

Curriculum Vitae - Calum Blaikie

Personal Information

D.o.b.: 26.12.1974

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Academic Qualifications

2014: PhD in Social Anthropology, School of Anthropology and Conservation, University of Kent (UK)

2001: MSc Development Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London (UK)

1998: BA in Social Anthropology and Development Studies, University of Kent (UK)

Academic Career

Current, from September 2024: Associate Editor, *Asian Medicine*.

Current, from January 2021: Researcher, Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA) at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna.

Current, from September 2022: Adjunct Instructor, Webster Private University, Vienna.

September 2021 – December 2024: Project Leader, Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA) at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna. Leader of Austrian Science Fund (FWF) project “Integrating Traditional Medicine: Sowa Rigpa and the State in India” (P34010-G).

August 2019 – December 2020: Research Associate, Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA) at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna.

May - July 2019: Postdoctoral Researcher, Department for South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies, University of Vienna. Austrian Science Fund (FWF) project “Potent Substances in Sowa Rigpa and Buddhist Rituals”.

2014 – 2019: Postdoctoral Researcher, Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA) at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna. Deputy Principal Investigator in the European Research Council project [ERC

336932] “Reassembling Tibetan Medicine: The Formation of a Transnational Sowa Rigpa Industry in Contemporary India, China, Mongolia, Bhutan and Nepal”, led by Stephan Kloos.

2011 – 2012: Researcher, CERMES3 (Paris, France) / French Institute of Pondicherry (India), French National Research Agency “Pharmasud” Project (ANR-09-SSOC-019-02).

2008 – 2010: Teaching Assistant, School of Anthropology and Conservation, University of Kent.

2005 – 2010: Research Fellow, French Institute of Pondicherry (India), ‘Societies and Medicines in South Asia’ programme.

International Development Career

2007-2016: President of the Administrative Council, Nomad Recherche et Soutien International, Toulouse, France

2002–2005: Programme Director, Nomad Recherche et Soutien International, Toulouse, France

2001-2002: Project Advisor, Nomad Recherche et Soutien International (Cambodia and India)

2000: Intern, Leh Nutrition Project, Ladakh, India

1997: Intern, Save the Children Fund (UK), Northwest India Office, Ladakh, India

Publications

Monographs

Gerke, B., J. van der Valk, T. Tidwell and C. Blaikie (2026). *Crafting Potency: Sowa Rigpa Artisanry across the Himalayas*. Heidelberg: Heidelberg Asian Studies Publishing.

Edited Volumes

- Feiglstorfer, H. and C. Blaikie (eds.) (2025). *Building Craft Traditions in Tibetan and Himalayan Architecture*. Vienna: OEAW Verlag.
- Kloos, S. and C. Blaikie (eds.) (2022). *Asian Medical Industries: Contemporary Perspectives on Traditional Pharmaceuticals*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Peer-reviewed book chapters and journal articles

