

CURRICULUM VITAE

Chiara LETIZIA (July 2018)

Professor of South Asian Religions Department of Religious Studies, UQAM (2013 to present)
Associate Professor in Cultural Anthropology, University of Milan-Bicocca (2006 to present)

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LANGUAGES

Italian, French, English, Nepali

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Anthropology of South Asian Buddhism and Hinduism, anthropology of the religions of Nepal (Hindu pilgrimage, Newar and Theravada Buddhism, religious and ethnic activism, secularism and political change, animal sacrifice). Religion and the judiciary, debate on multiple secularisms.

MEMBERSHIPS

- School of Anthropology & Museum Ethnography, University of Oxford, Research Associate
- Centre d'Études Himalayennes (UPR 299 of the CNRS, France), Member (non-statutory)
- Centre d'Études et de recherches sur l'Inde, l'Asie du sud et sa diaspora (CERIAS), Executive Committee
- Italian Association of Tibetan Himalayan and Mongolian Studies (AISTHiM), Executive Committee
- International Association of Buddhist Studies (IABS), Member
- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Member
- European Association for South Asian Studies (EASAS), Member
- Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies (ANHS), Member
- Britain-Nepal Academic Council (BNAC), Member
- Centre d'études ethniques des universités montréalaises (CEETUM), Member
- Centre interuniversitaire d'études et de recherches autochtones (CIÉRA), Member
- Center for the Study and documentation of religions and political institutions in Post-Secular Society (CSPS), University of Rome – Tor Vergata, Member

Contributing editor of the *European Bulletin of Himalayan Research* (EBHR) and *Religiologiques*.
Evaluator for HIMALAYA, the Journal of the *Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies* and *Studies in Nepali History and Society* (SINHAS).

EDUCATION

- 2009-2011 Newton Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, and Wolfson College, University of Oxford.
- 2004 Post doctoral research within the Research Team of the CNRS “Centre d’Études Himalayennes” in Villejuif, France.
- 2003 Ph.D. degree in History of Religions at the Department of History of Religions, University of Rome – La Sapienza.
- 2000 DEA (Diplôme d’Études Approfondies) Degree in Comparative Ethnology and Sociology at the Ethnology Laboratory of Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense University.
- 1997-1998 Post-graduate specialization course in History of Religions at the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Rome – La Sapienza.
- 1997 Master’s degree in Humanities at the Department of History of Religions, University of Rome – La Sapienza.

AWARDS

- 2011-2017 Newton International Fellowship Alumni follow-on funding, awarded by the Royal Society and the British Academy to support cooperation initiatives with researchers based in the UK.
- 2013-2014 Faculty of Social Sciences fund, University of Quebec in Montreal.
- 2009-2011 Newton International Fellowship, awarded by the Royal Society and the British Academy.
- 2005-2006 “Raffaële Pettazzoni” bursary. Grant from the Accademia dei Lincei for Specialization in History of Religions.
- 2004 Post-Doctoral Grant from the Fyssen Foundation.
- 2001-2003 Doctoral Grant from the University of Rome – La Sapienza.
- 1999/2000 Master’s Grant from the Laboratoire d’Ethnologie of Paris X Nanterre University.
- 1998/1999 Post-Degree Grant from the Italian Ministry of University and Scientific Research for a specialization abroad.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

- 2017-2019 Member of Project *I-Share: The Indian Subcontinent’s Shared Sacred Sites. Religious Interactions and Relations with the Other* (National Research Agency [ANR], France) coordinated by Aminah Mohammad-Arif, Christophe Jaffrelot, Grégoire Schlemmer and Laurent Gayer. Research project “Shared Hindu and Buddhist temples and sites at the pilgrimage destination Muktinath, Nepal”.
- 2014-2017 Member of Project *Taking Nature to the Courtroom. Development projects, protected areas and religious reform in South Asia* (Wenner-Gren Foundation) coordinated by Daniela Berti, Joëlle Smadja, Blandine Ripert, Raphaël Voix. Research project “Animal Rights and Religious Reform at the Supreme Court”, with Blandine Ripert.
- 2012-2017 Research project *State of religion in Nepal* (Newton Alumni Funding).
- 2013-2014 Research project *Religious pluralism and secularism in Nepal: worship and chaplaincy services in the army (Nepali Sena)* (Faculty support program for new professors-researchers, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Quebec in Montreal).

