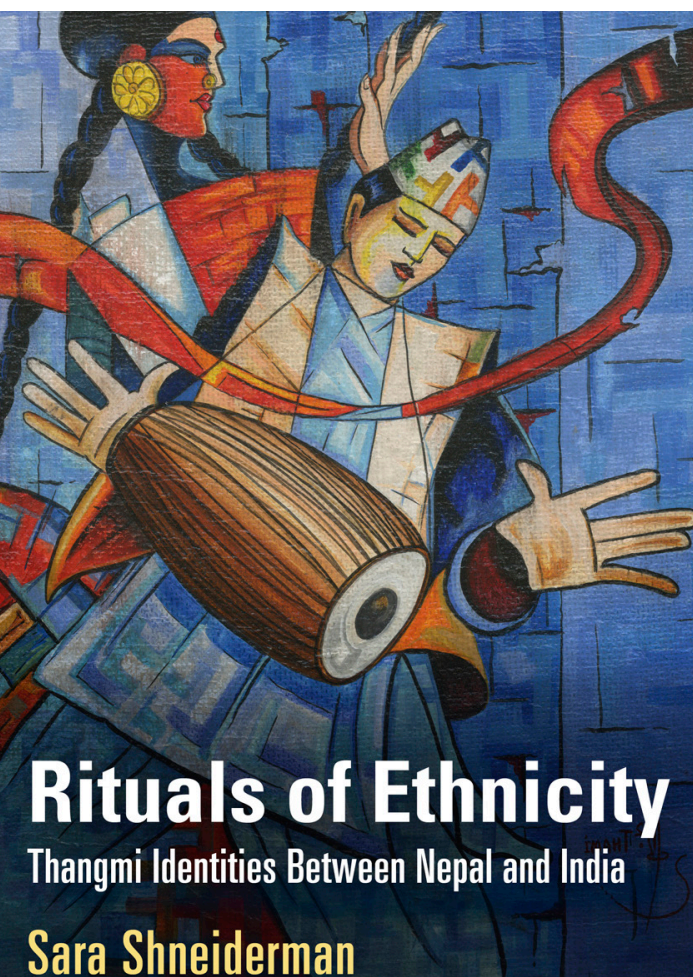


A book talk with Sara Shneiderman

Rituals of Ethnicity:

Thangmi Identities Between Nepal & India



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26

11:30 – 1:00 pm | Anthropology & Sociology
Building | Room 134
6303 NW Marine Drive

DR. SARA SHNEIDERMAN

(Assistant Professor in Anthropology and the Institute of Asian Research at UBC)

Sara Shneiderman is Assistant Professor in Anthropology and the Institute of Asian Research at UBC. Her current research project is an ethnography of “post-conflict” state restructuring in Nepal, with a focus on the domains of citizenship, territory, and religiosity.

Rituals of Ethnicity is a transnational study of the relationships between mobility, ethnicity, and ritual action. Through an ethnography of the Thangmi, a marginalized community who migrate between Himalayan border zones of Nepal, India and the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China, the book offers a new explanation for the persistence of enduring ethnic identities today despite the increasing realities of mobile, hybrid lives. I argue that ethnicization may be understood as a process of ritualization, which brings people together around the shared sacred object of identity. The first comprehensive ethnography of the Thangmi, *Rituals of Ethnicity* is framed by the Maoist-state civil conflict in Nepal and the movement for a separate state of Gorkhaland in India. The histories of nation-states in this geopolitical hotspot—as well as the cross-border flows between them—reveal the discourses of democracy, communism, development, and indigeneity that have transformed the region over the past half century.