

## 8<sup>th</sup> BNAC Nepal Study Day, 2010

The eighth Nepal Study Day in the UK was held April 19<sup>th</sup> 2010 at Durham University in the northeast of England. Durham has had a long history of research in the Himalayas. In 1976 a Durham University Himalayan expedition collected significant regional data in central Nepal and produced the Langtang National Park management plan the following year. The department of anthropology has had strong Nepal research interests with Catherine Panter-Brick, Andrew Russell, Tamara Kohn and Ben Campbell having been based there. Holding the study day at Durham drew superb talks about Nepal-based research from other departments too: from Geography's Katie Ovens, and Archaeology's Robin Coningham (whose other avatar is pro-vice chancellor).

As is normal, there was no single theme to the study day, since the meeting is always an informal gathering of scholars to share a diverse range of work in progress and compare notes on current events. Catching up, mutual introductions and social networking expanded to fill gaps in technical hitches at the start of the day, and an introduction for the occasion was delivered by Professor Surya Subedi, who is retiring as chairperson of the Britain Nepal Academic Council after ten years. The abstracts for papers organised themselves straightforwardly into four sections.

### Politics

Ruth Marsden, (University of Edinburgh): *Critical moments in the politics of human rights in Nepal*

Krishna Prasad Upadhyaya (SOAS): *Maoist Movement and Tharu Politics for Land in Dang, Nepal*

### Media

Michael Hutt (SOAS): *Nepal's new national anthem*

Mark Turin (Cambridge): *The Digital Himalaya Project and the rewards of collaborative research*

### Cultural heritage

Robin Coningham (Durham): *Protecting and Preserving the Natal Landscape of the Buddha in the Nepal Terai*

Kalyan Bhandari (University of Glasgow): *Tourism in Nepal: Post-Monarchy Challenges*

Mona Chettri (SOAS): *The Politics of Cultural Revivalism in the Eastern Himalayas*

Ben Campbell (Durham): *The Deer Hunters: scenes from a Tamang drama of life, death and shamanism*

### **Environment**

Katie Oven (Durham): *Courting catastrophe? Risk and wellbeing in the Nepal Himalaya*

Navin Khadka (BBC): *Double Whammy: Political and climatic instabilities in Nepal*

### **Economy**

Mallika Shakya (QEH Oxford): *In search of pragmatism within politics: Capitalism, ethnopolitics and the rising wave of communism in Nepal*

Youba R. Luintel (Newcastle University): *Market and social change in Mahesh Khola: Locating capitalist development in Nepal's underdevelopment*

Radha Adhikari (University of Edinburgh): *How to set up a nursing college in Nepal: Exploring the relationship between business and regulation.*

*Ben Campbell*