

HistoryFirst Workshop

**Organised by
Institute of Historical Analysis**

**in Collaboration with
Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya**

Lead
Yogesh Raj
Institute of Historical Analysis
25 March – 17 May 2021

HistoryFirst Workshop is a series of intensive trainings on robust historical methods applied to Nepali source materials. Each Workshop has been designed to impart key skills required for sound analyses of primary sources in history through critical, collective and interactive sessions. These skills include techniques ranging from finding various sources in their in-situ locations, reproducing them for recording, conservation, and dissemination, reading them for textual and non-textual criticisms, and understanding their significance in historiography. The workshop will be useful mainly to those interested in engaging with debates of enduring significance in Nepali history through ancient inscriptions, medieval legal deeds and ritual books, modern state records, and contemporary oral sources. The Workshop will also be helpful to anyone curious about how historical narratives in Nepal are established, (re)produced, and sometimes, deconstructed. No prior linguistic or technological competence or familiarity with Nepali historiography is necessary to attend the Workshop. However, you will be asked to demonstrate your longstanding interest in issues related to Nepali history and your commitment to resolve those issues through sustained and critical engagement with historical sources. You are also expected to produce an essay in long format, a folder of photographs, or a short film on areas of your interest within three months of the completion of the Workshop.

Course Syllabus

The HistoryFirst Workshop 2021 consists of five modules, each of which has a different theme, period, object of enquiry, location in historiography and approach. Participants are expected to actively engage with the activities in *all* the modules, but will be encouraged to develop their skills in relation to a specific module, depending on their interests and aptitude. Each module will have a set of seminar readings for orientation, on-site activities for learning hands-on skills, and presentation for articulating clear ideas. While seminar readings and presentation sessions will be of 2 hours duration each at a fixed venue, participants will need to spend at least 4 hours for every on-site task. Further, participants may need to be flexible to prioritise timings set by host individuals or institutions for these ‘field’ or archive-based tasks.

The detailed syllabus is given in page 3 of this document.

Application deadline: 12 March 2021

Interviews, if necessary: 15-18 March 2021

Selected participants will be informed by email: 19 March 2021

Workshop dates: 25 March to 17 May 2021. The workshop will be held every Monday and Thursday morning, 7:00 to 9:00.

Course Fees: NPR 8000

Venue: Yala Maya Kendra, Patan Dhoka

Places for Enrolment: 15

Eligibility

No prior linguistic or technological competence or expertise on Nepali historiography is necessary to attend the Workshop. Since this workshop is about using historical sources, having basic knowledge of one classical language (in addition to the mother tongue, Nepali or English) will be an advantage. Familiarity with elementary technical skills such as recording, reproduction and processing of audio-visual materials will be helpful.

Course Registration

Interested applicants can send in their application, cv (with a sample of recent writing) and a 300-word long expression of interest by 12 March 2021. The essay should demonstrate your keen interests in issues related to Nepali history and your readiness to resolve those issues through sustained and critical engagement with historical sources.

For Registration: Please contact Mr. Rajeev Singh, (rajeev@mpp.org.np) Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya.

Tel: 977-1-5521393, 977-1-5549948

Before deciding to apply, you are encouraged to arrange an appointment with one of the course coordinators, Bandana Gyawali (bandanagyawali@gmail.com) and Deepak Aryal (deepakaryal@gmail.com) to discuss the course format, its contents, and how best the Workshop can help you grow your history skills and interests in historical analysis.

Detailed Course Syllabus

Class 1 (a week before Class 2): Orientation

Ancient Stone Inscriptions

Class 2: Seminar Readings

Maheśarāja Panta. 2075 vs. Cāvahilako Śilālekhako Euṭā Khaṇḍa Pāiṇḍā (Cāvahilako Licchavikālika Abhilekha 1). *Naya Patrika* daily. Phagun 18, p. 14.

Maheśarāja Panta. 2075 vs. Cāvahilako Licchavikālika Abhilekha 2. *Naya Patrika* daily. Caitra 2, p. 13.