- C. Blaikie and H. Feiglstorfer (2025). 'Introduction'. In H. Feiglstorfer and C. Blaikie (eds.) *Building Craft Traditions in Tibet and the Himalayas*. Vienna: OEAW Verlag.
- C. Blaikie and H. Feiglstorfer (2025). 'Conclusion: Characterizing Tibetan and Himalayan Building Craft Traditions'. In H. Feiglstorfer and C. Blaikie (eds.) *Building Craft Traditions in Tibet and the Himalayas*. Vienna: OEAW Verlag.
- C. Blaikie (2025). 'Sowa Rigpa and the State in India's Himalayan Borderlands'. In B. Campbell, M. Cameron and T. Subba (eds.) *The Routledge International Handbook of Himalayan Environments, Development and Wellbeing*. London: Routledge.
- Blaikie, C. (2022). 'Conclusion: Assembling Asian Pharmaceuticals'. In S. Kloos and C. Blaikie (eds.) *Asian Medical Industries: Contemporary Perspectives on Traditional Pharmaceuticals*. Abingdon: Routledge, 305-340.
- Blaikie, C. and Craig, S. (2022). 'Making Tibetan Medicine in Nepal: Industrial Aspirations, Cooperative Relations, and the Limits of Production'. In S. Kloos and C. Blaikie (eds.) *Asian Medical Industries: Contemporary Perspectives on Traditional Pharmaceuticals*. Abingdon: Routledge, 253-279.
- Futaya, T. and Blaikie, C. (2022). 'The pharmaceutical industry of Toyama prefecture, Japan: *Haichi* household medicines, intersectoral collaboration, and industrial clustering'. In S. Kloos and C. Blaikie (eds.) *Asian Medical Industries: Contemporary Perspectives on Traditional Pharmaceuticals*. Abingdon: Routledge, 110-136.
- Blaikie, C. (2022). 'Where there is No *Amchi*: Tibetan Medicine and Rural-urban Migration amongst Nomadic Pastoralists'. In L. Pordié and S. Kloos (eds.) *Healing at the Periphery: Ethnographies of Tibetan Medicine in India*, Durham: Duke University Press, 65-94.
- Kloos, S., H. Madhavan, T. Tidwell, C. Blaikie, and M. Cuomu (2019). 'The Transnational Sowa Rigpa Industry in Asia: New Perspectives on an Emerging Economy'. *Social Science & Medicine* 245. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2019.112617>
- Blaikie, C. (2019). 'Mainstreaming Marginality: Traditional Medicine and Primary Healthcare in Himalayan India'. *Asian Medicine* 14: 145-172. Doi: 10.1163/15734218-12341438
- Blaikie, C. (2018). 'Absence, Abundance and Excess: Substances and Sowa Rigpa in Ladakh since the 1960s'. In R. Deb Roy and G. Attewell (eds.), *Locating the Medical: Explorations in South Asian History*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 169-99. ISBN-13: 978-0-19-948671-7

- Blaikie, C. (2016). 'Positioning Sowa Rigpa in India: Coalition and Antagonism in the Quest for Recognition'. *Medicine, Anthropology, Theory* 3(2): 50-86. <https://doi.org/10.17157/mat.3.2.352>
- Blaikie, C. (2015). 'Wish-fulfilling Jewel Pills: Tibetan Medicines from Exclusivity to Ubiquity'. *Anthropology & Medicine* 22 (1): 7-22. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13648470.2015.1004504>
- Blaikie, C., Craig, S., Hofer, T. and Gerke, B. (2015). 'Co-Producing Efficacious Medicines: Collaborative Ethnography with Tibetan Medicine Practitioners in Kathmandu, Nepal'. *Current Anthropology* 56 (2): 178-204. <https://doi.org/10.1086/680464>
- Pordié, L. and Blaikie, C. (2014). 'Knowledge and Skills in Motion: Layers of Tibetan Medical Education in India'. *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry* 38(3): 340-368. DOI: [10.1007/s11013-014-9389-4](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11013-014-9389-4)
- Blaikie, C. (2013). 'Currents of Tradition in Sowa Rigpa Pharmacy'. *East Asian Science, Technology and Society* 7: 425-451. DOI: [10.1215/18752160-2332223](https://doi.org/10.1215/18752160-2332223)
- Blaikie, C. (2011). 'Critically Endangered? Medicinal Plant Cultivation and the Reconfiguration of Sowa Rigpa in Ladakh'. *Asian Medicine* 5: 243-272. DOI: [10.1163/157342109x568801](https://doi.org/10.1163/157342109x568801)

Book reviews

- Blaikie, C. (2022). *Mixing Medicines: Ecologies of Care in Buddhist Siberia* by Tatiana Chudakova. *Asian Medicine* 17(2): 325-327.
- Blaikie, C. (2021). *The Colonial Life of Pharmaceuticals: Medicines and Modernity in Vietnam* by Laurence Monnais. *Asian Medicine* 16(2): 370-372.
- Blaikie, C. (2015). *Living Between Juniper and Palm: Nature, Culture and Power in the Himalayas* by Ben Campbell. *Social Anthropology* 23 (2): 230-231.
- Blaikie, C. (2013). *Healing Elements: Efficacy and the Social Ecologies of Tibetan Medicine* by Sienna Craig. *Himalaya* 32 (1).

