Editorial

Tristan Bruslé, Stéphane Gros and Philippe Ramirez
Editorial

Tristan Bruslé, Stéphane Gros and Philippe Ramírez

1 Issue 58 of the European Bulletin of Himalayan Research marks the completion of the journal’s transition from a printed journal to an online open-access journal, now referenced on DOAJ. The OpenEdition platform, one of Europe’s largest open-access publishing initiatives will host us for the years to come. This will no doubt improve our visibility and readership, while providing an ideal publishing environment for the EBHR with improved referencing and indexing and by systematically assigning a DOI to every article.

2 As we achieve this transition to online publication and renew our commitment to open-access, we also recognise the ongoing challenges it poses as an economic model. As we join OpenEdition, which has played a leading role in the development of open scholarly communication in the social sciences and humanities, we invite readers to consider the recent Action Plan for Diamond Open Access to support the development of non-commercial or community-driven forms of open-access publishing.

3 We are extremely grateful to the team at PREO (Université de Bourgogne) that supported us in a smooth transition to the digital world. Their continuous encouragement and help has proven decisive in the process. In terms of readership, online access to the EBHR has already proved a success: since the launch of the website last October, the monthly average shows that there are more than five hundred visitors.

4 We are particularly pleased to celebrate these achievements with the publication of this special issue edited by Erik de Maaker and Dan Smyer Yü, which broadens the geographical scope of the EBHR, taking us from the western Himalayas to Yunnan in Southwest China. The overall topic of this collection, which comprises an introduction and four articles, is ‘Storying multi-species relationships, commoning and the state in the Himalayas’. Erik de Maaker’s introduction provides a comprehensive overview of changing Himalayan contexts of multispecies relationships in daily life. Tara Bate takes us to Humla (Nepal) where a project to set up a conservation area threatens to jeopardise the relationship Limi Valley inhabitants have nurtured with their environment through pastoral practices. Zhen Ma considers that, for the Dai people
from Yunnan, water is a relational being, nowadays thrown into confusion by new
development-led irrigation schemes. Also set in Yunnan, Rui Sun's article describes
'cross-species love' between flower growers and roses, taking the metaphor as far as
comparing it with the relationships between mother and son. The last article of the
special issue, by Sangay Tamang, presents a colonial history of 'environmentalism of
the hills' that created a rift between the local population and their environment.

In their commentary article, Radha Adhikari and Jeevan R Sharma show a keen interest
in the way gender dynamics are depicted in Nepal in a context of a rapid
transformation of society. We hope our readers will appreciate their stance. We take
this opportunity to remind you that we are always open to comments on past
publications. Alex Michaels does just that by responding to Gérard Toffin's article in the
previous issue, debating the links between classical Indology and ethnology in
South Asia.

This issue also offers our readers a translation of an article by Samten Karmay and
Philippe Sagant on interrelated notions of rank, honour and power among the Sharwa
of Amdo, with an introduction by Katia Buffetrille. Finally, we have put together a
collection of five book reviews on migration, kinship, education, development and the
environment in Nepal and the Himalayas.

With the EBHR now providing state-of-the-art online publishing features and more
opportunities for a new form of research dissemination, now is the time to send us your
proposals and encourage your colleagues to do the same. We certainly continue to
strive to serve the community of fellow Himalayanists and to make the EBHR a dynamic
arena for academic exchange and cross-fertilisation.

Enjoy your read!

AUTHORS

TRISTAN BRUSLÉ
Editor, European Bulletin of Himalayan Research

STÉPHANE GROS
Editor, European Bulletin of Himalayan Research

PHILIPPE RAMIREZ
Editor, European Bulletin of Himalayan Research