

# ICGC COLLOQUIUM SERIES



**Interdisciplinary Center**  
*for the Study of* **Global Change**

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

## “GAIJATRA”:

### Remembering the deceased and the occasion for cultural and political commentary

Presented by: Bhaskar Upadhyay

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Friday, November 3, 12 -1 pm CT

537 Heller Hall (ICGC)

Live Stream Available @ [www.icgc.umn.edu](http://www.icgc.umn.edu)

Abstract: In this ongoing longitudinal ethnographic study, we get to learn, engage, and celebrate an integral part of the Newari culture which provided a time for the larger Nepali communities to support the bereaved and make the occasion to comment on the past, current, and the future of the national politics, corruption, culture, values, and a sense of festivity. Even though Gaijatra is a Newari cultural heritage celebrated among the Newar ethnic groups across Nepal to remember the deceased in the family, it gained a significant value within the Nepali politics during the time when Nepal was a kingdom. Gaijatra provided a space and time to bring people from every walk of political and cultural life under one tent and shed light on the flaws and the strengths of everyday lives of the people.