



Centre for the Study of  
Labour and Mobility



## CESLAM Kathmandu Migration Conference 2026

16–17 February 2026

### Schedule

(All times are in Nepal time)

<b>Day 1: 16 February 2026 (Monday)</b>
<b>10:00 am–4:20 pm</b>
10:00–10:05 am <b>Welcome Remarks: Sambriddhi Kharel, Sociologist and Independent Researcher</b>
<b>Panel 1: Cross-Border Mobilities in the Past and Present</b> 10:05–11:45 am <b>Chair: Ambika Rai, Assistant Professor, Sikkim Manipal University, India</b>
<b>1. From Tibet to Terai: Seasonal Migration of Bhotiya Communities through Long Distance Medicinal Plant Trade in Northeast Nepal</b> <b>Arjun Chapagain, Innovative Research and Studies Center, Nepal</b> <b>Jun Wang, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong</b>
<b>2. Building the Queen of Hills: Nepali Labourer in Colonial Darjeeling, Their Invisibilization and Reassertion</b> <b>Arunita Sanyal, PhD Scholar, Jadavpur University, India</b>
<b>3. Medical Mobility across Empire: Medical-Based Migration between Nepal and British Ceylon (Sri Lanka), c. 1850-1947</b> <b>U.N.K. Rathnayake, PhD Scholar, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India</b>
<b>Break: 11:45 am –12:30 pm</b>
<b>Panel 2: Precarity and Health</b> 12:30–2:10 pm <b>Chair: Sadikshya Bhattarai, PhD Scholar, Aarhus University, Denmark</b>
<b>1. Marginalised Labour and Reproductive Health: Unpacking Sexual and Reproductive Health Inequities among Transnational Female Migrant <i>Bharias</i> in Darjeeling Hills, India</b> <b>Ambika Rai, Assistant Professor, Sikkim Manipal University, India</b>
<b>2. Gendered Precarity and Agency: A Sociological Study of Nepali Women Migrants in GCC Countries</b>

<b>Nusrat Azeema, Sita Chaudhary and Anmol Dhimal, Hohai University, China</b>
<b>3. Between Open Borders and Precarious Work: Labor Mobility in India–Nepal Migration</b> <i>Khushi Titoria, PhD Scholar, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India</i>
<b>Break: 2:10–2:40 pm</b>
<b>Panel 3: Remittances and Household Economy</b> 2:40–4:20 pm <b>Chair: Arjun Kharel, Research Fellow, CESLAM</b>
<b>1. How Remittances Reallocate Resources: Quasi-Experimental Evidence from Nepal</b> <i>Aayushma Manandhar, University of Oxford, UK</i>
<b>2. International Labour Migration, Remittance and Its Use in Health Care Expenditures in Selected Municipalities of Koshi Province</b> <i>Susmita Nepal, Assistant Professor, Om Health Campus, Nepal</i>
<b>3. Examining the Livelihood Outcomes of Foreign Labour Migrants' Households in Pokhara, Nepal, Using DFID Sustainable Livelihood Framework</b> <i>Yuba Raj Tripathi, Assistant Professor, Pokhara University, Nepal</i>
<b>Day 2: 17 February 2026 (Tuesday)</b> 10:00 am–2:40 pm
<b>Panel 1: Drivers and Aspirations</b> 10:00 am–12:00 pm <b>Chair: Arpita Giri Singh, Assistant Professor, Gurugram University, India</b>
<b>1. Across Hills and Borders: How Migration Reshapes Work, Aspirations and Rural Life in Nepal and Assam</b> <i>Biswajyoty Roy, PhD Scholar, Mangalayatan University, India</i>
<b>2. Migration as Adaptation or Distress? A Qualitative Study of Climate Impacts in Nepal's Hilly and Terai Regions</b> <i>Dipin Subedi, Centre for Social Change, Nepal</i>
<b>3. Internal Migration, Informal Settlements and Construction Safety Challenges in Kathmandu</b> <i>Nusrat Azeema, Sita Chaudhary and Anmol Dhimal, Hohai University, China</i> <i>Muhammad Akbar, China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research (IWHR), China</i>
<b>4. Indian Migration to Nepal: Pattern, Drivers and Socio-Economic Implication under an Open Border Regime</b> <i>Rekha Rani and Swati Mehta, Research Scholar, Guru Nanak Dev University, India</i>
<b>Break: 12:00–1:00 pm</b>
<b>Panel 2: Conceptual Exploration</b> 1:00–2:40 pm <b>Chair: Sanjay Sharma, Postdoctoral Fellow, Aarhus University, Denmark</b>

**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**