

NACA NEWSFLASH

News and Events for the Friends of NACA

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NACA Event



Call for Proposals

The Nepali Academics in America (NACA) is hosting its 3rd annual conference on April 14-16, 2023 in Phoenix, Arizona with a virtual meeting option. The conference has an optional field trip to the Grand Canyon for in-person attendees.

The theme of this year’s conference, *Confronting Complexities, Transforming Possibilities*, encourages more informed dialogues on the growing socio-ecological changes and complexities around us including but not limited to food insecurity, distressed economy, urbanization, migration, geopolitics, water crisis, COVID-19 and public health, global climate change, disaster risks, and inequality and social justice. Confronted by these complexities, innovative ideas and opportunities are also emerging with tremendous value of interdisciplinary and collaborative scholarships. This conference explores how those dialogues have directly and indirectly influenced our scholarships related to Nepal and beyond the Himalayan border. The conference provides a scholarly forum to engage in these important conversations while reconnecting with friends and colleagues and adding some new connections in your professional network.

We invite scholars, scientists, artists, and practitioners to submit proposals for panels, roundtable discussions, and individual papers on the conference theme or closely related topics. Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- Poverty, inequality, distressed economy, and other systemic factors
- Scientific advances in biotechnology and medical sciences
- COVID-19 and public health concerns
- Climate change, vulnerability, and disaster risks
- Migration, remittances, and livelihood diversification
- Agriculture and food production systems and new innovations
- New issues and challenges in tourism and other service-based economy
- Environmental (mis)-management (e.g., water, forestry) and governance issues
- Energy systems, innovations, and equity issues
- Geopolitics, infrastructures, and transborder issues
- Advocacy, equity, and social justice in (language) education

Call for papers (abstract submission) deadline: December 9, 2022. Visit the [conference website](#) for details.

Conference Sponsorship: We are seeking conference sponsorship (Gold Level \$250-\$499, Platinum Level \$500 and up). If you are interested, please contact [Gyan Nyaupane](#).

Short Survey:

The Conference Committee has been working on the details and we want to gauge your preference for in-person or virtual meetings. We value your inputs, as always and will appreciate you completing this brief survey which will not take more than two minutes to fill out. Your response will help us plan this conference better. [Please click here to fill out the survey.](#)



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Members Spotlight

Gyan Nyaupane, Ph.D.



Dr. Gyan Nyaupane is a Professor and the Associate Dean of Research in the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions at Arizona State University (ASU). He is also affiliated with the Global Institute of Sustainability and Innovation as a Senior Global Futures Scientist at ASU. As the senior research administrator for the Watts College, he is responsible for managing the college's research enterprise of about \$30 million in annual expenditures. The college has 20 research centers and institutes, over 7,000 students, and 450 faculty and staff within its four nationally ranked schools, including Public Affairs, Criminology & Criminal Justice, Social Work, and Community Resources & Development.

Trained in both natural and social sciences from three continents, Dr. Nyaupane's scholarship is truly interdisciplinary and international. He received his doctoral degree from the Pennsylvania State University, master's degree from Lincoln University, New Zealand, and bachelor's degree from the Institute of Forestry, Nepal. He is an Erskine Fellow at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, and a Visiting Senior Research Associate at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa.

His research interests lie in understanding the human-environment interactions, particularly connecting

communities and conservation through non-traditional economic approaches. He has done research in close collaboration with federal, state, tribal, and local land management agencies on various topics, including sustainable tourism, ecotourism, protected area management, public lands, natural resource management, community development, and Indigenous Peoples globally. He has published over 70 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters. His research on Global South and the Himalaya has resulted in two co-edited books: [*Cultural Heritage and Tourism in the Developing World: A Regional Perspective*](#) (2009, Routledge) and [*Tourism and Development in the Himalaya: Social, Environmental and Economic Forces*](#) (2022, Routledge).

He is the founder of Nepal Tourism Resilience Forum, an independent network established for a meaningful dialogue surrounding resilience, tourism, conservation, and livelihood issues in Nepal and the broader Himalayan region. The forum organizes a series of webinars by bringing academics, students, practitioners, entrepreneurs, community leaders, policymakers, and elected officials together.

He served on the Board of Directors for the Travel and Tourism Research Association for three years. He is the Editor-in-Chief of *Tourism Review International*, an ESCI and SCOPUS indexed peer-reviewed journal. He regularly teaches graduate and undergraduate courses on Sustainable Tourism, Critical Issues in Community Development, and Tourism Planning, and supervises doctoral, master's and honors students. Prior to academia, he worked for the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, the Ministry of Forest and Environment, and the World Wildlife Fund in Nepal.

Dr. Nyaupane is a founding member and the Vice President of the Nepali Academics in America (NACA). He has played a critical role in framing, institutionalizing, and expanding the organization since its inception in 2019, and he is grateful for the opportunity to work with a dedicated group of fellow Nepali academics. He is a Co-Chair of the 2023 NACA Conference, which will be held in Phoenix on April 14-15. He truly believes that through network, and exchange of ideas, NACA can achieve its mission to enhance collaboration among the academics and scholars in the US, Nepal and globally.

Recent Publications, Awards & Updates

Peer-reviewed Articles

Bhatta, D., Paudel, K. P., & Liu, K. (2022). Factors influencing water conservation practices adoptions by Nepali farmers. *Environment, Development and Sustainability*, 1-23.

In developing countries, water conservation practices in agriculture are promoted to overcome the adverse effects of water scarcity. Based on the data obtained from in-person interview surveys of 385 Nepali farm households, authors find that farmers who had food sufficiency to feed the family in the previous year, access to credit, and agriculture micro-irrigation infrastructure adopt more water conservation practices. These results indicate the potential benefits of formulating appropriate policies and programs to enhance farm production and agricultural income to encourage farmers to adopt water conservation practices for sustainable agriculture in Nepal.

