Acknowledgements

I learnt about Nepali media from lots of people, all of whom can not be named here. For the case of print, they are Basanta Thapa, Kedar Sharma, Viplop Pratik, Kanak Mani Dixit, Sangeeta Lama, Deepak Thapa, Rajendra Dahal, Akhilesh Upadhyay, Narayan Wagle, Gunaraj Luitel, Manisha Aryal, Shova Gautam, Amrita Banskota, Keshav Raj Parajuli, Vinaya Kumar Kasajoo, Binod Bhattarai, Prasanta Aryal and Purna Basnet. For the case of radio, they are Raghu Mainali, Jitendra Raut, Madhu Acharya, Ghamaraj Luintel, Gopal Guragain, Upendra Aryal, and many of my former colleagues at Radio Sagarmatha.

Bikash Rauniar, Usha, Anup Subedi, Mohan Mainali have helped me understand the visual media. Bhaskar Gautam, Shekhar Parajulee, Komal Bhatta, Krishna Adhikari, Devraj Humagain, Ramesh Parajuli and Harsha Man Maharjan of the joint Media Research Group of Martin Chautari and Centre for Social Research and Development (CSRD) have become my media co-researchers and some of the articles in this book have benefited from the outcome of their research. Researchers Manju

Thapa, Pramod Bhatta, Chakraman Bishwakarma, Mahendra Lawoti, Kumar Yatru, Dheerendra Premarshi and members of the Jagaran Media Centre have similarly opened up windows to the world of media and social minorities in Nepal. Devraj Humagain, Pravakar Gautam, and Nawaraj Humagain provided excellent research help to make possible the writing of some of the articles. Abhi Subedi, Manjushree Thapa, Jagannath Adhikari, Seira Tamang, Anil Bhattarai, Krishna Hachhethu, Kumar Pandey, Sanjog Rupakheti, Tatsuro Fujikura, Rabindra Mishra, Lazima Onta-Bhatta, Bela Malik and Thomas Mathew have often provided, in private conversations, very sharp perspectives on different aspects of media operations in Nepal. I am grateful to Murari Sivakoti for his continuing support to the collective media research efforts at Martin Chautari.

Govinda Bandi and Mandira Sharma helped me understand some of the intricacies of the legal superstructure pertaining to media, especially under conditions of the state of emergency. Ashutosh Tiwari has long been interested in Nepali media and conversations with him over the years have always provided food for thought on the subject. Mark Liechty's pioneering work on media history and consumption in Kathmandu has been an inspiration even when I have been able to do precious little to follow-up on his anthropological insights on the link between media and the emerging dominant class imaginations in Nepal. In addition, I have benefited immensely from conversations and collaborations with Mary Des Chene between 1995 and 2002.

I owe an immense debt to Khagendra Sangraula and CK Lal for their very generous friendship and for what they have taught me about writing with courage and conviction. The excellence of their work and craft is a constant reminder to me of what it means to speak truth to power and how, even as I sought to expand the Nepali public sphere, my own contributions on

this front have been at best, inadequate. I dedictate this book to the two of them.

I would also like to thank The Kathmandu Post and its former editor Shyam K.C. for first publishing many of the articles included in this book. Thanks are also due to Akhilesh Upadhyay for publishing a few of the articles in the short-lived Nation Weekly during 2004 and to Kunda Dixit for publishing two of the essays in Nepali Times. The materials in this book have been presented in other forms in various forums in Kathmandu, Pokhara, Delhi, Jaipur, Bonn, Bielefeld, Paris, London, and Oxford. Questions raised by participants in these forums have often provided important feedback.

My parents and three sisters have had to suffer from my obsession with media for many years. I thank them for their generosity toward me and toward piles and piles of media materials stored in the house. For sharing a life that revolves around media production, consumption, and research, I am grateful to Rama Parajuli. Her work as a journalist and her insights have enhanced the analysis presented here in ways that might not be so obvious to others. Finally thanks to our son Vishad for the usual distractions and the demand that my computer be available not only for my writings but also for his consumption of media, especially, DVDs and CVDs of his favorite programs.