



Centre for the Study of
Labour and Mobility

CESLAM Kathmandu Migration Conference 2025

Summary Report

The seventh edition of the **CESLAM Kathmandu Migration Conference**, organised by the Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM) at Social Science Baha, was held online on **17-18 February 2025**. The conference had five panels spread over two days, including a special panel by Migration Health for South Asia (MiHSA) network. The event was inaugurated with welcome and opening remarks by Dr Sagar Raj Sharma, Professor at Kathmandu University's School of Arts and a member of CESLAM's Advisory Group and ended with closing remarks by Sakar Sapkota, Research Officer at CESLAM. It was attended by a total of 198 people in two days.

CESLAM Kathmandu Migration Conference 2025

17-18 February 2025

Schedule

(All times are in Nepal time)

Day 1: 17 February 2025 (Monday)
10.00 am–4:15 pm
10:00 –10:05 am Welcome remarks
Panel 1: Lived Experiences of Nepali Migrants across Borders 10:05 –11:45 am Chair: Arjun Kharel
1. (Digital) Diasporic Social Networks of Nepalese Immigrants in the San Francisco Bay Area of California: An Ethnographic Examination of Informal Social Protection Manju von Rospatt, Independent Researcher
2. Home Away from Home: Migration Experiences of Nepali Namles in Gangtok Chandana Sharma, Researcher, MEMO Project
3. English Language Ability and the Labour Market Opportunities: An Analysis of Sustainable Socio-economic Integration of Nepali Immigrants Lalit Magar, PhD Scholar, Pokhara University, Nepal
Lunch Break: 11:45 –12:45 pm
Panel 2: Migrants' Aspirations and Return Experiences 12:45–2:25 pm Chair: Sanjay Sharma
1. Precarious Future(s) and Migration: Everyday Experiences of Hope and Waiting among Nepali Migrant Bhokraaj Gurung, Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Kent, UK
2. The Paradox of Protection: Redefining Resilience and Reintegration Among Nepali Women Migrants Alana Pradhan, Knowledge Management Officer, UN Women
3. Employment as an Alternative: Rethinking the Role of Local Job Opportunities in Shaping Migration Aspirations Among Nepali Women in Rural Communities Alexandra Berryman, PhD Scholar, University of Aberdeen, UK

<i>Break: 2:25–2:45 pm</i>
Special Panel: Defining Regional Agenda for Migration Health: Policies, Priorities and Perspectives from South Asia 2:45–4:15 pm
1. Ground Setting MiHSA Objectives About GSMERH Expectation-Setting Prof Anuj Kapilashrami, CGHIER and MiHSA
2. A South-Asian take on research priorities for migration health – CHNRI Result highlights from India and Pakistan, and Preliminary findings from Nepal Obindra Chand, CGHIER and MiHSA Sadikshya Bhattarai, CESLAM, Nepal
3. Case studies on profiling, policy mapping, indexing and deep-diving – MigPolX in Pakistan, India and Cambodia – Rationale and Application of the toolkit Dr Roomi Aziz, CGHIER and MiHSA Ishita Garg, MiHSA, India
4. Key policy gaps in Migration Health and Policy Priorities for Nepal Dr Anup Kanti Das, IOM, Nepal
5. Discussion and Conclusion Prof Anuj Kapilashrami, CGHIER Prof Bernadette Kumar, NIPH
Day 2: 18 February 2025 (Tuesday) 9:00–12:55 pm
Panel 1: Migration and Social Change in Nepal 09:00–10:40 am Chair: Anna Rør Falch
1. Current versus Past Migration: Which Matters More for Migration from Nepal? Katharina Luise Klaunig, <i>PhD Scholar, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, USA</i>
2. Coming of Age in the Age of Migration: The Role of Paternal Migration in the Transition to Adulthood in Nepal Emma Rebecca Labovitz, <i>PhD Scholar, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, USA</i>
3. The Impact of Nepali Migration on Nepali National Identity Suyasha Shakya, <i>Independent Researcher</i>
<i>Break: 10:40–11:00 am</i>
Panel 2: Different Dimensions of Migration 11:00–12:55 pm Chair: Khagendra Acharya
1. Navigating Precarity: Climate Change, Migration, and Adaptation Strategies in Rural Nepal Ankur Koirala, <i>Junior Researcher, Himalaya Centre for Asian, Kathmandu University</i>

2. Migration and Housebuilding as Engines of Becoming Middle Class in Pokhara

Anna Røer Falch, *Seminar leader, Oslo Metropolitan University and Kulturstudier, in Pokhara, Nepal*

3. Migration Aspirations among Students: Evidence from Nepalese Universities

Pradip Raj Tiwari, *PhD Scholar, Tribhuvan University*

4. A Study on Nepali White Cap Army in the French Foreign Legion in Light of Labour Migration

Susma Rai, *M.Phil Scholar, Tribhuvan University*

Closing Remarks
12.55 PM