

HGSA SPRING 2026 COLLOQUIUM SERIES
PRESENTS

NEPAL AND THE ASIAN INFORMATION ORDER, 1750s-1850s



June 10th
3pm

Bunche 5288
(HoS room)
and Zoom

Presented By:

SHUBHANGA PANDEY

4TH YEAR, SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA FIELD

Histories of intelligence and social communication in modern South Asia have overwhelmingly taken the British colonial state and its conquest of the subcontinent as their main object of study. In these accounts of European appropriation of indigenous informational networks, regions like the Himalayas are reduced to passive fringes. This paper challenges that picture through the diplomatic archives of the Nepali state. Drawing on under-utilized correspondence, spy reports, and diplomatic materials, it reconstructs the networks of runners, scribes, merchants, and envoys who crisscrossed the subcontinent and sustained a sophisticated apparatus for accumulating political, military and cultural knowledge about societies across Eurasia.

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