

John Leavitt teaches in the Department of Anthropology at the Université de Montréal, Canada, specializing in linguistic anthropology, symbolic anthropology, and poetics. He has done field research in the Central Himalayas and among South Asian immigrants in Canada, and research in comparative Indo-European mythology and poetics. His publications include papers on conceptualizing South Asian civilization (*Contributions to Indian Sociology*, 1992), on possession and shamanism in the Himalayas (*Transcultural Psychiatric Research Review*, 1994), on the anthropology of emotions (*American Ethnologist*, 1996), and on bovine mythology in India and Ireland (*Cosmos*, 2000), as well as the edited volume *Poetry and Prophecy: The anthropology of inspiration* (University of Michigan Press, 1997).

Werner Egli is Senior Lecturer (Privatdozent) in the Department of Social Anthropology (Ethnologisches Seminar) at Zurich University. His publications include *Bier für die Ahnen. Erbrecht, Tausch und Ritual bei den Sunuwar Ostnepals* ('Beer for the Ancestors: the laws of inheritance, exchange and ritual among the Sunuwar of East Nepal'), Frankfurt a.M.: Verlag für Interkulturelle Kommunikation, 1999. He is currently researching the inheritance systems of tribal and peasant societies from a cross-cultural perspective.

Katsuo Nawa is Associate Professor of Cultural Anthropology at the Institute of Oriental Culture, University of Tokyo. He received his MA and PhD from the University of Tokyo. He has published several articles on ethnic categories and rituals in Byans, Far Western Nepal, including 'The Worship of Deities in Byans, Far-Western Nepal' (*Journal of the Japanese Association for South Asian Studies* 10 (1998; in Japanese)), and 'Ethnic Categories and International Borders: The Case of Byans, Far-Western Nepal' (*Journal of the Indian Anthropological Society*, 33-1(1998)). In addition to revising his PhD dissertation, he is currently preparing an article on language use in Byans.

Mollica Dastider received her PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, in 1999, for her thesis 'Minorities in Nepal: A study of the Muslim community'. She is at present working in Germany, with the support of a post-doctoral fellowship granted by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, on a project entitled 'Minority Identity and Managing Inter-Group Conflicts in Plural Societies', which makes special reference to anti-Christian violence in India and anti-foreigner violence in Germany. Her publications include *Religious Minorities in The Hindu Kingdom of Nepal* (New Delhi: Nirala Publications, 1995), 'Muslims of Nepal's Terai' (*Economic and Political Weekly of India*, March 4-10, 2000), 'Looking Beyond Kargil: Need for peoples' initiative' (*Mainstream* 37:32, 1999), 'Nepal's Fledgling Democracy' (*Mainstream* 35:52, 1997), and 'SAARC Decade Action Plan for the Girl Child' (*Mainstream* 31:17, 1993).