Thapa, B., & Rahman, T. (2021). Multi-level determinants of crop choice to water stress in smallholder irrigation system of Central Nepal. *Climate and Development*, 13(7), 581-592.

Authors investigate the multilevel determinants of smallholders' crop choice in irrigated agriculture of Central Nepal. Using primary survey data of 316 farmers from 9 farmer-managed irrigation systems in the Trishuli-Narayani sub-basin of Central Nepal, authors document that smallholder farmers are likely to choose rice during the monsoon season if they are experienced and farm in the irrigation systems fed by large rivers. Water stress affects the crop choice mainly in two ways. In irrigation systems fed by large rivers, farmers located towards the tail-end of the canal are less likely to plant rice due to water stress. Farmers living in the irrigation systems that are fed by small and medium-size rivers are more likely to choose less water-demanding crops. Market integration is also a key determinant of crop choice. We discuss the implications of our findings for climate-resilient adaptation strategies in Central Nepal.

Research Grants

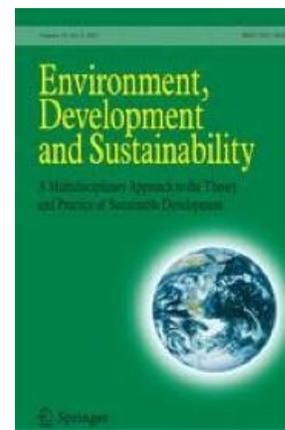
Dr. Bhuwan Thapa recently received a research grant (\$116,812) from the USDA for a project entitled, "Agroforestry for climate risk management: effectiveness of windbreaks in reducing crop loss in Midwest, USA".

Member updates

Dr. Bhuwan Thapa will be joining the Department of Geography and Planning at Appalachian State University as an Assistant Professor in fall 2022

Dr. Samagya Banskota is recently recognized as [one of the world's top innovators under 35 by MIT Technology Review](#).

Dr Amir Sapkota has become [Chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of Maryland](#), School of Public Health effective August, 2022.



Nepal Corner



Tribhuvan University Tri-Chandra Multiple Campus

Thesis Proposal Writing Workshop Conducted in Nepal



NACA in collaboration with the Economics Department of Tri-Chandra Campus, Kathmandu conducted a three-day virtual workshop on, “**Thesis Proposal Writing**” for graduate students studying at various economics departments in public institutions in Kathmandu. The workshop conducted from July 12 to July 14, 2022 consisted six technical sessions covering thesis proposal guidelines, research formulation, data sources, literature review strategies, and research ethics. A group of distinguished scholars from Nepal and the US led the technical sessions, including Professor Shiva Raj Adhikari from Tribhuvan University, Professor Alok Bohara from the University of New Mexico, Drs, Puskar Khanal & Nilesh Timilsina from Clemson University, and Dr. Arun KC from Save the Children, USA. More than 130 students and faculty members from Padma Kanya Multiple Campus, Patan Multiple Campus, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, Saraswati Multiple Campus, Central Department of Economics, Golden Gate College, and Khopa College

participated in the workshop. It was a pilot initiative taken by NACA for capacity building in Nepal, particularly for public institutions that have limited resources. The program was coordinated by a dedicated group of NACA members, including Drs. Alok Bohara, Arun KC, Nilesh Timilsina, and Bhuwan Thapa.

If you would like to get involved in similar capacity building activities for faculty and graduate students in Nepal or have any suggestions or ideas, please reach out to Dr, Bhuwan Thapa at thapa108@gmail.com or info@nepaliacademics.org.

New Life Members of NACA

Ram N. Acharya



Dr. Ram N. Acharya is a Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business at New Mexico State University. He holds an M.S. degree in Resource Economics from University Pertanian Malaysia and Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Auburn University. Originally from Baglung, Nepal, he is also a graduate of Pulchok Campus, Palpa Multiple Campus, and Kirtipur Campus.

Dr. Acharya teaches and researches sustainable production practices, food security, and climate change issues and has received several teaching and research awards. He has served on the profession in various capacities, including as a graduate program coordinator, graduate council secretary, and journal editor.

Narayan Dhakal



Dr. Dhakal is currently working as a Farm Business Management (FBM) Instructor at the Central Lake College in Minnesota. He has worked in Information Technology as a consultant in a capacity of System Quality Analyst. He has served volunteer boards of directors in the University of Minnesota CFANS Alumni Board, MN Interfaith Power and Light (MNIPL), Volunteer Mentor, SCORE Minnesota, Prosperity Ready, MN. Dr. Dhakal is an ambitious professional with a great passion to work in community capacity building as an environmental expert with ability to integrate environmental science into the farm management. He has been certified as a Climate Reality Leader and Intercultural Diversity Inclusion. He has expertise in integrating social, economic and environment fabrics in the contemporary global farming system. Before coming to the US Dr. Dhakal worked as a Project Director at the King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation (KMTNC) now called National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC).

Editorial Team

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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.

To subscribe to the newsletter, please click [here](#).

Save the Date: NACA Third Annual Conference in Phoenix, Arizona

NACA will hold its third [annual conference](#) on April 14-16, 2023 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Opportunities to Get Involved!

NACA is seeking volunteers to serve on various committees, including the three Standing Committees (Institutional Affairs, Membership Support, and Strategic Initiatives) and the Newsflash Committee. If you are interested in serving NACA being a member of one of these committees or in other capacities, please let us know at info@nepaliacademics.org