



Capacity Building within Research Communication, Dissemination and Networking

MAGAART CONFERENCE

6-7 December 2016

Nagarkot Hillside Village Resort, Nepal

Hosted and organized by:
Tribhuvan University



Nagarkot, Bhaktapur, Nepal

Introduction

When MAGAART had its first 1-year extension in December 2015, it was decided to conduct a final wrap up conference of the project's thematic focus on Stability, Democracy and Rights, hosted by Tribhuvan University, Nepal.

The conference took place from 6-7 December 2016 in the beautiful mountainous area of Nagarkot, close to Kathmandu. During the two full days, a total of 47 people attended the conference, which had presentations and paper from 25 speakers from all partner universities; Maseno (MSU), Gulu (GU), Roskilde (RUC), Aalborg (AAU), Aarhus (AU), and Tribhuvan University (TU).

Both Professors and several BSU-I PhD students used the event to disseminate new research findings and elaborated content from their ongoing PhD thesis projects. It also gave the PhD students an opportunity to benefit from fruitful academic discussions with PhD supervisors and other scholars present.

The conference began with a warm welcome and inaugural session with TU's Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Tritha Raj Khaniya, Rector Prof. Dr. Sudha Tripathi, registrar Mr. Dilli Ram Upreti – and the two Deans from the Faculty of Education, and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science: Netra Prasad Dhital and Prof. Chintamani Pokharel.

Furthermore, Prof. and Project Director Jens Seeberg gave a brief introductory talk with highlights of the project, e.g. referring to the last year's preceding SDR seminar in Kenya, the

variety of PhD training workshops done throughout the project, and the small but important role in the establishment of the Open and Distance Learning Centre at TU.

Prof. Charles Okumu (GU) followed with the good news that another Ugandan PhD student (Alidri Agatha) had finalized her thesis project recently. Prof. Inger Lassen (AAU) highlighted the value of international interaction and the importance of knowledge exchange between institutions.

Prof. Preben Kaarsholm called MAGAART an interesting mix of universities that has turned out to make much sense and has made a lot of openings; E.g. in culture and peace studies across boundaries, and in the many experiments with eLearning.

Prof. Catherine Muhoma (MSU) reflected on the continued need for knowledge creation as a core business for universities in a world of Brexit, Trump and a Gambian president proclaiming eternity rule. She reminded that there are good reasons to look at human needs, and to keep a finger at what is going on around us. The work is not done at all.



Welcome by Prof. & Project Coordinator, Lekhnath Sharma, TU



Welcome by Prof. & Project Director, Jens Seeberg, AU

Conference programme

[DOWNLOAD THE CONFERENCE PROGRAMME](#)

Book of abstracts

[DOWNLOAD BOOK OF ABSTRACTS](#)

Conference presentations

Beneath follows a list of speakers and titles of presentations, which are available for download (PDF). The presentations were divided into technical/thematic sessions: 1) Migration, 2) Education, 3) Gender, 4) Citizenship, and 5) Securitization of development. Each session was followed by rounds of discussions, and a closing session (see beneath).

DAY 1

MIGRATION

1. Prof. Inger Lassen, Aalborg University: *Resisting dehumanization: citizen voices and acts of solidarity*. [Open presentation](#)
2. Prof. Charles Nelson Okumu, Gulu University: *The Impact of Returning Home after the Twenty-Year Armed Conflict in Northern Uganda: The Impact of the Lord's Resistance Army War on the Acoli Population*. [Open presentation](#)
3. Jens Seeberg, Aarhus University: *Gurung and Gurkha trajectories post 2009*. [Open presentation](#)

