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**ASHRA KUNWAR**  
**Curriculum Vitae**  
**University of Florida**  
**Department of Sociology, Criminology & Law**  
**11/2022**

Email: [kunwarashra@ufl.edu](mailto:kunwarashra@ufl.edu)

## **RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS**

Wildlife science, Environmental management, Climate change impacts, media and technology, adaptation and mitigation, climate resilience, forest-based ecosystem services, human dimensions of wildlife conflict, sustainability, qualitative methods, music and activism, communication, and environmental analysis.

## **Ph.D. Dissertation Title and Abstract**

Big cats and the deadly effects of human-wildlife conflict: A general strain theory of Human-Wildlife Conflict in Nepal.

**Abstract:** The growing pressure of human populations and the concomitant rise in demand for naturally fragmenting remaining habitats have been putting some wildlife populations at risk (Karanth & Chellam, 2019). Also, in the emerging scenario of the Arghakhanchi district of Nepal, if people frequently encounter large carnivores like the common leopard or experience attacks, then such incidents could further instill fear and have general theory impacts leading to major deviance.

The overarching objective of this study is to holistically examine human-wildlife conflict (HWC) dynamics in Nepal, with a focus on common leopards (*Panthera pardus*), through the lens of General Strain Theory (GST) and risk theory. By integrating ethnographic methods, social network analysis, and climate change risk assessment frameworks, the research aims to elucidate the complex interplay of ecological, social, and environmental factors shaping conflict dynamics and communication strategies between humans and leopards. Through an interdisciplinary approach, the study seeks to understand the underlying drivers of HWC, identify adaptive strategies employed by communities, and develop targeted interventions to mitigate conflict and promote coexistence.

## **Current Professional Positions**

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**Position:** Teaching Assistant (TA)

**Organization:** University of Florida

**Date:** 08/2022 to 08/2026

**Position:** Brand Ambassador

**Organization:** Agricultural development Bank Limited

**Date:** 01/2020 to 01/2026

## Past Professional Positions

**Position:** U.S Embassy Youth Council member working as a Civic Engagement Project Leader

**Organization:** U.S Embassy Nepal

**Project Name:** Own Community, Own Market and Own Product

**Date:** 01/2017 to 01/2018

**Position:** Intern at Communications – Environment Policies and Plans under “The Generation Green Campaign”

**Organization:** WWF NEPAL

**Date:** 01/2017 to 04/2017

**Position:** Communications Officer

**Organization:** The Climate Reality Project Nepal

**Date:** 01/2014 to 01/2017

## EDUCATION

**Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)**

Anticipated 2026

Crime & Human wildlife conflict

Department of Sociology, Criminology &

Law

University of Florida

**Master of Science (M.Sc.)**

2020

Wildlife Ecology & Conservation

Department of Environmental Science

Tribhuvan University (GPA: 3.45)

**Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.)** 2016

Environmental Science

Tribhuvan University, Nepal First Class  
with Distinction (**Final year Topper**)

**A level in Science (A levels)** 2012

Institute of Science

Chelsea International Academy

Cambridge University, UK

### **Research Specialty Areas**

- Conservation Science & wildlife conflict
- Climate change & resilience
- Environmental Communication & outreach
- Animal Studies

### **Skills and Languages**

- Presentation and Communication Skills
- Scientific Writing Skills

## **LANGUAGES**

Nepali

(Native)

Hindi

(Fluent)

English

(Fluent)

## **Research Funding (Fellowships, Grants/ Scholarships, Other Awards)**

- University of Florida Assistantship Award (\$47,000 yearly) 8/22- 03/26
- WWF NEPAL Graduate Research Grant Award (\$1000) 07/19-07/20

