

THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY PRESENTS

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Monday, April 11th, 2016 @ 3:00pm

Social Sciences Building, Dean's Conference Room 107

The Ethics of Intelligibility: Understanding Deaf-Hearing Interactions in Nepal

This talk focuses on deaf Nepalis' experiences to argue that intelligibility is ultimately an ethical as well as a semiotic phenomenon. Drawing on extensive fieldwork with signers of Nepali Sign Language (a young but conventional language) and "natural sign" (more limited signed repertoires), I explore how understanding others depends not only on shared social and semiotic conventions, but also, and more critically, on the willingness of interlocutors to engage.