



Institut
Français
de Pondichéry

UMIFRE 21 CNRS-MAE

Collection Sciences Sociales 14

**READING HIMALAYAN LANDSCAPES
OVER TIME**
ENVIRONMENTAL PERCEPTION, KNOWLEDGE AND
PRACTICE IN NEPAL AND LADAKH



Reading Himalayan Landscapes over Time. Environmental Perception, Knowledge and Practice in Nepal and Ladakh.

Edited by Joëlle Smadja ; translated from French by Bernadette Sellers,
Collection Sciences Sociales 14, 2009, xiv, 671 p., ill. + 1 folded map.
Language: English. 1000 Rs (44 €).
ISBN: 978-81-8470-170-8.

The authors of this book propose a new interpretation of the diversity and transformation of Himalayan landscapes through a study of the relationship between Nepalese and Ladakhi societies and their environment. Natural data on the range, demography, perceptions and representations of environments, their history, current examples of resource management are the subject of often unprecedented investigations.

By associating studies from various disciplines, local knowledge, meticulous fieldwork, as well as archive research, the book prompts us to re-examine the catastrophist theories on the degradation of Himalayan environments. It emerges that any intervention on these environments should take into account their symbolic and religious dimension, as well as the very knowledge populations have of them. Finally, this work contributes to fuelling debates on environmental changes and to reformulating them. This book was first published in French in 2003.

Keywords: Himalayan landscapes, environment, history, local knowledge, resource management

About the editor

Joëlle SMADJA, geographer, is a senior researcher, head of the CNRS research unit "Milieux, sociétés et cultures en Himalaya" (France). She has been co-ordinating interdisciplinary programmes on the relationships between man and his environment. Her investigations focused on Nepal where she studied population's perception of environments, resource management, environment protection policies and territorial restructurings. Her current work focuses on North-East India.

For your orders/enquiries, please contact:

Library

French Institute of Pondicherry

11, St. Louis Street, P.B. 33, Pondicherry-605 001, INDIA

Phone: (91)-413-2334168. Fax:(91)-413-2339534

E-mail:library@ifpindia.org

Contents

Introduction

Joëlle Smadja..... 1

Preliminary Chapter

Snippets of Knowledge Stolen from an Impenetrable Country

Joëlle Smadja..... 29

PART ONE: UNSTABLE AND OFTEN DENSELY POPULATED ENVIRONMENTS

Chapter I. Geographic Units and Landscapes in Nepal. Local Terminologies

Joëlle Smadja..... 43

Chapter II. Ladakhi Landscape Units

Pascale Dollfus, Valérie Labbal..... 85

Chapter III. Some Elements Structuring the Himalayan Mountains

Olivier Dollfus, Monique Fort107

Chapter IV. Population Densities and Resources in the Study of Nepalese Landscapes

Philippe Ramirez139

PART TWO: PERCEPTIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS OF LANDSCAPES

Chapter V. The Nepalese Landscape: Exegesis and Appropriation of the Country

Marie Lecomte-Tilouine161

Chapter VI. A Reading of the Salme Tamangs' Territory and Landscape

Joëlle Smadja.....197

Chapter VII. A Foray into Ladakhi Place Names

Pascale Dollfus, Valérie Labbal.....239

Chapter VIII. Christian and Hindu Share of the Territory in the Magar Village of Pathardi <i>Lucile Viroulaud</i>	261
PART THREE: HISTORICAL DATA ON LAND USE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	
Chapter IX. Agriculture in the Himalayas: a Historical Sketch <i>Pascale Dollfus, Marie Lecomte-Tilouine, Olivia Aubriot</i>	277
Chapter X. The Nepalese State and the Transformation of Landscapes according to Administrative Documents Dating from the XVIIIth and XIXth Centuries <i>Philippe Ramirez</i>	323
Chapter XI. The Khimti Wilderness: Regulations and Conflicts. A legal and Historical Approach <i>Bruno Muller</i>	349
Chapter XII. Discourse and Law: Resource Management and Environmental Policies since 1950 <i>Blandine Ripert, Isabelle Sacareau, Thierry Boisseaux, Stéphanie Tawa Lama</i>	377
PART FOUR: LOCAL PRACTICES, BETWEEN CHOICE AND CONSTRAINT	
Chapter XIII. Environmental Protection Impoverishment of Men: Botan Village on the Periphery of Rara National Park <i>Satya Shrestha</i>	419
Chapter XIV. Resource Management and Changes in Landscapes within the Annapurna Conservation Area Project: The Example of Modi Khola <i>Isabelle Sacareau</i>	433
Chapter XV. Parcelling of Land, Privatisation along with Collective Management of Space and Resources on the Salme Mountainside <i>Blandine Ripert</i>	465
Chapter XVI. The Balamis, Nepalese Woodcutters Deprived of Forest <i>Gérard Toffin</i>	491
Chapter XVII. A Bocage Landscape, Masyam and the Hamlet of Kolang <i>Tristan Bruslé, Monique Fort, Joëlle Smadja</i>	507
Conclusion <i>Joëlle Smadja</i>	551

List of Frames

Theory of Himalayan Environmental Degradation <i>Joëlle Smadja</i>	5
Pandits Trained by Montgomerie <i>Joëlle Smadja</i>	35
Rigours of the Plain Outweigh Those of the Mountains <i>Joëlle Smadja</i>	37
Territorial Units <i>Joëlle Smadja</i>	57
Irrigation of Paddy Fields: a Technical and Social Trace in the Landscape <i>Olivia Aubriot</i>	64
A Few Words about Landscape Elements in Likhu Khola <i>Pramod Khahurel</i>	73
Contribution to the Historical Study of Seismicity in Nepal <i>Maheś Raj Pant</i>	117
Populations of Nepal <i>Philippe Ramirez</i>	157
Landscape, Myth and the Identity of a Tantrist Community <i>Nicolas Sihlé</i>	193
Disorder and Multiplicity of Sacred Geographies <i>Nicolas Sihlé</i>	195
Excerpt of Ritual Texts Related to the Cult of the Village Territory among Tamangs from Trisuli Area. Texts collected by A. Höfer (1997)	230
A Word about Famine in Nepal <i>Marie Lecomte-Tilouine</i>	300
Change in the Price of Farming Produce <i>Marie Lecomte-Tilouine</i>	316
Forestry in Nepal in 1928 according to J.V. Collier	349
Socio-religious Discriminations in People's Access to Forest Resources <i>Isabelle Sacareau</i>	396
National Park and Natural Reserves in Ladakh <i>Pascale Dollfus</i>	399
The Place of Environmental Issues in Electoral Manifestos <i>Stéphanie Tawa Lama</i>	404
The Place of the Environment in School Textbooks <i>Blandine Ripert</i>	408
Tree Planting in Ladakh <i>Pascale Dollfus</i>	457
Changes in a Touristic Village, Tatopani, at the Gates of the ACAP <i>Sophie Bourdet</i>	461
The Balamis' Social Organisation <i>Gérard Toffin</i>	504
Pedologic Vocabulary Used in Kolang <i>Joëlle Smadja</i>	540
Various Facts about Soils <i>Monique Fort and Joëlle Smadja</i>	544