

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Bimbika Sijapati Basnett holds a PhD in Development Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science. She has been conducting a wide range of commissioned and independent research projects on gender and social inclusion and natural resource governance in Nepal and the South Pacific since 2001.

David N. Gellner is Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Oxford and has been carrying out research on various aspects of Nepali society since 1981. Among his books are *Varieties of Activist Experience: Civil society in South Asia* (Sage, 2010), *Ethnic Activism and Civil Society in South Asia* (Sage, 2009), and (with Sarah LeVine) *Rebuilding Buddhism: The Theravada movement in twentieth-century Nepal* (Harvard, 2005; Social Science Press, 2008).

Piers Locke is Lecturer in Anthropology in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. His doctoral research concerns apprenticeship learning, communities of practice, and human-animal relations amongst the elephant handlers of Chitwan, Nepal. More recently, his Nepal research has focused on development interventions in government elephant stables and the rise of nature tourism in and around the Chitwan National Park. His film 'Servants of Ganesh' concerns the training of a young elephant at the Khorsor Elephant Breeding Center. He is currently writing a book, also titled *Servants of Ganesh*.

Mélanie Vandenhelsken is an anthropologist and researcher at the Institute for Social Anthropology of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna. She is engaged in a research project on modes of construction of ethnicity in Sikkim, directed by Dr. Guntram Hazod. This has a particular focus on the influences of the state (Indian and Sikkimese) on the construction of ethnic 'mapping,' ethnic identity and difference, but also takes into account globalisation and trans-border networks. Her doctoral thesis, submitted in France in 2002, was a study of rituals and Buddhist monasticism in Sikkim. Her publications include 'Les spécialistes de rituels bouddhiques *nyingmapa* de Pemayangtse' in *Moines et moniales de par*

le monde. La vie monastique au miroir de la parenté. Vers une comparaison des différentes formes de vie monastique, edited by A. Herrou and G. Krauskopff, (Paris: L'Harmattan, 2009) and several articles in the *Bulletin of Tibetology* (2003, 2006 and 2008).