

# NACA NEWSFLASH

News and Events for the Friends of NACA

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## NACA Events

### Call for Papers and Proposals



The Nepali Academics in America (NACA) is hosting its 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 has been extended until December 19, 2022.** Visit the [conference website](#) for details.

#### Keynote speakers:

Dr. Kumud Acharya, President, Desert Research Institute, Nevada

Dr. Jeremy Spoon, Professor of Anthropology, Portland State University, Oregon

#### 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.](#)

## Members Spotlight

### Nilesh Timilsina, Ph.D.



Dr. Nilesh Timilsina is an Associate Professor of forest biometrics at Clemson University, South Carolina. Before moving to Clemson, he was an Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) for eight and half years. His research focuses on forest growth, yield and biomass models; ecosystem services estimation and valuation; urban forestry; spatial analysis; and remote sensing applications in forest measurements. Dr. Timilsina has conducted research in Nepal on the management of sal forests, the efficacy of community forestry, the conservation of freshwater dolphins, and bird conservation. He worked as a conservation officer at Bird Conservation Nepal, where he is a life member now.

As a graduate faculty at Clemson, he advises several Master's and PhD students. He has published almost three dozen articles in national

and international journals. He also serves as a reviewer for several international journals. He has been serving as an Associate Editor for Urban Forestry and Urban Greening for almost five years. He also served as an appointed member of the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council for three years where he advised on urban forestry policies. To generate conservation awareness, he regularly writes conservation-related articles in popular Nepali newspapers like The Rising Nepal and The Kathmandu Post. Dr. Timilsina received an UWSP Scholarship from the College of Natural Resources in 2020 for his scholarly contribution.

He is an advisor to a non-profit online school initiative in Nepal. He has been an active member of NACA since its inception in 2020 and currently serves on the editorial team of NACA Newsflash and on the Membership Committee. He sees NACA as a platform that can harness diverse expertise for research and development in Nepal.

## Recent Publications, Awards & Updates

### Peer-reviewed Articles

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. The findings highlight the diversity of factors that slow households' return following displacement and underscore the need for additional research on the role of social capital in determining hazard-related outcomes.

**Khatri-Chhetri, A.**, Costa, C.J., & Wollenberg, E. (2022). Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Co-benefits across the Global Agriculture Development Programs. *Global Environmental Change*, 76: 102586. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2022.102586>

This study presents estimated GHG emissions reductions of almost 100 agricultural development projects over 51 low- and middle-income countries supported by the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), USAID-Feed the Future (FTF) Initiative, and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO, previously DfID). The key interventions across the global agricultural programs include forest management and promotion of improved agroforestry systems, improved crop management with minimum tillage practices, residue incorporation, water management, use of organic fertilizers, and grass/pasture land management. The interventions promoted by the global agricultural development programs have shown immense potential in reducing net GHG emissions or emission intensity in agriculture and allied sectors.

### Opinion Papers

**Wagle, U.** (2022). Nepal's Democratic Experiment and Struggles with Corruption. *PA Times*, September 30 (<https://patimes.org/nepals-democratic-experiment-and-struggles-with-corruption/>).

**Wagle, U.** (2022). Culture of Corruption in Lieu of Public Service. *People's Review – A Political and Business Weekly*, September 21 (<https://www.peoplesreview.com.np/2022/09/21/culture-of-corruption-in-lieu-of-public-service/>)



## Nepal Corner

### Orange farmers switch to Avocado

In four years, the number of farmers growing Avocados, instead of orange, increased by a significant number. Farmers said they are tired of fighting citrus diseases. Avocados start producing fruit in four or five years and farmers don't have to worry about market and prices.

<https://kathmandupost.com/money/2022/11/14/orange-farmers-prosper-after-switching-to-avocados>

### Shivapuri and Nagarjuna hills forested compared to 1960s

A comparative analysis using satellite imagery found increased forest cover around Kathmandu valley compared to 1960s, although fertile rice fields have been replaced by concrete.

<https://www.nepalitimes.com/here-now/kathmandu-from-space-60-years-apart/>

### Voter apathy in Nepal election

A lower than usual turnout resulted in Nepalese parliamentary election; outmigration and lack of agenda among leading political parties could be some of the reasons

<https://www.nepalitimes.com/banner/lower-than-usual-turnout-in-nepal-polls/>

## Opportunity

The Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has launched an annual Prize for the publication of a book or an article on Nepal in English in any one calendar year. They are inviting nominations for publications on Nepal during 2022 and the nominations will close on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Further details of the Prize are available at the following website of the Society:

<https://royalsocietysociety.org/the-surya-p-subedi-prize/>

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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 two months. For feedback or comments, email us at [info@nepaliacademics.org](mailto: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. 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](mailto:info@nepaliacademics.org)