

Tribhuvan University

Under the Tourist's Gaze: Kathmandu in the Popular Culture

A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English  
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of  
Master of Philosophy (M. Phil.) in English

by

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**Letter of Recommendation**

Mr. Arvind Dahal has completed his thesis entitled “Under the Tourist’s Gaze: Kathmandu in the Popular Culture” under my supervision. He carried out his research from Feb 2017 A.D. to May 2017 A.D. This thesis meets the required standards to justify the award for the Degree of Master of Philosophy (M. Phil.) in English. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Supervisor

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**Tribhuvan University**  
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**Approval Letter**

This thesis entitled “Under the Tourist’s Gaze: Kathmandu in the Popular Culture” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Mr. Arvind Dahal, has been approved by undersigned members of the Research Committee for the award for the Degree of Master of Philosophy (M. Phil.) in English.

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## **Abstract**

This research explores the shift and continuities of representing Kathmandu city in Western cinematic and musical creations since 1970s. My research concerns with the representations of Kathmandu City in the popular culture. It intends to explore the imagination of Kathmandu as a touristic place and how they represent the city and produce images in the popular culture which expands far beyond the visual apprehension and enjoyment of a landscape. While doing so my research first explores the representations, practices and processes of identity formation and cultural negotiations that are brought about in the city by tourism and secondly, it analyses the content and the visual representations of the songs and the movies relying primarily on the theoretical tools of Popular Culture and secondarily the image production of the landscape in terms of Tourist gaze.

Keywords: *Gaze, purple haze, hippies, psychedelic orientalism, cultural politics, appropriation, duplicity of landscape, staged authenticity, metaphorization*

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