



## NEWSFLASH

Volume 5, Issue 1 • January 26, 2025

### In This Issue

Welcome, NACA members and supporters, to the first issue of the NACA Newsflash for 2025!

We're excited to kick off the new year with this Vol. 5 and Issue 1, which is packed with updates and exciting news about our upcoming events and members' accomplishments. In this issue, you'll find details about our upcoming Zoominar #14 with Kiran Krishna Shrestha of Nepa-laya, a glimpse at our 2025 conference, including keynote speakers and travel information, and spotlights on some of our newest members and their recent publications. Plus, we have updates from Nepal Corner.

We encourage you to dive in and explore all that this issue has to offer. We hope you enjoy it!

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# NACA Zoominar # 14

NACA is excited to host [Kiran Krishna Shrestha](#) (the Co-Founder and Team Lead of [Nepa-laya](#)). Nepa-laya has been one of the leading book publishers and an art management company. Our conversations with Kiran will explore both the opportunities and challenges for academic publications and outreach activities in Nepal.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 10:00AM TO 11:30AM EASTERN TIME / 08:45 - 10:15 PM NEPAL TIME**



Nepali Academics in America

**NACA ZOOMINAR # 14**



Registration required at  
<http://nepaliacademics.org/events/>  
to get more information

## Publishing in Nepal:

*Insights, Innovations, and Impacts*

**SPEAKER**



**KIRAN K SHRESTHA**  
Team Leader  
NEPA-LAYA Publications

**MODERATOR**



**DR. ARATI MALEKU**  
Secretary, NACA  
Associate Professor, College of Social Work  
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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Registration is required to join this exciting session. Register for the event using the link below to get the zoom link and other program updates.

**Sunday, February 2, 2025**

10:00am - 11:30 am Eastern Time / 08:45 - 10:15 pm Nepal Time

[REGISTER](#)

# Call for 2025 Election Nominations



The Election Team of NACA invites nominations for the Executive Council positions for the next two-year term beginning in April 2025. Candidates must be dues-paying General Members at the time of nomination and while holding office, with the position of the president limited to those who “have served in the Executive Council during one of the three immediate past terms.”

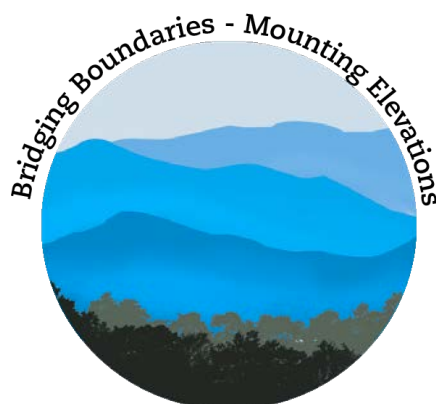
Please complete this [Google Form](#) to submit your nominations (self-nominations are welcome) by March 20, 2025, for them to be listed on the ballot.

Note that serving on these EC positions is the best way to practice self-governance on behalf of our diverse members, and those not included on the ballot can still be voted as write-in candidates. Voting will be conducted between March 23 and April 6 electronically, with the results announced at the General Assembly (as a part of the NACA Conference in Boone, North Carolina, April 11-13, 2025).

The Executive Council is “responsible for implementation of NACA decisions and general business” more broadly, with the president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary carrying out key leadership roles as stated in the Bylaws. You can reach out to the Election Team Chair, Udaya Wagle ([Udaya.wagle@nau.edu](mailto:Udaya.wagle@nau.edu)), for any questions, comments, or suggestions.

