

HistoryFirst 2023

2nd workshop organized by Institute of Historical Analysis (IHA)
in collaboration with Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya (MPP)

Lead
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IHA

HistoryFirst is a series of workshops comprising intensive trainings on robust historical methods applied to Nepali source materials. Each workshop has been designed to impart key skills required for a sound analysis 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 workshops are 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 workshops are also 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 workshops. However, you need 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

HistoryFirst 2023, 2nd workshop in the series, consists of five modules, each of which has 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 are expected 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.

Orientation: a week before Class

Stone Inscriptions

Class 1: Seminar Readings

Maheśarāja Panta. 2079 VS. Cāvahilako (Śaka) Samvat 421 Śilālekha. *Pūrṇimā* 145: 4–25.

Śyāmasundara Rājavamśī. 2075 VS. Cārumatī Vihāra ra Dhando Caityakā Dvīkhaṇḍīya Eka Abhilekha Prakāśa. *Abhilekha* 39: 1–12.

Kāśīnātha Tamoṭa. 2019. Cābahīyā Mahāmuni Mūrtilekha Prāptiyā Vṛttānta. Available at: <https://medium.com/nepalmandal/चाबहीया-महामुनि-मूर्तिलेख-प्राप्तिया-वृतान्त-8f0f357d3aa>.

Class 2: First Site Visit to Cāvahila

Class 3: Significance of the Mānadeva Inscription: Iconography, Buddhism, and Chronology

Colophons

Class 4: Seminar Readings:

Petech, Luciano. 1984. *Medieval History of Nepal, c. 750–1482*. Second Edition. Roma: Istituto Italiano Per Il Medio Ed Estreme Oriente. pp. 31–76.

Regmi, D R. 1965. *Medieval History of Nepal*. Part I. Calcutta: Firma KL Mukhopadhyay. pp. 51-199.

Class 5: Second Site Visit to the Asha Archives

Class 6: Significance of Manuscripts for political, social and intellectual history

Palm Leaf Deeds

Class 7: Seminar Readings:

Kolver, B. and H. Shakya. 1985. Introduction. *Documents from the Rudravarṇa-Mahāvihāra. Part I: Sales and Mortgages*. pp. 13–100. Sankt Augustine: VGH.

Maheśarāja Panta. 2070 VS. Nevārarājyākā Kānūnī Likhata. *Law Commission Journal* 1: 1–52.

Class 8: Using Palm Leaf Deeds

Class 9: Significance of the Palm Leaf Deeds: Economy, Legal Studies, and Social Structure

State Records

Class 10: Seminar Readings:

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.

Surabhi Pudasaini. 2079 VS. Ruling Households at Rest and on the Move: Notes on servants, goods, and practices from a 1918 VS. Bakas document. *Pūrṇimā* 145: 48–156.

Class 11: Third Site Visit to The National Archives

Class 12: Understanding the State Records: Hierarchy, System, Stasis

Memory and Orality

Class 13: Seminar Readings:

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

Makarinec, Gregory G. 2069 VS. *Rātrikā Nirdeśa (The Rulings of the Night)*. (Nepali Tr. Śīlu Ghimire). Kathmandu: Oxford International Publications Pvt Ltd. pp. 173–219.

Class 14: Listening to Audio Recordings: <http://epopee.huma-num.fr/corpus.php>

Class 15: Significance of the Oral Sources: Memory, Rituals, and Margins

Historiography as a Practice

Class 16: Seminar Readings

Jagadīśacandra Regmī. 2023 VS. *Aṃśuvarṃā: Eka Adhyayana*. Banaras: Dīpaka Presa.

Jagadīśacandra Regmī. 2053 VS. *Prācīna Nepālako Rājanītika Itihāsa*. Lalitpur: Saajhaa Prakaashan.

Jagadīśacandra Regmī. 2076 VS. *Nepālamā Brāhmaṇaharūko Saṅkṣipta Itihāsa*. Kathmandu: Vidyārthī Pustaka Bhaṇḍāra.

Class 17: Interaction with Dr. Jagadish Chandra Regmi

Class 18: Presentations on J C Regmi's Works. Identity and 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.

Workshop Date: April 17–June 15, 2023.

(The workshop will be held every Monday and Thursday morning 7:00–9:00)

Venue: Yala Maya Kendra, Patan Dhoka

Reading Materials cost: NPR 8000

Application Deadline: March 15, 2023

Place 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 send in their application, CV (with a sample of recent writing), 300-word long expression of interest by March 15, 2023. The essay should demonstrate your keen interests in issues related to Nepali history and your eagerness to understand and resolve those issues through sustained and critical engagement with historical sources.

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

For Registration:

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