

NACA NEWSFLASH

News and Events for the Friends of NACA

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NACA Events

Zoominar on November 6th, 2022

Social and Applied Sciences Research in Nepal
Opportunities, Challenges, and Experiences

SPEAKERS

MODERATOR



DR. BASANT GIRI
Senior Scientist
KATHMANDU INSTITUTE
OF APPLIED SCIENCES



DR. UTTAM B SHRESTHA
Director
GLOBAL INSTITUTE FOR
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES



DR. SMRITTEE K PANTA
Co-Founder
SAMRIDDHI AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
PVT. LTD.



DR. GYAN NYAUPANE
Associate Dean & Professor
Watts College of Public Service &
Community Solutions
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

[Click here to register for the Zoominar](#)

Call for Papers and 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.

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.

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

Short Survey:

Please take this brief survey which will not take more than two minutes. Your response will help us plan this conference better. [Please click here to fill out the survey.](#)



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Members Spotlight

Milan Shrestha, Ph.D.



Dr. Milan Shrestha is currently a Senior Lecturer in the [School of Sustainability](#) and Senior Global Futures Scientist at [Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory](#) at Arizona State University (ASU). As a teaching track faculty, Dr. Shrestha develops and delivers several immersive and online courses each year, mostly in the intersections of society and sustainability. He also supervises and coordinates the instructors of several online courses to ensure the quality of course curriculum and instruction delivery. He has advised and mentored over a dozen students in their dissertation and thesis projects at ASU.

Milan is a broadly trained environmental anthropologist with a background in agriculture, international development, and geospatial data analysis. His research mostly focuses on the socio-cultural dimensions of land-agriculture-food

systems, disaster risks, and urban sustainability, and has secured external research funding from the NSF, NASA, USAID, World Bank, and several other agencies. In recent years, he has completed a series of [multi-disciplinary collaborative research fieldwork in the Nepal Himalaya](#) studying the perceptions and behavioral responses to climate change mostly through people's "lived experiences" with glacier recession and glacial flood disaster risks. In addition to regular [publications](#), his research projects have trained several Nepali graduate students. One of his most recent collaborative efforts was [a global synthesis report on the glacial lake outburst flood research](#).

In addition to over two decades of sustained research in Nepal and the Himalayan region, Dr. Shrestha has also served in professional networks dedicated to the region, mainly the NACA and the [Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies](#). He is one of the founding members of the NACA and has been serving as the Secretary since its inception days in 2019. In NACA, he devotes time in the back-end, ensuring its growth and reputation as a dedicated and inclusive professional network of scholars who are seeking to engage, network, and collaborate for Nepal and Nepali worldwide.

Members Spotlight

Ananta Raj Acharya, Ph.D.



Dr. Ananta Raj Acharya leads the DATA Analytics team for Early Product Development at INARI Agriculture. Dr. Acharya's team supports bioinformatics data analysis and visualization. He previously worked as a Research Scientist for Dow Agrosciences and Corteva performing bioinformatics and computational biology research. His team in Corteva also helped analyze the SARS-COV-2 RT-PCR samples. Dr. Acharya received his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia in Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics. He did his BSc from the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science, Tribhuvan University in Nepal, and MSc from the University of Florida.

Dr. Acharya's professional responsibilities and research interests include bioinformatics computational biology perspectives. His research has produced a plant variety, registered multiple patents, and published dozens of articles in peer-reviewed journals. He has a broader interest in

sustainable agriculture, plant breeding, and biotechnology. Dr. Acharya is the editor of the Global Journal of Agriculture and Allied Sciences. Dr. Acharya is often seen interacting with peers, students, and kids on various topics related to general science, a science career, and the role of science in human advancement.

Dr. Acharya has been teaching a bioinformatics course for MSc students at the Agriculture and Forestry University for the last four years and has conducted multiple bioinformatics workshops online and in-person. He has been active in the Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas (NAPA) as an executive member and lead of many initiatives.

Dr. Acharya was involved in NACA as a member of the conference organizing committee for the 2nd NACA conference. He is also a member of the conference organizing committee for the 3rd NACA conference. He especially helps in the technological logistics side of the conference. NACA has been playing a monumental role in bringing multidisciplinary academics together and he would love to see NACA grow to encourage dialogues and foster collaboration especially for science-based policy and research in Nepal. Dr. Acharya can be reached at ananta.acharya@gmail.com.

