

AMY LEIGH JOHNSON

Assistant Professor of Anthropology
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Berry College
Ajohnson1@berry.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D.

Yale University, Department of Anthropology and School of the Environment
December 2020

MPhil

Yale University, Department of Anthropology and School of the Environment
May 2020

B.A.

Anthropology, Barnard College of Columbia University
May 2009
Magna Cum Laude and Departmental Honors

GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

GCSU Faculty Research Award (\$4,915),
2024-2025

Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork
Grant (9312), 2016-2018

National Science Foundation Doctoral
Dissertation Research Improvement
Grant (1626755), 2016-2018

Fulbright Scholarship (Open/Study
Award, Doctorate-Level), Nepal, 2016-
2017
(received, but declined award)

National Science Foundation Graduate
Research Fellowship Program, 2013-
2018

Foreign Language and Area Studies
(FLAS) Fellowship, Advanced Nepali,
2014

MacMillan Center for International and
Area Studies Research Award,
Yale University, 2014-2015

South Asian Studies Council Summer
Research Award for Graduate Students,
Yale University, June -August 2014

A. Richard Diebold Jr. Graduate
Fellowship, Yale University

Fulbright Scholarship (Open/Study
Award, Bachelors-Level), Nepal
2009-2010

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

2024 Nadel Essay Prize, *The Asia Pacific
Journal of Anthropology*, 2025

David M. Schneider Award, American
Anthropological Association, 2020

Britain-Nepal Academic Council PhD
Dissertation Prize, 2021

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Anthropological Association
Association for Asian Studies
Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies
Britain-Nepal Academic Council
Southern Anthropological Society

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Executive Committee Member,
Association of Nepal and Himalayan
Studies, 2025-present

Associate Editor, *Studies in Nepali
History and Society*, 2024-present

Provost Visiting Scholar host, Georgia
College & State University, 2025

International Conference on
Sudurpaschim Studies: Heritage,
Innovation and Transformation (12-13
December 2022), Conference Organizer
with Britain-Nepal Academic Council
and Farwest University, May-December
2022

Deans Advisory Council, Georgia
College & State University, 2024-present
(Vice-Chair, 2025-present)

Transformative Experiences Committee,
Georgia College & State University,
2024-present

Job Search Committee Doctoral Student
Representative,
School of the Environment, Yale
University Spring 2020

Newcomb Visiting Fellow Search
Committee, Georgia College & State
University, 2024

I peer-review for *Himalaya, European Bulletin of Himalayan Research, Studies in Nepali History and Society, Disaster Prevention and Management, Cultural Anthropology, Journal of Peasant Studies*

LANGUAGES

Nepali: advanced speaking and reading
Tamang: intermediate speaking and reading
Hindi: beginner speaking and reading
German: beginner speaking and reading

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Georgia College & State University (Fall 2023-June 2026)

ANTH 1102 Introduction to Anthropology
ANTH 3010 Cultural Anthropology
ANTH 4950 Ethnographic Methods
ANTH 4950 Governing Utopia
ANTH 4950 Disaster Cultures
ANTH 4950 Environmental Futures
GC2Y Global Perspectives: Crossroads (Climate Change)

Fairfield University (Fall 2020-Spring 2021)

IL0050 People, Places, and Global Issues

Quinnipiac University (Spring 2020)

AN101 Local Cultures, Global Issues

Yale University (Summer Session 2019)

ANTH S110 Introduction to Socio-Cultural Anthropology

Teaching Fellow, Yale University (Fall 2015; Spring 2020)

FES 796B Human-Animal Relations, Michael Dove (Spring 2020)
ANTH 169 01/WGSS 169 Sex: An Anthropological Perspective, Karen Nakamura (Fall 2015)

Course Coordinator, Yale University (Fall 2020)

ANTH 54101 Agrarian Societies, K. Sivaramakrishnan, M. Echeverri, and E. Wood (Fall 2020)
ANTH 322 Environmental Justice in Modern South Asia, K. Sivaramakrishnan (Fall 2020)

