

NACA NEWSFLASH

News and Events for the Friends of NACA

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Zoominar on COVID-19 Pandemic



On July 25th, 2021, NACA hosted its 7th zoominar entitled “Covid-19 in Nepal: Public Health Insights and Perspectives”, bringing together public health experts from the United States and Nepal. The zoominar focused on the evolving nature of the pandemic, role of data driven science to support decision-making, and the urgent need to enhance COVID-19 vaccine access in the context of Nepal. The event had 120 registrants and was moderated by Dr. Sadeep Shrestha, Professor of Epidemiology at University of Alabama at Birmingham and Dr. Amir Sapkota, Professor of Environmental Health at the University of Maryland School of Public Health.

Health at Kent State University who provided insights on evolution and spread of COVID-19 globally, clarifying key public health concepts. Dr. Archana Shrestha, Associate Professor at Kathmandu University described the preparedness and response to the evolving COVID-19 in Nepal and shared her personal experience in healthcare delivery efforts in Bagmati and Karnali province.

Dr. Paras Pokharel, Professor and Chief at BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences shared the lessons learned in treating COVID-19 patients in Province 1 and some of the measures that his team and the local authorities have initiated and implemented since then. Thematic discussions highlighted several public health topics including ensuring vaccine equity, need to enhance public health infrastructures, and improve preparedness against future pandemics to minimize overall economic and health burden.

Watch Zoominar at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TtDVOPRJwYQ&t=11s>

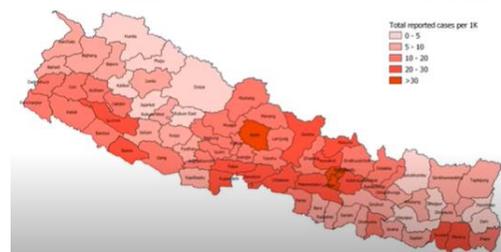


Fig 1. District-wise reported cases per 1,000 population in Nepal
Panelist included Dr. Madhav Bhatta, Professor of Epidemiology and Global

Members Spotlight

Dr. Nalini Subba Chhetri



Dr. Nalini Subba Chhetri is a Clinical Associate Professor in the School for the Future of Innovation in Society (SFIS) and School of Sustainability (SOS), interdisciplinary units in the College of Global Futures at Arizona State University. She also holds Associate Director for International Initiatives position in SFIS.

Contrary to a traditional approach of narrow research foci, she considers herself a renaissance person and works in research, teaching, and engagement where the underlying thread is on a vulnerable population. Her training has been in biology (genetics), policy (international education), and

climate science (postdoc). She works in capacity building, knowledge sharing, energy access, urban sustainability, community development, grassroots innovations and climate impacts and policies. She works with municipalities in the USA and collaborates in Guyana, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nepal, India, Bangladesh, China, among other countries.

In Nepal, she works with Tribhuvan University, Institute of Engineering, and Resources Himalaya Foundation and leads programs that engage faculty and students of ASU. She is also an Executive Board member of the Nepal Policy Institute registered in the Netherlands.

In NACA, she engages in the development of activities as a member of the Strategic Initiatives Committee. Initially, she was involved in its genesis, including conversations where this idea initially began. She is willing to provide mentoring for the younger academicians. She hopes that NACA can bring more diversity and inclusion.

Members Spotlight

Dr. Omkar Joshi



Dr. Omkar Joshi is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, where he teaches classes in forest management and economics, forest resource management, and human dimension of natural resources. As a social scientist with interdisciplinary training in forestry and applied economics, he combines theories and methods from social psychology, economics, and regional science to answer questions relevant to natural resource management and policy. He also explores the connections and interdependency between human and natural systems and aims to understand the political dynamics of public policies governing natural resource uses.

Dr. Joshi obtained his B.Sc Degree in forestry from the Institute of Forestry, Pokhara in 2002 and worked as a conservation officer in the Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation, Nepal until 2007. He was involved in protected area planning and buffer zone community forestry management in Bardiya National Park. Dr. Joshi later completed his Ph.D. degree from Mississippi State University in 2013 and served as a forest economist for the Texas A&M Forest Service until 2016. As a forester, he has a keen interest in promoting productive forest management in Nepal and frequently collaborates with other scientists to conduct social science inquires.

Dr. Joshi has secured more than 12 million dollars in external funding and has been a Principle Investigator (PI) in several nationally competitive grants. He serves as an associate editor for the Journal of Forestry and has authored over 50 peer-reviewed publications. He was on the conference committee of the NACA inaugural conference held in April 2021. He also serves NACA as a member of the Institutional Affairs Committee.

