

EDITORIAL:

Interdisciplinarity for Bridging Disciplines

Interdisciplinary Studies crosses traditional disciplinary boundaries. No discipline stands alone entirely. In other words, disciplines are not distinct entities at all; they sometimes overlap, sometimes borrow, and sometimes invade upon one another. And some disciplines are famous for their particularly interdisciplinary or bridging disciplines by nature. They may, thus, within the one discipline fuse physical sciences, social sciences and humanities as they consider interrelations between two or more separate domains.

All bridging disciplines, however, do not follow parallel routes, but some, by nature, do. Bridging disciplines engage domains so broad as to encompass other issues. For instance, in order to determine the role of interdisciplinarity in solving the problem of climate change, the solution involves knowledge ranging from chemical to cultural. The problem of climate change is considered as an interdisciplinary problem that involves a range of disciplines. In order to deal with the problem of climate change, the practitioners of interdisciplinary studies will develop an understanding of issues ranging from chemistry to culture. Here, a few questions can be raised: What can be the difference between a businessperson, an economist, a lawyer, a geographer, or an anthropologist seeking a solution to climate change and the interdisciplinarian? Can interdisciplinarians learn a lesson from bridging disciplines to tackle the issues related to climate change? Can the experience of bridging disciplines be beneficial to improve on the process of interdisciplinary studies in dealing with this problem? These are some of the questions to be discussed and are related to the study of bridging disciplines in the process of interdisciplinary practice while dealing with many other issues including the issue of climate change.

The current issue of the journal includes 7 articles that come from different disciplines and belong to bridging disciplines to improve upon the process of interdisciplinary studies. The first article entitled “The Discourse of Power and the Politics of Squatting in Nepal” by Dr. Kathleen Gallagher deals with the pressing issue of squatting in Nepal that has been dealt with on the basis of ideology rather than evidence-based policy. According to her, the squatters are clearly aware of their growing political power as a large voting bloc, and their growing consciousness is exhibited in hunger strikes, processions, public appeals to the parliament and efforts at mobilizing themselves through squatter organizations. She concludes her article by arguing that if the state and its leaders truly want to improve the living conditions of the homeless, landless and other marginalized sectors in Nepal, they must learn to listen to the voices of the disarticulated.

The second article “Art and Autobiography: A Study of the Self in Literature” by Dr. Min Pun and the third article “Reinventing the Self in Bharati Mukherjee’s *Jasmine*” by Radha Devi Sharma deal with the study of self in literature. Both articles go beyond the disciplinary boundaries and bridge two or more disciplines: the first one talks of a

social movement called decadence and another talks of the migration issue, an international cultural transmission. Both authors try to explore on how the characters in literary works struggle to reinvent the self by their constant effort to assimilate to other cultures.

David Holmes' "Spying – An Ethical Profession" discusses the ethics of spying that deals with the dilemmas facing governments who choose to cross moral boundaries for the sake of national security. He asserts that the natural law principles to be universal laws are common in all countries and seen as fair and legally binding, but this may not be the case and what is natural to one culture may be totally disregarded by another.

The article "Healing Trauma with *Metta*: Nepali Texts in the Nepali Context" by Badri Prasad Pokharel bridges two disciplines: Nepali literature and Buddhist Studies. The author discusses the post-conflict literature written during and after the end of 10 year-long Maoist insurgency in Nepal from 1996 to 2006. He notes that in the Nepali context, the survivors who later wrote the memoirs are either victimized or perpetrators who are traumatized and needed an safe escape from the grip of traumatic past; it is only the Buddhist principles like *metta* that can give relief to them from their past. But Ram Prasad Rai undertakes a different discussion of human experience in his article "Jealousy and Destruction in William Shakespeare's *Othello*" in which human emotion 'jealousy' causes the deaths of many characters and the protagonist's own downfall eventually.

The last article "Transform Spatial: Making the Case for Spatial Thinking in Higher Education" by Alex Lowry investigates the use and role of ICT in higher education for the 21st century. He claims that the higher education curriculum should be designed from an interdisciplinary approach that puts greater emphasis on spatial thinking. He argues that this approach would be more efficacious in preparing students for life and careers in the 21st century.

These articles, thus, explore interdisciplinary aspects of bridging disciplines, such as anthropology, literature, ethics, Buddhist principles, and ICT, in order to consider what the relatively new 'interdisciplinary studies' can learn from their long existence. The authors suggest that the need for interdisciplinary approaches and the urgency for change should essentially be mandatory in order to strengthen both the disciplines and interdisciplinary studies.