PUBLICATION RECORD

Peer-reviewed articles

Johnson, Amy Leigh. 2024. "Hiding in Sight: Eco-Social Rhythms of Women's Worlds in Small Town Nepal." *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology* 25(5): 372-393. DOI: 10.1080/14442213.2024.2423821 [NADEL ESSAY PRIZE WINNER 2024]

Johnson, Amy. 2023. "Settler Sensibilities and Environmental Change: Unmaking Malarial Landscapes in Nepal." *The Journal of Asian Studies*. 82 (4): 639-662. <https://doi.org/10.1215/00219118-10687313>

Johnson, Amy Leigh. 2022. "Mapping Local Federalism in Nepal: An Exercise in Constitutional Cartography." *Studies in Nepali History and Society* 27(2): 239-283.

Peer-reviewed articles, co-authored

Sara Shneiderman, **Amy Leigh Johnson**, Jeevan Baniya, Dipak Basnet, Nyima Dorjee Bhotia, Tek Bahadur Dong, Anuradha Puri, Jonathan Rigg, Mukta Tamang, Katie Oven. 2026. "Circular resettlement and ongoing risk: earthquakes, landslides, and the challenges of "integrated" reconstruction in Nepal," *World Development*, Volume 202, 107261. ISSN 0305-750X.

KC, Gaurab and **Amy Leigh Johnson**. 2025. "The Life of a Bureaucrat-Scholar: An Interview with Upendra Man Malla." *European Bulletin of Himalayan Research* 64.

Maximillian Van Wyk de Vries, Alexandre Dunant, **Amy L. Johnson**, Erin L. Harvey, Sihan Li, Katherine Arrell, Jeevan Baniya, Dipak Basnet, Gopi K. Basyal, Nyima Dorjee Bhotia, Simon J. Dadson, Alexander L. Densmore, Tek Bahadur Dong, Mark E. Kincey, Katie Oven, Anuradha Puri, and Nick J. Rosser. 2025. "Brief Communication: Weak correlation between building damage and loss of life from landslides." *Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences Discussions* 25: 1937-1942.

Sweata Sijapati, Tom R. Robinson, Alexander L. Densmore, Prem Raj Awasthi, Alexandre Dunant, Sihan Li, Ragindra Man Rajbhandari, Nick J. Rosser, **Amy L. Johnson**, Katie J. Oven, Max van Wyk de Vries, and Stine Heiselberg. 2025. "Needs and Uses of Scientific Information by Humanitarian Clusters in Nepal." *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction (IJDRR)* 117.

Johnson, Amy, Chris Hebdon, Paul Burow, Deepti Chatti, and Michael Dove. "Anthropocene." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Anthropology*. 19 Oct. 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190854584.013.295>

Shneiderman, Sara, Luke Wagner, Jacob Rinck, **Amy L. Johnson**, and Austin Lord. 2016. "Nepal's Ongoing Political Transformation: A Review of Post-2006 Literature on Conflict, the State, Identities, and Environments." *Modern Asian Studies* 50(6): 2041-2114.

Book Chapters, published

Tamang, Tek Bahadur and Mukta S. Tamang, **Amy Leigh Johnson**, Dipak Basnet, Nyima Dorjee Bhotia, Anuradha Puri, Sara Shneiderman, Marcus Power, Jonathan Rigg, Jeevan Baniya and Katie Oven. 2026. "Reimagining Disaster Preparedness in Indigenous Nepal," in *Reimagining Disasters: Voices in the Pluriverse*, JC Gaillard and Ksenia Chmutina, eds. New York: Routledge.

Johnson, Amy Leigh and Katie Oven, Nick Rosser, Dipak Basnet, Nyima Dorjee Bhotia, Tek Bahadur Dong, and Anuradha Puri. "Integrating ethnographic and physical science methods in interdisciplinary research projects: Reflections on pedagogy and practice for 'deep interdisciplinary' engagement within the Sajag-Nepal project." 2025. In *Field Guide to Mixing Social and Biophysical Methods in Environmental Research*, Stuart Lane and Rebecca Lave, eds. Cambridge, UK: Open Book Publishing.

