

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE REPORT (2022-23)

Dr. Samir Sharma, Head of Department

The Department of Political Science is one of the largest Social Science departments in the College. For the academic year of 2022-2023 the total strength of Honours students in the three semesters stood at 226 . The department has focused on the balance between its academic and co-curricular commitments for the Undergraduate students resulting in a furry of activities in the Department. The highlight for this academic session has been the Faculty and Student exchanges with two colleges – one in West Bengal and another in Meghalaya – which was definitely enriched the learning capacities of the students. Additionally, the Department hosted the International Conference which saw the participation of scholars from across the South Asian region. The details of the academic and co-curricular activities are as follows:

SECTION I – STUDENT ACTIVITIES IN THE DEPARTMENT

1. 2nd position in Inter Department Nepali Debate Competition



Stephen Lepcha and Pema Sangay who were 6th Semester students of our Department won 2nd Prize in the Inter Department Nepali Debate Competition attended by 10 departments of St. Joseph's College on 29th April, 2023. The event was organised by the Nepali Department of St. Joseph's College.

2. Faculty & Students Exchange Program with Union Christian College in Meghalaya



6th Semester students of our Department along with the Principal Fr. Donatus Kujur, Dr. Padam Nepal, Ms S. Shah and Ms P. Sharma were part of the Faculty & Students Exchange Program with Union Christian College in Meghalaya during 17-22 April 2023.

3. Dialogues on Democracy Workshop



43 students of the Department along with the HoD, Dr Samir Sharma participated in the Dialogues on Democracy Workshop organised by Azim Premji University and Eastern Himalayan Foundation in collaboration with the Political Science Departments of Southfield College and St Joseph College. The event was held at Damien Hall of Southfield College on 2 May 2023.

4. International Women's Day Celebrations



In 1975, during the International Women's Year, the United Nations began celebrating 8 March as International Women's Day. Dr. Padam Nepal, Associate professor of our Department spoke on the Occasion of International Women's Day on 8th March, at the College Seminar Hall focusing on phases of Women's writing.

5. Winners for District Level Neighborhood Youth Parliament



Our Department students from 4th and 6th Semester, Lalit Thapa and Pema Sangay emerged victorious at the District Level Neighborhood Youth Parliament organised by Nehru Yuva Kendra, Government of India, at GDNS Hall on 24th February 2023.

6. Special Lecture Series



The Department held its first Special Lecture of the Semester (SJC/PolSc/23/21) on 21st February, 2023 and where Mr. Rahul Ganguly, Research Scholar at IIT Delhi spoke to our students on the topic: Development & Ethnicity in post 2017 Darjeeling: An Ethnographic Exploration. The event was attended by 43 students.

7. Cultural performance on Students Exchange Program on 19th November 2022 with Barrackpore Rastraguru Surendranath College



Cultural performances by our Department students on the occasion of Students Exchange Program on 19th November 2022 consisted of performance of folk songs and traditional dances of the Darjeeling region.

8. Participation in Annual Survey of Education Report (ASER), 2022



Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) is a nationwide household survey that captures the status of children's enrollment and learning outcomes in rural India every year. The Research and Assessment units design and implement research projects and measurement tools that delve deeper into different aspects of children's educational trajectories. Our students who were 27 in number were part of field studies in different locations such as Badamtam, Sonada, Marybong, Longview, Garidhura, Kolbung, Mahanadi, Peshok, Tindharia and Ghayabari. Outcome of the activity was the development of methodological rigour in conducting field survey and collection of data among the students including team work and peer-learning.

9. Winners for Divisional Level YPC Quiz Competition



Nima Laden (6th Sem) and Lalit Thapa (4th Sem) of our Department lifted the Divisional Level YPC Quiz Competition by defeating 13 teams from different colleges at Malbazar College on 12th Nov, 2022. Chodenla Lama (4th Sem) also represented the Darjeeling district in the Extemporaneous competition. The winning team will be going to Kolkata to represent the entire North Bengal region at the State level.

10. Board work for pre-Christmas celebrations



To inculcate the spirit of teamwork excellent board work by 1st Semester students of our Department was created to mark the pre-Christmas celebrations in the college on 21st December, 2022. They also participated in the pre-Christmas celebrations.

11. Gold Medal at West Bengal School & College Level Kick Boxing Championship



Our Second Semester Political Science Hons student Rinchen Tamang won Gold at the West Bengal School & College Level Kick Boxing Championship held at Siliguri on 11th November 2022.

12. Debate: Scholar's Society vs. Accord (Winning Team)



Siddhant Thapa 5th Semester student of our Department was on the winning team (against) for the debate between Scholar's Society vs. Accord held at St. Joseph's College.

13. 1st Prize at Innovision Inter College Cultural Fest & Competition



Ridhika Basnet (4th Sem) of our Department was awarded the 1st Prize in the Category - DSLR Photography at the Innovision Inter College Cultural Fest & Competition organized by Salesian College on 21-22 October, 2022 at Siliguri.

