



A conference focused on a mountain valley of approximately 8,000 sq. km situated in the Western Himalayas may not be an obvious rallying event for the academic community. Yet, the First International Conference on Spiti held at Wolfson College on 6th and 7th May turned out to be a great success.

The *Spiti Valley: Recovering the Past and Exploring the Present* conference was designed to encourage interdisciplinary exchanges and brought together researchers in the fields of archaeology, art history, linguistics, conservation, anthropology, and history.

Twenty-five conference panellists from three different continents attended the event. It should be noted that four Tibetan presenters from India managed to overcome bureaucratic hurdles and thus got the chance to present their research and gained international exposure.

The conference was open to the public, too. Here again, the general attendance was beyond all expectations, allowing observers from different backgrounds to take part in the event.

Altogether, the conference delegates were immensely pleased with the conference and overall organisation.

In this regard, I would like to stress the quality of service being offered by Wolfson College – in particular, I must thank Louise Gordon, Linda Boerner, and Alex Messenger for their readiness to assist, unfaltering support, and friendliness.

Yannick Laurent

“I was really impressed that you managed to invite and actually bring together so many of the people working on Spiti. And you and your team also succeeded in creating a very positive and friendly atmosphere at the venue itself”

Dr Veronika Hein (conference panellist)



Conference Delegates, 7th May, 2016



Convener's speech, 6th May, 2016

“Thank you so much for organising the whole event (….) I really enjoyed my two days there; learnt a huge amount, and met a lot of great people who also share my own Himalayan obsessions, and many of whom I would never otherwise have met!”

Mr. Hugh Ashley Rayner (observer)

“I would like to say thank you so much for wonderful conference. I am fortunate to present my presentation at Oxford. I enjoyed every moment.”

Mrs. Lhundup Tsomo (conference panellist)



Coffee break outside the Buttery, 6th May, 2016



Dr Carmen Auer delivering her paper. Panel chaired by Prof Ulrike Roesler, 6th May 2016

“Thank you so much for this and for the whole, wonderful conference! It was so beautifully organised - perfect!”

Mrs. Jane Moore (observer)