Johnson, Amy Leigh. 2023. "Mapping Local Federalism in Nepal: An Exercise in Constitutional Cartography," in *Nepal's Federal Conundrum: Negotiating a Strong Federal System on Weak Democratic Foundations*, Seira Tamang, editor. Kathmandu, Nepal: Martin Chautari: 173-226.

Dove, Michael R., **Amy L. Johnson**, Paul Burow, Wen Zhou, Lav Kanoi, and Manon Lefevre. 2019. "Who is in the Commons?: Defining Community and Management Practices in Long Term Natural Resource Management." In *Global Perspectives on Long Term Community Resource Management*, Ludomir R. Lozny and Thomas H. McGovern eds. Springer.

Brock, Samara, **Amy Johnson**, Alder Keleman, Francis Ludlow, and Michael R. Dove. 2020. "Agrarian Change and Agricultural Development." In *International Encyclopedia of Anthropology*, H. Callan ed. 12 vol. London: Wiley-Blackwell.

Keleman-Saxena, Alder, Samara Brock, Luisa Cortesi, Chris Hebdon, **Amy Johnson**, Francis M. Ludlow, and Michael R. Dove. 2017. "Indigenous Agriculture and the Politics of Knowledge." In *Indigenous Knowledge: Enhancing Its Contribution to Natural Resources Management*, Paul Stilltoe, ed. Oxford and Boston: CABI.

Book Reviews

Johnson, Amy Leigh. 2024. Review of *Surviving the Sanctuary City: Asylum-Seeking Work in Nepali New York*, by Tina Shrestha. *Studies in Nepali History and Society* 29(1).

Johnson, Amy Leigh. 2023. Review of *Continent in Dust: Experiments in a Chinese Weather System*, by Jerry C. Zee. *Environment and Society* 14(1).

Johnson, Amy Leigh. 2021. Review of *Disturbed Forests, Fragmented Memories: Jarai and Other Lives in the Cambodian Highlands*, by Jonathan Padwe. *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 48(6): 1330-1334. DOI: 10.1080/03066150.2021.1950301.

Johnson, Amy Leigh. 2021. Review of *Maoist People's War and the Revolution of Everyday Life in Nepal*, by Ina Zharkevich. *European Bulletin of Himalayan Research* [Online] 57.

Johnson, Amy Leigh. 2014. Review of *Maoists at the Hearth* by Judith Pettigrew. *The Journal of South Asian Studies* 37(3): 546-548.

Public Audience and Creative Work

Disasters Deconstructed Podcast. Season 9, episodes 5, 6, and 7.

<https://disastersdecon.podbean.com> (assisted with episode production, script-writing, and interviews).

Nepal Conversations Podcast. Season 2 Episode 4.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RRCfTXqrfU&themeRefresh=1>

Johnson, Amy. 2021. "Don't Break the State: Indivisibility and Populist Majority Politics in Nepal." Hot Spots, Fieldsights, March 16. <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/dont-break-the-state-indivisibility-and-populist-majority-politics-in-nepal>.

Adhikary, Nripal and **Amy Leigh Johnson.** 2015. "Rebuilding Nepal with Traditional Techniques." World Bank Blogs. Last accessed 10/12/20.

<https://blogs.worldbank.org/endpovertyinsouthasia/rebuilding-nepal-traditional-techniques>.

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

Panels and Roundtables Organized

"Moving with the Times: Footpaths, Roadways, and Everyday Journeys in the Transnational Himalaya," roundtable for the Association for Asian Studies Reframing Global Asias Conference, Kathmandu, Nepal, June 2025.

Chair, “What Does Transdisciplinary Research and Practice Look Like? Landslides, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Learning Across Difference in Nepal,” roundtable for the Association for Asian Studies Reframing Global Asias Conference, Kathmandu, Nepal, June 2025.