14. 2nd Prize at District Level Declamation Competition 2022



Udgam Thami and Nisha Gohar, 5th Semester students of our Department represented our College in the District Level Declamation Competition 2022 organized by Nehru Yuva Kendra at GDNS on 19.10.22. Udgam was awarded the 2nd Prize for his speech on Patriotism and Nation Building by the Judges.

15. Participation in World Mental Health Day 2022



Kusum Biswakarma (3rd Sem) and Pema Sangay (5th Sem) - students of our Department along with Ms. Sharddha Shah and Ms Pooja Sharma and students were invited to speak today i.e. 17th October on the occasion of World Mental Health Day 2022 organized by DLR Perna at DRDC Hall in Lowis Jubilee Complex. They shared their perspectives on the crucial issues of mental health from the perspective of the students and youth.

16. Participation in National Level Camp in Delhi (Thal Sainik Camp) NCC



Phur Diki Sherpa from 5th semester and Aradhana Rai from 3rd semester from our Department were selected for the National Level Camp in Delhi (Thal Sainik Camp) NCC which was held during 14-28 September 2022.

17. Elections of Student Councilors



Pemala Sherpa (5th Semester Hons) has been elected as Head Councillor for St. Joseph's College. Further, Pema Sangay has been elected Councilor for NCC and Christina Lama has been elected as Councilor for AICUF. All three are students of our department.

SECTION II - ACTIVITIES OF FACULTY

1. Dr Padam Nepal

Dr Padam Nepal, Associate Professor, delivered a talk titled "Interrogating Colonial Constructions of Women's: Darjeeling and Northeastern India in Perspective" on July 15, 2022 at UCC on the occasion of signing MoU between SJC, Darjeeling and UCC, Shillong on student and Faculty Exchange.



Dr. Padam Nepal Chaired the Session at the Two-Day National Seminar on Indigenous Knowledge Practices in the Eastern Himalaya Belt held at KGTM, Bagdogra on 25-26 November, 2022.

Dr. Padam Nepal was invited to deliver the Valedictory Address at the ICSSR National Seminar on Borders and Boundaries: India and its Neighbors, organized by the Department of Political Science, Kurseong College on 24-25 March, 2023.

Dr. Padam Nepal was a resource person at the ICSSR National Seminar on Gender Issues in 21st Century with Special Reference to North East India organized by the Depts. of English and Political Science, Moridhal College, Assam on 10-11 March, 2023.

Dr. Padam Nepal delivered a talk titled “Political Imagination and the Everyday in Agam Singh Giri: A Perspective on Identity and the Politics of Protest” at the 15th Giri Jayanti Celebrations organized by the Siliguri Nepali Sahitya Sansthan on 26th December, 2022.

Dr. Padam Nepal was invited as a member of the Green Audit for NAAC Accreditation at Sonada Degree College on 22nd December, 2022.

Dr. Padam Nepal was invited as Chairperson for Academic and Administrative Audit for NAAC Accreditation at Sonada Degree College on 22nd December, 2022.

Dr. Padam Nepal was invited as resource person for NAAC Orientation Program (one-day) for NAAC Accreditation at Sonada Degree College on 20th December, 2022.

Dr. Padam Nepal was invited to deliver a Special Lecture to the faculty of Bijanbari Degree College, Darjeeling in preparation of their first cycle of NAAC on 17th August, 2022.

2. Dr Sumita Rai

Dr. Sumita Rai, Associate Professor of the Department was a member of organizing committee and one of the Judges for the inter-college Declamation Contest on 25th May, 2023.



Dr. Sumita Rai, Associate Professor of the Department attended the Darjeeling Hills University inaugural lecture 'Challenges of Building a University' jointly organized by DHU and Southfeild College on 12 May, 2023.

Dr. Sumita Rai, was a judge for the Inter Departmental Nepali Debate Competition held in April 2023.

Dr. Sumita Rai, Chaired one session in the International Conference on Digital Politics and Digital Governance in South Asia on 15-16 September, 2022.

3. Dr Samir Sharma

Dr. Samir Sharma delivered a Special Lecture titled "The Arts and Sciences Debate: Convergences and Divergences" at the Faculty and Student Exchange Program, Barrackpore Rastraguru Surendranath College, Kolkata and St Joseph College 18-19 November, 2022 at the MR Hall Auditorium.



Dr. Samir Sharma Chaired a Technical Session at the International Conference on *Digital Politics and Digital Governance in South Asia* on 15-16 September, 2022 organized by the Department of Political Science, St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling.

Dr. Samir Sharma was invited to deliver a Special Lecture to the faculty of Bijanbari Degree College, Darjeeling in preparation of their first cycle of NAAC on 17th August, 2022.

