

Magnus Hatlebakk - curriculum vitae

April 2025

<i>Current position:</i>	<i>Senior Researcher Economist</i>	<i>Address:</i>	<i>Chr. Michelsen Institute P.O. Box 6033 5892 Bergen, Norway</i>
<i>Born:</i>	<i>1963</i>	<i>Phone:</i>	<i>47 93 81 21 or 47 93 80 00</i>
<i>Nationality:</i>	<i>Norwegian</i>	<i>e-mail:</i>	magnus.hatlebakk@cmi.no

Key Qualifications

Hatlebakk studies household level poverty traps that may result from inferior positions in the rural labor and credit markets. He combines theory with quantitative and qualitative empirical methods to understand the relatively complex economic- and social interactions between the local elite and the less wealthy households within village economies. A deep knowledge of these mechanisms is necessary to understand the likely impacts of development policies, including micro-finance, employment programs, and land-reforms.

Hatlebakk's main line of research focuses on informal credit and labor markets in rural Nepal and India. He works with national level survey data in combination with field-studies, and he conducts tailor-made surveys to understand particular development problems. An example of the latter is his study of savings preferences among rickshaw cyclists.

His interest in rural poverty in South-Asia has led to research on the implications of son-preference for intra-household decisions on education and nutrition, as well as research on caste-based discrimination in rural credit and labor markets. As part of this work Hatlebakk has contributed to the descriptive analysis of social and economic indicators for different castes and ethnic groups in Nepal. And the ongoing ethnic and social conflicts in Nepal have led to research on the underlying causes of these conflicts. Hatlebakk has also conducted research on livelihood strategies in rural Malawi, health worker behavior in Tanzania, and more applied work on health insurance in Rwanda.

His work ranges from applied analyses that appear as reports for development agencies, including a 2007 report on the Madhesi uprising in Nepal and a 2008 report on inclusive growth in Nepal, via documentation of economic and social progress in Nepal that have appeared as books in Kathmandu, to analyses of the underlying causes of poverty that have appeared in academic journals such as the *Journal of Development Economics* and the *Journal of Development Studies*. More recently he has written a number of policy reports on what works in development.

Education

- **Dr. Polit. degree** (Ph.D.), Department of Economics, University of Bergen, 2001. Thesis: Essays on power and poverty in informal rural markets.
- **Cand. Polit. degree** (M.A.), Department of Economics, University of Bergen, 1991. Thesis: Jordreformer og organisering av landarbeidere. (Land reform and rural trade unions).
- **Cand. Mag. degree** (B.A.), Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Bergen, 1987, major (mellomfag) in economics, minor (grunnfag) in history, and supplementary courses in sociology, politics and statistics.

Professional Background

Chr. Michelsen Institute, Bergen, Norway

Senior researcher, September 2004 -

Department of Economics, University of Bergen, Norway

Post-doctoral research fellow, August 2002 – August 2004

Centre for Research in Economics and Business Administration (SNF), Bergen, Norway

Research economist, August 2000 – August 2002

Department of Economics, University of Bergen, Norway

Research fellow and Ph.D. candidate, April 1996 – August 2000

Centre for Research in Economics and Business Administration (SNF), Bergen, Norway

Research economist, July 1992 – March 1996

Christian Michelsen Research, Bergen, Norway

Research fellow/assistant, February 1991 – June 1992

Norwegian Association for Organic Farming, Bergen, Norway

Civil services, October 1989 – January 1991

Department of Economics, University of Bergen, Norway

Student assistant, 1988-1989

Award

The Dudley Seers Memorial Prize for best article in 2014 in the *Journal of Development Studies*.

Teaching and supervision at Department of Economics, University of Bergen

- Involved in the supervision of ten completed master theses (including in the field supervision in rural Nepal).
- Undergraduate microeconomics, spring 2002
- Rural economy part of graduate development economics, spring 1999
- Teaching assistant, graduate microeconomics, fall 1997

Selected professional activities

- Member of the review panel on Humanities, social and behavioural sciences (UF-1) within Development research in the Swedish Research Council 2018 - 2020
- External Project Advisor for 3ie-impact, 2016 - 2019
- Initiated (together with Finn Tarp, Copenhagen) the first Nordic Conference in Development Economics, at CMI, May 2002. This has developed into an annual event that alternates between the Nordic countries.

