

Curriculum Vitae

Jenny Bentley (PhD)

Email: jennifer.bentley@uzh.ch

- ✓ 15 years ethnographic research experience in the South Asian Himalayas (India, Nepal)
- ✓ academic, policy-orientated and participatory project proficiency
- ✓ 10 years experience in NGO management including monitoring, evaluation, fundraising and workshop organisation
- ✓ analytically skilled and professional all-rounder with quick perceptive faculty
- ✓ solution-orientated, creative, multi-lingual team-player

Education

- 2008-2016/20 PhD in socio-cultural anthropology, University of Zürich
Supervision: Professor Dr M. Oppitz, Professor Dr J. Pfaff-Czarnecka
Defended in 2016, Published in 2020
- 2001-2007 Licentiate Philosophiae (equivalent to a Masters Degree) in socio-cultural anthropology, German literature, media and communication sciences, University of Zürich

Academic work and research experience

- 2018-2020 Research associate/co-author, U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, Bergen (www.u4.org),
Project: Youth engagement in accountability initiatives in Nepal
- literature reviews, fieldwork conceptualisation and implementation (interviews, focus group discussions), co-organising of a workshop
 - co-author of two open source policy-orientated issue papers
- 2011-ongoing Research cooperation partner, Echostream: a multi-disciplinary design studio in Gangtok (Sikkim, India) (www.echostream.in)
- research and project conceptualisation and management incl. fundraising
 - co-organising of workshops, participatory focus groups
- 2008 Assistant, Ethnographic Museum of the University of Zurich
- assistance with two book publications of Professor Dr Oppitz (bibliography, text and photo edit)
- 2006-2014, 2020-ongoing Repeated, long-term ethnographic research in India (Sikkim, West Bengal) and Nepal (Ilam), affiliation to the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, Gangtok (Sikkim, India)

Academic grants and awards

- 2020 K2A Small Grant
- 2009-2012 Forschungskredit der Universität Zürich
- 2009 Janggen Pöhn Stiftung (awarded to students with distinguished MA degrees for their PhD research)

NGO work experience

- 2015-2020 Head of intercultural events, communication and fundraising, K5 Basler Kurszentrum (NGO, adult education for migrants and refugees, www.k5kurszentrum.ch)
- member of the executive board since 2019
 - fundraising, networking, project organisation/management, monitoring/evaluation
 - communication strategies, social media, event and workshop organisation
- 2011-2013 President, Sikkim Earthquake Relief (NGO for rebuilding after the 2011 earthquake in Sikkim)
- participatory project planning and implementation, monitoring/evaluation
 - fundraising, finance management
- 2007-ongoing Co-Director executive board, Tapriza Verein (NGO, school project in Dolpo, Nepal, www.tapriza.org)
- management, fundraising, monitoring and reporting, networking
 - communication with partners in Nepal and in Switzerland/Europe
- 2003-2005 Scientific staff, Society for Threatened People (SfTP) (www.gfbv.ch)
- Project reports on Afghanistan and India, journal articles

Publications

Academic

- Bentley, J. forthcoming. 'Nebesky-Wojkowitz's legacy and the Lepcha: On knowledge production and power relations, representation and ownership. Conference Proceedings/ edited book/ Weltenmuseum, Vienna.
- Bentley, J. forthcoming. 'Negotiating sacred Himalayan landscape. Contested knowledge production on environment, dams, and the deities' wrath in Sikkim' (peer-reviewed book chapter, accepted by the editorial board, most likely Oxford University Press).
- Bentley, J. 2020. Guardians of the Land and Water. Rituals, Vulnerability and Indigenous Belonging among the Himalayan Lepcha. Doctoral Thesis. University of Zurich: Zora.
- Bentley, J. 2020. 'Protectors of the Land and Water: Citizenship, Territory, and Vulnerability among the Lepcha of Sikkim and West Bengal.' Asian Ethnicity, Special Issue 'Ancestrality, Migration, Rights and Exclusion: Citizenship in the Indian State of Sikkim' edited by M. Vandenhelsken (online), <https://doi.org/10.1080/14631369.2020.1793295>.
- Bentley, J. 2017. 'Nationalismus und Ausgrenzung per Ausweis. Identitätsfragen in Sikkim.' Südasien 4.
- Bentley, J. 2014. 'The king's ritual and the religious power of the untamed.' Bulletin of Tibetology 50 (1&2): 133–52.
- Bentley, J. 2011a. 'Ambivalence of change: Education, eroding culture and revival among the Lepcha of Sikkim.' In Buddhist Himalaya: Studies in religion, history and culture. Volume II: The Sikkim Papers, edited by A. Balikci and A. McKay, 179–90. Proceedings of the Golden Jubilee Conference of the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology Gangtok, 2008. Gangtok: Namgyal Institute of Tibetology.
- Bentley, J. 2009/10. 'Narrations of contest: Competition among representatives of Lepcha belief and Guru Rinpoche in Sikkim.' Bulletin of Tibetology 45 (2) & 46 (1): 135–160. Series 1. The thunder dragon and the hidden land: Recent research on Sikkim and Bhutan, edited by S. Mullard. Bhutan-Sikkim Panel held at the 12th Seminar of the IATS, Vancouver, 2010.
- Bentley, J. 2008. 'Láso Múng Sung. Lepcha oral tradition as a reflexion of culture.' Bulletin of Tibetology 44 (1&2): 99–138.
- Bentley, J. 2007. 'Vanishing Lepcha' – change and cultural revival in a mountain community in Sikkim.' Bulletin of Tibetology 43 (1&2): 57–78.

