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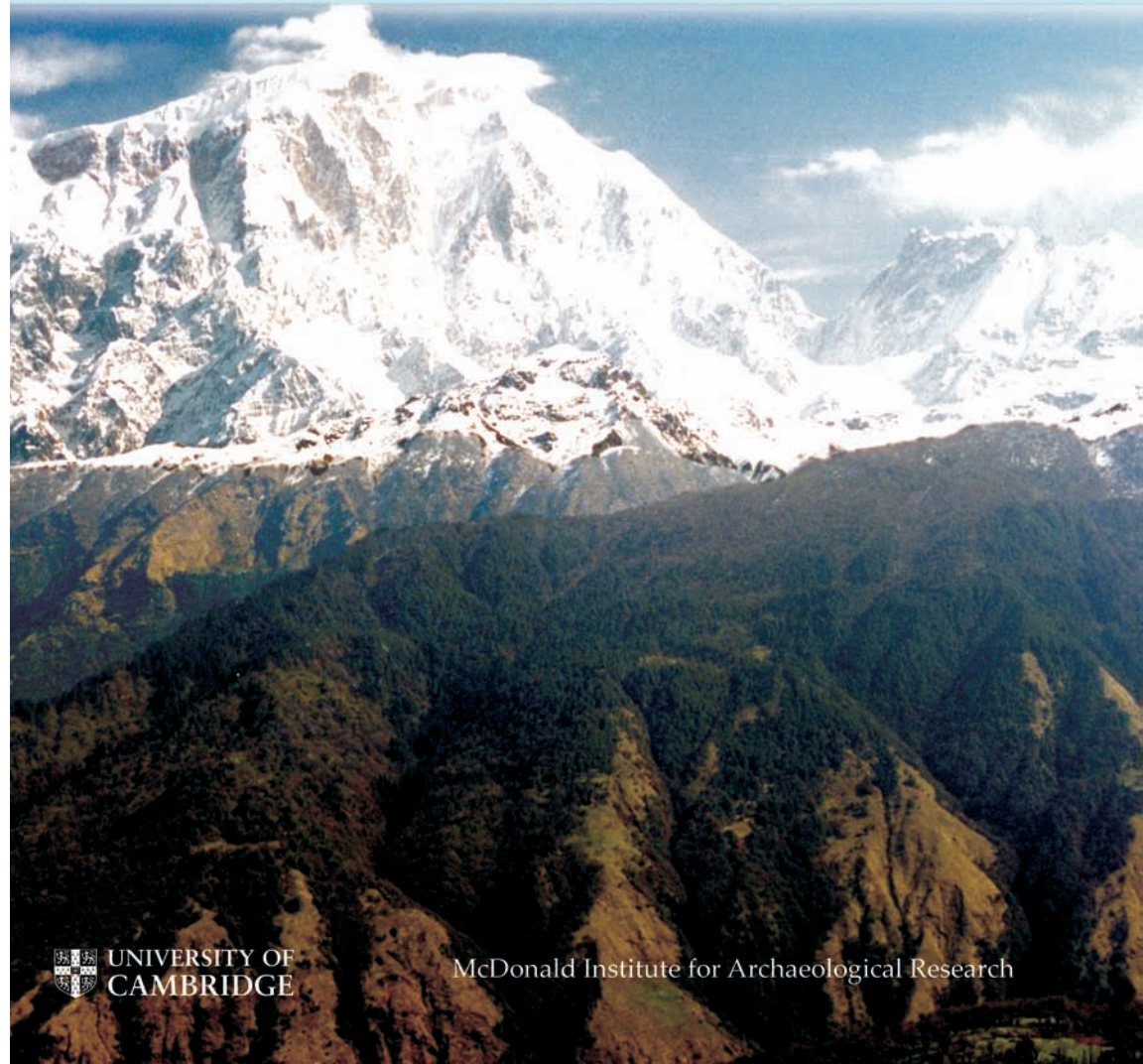
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**Grounding knowledge/
walking land**

Archaeological research and ethno-historical
identity in central Nepal

By Christopher Evans
with Judith Pettigrew, Yarjung Kromchañ Tamu & Mark Turin



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Tracking knowledge down to ground — concerned with trail-based archaeology, journeys and histories, this is a volume of both 'firsts' and 'thick context'. At face-value it documents almost a decade of ground-breaking investigations within the Annapurna highlands of Nepal. Including survey recording of fort and settlement sites, from the outset the project's focus was the extraordinary ruins of Kohla Sombre — Kohla, The Three Villages — the ancestral settlement of the Tami-mai (Gurung) community, who hosted and instigated the fieldwork programme.

Ultimately, only a single season's excavation was conducted, before the project was cut short by the political insurgency within the country. It concluded with holding a great shamans' meeting in Pokhara in 2002, at which their historical 'oral texts' were presented. Narrating the long migration of the Tamu-mai into the region and down from a distant north, the present volume includes the full translation of one of these oral epics, the *Lēmako Rōh Pye*.

The project represents a unique collaboration between archaeologists, anthropologists and a shaman. Including interviews with upland inhabitants, the volume encompasses the diverse voices of both its immediate participants and the local community. Fulsome in its presentation of the archaeological data and rich in ethnographic source-material, not only is this book crucial for Himalayan culture studies generally, but also relevant for any concerned with the construction and context of the past in the present, and the active forging of ethno-historical identities.



Author:

Aside from widely publishing on the history of archaeology, Christopher Evans has, since 1990, been Executive Director of the University's Cambridge Archaeological Unit. Having directed local fieldwork campaigns for more than 25 years, he has also been responsible for other collaborative projects in Nepal, China and, most recently, Cape Verde.

With contributions by Dorothy Allard, Eleni Asouti, Paul Craddock, Dorian Fuller, David Gibson, and Professors Alan Macfarlane & Ezra Zubrow

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