

ISA INTERNATIONAL GUEST LECTURE

MONASTIC RECRUITMENT, HOUSEHOLD ORGANISATION, AND NEW NETWORKS OF PATRONAGE IN A HIMALAYAN FRONTIER COMMUNITY

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This lecture will discuss continuities and changes in the system for recruitment and patronage in an 11th century monastery in Limi, a frontier community in north-western Nepal. Throughout history, local monasteries have been supported through a combination of voluntary donations and taxes (*khral*). Donations have been made either on a regular basis or on special occasions, and for a multitude of purposes. Taxes, on the other hand, have been collected annually and consist of various types of revenue on property, corvée, ritual sponsorship, and 'monk levy' (*grwa khral*), the household's obligation to send a son to become monk in the monastery. Based on ethnographic fieldwork complemented by a study of historical and administrative documents, the lecture will explore how these particular forms for monastic recruitment and patronage were first established, and discuss how they have been variously endorsed and challenged in the local community. Particular attention will be given to the relation between monk levy and household organisation, and how this is affected by new connectivities and new networks of patronage.



Astrid Hovden received her PhD in the history of religions and Tibetan studies from the University of Oslo in 2016. Her research spans Himalayan and western Tibetan culture and history, ritual studies, social history, as well as climate change adaptation. Recent publications include "The Honour of the Mountains is the Snow: Tibetan Livelihoods in a Changing Climate" with Hildegard Diemberger and Emily T. Yeh (2015) in Huggel, Clague, Kääh, and Carey (eds.) *The High-mountain Cryosphere: Environmental Changes and Human Risks*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, and "Who were the Sponsors? Reflections on Recruitment and Ritual Economy in Three Himalayan Village Monasteries" (2013) in Ramble, Schwieger, and Travers (eds.), *Tibetans who Escaped the Historian's Net: Studies in the Social History of Tibetan Societies*, Kathmandu: Vajra Publications.