Project experience

Multi-country **Jobs Network.** Funded by the Research Council of Norway, 2021-

Nepal **The political economy of river sand mining in South Asia.** Funded by

the Research Council of Norway, 2020-2023

- Desk-study **Norwegian development assistance to private sector development**
Commissioned by the NORAD Evaluation department, 2018-2019
- Desk-study **Norwegian aid to food security, nutrition and agriculture**
Commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2017
- Nepal **Political Economy Analysis - Nepal** Commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Norway, 2017
- Desk-study **What works in Development?** Commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Norway, 2016
- India **Midterm Review of Norwegian Microfinance Initiative technical assistance facility** Commissioned by NORAD, 2016
- Nepal **Integrated Programme for Strengthening Security and Justice, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Component (IP-SSJ-MEL)**
Subcontract with Palladium. Project commissioned by DFID, 2015-ongoing.
- Nepal **Review Nepal District Planning, Monitoring and Analysis System (DPMAS)** Subcontract with IDLgroup. Project commissioned by DFID, 2014.
- India **Agrarian Contracts and Rural Poverty in India** Funded by the Research Council of Norway, 2013-2016 (team leader).
- Nepal **Households, Livelihoods and Social and Political Transformation in Nepal** Funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2012-2014 (team leader).
- Nepal **Gender of children, education and occupational choice in Nepal.** Funded by the Research Council of Norway, 2010-2014 (team leader).
- Nepal **Long term poverty dynamics in Nepal.** Funded by the Research Council of Norway, 2010-2013 (team leader).
- India **Inclusive growth in India.** Funded by the Norwegian Embassy, Delhi, 2009-2013 (team leader).
- Nepal **Poverty traps in industries with low knowledge and investment barriers.** Funded by the Research Council of Norway, 2009-2012 (team leader).
- Nepal **Social networks and labor migration in South-Asia.** Funded by the Research Council of Norway, 2008-2011.
- Nepal **Ethnic and fiscal federalism in Nepal.** Commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway, 2008.

- Nepal **Inclusive growth in Nepal.** Commissioned by the Norwegian Embassy, Nepal, 2008.
- Nepal **Economic and social structures that may explain the terai conflicts**
Commissioned by the Norwegian Embassy, Nepal, 2007.
- Nepal **Social exclusion in Nepal.** Funded by the Norwegian Embassy, Nepal, 2006-2009 (team leader).
- Nepal **Economic determinants of nutrition and health outcomes in Nepal**
Funded by the Research Council of Norway, 2006-2009
- Tanzania **Health worker performance in Tanzania.** Funded by the Research Council of Norway, 2006-2011.
- Malawi/Ghana **Livelihood diversification strategies and poverty.** Part of a larger CMI-project on small-scale fisheries in Africa, 2005-2009.
- Nepal **Contextual analysis of collaborative forest management**
Commissioned by SNV/Nepal, 2005.
- Rwanda **Evaluation of voluntary health insurance in Rwanda.** Commissioned by the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), 2004.
- Nepal **Intervention into bonded labor in Nepal**
Funded by the Research Council of Norway, 2004-2006 (team leader)
- Nepal **Poverty and informal interaction in rural economies.** Postdoctoral project funded by the Research Council of Norway, 2002-2004.
- Nepal **Poverty and institutions in agricultural economies.** Ph.D. project funded by the Research Council of Norway, 1996-2000.

Visits, collaborations and field experience

Cornell University, Ithaca, USA:

Visited Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, September-November 2012

Visited the South-Asia Program, October 2003

Visited the Economics Department September-December 1999 and October 2002

South Asia Institute, Heidelberg, Germany:

Visiting Scholar: October 2014, April 2015 and November 2015

Collaborations, Nepal:

Institute of Population and Development Studies (IPDS) including household surveys, 2011-

National Labour Academy, including household surveys, 2008-

Individual researchers at Tribhuvan University, 2006-

Centre for Economic Development and Administration, 2004-2009

Collaborations, India:

Collaboration with Institute of Economic Growth, including household surveys, 2008-

Fieldwork, Nepal

Fieldwork in rural Nepal almost every year since 1997. Accumulated time in Nepal: 3 years.

