

Editorial Note

The Editorial Team takes great satisfaction in announcing the first issue of the annual bilingual journal, the *Nepal Journal of Sociology (NJS)*. This is a peer-reviewed, open access, and indexed journal of Sociology on the part of Tribhuvan University (TU).

Nearly nine years have elapsed since the sociology and anthropology departments were separated at TU, a transition that feels as though it occurred only recently. Since then, the Central Department of Sociology (CDSO) has faced various internal and external challenges impeding its academic progress, despite its distinct and independent status. Among the department's many responsibilities, the publication of its journal was one of the key undertakings. The long absence of a journal, however, has led to stagnation in our sociological discourse and impeded the extension of scholarly discussions.

A small but dedicated group of academics in and around TU remained somewhat concerned about this prolonged absence. We frequently faced persistent inquiries from both colleagues and students regarding the delay in the publication of department's separate journal. These repeated queries highlighted the growing sense of urgency and the professional discomfort we experienced during this period. However, with this publication in hand after such an extended hiatus, we are confident that the release of *NJS* has turned over a new leaf.

When American anthropologist James F. Fisher who was a visiting fellow at the then Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology originally proposed the idea for the department's journal, *Occasional Papers in Sociology and Anthropology (OPSA)*, in the early 1980s (when the department was functioning jointly), the department's senior Nepali colleagues welcomed the idea with gratitude. While the volumes of *OPSA* started appearing in the late 1980s, I joined the university to pursue my MA. After joining the department as a faculty, I contributed to *OPSA* and was a member of its Editorial Team in 1994. Over time, *OPSA* became erratic. With only 11 volumes published over 22 years, it eventually ceased to exist since 2009 and finally became a history.

While it has taken considerable time for us to evolve, we are now prepared to move in a new direction. We seek to distance ourselves from the specific agenda and content priorities that *OPSA* once upheld. Our objective is to expand both the scope and epistemological framework of *NJS*. Achieving this goal necessitates substantial contributions from seasoned scholars and researchers. We therefore issue a call to action for academics across all fields of social sciences to engage

with *NJS*. We especially encourage researchers from regional countries to make *NJS* a new platform for bringing forward the numerous sociologies of the region. Moving forward, we await your continual encouragement, suggestions, and input to keep our initiatives alive.

Articles featured in this edition are based on personal requests, although we had also announced a call to colleagues at TU. We extend our gratitude to each contributor for their diligence and patience. Additionally, we acknowledge the substantial time, patience and insightful comments provided by the peer reviewers, which have greatly enhanced the articles' readability.

Prof. Youba Raj Luintel, PhD
Editor-in-Chief

August 2024