



### **Ramesh SUNAM**

Dr. Ramesh Sunam is Assistant Professor at the Waseda Institute for Advanced Study (WIAS), Waseda University, Tokyo. His research focuses on international migration (both regular and irregular), precarity, poverty and rural transformation in the Global South. He has extensively published about 15 peer-reviewed articles, most appearing in well-respected, leading international journals, such as the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, the *Journal of Peasant Studies*, and the *Anthropological Forum*. Dr. Sunam earned his Ph.D. from the Australian National University (ANU) in 2015.

### ***The Nexus Between Transnational Labour Migration and Urbanisation: The Emergence of Locally Scattered Livelihoods in Rural Nepal***

#### **Abstract:**

Transnational work mobility of rural people is generating profound changes in rural livelihoods and landscapes. The existing migration literature has examined the effects of transnational labour migration and remittances on rural poverty and prosperity, gender relations, agriculture, and rural development in general. Its effect on local migration and urbanisation, and its implications for the texture of rural livelihoods is little understood. Drawing on the ethnographic engagement, including multiple revisits, in rural Nepal, I examine how transnational labour mobilities and remittances shape the dynamics of internal, rural-urban migration, and thereby the process of urbanisation. I find that transnational labour mobilities and remittances drive the creation and expansion of local towns. Successful migrants – mostly those accumulating huge remittances – move from rural areas to nearby urban areas in search of better livelihoods and quality education for their children, while hanging onto their village land and property. Consequently, locally scattered households – those putting one foot in the rural area and another in the local town – have also emerged.