Śyāmasundara Rajavaṃśī. 2075 vs. Cārūmati Vihāra ra Dhando Caityakā Dvikhaṇḍīya Eka Abhilekha Prakāśa. *Abhilekha* 39: 1-12.

Kāśīnātha Tamoṭa. 2019. Cābahīyā Mahāmuni Murtilekha Prāptiyā Vṛttānta. Available at: medium.com/nepalmandal/चाबहीया-महामुनि-मूर्तिलेख-प्राप्तिया-वृत्तान्त-8f0f357d3aa.

Class 3: Site Visit 1 to Cāvahila

Class 4: Significance of the Mānadeva Inscription: Iconography, Buddhism, and Chronology

Medieval Palmleaf Deeds

Class 5: Seminar Readings:

B. Kolver, and H. Shakya. 1985. Introduction. *Documents from the Rudravarna-Mahavihara. Part I: Sales and Mortgages*. Pp. 13-100. Sankt Augustine: VGH.

Maheśarāja Panta. 2070 vs. Nevārarājyakā Kānunī Likhata. *Law Commission Journal* 1: 1-52.

Yogesh Raj. 2004. Śivagala Canigala and Vandigala (Three Toponyms from Medieval Bhaktapur). *Ancient Nepal* 156: 1-10.

Class 6: Site Visit 2 to The Asha Archives

Class 7: Significance of the Palmleaf Deeds: Economy, Legal Studies, and Demography

Modern State Records

Class 8: Seminar Readings:

Bhaveśvara Paṅgenī. 2069 vs. *Nepālako Prasāsānika Itihāsa Bhāga 3: Ārthika Prasāsānamā Kumārīcoka Aḍḍā*. Kāṭhamāḍaum: Śraddhā-Śraṣṭā Prakāśana.

Yogesh Raj. 2015. Management of the Relief and Reconstruction after the Great Earthquake of 1934. *Studies in Nepali History and Society* 20(2): 375-422.

Yogesh Raj, Deepak Aryal and Shamik Mishra. 2016. Documents Related to Early Hospitals in Nepal. *Studies in Nepali History and Society* 21(2): 347-400.

Bandana Gyawali. 2018. The Udyog Parishad Papers, 1991-2002 vs: Financing Industries in late Rana-Era Nepal. *Studies in Nepali History and Society* 23(2): 429-480.

Class 9: Site Visit 3 to The National Archives.

Class 10: Understanding the State Records: Hierarchy, System, Stasis

Memory and Orality

Class 11: Seminar Readings:

Yogesh Raj. 2016. Structures of Orality. Paper presented at the 29th *International Conference on Oral History*, 27 June-1 July, Bangalore, India.

Yogesh Raj. 2010. *History as Mindscapes*. Kathmandu: Martin Chautari. Introduction, pp. 1-21, Chapter 1-2, pp. 23-34. With Appendices.

Bhairava Risāla. 2057 vs. *Uhile Bājekā Pālāmā*. Lalitpur: Panos South Asia. With audios.

Class 12: Session with ‘Survivor/s’

Class 13: Significance of the Oral Sources: Memory, Rituals, and Margins

Historiography as a Practice

Class 14: Seminar Readings

Triratna Manandhar. 1983. *Some Aspects of Rana Rule in Nepal*. Kathmandu: Purna Devi Manandhar. Pp. 51-92.

Triratna Manandhar. 1986. *Nepal the Years of Trouble, 1877-85*. Kathmandu: Purna Devi Manandhar. Pp. 29-43.

Triratna Mānandhara. 2048 vs. *Nepālako Itihāsamā Jaṅgabahādura*. Kathmandu: Di A Ti Prakāśana. Pp. 131-154.

Class 15: Interaction with Triratna Manandhar.

Class 16: Presentations on Triratna Manandhar’s Works: International Relations, Autocracy, Agency in History

Assignments: An essay in long format (5000 words), a folder of 25 photographs, or a 10 minute documentary/film within three months of the completion of the Workshop.