



Western

Centre for Research on
Migration and Ethnic Relations

Colloquium Series

Winter 2025

“Pandemic Returns of Nepali Migrant Workers”

Dr. Richa Shivakoti

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in an unprecedented number of temporary migrant workers’ return to their home countries. The volume and scale of these return migrations showed the vulnerability of the workers as well as the unpreparedness of both labour sending and receiving countries. This research uses the case of Nepal, a highly remittance-dependent economy (remittances accounting 27% of the GDP) to study the consequences of the large-scale return of migrant workers to their home countries post-pandemic. Dr. Shivakoti will present research findings based on primary data collected from 150 pandemic returnee migrant workers from various destinations (the Gulf countries, Malaysia and India) to Nepal with 4 sets of semi-structured interviews over a 2-year period. She will present findings on the crisis return, challenges and the aspirations and capabilities of migrant workers post return.



Richa Shivakoti is the Research Lead on Migration Governance at the Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Migration and Integration at Toronto Metropolitan University. Her research focus is on the governance of labour migration within Asia, particularly between the labour-sending states of South Asia and Southeast Asia and the labour receiving states in Asia and the Middle East. Her current research projects question the sustainability of the circular temporary migration governance regimes in Asia, look at the implications of gendered migration policies and study multinational migrations to and from Canada. Richa has a PhD in Public Policy from the National University of Singapore and a dual Masters in Public Affairs and Political Science from Indiana University, Bloomington.

**Thursday, March 6, 2025,
4:00 pm,**

**Social Science Centre, Room 5220.
All Welcome!**