Recent Peer-reviewed Publication

Paudel, J. (2021). Beyond the blaze: The impact of forest fires on energy poverty. *Energy Economics*, 105388. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eneco.2021.105388>.

Tesfaye, K., Takele, R., Sapkota, T.B., **Khatri-Chhetri, A.**, Solomon, D., Stirling, C. and Albanito F. (2021). Global high-resolution gridded dataset of N2O emission and mitigation potential from maize and wheat fields. *Data in Brief*, 37. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2021.107239>

Parajuli, J. & Chhetri, N. (2021). Diagnosing multiple disturbances to small irrigation systems in Nepal. In *Natural Resource Governance in Asia* (pp. 199–217). Elsevier. doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-323-85729-1.00012-8

Eakin, H., **Parajuli, J.**, Yogya, Y., Hernández, B. & Manheim, M. (2021). Entry points for addressing justice and politics in urban flood adaptation decision making. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*. doi.org/10.1016/j.cosust.2021.01.00

Parajuli, J., Eakin, H. & **Chhetri, N.** (2020). Small irrigation users' perceptions of environmental change, impacts, and response in Nepal. *Climate and Development*. doi.org/10.1080/17565529.2020.1836468

Eakin, H., Shelton, R., Baeza, A., Bojórquez-Tapia, L. A., Flores, S., **Parajuli, J.**, Grave, I., Baron, A. E. & Hernández, B. (2020). Expressions of collective grievance as a feedback in multi-actor adaptation to water risks in Mexico City. *Regional Environmental Change*, 20(1), 17. doi.org/10.1007/s10113-020-01588-8

Research Grants and Awards

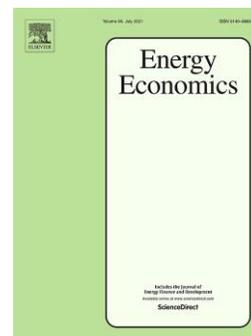
Dr. Bilon Khambu at Tulane University, School of Medicine received the Board of Regents of the State of Louisiana-Research Competitiveness Subprogram(RCS)-2021-2024.

Funding opportunity for Nepali scholar:

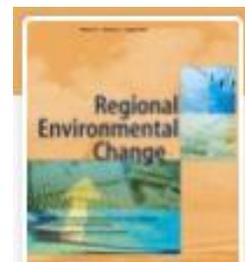
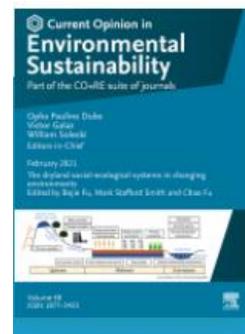
Wellcome is a financially independent global charitable foundation with an investment portfolio of \$40 billion. It supports science to solve the urgent health challenges facing everyone focusing on three worldwide health challenges: mental health, infectious disease and climate.

They have funding under different categories, including Early-Career Awards, Career Development Awards, and Discovery Awards. Scholars from Nepal and other developing countries are eligible to submit for this awards.

For more information, visit: <https://wellcome.org/grant-funding>



Journal
Data in Brief



Opportunities

- Graduate student position-PhD or MSC in Pathobiology program, Number of opening: 1, Research assistantship available
- Fulbright scholars from Nepal(biomedical researchers) looking for host lab in US, number of opening :1

Call for abstract:



16th Annual Himalayan Policy Research Conference(HPRC) --Dec 4, 5, 2021 [[HPRC \(google.com\)](#)]

Nepal Corner

New University, the University of Nepal, on the horizon.

<https://kathmandupost.com/national/2021/07/07/academics-plan-a-university-of-excellence-but-keeping-politics-at-bay-is-a-challenge>

Black carbon abets climate change and melting of glaciers, report says. [Black carbon speeding up melting of glaciers, posing water scarcity threat to millions, report finds \(kathmandupost.com\)](#)

Nepali engineers design electric motorcycle for commercial use. [Yatri Motorcycles was born](#)

[with a vision of providing no-compromise e-mobility' \(kathmandupost.com\)](#)

Invasive alien species threaten Chitwan National Park.

<https://thehimalayantimes.com/environment/as-temperatures-rise-aliens-threaten-cnp>

Despite various programs to increase paddy production, Nepal's rice import is increasing.

<https://theannapurnaexpress.com/news/nepal-still-importing-rice-sending-out-over-26-billion-a-year-3376>

NACA Newsflash

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