



## “Building back stronger”?

### Robustness, Resilience and Regeneration in Post-Earthquake Heritage Making in Nepal

**Prof. Dr. Christiane Brosius**

University of Heidelberg, Germany

Friday, 21 Jan. 2022

10:15–11:45 (CET)

Zoom event

Besides the slogan ‘We are survivors, not victims’, ‘building back strong’ was another much-heard phrase raised in the aftermath of the dramatic earthquakes in Nepal 2015. With reconstruction, still ongoing, debates about the ‘liveable city’ started. Both tangible and intangible heritage played a vital role in this, as source of hope and belonging, but also as a discursive reference point for the shaping of a ‘new Nepal’, and ideas of a strong societal fabric. Urban planning and earthquake display how a city can respond to dramatic transformations, but also how a city habitat is a remarkably complex assemblage of social, economic, cultural but also transnational and historical connectivities and disconnectivities. It is in the microworlds of everyday life and experiences that robustness, the relation between fragility and stability, can be studied, whereas fragility must also be seen in a positive light. As communities are often built around and in relation to places, and since heritage is key for this, the talk’s focus will lie on robustness. How can cities and their populations retain a vibrant urban culture today? How can cities and their populations cope with economic, political, or social transformations that have speeded up and intensified life as they face quite extreme conditions of environmental change and social inequality, among other challenges?

**Prof. Dr. Christiane Brosius** teaches urban, visual and media anthropology at the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies (HCTS). Her field research is based in Nepal (Kathmandu Valley) and India (New Delhi). Prof. Brosius is co-director of the Nepal Heritage Documentation Project (NHDP, funded by Arcadia, London) and is PI in the international network ‘Heritage as Placemaking’ (Rijksbanken Jubileumsfond, Sweden), with colleagues in Nepal, India and the UK. From 2014-2017. With Prof. Dr. Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka, she is the head of the Shaping Asia Initiative. Prof. Brosius published *India's Middle Class. New Forms of Urban Leisure, Consumption and Prosperity* (Routledge 2010, reprint with additional introduction 2014), and conceptualised *Breaking Views. Engaging Art in post-earthquake Nepal* (Kathmandu Himal Books/Social Science Baha, 2017), with Sanjeev Maharjan.

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**Zoom registration Link:**

[https://uni-bielefeld.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUtcuqtrj4pHtComhEK9qFeBUi56x\\_IUgEZ](https://uni-bielefeld.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUtcuqtrj4pHtComhEK9qFeBUi56x_IUgEZ)