

Short Report on BNAC 11th Nepal Study Days

April 18-19 2013, Edinburgh

The 11th Nepal Study Day (NSD), an annual event organised by the Britain Nepal Academic Council (BNAC) was jointly hosted by the University of Edinburgh and Royal Botanic Garden (Edinburgh) on 18-19 April 2013. As in the previous years, the event brought together established scholars and early career researchers, working on diverse subject areas and disciplines on Nepal. Over seventy people at various stages in their research and academic career, currently working across the UK and Europe, attended this event. A total of 34 papers - academic, research, and reflections – were presented and discussed.

The first day (18th April) was hosted at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. There were a total of four plenary sessions on the first day with a total of 18 papers. The day started with a panel on Nepali politics (four presentations) followed by Environment (five presentations), health (four presentations) and development (five presentations). Each presenter was allocated ten minutes time for presentation and final five minutes for discussion and questions and answers session. In the afternoon, there was a tour of the Royal Botanic Garden and herbarium guided by Dr. Mark Watson and Dr Bhaskar Adhikari. Scottish Ceilidh dance and Nepali dinner was organised for the evening, which offered an opportunity for the conference participants to meet each other as well as meet other Nepali community in Edinburgh in an informal and relaxed environment.

The second day (19th of April) programme was held at Chrystal McMillan Building in George Square, University of Edinburgh. On this day, there were four panels. The day began with the panel on social change in Nepal (six presentations), followed by the next panel on art, language and culture (four presentations). The final two panels in the afternoon were on gender issues (three presentations including a documentary film called Himalayan Sisters by Anne Milne) and Nepali Diaspora in the UK (three presentations). Again, all presenters had ten minutes time to present their papers followed by five minutes for questions and answers session.

Overall, both days had been very engaging and provided a fantastic networking opportunity for all participants. It also offered an excellent opportunity for the participants to get to know each other and discuss about on-going/upcoming research on Nepal. The organisers received overwhelmingly positive feedback. The 11th NSD ended with an hour long informal BNAC general meeting.

The NSD was jointly funded by the Centre for South Asian studies (CSAS), University of Edinburgh and BNAC. The event organisers would like to thank funders and all the participants for their presentation, academic engagement and BNAC and CSAS for financial support.

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