[NOMINATE](#)

# 2025 Conference-At-A-Glance



**2025 NACA Conference**  
April 11-13, 2025

11

## Friday, April 11, 2025

3.00-5.00	Registration, Check-in	Parkway Ballroom, Plemmons Student Union 4th Floor
5.00-8.00	Opening Reception/Panel/(Dinner Provided)	Parkway Ballroom, Plemmons Student Union 4th Floor

## Saturday, April 12, 2025

7.00-8.00	Check-in and Breakfast	Grand View Ballroom, Top Floor, Stadium Drive
8.00-9.10	Parallel Sessions I	Grand View Ballroom, Top Floor, Stadium Drive
9.15-10.45	Parallel Sessions II	Grand View Ballroom, Top Floor, Stadium Drive
10.45-11.00	Coffee Break	Grand View Ballroom, Top Floor, Stadium Drive
11.00-12.00	<b>Keynote Speech (Prof. Samrat Upadhyaya)</b>	Grand View Ballroom, Top Floor, Stadium Drive
12.00-1.30	Lunch (Provided)	Grand View Ballroom, Top Floor, Stadium Drive
1.30-3.00	Parallel Sessions III	Grand View Ballroom, Top Floor, Stadium Drive
3.30-5.00	Parallel Sessions IV	TBD
5.30-8.00	Social/Mixer (Light food Provided)	TBD

## Sunday, April 13, 2025

7.00-8.00	Check-in and Light Breakfast	Reich College of Education (RCOE), Room 124
8.00-9.10	Parallel Sessions V	Reich College of Education (RCOE), Room 124
9.15-10.45	Parallel Sessions VI	Reich College of Education (RCOE), Room 124
10.45-11.00	Coffee Break	Reich College of Education (RCOE), Room 124
11.00-12.00	<b>Plenary Talk (Prof. Subhrendu Pattanayak)</b>	Reich College of Education (RCOE), Room 124
12.00-1.00	NACA Business Meeting and Conference Closing (Lunch Provided)	Reich College of Education (RCOE), Room 124
1.00-5.00	Post-Conference Tour (Optional)	Grandfather Mountain, Blue Ridge Parkway

Registration is now open at <https://nepaliacademics.org/event-5794143>.

# Keynote Speakers



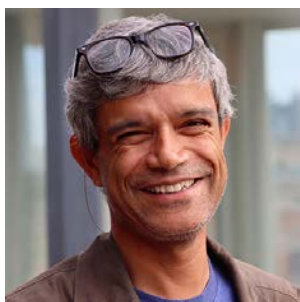
## **Samrat Upadhyay, Ph.D.**

Distinguished Professor of English  
Martha C. Kraft Professor of Humanities,  
***Indiana University***, Bloomington

Samrat Upadhyay teaches creative writing. He is the author of six books of fiction, including *Arresting God in Kathmandu* and *Buddha's Orphans*. His award-winning books, which have been translated internationally, have received praise from the New York Times, the Washington Post, and the Los Angeles Times, among others. His forthcoming novel, *Darkmotherland* is an epic tale of love and betrayal, and political violence set in an earthquake-ravaged country; Kirkus Reviews calls it “dizzily complex and dazzlingly written” and has given a starred review.

Dr. Upadhyay's keynote speech on Day 1 (Saturday, April 12) will broadly address the aspects of the conference theme (i.e. crossing boundaries), with a unique perspective on the importance of literature and art in bridging disciplinary boundaries. He will also reflect upon his own journey as an immigrant scholar as an alternative dimension of boundary crossing and give the audience a sense of his evolution as a writer.

[READ MORE](#)



## **Subhrendu K. Pattanayak, PhD**

The Oak Foundation Distinguished Professor of  
Environmental and Energy Policy  
Professor in the Sanford School of Public Policy  
Professor in the Department of Economics  
Professor of Environmental Science and Policy  
Research Professor of Global Health

***Duke University***

Subhrendu Pattanayak is the Oak Foundation Distinguished Professor of Environmental and Energy Policy, and Research Professor of Global Health at Duke University, USA. He studies the causes and consequences of human behaviors related to the natural environment to help design and evaluate policy interventions in low-income tropical countries. His research is in three domains at the intersection of environment, development, health and energy: household energy, environmental health and forest ecosystem services. He has focused on the design of institutions and policies that are motivated by inequities and a range of efficiency concerns (e.g., externalities, imperfect information). Dr. Pattanayak has collaborated closely with multilateral agencies, NGOs, governments, and local academics in Nepal, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Sri Lanka and the U.S.

