

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

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JAY L. GARFIELD (MA, PhD University of Pittsburgh) is Doris Silbert Professor in the Humanities and Professor of Philosophy, Director of the Five College Tibetan Studies in India Program and Director of the Logic Program at Smith College. He is also Professor in the graduate faculty of Philosophy at the University of Massachusetts, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Melbourne and Adjunct Professor of Philosophy at the Central University of Tibetan Studies. Professor

Garfield's research addresses problems in the foundations of cognitive science, particularly psycholinguistic development; philosophical logic; Buddhist philosophy, particularly Indian and Tibetan Madhyamaka and Yogācāra and modern Buddhism; hermeneutics and cross-cultural interpretation; and the history of Indian philosophy in the pre-independence period. He is (co)-author, (co)-translator or (co)-editor of 20 books and over 100 articles. His recent books include *Fundamental Wisdom of the Middle Way: Nāgārjuna's Mūlamadhyamakakārikā*; *Empty Words: Buddhist Philosophy and Cross-Cultural Interpretation*; *Ocean of Reasoning: A Great Commentary on Nāgārjuna's Mūlamadhyamakakārikā*; *Pointing at the Moon: Buddhism, Logic and Analytic Philosophy*; *TransBuddhism: Translation, Transmission and Transformation*; *Buddhist Philosophy: Essential Readings*; *The Oxford Handbook of World Philosophy*; *Moonshadows: Conventional Truth in Buddhist Philosophy*; *Indian Philosophy in English: Renaissance to Independence*; and *Contrary Thinking: Selected Essays of Daya Krishna*.

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GARY CHOPEL is a practicing architect from Gangtok and Senior Architect for the Buildings & Housing Dept, Govt of Sikkim. He studied architecture from the prestigious School of Planning & Architecture, New Delhi, and did an earthquake resistant design course from IIT, Roorkee. He has consulted on various cultural and religious projects and has undertaken the Cultural Resource Mapping project for the entire state of Sikkim for INTACH. He was awarded a number of certificates of merit from the Govt of Sikkim for his architectural designs. At present he has projects all over Sikkim and in Bhutan. Contact: garychopel@gmail.com

KERRY LITTLE is an Australian writer, researcher and PhD candidate at University of Technology, Sydney. Her work involves recording traditional and contemporary Lepcha narratives and examining how modernity and globalisation has impacted on Lepchas' connection to their culture. She has presented her findings at University conferences in Australia and India and her articles have appeared in several international academic journals. They include: 2007, 'Lepcha hunters' narratives of their hidden landscapes', *Bulletin of Tibetology* 43:1-2 (pp.81-97) 2008, 'Lepcha narratives of their threatened sacred landscapes', *Transforming Cultures*, eJournal: 3:1, 2009, 'Deep Ecology, Dams, and Dzonguland', *The Trumpeter, Journal of Ecosophy* 25:1, 2010, 'Democracy reigns supreme in Sikkim? A long march and a short visit strains democracy for Lepcha marches in Sikkim', *Australian Humanities Review* (Ecological Humanities) 48, 2010, 'From the villages to the cities: the battlegrounds for Lepcha protests', *Transforming Cultures*, eJournal: 5:1. kerrylittle@bigpond.com

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FELICITY SHAW is a retired academic librarian long resident in Hong Kong. Since the mid-1980s she has been engaged in research and writing on library development in Bhutan, with presentations at

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MÉLANIE VANDENHELSEN is a Doctor in anthropology and a researcher at the Institute for Social Anthropology at the Austrian Academy of Sciences. She is currently carrying out a research project (started in 2010, funded by the Austrian Science Fund) entitled 'Social grouping, ethnicity and state in Sikkim. Constructions of social groups and interethnic relationships in a Himalayan State of India' (see: <http://www.oeaw.ac.at/sozant>). The research project explores the ways and modes of construction of ethnicity and collective identities in Sikkim. This research is based on long-term fieldwork: Mélanie Vandenhelsken resided five years in Sikkim since 1995, including two years as a researcher for the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology. She has published in 2011: 'The Enactment of Tribal Unity at the Periphery of India: The political role of a new form of the Panglhabsoi Buddhist ritual in Sikkim', *European Bulletin of Himalayan Research* 38 (81-118). She formerly studied the social, economic and political involvements of the oldest Sikkimese Buddhist monastery. Her dissertation is entitled: *The Buddhist Monastery of Pemayangtse in Sikkim (Oriental Himalayas, India): a Monastery in the World* (2003). She has authored two articles on Pemayangtse and Tashiding monasteries in the *Bulletin of Tibetology*: Vol. 39 (1) and (with Hissey Wongchuk) Vol. 42 (1&2).

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HELEEN PLAISIER (Ph.D. Leiden University, 2006) is dedicated to the study of the Lepcha language and culture. She has completed a grammar of Lepcha and has done extensive research into Lepcha manuscript texts. She is currently completing an analytical edition of a nineteenth-century Lepcha-English dictionary. Main publications: *Catalogue of Lepcha Manuscripts in the Van Manen Collection*, Kern Institute Miscellanea 11, Leiden, Kern Institute (2003); *A Grammar of Lepcha*, Brill's Tibetan Studies Library, Languages of the Greater Himalayan Region 5, Leiden, Brill (2007); 'A key to four transcription systems of Lepcha', in *Himalayan Languages and Linguistics, Studies in Phonology, Semantics, Morphology and Syntax*, Mark Turin and Bettina Zeisler (eds), Brill's Tibetan Studies Library 5, Leiden, Brill (2011).