

# Curriculum Vitae

## Calum Blaikie

### Personal information

**Name:** Calum Macleod BLAIKIE

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### Current status and research interests

I am a social scientist working at the interface of medical, pharmaceutical, economic and environmental anthropology, and primarily concerned with Sowa Rigpa (Tibetan medicine) in the Himalayas. I am currently employed as a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute for Social Anthropology, Austrian Academy of Sciences, as part of the European Research Council funded *Ratimed* team, investigating the emergence of a transnational Sowa Rigpa pharmaceutical industry. Until 2019 my research will be focused upon the sourcing and trade of *materia medica* and the production, circulation, regulation and assessment of Tibetan medicines in Himalayan India, Bhutan and Nepal.

### Qualifications

**PhD Social Anthropology**, University of Kent – Awarded May 24<sup>th</sup> 2013

- Thesis title: *Making medicine: Materia medica, pharmacy and the production of Sowa Rigpa in Ladakh*
- Supervisor: Prof Roy Ellen
- Examiners: Prof Geoffrey Samuel and Dr Anna Waldstein

**MSc Development Studies**, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London - 2001

- Critical approaches to the theory, policy and practice of development; development economics; NGO / state / donor dynamics; new social movements; refugee and migration studies
- Dissertation: *Why do the nomads settle? Livelihoods, sustainability and rural-urban migration among the Kharnak pa of Ladakh.*

**BA Social Anthropology and Development Studies**, University of Kent - 1998

- Social anthropology; development studies; economics, politics and international relations; ethnicity and nationalism; globalisation and social change
- Dissertation: *The sham and the chimera: Education and the nomads of Ladakh.*

## Publications

### Peer-reviewed articles

Blaikie, C., Craig, S., Hofer, T. and Gerke, B. (2015). 'Co-Producing Efficacious Medicines: Collaborative Ethnography with Tibetan Medicine Practitioners in Kathmandu, Nepal', *Current Anthropology* 56 (2). DOI: 10.1086/680464.

Blaikie, C. (2015). 'Wish-fulfilling jewel pills: Tibetan medicines from exclusivity to ubiquity', *Anthropology & Medicine* 22 (1): 7-22.

Pordié, L. and Blaikie, C. (2014). 'Knowledge and skills in motion: Layers of Tibetan medical education in India', *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry* 38(3): 340-368.

Blaikie, C. (2013). 'Currents of tradition in Sowa Rigpa pharmacy', *East Asian Science, Technology and Society* 7:425-451.

Blaikie, C. (2011). 'Critically Endangered? Medicinal Plant Cultivation and the Reconfiguration of Sowa Rigpa in Ladakh', *Asian Medicine* 5: 243-272.

### Book chapters

Blaikie, C. (2015). 'Absence, abundance and excess: Substances and Sowa Rigpa in Ladakh since the 1960s', in Attewell, G. and Deb Roy, R. *Locating the Medical*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press (in press).

Blaikie, C. (2015). 'Where there is no *amchi*: Tibetan medicine and rural-urban migration amongst nomadic pastoralists', in Pordié, L. (ed.) *Healing at the Periphery: Ethnographies of Tibetan Medicine in India*, Durham: Duke University Press, (in press).

### Book Reviews

Blaikie, C. (2015). Review of '*Living Between Juniper and Palm: Nature, Culture and Power in the Himalayas*' by Ben Campbell, *Social Anthropology* (in press).

Blaikie, C. (2013). Review of '*Healing Elements: Efficacy and the Social Ecologies of Tibetan Medicine*' by Sienna Craig, *Himalaya* XXXII (2).

## Events organised

Sienna Craig, Barbara Gerke, Theresia Hofer and I co-organised an international workshop entitled 'Producing Efficacious Medicine: Quality, Potency, Lineage, and Critically Endangered Knowledge' in the winter of 2011. The first of its kind, this event gathered 40 Sowa Rigpa practitioners from Nepal, China (Tibet) and India to focus on the knowledge and practice of small-scale pharmacy. Kathmandu, Nepal, 5-12 December. See: Blaikie, C., Craig, S., Hofer, T. and Gerke, B. (2015); and [www.youtube.com/watch?v=6nzpofRuePE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6nzpofRuePE)

Over the last 15 years I have also been involved in organising numerous workshops, conferences and panels concerning Sowa Rigpa and other medical traditions in India, Cambodia and France.

## Conferences, Lectures and Workshop presentations

Blaikie, C. (2015). 'The Tibetan medicine industry in India: Emergence, pathways and obstacles', Guest Lecture at Azim Premji University, Bengaluru (India), 23 April.

Blaikie, C. (2013). 'Samphel Norbu: Tibetan jewel pills from palace to metropolis', paper presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Pharmaceutical Life Cycle, University of Amsterdam, 2-4 December.

Blaikie, C. (2012). 'Non-standard operating procedures: Variability and the Tibetan pharmaceutical industry in India', Guest Lecture at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, 10 December.