Dr. Pattanayak's plenary talk on Day 2 (Sunday, April 13) will refer to the conference theme with illustration of his research experience as an economist – applying economics to Conservation, Efficiency, Energy Transitions, Public Health, Sustainability, and doing this in an inclusive manner to build capacity in the global south.

[\*\*READ MORE\*\*](#)

# Hotel and Travel Information

## Conference Hotels

### **Courtyard by Marriott Boone:**

1050 NC-105, Boone, NC 28607.

Phone: (828) 265-7676

Reserve using [NACA discounted rate](#)\*

### **Hampton Inn and Suites:**

1252 US Highway 421 South, Boone, NC 28607

Phone: (828) 386-6464

Reserve using [NACA discounted rate](#)\*

**Horton Hotel** (<500 yard) at 611 W King St, Boone, NC 28607. Contact the hotel directly for booking

\* The group rate rooms will be released after the cut-off date of March 11

## Air Travel

### **Nearest Airports**

1. Charlotte International Airport (CLT) is 96 miles away from Boone
2. Tri-cities Regional Airport (TRI) is 86 miles away from Boone.
3. Greensboro Airport (GFO)
4. Asheville Regional Airport (AVL): is 90 miles away from Boone.

### **Shuttle Service**

1. The Hickory Hop: From CLT to Boone (\$85/trip). Check out the details at <https://www.hickoryhop.com/routes/>

# Conference Sponsorship

NACA gratefully acknowledges the sponsorship and logistical support of the following partners

## Conference Host



## Platinum Level Sponsors



## Gold Level Sponsors



We would like to recognize a \$1,000 contribution by a community partner who wanted to remain anonymous. Thank you!

There is still time to become a sponsor or community partner. We have different sponsorship tiers and benefits. Please read more at <https://nepaliacademics.org/conference>

Please don't hesitate to contact Gyan Nyaupane, NACA President, at [gyan@asu.edu](mailto:gyan@asu.edu) to explore these opportunities.



# New Life Member Spotlight

## **Bijesh Mishra, Ph.D.**

Post - doctoral Fellow,  
Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology  
*Auburn University*



Dr. Mishra is an applied economist experienced in multidisciplinary economic and behavioral research. He earned a doctoral degree from Oklahoma State University. His academic training covers a diverse field of agriculture, environment, and resource economics. His research is focused on sustainability, climate change, and policymaking.

His recent research interests have expanded to developmental and political economics. As a postdoc, Dr. Mishra is primarily involved in 1) agrivoltaics and renewable energy and 2) developmental and regional economics research. His first postdoc research study was on the motivations and barriers of collocating solar panels with crops for solar developers. His second research project study focuses on

workforce development, economic growth, and quality of life in rural and urban regions of the southern US among farming and non-farming communities.

He has published several peer-reviewed papers and reviewed manuscripts for several globally recognized peer-reviewed journals, delivered award-winning presentations, and evaluated presentations in multiple conferences and meetings. He recently published an opinion piece about community forest management in Nepal in The Kathmandu Post.

Dr. Mishra remains connected with Nepali researchers and policymakers through NACA and the Association of Nepal Agricultural Professionals of Americas. As a NACA member, he mentored participants and provided targeted guidance in a 3-day policy boot camp organized by Daayitwa Governance Lab, Kathmandu University, Policy Entrepreneurs, and Nepal Administrative Staff College. He is interested in expanding research collaboration with those actively working in Nepal.



# Member Spotlight

## Dr. Shashidhar Belbase

Associate Professor, School of Mathematics  
*Troy University*



Dr. Shashidhar Belbase has been an associate professor of Mathematics at Troy University since August 2023. He earned his Ph.D. in Education (Mathematics Education) from the University of Wyoming in 2015, where he also completed an M.S. in Environmental Engineering in 2011. Additionally, he holds an M.Ed. in Mathematics Education from Tribhuvan University (1998) and an M.Phil. in Education from Kathmandu University (2006).

