

ISAS Public Lecture Series



RESTRUCTURING LIFE: AGENCIES AND INFRASTRUCTURES IN NEPAL'S POST-CONFLICT, POST-DISASTER STATE OF TRANSFORMATION

a talk by

SARA SHNEIDERMAN

Associate Professor in Anthropology and the Institute of Asian Research at the University of British Columbia

Sara Shneiderman is a socio-cultural anthropologist working in the Himalayan regions of Nepal, India, and China's Tibetan Autonomous Region, and serves as an Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology as well as in UBC's new School of Public Policy and Global Affairs/Institute of Asian Research. Her research explores the relationships between political discourse, ritual action, and cross-border mobility in producing ethnic identities and shaping social transformation. Current research projects include a new transdisciplinary partnership focused on Nepal's post-earthquake reconstruction; an ethnography of "post-conflict" state restructuring in Nepal that focuses on lived experiences of citizenship, territory and religiosity since 2006; an exploration of trans-Himalayan citizenship across the historical and contemporary borders of India, China, and Nepal; participation in a University of Toronto-based project on infrastructure and development in Nepal's agrarian districts; and collaboration in a Yale University-based project on urbanization and land use change in the Himalayas. In the wake of Nepal's April and May 2015 earthquakes, she was engaged in relief efforts focused on rural areas, and continues to participate in public debate and practice in this domain.

Prof. Shneiderman's first book is titled *Rituals of Ethnicity: Thangmi Identities Between Nepal and India*. An ethnography focusing on the cross-border circulation of Thangmi people and their ideas about ethnic, national, religious and political identity, *Rituals of Ethnicity* offers new explanations for the powerful persistence of ethnicity as a category of identification today despite the increasing realities of mobile, translocal lives.

She has also published several articles on the themes of Nepal's Maoist movement; ethnic classification, affirmative action, and the politics of recognition in South Asia; and borders and citizenship in the Himalaya. Prof. Shneiderman is currently preparing another manuscript that presents Thangmi ritual texts in Nepali and English translation. This is a collaborative project with an indigenous Thangmi researcher, a Nepali translator, and a linguistic anthropologist.

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

6 - 7 pm

10 Stephens Hall (ISAS Conf. Room)

Event Cosponsor: Himalayan Studies Program

Event is free & open to public. Information at 510-642-3608 or southasia.berkeley.edu