4. Ms. Pooja Sharma

Ms. Pooja Sharma delivered a talk titled "Ecology and Environment in Darjeeling" at the Faculty Exchange Program between St. Josephs College, Darjeeling and UCC, Shillong (Meghalaya) on 15 July 2022.

Ms. Pooja Sharma, co-presented a paper titled 'FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT SCHEME: AN OVERVIEW' in the *International Conference on Digital Politics and Digital Governance in South Asia* on 15-16 September, 2022 organized by the Department of Political Science, St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling.

5. Ms. Sharddha Shah

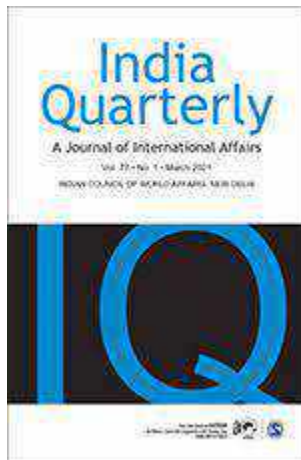
Ms. Sharddha Shah delivered a talk titled "The Lepchas of Darjeeling" at the Faculty Exchange Program between St. Josephs College, Darjeeling and UCC, Shillong (Meghalaya) on 15 July 2022.

Ms. Sharddha Shah, co-presented a paper titled 'FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT SCHEME: AN OVERVIEW' in the *International Conference on Digital Politics and Digital Governance in South Asia* on 15-16 September, 2022 organized by the Department of Political Science, St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling.

Ms. Sharddha Shah (Asst. Prof) participated in a National Seminar. While Ms. Shah presented her research paper titled "INNOVATING CULTURAL IDENTITY THROUGH INDIGENOUS GASTRONOMICAL KNOWLEDGE" at the Two-Day National Seminar on *Indigenous Knowledge Practices in the Eastern Himalaya Belt* held at KGTM, Bagdogra on 25-26 November, 2022.



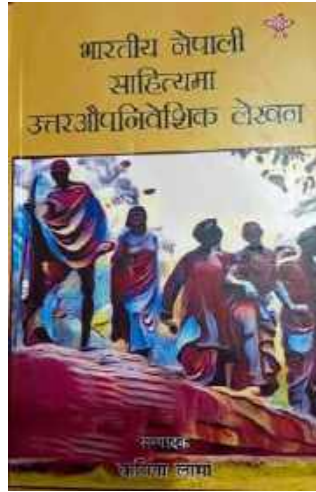
FACULTY PUBLICATIONS:



1. Samir Sharma, *1950 India–Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship and Regional Mobilisations in Eastern India*, *India Quarterly: A Journal of International Affairs* (Indian Council of World Affairs [ICWA] and Sage), ISSN: 0974-9284, Volume 79, Issue 1, pp. 79-92
<https://doi.org/10.1177/09749284221147180>



2. Samir Sharma, 'The North Remembers!': *Virtual Publics and Limits of Digital Interventions in Darjeeling Hills*, *Studies in Nepali History and Society*, (SINHAS), Volume 27, Issue 2 , pp. 353-382 <https://www.martinchautari.org.np/mc-publications/sinhas-volume-27-number-2>



3. Padam Nepal and Kabir Basnet, Poetic Experiences of Efforts at Cultural Integrity in Post Colonial Indian Nepali Literature, in Kabita Lama (eds.) *Bharatiya Nepali Sahityama Uttaraupaniveshik Lekhan* (2022), Sahitya Academi: New Delhi.

SECTION III - DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS

1. Orientation Program for 1st Semester students and parents, 2022



The Department organized an Orientation Program with the new 1st Semester students and their parents where all the teachers spoke regarding the syllabus, rules and regulations as well as expectations of college life. We also had speeches by the student Councilors and the CRs of the Department on 8th September 2022 who informed the new students about the activities of the Department and College.

2. District Level Inter College Youth Parliament Competition, 2022



The Department organized the District Level Inter College Youth Parliament Competition 2022 at St. Joseph's College on 23rd September 2022 which was sponsored by the Department of Parliamentary Affairs, Government of West Bengal which saw the participation of 6 colleges of Darjeeling district. Lalit Thapa and Nima Drukpa of our Department won the Quiz Competition, while Chodenla Lama came 2nd in the Extemporary Competition. Zemiyang took the 3rd position in the Essay Competition.

3. International Conference on Digital Governance and Digital Politics in South Asia on 15-16 September, 2022



The Department organized the International Conference on Digital Governance and Digital Politics in South Asia on 15-16 September, 2022 under the chief patronship of the Principal, Fr. Dr Donatus Kujur, SJ. A total of 38 original research papers from scholars and practitioners from India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and beyond were presented and discussed. The Keynote address was delivered by Prof. Dipankar Sinha, Professor at the Department of Political Science, University of Calcutta. The Valedictory address was delivered by Dr. Padam Nepal of our Department. An edited volume is being prepared to publish the select papers after peer-review from a reputed international publisher.

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