- 2011-2012 Research project *New secularism in Nepal: History, Ethnography and Contribution to Theory* (University of Milan – Bicocca Support for Research).
- 2009-2012 Member of Project *JUST-INDIA, A Joint Programme on Justice and Governance in India and South Asia*, directed by Daniela Berti and Gilles Tarabout (National Research Agency [ANR], France). Research project “Hinduism and Secularism in the newly-born Republic of Nepal through selected judicial cases” with Gérard Toffin.
- 2009-2011 Research project *Religious change in Nepal* (co-applicant Prof. David Gellner), University of Oxford (Newton Fellowship).
- 2010-2012 PRIN, Italian National Project 2009, *Parole e corpi. Efficacia "magica" e "terapeutica" tra antico e contemporaneo* (National coordinator prof. Paolo Scarpi).
- 2008 Member of Project *Religious symbolism and individual strategy of appropriation of modernity in Asia* directed by Dr. Silvia Vignato (University of Milan – Bicocca Support for Research).
- 2006 Member of Project *The meaning of sacrifice: from an offering to Gods to a political gesture* directed by Prof. Ugo Fabietti (University of Milan – Bicocca Support for Research).
- 2004-2007 Member of Project *Mouvements religieux et sectes hindoues au Népal* directed by Gérard Toffin (UPR 299 CNRS “Milieux, Sociétés et Cultures en Himalaya”).
- 2004 Post-doctoral project *Theravada Buddhism among ethnic groups in Nepal* (UPR 299 CNRS “Milieux, Sociétés et Cultures en Himalaya”).
- 2003-2005 Member of the Ev-K2-CNR project *Tradition and innovation: itinerary of religious identity in the Himalaya* directed by Martino Nicoletti.
- 2001-2004 Member of the Italian National Research Council (CNR) project *Identity/Danger, Document and Reconstruct* directed by Romano Mastromattei.
- 1997 Member of Project *Sacred and Profane Space in Asia* directed by Romano Mastromattei.

FIELDWORK

- 2018 July. Nepal, Kathmandu, Research on the PIL cases at the Supreme Court of Kathmandu against animal sacrifice at Gadhimai mela. Interviews of animal rights activists, lawyers and judges involved in the case. Research on the discourses and practices of animal welfare activists in the Kathmandu.
- 2017 *May-June*. Nepal, Kathmandu and Bara District. Research on the PIL cases at the Supreme Court of Kathmandu against animal sacrifice at Gadhimai mela. Interviews of animal rights activists, lawyers and judges involved in the case. Research on the discourses and practices of animal welfare activists in the Kathmandu valley.
- 2016 *December*. Nepal, Kathmandu. Participation to the Fifth conference of the Asian Borderlands Research Network, to the second conference of Nepali Anthropology, and to the panel for the launch of my co-authored book *Religion, Secularism and Ethnicity in Contemporary Nepal*. Research on animal rights activism in Nepal.
- 2016 *April-May*. Nepal, Kathmandu valley, Sindupalchowk and Kaski districts. Introduction to fieldwork research for UQAM graduate and doctoral students; organizing meetings for the students with Nepali colleagues, as well as with professors and researchers from Dhuram University, CNRS (France), and the University of Toronto; Research on god Macchendranath and its festival, and on Theravada Buddhism.
- 2016 *February*. Nepal, Kathmandu valley, Sindupalchowk and Kaski districts. Preparatory trip and research, including meetings with Nepali partners, to organize a fieldwork in May in the valley of Kathmandu and the districts of Sindupalchowk and Kaski, Nepal, for UQAM students registered in the graduate short programme “Nepal Mandala”.