Other publications

- Blaikie, C. (2022). Comment on Mingji Cuomu, 'Deconstructing and Reconstructing Tradition Good Manufacturing Practices and the Tibetan Medicine Industry in China, 2001–2014;'. *Current Anthropology* 63(5): 473-490.
- Blaikie, C., Craig, S., Gerke, B. and Hofer, T. (2013). 'Producing Efficacious Medicines: Quality, Potency, Lineage, and Critically Endangered Knowledge'. *Newsletter of the International*

Workshops, symposia and conferences organised

Vernacular Futures: Intertemporal and Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Vernacular Architecture and Climate. International symposium, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna (10-12 February 2026). Co-organised with Hubert Feiglstorfer and Martin Pospichal.

Asian Health Industries: Beyond Tradition, Beyond Medicine, Beyond Asia. Panel at 10th International Congress on Traditional Asian Medicines, Taipei, Taiwan (22-23 June 2024). Co-organised with Stephan Kloos and Venera Khalikova.

Materiality, Agency and Power: Crafting Potency in Sowa Rigpa and Ritual Practice. International Workshop, Institute for South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies, University of Vienna (July 2022). Co-organised with Barbara Gerke and Jan van der Valk.

Fluid Boundaries in Asian Medical Traditions: Between Text and Practice. Panel at the 26th European Conference on South Asian Studies (ECSAS), Vienna, Austria (2021). Co-organised with Barbara Gerke.

Building Craft Traditions in Tibet and the Himalayas. Symposium, Institute for Social Anthropology at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria (2021). Co-organised with Hubert Feiglstorfer.

Asian Medical Industries: Contemporary Perspectives on Traditional Pharmaceuticals. Panel at the International Congress on Traditional Asian Medicine (ICTAM) IX, Kiel, Germany (2017). Co-organised with Stephan Kloos.

The Emerging Sowa Rigpa Industry in Asia. Symposium at the First International Conference on Advances in Asian Medicine (ICAAM), Pune, India (2016). Co-organised with Stephan Kloos.

Producing Efficacious Medicine: Quality, Potency, Lineage, and Critically Endangered Knowledge. An international workshop involving 40+ Sowa Rigpa practitioners, Kathmandu, Nepal (2011). Co-organised with Sienna Craig, Theresia Hofer, Barbara Gerke and the Himalayan Amchi Association.

Conference papers and invited lectures

- Blaikie, C. (2026). 'Houses, Roads and Time: Architectural and Infrastructural Temporalities in Ladakh, India.'. Paper presented at the international symposium *Vernacular Futures*, Vienna (Austria), 12 February.

- Blaikie, C. (2024). 'Singularity and Multiplicity in Ladakhi Mendrub Practices'. Invited lecture in the *Anthropology Research Group at Oxford on Eastern Medicines and Religions Seminar Series*, Oxford University, 4 December.
- Blaikie, C. (2024). 'Perpetuating Potency: Lineage, Ritual Empowerment and Continuity Substances'. Presentation at the *Academic Writing in Sowa Rigpa Workshop*, University of Vienna, 28 July.
- Blaikie, C. (2024). 'Integrating Sowa Rigpa Pharmacy in India: Tradition, Policy, and Practice'. Paper presented at the *10th International Congress on Traditional Asian Medicines* - Panel: Asian Health Industries: Beyond Tradition, Beyond Medicine, Beyond Asia, 22 June.
- Blaikie, C. (2022). 'Towards Evidence-based Sowa Rigpa in India?'. Invited lecture at the *Global Conference on Evidence-based Traditional Medicine* (GCETM), INTI International University, Penang, Malaysia, 29 October.
- Blaikie, C. and Gerke, B. (2022). 'Continuity of Potency: Ethnographies of Lineage Substances (*phab rta*)'. Paper presented at the workshop *Materiality, Agency and Power: Crafting Potency in Sowa Rigpa and Ritual Practice*, ISTBS, University of Vienna, 13 July.
- Blaikie, C. and Craig, S. (2021). 'What Counts as a 'Text'? Narrative, Authority, and Knowledge Transmission in Sowa Rigpa Encounters'. Paper presented at the 26th *European Conference on South Asian Studies* (ECSAS), Vienna (Austria), 27 July.
- Blaikie, C. and Craig, S. (2017). 'Tibetan Medicine in Nepal: A Yam between two Boulders?' Paper presented at the Ninth *International Congress on Traditional Asian Medicine* (ICTAM IX), Kiel (Germany), 8 August.
- Blaikie, C. and Craig, S. (2017). 'From Homemade to Readymade: Tibetan Medicine Production in Nepal'. Paper presented at the international conference *Medicine and Yoga in South and Inner Asia: Body Cultivation, Therapeutic Intervention, and the Sowa Rigpa Industry*, University of Vienna (Austria), 2 August.
- Blaikie, C. (2016). 'Re-routing Rhizomes: Himalayan Plants and Properties in Transit'. Invited lecture in the ARGO-EMR seminar series, Oxford University (UK), 26 October.
- Blaikie, C. (2016). 'Mainstreaming Marginality: Sowa Rigpa and Primary Healthcare in Ladakh'. Paper presented at the 14th Seminar of the International Association for Tibetan Studies, Bergen (Norway), 22 June.