“Doing Democracy in Nepal: Performances and Practices, 1951 to Now, Part 2 - Performing the Democratic Federal Republic of Nepal (2006-present),” for the Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, November 2024.

“Sajag-Nepal: Preparedness and Planning for the Mountain Hazard and Risk Chain” (3 panel series), for the Annual Conference on Nepal and the Himalaya. July 2024.

“Sajag-Nepal: Producing Knowledge and Building Partnerships for Critical Disaster Research in Nepal,” for the Britain-Nepal Academic Council Study Days Conference, University of Huddersfield, United Kingdom, 24-25 April 2023.

“Unsettling ‘Landscape’ in the Anthropology of South Asia and the Himalaya,” roundtable for the American Anthropological Association Annual Conference, Seattle, WA, November 2022.

“Geomorphologies for Living with a Changing Planet, 1: Perspectives and Interrogations,” for the American Anthropological Association Annual Conference, Seattle, WA, November 2022.

“Geomorphologies for Living with a Changing Planet, 2: Indexes and Relationships,” for the American Anthropological Association Annual Conference, Seattle, WA, November 2022.

“Plural Environments and the Interdisciplinary Study of Disaster,” double panel for the Royal Geographical Society Annual Conference, Newcastle, UK, August-September 2022.

“Territory, Jurisdiction, and the Significance of Space in the Sovereignty of Nepal,” for the 49th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 2021.

“Territory, Jurisdiction, and the Significance of Space in the Sovereignty of Nepal,” for Association for Asian Studies Conference, Boston, MA, April 2020. (cancelled due to COVID-19).

“Embracing Environment: Embodiment, Experience, and Attunement Across Ethnographic Futures,” for the American Ethnological Society Joint Spring Conference, St. Louis, MO, March 2019

"The Social Lives of Malaria in the Nepal Tarai: Studies of Environment, the Nation-State, Neighbors, and the Body from East to West," for the Annual Kathmandu Conference on Nepal and the Himalayas, Kathmandu, Nepal, July 2017

"Land and Politics in Nepal: Anthropological Investigations," for the Annual Conference on Nepal and the Himalayas, Kathmandu, Nepal, July 2015

Papers Presented

"The Power of Role-Playing Simulations to Engage Students in their Learning" with Dr. Steve Elliot-Gower, Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Conference, Kennesaw State University, September 2025.

"Talking About the Weather in Northwest Georgia: Extreme Events, Memory, and Climate Ethnography," with Elijah Gates (student) at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Anthropology Association, Davidson College, March 2025.

Roundtable participant, "Moving with the Times: Footpaths, Roadways, and Everyday Journeys in the Transnational Himalaya," for the Association for Asian Studies Reframing Global Asias Conference, Kathmandu, Nepal, June 2025.

"Sympatric Politics: Shared Grounds, Disputed Claims, and Federal Futures in Kailali," Paper presented at Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, November 2024.

"Conceptualizing Disaster Differently: Negotiating Indigenous, Local, and Scientific Difference in the Sajag-Nepal Project," Paper presented at the Annual Conference on Nepal and the Himalaya, Kathmandu, Nepal, July 2024.

"Re-Imagining Disaster in Indigenous Nepal," Paper presented with Mukta Tamang and Tek Bahadur Dong at the Annual Conference on Nepal and the Himalaya, Kathmandu, Nepal, July 2024.

"Pluralizing Environment in Nepal Disaster Studies: Critical Reflections from the Sajag-Nepal Project," Paper presented at the Britain-Nepal Academic Council Study Days, University of Huddersfield, United Kingdom, 24-25 April 2023.

"Reframing Environment in Interdisciplinary Disaster Research: A Decolonial Approach to Studying Hazard and Risk in Nepal," Paper presented at the Association of American Geographers Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado, March 2023.

"The Social Lives of Landslides: Moving Land and People in a Himalayan Valley," Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Conference, Seattle, WA, November 2022.

