

Interactive comment on “Southwest-facing slopes control the formation of debris-covered glaciers in the Bhutan Himalaya” by H. Nagai et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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This is a very well designed study, that elegantly investigates controls on debris cover in the Eastern Himalaya. It is very well written, and I cannot see any problems with the analysis or presentation. The conclusions of the paper are not very surprising, as the relationships between rockwall area (and orientation) and supraglacial debris are well known (e.g. Benn 1989, Journal of Quaternary Science). The present paper does go far beyond that early work in terms of the size and quality of the dataset, however.

I am unsure whether The Cryosphere is the most appropriate home for this paper. The findings will be of interest to geomorphologists, although perhaps not to the glaciological community. Perhaps it would be better suited to one of the specialist geomorphological journals such as Earth Surface Processes and Landforms or Geomorphology. But that is an editorial decision.

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