Dr. Belbase's academic career includes serving as an assistant professor of Mathematics Education at Kathmandu University School of Education from 2005 to 2007. He later taught at

Zayed University in Dubai from 2014 to 2019 and at United Arab Emirates University from 2019 to 2023. His research interests encompass teacher and student beliefs and practices in mathematics education with technology, interdisciplinary STEM/STEAM education, socio-cultural aspects of mathematics education, and other cross-cutting issues in education and the environment.

Dr. Belbase has published over 50 refereed articles and book chapters. He has served as a reviewer for several journals such as, the International Journal of Mathematics Education in Science and Technology, PLOS One, and School Science and Mathematics,. He is also an editorial board member for SN Social Sciences and the International Journal of Education in Mathematics, Science, and Technology.

Active in workshops organized by NACA, Dr. Belbase values these activities for networking and professional development. He believes NACA can amplify the voice of Nepalese diaspora scholars both at national and global levels.



# New Members

(From November 15, 2024 to January 20, 2025)

NAME	MEMBERSHIP LEVEL	AFFILIATION
Narayan Giri	General Member (Life)	North Carolina A&T State University
Chandra Giri	General Member (Life)	US Environmental Protection Agency
Arpana Tiwari	Student Member (Annual)	University of Massachusetts Amherst
Som Shrestha	Student Member (Annual)	Oak Ridge National University
Sienna Craig	General Member (Annual)	Dartmouth College
Santosh Rijal	General Member (Annual)	Virginia Tech
Deep Paudel	Student Member (Annual)	Carolina University
Naresh Osti	General Member (Annual)	Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Sophia Graybill	Student Member (Annual)	The University of North Carolina
Sweta Dixit	Student Member (Annual)	North Carolina State University
Beda Dahal	General Member (Annual)	IFF, Texas

## Membership Champion

NACA recognizes **Neelam C Poudyal** (The University of Tennessee Knoxville) as our new membership champion.

We also thank **Dinesh Paudel** (Appalachian State University), **Yashashwi Pokharel** (Wake Forest University), **Rajan Parajuli** (North Carolina State University), **Pradeep Sapkota**, and other colleagues for helping us recruit new members.

Help us spread in your network about the [benefits of being a NACA Member](#).

# Recent Publications

## Economic Policy and Development



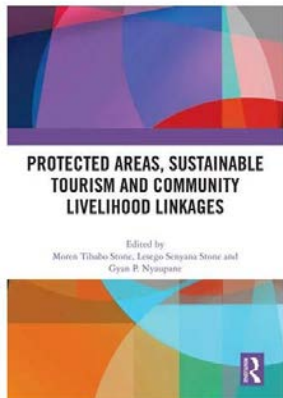
Chandio, R., Katchova, A. L., **Subedi, D.**, & **Giri, A. K.** (2024). Government payments and farm debt utilization during the pandemic. *Agricultural Finance Review*.

We study the relationship between pandemic ad-hoc support policies, high government payments, low interest rates, and farm debt use across farms of different sizes and across farm operators of different races, genders, and experiences to inform the 2024 Farm Bill discussions. Our results show positive associations between government payments and debt use for all farm types and farmer demographics except for residence farms and non-white farmers, which may be due to their limited access to credit. Findings also indicate that farms that could already access credit, like commercial farms, increased their short-term debt during the pandemic per the decrease in interest rates. Moreover, beginning farmers seemed more likely to use short-term debt in response to higher pandemic government payments than their more experienced counterparts.



**Gautam, S.**, Rahut, D. B., Guzman, D. B., Dangol, P., KC, D. B., Beshir, A., & Choudhary, D. (2024). Does subsidizing seed help farmers? Nepal's rice seed subsidies. *Development Policy Review*, 42(5), e12802.

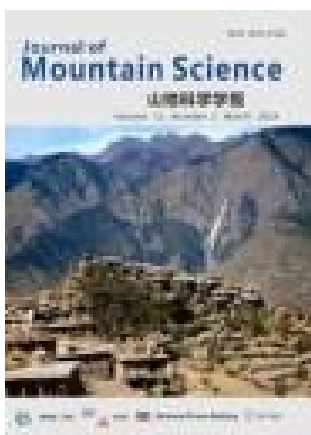
This study evaluates Nepal's Seed Subsidy Programme (SSP), which provides smallholder farmers with discounted rice seed but shows no overall yield impact, likely due to the use of older, lower-yielding varieties. However, gains were noted for lower-income and remote households. Recommendations include targeting these groups, subsidizing newer high-yield varieties, and partnering with private seed providers to improve access. Findings highlight the need for a more strategic approach to agricultural subsidies in Nepal.



