

EDITORIAL NOTE

This issue marks the beginning of the second quarter century in the life of this journal SINHAS. As in the past, this issue contains several articles that enhance our understanding of Nepali society, both its historical complexity and contemporary manifestation. We have published three historical analyses, written by a historian, a journalist and an anthropologist of music. Although veteran British historian John Whelpton has published several short reviews in SINHAS previously, his article on Juddha Shamsher Rana's response to the 1934 Nepal-Bihar Earthquake is his first full-length article to be published in this journal. Similarly, Nepali journalist Shubhanga Pandey's article on the politics of caste laws for Nepalis in British India during the early decades of the twentieth century is his first full-length academic article on any subject. While the journalistic work he does is very important for the lives of democracy in the entire South Asian region, we hope that he continues to research and produce more articles about the histories of Nepal.

Swedish anthropologist of music and a scholar of media and culture Ingemar Grandin has published two full-length articles and an equal number of book reviews in this journal previously. In his first article published in this journal back in 2005, he analyzed the world of children's songs and artists during the Panchayat era. This time, he has written about musical diversity during the late years of the Panchayat era, not known for its encouragement of diversity in Nepali cultural domains. While Whelpton and Pandey depend on traditional document-based archival research for their analysis, Grandin offers an ethnographic history of the music scene in Nepal during the 1980s by relying upon his field notes and personal observations from that era. In sum, we are confident that these three historical articles enhance our collective understanding of the twentieth century as experienced by Nepalis.

In another article, Japanese medical anthropologist Yuka Nakamura discusses the sociocultural implications of the term "side effects" when it comes to the use of biomedicines in Nepal. Similarly, Nepali anthropologist Sangita Thebe Limbu discusses how private schools in recent years have influenced identity formation of their students. For both Nakamura and Thebe Limbu, this is their second full-length publication in SINHAS. They have each published separate co-written articles in this journal previously.

Also in this issue is an extensive review of an edited volume published earlier this year, *Practices of Sociology in Nepal*. Written by Nepal's most well-known sociologist Chaitanya Mishra, this review essay provides variously critical commentary on the chapters in that book. Mishra and the contributors to that book discuss many ideas that those interested in improving the practices of sociology at Nepal's oldest and biggest university, Tribhuvan University—both in terms of teaching and research—could consider. We also carry three book reviews.

Two members of the erstwhile editorial collective of SINHAS have retired from the team. Yogesh Raj served as one of the editors of this journal since 2013. Katharine S. Rankin also served as one of the editors of this journal since 2018. We thank both of them for their contributions to making SINHAS a leading Nepal Studies journal. We also thank Avash Bhandari for his editorial assistance in realizing this issue.