

Political Change and Public Culture in Post-1990 Nepal

This book is a collection of essays exploring various domains of the Nepali public sphere in which ideas about democracy and citizenship are debated and contested. The book investigates the ways in which the public meaning of the major political and sociocultural changes that occurred in Nepal since 1990 was constructed, conveyed and consumed. These changes took place against the backdrop of an enormous growth in literacy, the proliferation of print and broadcast media, the emergence of a public discourse on human rights, and the vigorous reassertion of linguistic, ethnic and regional identities. Meanwhile, the political space which was previously occupied by the monarch and associated elites filled with a new class of citizens who were educated and political, but not necessarily politicised in party terms. Scholars from a range of different disciplinary locations delve into debates on rumours, ethnicity and identity, activism and gender to provide empirically grounded histories of the nation during one of its most important political transitions.

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CONTENTS

<i>List of Figures</i>		vii
Introduction	Political Change and Public Culture in Post-1990 Nepal <i>Michael Hutt and Pratyoush Onta</i>	1
Part I: Rumour		
1.	The Royal Palace Massacre, Rumours and the Print Media in Nepal <i>Marie Lecomte-Tilouine</i>	15
2.	The Royal Palace Massacre, Conspiracy Theories and Nepali Street Literature <i>Michael Hutt</i>	39
3.	Country of Rumours: Making Sense of a Bollywood Controversy <i>Mallika Shakya</i>	56
Part II: Ethnicity and Identity		
4.	‘Numafung’: Images of Limbu Culture in Ethnic Cinema <i>Martin Gaenszle</i>	77

5. Janajati Magazines and the Contents of the Subaltern Counterpublic Sphere during the 1990s <i>Pratyoush Onta and Devraj Humagain</i>	99
6. Vote for Prashant Tamang: Representations of an Indian Idol in the Nepali Print Media and the Retreat of Multiculturalism <i>Harsha Man Maharjan</i>	124
Part III: Activist Cultures	
7. Mobilizing Meanings: Local Cultural Activism and Nepal's Public Culture <i>Ingemar Grandin</i>	147
8. Protests, Space and Creativity: Theatre as a Site for the Affective Construction of Democracy in Nepal <i>Monica Mottin</i>	170
Part IV: Gender and Resistance	
9. Heroic Tales: Memoirs by Maoist Women <i>Kailash Rai</i>	197
10. Motherhood Containers: Cantonments and the Media Framing of Female Ex-combatants in Nepal's Transition <i>Seira Tamang</i>	223
Part V: Heritage	
11. Publics of Heritage and Domestic Archives among Urban Nepalis of the Valley <i>Laura Kunreuther</i>	253
<i>Contributors</i>	273
<i>Index</i>	277

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1	The cover of <i>Raktakund</i> , by Krishna Aviral. This bears the legend ‘135,000 copies sold in 2007’.	52
Figure 2.2	Pavement literature stall near Ratna Park, Kathmandu, 2012.	54
Figure 4.1	Numafung with Girihang during their wedding	87
Figure 8.1	<i>Loktantrik Natak</i> performance, before Jan Andolan II	182
Figure 8.2	<i>Loktantrik Natak</i> performance, after Jan Andolan II	183
Figure 10.1	Sketch of Maoist female combatant	226
Figure 10.2	Maoist women in combat dress	236
Figure 10.3	Ex-female combatants and their children in a cantonment	237