

Guest Lecture:

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## **"Patriarchal Claw Back:" Framing female combatants and politicians in Nepal's transition**

As with many of the socially excluded groups in Nepal, women have seen the “post-conflict” transition in Nepal as a moment of opportunity for the transformation of social relationships. In the backdrop of all the attention given to the Maoist female combatants during the conflict, and the historic 33% representation of women in the Constituent Assembly, the possibility for a truly historical re-shaping of gendered relationships appears high. However, analyses of newspaper and magazine reports of female combatants and key female politicians during this transition period reveal a move to discipline women back into the private and appropriately feminine sphere during this transition period. This calls into question earlier research that theorized longer term structural changes – intended and unintended - for women as a result of the Maoist war. This paper argues that, as with many other countries, the conflict gains made by women in Nepal are of a temporary nature. There is evident a push for their postwar remarginalization and return to traditional roles following the temporary aberration in the time of national crisis. This period of promise of a rupture from the past continues to be framed in a gendered model of citizenship at a moment of transition to a supposedly egalitarian legal framework.

**Thursday, June 28, 18:00 c.t.**

Seminar Room 1

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