Stone, M., Stone, L., & **Nyaupane, G.** (2024). Protected Areas, Sustainable Tourism and Community Livelihood Linkages. London: Routledge.

Protected areas were originally established as recreational spaces and to protect some components of nature; however, today they are also expected to provide an increasing range of benefits to an array of people. Protected areas no longer simply “protect” but they also provide ecosystem services and facilitate poverty reduction via local development, ecotourism, and sustainable resource use. Integrating tourism and conservation with existing local historical, socio-economic, and institutional landscapes is associated with the promotion of local community participation in resource management. The book adopts an interdisciplinary approach to understand social-ecological systems that explain the relationship between protected areas, tourism, and community livelihoods linkages. The book provides a platform for dialogue to develop a better understanding of the complex relationships between protected areas, tourism, and community livelihoods linkages. Due to the role tourism plays in poverty alleviation, conservation, empowerment and addressing other environmental and social challenges, the book also connects tourism with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This edited volume aims to develop a better understanding of the complex relationships between protected areas, tourism, and community livelihoods. The book uses a multi-disciplinary approach to address lessons learned and challenges encountered over the years in different geographic, ecological, economic, political and cultural contexts.

## Climate Change and Resource Management



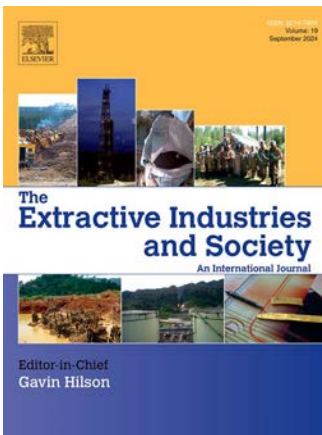
Silwal, N., Dhungana, N., Subedi, R., **Upadhaya, S.**, & Lee, C. H. (2024). Community perspectives on the effectiveness of watershed management institutions in the *Himalayas*. *Journal of Mountain Science*, 21(4), 1119-1139.

This study evaluates the effectiveness of Nepal’s first watershed conservation committee, Khageri Khola watershed. Our results show that the committee performed well, especially in technical, social, and environmental rationality, though areas like financial rationality and adaptive capacity need improvement. Socio-demographic factors significantly influenced respondents' perceptions of the committee’s effectiveness. The findings emphasize the need for a policy-guided institutional mechanism tailored to diverse watershed characteristics to enhance sustainability.



Bhandari, K., **Upadhaya, S.**, Yadav, N. K., Poudel, P., Heyojoo, B. P., Timilsina, Y. P., & Koirala, P. (2024). What factors drive wildlife-vehicle collisions on highways? A case study from Western Nepal. *Journal for Nature Conservation*, 81, 126678.

The study identified key factors influencing WVCs along the East-West highway of Banke and Bardia National Parks, with topography, retaining walls, canals, and land cover significantly affecting collision likelihood. Hotspots were identified using kernel density estimation, revealing that WVCs are more frequent near forested areas, with mammals like spotted deer and wild boars most commonly affected. Mitigation measures such as wildlife crossings, canopy bridges, and alternative routes outside park boundaries are recommended to reduce WVC incidents.



**Poudyal, N. C., Gyawali, B. R.,** & Acharya, S. (2024). Reclamation satisfaction and post-mining land use potential in Central Appalachia, US. *The Extractive Industries and Society*, 20, 101550.

