. Through NACA, he has thoroughly enjoyed disseminating his research findings and interacting with scholars outside of economics. He applauds NACA for bringing Nepali academics together and allowing them to build lasting professional collaborations. He can be reached on Twitter @JayashPaudel.

Dr. Jayash Paudel is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Boise State University, a doctoral research university in Idaho. Jayash is a fellow at the Global Labor Organization and is affiliated with the Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences. Dr. Paudel previously worked for the World Bank Group and Poverty Action Lab. He received a B.A. in Mathematical Economics from Colorado College and a Ph.D. in Resource Economics from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Dr. Paudel's research interests are in the fields of Environmental and Development Economics. He explores economic channels that influence natural resources and the environment. His research has appeared in peer-reviewed journals, including the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Energy Economics*, *Land Economics*, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, *Social Science & Medicine*, and *World Development*.

His ongoing collaborative projects involve multidisciplinary teams from Boise State University, Montana State University, North

## Recent Peer-reviewed Publication

### Peer-reviewed Journal articles

Adhikari, R. K., Poudyal, N.C., & Shrestha, A. (2022). The effect of foreign remittance on timber imports: Evidence from Nepal. *Journal of Forest Research*.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/13416979.2022.2034228>.

As foreign remittance inflow and the national economy continue to grow, ensuring the continued supply of quality sawlogs at a cheaper rate from domestic producers may help sustain the growth of timber industry, decrease foreign dependence on timber products, and help reduce national trade deficits in the long run. With time-series modeling of data in Nepal, one of the developing countries with high remittance flow, this study analyzed determinants of timber imports and evaluated the short- and long-run effects of foreign remittance on timber imports.

Shimkhada, D. (2022). Tusha Hiti: The Origin and Significance of the Name. *Monsoon: South Asian Studies Association Journal*: 1(1), 23-43. Available at:

<https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/monsoon-sasa-journal/vol1/iss1/2>.

The author examines the royal bath called Tushā Hiti located in Sūndari Chowk (Beautiful Courtyard) of Pātan Durbar Square, using six different methods of investigation. The question: What is in a name? Started the ball of investigation rolling and along the way were added more supporting blocks such as history, iconography, function and purpose, notion of purity and impurity, and finally the hiti in popular culture to get a complete picture of the subject in question.

### Books and Book Chapters

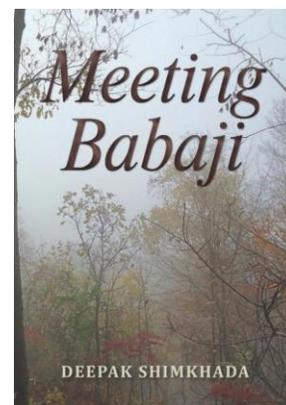
Shimkhada, D. (2022). *Meeting Babaji*. Shangri-La Books, CA, USA. More information available [here](#).

A sixteen-year-old boy, born of a mixed race—Nepali father and an American mother is taken to Nepal by his father to show him the village in which his father was born. On the way to the high mountains of the Himalayas they suffer a series of mishaps and finally they encounter a holy man called Babaji. *Meeting Babaji* is the story of a boy who encounters a Hindu holy-man and is transformed into something he had not anticipated. The author weaves the trials and tribulations of the journey that could have had a tragic ending into an unexpected happy ending.

### Research Reports/Working Papers/Conference Proceedings

Dr. Shimkhada Chaired a panel titled "Goddess Traditions in Nepal " at the 15th Annual Conference of South Asian Studies Association hosted by Loyola Marymount in Los Angeles, California on March 11-13. Programs and details can be found at [sasaonline.net](http://sasaonline.net)

Dr. Shimkhada also delivered a paper of his own titled "Birth of Durga with a Ball of Fire and the Birth of the Universe with the Big Bang Theory."