- 2015 *July*. Nepal, Kathmandu. Interviews on secularism and religious freedom on the eve of the adoption of the new constitution (with Prof. David Gellner, University of Oxford). Preliminary research on petitions against sacrifice at Gadhimai mela Participation to The Fourth Annual Kathmandu Conference on Nepal and the Himalaya.
- 2014 *July*. Nepal, Kathmandu. Preliminary research on religion in the Nepal Army. Research on Jyapu Kumaris of Makhan Tole and Kilagar Tole.
- 2012 *January*. Nepal. Kathmandu valley. Research on Pashupatinath cases at the Supreme Court and on a criminal case at the District Court of Morang. Presentation on secularism at the Social Science Baha, Patan.
- 2010-2011 *November-January*. Nepal, Banke, Morang, and Kathmandu Districts. Research on local perceptions of the new declared secular state; research on court cases concerning the relation between religion and the State.
- 2009-2010 *September-April*. Nepal, Districts of Banke Dang, Morang, Jhapa, Dhanusa, and Kathmandu Valley. Research on local perceptions of the newly declared secular state; research on court cases concerning religious issues.
- 2008 *February-March*. Nepal, Udaypur and Nawalparasi Districts. Research on Tharu and Magar Buddhist activists.
- 2007 *August*. China, Guangxi, Gueizhou, Hunan provinces. Research on transformations in Dong villages due to internal tourism.
- *May-June*. Nepal, Rupandehi District. Research on the training camps for the Magar Buddhist ritual specialists in Butwal.
- 2003-2004 *November-February*. Nepal, Saptari, Udayapur, Rupandehi Districts and Kathmandu Valley. Research on the spread of Theravada Buddhism in Nepal.
- 2001-2002 *November-January*. Nepal (Dev Ghat and Varahaksetra) and India (Allahabad and Varanasi). Research on the places of pilgrimage located on river confluences.
- 2000-2001 *October-March*. Nepal (Ridi Ghat, Dev Ghat and Varahaksetra) and India (Allahabad and Varanasi). Research on the places of pilgrimage located on river confluences.
- 1999 *August-September*. Nepal. Preliminary research on the pilgrimage place of Ridi Ghat.
- 1997 *October-December*. Nepal, Kathmandu Valley. Research on the cult of Kumari.

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

- 2013- 2018. University of Quebec in Montreal (UQAM) Department of Religious Studies
- REL752B – *La violence de la religion: le sacrifice*, graduate course
- REL 8000 –*Doctoral seminar (with the universities of Concordia and Laval)*
- REL2206 – *Buddhism*, undergraduate course
- REL712N – *Society and religion in Nepal I*, graduate course
- REL713N REL715N – *Society and religion in Nepal II*, graduate course
- REL715N – *Society and religion in Nepal Introduction to fieldwork*, graduate course
- REL2208 –*Tibetan Buddhism* undergraduate course
- REL 2210 – *Pilgrimage*, undergraduate course
- REL 2207 – *Religions of China and Japan*, undergraduate course
- REL 7191 *Methodology seminar* graduate course
- REL712E – *India: Culture and religion*, graduate course

2006-2012. University of Milan – Bicocca, master's degree program in Ethnology and Anthropology
Anthropology of religions, graduate course
Doctoral Seminar on the Anthropology of the Contemporary
Cultural Anthropology, undergraduate course
Religions of the Himalayas, graduate course
History of Religions, graduate course

2006. UQAM, Department of Religious Studies

REL1202 *Tibetan Buddhism*, undergraduate course

2005. University of Rome – La Sapienza, Department of History of Religions.

Introduction to Ch'an and Zen Buddhism graduate course.