Community support for the mining industry hinges on effective reclamation that ensures land benefits landowners and communities post-mining. Poorly reclaimed abandoned mines often reduce local support. This study, based on surface mining in Kentucky, examined landowners' and neighbors' perceptions of environmental change, reclamation satisfaction, and barriers to using reclaimed land. Findings showed low satisfaction with reclamation efforts and limited success in land management due to inadequate reclamation. Financial incentives, legal assurance, and stronger enforcement were seen as potential policy solutions. While landowners were unlikely to adopt educational projects or public parks, they were more open to farmland, timber, and conservation, which were also favored by neighbors. Although focused on mining, the study offers insights into the social dynamics of mining's impact, reclamation, and land use options in extractive regions.



Sharma, S., Beslity, J. O., Rustad, L., Shelby, L. J., Manos, P. T., **Khanal, P.**, ... & Khanal, C. (2024). Remote Sensing and GIS in Natural Resource Management: Comparing Tools and Emphasizing the Importance of In-Situ Data. *Remote Sensing*, 16(22), 4161.

There is a critical need for natural resource managers to understand the expanding capabilities of image sources, analysis techniques, and in situ validation methods. This article reviews key image analysis tools in natural resource management, highlighting their unique strengths across diverse



applications such as agriculture, forestry, water resources, soil management, and natural hazard monitoring.

GEOGRAFISKA  
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Adhikari, T. R., Baniya, B., Tang, Q., Chen, D., **Talchabhadel, R.**, Li, H., Shrestha, S., Sigdel, M., Budhathoki, B. R., **Pradhanang, S. M.**, Pradhananga, D., & Awasthi, R. P. (2024). Identification precipitation threshold and resulting river discharge: An IDF-based approach in the Central Himalaya, Nepal. *Geografiska Annaler: Series A, Physical Geography*, 1–16.

This study, conducted in the Himalayan region of Nepal, uses an innovative approach based on Intensity-Duration-Frequency (IDF) curves to identify potential precipitation extremes that could impact extreme river discharges. A detailed analysis of historical hydro meteorological events and their effects in Nepal was carried out to select a specific event for in-depth examination. The research also assesses satellite-based precipitation data and applies frequency analysis methods, including the Gumbel and Log Pearson Type III distributions, tailored to the region's unique conditions. In addition, the study examines Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP) and Depth-Area-Duration (DAD) curves at various sub-basin levels.

AGU

Water Resources  
Research



Prajapati, R., Gardner, J., Pavelsky, T., & **Talchabhadel, R.** (2024). Longitudinal Recovery of Suspended Sediment Downstream of Large Dams in the US. *Water Resources Research*, 60(6), e2023WR036759.

The longitudinal recovery of suspended sediment concentration (SSC) along rivers could serve as a novel metric for assessing downstream responses to dams in terms of space rather than time. However, this approach is rarely quantified due to the lack of spatial SSC data. Satellites can estimate SSC along rivers, even in areas without field data, and offer sufficient spatial resolution to assess downstream recovery over distances ranging from tens to hundreds of kilometers. In this study, we use a recently published database of spatially explicit SSC observations derived from Landsat imagery to quantify whether a river recovers, the percentage of SSC recovery, and the length of the recovery zone downstream of large dams across the contiguous United States (CONUS).



Bhattarai, Y., Bista, S., **Talchabhadel, R.**, Duwal, S., & Sharma, S. (2024). Rapid prediction of urban flooding at street-scale using physics-informed machine learning-based surrogate modeling. *Total Environment Advances*, 12, 200116.

This study demonstrates that a machine learning-based surrogate model for a physics-based two-dimensional hydrodynamic model can significantly improve computational efficiency while preserving physical consistency and maintaining high predictive accuracy. By integrating foundational knowledge and recent advancements in big data analytics, atmospheric science, hydrology, and engineering, this research aims to enhance urban resilience in the face of increasingly extreme weather and climate events.



Bhattarai, S., & **Talchabhadel, R.** (2024). Comparative Analysis of Satellite-Based Precipitation Data across the CONUS and Hawaii: Identifying Optimal Satellite Performance. *Remote Sensing*, 16(16), 3058.

This study provides a comprehensive evaluation of three widely used satellite-based precipitation datasets (SPDs)—PERSIANN, CHIRPS, and MERRA—along with a monthly reanalysis dataset, TERRA. These datasets cover the contiguous United States (CONUS) and Hawaii, and include data at daily, monthly, and yearly timescales. The performance of these SPDs is assessed using ground-based observations from the United States Geological Survey (USGS).