## Job Opportunities, Research Grants and Awards

### Post-Doctoral Fellow

The School of Sustainability at Arizona State University is hiring up to 2 Presidential Postdoctoral Fellows in Sustainability to start this fall. The application deadline is April 25, 2022. Apply at <https://apply.interfolio.com/103927>.

These two post-doc positions have been created as a pathway to joining our amazing group of transdisciplinary and engaged tenure track faculty in sustainability.

### Research Grants and Awards

Dr. Shimkhada was awarded a publication grant by the Indic Foundation toward the publication of *Nepal: A Shangri-La? Narratives of Culture, Contact, and Memory*, edited by Deepak Shimkhada, Iswari Pandey, Tika Lamsal and Santosh Khadka. Kathmandu: Mandala, 2022

## Nepal Corner

### Highest glacier on Mount Everest receding at an alarming rate

A study published in *Journal of Climate and Atmospheric Science* reported that the South Col Glacier on Mount Everest has lost 55 m of thickness in the last 25 years and could disappear by the middle of the current century.

<https://kathmandupost.com/climate-environment/2022/02/06/highest-glacier-on-mt-everest-is-melting-at-a-rapid-pace-a-new-study-shows>

### Blueprint of sustainability, *Hitti*, Kathmandu's ancient waterspouts

*Hitti* system which uses subsurface aquifer deposits, elevational difference for natural purification, and gravitational pull for flow is still functioning in Kathmandu valley and provides drinking water deep

inside the city. The oldest *hitti* is the Mani Hitti in Mangal Bazar; built in 570 CE.

<https://www.nepalitimes.com/banner/kathmandu-ancient-water-spouts-still-functioning/>

### Nepal ranked happiest country in South Asia

Nepal is ranked 85<sup>th</sup> in the World Happiness Report 2022. Nepal has the highest ranking among the south Asian countries. The report ranks 150 countries using various criteria such as per capita GDP, social support, average life expectancy, health, freedom of choice, generosity, and perception of corruption.

<https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/why-are-nepalis-happy/>

## Editorial Team

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## President's Message



Dear NACA Friends,

I am delighted to share the final program of the second annual conference of NACA, themed "*Recovery and Resilience in an Uncertain World*," to take place on April 15 and 16, 2022 virtually. Divided into 16 organized/moderated panels and presentation sessions, the conference features 59 speakers and presenters from the United States and Nepal. This event will also include the organization's General Assembly scheduled on April 16. Please check out the conference program for more details: <https://nepaliacademics.org/2022conference/program>.

As you know, NACA has remained active throughout the year. In addition to offering interactive Zoominars on specific topics and issues, it has been publishing its newsletter, NACA Newsflash, with news, updates, and other items of interest to the NACA community.

As the institution works toward building "a thriving and vibrant Nepal and Nepali communities through research, innovation, and knowledge production," annual conferences provide an opportunity to share and review our own cutting-edge research and service activities.

On behalf of the NACA Executive Council and the entire NACA community, I would like to congratulate Dr. Krishna Paudel, chair of the conference committee, for leading a group of dedicated NACA members serving on the Conference Committee. I would also like to thank every member of this Committee—Drs. Ananta Acharya, Gaurab Aryal, Jagriti Bhattarai, Rabin Bhattarai, Samagya Banskota, Arun KC, and Bhuwan Thapa—for their foresight, diligence, and hard work in planning, preparing, and hosting this second annual conference.

I invite everyone interested in the academic, research, and service outreach to Nepal to participate in and take advantage of this great opportunity. The goal here is to create a community of scholars, professionals, and learners, which is possible only with your own participation and inputs. Please also join NACA as a member so that we can all contribute to our shared vision, purpose, and goal.

Sincerely,  
Udaya R. Wagle  
NACA Founding President

## NACA Newsflash

NACA invites you to share your news updates, announcements, and events for future issues of Newsflash through google form, which we send out every month. For feedback or comments, email us at [info@nepaliacademics.org](mailto:info@nepaliacademics.org). To subscribe to the newsletter, please click [here](#).