LECTURES AT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS/CONFERENCES

2018. July. 25-27. *Seventh Annual Kathmandu Conference on Nepal and the Himalaya*. Presentation titled : Deviation or Devotion? A Supreme Court verdict on animal sacrifice in Nepal.
April 12. McGill University, School of Religious Studies. CREOR Lunch Lecture Series « Buddha and the Other » Presentation titled : « Buddhism and Religious Diversity in Nepal ».
2017. December 18-21. Chateau de Marçay, France. Symposium *Encounters with the Invisible: Revisiting Possession in the Himalayas in its Material and Narrative Aspects*. Discussant and final comments.
– September 12-15. University of Naples "L'Orientale", Procida school for the Higher Education, Procida (Naples). *The first seminar of the Italian Association of Tibetan, Himalayan and Mongolian Studies (AISTHiM)*. Presentation titled: "Superstizione e deviazione (o devozione e tradizione?) Un verdetto della Corte Suprema del Nepal sul sacrificio cruento".
– June 15-16, University of Edinburgh. Workshop *Taking Nature to The Courtroom. Development Projects, Protected Areas and Religious Reform In South Asia*. Presentation titled: "Not in the name of religion." A Supreme Court verdict on animal sacrifice in Nepal (with Blandine Ripert).
2016. December 16-18, *Nepali Anthropology, second annual conference*, Lalitpur, Nepal. Chair and discussant of the panel *Religious Practices, Secularism and Conversion*.
– December 15, Social Sciences Baha, Yalamaya Kendra, Lalitpur, Nepal. Panel for the presentation of volume edited by C. Letizia, D. Gellner and S. Hausner, *Religion, Secularism and Ethnicity in Contemporary Nepal*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2016. Members of the panel: Rajendra Pradhan, Yubaraj Ghimire, Sara Shneiderman, Avash Bhandari, David Gellner, Chiara Letizia.
– November 2, UQAM, Department of Religious Studies. Presentation titled: "Rituels d'État hindou dans un Népal séculier: continuations, adaptations et enjeux".
– September 16 UQAM, Department of Religious Studies. book launch of the edited volume *Religion, Secularism and Ethnicity in Contemporary Nepal*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2016, with David Gellner.
– September 21. University of Toronto, The Department for the Study of Religion. *A newar Buddhism workshop*, with David Gellner. Discussion with students and faculty of my work and that of David Gellner on Buddhism in Nepal.
– March 24. University of Montreal, CEETUM, Axe Pluralité religieuse: enjeux sociaux, politiques et juridiques. Presentation titled: "Rituels d'État hindou dans un Népal séculier: continuations, adaptations et enjeux".
2015. November 26. UQAM, Department of Religious Studies /CERIAS. Presentation titled: "Why is Nepal's Constitution 2072 (2015) controversial?" (with Brijlal Chaudary)
– July 22-24. Social Science, Baha, Kathmandu. Participation to *The Fourth Annual Kathmandu Conference on Nepal and the Himalaya* as discussant and chair for the panel *Religion, Secularism, and the Nepali State*.

- June 22. *Ceias (Centre d'Études de l'Inde et de l'Asie du Sud)*, Paris. Workshop *Animal Sacrifice on Trial. Cases from South Asia*. Presentation titled: “Preliminary remarks on a PIL filed against animal sacrifice at Gadhimai Mela, Nepal” (with Blandine Ripert).
- May 1-2. University of McGill Faculty of religious Studies. *American Academy of Religion, Eastern International Region Conference*. Panel *Body and Devotion in South Asian Traditions*. Presentation titled: “Human and divine bodies of the living goddess of Nepal: myth, ritual, devotion and politics”.
- Mars 13 Concordia University, *Department of Religion Colloquium Series 2014-2015*. Presentation titled: “Hindu royal gods and rituals in the secular republic of Nepal: continuation, adaptations and challenges”.
- 2014. October 8. *Indian Week at UQAM (IEIM-CERIAS)*, Montreal. Panel *Laïcité, démocratie et société civile en Inde*. Presentation titled: “La spécificité et les défis du sécularisme en Inde”.
- July 23-26. University of Zurich. *23rd European Conference on South Asian Studies*. Panel *Divinization in South Asian traditions* convened by Diana Dimitrova and Tatiana Oranskaia. Presentation titled: “What is left of the divine in Kumari? Responses to modernisation, secularisation and human rights' challenges to the tradition of the living goddess in Nepal”.
- 2013 November 26. University of Quebec in Montreal. Workshop *L'identité hijra en Inde. Frontières mouvantes d'une communauté transgenre* organized by Prof. Mathieu Boisvert. Presentation titled: “L'identité transgenre au Népal”.
- October 30. University of Montreal. Conférences du Centre d'études et de recherche sur l'Inde, l'Asie du Sud et sa diaspora (CERIAS / UQAM) et du Pôle de recherche sur l'Inde et l'Asie du Sud (PRIAS / UdeM). Presentation titled: “La déesse Kumari à la cour suprême : réflexions sur le sécularisme au Népal”.
- March 11. University of Quebec in Montreal. Projection of the film *Liberté, égalité, accommodements* with Director Stefan Nitoslawski, Prof. Jean-René Milot and Mrs. Raymonde Venditti of the Department of Religious Studies, UQAM, and Prof. Norman Cornett. Presentation titled: “L'étude sur le sécularisme au Népal et son intérêt pour le débat sur la laïcité au Québec”.
- 2012 August 23-26. University of Oxford, Wolfson College. Workshop *The vernacularization of secularism* organized by Prof. Torkel Brekke. Presentations titled: “What we mean by vernacularization of secularism” and “Competing vernacular notions of secularism (*dharma nirpekshata*) in Nepal”.
- July 9-10. University of Oxford, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology. Chair of a session on UK at the workshop *Nepali Diasporas*. Conveners: Professor David Gellner and Dr. Sondra Hausner.
- July 7-8. University of Oxford, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology. Workshop *The State of Religion in a Non-religious State: Discourses and Practices in the Secular Republic of Nepal*. Conveners: Prof. Chiara Letizia, Prof. David Gellner, Dr. Sondra Hausner and Dr. Anne de Sales. Presentation titled: “Ideas of secularism in Nepal”.
- July 4-5. SOAS, London. Discussant at the workshop *The Creation of Public Meaning during Nepal's Democratic Transition*. Convener: Prof. Michael Hutt.
- June 18-19 Paris. Centre for South-Asian Studies (EHESS – CNRS) “*Just-India*” (*Justice and Governance in Contemporary India and South Asia*) programme. International Conference *Religion and the Courts (India, Nepal)*. Conveners: Dr. Daniela Berti, Prof. Gilles Tarabout, Dr. Raphaël Voix. Presentation titled: “Defining Nepali Secularism through the Judiciary: Two Case Studies from the Nepal Supreme Court”.
- February 19-20. Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, Jerusalem. Workshop *Religious pluralization as cultural condition for social cohesion and social conflict in a post-secular era*. Presentation titled: “Secularism in Nepal: religious pluralism in a former Hindu Kingdom”.
- January 9. Social Sciences Baha, Yela Maya Kendra, Patan, Nepal. Presentation titled: “Shaping secularism in Nepal”.
- 2011 November 11. University of Rome -Tor Vergata, Center for the Study and documentation of religions and political institutions in Post-Secular Society (CSPS). Presentation titled: “State Gods in new secular Nepal: reflections on the Kumari and Pashupatinath cases at the Supreme Court”
- September 23-24. University of Oslo, Norway. Workshop *Religious Pluralization and secularism*. Presentation on the nepali case and public lecture titled “Secularism in Nepal”.

