

Namgyal Choedup

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Education

In Progress PhD in Anthropology, Washington University in St Louis
 2009 MA in Anthropology, Washington University in St Louis
 2000 MA in Sustainable International Development, Brandeis University
 1996 MBA from University of Mysore, India
 1992 BSc from St Philomena's College, Mysore, India

Research Interests

Diaspora and transnational studies, migration, national narratives and collective memory, development studies, demography, contemporary Tibetan societies, contemporary China and India.

Dissertation Title: "From Tibetan Refugees to Transmigrants: Negotiating Cultural Continuity and Socio-economic Mobility through Migration". Anticipated defense in May 2015.

Publications

Forthcoming. From Servant (g.yog mo) to Disciple (slob ma): Modernity, Migration, and Evolving Life Course Options for Buddhist Nuns (with Geoff Childs) in *Tibet Studies in Honor of Per Kvaerne*, eds. Hanna Havenik and Charles Ramble. Oslo: Novus

In review. Statelessness as a form of citizenship among Tibetan exiles in India in *Place, (Dis)Place and Citizenship*, ed. Cherstin Lyon. Detroit: Wayne State University Press.

2014 Indigenous Management and Socioeconomic Impacts of Yartsa Gunbu (*Ophiocordyceps sinensis*) Harvesting in Nubri and Tsum, Nepal (with Geoff Childs), *Himalaya, the Journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies* 34(1): 8-21.
<http://digitalcommons.macalester.edu/himalaya/vol34/iss1/7/>

2006 *Trin-Gyi-Pho-Nya: Tibet Environment and Development Digest* Vol. 4 (2). Guest Editor. Berkeley: Tibet Justice Center

2004 China's West Development and Rural Empowerment: Is there a link? A Case Study of the Tibetan Plateau in *China's West Development: Domestic Strategies and Global Implications*, eds. Ding Lu and William A. W. Neilson. Singapore: World Scientific, pp 409-438.

Conference Papers

- 2014 Center for Study of Citizenship conference, *Wayne State University*
- “Statelessness as a Form of Citizenship Among Tibetan Exiles”
- 2012 Association of Nepal and Himalaya Studies conference, *Western Michigan University*
- “Tibetan Settlements in India: Making of a New Homeland and Destination Sites for the Youths from the Himalayas”
- 2006 Socio-economic and Environmental Situation in Contemporary Tibet conference organized by The Fairbank Center for East Asian Research, *Harvard University*
- “Sustainable Development in the Tibetan Plateau: Assumptions, Challenges and Opportunities”
- 2004 Second Dialogue on Contemporary conference organized by the Fairbank Center for East Asian Research, *Harvard University*
- “China’s West Development Strategy and Environmental Protection on the Tibetan Plateau: Challenges, Contradictions and Opportunities”
- 2003 The tenth International Association for Tibetan Studies seminar, *Oxford University*
- “Chinese and Other Models of Development in Tibet: Subsidies, Infrastructure, Urbanization and Search for Sustainability”
- 2003 China’s West Region Development Conference, *University of Victoria, Canada*
- “China’s West Development and Rural Empowerment: Is there a link? A Case Study of the Tibetan Plateau”

Policy Papers/Documents

As part of research work from 200-2005 with the Environment and Development Desk of Central Tibetan Administration, worked as the lead researcher/editor of the following policy papers/documents, all available online at <http://tibet.net/publications/>

- 2005 *Endangered Mammals of Tibet*
- 2004 *Guidelines for International Development Projects and Sustainable Development in Tibet*
- 2003 *Tibet: State of the Environment*
- 2001 *China’s Railway to Lhasa: Where will it take Tibet?*

Academic Grants and Awards

- 2014 Rubin Foundation
For fieldwork research on child migration and depopulation in the High Himalayas.
- 2010 International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council
For doctoral dissertation fieldwork in India.
- 1998 US Tibetan Scholarship Exchange Program
- 1989 Merit Scholarship, Central Tibetan School Administration of India

Field Research

- 2014 One month field research in Nepal doing fieldwork in Nubri, Tsum and Kathmandu on child migration and depopulation in the High Himalayas.
- 2011 One month field research in Nubri, Nepal on migration and household labor, and oral histories.
- 2010-2012 18 months of doctoral dissertation fieldwork in the primary research site of Mundgod Tibetan Settlement and Dharamsala, India. Conducted household surveys of 940 households, in-depth interviews and archival research.

Teaching ExperienceInstructor

Anth 101: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, Summer 2013

Teaching Assistant 2008-2014

Anth 4114: Anthropology and Existentialism
Anth 361: Culture and Environment
Anth 3391: Economies as Cultural Systems
Anth 3055: Contemporary Chinese Culture and Society
Anth 3283: Intro to Public Health
Anth 3051: Anthropology of Tibet and the Himalayas
Anth 101: Intro to Cultural Anthropology

Work Experience

- 2000-2005 Environment and Development Desk, Central Tibetan Administration
As a head and researcher of the desk: Responsibilities included writing policy documents on development and environment related issues in the Tibetan Plateau; designing questionnaire and socio-economic survey to interview new refugees from Tibet; networking with professionals, institutes and organizations working in the Tibetan Plateau region; attending conferences and seminars and supervising volunteers and interns at the desk.
- 1995-1998 Planning Commission, Central Tibetan Administration
As a planning Officer and a member of the task force of the Central Tibetan Administration on *Perspective Development Plan for Future Tibet* project. Primary responsibilities involved design and planning of a pilot project to provide skills training and secure placements for unemployed Tibetan youths in India and Nepal. Became the first project coordinator of the above project, lived with the unemployed youths at a hostel in Bangalore, networked with vocational training institutes and business firms to train and employ young Tibetans.
- 1999-2000 Internship at Earth Island Institute, San Francisco

Six months internship involved research on use of animal and plant parts and products in traditional Tibetan medicine, writing fact sheets on specific endangered mammals in the Tibetan Plateau.

Language Skills

Tibetan: Native speaker

Hindi: Proficiency in reading, writing and speaking

Kannada: Proficiency in speaking

Chinese: Beginning knowledge

Professional Association Memberships

American Anthropological Association

Association for Applied Anthropology

Association of Nepal and Himalaya Studies