**Operational research questions**

*These questions were drawn from discussions held between the PI, CI and the project teams at CEPA (Sri Lanka) and MC (Nepal) in January and February 2016. They represented an initial attempt to operationalise the 3 overarching research questions in the proposal. The list was refined/amended by all parties over time, as the research progressed.*

**What are the specific ways in which peripheral zones influence post-war peacebuilding and reconstruction processes at the national level?**

**Security/military**

* How has the state’s military presence changed over time (in relation to key turning points/moments of rupture)?
* What is the influence of international/regional security concerns?
* How has violence mutated after the war? Reintegration/demobilisation dynamics (historically and contemporary)?
* Where do the fighters go to after they are demobilised?

**Political**

* How does politics at the centre impact on dynamics at the periphery and vice versa?
* How is politics at the margins/centre influenced by politics on the other side of the border, what are the network**s**?
* To what extent do/did networks across the border facilitate rise of armed groups?
* How do constitutional reform debates respond to impact upon dynamics of politics at the border? Debates around transitional justice, accountability, reconciliation?
* What has been the role of electoral systems?
* Have elections served as moments of rupture? Role of sub-national government structures/institutions?
* Borderlands as sites of legal pluralism – what are some of the dimensions of the borderlands we are looking at?

**Economic**

* What are the main sources of livelihoods in borderlands?
* What trading networks exist?
* How has the relative concentration of economic activity shifted over time?
* What resources flow between the centre and periphery? How these been leveraged for political purposes (or related to political debates)?
* How are these economic relations best characterised – mutually beneficial or extractive?
* Role of global capital?
* Level of transport infrastructure between centre and periphery and across the border? How has this changed over time?
* Who is benefitting from these processes? What has been the impact of special economic/development zones? What has driven the creation of these?
* Development plans that mark out specific regions for development, investment, poverty alleviation? Role of taxation (legal and illegal – customs taxation; extent to which tax-raising powers are devolved – supply chain around basic commodities, weapons flows, high value resources)?

**Social/cultural**

* How do populations in the margins view/imagine the centre and vice versa?
* What social/cultural networks link centre and periphery? How have these changed over time?
* What are the modes of communication between centre and periphery, how have these changed, role of virtual networks, new media?
* How are centre and periphery framed in political/nationalist discourse?
* Who are the major social groups in these borderland regions? How has the demographic composition changed over time?
* Do social groups straddle the border?
* What are the key social constituencies for political mobilisation?

**What are the roles and impacts of borderland brokers on these processes (p-war peacebuilding and reconstruction processes)?**

* Who becomes a broker? Personal characteristics, networks, identity?
* How have brokers responded to moments of rupture (at national or regional level) and what does this tell us about these processes of social change?
* How important is the location of brokerage? Does it make a difference whether they’re in the borderland or the centre?
* Is brokerage a temporary phase or a career?
* What different types of broker exist in these regions?
* How have they been co-opted or worked with the state?
* How successful have they been?
* Are the dynamics of brokerage different in different regions?
* Have brokers shifted levels or scales, location, or the arena (economic, political, military), kind of resources they are dealing in (economic, political, security, information/discourse)?
* Do brokers operating across international borders have greater economic and political leverage than those working in regions bordering a maritime border?

**How do domestic and international peacebuilding and reconstruction interventions influence W2P transitions and with what effects for borderland communities and marginalised groups?**

* What development/humanitarian actors are present in these margins/ what development/humanitarian interventions have been carried out?
* How has their influence changed over time?
* What kinds of impacts do they have?
* How have aid flows changed from war to non-war periods?
* How are aid flows connected to political narratives and discourses?
* How does this link to regional politics, geopolitical considerations, rise of China etc?
* How have peacebuilding/development interventions been hampered by ‘borderland blindness’? Are there instances where donor/government awareness of borderland dynamics has usefully informed policy decisions?
* What role have borderland brokers played in mediating the outcome of these interventions?