- April 20-21. University of Cambridge, *9th Nepal Study Day of the Britain-Nepal Academic Council*. Presentation titled: “Secularism in Nepal: perceptions and processes”.
- April 15-17. University of Oxford, Manchester Harris College. *36th Spalding Symposium on Indian Religions*. Presentation titled: “Reflections on goddess Kumari at the Supreme Court”.
- March 4. University of Oxford, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology. Departmental Seminar. Presentation titled “Shaping secularism in Nepal”.
- 2010 November 12. University of Oxford, Wolfson College. Research Fellows Seminar. Presentation titled: “The Goddess at the Supreme Court. Human Rights vs. Religious Traditions in Nepal”.
- September 6-9. Berder, France. Discussant at the workshop *New Researchers’ perspectives on the Nepalese people’s War* organized by the ANR program: “La Guerre du Peuple au Népal: une approche historique et anthropologique”, coordinated by M. Lecomte-Tilouine.
- September 4. University of Oxford, School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography. South Asian Group (SAAG) Conference *South Asian Culture(s) in movement: Borders, Social Mobility, Identities*. Presentation titled: “Taking away our National Identity and Human nature: Reflections on Anti-Secular Discourses in the Nepalese Tarai”.
- August 26. EASA 2010 “Crisis and Imagination”, Maynooth, Ireland, *Panel From the mouth of God: 'the political' from a post-secular perspective*. Convenors: Lucia Michelutti, Alice Forbess. Presentation titled: “Concepts of secularism in contemporary Nepal”.
- May 17. University of Oxford, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology. Nepal Study Group. Presentation titled: “Preliminary Thoughts on Secularism in Nepal”.
- January 8. Maison des Sciences de l’Homme, Paris. Programme “Just-India” (Justice and Governance in Contemporary India and South Asia). Presentation titled: “Hinduism and Secularism in Nepal: Notes from a Preliminary Fieldwork on Some Judicial Cases”.
- 2008 November 12. University of Yale, New Haven, CT, USA, Department of Religious Studies and Society for the Study of Asian Religions. Presentation titled: “Buddhism as ‘not-Hinduism’? On the Diffusion of Theravāda Buddhism among some Tharu and Magar Communities of South Nepal”.
- September 18-20. Villa Clythia, Fréjus, France. Conference *Facing Globalization: shifting horizons of belonging in the Himalayas*, organized by Professors Gérard Toffin, Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka, David Gellner. Presentation titled: “Buddha, Dharma and a new Sangha in Terai: on the creation of Buddhist ritual specialists in some Tharu and Magar communities (Rupandehi and Udayapur Districts)”.
- 2007 December 21. CNRS Research Team “Milieux, Sociétés et Cultures en Himalaya” Villejuif, France. Presentation titled: “Buddha, Dharma, et pas de Sangha: notes d’un terrain sur les activists bouddhistes à Butwal, Népal”.
- November 22-23. Academy of Romania, Rome. Conference *L’abito si che lo fa il monaco* (The cowl does indeed make the monk) organized by Prof. A. Saggiaro and Dr. S. Botta. Presentation titled: “L’abito rituale fa il monaco newar. L’iniziazione monastica delle alte caste buddhiste Newar in Nepal”
- January 17. Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada. College of the Humanities. Seminar organized by Prof. Noel Salmond. Presentation titled: “The heritage of Anagarika Dharmapala in Nepal”.
- 2006 November 17-19. University of Rome – Tor Vergata, Congress Centre, Villa Mondragone. Conference *The Field Research* organised by Prof. R. Mastromattei. Presentation titled: “L’intenzionalità etnografica e la sua appropriazione da parte degli attori sociali”.
- May 9-14. Concordia University, Montreal, Canada. Convention of the Canadian Anthropological Society (CASCA). Session: *The Limit of Identity and the Place of Knowledge. Constructions, Deconstructions, Collusions*, organized by Professors R. Malighetti and M. Pandolfi. Presentation titled: “La construction d’une identité bouddhiste chez les Tharus et les Magars du Népal”.
- March 29. Université du Québec à Montréal (UQÀM), Montreal, Canada. Research Seminar at the Department of Religious Science. Presentation titled: “Rites d’initiation monastique chez les hautes castes bouddhistes Newar”.
- 2005 October 17. University of Montreal, Canada. Lecture for the course on the Anthropology of India of Prof. J. Leavitt. Presentation titled: “Pilgrimage Places in Nepal: Between the Hindu Tradition and Local Myth”.

