About the author

Mark Turin holds a PhD in descriptive linguistics with a focus on Himalayan languages. He trained in social anthropology at the University of Cambridge and in linguistics at Leiden University in the Netherlands through the Himalayan Languages Project. His doctoral dissertation, currently in press with Brill, is a grammatical description of Thangmi, a little-known Tibeto-Burman language spoken in Nepal, with an ethnolinguistic introduction to the speakers and their culture. Turin has taught linguistic and visual anthropology at the University of Cambridge, and held a three-year research fellowship at Cornell University. He directs Digital Himalaya, an online project to develop digital collection, storage, and distribution strategies for multimedia anthropological information from the Himalayan region <www.digitalhimalaya.com>. He has been a visiting scholar at the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology in Gangtok, Sikkim, where he initiated the first modern linguistic survey of Sikkim. He has also worked as a consultant for the World Bank, ICIMOD, and the United Nations, and continues to research and write about issues of language, ethnicity, politics, and technology across the Himalayan region. At present he heads the Translation and Interpretation Unit in the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) in Kathmandu.