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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nepalese Professor to Discuss Politics of Gender in Nepal on Feb. 21 at Cal Poly

SAN LUIS OBISPO — A professor of English at Tribhuvan University in Nepal will speak on “Media, Political Parties and Politics of Gender in Contemporary Nepal” from 11 a.m. to noon Thursday, Feb. 21, in Room 123 in the Agricultural Engineering Building at Cal Poly.

Sanjeev Uprety will discuss two recent controversies that appeared in Nepali print media. The first followed Maoist Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal’s (also known as Prachanda’s) description of the middle classes of Kathmandu as “neat and laundered” peoples. The second controversy erupted when Maoist leader and current Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai described Nepal’s United Marxist Leninist Party as the “third gender” party.

Uprety contends that a study of these two controversies shows how hegemonic masculinity functions at the heart of contemporary political discourse in Nepal, a fact that has serious consequences for women, homosexuals and “third genders,” as well as for those heterosexual men who practice non-hegemonic and non-violent forms of masculinity.

Uprety’s aim is to revisit Nepali history from a masculinity studies perspective and show that debates concerning masculinity often trace broader political debates concerning class, consumption and ethnicity.

Uprety earned a doctorate from Brown University and is in the United States doing post-doctoral research on South Asian masculinities at Harvard University and UC Berkeley.

This event is free and open to the public. It is co-sponsored by the Cal Poly College of Liberal Arts’ Lottery Fund and the departments of English, Ethnic Studies, History, Mechanical Engineering and Women’s and Gender Studies.

For more information, please contact Cal Poly Women’s and Gender Studies Department at wgs@calpoly.edu, call 805-756-1525, or visit www.cla.calpoly.edu/wgs/lecture_series.html.

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