Earth's Future



Rahimi, L., Hoque, M., Ahmadisharaf, E., Alamdari, N., Misra, V., Maran, A. C., Kao, S., AghaKouchak, A., & **Talchabhadel, R.** (2024). Future Climate Projections for South Florida: Improving the Accuracy of Air Temperature and Precipitation Extremes With a Hybrid Statistical Bias Correction Technique. *Earth's Future*, 12(8), e2024EF004531.

Projecting future climate variables is crucial for understanding the potential impacts of hydroclimatic hazards, such as floods and droughts. However, evaluating these impacts is challenging due to the coarse spatial resolution of global climate models (GCMs), which is why bias correction techniques are commonly applied. This study used two statistical methods—standard empirical quantile mapping (EQM) and a hybrid approach combining EQM with linear correction (EQM-LIN)—to bias-correct precipitation and air temperature data simulated by nine different GCMs.



## Public Health

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Elder, L., Funfrock, J., Castro, E., & **Lamichhane-Khadka, R.** (2024). Assessing biosocial vectors in water contamination, the incidence of water-borne illnesses, and insecurity in Kathmandu, Nepal. *Journal of Water and Health*, jwh2024095.

In this study, we use water quality tests, epidemiological data, and ethnographic interviews gathered in Kathmandu in 2017 to provide an interdisciplinary analysis of water insecurity, illness, and targeted responses. Our findings fit the pattern of the past 20 years: the concentration of coliform bacteria across water sources remains unsafe. Our epidemiological data documents high rates of water-borne infectious diseases consistent with fecal contamination of water sources. Our ethnographic interviews suggest that social marginalization, poverty, and dislocation are major drivers in the incidence of illness. The results suggest that improving water quality, access, and health outcomes in Kathmandu requires redirecting government resources to subsidize community participation in building, managing, and maintaining water infrastructure and supporting women's leadership in these community organizations.

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**Shrestha, P.**, Lian, M., Struthers, J., Nabi, O., Bekele, B. B., Kozower, B., ... & Liu, Y. (2024). Racialized Economic Segregation and Disparities in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Care and Outcomes. *CHEST Pulmonary*, 100101.

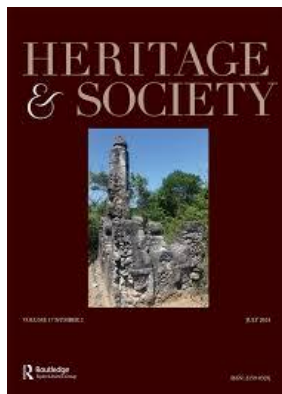
Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patients living in highly segregated, low-income predominantly Black counties face significantly higher risks of late-stage diagnosis, treatment underutilization, and lung cancer mortality compared to those in highly segregated, high-income White counties. This highlights the critical impact of racial and economic segregation on NSCLC care and outcomes. However, the disparities faced by Black patients are not solely due to residential segregation, suggesting that reinvesting in devalued Black neighborhoods is crucial but may not be sufficient to eliminate racial disparities in lung cancer treatment and outcomes.



**Shrestha, P.,** Hsieh, M. C., Ferguson, T., Peters, E. S., Trapido, E., Yu, Q., ... & Wu, X. C. (2024). Higher 10-Year Survival with Breast-Conserving Therapy over Mastectomy for Women with Early-Stage (I-II) Breast Cancer: Analysis of the CDC Patterns of Care Data Base. *Breast Cancer: Basic and Clinical Research*, 18, 11782234241273666.

Our finding suggests that Breast-Conserving Therapy (BCT) may provide better long-term outcomes compared to mastectomy for many women with early-stage breast cancer. This finding emphasizes the importance of shared decision-making between healthcare providers and patients to achieve personalized and favorable treatment choices.

