



Canada-Nepal Forum for Research: *Ottawa Research Conference*
15-16 August 2026

Venue: *University of Ottawa, 55 Laurier Avenue East, Ottawa*
Desmarais Building, Main Floor

DAY 1: SATURDAY 15 AUGUST

8:00 – 9:00 AM *Breakfast and Registration*

9:00 – 9:30 AM *Welcome and Inauguration (President's welcome, Remarks by
Ambassador of Nepal, CANEFOR Journal Launch, Housekeeping
announcements)*

Room: DMS 1110

9:30 – 11:20 Session-1 (Parallel-A): Diaspora, Migration, & Social Transformation

Chair: Soni Thapa (Humber College, Etobicoke, ON)

Room: DMS 1110

Ambika Adhikari (Arizona State University, USA)

Diaspora as a Development Partner: Nepal's Untapped Asset

Sharmila Ranabhat (Mount Royal University, Canada)

Intersecting Barriers to Inclusion: Lived Experiences of Racialized Immigrant Women

Punya Sagar Marahatta and Chitra Pradhan (NRNA, Canada)

Retiring in the Laps of the Himalayas: A Strategic Framework for Diaspora Reintegration and Cross-Border Collaboration

Laxman Lamichhane (Independent Researcher, Canada)

Forced Migration, Legal Precarity, and Integration Challenges among Nepali Migrants in Canada

Govinda Dahal (Health Canada)

Knowledge Translation and Dissemination of Evidence

9:30 – 11:20 Session-1 (Parallel-B): Business, Public Policy, & Economic Development

Chair: Poonam Shrestha Malakar (University of Windsor, ON)

Room: DMS 1120

Anup Basnet, Magnus Blomkvist, and Thomas Walker (Western University, EDHEC Business School, and Concordia University, Canada)

The Value of Layered Venture Capital Signals in Private M&A Markets

Dinesh Gajurel (University of New Brunswick, Canada)

Welfare Contribution of Remittance Inflow in Nepal

Hari Luitel and Chay Virta (Algoma University, Canada)

Population Aging in Canada: Fiscal Challenges and Policy Responses

Tulsi Dharel (Centennial College, Canada)

The Future of Marketing: Innovation and the Power of Country Branding

Krishna KC (GTA, Canada)

From Vision to Impact: Participatory Strategic Planning as a Catalyst for Organizational Effectiveness in NGOs and INGOs

11:20 – 12:50 Session-2: Poster Presentation

Venue: Lobby (Ground Floor, DMS)

Coordinator: Santa Man Rai (Advisor, CANEFOR)

Abhi Poudel (Longfields Davidson Heights Secondary School, Canada)

Reusable Rockets: Revolutionising the Space Industry

Idika Poudel (University of Ottawa, Canada)

Chaos Theory: Applications and Uses

Ishika Tripathi (University of Ottawa, Canada)

Organizational- and System-Level Barriers and Enablers to Implementing Digital Palliative Care Tools into Long-Term Care Homes

Manus Basnet (Merivale High School, Canada)

Language Loss Across Immigrant Communities

Pranaya Paudel (École Secondaire Publique Omer-Deslauriers, Canada)

The Role of Molecular Structure for Predicting Toxicity Factors of Chemical Compounds

Shelina Poudel (University of Ottawa, Canada)

The Role of PER3 VNTR Polymorphism in Modulating Cognitive Resilience to Sleep Deprivation

Shreedika Poudel (University of Ottawa, Canada)

Earth's Magnetoreception: Navigation and Geoquantum Sensing Technologies

12:50 – 2:00 Lunch

Room: DMS 3105

2:00 – 3:50 Session-3 (Parallel-A): AI, Media & Digital Innovation

Chair: Jagadish Ghimire (Ericsson, Ottawa)

Room: DMS 1110

Sunita Acharya (Kantipur City College, Kathmandu), and Bhanu B. Acharya (University of Ottawa, Canada)

Normalizing GenAI Use in Journalism: How Media Institutions Integrate GenAI into Journalistic Code of Ethics

Suraj Bhandari (NEAJA, USA)

Bridging Diasporic Barriers through AI-Augmented Journalism: A Case of NEAJA in North American Media Ecosystems

Reya Shreya Rai (Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada)

Beyond the Bookshelf: The Potential of Digital Mapping and Gamification to Boost Teen Engagement at Vaughan Public Libraries

Shaligram Aryal (Carleton University, Canada)

Prime Ministerial Leadership and Media: A Critical Review of Communications and Media Relations Strategies of Two Canadian Prime Ministers

Shiromani Dawadi (Prince of Songkla University, Thailand)

Communicating Climate Change in Nepal: Impact of Electronic Media on Journalistic Practice and Public Awareness

2:00 – 3:50 Session-3 (Parallel-B): Health, Medicine & Public Health

Chair: Rajendra Parajuli (University of California San Diego, USA)

