



Centre for the Study of
Labour and Mobility

CESLAM Kathmandu Migration Conference 2026

Summary Report

The eighth 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 **16-17 February 2026**. The conference had five panels spread over two days. The event was inaugurated with welcome and opening remarks by Dr Sambriddhi Kharel, Sociologist/Independent Researcher 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 123 people in two days.

CESLAM Kathmandu Migration Conference 2026

16–17 February 2026

Schedule

(All times are in Nepal time)

Day 1: 16 February 2026 (Monday)
10:00 am–4:20 pm
10:00–10:05 am Welcome remarks Sambriddhi Kharel, Sociologist and Independent Researcher
Panel 1: Cross-Border Mobilities in the Past and Present 10:05–11:45 am Chair: Ambika Rai, Assistant Professor, Sikkim Manipal University, India
1. From Tibet to Terai: Seasonal Migration of Bhotiya Communities through Long Distance Medicinal Plant Trade in Northeast Nepal Arjun Chapagain, Innovative Research and Studies Center, Nepal Jun Wang, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
2. Building the Queen of Hills: Nepali Labourer in Colonial Darjeeling, Their Invisibilization and Reassertion

<p>Arunita Sanyal, <i>PhD Scholar, Jadavpur University, India</i></p>
<p>3. Medical Mobility across Empire: Medical-Based Migration between Nepal and British Ceylon (Sri Lanka), c. 1850-1947 U.N.K. Rathnayake, <i>PhD Scholar, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India</i></p>
<p>Break: 11:45 am –12:30 pm</p>
<p>Panel 2: Precarity and Health 12:30–2:10 pm Chair: Sadikshya Bhattarai, <i>PhD Scholar, Aarhus University, Denmark</i></p>
<p>1. Marginalised Labour and Reproductive Health: Unpacking Sexual and Reproductive Health Inequities among Transnational Female Migrant <i>Bharias</i> in Darjeeling Hills, India Ambika Rai, <i>Assistant Professor, Sikkim Manipal University, India</i></p>
<p>2. Gendered Precarity and Agency: A Sociological Study of Nepali Women Migrants in GCC Countries Nusrat Azeema, Sita Chaudhary and Anmol Dhimal, <i>Hohai University, China</i></p>
<p>3. Between Open Borders and Precarious Work: Labor Mobility in India–Nepal Migration Khushi Titoria, <i>PhD Scholar, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India</i></p>
<p>Break: 2:10–2:40 pm</p>
<p>Panel 3: Remittances and Household Economy 2:40–4:20 pm Chair: Arjun Kharel, <i>Research Fellow, CESLAM</i></p>
<p>1. How Remittances Reallocate Resources: Quasi-Experimental Evidence from Nepal Aayushma Manandhar, <i>University of Oxford, UK</i></p>
<p>2. International Labour Migration, Remittance and Its Use in Health Care Expenditures in Selected Municipalities of Koshi Province Susmita Nepal, <i>Assistant Professor, Om Health Campus, Nepal</i></p>
<p>3. Examining the Livelihood Outcomes of Foreign Labour Migrants’ Households in Pokhara, Nepal, Using DFID Sustainable Livelihood Framework Yuba Raj Tripathi, <i>Assistant Professor, Pokhara University, Nepal</i></p>
<p>Day 2: 17 February 2026 (Tuesday) 10:00 am–2:40 pm</p>
<p>Panel 1: Drivers and Aspirations 10:00 am–12:00 pm Chair: Arpita Giri Singh, <i>Assistant Professor, Gurugram University, India</i></p>
<p>1. Across Hills and Borders: How Migration Reshapes Work, Aspirations and Rural Life in Nepal and Assam Biswajyoti Roy, <i>PhD Scholar, Mangalayatan University, India</i></p>

2. Migration as Adaptation or Distress? A Qualitative Study of Climate Impacts in Nepal's Hilly and Terai Regions

Dipin Subedi, *Centre for Social Change, Nepal*

3. Internal Migration, Informal Settlements and Construction Safety Challenges in Kathmandu

Nusrat Azeema, Sita Chaudhary and Anmol Dhimal, *Hohai University, China*

Muhammad Akbar, *China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research (IWHR), China*

4. Indian Migration to Nepal: Pattern, Drivers and Socio-Economic Implication under an Open Border Regime

Rekha Rani and Swati Mehta, *Research Scholar, Guru Nanak Dev University, India*

Break: 12:00–1:00 pm

Panel 2: Conceptual Exploration

1:00–2:40 pm

Chair: Sanjay Sharma, *Postdoctoral Fellow, Aarhus University, Denmark*

1. Of Borders, Borderlands, and Bordering: Reading Nepali School Textbooks Along the Indo-Nepal Borderland

Kritika Chhetri, *PhD Scholar, South Asian University, India*

2. The Play of ‘Duality’ in the Conceptual ‘Homeland’: An Analysis of the Feeling of Disenchantment and Disorientation Upon Homecoming

Ujina Rana, *PhD Scholar*

3. Labour in Motion, Capital in Command: A Marxian Reading of Nepal’s Migrant Labour Regime

Suchismita Ghoshal, *Independent Researcher, India*

Closing Remarks

02:40 pm