



Exploring narratives of heatwaves and climate change in Nepal

Heatwaves have captured widespread attention as discussions about the changing climate intensify. They have multiple narratives across various fields: climate scientists view them as extreme climatic anomalies, while public health experts associate them with serious health risks and increased mortality. Policymakers and humanitarian groups construe them as disaster events and the media portray them as alarming threats to ecosystems and communities. These grand narratives are revealed through what is written, spoken, and communicated. But what can lived experiences of communities, entrenched in a climate that has challenged them for centuries, reveal about heatwaves?

Aim of the workshop:

In this workshop, drawing on findings from 2023 fieldwork in Nepal and textual analysis of newspaper articles, we will explore the concept of heatwave narratives that goes beyond merely the linguistic forms. By extending our focus to include narratives from text, speech, as well as the material world, we aim to deepen our understanding of heatwaves and climate change. This holistic approach will help us uncover stories, values, and social relations that cannot be revealed by natural language processing (NLP) analysis of narratives alone.

Join us in shaping an emerging network of researchers interested in exploring the intersections between climate change narratives, ethnography, and NLP methods.

What you will learn:

- The use of NLP, its limitations, and complementarities with ethnographic methods.
- Insights into the experiences of people of Nepal who have been facing and adapting to extreme heat for thousands of years.
- The importance of deepening our understanding of climate change narratives.

