

Spring 2022 Arts of Asia Lecture Series
Gifts of Rivers and Resources: Art and Power in Ancient Asia
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**Motif and Material Culture: Trans-Himalayan Connections
as Viewed from Upper Mustang, Nepal**

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Geographic locations:

Upper Mustang, Nepal (Gandaki Province, northern border of Nepal with Tibet/PRC)
Lower Mustang, Nepal (Gandaki Province, south of Upper Mustang)
Ngari Prefecture, Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR; westernmost region of PRC)
Xinjiang (Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region (northwestern region of PRC)
Swat/Gilgit/Baltistan (regions in NW Pakistan)
Ladakh/Leh (northern India; important regional center)
Taklamakan Desert/Tarim basin (Xinjiang)

Key archaeological sites:

Samdzong (Upper Mustang, ca. 450-650 CE)
Mebrak (Lower Mustang, ca. 400 BCE-0 CE)
Gurgyam/ Chuvthag/ Quta (Ngari, western Tibet cemeteries, ca. 100-450 CE)
Khotan (300 BCE-700 CE)

Archaeological cultures/other:

Tubo: Chinese term for the Tibetan Empire (ca. 650-830 CE)
Zhangzhung: political rival to the nascent Tibetan polity; located in western Tibet, ca. 300 BCE-650 CE
Xiongnu polity (Mongolian steppe, ca. 3rd BCE-4th CE)
Bon: varied definitions; relative consensus that Bon was an ancient religion of much of the Tibetan plateau. Possibly the “religion” of the Zhangzhung polity

Books/articles

Aldenderfer, M. and Laure Dussubieux 2022 Sources of glass beads from the High Himalayas: 1200 BCE-AD 650. In *Glass Bead Technology, Chronology, and Exchange: LA-ICP-MS Glass Compositions from the Field Museum's Elemental Analysis Facility*, Leuven University Press (available from me).

Devers, Q. 2017 Charting ancient routes in Ladakh: An archaeological documentation. In *Interaction in the Himalayas and Central Asia*, edited by E. Allinger, F. Grenet, C. Jahoda, M. Lang, and A. Vergati, pp. 321-338. Austrian Academy of Sciences Press, Vienna.

Dhungel, R.K., 2002. *The Kingdom of Lo (Mustang): A Historical Study*. Lusha Press, Kathmandu.

Finkel, M. 2012 Sky caves of Nepal. *National Geographic Magazine*. October: 122-137.

Gleba, M., I. Vanden Berghe, and M. Aldenderfer 2016 Textile technology in Nepal in the 5th-7th centuries CE: the case of Samdzong. *Science and Technology of Archaeological Research* 2(1): 1-11. [https://doi: 10.1080/20548923.2015.1110421](https://doi.org/10.1080/20548923.2015.1110421) (open-access)

Massa, G., M. Aldenderfer, and M. Martin-Torres 2019 Of gold masks, bronze mirrors and brass bracelets: Analyses of metallic artefacts from Samdzong, Upper Mustang, Nepal 450–650 CE. *Archaeological Research in Asia*. 18: 68-81. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ara.2019.02.004> (available from me)

Ramble, Charles. 2007. *The Navel of the Demoness: Tibetan Buddhism and Civil Religion in Highland Nepal*. Oxford University Press, New York.

Tong, T., and L. Li 2016 The Himalayan gold masks from the Eurasian perspective. *Chinese Archaeology* 16: 85-90 (available from me)

Video/films:

“Sky Caves of Nepal.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kzu5JAgb2vQ>
National Geographic (NG) Live

“Cave People of the Himalayas” (trailer) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OxM_MGY8r7Q