Recent Publications, Awards & Updates

Peer-reviewed Articles

Bista, R., Parajuli, R., Giri, K., Karki, R., & Song, C. (2022). Impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on the livelihoods of rural households in the community forestry landscape in the middle hills of Nepal. *Trees, Forests and People*, 100312.

This paper is based on in-person interviews of 215 in 2018 before the pandemic and a phone interview of the same 215 rural households in 2021 at the peak of the pandemic in the Kavrepalanchowk district in Nepal. Authors found that the impacts of COVID-19 were severe on households with larger family sizes, those belonging to marginalized caste groups, those having a lower number of livestock, low well-being index, those who rely on daily wage-based occupation, with a low level of education, and the households with return migrants. A significant number of migrants were found to return to their village of origin. As a result, there was a decrease in an abandoned land and an increase in livestock number and forest product use.

Chhetri, N., Ghimire, R., & Eisenhauer, D. C. (2022). Geographies of imaginaries and environmental governance. *The Professional Geographer*, 1-6. <https://lnkd.in/gEQE9nPa>

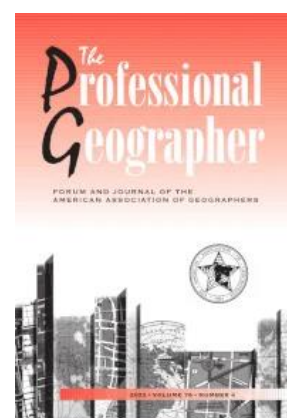
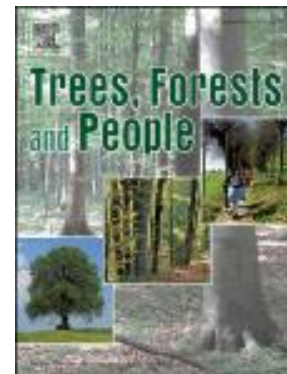
Storyed to fit into the sociocultural practices and the materiality of a place, the geography of imaginaries has expanded within the disciplinary lexicon since the beginning of the twenty-first century. This focus section advances both theoretical and empirical approaches that demonstrate how cultural, technological, and environmental imaginaries emerge, coalesce, and circulate among policy actors and others involved in the governance of the environment. It aims to fill an existing gap between more general studies of imaginaries in science, technology, and innovation and applied approaches that deal with particular outcomes in the governance of the environment. The articles within this Focus section contribute three key insights to our understanding of the complex relationships between imagination and environmental governance.

Gupta, R., Bhattarai, R., Coppess, J. W., Jeong, H., Ruffatti, M., & Armstrong, S. D. (2022). Modeling the impact of winter cover crop on tile drainage and nitrate loss using DSSAT model. *Agricultural Water Management*, 272, 107862.

Intensive agriculture practices in the Upper Mississippi basin have been linked to the formation of a hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico. Previous studies have recommended the use of winter cover crops in the maize-soybean rotation as an eco-efficient solution for reducing nitrate-nitrogen loss via a sub-surface drainage system. In this study, the authors evaluated the impact of cereal rye as a winter cover crop in the maize-soybean system on reducing nutrient loss via tile drainage using the DSSAT model.

Islas-Camargo, A., Bohara, A.K., & Ramos, J.M.H. (2022). Economic disparities in pollution-related mortality in three municipalities of the Metropolitan Area of the Valley of Mexico. *Atmósfera*, 35(4): 755-779. <https://doi.org/10.20937/ATM.52962>

Based on the environmental justice theory, the authors explored the nature of health risks in the population of three municipalities within the Metropolitan Area of the Valley of Mexico (MAVM) by means of an empirical analysis of health effects associated with air pollution and temperature variation. Results show a lower hazard rate in a wealthy municipality, as compared to a higher hazard rate in a poor one. The lower hazard rate of the wealthy municipality extends life expectancy and enhances the likelihood of inhabitants staying long-lasting within the population at risk, thus increasing the size of that population, as compared to the population at risk in the poor municipality, whose members show a lower life expectancy. Thus, the smaller the at-risk population, the sicker its average member and the smaller the impact on long-term mortality



Recent Publications, Awards & Updates

Preza-Fontes, G., Christianson, L. E., Greer, K., **Bhattarai, R.**, & Pittelkow, C. M. (2022). In-season split nitrogen application and cover cropping effects on nitrous oxide emissions in rainfed maize. *Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment*, 326, 107813.