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- Ujyalo Foundation Best project winning Idea Grant (\$500) 04/16-04/17
- Civic Engagement Project Grantee, US Embassy Nepal (\$5,000) 06/17-09/19
- Undergraduate Merit based scholarship Grantee at Italy, Palermo (\$1,306) 09/15-10/15
- Environmental Ambassador Silver medal Awardee, Sri Lanka (\$1,000) 08/16-09/16
- MSc. Research Grant from Department of Argakhanchi (NPR. 50,000) 08/19-09/20
- University of Florida departmental summer grant(\$300)  
05/24-04-24

- Cooperation for Capacity building program, World Bank award 07/19-05/20  
Receiver at Wuhan University, International Travel & Project Grant  
(\$3000)

#### **Non-Academic Honors/ Awards:**

- Environmental Ambassador – Silver Medalist – Miss Heritage International pageant (at Sri Lanka)
- US EMBASSY CEP (Civic Engagement Project grantee) – 2018
- Certificate of Appreciation “Guest Speaker” at World youth Alliance Asia Pacific, Manila on the topic “Empowering Human person.
- EmpowHer 2016- Best service Impact Project Nepal 2016 – “Women and Climate change”.
- Topper- Final Year B.Sc. Environmental Science course – Golden Gate Int’l College
- Represented Nepal at Planting cities Exchange Program Certification - Italy
- Climate reality Leader of Nepal Title and Certificate- Al Gore (Former US V.P) Cambridge university, UK - “a” for General paper (A levels)
- Most talented award- The college Ambassador 2014
- Served as school captain (Red house) for the year 2009
- Women in Concert- Newspaper honor as “Power to women” – UN Women- 2014
- Silver Medal for – Inter college Running shield Quiz Competition – By Rotaract.

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS ( INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL)

**Kunwar, A (2020) Estimating prey abundance of common leopard and factors affecting human – common leopard conflict in community forests of Arghakhanchi district, Nepal: 121: 111524.JAAR Publications**  
DOI: <https://www.nepjol.info/index.php/JAAR/article/view/35367>

## MANUSCRIPTS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW

Adhikari, D., Lamichhane, S., Gautam, D., Sharma, S., & **Kunwar A.** (2021) Locals Perception of Climate Change Impacts and Practices of Adaptation Strategies in Trans-Himalaya of Nepal. *Journal of Forest and Livelihood.* (4) (**Under review**)

Kunwar A. (2016) Climate resiliency and Empowering Human Person. *Journal of Forest and Livelihood.* (3) (**Under review**)

Kunwar A.( 2016) Environmental Geology practical mapping of different rocks by measuring discontinuity to analyze failure. *Journal of Science.*(3) ( **Under review**)

Kunwar A( 2017) Bio monitoring concepts and methods- Case study on evaluating the biological integrity of aquatic systems. *Journal of Environmental Science* (4) (**Under review**)

Kunwar (2019) Community Based Women and Climate Change vulnerabilities *Journal of Environmental Science* (3) (**Under review**)

## RESEARCH WORKS IN PROGRESS

Kunwar A., Kahler J., Bomi., Wonki., Hernan. (2022) Threat assessment of Sea Turtles at Florida. *Journal of Environmental sciences.* (5). Next step: Submission by end of Dec 2022)

## PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

<b>Kunwar, A. (2019).</b> SSCS Research poster presentation in Human wife Conflict, Arghakhanchi Nepal accepted for presentation at Student conference on conservation science,	to present on Climate change and empowerin g Human Person.
Bangalore, Karnataka, India.	
<b>Kunwar A. (2019).</b> Presented at World Bank Capacity building on Water resource development of Professionals program, Wuhan University, China	<b>Kunwar A.</b> “Climate science as
<b>Kunwar A. (2016).</b> Invited as a guest speaker at Philippnes, Manila	the big

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involving issue. “Accepted to present at Al Gore’s The Climate Reality Project at New Delhi, Kempenski, India <b>Kunwar A.</b> “Green Plantation training & presentation” invited from Nepal to present at European Union Palermo, Italy.	01/08/2019
Kunwar A. “master's research presentation at Himalayan Conclave 2019, Kathmandu”.	08/09/2019
	09/02/2016
	08/09/2015
	09/09/2018

**MEDIA / NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS:**

The Kathmandu Post (February 22, 2015) Human wildlife conflict at Arghakhanchi, Nepal

- Radio interviews highlighting the status and need of wildlife conservation in Nepal in several districts of Nepal.

