

## NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

SAUL MULLARD (D.Phil Oxon) is a social historian specialising on Sikkim and has been a member of the Franco-German research team ‘Social History of Tibetan Societies’ and is currently a member of TIBSTAT a project investigating social status in Tibetan societies from a social historical perspective at University of Bonn and EPHE, Paris. He is the author of a book (*Opening the Hidden Land*, Brill 2011) on the development of historical narratives relating to the state formation of Sikkim, and co-author, with Hissey Wongchuk, of the catalogue of the Sikkim Palace Archives (*Royal Records*, ITTBS 2010). He has also edited a four volume work on Tibetan Foreign Relations (*Critical Readings on the History of Tibetan Foreign Relations*, Brill 2013) and recently co-edited, with Jeannine Bischoff, *Social Regulations: Case Studies from Tibetan History*. He has also written numerous articles on Sikkim’s history on topics ranging from immigration, law, politics, social status, forced labour and conflict.

ALEX MCKAY has a Ph.D. from the London University School of Oriental and African Studies (1995). He has held various research and teaching fellowships at SOAS, UCL and the International Institute for Asian Studies in Leiden, The Netherlands. An affiliated fellow at the Namgyal Institute and the Australian National University, he has written or edited around 40 books and articles on the Indo-Tibetan Himalayas. These include *Tibet and the British Raj: The frontier cadre 1904-1947* (1997), *Footprints Remain: Biomedical beginnings across the Indo-Tibetan frontier* (2007), and his most recent work, a history of the Kailas pilgrimage entitled *Kailas Histories: Renunciate Traditions and the Construction of Himalayan Sacred Geography* (Brill 2015).

FRANÇOISE POMMARET is a cultural anthropologist, Director of Research at the CRCAO, CNRS (National Centre for Scientific Research), Paris. She has been associated with Bhutan in different capacities since 1981 and is now Adjunct Professor at the Institute of Language and Culture (ILCS, Royal University of Bhutan). She was co-editor and co-author of *Bhutan: mountain fortress of the gods*, Serindia, London, 1997, and, amongst other books, the editor of *Lhasa in the Seventeenth Century*, Brill, 2003. Her wide audience books in English are *Bhutan, a Cultural Guidebook*, Odyssey Guidebook, Hong-Kong (1990, reprint 2010), and *Tibet, an Enduring Civilization*, Abrams Discovery series, NY,

2003. She lectures extensively in academic institutions over the world. She currently works on rituals and their relations to power and deities and is the academic advisor for the documentation project's website at ILCS: [www.bhutanculturalatlas.org](http://www.bhutanculturalatlas.org)

RICHARD W WHITECROSS is currently a Lecturer in Law at Edinburgh Napier University. He studied at the University of Edinburgh and holds degrees in History, Law and Social Anthropology. In 2001, he received the Royal Anthropological Sutasoma Award and was ESRC Postdoctoral Fellow before taking up a fixed term lectureship in anthropology. In 2005, he was appointed as ESRC Research Fellow in Socio-Legal Studies before joining the Scottish Government as a Senior Analyst in Justice. Richard conducted fieldwork in Bhutan, central Nepal and West Bengal. He completed his Ph.D. *The Zhabdrung's Legacy: State Transformation, Law and Social Values in Contemporary Bhutan* in 2002. He continues to conduct research on law in Bhutan and the Himalayas, notably on environmental issues.

HÅKAN SANDGREN is Tutor and Casual Lecturer at the University of Queensland. His PhD thesis investigates the importance of the *atsaras*, the festival jesters in Tibetan Buddhist religious festivals, in Bhutan. Research interests other than religious jesters include the changes in religious festivals brought about by modern inventions, the intersections between religions, particularly Hindu and Buddhist relationship with Christianity.

AKIKO UEDA (Ph.D. Development Studies, SOAS, London) is Associate Professor at the Graduate School of International Development, Nagoya University, Japan. She worked previously with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Bhutan Country Office as a coordination officer. Her research focus is on GNH policies, food security and rural development in Bhutan. She is the author of a number of publications, including *Culture and Modernisation: From the Perspectives of Young People in Bhutan* (Center for Bhutan Studies 2003), and recently contributed a chapter on 'Understanding the Practice of Dual Residence in the Context of Transhumance: A Case from Western Bhutan' to the edited volume, *Bhutanese Buddhism and Its Culture* (Vahra Books 2014).

TASHI SAMDUP is a Veterinarian doctor currently Director General, Dept. of Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of

Bhutan. He obtained his Veterinary degree from Kerala and a Master's degree in Animal Production Systems from Wageningen University, The Netherlands. Prior to joining the Dept. of Livestock, he served as the Director of the Council for Renewable Natural Resources Research (RNR) of Bhutan (CoRRB). CoRRB is the apex body for approval of research proposals and coordination of research for the RNR sector in Bhutan. He is the author of a number of scholarly articles / publications. His most recent peer-reviewed scientific articles include: 'A Participatory Framework to Identify Gross National Happiness Issues for the Development of Smallholder Mixed Farming Systems in Bhutan' (2014).

ANNA BALIKCI-DENJONGPA (Ph.D. Social Anthropology, SOAS London) is Research Coordinator at the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, Sikkim, and Editor of the *Bulletin of Tibetology*. Being associated with Sikkim since 1990, her research interests centre on Sikkim's indigenous cultures, history and the medium of ethnographic films. She authored *Lamas, Shamans and Ancestors: Village Religion in Sikkim* (Brill 2008), edited *Buddhist Himalaya Vol II The Sikkim Papers* (2011), *The Bodhisattva King HM Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan* (2015) and several journal issues focusing on Sikkimese culture and history. Together with her team, she completed eight ethnographic films on Sikkim's Lepchas and Bhutias, which were screened at ethnographic film festivals worldwide. She recently co-wrote the cultural dossier for Sikkim's KNP World Heritage Site submission.

JENNY BENTLEY (Ph.D. Anthropology, University of Zürich) is a research scholar affiliated to the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology. She specialises in ritual practice, sacred landscape, ethno-political and environmental movements and belonging. She has conducted fieldwork among the Lepcha community in the south-eastern Himalayas (Sikkim, West Bengal in India, Ilam in Nepal) since 2005 and completed her MA thesis on the study of two Lepcha villages in North Sikkim and their relations to the Lepcha associations. Since 2011, she has been engaged in projects that translate academic and ethnographic knowledge into non-academic contexts and communities. Projects she locally worked on include animation and documentary films, conservation projects, school workshops, open-space museum, storytelling, ethnographic trainings and ecotourism.

MÉLANIE VANDENHELSEN (Ph.D. Anthropology, Montpellier) is an anthropologist specializing on Sikkim, on which she has worked for two decades. She recently completed a research at the Institute for Social Anthropology (Austrian Academy of Sciences) on the modes of construction of ethnic identities in Sikkim, with a particular focus on the role in ethnic identifications making of relations between states, transnational networks, and various social groups. Her other research interests range across rituals, religious economy, conflicts, and hospitality. She recently authored 'The making of Gurung Cultural Identifications in Sikkim' (in Subba, Tanka. B. and S.C. Sinha (eds), *Nepali Diaspora in Globalised Era*, Routledge 2016), and co-edited with Bengt. Karlsson and Jürgen Schöpf the special issue 'Fluid Attachments in Northeast India' (*Asian ethnicity* 17 (3) 2016).