In this study, authors evaluated the effects of nitrogen application timing and cereal rye cover crops on the area- and yield-scaled soil nitrous oxide emissions in a continuous maize system over three years. Nitrous oxide emissions with Pre-Season-N and In-Season-N applications were not different. These results suggest the combination of high soil nitrogen supply, warm and wet soil conditions, and cover crop decomposition contributes to elevated nitrous oxide emissions.

Price, J. I., **Bohara, A.K.**, & Hansen, W. L. (2022). Determinants of Displacement and Displacement Duration Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita: A Hurdle Model Approach. *GeoHazards*, 3(3), 412-427. <https://doi.org/10.3390/geohazards3030021>.

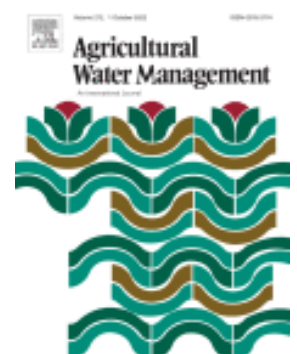
Authors evaluate determinants of displacement and, conditional on being displaced, the duration of displacement for households living in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina and Rita in parts of Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi. Hurdle Models, which assume that different processes govern zero outcomes (i.e., no displacement) and positive outcomes (i.e., amount of time displaced), are used to model the likelihood of household displacement and its duration as a function of socioeconomic characteristics, hurricane-caused property and neighborhood damage, social support, and financial assistance. Results show that mobile home residence, marital status, educational attainment, the presence of children, and property and neighborhood damage affect the likelihood and expected length of displacement among sample respondents.

Rayamajhee, V., Storr, V.H., & **Bohara, A.K.** (2022). Social entrepreneurship, co-production and post-disaster recovery. *Disasters*, 46(1):27-5.

Citizens contribute to post-disaster recovery by volunteering, taking on consultative and decision-making roles within their communities, and directly participating in post-disaster reconstruction efforts. Without meaningful contributions from citizens – the intended beneficiaries – unilateral efforts from public officials and authorities will inevitably fail. This study shows that social entrepreneurs can thus play a critical role in spurring post-disaster recovery by facilitating co-production. Authors focus on the role of social entrepreneurs after disasters and center around one rural village, Giranchaur Namuna Basti (GCNB) in the Sindhupalchowk district of Nepal. Specifically, we use the case of Dhurmus Suntali Foundation's Namuna village project in Giranchaur following the 7.8 magnitude earthquake in 2015 as a quasi-experimental set up to examine the pivotal role that social entrepreneurs play in promoting voluntary activities, community engagement, and participation in post-disaster recovery efforts.

Singh, S., Negm, L., Jeong, H., Cooke, R., & **Bhattarai, R.** (2022). Comparison of simulated nitrogen management strategies using DRAINMOD-DSSAT and RZWQM2. *Agricultural Water Management*, 266, 107597.

In this study, authors compared the performance of a newly integrated comprehensive model, DRAINMOD-DSSAT and RZWQM2 for hydrology, nitrogen dynamics, and crop yield using eight years of measured data from a no-tilled subsurface-drained, corn-soybean agricultural system near Danville, Illinois. The models satisfactorily predicted drainage flow, nitrate losses and crop yield. Authors used DRAINMOD-DSSAT to simulate the effects of management practices (N application rates and timings) on nitrate losses and crop yield and compared them with RZWQM2 simulated results. The results showed that both models provided the same conclusion on the effects of N management strategy on nitrate losses and crop yield, but they differ in quantity.



Nepal Corner

Tiger population increases in Nepal

Due to the effective implementation of the tiger conservation programs, Nepal doubles its tiger population in 10 years. The latest census conducted in 24 districts counted 355 tigers in Nepal.

