
Editorial

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Editorial

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- 1 The EBHR editorial collective is pleased to release the second online issue of the journal. We are more than ever grateful to the PREO (*Pépinières de Revues en Open Access*) team and to the *Maison des Sciences de l'Homme* in Dijon (France) who accompanied us to ensure a smooth transition towards the OpenEdition platform.
- 2 The transition process is now almost complete. Starting with our next issue, to be published in 2022, EBHR will be hosted with no access restrictions on OpenEdition with the added benefit of greater visibility, referencing and indexing, as well as the systematic attribution of DOIs for any content. This represents the concretisation of our efforts over the last few years to provide EBHR with a sustainable publishing infrastructure: our commitment to the highest academic standards applies not only to the content but also to the publishing environment with all the benefits of open-access.
- 3 EBHR volumes 54 and 55, published in print in 2020, have already been converted for online publication, again thanks to PREO, and will be fully accessible in the coming weeks. This digitisation project to provide online access to past issues will continue in the months to come: for the time being, the journal archives remain freely accessible on the Digital Himalaya platform.
- 4 Since the launch of the previous online issue, the number of visitors to the website has been encouraging, proving that the readership is keen on having easy, free access to Himalayan studies. In November alone, we recorded more than 400 connections, with 1,200 pages visited. And this is only the beginning. Spread the word: EBHR is alive and well!
- 5 This issue hosts two original research articles. Anjali Verma and Neelam offer us a compelling historical study of the integration of the cult of Jagannath into the western Himalayan kingdom of Sirmaur. This is a welcome addition to the historiographic debates on the role of ascetic orders in state-building and on the rise of regional states, and it offers important comparative lines of inquiries. In his article on Satyahangma rituals, Martin Gaenzle sheds light on a little-known religious movement and on the celebration of the founder of a new Kirati religion in eastern Nepal. Richly illustrated,

the article provides welcome insights into these movements and their political implications in the context of Nepal at large.

- 6 As announced in a recent call for contributions, we are launching a new ‘Translations’ section dedicated to the dissemination of major contributions to Himalayan studies written in languages other than English. The first text to feature in this issue, on ‘Festivals, time and space’, is an article originally published in 1982 by the anthropologist Marc Gaborieau in the French journal *L’Homme*. With a foreword by Gérard Toffin, this article will appeal to anyone interested in the notions that organise the temporal cycle of annual rituals in Nepal, and more broadly in South Asia.
- 7 The ‘Debate’ section provides a space for constructive dialogue around themes and topics of relevance to the journal’s scope. This format provides an arena in which several colleagues can discuss at length and along scientific lines the interpretation of social facts, theoretical orientations, or specific analytical notions. In this issue, the debate takes place between Brigitte Steinmann and Susan Åsman about the latter’s book that was reviewed by Steinmann in EBHR 56. Going beyond the limited space provided for book reviews, Åsman’s response is followed by further comments made by Steinmann. We hope this space devoted to scholarly debate can enliven the journal and foster an exchange of ideas.
- 8 And last but not least, the ‘Book reviews’ section, run for more than ten years by Arik Moran, completes this volume with five book reviews on a wide range of topics.
- 9 We hope you will appreciate this issue and share it!

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