- May 18. University of Milan – Bicocca, Italy. Seminar for Doctoral students in Anthropology of the Contemporary. Presentation titled: “La rilevanza della categoria di religione nello studio dei movimenti religiosi in Nepal”.
- May 4-11. University of Rome–Tor Vergata, Italy. Department of Cultural Anthropology. Presentation titled: “Proseliti Neo Buddhisti nel regno del Nepal”.
- April 11. Napoli, Italy. Head office of Gesco. Training course for peace-keepers. Presentation titled: “Religious Movements and Political Contestation. The Case of Nepal”.
- February 3. University of Montreal, Canada, Department of Anthropology. Presentation titled: “La construction d’une identité bouddhiste chez les Tharus et les Magars du Népal”.
- 2004 December 17. University of Milan – Bicocca, Italy. Course of Anthropology of Religion of Prof. Ugo Fabietti. Presentation titled: “Conversioni al Buddhismo tra i Newar del Nepal”.
- December 7. University of Heidelberg, Germany. Contribution to the project *Dynamics of Ritual; the Sociocultural Process of a Historical and Comparative-Cultural Perspective* under the direction of Professor Axel Michaels. Presentation titled: “The Construction of a Buddhist Identity among the Tharu and Magar Ethnic Groups of Nepal”.
- February 27-28. CNRS, Villejuif, France. International Symposium *The categories of Nature and Culture in the Himalayas* organized by Prof. Marie Lecomte-Tilouine. Presentation titled: “The sacred confluence, between nature and culture”.
- February 25. Libreria Bibli, Rome, Italy. Presentation of the book: *La dea bambina. Il culto della Kumārī e la regalità in Nepal*, with the intervention of Professors Elisabetta Basile, Mario Prayer and Romano Mastromattei.
- February 23-25. Istituto italiano per l’Africa e l’Oriente (IsIAO), Rome, Italy. *Third Meeting of the “Orientalisti” – Definirsi e definire: percezione, rappresentazione e ricostruzione dell’identità*. Presentation titled: “Baudha Dharma Manchu. La costruzione di un’identità buddhista tra i Magar e i Tharu del Nepal: note di campo”.
- February 17. Delhi, India. Cultural Centre of the Italian Embassy. Presentation of the book: *La dea bambina. Il culto della Kumārī e la regalità in Nepal*.
- 2003 May 13. University of Rome – Tor Vergata, Italy. Course in Cultural Anthropology of Prof. Romano Mastromattei. Seminar titled: “L’iniziazione maschile nelle caste buddhiste Newar della valle di Kathmandu”.
- 2002 December 11-13. Rome, Italy. Garibaldino di Porta S. Pancrazio Museum. Second Meeting of the “Orientalisti” – Mutuare, interpretare, tradurre; storie di culture a confronto. Presentation titled: “Hinduizzati, degenerati, da convertire: interpretazioni del Buddhismo Newar della valle di Kathmandu”.
- May 17. Villejuif, France. Research Team of the CNRS “Milieux, Sociétés et Cultures en Himalaya”. Presentation of the results of fieldwork titled: “La notion de tirtha dans les guides de pèlerinage au Népal”.
- January 22. Delhi, Cultural Centre of the Italian Embassy in India. Presentation titled: “The concept of the Sacred Place (tirtha) in India and Nepal”.
- 2001 May 14- June 1. Villejuif, France. CNRS Research Team “Milieux, Sociétés et Cultures en Himalaya”. Presentation of fieldwork results titled: “Le role des confluences de rivières au Népal. Le roi Mani Mukunda Sen dans la mythologie de trois places de pèlerinage”.
- 1998 November 7-8. Auditorium of the Military Naval School Morosini, S. Elena-Venice, Italy. National Conference *Mysterium Sanguinis. Blood in the Civilizations of the East and of the West: Symbolical and Therapeutic Powers*. Presentation titled: “Menarca e perdita di divinità: il culto della dea bambina in Nepal”.
- 1997 March 13. University of Rome – Tor Vergata, Italy. Course of Cultural Anthropology of Prof. Romano Mastromattei. Seminar titled: “Il culto della Kumari in Nepal”.