<https://kathmandupost.com/climate-environment/2022/07/30/tigers-return-in-nepal-their-number-now-reaches-355>

Wildfires increasing in Nepal

Number of wildfires are increasing in Nepal and there is no institutional mechanism to deal with the increase. This could have both social, environmental, and economic consequences.

<https://kathmandupost.com/climate-environment/2022/04/26/dry-conditions-are-fuelling-wildfires-but-authorities-are-ill-equipped-to-tackle-them>

Higher number fail medical licensing exam in Nepal

In Nepal, the passing rate of medical license exam is low, and this might be an indication of the quality of health education. It will have a negative impact on the health care in the long-term.

<https://kathmandupost.com/health/2022/09/26/majority-of-mbbs-and-bds-graduates-unfit-to-practise-medicine>

Dengue epidemic in Nepal

Nepal government is mulling to declare dengue epidemic due to death of over dozen and half people in addition to thousands of infections.

<https://kathmandupost.com/health/2022/09/19/government-set-to-declare-a-dengue-epidemic>

New book on Sherpas and their mountaineering journey

A new book that talks about the lives and challenges of Sherpas written by two Nepalese journalists is in the market.

<https://www.nepalitimes.com/banner/stories-of-nepals-summiteers/>

Solar energy supporting national transmission line

Solar plant generating 25 megawatts of electricity has been connected to the national transmission line. The plant constructed by Nepal Electricity Authority in Nuwakot took three and half years to complete.

<https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/countrys-biggest-25-megawatts-solar-plant-links-with-national-transmission-line>

Opportunity

Postdoc Position in Natural Resource Economics and Policy at NC State University

The Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources (<https://cnr.ncsu.edu/fer/>) at North Carolina State University (<https://www.ncsu.edu/>) invites applications for a postdoctoral research associate to lead research in developing a methodology to rapidly assess hurricane impacts to the primary forest product industry. Primary duties include, but are not limited to; (a) developing a Computational General Equilibrium (CGE) model to assess shifts in supply such as those expected from hurricane damage, and (b) applying a treatment effect or difference-in-difference modeling approach to evaluate the impacts of various economic and resource factors on forest-based economic output. The selected candidate is also expected to assist PI in other research, teaching, and publication efforts in natural resource economics, policy, and management, as required. For more information, please reach out to Dr. Rajan Parajuli at rparaju@ncsu.edu. To apply: <https://jobs.ncsu.edu/postings/172669>.

New Advisory Board Member of NACA

Shanta Pandey, PhD



Before joining Boston College, she was a Professor at Washington University in St. Louis for 25 years, where she served on the University's Faculty Senate Council, co-chaired the Gender Pay Equity Study Steering Committees for the Danforth Campus, taught measurement and multivariable statistics to doctoral students.

At the Boston College School of Social Work, she teaches *Social Welfare Policies* to MSW students and *Professional Development and Dissertation Preparation Seminar* courses to doctoral students. In addition to serving as a member on 28 doctoral dissertation committees, she has chaired/co-chaired 15 doctoral dissertations.

Shanta Pandey, Ph.D., is a Professor in the School of Social Work at Boston College. Her research examines the impacts policies and programs have on low-income populations in the United States and developing regions of South Asia. In the United States, she has studied the impacts of the overhaul of 60-year-old entitlement programs on survival strategies of poor single mothers living in communities with very few opportunities—American Indian reservations and rural Missouri. Outside of the U.S., Dr Pandey has focused on policies and programs to improve women's status in Southern Asia (Nepal, India, and Bangladesh). Her research has been funded by grants from the Department of Health and Human Services, the US Department of Agriculture, and the MacArthur Foundation.

Editorial Team

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NACA Newsflash

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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. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the co-chairs.

2023 NACA Conference Committee

- Co-chairs: Gyan Nyaupane and Milan Shrestha
- Program Committee: Amir Sapkota, Ananta Acharya, Arun KC, Buddhi Gyawali, Madhukar KC, Omkar Joshi, Prajjwal Panday, Soni M Pradhanang, and Sushil Adhikari
- Local Organizing Committee: Avinaya Tripathi, Madhukar KC, Samridhi Shrestha, and Shasta Shakya

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