

Editorial Note

It is with great delight that I wish to announce the second volume of the Nepal Journal of Sociology (*NJS*). This volume represents our commitment to promoting novel ideas, viewpoints and research work that contain sociological and interdisciplinary insights. For this, I sincerely request and encourage scholars, students and researchers, to make *NJS* a forum for contributing and expressing alternative perspectives. It is the contributors who bring the vitality necessary for the *NJS* to thrive. I extend my deep gratitude to all the contributors who have made *NJS* feasible for 2025. I am equally thankful to all the peer reviewers and the members of the editorial team, whose constructive comments and intellectual inputs have significantly enhanced the quality of the papers.

This volume encompasses concerns, as well as the distinctive observations and insights offered by all the contributors in their respective works. These works update us on how and in what respect Nepali society is dynamically embedded in broader historical and global processes. The opening article, “Finding Success while Losing Culture,” offers an exploration of how Nepali and English languages operate as markers of identity (both in Nepal and in the diaspora). It highlights the ambivalence of modern Nepali subjectivity and unveils the paradox of aspirations and cultural engagement. “Hyolmo in Oralities and Ethnographies” weaves deep personal yet scholarly reflections on how the Hyolmo community has been represented inconsistently in the Western (particularly anthropological) research. By weaving the author’s personal self with ethnographic critique, this essay enriches our understanding of the complex interface between oral tradition and Western scholarship.

The next article, “Post-Conflict Political Mobilization and Borderland Brokers in Madhesh,” assembles grounded stories from Nepal’s Tarai-Madhesh that reflect the nuances of everyday political brokerage that transpired after 2006. It reveals the agency of actors who navigate shifting power landscapes and highlights the centrality of borderland dynamics. “The Blight and Burden of Intercaste Marriage” investigates the structural, cultural, and societal challenges experienced by individuals who traverse caste boundaries in their intimate lives. Situating the data drawn from the field, this work underscores the persistence of caste-based prejudice and the way it ostracizes the social positioning of the intercaste couples.

In “Ambedkar’s Controversial Views on Indigenous Peoples,” the author critically engages with Ambedkar’s writings, bringing nuanced insights into the fore on Ambedkar’s position on indigeneity. Drawing distinctions between savage and civilized, this essay addresses comparative debates on indigeneity and social justice across South Asia. Another essay, “Rereading Nepal’s Language Diversity,” revisits the politics of multilingualism, situating Nepal’s linguistic landscape within broader debates on inclusion, recognition, and rights. Pointing up the politics of language in Tarai-Madhesh (particularly the Tharuhat and Madhesh movements), this essay reminds us that language remains both a resource and a site of contestation in a plural society like Nepal.

The next essay, “Improving Sociology at Tribhuvan University” provocatively raises a concern regarding the sociology curriculum, pedagogy, and institutional reform. This timely intervention calls for strengthening sociological teaching and research in Nepal, such that the discipline may more effectively respond to the challenges and dynamics of contemporary Nepali society. In our upcoming volume, we anticipate more interventions offering historically accurate, systematically precise, and forward-looking alternative accounts that review of and reflect on Sociology’s disciplinary history and contemporary practices in Nepal and at TU. Through these, we plan to foster a systematic and multifaceted dialogue.

The volume concludes with two thoughtful book reviews, which not only assess scholarly works of the time but also situate them in broader conversations on society and culture in South Asia and/or China. These reviews remind us of the importance of sustained dialogue across texts, disciplines, and contexts.

At this final moment of releasing this volume, I believe that our avid readers will find *NJS* both compelling and credible. We are interested in and anticipate the contributions by unsung researchers and academicians. Certainly, the readers of the *NJS* will share this voice. As the Editor-in-Chief, I once again extend heartfelt thanks to all contributors, peer reviewers, editorial team members, the Head, colleagues, and the staff members of the Central Department of Sociology. May this volume serve not only as a record of current scholarship but also as an invitation for future collaborations, comparative studies, and collective reflections.

Prof. Youba Raj Luintel, PhD

Editor-in-Chief

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