Blaikie, C. (2012). 'Mainstreaming traditional medicine in India: Challenges to biocultural diversity and the road ahead', paper presented at the 13th Congress of the International Society of Ethnobiology, Montpellier, 20-25 May.

Blaikie, C. (2012). 'Continuity, variability and transformation in Sowa Rigpa pharmacy', paper presented at the Pharmasud Workshop 'Innovating from the South: Production, invention and appropriation of pharmaceutical knowledge in Brazil and India', University of Rio de Janeiro, 5-7 March.

Blaikie, C. (2011). 'Continuity and change in Tibetan medicine production', paper presented at the 'International Workshop on Issues in the Contemporary Anthropology of Tibetan Medicine', Cardiff University, 21-22 January.

Blaikie, C. (2011). 'Compounding Tibetan Medicine in India: Recipes for the post-recognition era', Pharmasud Workshop #3, CERMES, Paris, 26 April.

Blaikie, C. (2010). 'Potency in motion: Tibetan medicine production in pre-regulation Ladakh', Pharmasud Workshop #1, CERMES-IFP, Pondicherry, 9-10 February.

Blaikie, C., (2009). 'Critically Endangered? Himalayan Medicinal Plant Conservation and Diversity in Medical Cultures', paper presented at the 'International Congress on Traditional Asian Medicine VII' (IASTAM), Thimphu, 7-11 September.

Blaikie, C., (2008). 'To buy or not to buy? Ambivalence and the commodification of Tibetan medicine', International Colloquium 'Faults and Flaws: Therapeutic Practices against the Norm in South Asia', Pondicherry, 7-9 March.

Blaikie, C. (2006). 'Training *amchi* in Ladakh', paper presented at the International Congress 'The West and Tibetan Medicine', Conservatoire des Savoirs Médicaux Traditionnels et Populaires, Genève, 27 – 29 January.

Blaikie, C. (2004). 'Reflections on healing and social harmony', paper presented at the International Workshop 'Health and Social Harmony: Exploring the relationships between healing systems and society in Ladakh', Leh, 25 - 29 October.

Blaikie, C. (2004). "Challenges of reintroducing Tibetan medicine in a Himalayan nomadic pastoralist community", paper presented at the International Workshop 'Mirrored views on healing systems in India: Merging Policies, Politics and Practices', French Institute of Pondicherry, Pondicherry, 19 - 20 April.

## Fellowships and Professional Posts

**2014 – 2019: Senior Postdoctoral Researcher**, Institute for Social Anthropology at the Austrian Academy of Sciences. European Research Council project [336932] *Reassembling Tibetan Medicine: The formation of a transnational Sowa Rigpa industry in contemporary India, China, Mongolia and Bhutan (Ratimed)*.

- The project examines the emergence and development of a Sowa Rigpa pharmaceutical industry within and between four Asian nations
- My work will be based primarily in Bhutan and Himalayan India

**2011 – 2012: Research Fellowship**, Pharmasud Project (CERMES3 / EHESS / CNRS / INSERM / Université Paris Descartes / French Institute of Pondicherry), funded by the Agence Nationale de la Recherche (France).

- Research focused on the contemporary transformation of Tibetan pharmacy in India: 4 months fieldwork, 2 publication and 1 in press.

**2008 – 2009: Teaching Assistant, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Kent**

- Seminar leader for the undergraduate course 'Introduction to Social Anthropology'
- Weekly seminar organisation, coursework facilitation and examination

**2002 – 2005: Programme Director, Nomad Recherche et Soutien International, Toulouse, France**

Nomad RSI is an international NGO specialised in research and action relating to health traditions and the environment ([www.nomadrsi.org](http://www.nomadrsi.org)). Over the period of my directorship the organisation formalised and professionalised its structure, improved its operations and outputs, enhanced its reputation and grew in size. My main responsibilities included:

- Strategic planning / programme development (France, India, Cambodia and Senegal)
- Project design, coordination and monitoring
- Fundraising and donor liaison
- Personnel (recruitment, management of 30 staff)
- Public relations (media, conferences, membership)
- Facilitation of more than 20 research projects in social and natural sciences

**2001- 2002: Project Advisor, Nomad RSI, Mondulkiri province, Cambodia**

- Advisor to the Country Coordinator on strategy development and project design
- Preparation of successful grant application for 'Pilot Village Health Worker Project' (2002 – 2005)

**2001: Intern, Nomad RSI, Ladakh, India**

- Assisting the local team on programme development, project design and monitoring
- Implementation of Lingshed Amchi Health Centre
- Research, seminar and workshop facilitation (including organisation of the first ever workshop for Ladakhi doctors of Tibetan medicine on HIV/AIDS)

**2000: Project Assistant, Leh Nutrition Project, Ladakh**

- Assisted with programme design and fundraising
- Co-preparation of a successful funding proposal: 'Early childhood care and nutrition project' (2001 – 2007)
- Finalisation of annual report and publicity materials

**1997: Intern, Save the Children Fund (UK), Northwest India Office, Ladakh**

- Internship focused on non-formal and vocational education
- Assistance with report writing and proposal preparation