**SHORT TERM EXPERIENCES: CERTIFIED TRAININGS, SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS**

Name of the Training	Conducted by (Agency/Individual)	Place	Duration
Cooperation for Capacity building program on Education of Future Generation on Water Resource Development Professionals	WORLD BANK PROJECT	WUHAN UNIVERSITY, CHINA	<b>30 DAYS</b>
Planting Cities Training	Erasmus plus- European Union CESIE	Palermo, Italy	<b>4 days</b>
Heritage International pageant Training	Heritage pageants	Sri Lanka, Colombo	<b>3 months</b>
RJ Training	Y4Y- Youth For Youth	Himalayan White House Int'l College,	<b>5 days</b>
The Climate Reality Project- USA	Al Gore- Former Vice president, USA	New Delhi, Kempenski Ambience Hotel, India	<b>10 days</b>
Advanced windows package Training	Orchid Int'l Education	Kalimati, Kathmandu, Nepal	<b>3 months</b>
Presentation Skill Course	British Council	Lazimpat, Kathmandu, Nepal	<b>1 month</b>
EmpowHER- Women Leadership	Ujyalo Foundation	Baluwatar, Kathmandu	<b>3 months</b>



Program- 2016			
The College Ambassador- 2014	Green Arts Media Pvt. Ltd	Pulchowk, Lalitpur , Nepal	<b>2 months</b>
Personal Development Training 2013	LCCI NEPAL	Battisputali, Kathmandu	<b>1 month</b>
Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory	KJC NEPAL	Jhamsikhel, Lalitpur	<b>2 years</b>

## TEACHING

### ACADEMIC ADVISOR & MENTORSHIP

Prof. Dr Dinesh Raj Bhuj	2019
Prof. Dr. Jessica Kahler ( University of Florida)	2022

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE/ COURSE PREPARATIONS

#### Graduate Teaching Assistant

University of Florida	Fall 2022-Spring 2022
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Introduction to Sociology (SYG 2000) (125 Students):

- Lecture and manage the class during instructor absence.
- Support students in a regular office hour.
- Assist in management of class, tests, and mentoring students.
- Future lectures, mentor students, instructed in lab and graded assignments on the fundamentals of Sociology.

#### Teacher (Part Time)

Climate Awareness Camp, in 3 districts of Nepal ( Sunakoti, Bungmati, Khokana)

- Coordinated and lectured women group on climate resiliency and helped them mitigate climate change damages.
- Lectured children & farmer's groups and public in about environment, forestry, and climate change issues as part of the project with US Embassy Youth Council and WWF NEPAL.
- Taught musical notation and theory as part of a profession I had knowledge on (250 +

students) at Nepal Music House organized and run by myself.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

## **PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS**

Council Member at US Embassy Youth Council Nepal

Member at WWF NEPAL, the Generation Green Campaign

Member, Lambda Alpha National Anthropology Honor Society

Member, Himalayan Conservation and Research Institute

## **PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND SOFTWARE**

Basic ArcGIS, SPSS, GPS, Camera Trap machine, Stata,

Basic R, Microsoft Office and Graphics Packages.

## **COUNTRIES VISITED FOR CONFERENCE & PROFESSIONAL MUSICAL TOUR**

NEPAL, USA, India, Sri Lanka, China, Philippines, Korea, Italy

## **Community Service/ Outreach**

Art & Activism Campaign – Own Project (Kunwar Foundation) 01/02/2012- 01/01/ongoing

Musical Tour to promulgate awareness about environmental and research work- 01/04/2010- ongoing

Children's home community service- Delegating knowledge about environmental issues to kids  
01/2019- 02/01/2022

*I hereby authorize you to use and process my personal details contained in this document as required.*

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