EDUCATION

4. Helen Christine Amongin Waiswa, GU: *Emotional Intelligence, Interpersonal relations and Achievement among University Upgrading Teacher Students*. [Open presentation](#)
5. Shurendra Ghimire, TU: *Religious Schools and Reproduction in Secular Nepal: Peril of Classical Theory of Secularization*. [Open presentation](#)
6. Stephen Odama, GU: *The Impact of Examination Ridden System of Education on Democracy in Education in Uganda: An Implication for Policy Change*. [Open presentation](#)
7. Hari Maya Sharma, TU: *Slicing the LEP Onion: a multilayered analysis of Language in Education Policy in Nepal*. [Open presentation](#)
8. Kamal Raj Devkota, TU: *Navigating Exclusionary Inclusion: School Experience of Dalit EFL Learners in Rural Nepal*. [Open presentation](#)
9. Stella Laloyo, GU: *How are violent political conflict and its aftermath gendered, and what are the implications of this gendering?* Open presentation. [Open presentation](#)
10. Meena Gurung (Thapa), TU: *Women, Ghardhandha, Reproduction and Politics*. [Open presentation](#)
11. Shukra Raj Adhikari, TU: *Construction of Masculinity in Vedic Period: A Sociological Analysis*. [Open presentation](#)

DAY 2

CITIZENSHIP

12. Charles Amone, GU: *Contested Citizenship, Religious Discrimination and the Growth of Nubian Identity in Northern Uganda*. [Open presentation](#)
13. Anita Adhikari, TU: *Globalization, Citizenship and Subjectivity in my family: An analysis of the changes in the last four generation*. [Open presentation](#)
14. Kafle PP, Silvanus V, Gupta RK, Pant P, Koirala, B, TU: *Social alienation in health and environment in a rural area of Kathmandu: An ecological study*. [Open presentation](#)
15. Prof. Florence Ngesa Indede, MSU: *The Voice of Reason by the Children in the Wilderness*. [Open presentation](#)
16. Prapanna Maskey, TU: *Citizenship Agenda and Dimension of Squatters*. [Open presentation](#)
17. Tilak Biswakarma, TU: *Citizenship and Social Security of Landless Dalits*. [Open presentation](#)
18. Dhruba Karki, TU: *Heroes and Icons, Cultural Ambassadors and Peace Makers*. [Open presentation](#)

SECURITIZATION OF DEVELOPMENT

19. Babiiha Mpsi Sulayman, GU: *Tourism Revenue Sharing Fund in post war Acholi land: Marginality or recovery?* [Open presentation](#)
20. Philip Visendi Lumwamu, MSU: *Implications for Habermas Theory of Communicative Action As a Theoretical Framework for Mediation Practice in Post-Election Kenya*. [Open presentation](#)
21. Preben Kaarsholm & Bodil Folke Frederiksen, RUC: *Amaoti and Pumwani: Aspiration, exclusion and belonging in South Africa and Kenya in comparative perspective*. [Open presentation](#)
22. Madhusudan Subedi, TU: *Demolition to Parallel Service Delivery: Construction of Sahid Marg and Legitimacy During the Armed Conflict in Rolpa, Nepal*. [Open presentation](#)

23. Bhawana Pokhrel, TU: *South Asian Migration, Diaspora and Human Rights concerns in Literature*. [Open presentation](#)
24. Ulrik Høj Johnsen, AU: *Reassessing the Value of Museum Collection through Collaboration*. [Open presentation](#)
25. Betty Obura Ogange, MSU: *Please raise your hand if you wish to speak': Of virtual mobility and presence in an online cross-continental Community of Practice*. [Open presentation](#)

Final words from the conference organizer and Project Director

At the closing session Prof. Lekhnath Sharma praised the interdisciplinary discussions and inquiries during the two days. He also expressed hope that research collaboration will be able to continue in one way or the other, beyond MAGAART.

In Prof. Jens Seeberg's closing speech he stated that it was positive to see how the PhD research and papers have developed since the MSU seminar in 2015. First of all, because of hard work by each individual but also due to joint discussions and the challenging of each-others assumptions about the world; from our different perspectives and cultural blind spots. Furthermore, he highlighted the joint interest in exploring the diversity of views, positions and ideas - done in an internationally informed environment spanning three continents of the world. This has been possible both thanks to elements of eLearning and eTools, *and* face-to-face workshops and conferences like this one.

Finally, Jens Seeberg concluded that MAGAART will leave a lot of potential for future collaboration, if funding can be found, e.g. in new research constellations based on topical interests. Here, some kind of virtual space to support communication and dialogue would be essential.



Group Photo, TU conference 2016

/ By Martin D. Larsen