

## Editorial

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Our tenure as editors of HIMALAYA has coincided with the Covid-19 pandemic and significant global events such as economic instability, the Ukraine crisis, and rapid unforeseen shifts brought about by the adoption of novel digital technologies. These developments, in conjunction with continuing ecological and socio-economic transformations in the region, are noteworthy. New technologies are inducing comprehensive changes across all facets of life, drastically remolding the landscape of surveillance, governance, and labor. However, our understanding of the influence of these technologies and their potential effect on future work and livelihoods in the Himalayan region remains sparse. As internet access and smartphone usage pervade the region, inhabitants are beginning to perceive palpable alterations in their daily lives. The questions we seek to explore include: What are the specific impacts in the

region? How are these changes disrupting everyday life in the Himalayas, compelling inhabitants to reassess their global position? What opportunities and challenges are these technologies bringing to those living and working in the region?

We are delighted to present this special issue, Vol. 42.2., guest edited by Stephen Christopher and Peter Phillimore, focusing on the Gaddi community of the Western Himalayas. This volume brings together anthropologists from various generations and a historian, presenting a myriad of perspectives on Gaddis that offer insights into changes in their identity, beliefs, marital customs, politics, and livelihoods. We are confident that researchers across the Himalayas will find this compilation beneficial, aiding in discussions on identity, politics, belonging, and livelihoods of other tribal and mountain groups. We extend an invitation to

our peers working in other parts of the Himalayas and beyond to engage with the work presented in this volume.

The editors of this special issue note a scarcity of research on Gaddis, particularly research conducted by Gaddis themselves. However, as we have seen in other parts of the region, we anticipate that in the coming years, an increasing number of Gaddis will join the social sciences, providing their unique representations of the Gaddi world.

As always, thank you for reading HIMALAYA.

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