



KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY

CENTRE FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES

AT RANGJUNG YESHE INSTITUTE



PUBLIC LECTURE

“Sako Gum Baha and the Significance of Goddess Vajrayoginī”

based on the monograph - “*The Sacred Town of Sankhu: The Anthropology of Newar Ritual, Religion and Society in Nepal*”



DR. BAL GOPAL SHRESTHA

Dr. Bal Gopal Shrestha is a cultural anthropologist based in the Netherlands. He was born in Sankhu, a small town near Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, and finished his MA in political science from Tribhuvan University. Later, Dr. Shrestha completed a PhD in cultural anthropology at Leiden University in 2002. He has been a researcher and an Assistant Professor at Leiden University, teaching politics of South and Southeast Asia (2006-08). Currently, as a Research Fellow at the University of Oxford, UK, he has been carrying out research among the Nepalese diaspora communities in the UK and Belgium, focusing on their religious practices (2009– present).

Dr. Shrestha is the author of the monographs *The Newars of Sikkim: Reinventing Language, Culture and Identity in the Diaspora* and *The Sacred Town of Sankhu: The Anthropology of Newar Ritual, Religion and Society in Nepal*. Together with the late Bert Van den Hoek and Dirk J. Nijland he made the award-winning ethnographic documentary “Sacrifice of Serpents: The Festival of Indrayani, Kathmandu”.

SCHEDULE: Monday, February 11th from 5:45 to 7:00 pm

VENUE: RYI’s Classroom 103, Ka-Nying Shedrub Ling Monastery, Boudha, Kathmandu

FEES: No Charge - All Are Welcome

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Please call the RYI Office: 491 5975