"Hiding in Sight: Eco-social Rhythms of Women's Autonomy in Small Town Nepal," Paper presented at Himalayan Journeys: Circulations and Transformations, Centre d'études himalayennes (CNRS), Campus Condorcet Centre de colloques Aubervilliers, June 2022.

"Setting the State in Stone: Arranging Territory and Consolidating Sovereignty in Nepal." Paper presented at the 49th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 2021.

"Before Belonging: Settler Emplacement in the Farwest Tarai," Paper presented at British Nepal Academic Council Nepal Study Days, hosted online by University College London, April 2021.

"Sentimental Terrain: Experts and the Grounding of 'New' Nepali Nationalism," Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Conference, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, November 2020

"The Geography of Nepali Nationalism: From Imperialism to Federalism," Paper presented at the Imperial Legacies of 1919 Conference, Northern Texas University, Denton, TX, April 2019

"Metonymy, Environment, and Exogamous Desire in Nepal's Farwestern Tarai," Paper presented at the American Ethnological Society Annual Conference, St. Louis, MO, March 2019

"The Hidden Affordances of Grass in Small-town Nepal," Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Conference, San Jose, CA, November 2019

"Settler Sensibilities and Environmental Change: The Unmaking of a Malarial Landscape in the Farwest Tarai," Paper presented at the Annual Kathmandu Conference on Nepal and the Himalayas, Kathmandu, Nepal, July 2017.

"Historicizing the Emergence of a 'Transformative' Constitution in Nepal," Paper presented at the British Association of South Asian Studies Annual Conference, UK, April 2016.

"Relational Environments and Federal Futures: Politics of (Trans)Belonging in Farwest Nepal," Paper presented at Nepal on the Move: Conflict, Migration, and Stability, Kathmandu, Nepal, March 2016.

“Belonging in the Farwest Tarai: Pahadis Out of Place?” Paper presented at Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies Annual Conference, University of Texas (Austin), February 2016.

“Tharu Pahadi Bhai-Bhai?: Imagining Federalism in Sundar Sudur Paschim,” Paper presented at Annual Kathmandu Conference on Nepal and the Himalayas, Kathmandu, Nepal, July 2015

“Nepal’s 2013 Constitutional Assembly Elections,” Paper presented at Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies Annual Conference, Yale University, March 2014.

Workshops and Seminar Presentations

“A Conversation on Early Career Academic Experiences in the UK and USA with Uma Pradhan, Associate Professor, University College London, UK and Amy Johnson, Assistant Professor, Georgia College and State University, USA,” organized by Martin Chautari, 1 June 2025.

“Journeys to the Past: An Anthropology and History Workshop with Dr. Amy Johnson,” organized by Martin Chautari. 25 May 2025.

“Talking About the Weather in Northwest Georgia: Extreme Events, Memory, and Climate Ethnography,” Wright Hotel, Chatsworth, GA. April 2025.

Population Resettlement in South Asia: Objectives and Strategies. Balsillie School of International Affairs, Waterloo, ON, Canada. January 16-18, 2025.

Martin Chautari Research Seminar Series. Amy Johnson. “Sympatric Politics: Shared Landscapes and Indivisible Geographies in Nepal’s Farwest Tarai.” Kathmandu, Nepal. 21 July 2024.

Martin Chautari Research Seminar Series. Amy Johnson. “Inside the Cartographic State: Local Mapping and the Practice of Constitutional Cartography in Nepal.” Kathmandu, Nepal. 12 June 2022.

Anthropology and Environment Society Junior Scholar Writing Workshop 2022. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Seattle, Washington. 10 November 2022.

PRIOR ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, Anthropology
Georgia College & State University
August 2023-June 2026

Postdoctoral Research Fellow (Sajag-Nepal Project)

Northumbria University

March 2021-June 2023: Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, UK

Adjunct Professor, Anthropology

Fairfield University

August 2020-May 2021

Adjunct Professor, Anthropology

Quinnipiac University

January 2020-May 2020