

Himalayan Policy Lab (HPL)



Currently, the Himalayan region faces unprecedented challenges due to climate change, persistent risk of earthquakes, landslides and floods, poverty, violence and political transition, and degradation of biodiversity. Western science and development have intensified efforts at data collection and classification to dissect these challenges. But these efforts have a remarkably weak influence on local and regional policy discourses, practices and innovation. In parallel, diverse forms of indigenous knowledge have their own frames to understand the complexities of changing Himalayan geo-ecologies that draw on their histories, deep engagement with place, and connections across time and space. When placed within present geopolitics, globalization and the rapidly changing political economies of the entire region, however, both of these two dominant knowledge systems fail to provide clear pathways towards transformation.

Given these limitations, there is a need to imagine a third perspective. In this Himalayan Policy Lab (HPL), we explore questions of knowledge politics in the region and the possibilities for the production of counter knowledges. Alternative forms of knowledge production involve a new breed of hybrid actors who can transcend the worlds of academics, policy and practice to nurture knowledge through action, praxis, contestation and scholarly debates. The HPL is designed to create a vibrant space wherein hybrid professionals with abilities to conduct transdisciplinary research and knowledge activism can emerge. Through reflection and reimagination of conceptual models, approaches and strategies, it challenges the current separation of research from practice, and practice from policy. The Lab engages in an agenda of transformation of Himalayan socio-ecological systems, to encompass socio-environmental justice in one of the world's most fragile and socially deprived regions.

STRUCTURE OF THE HPL

Participants: Invited senior researchers /professionals (10) + selected emerging scholars / graduate students / activists (20) - working on water, agriculture, forestry, climate change and disaster, representing NGOs, academics, government and donor organizations.

Opening Panel: Hemant Ojha, Dil Khatri, Mani R Banjade, Andrea Nightingale, Ajaya Dixit and Dinesh Paudel

Labs Sessions on challenges addressing the following questions:

- What sort of knowledge can transform Himalayan institutions, policies and practices?
- What approach to research is needed?
- What sorts of alliances and networks have worked?

Conclusion and Way Forward

Netra Timsina and Krishna Gyawali

Venue: Local Development Training Academy (LDTA), Jawalakhel, Lalitpur

Date and time: Friday, 21 December, 2018 (8:30 AM to 1:00 PM)

BEYOND EUROCENTRIC SCIENCE AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

Reimagining a New Politics of Knowledge for Himalayan Sustainability

SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS:

Seats are limited and the interested participants should send a brief motivation letter (max 250 words) focusing on what motivates you to attend the HPL.

Show interest by email before December 15, 2018 at sias-info@sias-southasia.org or siasnepal@gmail.com.

The selected participants will be notified for further process.

Selected participants will need to pay a nominal fee of NRS. 500 (researchers/professionals) and NRS. 250 (Students on submission of valid document). Fees can be paid at the venue itself.

CONVENERS

- **Dr. Hemant R Ojha** IFSD and University of Canberra, Australia
- **Dr. Dil B Khatri** Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS), Nepal
- **Prof. Andrea Nightingale** University of Oslo, Norway
- **Dr. Mani R Banjade** Future Himalaya Institute, Nepal
- **Mr. Ajaya Dixit** Institute for Social and Environmental Transition-Nepal (ISET- Nepal)
- **Dr. Dinesh Paudel** Appalachian State University, United States



COLLABORATORS



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