Policy

- Bentley, J. and S. Mullard. 2019. '[Follow the integrity trendsetter. How to support change in youth opinion and build social trust.](#)' U4 Issue 3.
- Bentley, J. and S. Mullard. 2020. '[Incubating change-makers. Youth-driven innovative approaches to accountability in Nepal.](#)' U4 Issue 5.

Other

- Bentley, J. 2014. "Our rituals are our culture and identity" - Negotiating cultural survival among the Lepcha in a multi-religious and multi-ethnic Himalayan state.' Marg.
- Bentley, J. 2012. 'Shamanic practice in a hidden Himalaya valley.' Passage: 18-9.
- Bentley, J. 2011a. 'Sátáp Rum Fát and Chirim: Shamanic rituals of the Lepcha in Dzongu.' Thoughts & Pen 1 (1). 1-12.
- Bentley, J. 2011b. In Memory of Kongchen bǒngthǐng – an ethnographer's farewell. Sikkim Express. 6th November 2011, 3.
- Bentley, J. 2005. 'Laogai: Harry Wu bricht das Schweigen'. Vielfalt 55, Juli.
- Bentley, J. 2004. 'Wanniyala-aetto: Vergessene Urbevölkerung Sri Lankas.' Vielfalt 53, Dezember
- Bentley, J. 2004. Sikkim. Das Fest der Einheit – Sein und Schein.' Vielfalt 50, April.

Conferences and Workshops

- 19th International Anti-Corruption Conference, 30 November – 5 December 2020, online. (workshop participation)
- Exploring Himalayan textual heritage. A Symposium in Memoriam René Nebesky-Wokowitz (1923-1959) and his text collections at the Weltenmuseum Wien, 14-15 November 2019. CIRDIS, Vienna. (presentation)
- 11th International Convention of Asian Scholars. 16-19 July 2019. Leiden University, Leiden, The Netherlands.
- 4th Interdisciplinary Corruption Research Forum, 13-15 June 2019, National University of the Kyiv Mohyla Academy, Kiev, Ukraine. (presentation, workshop participation)
- U4 Workshop: Corruption and communities in South Asia, 18-19. December 2018. CMI, Bergen (co-organisation, moderation).
- 4th International Conference on North-East India: Reframing India's North-East: People, Power, and Perspectives, 24-26 November 2016, Sikkim University, Gangtok, Sikkim, India. (presentation)
- 23rd European Conference on South Asian Studies, 23-26 July 2014, University of Zurich, Switzerland. (presentation)
- 13th Seminar of the International Association of Tibetan Studies. 21-27 July 2013, Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Ulaan Bataar, Mongolia.
- Internationale Konferenz Universität Wien: Negotiating Ethnicity: Politics and Display of Cultural Identities in North East India. 4-6 July 2013. (presentation)
- Summit of the Indian Mountain Initiative, 2011, ICIMOD. (workshop participation)
- 4th SSEASR Conference. Mountains in the Religions of South and Southeast Asia: Place, Culture and Power. 30 Juni-3 July 2010. Thimpu, Kingdom of Bhutan. (presentation)
- 12th Seminar of the International Association for Tibetan Studies. 15-20 August 2010, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. (presentation)
- Animation Workshop, 22 February-16 March 2010. Namgyal Institute of Tibetology (Collaboration of Echostream und Adivasi Arts Trust UK). Gangtok, Sikkim, India. (workshop participation)
- Tagung der Schweizerischen Ethnologischen Gesellschaft. TRANSFORMATIONEN. Sozialbeziehungen, Wissensbestände, Politiken. Konferenz, 13-14 November 2009. Universität Neuchâtel. (presentation)
- Golden Jubilee Conference of the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, 1-5 October 2008, Gangtok, Sikkim, India. (presentation)

Language skills

- English (mother tongue)
- German (mother tongue)
- Nepali (oral proficiency, written basic)
- Lepcha (basic oral and written basic)
- French (oral and written proficiency)

Software skills

- Editing and publishing: Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, InDesign), Affinity Photo, Affinity Publisher
- Data management: Tocco, Cobra, Filemaker
- Web-design: Contao, Wordpress