

EDITORIAL

Welcome to EBHR no. 38, which is a little late off the press but we hope not unforgivably so. We are happy to present our readers with another eclectic mixture of articles, and also to note that three of them are by scholars at an early stage of their academic careers.

In the first article, Bimbika Sijapati Basnett introduces us to the ground level realities of community forestry policy in Nepal and the ways in which its implementation is complicated by issues of gender, caste and migration in two very different hill communities. This is a fine example of an article that has the potential to influence the debate on development in Nepal. For the second article, David Gellner has delved into his filing cabinet and pulled out an essay about democracy and hybridity in Nepal that was presented in Kathmandu some eight years ago but never published. He has kindly added a postscript about the strong reactions it provoked at the time: this is another illustration of the impact of scholarly research. Third, Piers Locke introduces us to an aspect of Nepal that will be new to many of us: the tradition of elephant keeping in the Tarai, especially among the Tharu. Finally, Mélanie Vandenhelksen sheds rare and valuable light upon the moulding and assertion of new political and cultural identities in Sikkim.

The Editorial Committee is always pleased to receive offers of articles, reports, interviews and, when the sad occasion arises, obituaries of Himalayan scholars. For this issue, we are grateful to Mark Turin for his enlightening interview with Kesar Lall, to Michael Oppitz for enabling us to honour the passing of Romano Mastromattei, and to Naresh Koirala and Paul Bird for introducing us to the important work of the Nepal Library Foundation.

—Michael Hutt
July 2011