Shorter field-visits

Rwanda in 2004, Malawi in 2005, Tanzania in 2007, Ghana in 2008, India since 2009.

Publications**Articles**

Hatlebakk, M., Rahman, M. A. and Suykens, B. (2025). "Sand Mining, Non-Farm Employment and a Local Labour Force in Rural Bangladesh". *Journal of International Development*, **37**(2): 443-456.

Hatlebakk, M. (2023). "River sand mining as a livelihood activity: The case of Nepal". *Extractive Industries and Society*, **14**, 101266.

Hatlebakk, M. (2017). "Son-preference, number of children, education and occupational choice in rural Nepal". *Review of Development Economics*. **21**(1): 1-20.

Hatlebakk, M. (2016). "Intergenerational determinants of occupational choice: The case of international labor migration from Nepal". *Oxford Development Studies*. **44**(1): 93-112.

Gurung, Y. and Hatlebakk, M. (2016). "Female Empowerment and the Education of Children in Nepal". *Journal of Developing Areas*. **50**(2): 1-19.

Hatlebakk, M. (2015) "Myopic Preferences or Subsistence Income? Why do Rickshaw Cyclists rent the Cycle?" *International Journal of Development Issues*. **14**(3): 204-214.

Hatlebakk, M. (2014). "Poverty dynamics in rural Orissa: Transitions in assets and occupations over generations." *Journal of Development Studies*. **50**(6): 877-893. Received the Dudley Seers Memorial Prize for best article in 2014.

Hatlebakk, M. (2012). "Regional Variation in Livelihood Strategies in Malawi". *South African Journal of Economics*. **80**(1): 62-76.

Hatlebakk, M. (2012). "Fishery as a livelihood strategy in Malawi. Analyzing a small LSMS sub-sample" *Journal of International Development*. **24**(1): 77-87.

Hatlebakk, M. (2011). "Triadic Power Relations in Rural Nepal". *Journal of Development Studies*. **47**(11): 1739-1756.

Hatlebakk, M. (2010). "Maoist control and level of civil conflict in Nepal" *South Asia Economic Journal*. **11**(1).

Hatlebakk, M. (2009). "Capacity constrained collusive price discrimination in the informal rural credit markets of Nepal." *Review of Development Economics*. **13**(1): 70-86.

Hatlebakk, M. (2007). "Grameen Bank" *Økonomisk Forum*. **61**(4): 14-22. Based on an invited lecture for the annual national economics conference.

Hatlebakk, M. (2002). "A new and robust subgame perfect equilibrium in a model of triadic power relations." *Journal of Development Economics*. **68**(1): 225-232.

Books

Hatlebakk, M. and Ringdal, C. (2013). *The economic and social basis for state-restructuring in Nepal*. Himal Books. Kathmandu.

Das, A.K.L. and Hatlebakk, M. (2010). *Statistical evidence on social and economic exclusion in Nepal*. Was number one bestseller (now number four) at: Himal Books. Kathmandu.

Selected reports

"How can women benefit from private sector development?" CMI Report R 2024:3. (with Viola Asri and Espen Villanger).

"Impact of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs)" DLL Knowledge Review. June 2024.

"Community driven development in fragile contexts" CMI Report R 2022:2. Commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway.

"Norwegian development assistance in support of social safety nets". CMI Report R 2021:4. Commissioned by NORAD.

"Does aid work?" CMI Report 2021:11. Commissioned by NORAD.

"Gendercide and marginalisation – An initial review of the knowledge base". CMI-report 2019:4. Commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway (with Vibeke Wang, Liv Tønnessen, Ottar Mæstad and Kari Telle).

"Norwegian aid to food security, nutrition and agriculture". CMI-report 2018: 1. Commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway.

"Nepal: A political economy analysis". NUPI-report 2017. Commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway.

"Hva virker i utviklingspolitikken? En gjennomgang av forskningslitteraturen". (What works in development?). CMI-report 2016: 7. Commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway.

"Report on the IPSSJ baseline survey - Nepal" and other technical reports on a Palladium led project commissioned by DFID, 2016.

"Review of DPMAS indicators - Nepal" and other technical reports on an IDLgroup led project commissioned by DFID, 2014.

"Ethnic and fiscal federalism in Nepal." Commissioned report for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway. (with Lovise Aalen). 2008.

