## KRISTINE HILDEBRANDT: A VERY QUICK BIO

• B.A. Keene State College (NH) 1992, M.A. A.S.U. 1997, Ph.D. UC Santa Barbara 2003
• Post-Doc, University of Leipzig (2003-2005)
• Lecturer, Linguistics & English Language at University of Manchester (2005-2008)
• Assistant → Associate Professor, English Language & Literature at SIUE 2008-present
• My first field trip to Nepal was in 1998 and I've been conducting fieldwork there regularly for the past 16 years

## DOCUMENTING THE LANGUAGES OF MANANG, NEPAL FOR LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL IMPACT 2012-2017



P.I.: Kristine Hildebrandt
Shunfu Hu, Jessica Krim (SIUE)
Dubi Nanda Dhakal (Tribhuvan University)
Oliver Bond (Surrey University)

## WHAT IS A 'CAREER' GRANT?

• The NSF Early Faculty Development (CAREER) Program Award is the most sought-after recognition a new faculty member can receive
• Not only does the P.I. get to manage a large, longer-term, competitive and prestigious award, but the home department & institution also get major bragging rights
• CAREER grants are practically mandatory efforts for new faculty at R-1 universities where they are common, but they are rare at smaller institutions
• However, the NSF wants faculty at all higher ed. institutions to remain engaged in their professional fields & to integrate those ideas and methods into both undergraduate & graduate-level teaching
• I think this CAREER grant is all the more special at SIUE because it is an NSF-funded project housed in an English Language (humanities) program
• One of my career-spanning agendas is to demonstrate how humanities and social, biological and engineering sciences can collaborate

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

• As documentation as a response to language endangerment evolves, our conceptualization of how the methods & deliverables can involve & benefit diverse populations must do likewise
• This project undertakes documentation fieldwork on four languages of Nepal, using the methods & data to reinterpret documentation functions in local & international contexts
• Outputs include: grammatical descriptions & analyses, an online, interactive digital atlas of Manang for study of the spatial dimensions of contact & endangerment, and education initiatives for Manang communities & for undergraduate students anywhere
• The outputs are developed in international collaborative contexts: with faculty & students at the home institution, in Nepal & the U.K., with digital librarians at the University of Virginia, with the Linguistic Survey of Nepal, and with community organizations & schools in Manang

## THIS PROJECT

- The fieldwork takes place in the Manang District
- We have been investigating the structure and practices of four indigenous languages: Manange, Gurung, Gyalsumdo & Nar-Phu

## METHODS (SOME EXAMPLES)



- Since 2012 we have undertaken annual 3-month field trips to Manang, visiting each village for parallel data collection
- Via cooperation with local schools, we gain access to village residents for sociolinguistic interviews, recorded texts & linguistic analysis

## METHODS

- With oral informed consent, discourses undergo transcription/ translation & are archived with Tibetan Himalayan Library at UVA or on Youtube
- These texts provide a foundation for further interlinearization & parallel elicitation towards grammatical analyses
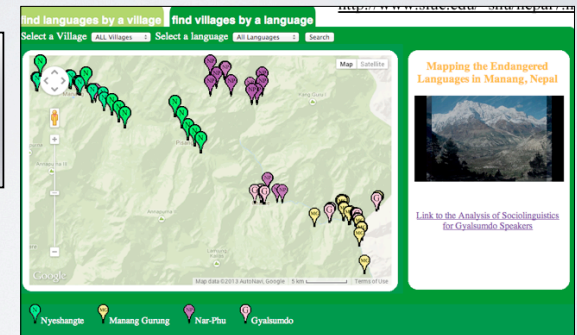
## OUTPUTS (SOME EXAMPLES)

- Our atlas is an ongoing project
- We currently have all data collection locations plotted & linked to photos, A-V and selected interview responses
- We are now experimenting with isogloss layering of selected variables for spatial consideration

Hildebrandt, K.A. and S. Hu. 2013. Multimedia mapping on the internet and language documentation: New directions in interdisciplinarity. *Polymath*: 3.3 1-11.
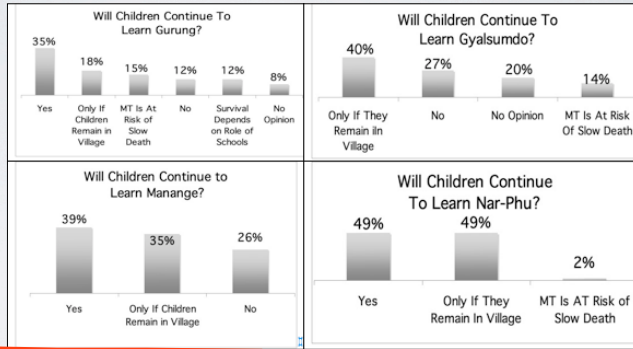


http://www.siue.edu/~shu/nepal7.html

## LANGUAGE ANALYSIS OUTPUTS

• Sociolinguistic Surveys: We have examined Manang residents' personal language histories, practices & attitudes that may simultaneously promote & compromise the survival of mother tongues in the region



*two co-authors are SIUE undergraduate alums!*

Hildebrandt, K.A., D. N. Dhakal, O. Bond, M. Vallejo, A. Fyffe. 2014. A sociolinguistic survey of the languages of Manang, Nepal: Co-Existence and endangerment. In Press. Kathmandu: *NFDIN Journal*.

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## EDUCATION OUTPUTS

• ENG 418: Language Endangerment & Death
• One blog posting published (me as sole author), one blog in-progress (me, <u>plus 9 students as co-authors</u>)
• In January 2015 the 2nd blog posting will be revised & submitted for peer review to the online journal *Language Documentation and Conservation*
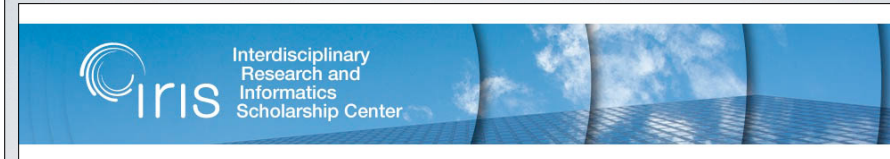
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## COMMUNITY OUTPUTS

• Gyalsumdo Dictionary: The Gyalsumdo community has expressed interest in a Gyalsumdo-Nepali-English dictionary, to be distributed amongst primary/secondary schools
• With no orthography, they asked us to help create one
• The dictionary is still in draft version, and we hope for a 2015 publication & release

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## SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: SIUE IRIS

• Major funded projects require a "Data Management Plan"
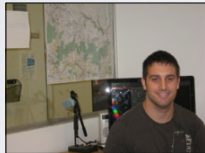• What data are generated by this project? What is the plan for managing this data?



• An interdisciplinary facility that supports scholarship involving applications, enhancements & re-conceptualizations of computing & information technology in humanities & social sciences
• Founded in 2010 by co-directors Kristine Hildebrandt & Jessica DeSpain

## SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: SIUE URCA

• Practically none of the SIUE-based activities & outputs would be possible without involvement & investment from URCA assistants

## FIELDWORK TEAMS 2012-2014



Thank You: Ritar Lhakpa Lama, Sangdo Lama, EkMaya Gurung, Sassi Gurung, Pushpa Gurung, Chimi Lama, Karma Lama, Prita Malla, Prabal Malla, Kanchan Karki, Yesha Malla, Alex Kalika, Tiffany Downing, Cassidy Jacobsen, Andrea Fyffe, Alex Taitt, Chris Witruk, Ian Green, Caleb Pecue