

Kirtika Kandel

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EDUCATION

University of California at Berkeley, Goldman School of Public Policy

Berkeley, CA

Master of Development Practice

August 2023 – May 2025

Capstone: Environmental Change and Indigenous (Im)Mobility in Nepal: An Empirical Analysis

Courseworks: Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research, Quantitative Methods and Impact Evaluation, International Economic Development Policy, Forced Migration, Principles of Natural Resource Management, Computational Social Science

London Metropolitan University

London, UK

Bachelor of Science (Hons.) in Computing; First Class Honours

September 2017 – March 2021

WORK EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant

March 2024 – December 2024

University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

- Assisted Professors in conducting discussions, grading assignments and managing course logistics.

Courses: International Environmental Politics; Professor Kate O'Neill, Python Programming for Digital Humanities, Innovative Finance for Development: Sustainable Finance and Impact Investment; Professor Glenn Yago

Research Associate

June 2024 – August 2024

Office of the Member of Parliament, Kathmandu, Nepal

- Engaged in the study of climate change policies, international frameworks, and national legislation to understand the impact on vulnerable populations, especially internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- Assessed the socio-economic impacts of environmental migration, creating reports and data visualisations on migration patterns.

Disaster Risk Reduction - Young Leaders Fellow

October 2021 – November 2022

Youth Innovation Lab, Surkhet and Chitwan, Nepal

- Worked in the localisation of the BIPAD Portal at Gurbhakot and Khairahani Municipality, Office of the Municipal Executive in coordination with USAID Tayar Nepal, Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA).
- Collaborated with municipal personnel to map, validate, and integrate DRR-related datasets into BIPAD Portal, supporting its administration and operationalisation at the municipal level.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Bound or Beyond: Understanding Environmental Changes and Human (im)mobility in Tharu Community of Chitwan, Nepal

Investigating the impact of ongoing environmental changes on mobility patterns within the Tharu community, exploring both voluntary migration and forced displacement.

Stigma and Women's Identity in Migration (SWIM): Navigating Empowerment and Social Judgment in Portugal and Qatar

Conducting a causal study of how societal stigma and shifting narratives of empowerment and deviance influence the migration experiences of Nepali women, including their decision-making, identity negotiation, and reintegration.

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

Skills: Mixed Methods Research, R, Python, GIS, Research Design, Project Management, Grant Writing, L^AT_EX, OSM Mapping

Languages: Nepali (*native*), English (*C1*), Hindi (*B2*), French (*A2*)

Research Interests: development economics, human (im)mobility, gender, human-environment relations

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Berreman-Yamanaka Award for Himalayan Studies, The Institute for South Asia Studies, January 2025, [\$1500]

RCNR Indigenous Studies Grant, UC Berkeley Rausser College of Natural Resources, December 2024 [\$3100]

GSPP Summer Research Fellowship, UC Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy, May 2024 [\$7000]

MDP Departmental Fellowship, UC Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy, August 2023