

## Call for papers:

### Shifting borders in the Himalayas

**Policies, power and the transformation of local identities along the border of the PRC**

***International Workshop. 19. 4. 2024. Prague, Národní 3 (205)***

China's frontier consists of contested spaces, where disagreements about the border have persisted for decades. In recent years, with full access to remote borderland areas, the PRC has initiated widespread activities to occupy and man these disputed areas and accentuate its presence and dominance along the borderline. In numerous places along the Himalayan frontier, such as in Bhutan, Nepal or India, and also elsewhere, such as along the frontier with Tajikistan, China is sometimes less, sometimes more obviously but systematically moving the physical borderline outwards, challenging the sovereignty of its neighbours.

The dominant Chinese presence also impacts the populations residing on the other side of the border, influencing their livelihoods and their identity. Used to existing as part of a frontier community in many cases, with China's consolidation of a physical borderline, the inhabitants feel a stronger need to define their ethno-cultural affiliation and their loyalty to a state.

This workshop will explore the methods the PRC is using to consolidate and expand the border, how these methods impact the local populations, and the reactions of the affected states.

The workshop is organised by the Oriental Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences. It is part of the research programme Strategy AV 21 „Identities in the World of Wars and Crises“. If you are interested to join in, please send a title and an abstract by February 29, 2024 to [ptackova@orient.cas.cz](mailto:ptackova@orient.cas.cz).

Limited funds are available to cover the travel costs of the participants.

This workshop intends to be first in a row of follow up discussions and a start of establishment of network of scholars looking into the issues happening at and along China's border. So please do signalise your interest even though you should not be available for the date of April 19, 2024. Thank you.