## Social and Applied Science



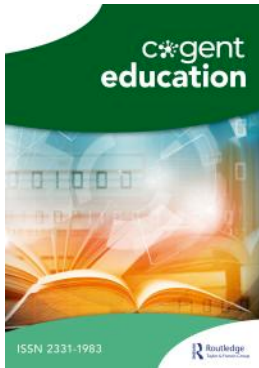
Rosenkranz, L., **Spoon, J.,** & Deur, D. (2024). Unbalanced or Absent: Assessing Indigenous Representation in Interpretive Materials at Government Administered Heritage Sites in Cascadia and Hawai ‘i. *Heritage & Society*, 1-31.

This quantitative study assessed Indigenous representation in interpretive materials at heritage sites with Indigenous ancestral connections administered by government agencies in Cascadia (Idaho and Washington, USA) and the Big Island of Hawai‘i. Result expressed that visitor center exhibits, wayside signs, brochures, and maps in these settler-colonial contexts privileged settlers over Indigenous peoples in their presentation of the past and present.



**Spoon, J.,** Gerkey, D., & Rai, A. (2023). Contextualizing patterns in short-term disaster recoveries from the 2015 Nepal earthquakes: household vulnerabilities, adaptive capacities, and change. *Ecology and Society*.

This multivariate quantitative study with community outreach focused on short-term rural disaster recoveries from the 2015 catastrophe Nepal earthquakes and cascading effects, such as landslides. It surveyed 400 households that experienced damage or destruction of their primary home and settlement infrastructure in four locations. Results illustrated that hazard exposure and place-based agro-pastoral livelihoods, and to a lesser extent, local knowledge and practices, such as mutual aid through work exchange, were the most significant variables in shaping disaster impacts and recovery trajectories. Findings were shared in a series of local and national research return workshops to validate results and elicit feedback.



Al Farra, N. K., **Belbase, S.**, Safi, S., Qablan, A., Tairab, H., & Opoku, M. P. (2024). Impact of using virtual and concrete manipulative on students' learning of fractions. *Cogent Education*, 11(1), Article 2379712.

Fraction operations are a crucial component of elementary mathematics globally. Many students face challenges in understanding fractions and their operations. This study aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of using virtual manipulatives versus concrete manipulatives in teaching fraction addition and subtraction to elementary students in the United Arab Emirates. The results of this quasi-experimental study indicated that student performance in fraction operations improved more with concrete manipulatives than with virtual ones. This suggests that hands-on materials better support student learning and comprehension of fraction concepts.



**Poudel-Tandukar, K.**, Davis, C., Mosijchuk, Y., & Poudel, K. C. (2024). Social and emotional well-being intervention to reduce stress, anxiety, and depression among Ukrainian refugees resettled in Massachusetts. *International Journal of Social Psychiatry*, 00207640241270870.

This study evaluated the effect of a Social and Emotional Wellbeing intervention on mental health (stress, anxiety, and depression) and emotional health outcomes (coping, self-efficacy, social support, and conflict resolution) among Ukrainian refugees in Massachusetts. Our results showed that stress, anxiety, and depression were reduced, and coping, self-efficacy, and social support networking skills were improved among Ukrainians after intervention.

# Nepal Corner

## **Nepali students spend billions on education abroad**

In the first five months of fiscal year 2024/25, Nepali students spent Rs 47 billion to study abroad

<https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/nepali-students-spend-billions-abroad-whats-driving-the-education-exodus-67918dbd5400d.html>

## **Nepali students return to the US early, fearing new immigration policies**

After the initiation of the new administration, several US Universities are requesting their international students to return early from their homeland

<https://kathmandupost.com/national/2025/01/21/nepali-students-return-to-the-us-early-fearing-trump-s-travel-curbs>

## **Conservation and development challenges in Nepal**

While development is good for a country like Nepal, it is a tough act to balance it with nature conservation

<https://news.mongabay.com/2024/12/still-no-sweet-spot-in-2024-for-nepal-in-balancing-conservation-development/>

## **Innovative use of medical waste in Nepal**

Nepal's hospitals are being innovative and turning medical waste into cooking gas

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20241014-the-hospitals-in-nepal-turning-medical-waste-into-cooking-gas>

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

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