Room: DMS 1120

Basanta Lamichhane and colleagues (Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, Canada)

From Plant to Pharmacy: Unlocking the Complete Biosynthetic Pathway of the Alzheimer's Drug Galanthamine in *Leucojum aestivum*

Gyanendra Pokharel (University of Winnipeg, Canada)

How People Respond to Public Health Policies During an Epidemic

Mahanish J. Thapa (University of Ottawa, Canada)

From Aldehyde-induced DNA Damage to Pan-cancer Biology: Linking Mutational Signatures to Their Biological Processes

Aarsi Basnet (University of Ottawa, Canada)

Adversity, Caregiver Distress, and Child Socioemotional Development: A Cross-Context Analysis of Risk and Resilience in Canada and Nepal

Basudev Koirala (Sanatan Vedik Gyan Bigyan Kendra, Nepal)

Reimagining the Zodiac: A Comparative Etymological Study of Misrepresented Astrological Symbols

4:00 – 4:20 PM *Networking/Health Break*

4:20 – 5:20 Session-4: Keynote Speech

Prof. Bishal Gyawali (Queen's University, Canada)

Session Chair: Sanjeena Dang Subedi (Carleton University, Ottawa)

Title: **From Nepal to Nippon to the North: My Journey of Cancer Policy and Global Oncology Research**

(Activities: Introducing the speaker, keynote speech, and Q&A)

Room: DMS 1110

5:20 – 6:00 PM *Networking/Health Break*

6:00 – 7:30 PM CONFERENCE DINNER

DAY 2: SUNDAY 16 AUGUST

Venue: *University of Ottawa, 55 Laurier Avenue East, Ottawa
Desmarais Building, Main Floor*

8:00 – 9:00 *Breakfast*

9:00 – 10:50 Session-5 (Parallel-A): Agriculture, Forestry, and Food Security

Chair: Nira Sharma (Seneca College, Toronto)

Room: DMS 1110

Krishna Poudel and colleagues (Université Laval, Canada)

**Integrating Biochar with Organic–Mineral Fertilization to Improve Soil Health,
Sustain Yield, and Modulate Nutritional Quality of Butternut Squash**

Bibek Bhandari (Université Laval, Canada)

**Interactive Effects of Trail Design and Harvest Intensity on Residual Tree Damage
and Its Spatial Distribution in Mechanized Partial Harvesting**

Sewak Bhatta and Shuva Hari Gautam (Université Laval, Canada)

Analysis of the Traceability of Wood from the Forest to the Processing Unit

Shuva Hari Gautam (Université Laval, Canada)

**Long-Term Wood Supply Planning and Its Impacts on the Forest Products Supply
Chain**

Maya Subedi (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Saskatoon)

Pulse Crop Breeding for Premium Quality Traits: Lentil as an Example

9:00 – 10:50 Session-5 (Parallel-B): Environment and Sustainability

Chair: Birendra Sapkota (Natural Resources, Canada)

Room: DMS 1120

Sunitha Bisn, Tara Howse, and Riya Osti (University of Ottawa, Canada)

**Are Intersectional Inequities Addressed in Energy Policies? A Comparative Study
of Canada and Nepal Using the IEEAT Framework**

Ajoy Bista and Amiti Bista (Natural Resources Canada)

**Strengthening Results Tracking in Federal Support for Canada's Green
Technology Innovation**

Mohan Basnet (LRL Engineering, Canada)

From Source to Tap: How Cities Treat and Distribute Water

Hom Nath Gharti and colleagues (Queen's University, Canada)

Computing Gravity Across Scales: From Earthquakes to Lava Tubes and Asteroids

Radheshyam Malakar (University of Waterloo, Canada)

Rethinking Political Economy for the Anthropocene: A DiCaSoc Framework for Sustainable Development

10:50 – 11:10 AM Health Break & Refreshments

11:10 – 1:00 Session-6: Society, Culture, and Human Development

Chair: Gokul Bhandari (University of Windsor, Canada)

Room: DMS 1110

Bali Rai (Royal Roads University, Canada)

The Effect of Colonial Oppression and Cultural Erasure on the Indigenous Bayung Rai People's Segro Ceremony in Nepal

Kamal Kumar Nepali (Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada)

A Case Study of Feminist Reproductive Justice Movement in Nepal: Feminist Critical Discourse and Semiotics Analysis

Shiva Acharya (Laurentian University, Canada)

Walking Together: What We Learned About Building Relationships and Repairing Harm through Indigenous Sharing Circles in Canada

Kritisha Acharya (University of Toronto, Canada)

The Ins and Outs of Drug Development: A Case of Drug Development Ecosystem

Shasanka Chalise (University of Regina, Canada)

Delving into Diversity: Integrative Framework on Understanding Perceived Workplace Discrimination Against Visible Minority Employees

1:00 – 2:00 PM LUNCH

2:00 – 3:00 PM Closing Remarks and Annual General Meeting