

# NACA NEWSFLASH

News and Events for the Friends of NACA

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## NACA Events



The Nepali Academics in America (NACA) is hosting its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual conference on April 14-15, 2023 in Phoenix, Arizona with a virtual meeting option. The conference has an optional field trip to the Grand Canyon for in-person attendees on April 16th. 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 the tremendous value of interdisciplinary and collaborative scholarships.

We invite scholars, scientists, artists, practitioners, and anyone interested to attend the conference. Check the last page for the tentative program. Visit the [conference website](#) for details and registration.

**Keynote Speakers**

**Kumud Acharya** (President, Desert Research Institute)

Title: *Intersection of Climate Change, Urbanization, Water Security and Public Health: Emerging Challenges*

**Jeremy Spoon** (Professor, Portland State University)

Title: *Awkward But Fitting In: Collaboration, Adaptation, and Evolution as a Foreign Researcher and Ally in Nepal.*

Conference Partners:



Community Partners:



NEPALESE STUDENT ASSOCIATION  
AT ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Message from the President

As we seek to host our third NACA Annual Conference on April 14-16, 2023 (in person in Phoenix, Arizona, and online), we hope you are as excited as we are about the opportunity to meet and interact with members and friends of this evolving organization. We would like to thank you for your continuing support of this “non-profit and non-partisan network established to enhance collaboration among Nepali academics and other scholars affiliated with higher education and research institutions based in the United States of America and beyond.” We recognize the need for some of us to participate in this global event remotely and encourage those of us with an ability to participate in-person to do so and optimize our experience and networking benefits. We would like to thank the Program Committee co-chairs and members for their hard work on planning and making this event a success.

As we gear up for this momentous event, the Executive Council is excited to announce our third General Assembly (business meeting) to take place on April 15, 2023 (afternoon) per NACA Constitution and Bylaws (Article 5). This will be on the second day of this year’s annual conference hosted in a hybrid format. While remote (online) participation will be allowed, we encourage attending the General Assembly in person if at all possible.

We would also like to remind you that our biennial election to the Executive Council is to take place at or prior to this Assembly where every registered member will be expected to vote and, as appropriate, nominate appropriate candidates (including self-nomination) for different positions of the Executive Council as well as for voluntary membership to the three standing committees and Newsflash Team. Our organization depends on your enthusiasm, support, and participation for our collective interest and so we expect you to

participate and take charge of different activities, initiatives, and bodies of the organization.

The Executive Council is currently working on the specific process of this election and nomination with the Membership and Member-Support Committee. Please stay tuned for more details coming out very soon.

Udaya R. Wagle, Ph.D.  
Founding President  
On behalf of NACA Executive Council

## Members Spotlight

**Brijesh Thapa, Ph.D.**



Dr. Brijesh Thapa ([bthapa@okstate.edu](mailto:bthapa@okstate.edu)) is a Professor & Head of the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management housed within the Spears School of Business at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK. He also holds the William E. Davis Distinguished Chair and the Charles Lanphere Professorship. Previously, he was a Professor in the Department of Tourism, Hospitality & Event Management at the University of Florida Gainesville, FL for 20 years, and served in various academic and administrative capacities at the department, college, and university levels.

He has an established collaborative record of building interdisciplinary teams among public, private, and non-government stakeholders in the facilitation of projects that focus on wide range of tourism and hospitality issues in the U.S. and numerous countries. He has received funding from U.S. Federal Agencies such as: Departments of State, Education, Agriculture, and Interior, Agency for International Development, Corps of Engineers, and Millennium Challenge Corporation.

Collectively, he has an extensive record of scholarly publications (100+ outputs), presentations (200+), and grant activities (\$3 million+). He has supervised and mentored 11 doctoral and 21 Masters students. Additionally, he is a Fellow of the Academy of Leisure Sciences and served as an Editor (*Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*).

Recently, he has focused on capacity building and institutional development initiatives in multiple countries, including Nepal. More specifically, he served as a Fulbright Senior Specialist to Mid-Western University (Surkhet) and developed their bachelor's degree curriculum in hospitality and tourism management. Additionally, he assisted in similar initiatives at the graduate level at Tribhuvan University and others.

He is a founding Executive Council Member and a life member for NACA. He is passionate in the mission to provide a platform for a community of scholars and practitioners to connect, engage, and collaborate through robust dialogue, exchange of ideas, and impactful execution of strategic initiatives. Furthermore, to enrich and enhance the myriad educational mission of higher education institutions in Nepal.