PARTICIPATION TO OTHER CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

- 2017 August 20-25. Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto, Canada. *XVIIIth Congress of The International Association of Buddhist Studies (IABS)*. Member of the Organizing Committee and Chair of the session on Contemporary Buddhism.
- 2016 December 12-14, Kathmandu, Nepal. *Dynamic Borderlands: Livelihoods, Communities and Flows*, Fifth Conference of the Asian Borderlands Research Network.
- 2012 July 12-13. University of Nanterre, Paris. European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) Biennial Conference *Uncertainty and Disquiet*.
- July 9-10. University of Oxford, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology. Chair of a session on UK at the workshop *Nepali Diasporas*. Conveners: Professor David Gellner and Dr. Sondra Hausner.
- 2011 October 13-15. University of Leipzig, Germany. *Multiple Secularities and Global Interconnectedness*.
- 2010 September 1-2. University of Oxford, ISCA. Conference *Mobility or Marginalisation: Dalits in Neoliberal India* organized by Dr. Clarinda Still.
- July 16-17. University of Oxford, Wolfson College. Workshop *Religion in the Making of a Region: Perspectives from Gujarat* organized by Dr. Nikita Sud.
- June 24-25. Wolfson College, Oxford. Conference *A Garland of Many-Coloured Flowers Adorning the Snow-Mountains. A Conference to Celebrate Ten Years of Tibetan Studies at Oxford*, organized by Professor Charles Ramble.
- 2009 September 8-10. Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu. Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies (CNAS). Workshop *Oral Epics of Western Nepal and related traditions: anthropological, linguistic and musical perspectives* organized by Boyd Michailovsky and Marie Lecomte-Tilouine.
- March 30-April 1. Edinburgh University, UK. *British Association for South Asian Studies (BASAS) Annual Conference*.
- March 30. Edinburgh University, UK. *Britain-Nepal Academic Council (BNAC) Study Day*.
- March 27-29. University of Oxford, Merton College. *Spalding Symposium on Indian Religions*.
- 2008 July 15-17. Villejuif, France. CNRS Research Team “Milieux, Sociétés et Cultures en Himalaya”. Workshop of ANR Program on Nepalese People's War, organized by Marie Lecomte-Tilouine.
- June 19-21. University of Rome – Tor Vergata, Italy. Congress Centre, Villa Mondragone. International Symposium *Shamanism and the Arts*. Organized by R. Mastromattei, G. Giuriati and G. Sytchenko.
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