- Blaikie, C. and Madhavan, H. (2016). 'Making Sowa Rigpa Medicines in Ladakh: Issues and Dynamics'. Paper presented at the *International Conference on Advances in Asian Medicine* (ICAAM), Pune (India), 5 January.
- Blaikie, C. (2015). 'Mainstreaming Tibetan Medicine in Himalayan India: High Expectations and Unforeseen Effects'. Paper presented at the international conference *Anthropology and Global Health: Interrogating Theory, Policy and Practice*, Sussex University (UK), 9 September.
- Blaikie, C. (2015). 'The Tibetan Medicine Industry in India: Emergence, Pathways and Obstacles'. Invited lecture at Azim Premji University, Bengaluru (India), 23 April.
- Blaikie, C. (2013). 'Samphel Norbu: Tibetan Jewel Pills from Palace to Metropolis'. Paper presented at the *5th International Conference of the Pharmaceutical Life Cycle*, University of Amsterdam (Netherlands), 2 December.
- Blaikie, C. (2012). 'Non-standard Operating Procedures: Variability and the Tibetan Pharmaceutical Industry in India'. Invited lecture at the *Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales*, Paris (France), 10 December.
- Blaikie, C. (2012). 'Mainstreaming Traditional Medicine in India: Challenges to Biocultural Diversity and the Road Ahead'. Paper presented at the *13th Congress of the International Society of Ethnobiology*, Montpellier (France), 20-25 May.
- Blaikie, C. (2012). 'Continuity, Variability and Transformation in Sowa Rigpa Pharmacy'. Paper presented at the *Pharmasud Workshop Innovating from the South: Production, invention and appropriation of pharmaceutical knowledge in Brazil and India*, University of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), 5-7 March.
- Blaikie, C. (2011). 'Continuity and Change in Tibetan Medicine Production'. Paper presented at the *International Workshop on Issues in the Contemporary Anthropology of Tibetan Medicine*, Cardiff University (UK), 21-22 January.
- Blaikie, C. (2011), 'Compounding Tibetan Medicine in India: Recipes for the Post-recognition Era', *Pharmasud Workshop #3*, CERMES, Paris (France), 26 April.
- Blaikie, C. (2010), 'Potency in Motion: Tibetan Medicine Production in Pre-regulation Ladakh', *Pharmasud Workshop #1*, CERMES-IFP, Pondicherry (India), 9-10 February.
- Blaikie, C. (2009), 'Critically Endangered? Himalayan Medicinal Plant Conservation and Diversity in Medical Cultures', paper presented at the *International Congress on Traditional Asian Medicine VII* (IASTAM), Thimphu (Bhutan), 7-11 September.

Academic organisations / Peer review activities

I am a long-standing member of the Royal Anthropological Institute, the International Association for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine, and the International Society of Ethnobiology. As well as serving as an Associate Editor with the journal *Asian Medicine*, I have peer-reviewed articles for numerous journals over recent years, including *Current Anthropology*; *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*; *Medical Anthropology*; *Anthropology & Medicine*; *Journal of Ethnobiology*; and *Himalaya*, as well as giving expert advice on book publication proposals for various academic publishing houses.