"Inclusive growth in Nepal." Commissioned report for the Norwegian Embassy, Nepal. 2008.

"Economic and social structures that may explain the recent conflicts in the Terai of Nepal." Commissioned report for the Norwegian Embassy, Nepal. 2007.

"Evaluation of NPA's support to Mutuelle, a voluntary health insurance scheme in Rwanda." Commissioned report for Norwegian People's Aid. CMI Report 2005: 2. (with Øystein E. Olsen)

"Contextual Analysis of BISEP-ST Programme for Terai (and Siwaliks) Forest Management." Commissioned report for SNV-Nepal

"Evaluering av spesialisthelsetjenesten på Ørlandet." (Evaluation of a decentralized and specialized health clinic.) SNF-rapport R53/02. Commissioned by Sosial og Helsedirektoratet.

"Når er vertikal integrasjon lønnsomt? Fokus på en stor oppstrømsbedrift i gassmarkedet". Report for Statoil. 2001.

Selected presentations and popular writings

Hatlebakk, Magnus (2023). Does aid work? Norad 12.06.2023.

Hatlebakk, Magnus (2023). Poverty in Africa. Open meeting in Bergen Global with the Minister of International Development - Towards a new Norwegian Strategy for Africa 08.09.2023.

Hatlebakk, Magnus (2022). Norad: Labor markets in poor countries: Interventions in support of decent work in the formal and informal sectors. Seminar series for the Jobs Network: Norad 20.09.2022.

Hatlebakk, M. (2020). Corona among the poor. UN Students' Association Bergen and Bergen Global October 21.

Hatlebakk, M. (2020). Corona and food security in poor countries. CMI Brief no. 2020:04.

Hatlebakk, M. and Suhrke, A. (2015). "Identity Politics in the Borderlands". Introduction to a special issue. *Contributions to Nepalese Studies*. 42(1): 1-4.

Hatlebakk, M. (2015). Farvel ekstrem fattigdom (Farewell to extreme poverty, a discussion of the new SDGs). Bergens Tidende, September 24.

Hatlebakk, M. (2015). *Rural electrification. Baseline studies and poverty alleviation in Nepal*. Norad Information Centre. January 13.

Hatlebakk, M. (2014). *The population basis for ethnic provinces in Nepal*. Setopati-online news-portal.

Hatlebakk, M. (2013). *Agrarian Relations and Rural Poverty*. Social Science Baha. Lecture Series LXVI. Kathmandu, March 25.

Hatlebakk, M. (2013). *The economic and Social basis for State-Restructuring in Nepal*. Presentation, International Development Partners Group (IDPG) - Nepal. March 13.

Hatlebakk, M. (2008). *Inclusive growth in Nepal*. Presentation, Government-Donor Growth-Task-Team meeting, Kathmandu, June 11.

Hatlebakk, M. (2008). *Sosial inkludering i Nepal*. Norad Informasjonssenter. 17. november.

Hatlebakk, M. (2007). *Om Nobels Fredspris 2006: Grameen Bank*. Invited plenum-lecture. The annual Norwegian economist conference. Tromsø, January 4-5.

Selected working papers

"Usufructuary Mortgages as a Source of Funds in Need: Some Theory and an Empirical Investigation." DP-631. Department of Economics. University of Heidelberg. (with Clive Bell).

"Malnutrition in South-Asia. Poverty, diet or lack of female empowerment?" CMI-WP 2012:4.

"Career tracks and performance of health workers in Tanzania" Mimeo CMI. 2010.

"Caste, local networks and lucrative jobs: Evidence from rural Nepal" CMI-WP 2010:3. (with Vegard Iversen and Gaute Torsvik).

"LSMS data quality in Maoist influenced areas of Nepal." CMI-WP 2007: 6.

"The effects on agrarian contracts of a governmental intervention into bonded labor in the Western terai of Nepal" Paper presented at NEUDC, Cornell, September 2006.

"Attached labor in Nepal: A field-study of landlord-labor relations that are misrepresented in the Nepal-LSMS data." Paper presented at the 75-years of Development Research conference at Cornell University, May 2004.

"Foreign aid and social sector spending in developing countries." Previous version available as SNF-report 61/02. (With Rune J. Hagen.).