## Recent Publications, Awards & Updates

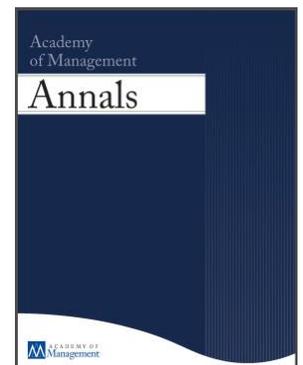
### Peer-reviewed Articles

Rai, R., Gnyawali, D.R. & Bhatt, H. (2022). Walking the tightrope: Coopetition capability construct and its role in value creation. *Journal of Management*, forthcoming.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/01492063221107873>

Prior research emphasizes the paradoxical nature of coopetition and the need for specialized capabilities—coopetition capability—to deal effectively with opportunities and challenges stemming from the simultaneous pursuit of cooperation and competition and to create superior value. However, we know little about the underlying conceptual properties of coopetition capability (construct clarity) and lack a reliable and valid scale to measure it (construct validity). We conduct a study in three phases to address this critical gap. First, building on paradox literature, we conceptualize coopetition capability as a multidimensional construct reflected by three underlying dimensions: coopetition mindset, analytical acumen, and executional skills. Second, we develop a 15-item psychometrically valid scale using a sample of 647 competitive alliances in high-technology sectors. Finally, using a matched sample of 536 competitive alliances, we extend the focal construct's nomological network by examining two relationships: the coopetition experience's impact on coopetition capability and the effect of coopetition capability on the relationship between the coopetition paradox and value creation. Overall, our paper lays a foundation for deeper theory development and empirical research on coopetition by providing much-needed construct clarity and psychometrically valid measures for coopetition capability.

Ryan-Charleton, T., Gnyawali, D. R., & Oliveira, N. (2022). Strategic alliance outcomes: Consolidation and new directions. *Academy of Management Annals*, 16(2), 719-758.

The pursuit of outcomes is the *raison d'être* for strategic alliances, yet the literature on outcomes is rather fragmented. Moreover, conceptual and empirical confusion exists between strategic alliance outcomes and how well the alliance is working. Important behavioral terms, such as conflict and tension, are also used without conceptual clarity. We tackle these issues by consolidating the spectrum of strategic alliance outcomes and explaining how outcomes are often intertwined. We also distill the literature regarding how well the alliance is working into three “functioning indicators” and highlight their conceptual distinctiveness vis-a-vis outcomes. We disentangle the definitions and implications of three important behavioral issues in alliances—trade-offs, frictions, and tensions—and discuss how they are rooted in partner interdependence. Lastly, we offer an “outcome-centric” perspective on strategic alliances, which shifts the emphasis from outcomes as end results to the pursuit of outcomes as explanatory starting points.



## Nepal Corner

### Mental health problems on the rise in Nepal

In Nepal, the number of suicides is increasing every day, especially among entrepreneurs after covid pandemic. There is a need for a systematic study on mental health issues among entrepreneurs in Nepal.

<https://kathmandupost.com/health/2023/01/26/even-those-looking-sound-might-have-mental-health-issues>

### Vehicle pollution still a problem despite heavy fines

One-third of the 581 vehicles tested in Kathmandu failed the pollution test, but most of them had green stickers indicating that they have passed the pollution test. Heavy fines between Rs 5000 to 100,000 have not deterred people from driving old vehicles emitting toxic pollutants.

<https://www.nepalitimes.com/banner/hefty-fines-fail-to-deter-polluting-vehicles/>

### Mountainous terrain responsible for most of the aircraft crashes in Nepal

Crash data analyzed by Nepali Times found that most of the crashes in Nepal are due to monsoon climate and mountainous terrain, and very few crashes are due to mechanical failure.

<https://www.nepalitimes.com/banner/how-to-make-nepal-skies-safer/>

### University of Nepal taking shape

The Legislative Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of the Parliament has intensified its work on the University of Nepal Bill 2079

<https://theannapurnaexpress.com/news/university-of-nepal-taking-shape-38453>

## New Life Member

### Maheshor Kafle, M.D.



Dr Maheshor Kafle grew up in Kathmandu, Nepal. After attending Medical school in Nepal, he moved to New York City for residency training. He spent over the next 10 years in rural Pennsylvania, suburban Indiana and Ohio, mostly for work. Dr Kafle is currently working as a fellowship trained academic hospitalist at a tertiary care children's hospital in Phoenix, Arizona. Dr Kafle likes an academically challenging environment, and is active in clinical research to increase efficiency in healthcare settings. He frequently visit Nepal to enjoy nature and the villages. He has been working through a non-profit, the Nepalese [Children's Education Fund](#) and its partner organization, Campaign for Education in Nepal, to help educate Nepalese children who would otherwise not attend school.

## 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](mailto:info@nepaliacademics.org).

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

### Third Annual Conference in Phoenix, Arizona

Conference Program (Tentative)

	April 14	April 15
Morning	Online Session	Online Session
	Round Table: Political economy of infrastructure building	Round Table: Growing threats of communicable diseases like Dengue
	Plenary (Onsite+Online)	Plenary (Onsite +Online)
	Keynote speaker: Dr. Kumud Acharya	Keynote speaker: Dr. Jeremy Spoon
	Onsite Panels	Onsite Workshop Book and Journal Editorship
	Lunch Break	Lunch Break
Afternoon	Online Panels	NACA Business Meeting
	Onsite Workshop Research Grants and Collaboration	Onsite Workshop Academic Administration and Enterprise
Evening	Networking and Reception	Networking

### 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](mailto:info@nepaliacademics.org)