

Call for Applications
Short-Term Media Fellowship(s) 2024
Urban Fault Lines and Violence

Organised by the Calcutta Research Group
In collaboration with the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna

While the dichotomy between “citizen cultures” and “wicked cities” sets off many others (say, between health and disease, law and criminality, prosperity and poverty, stability and violence, and so forth) and has become integral to our common sense, imaginaries of cities being divided into places, mohallas, neighbourhoods and zones serve as the key to our understanding of violence and crime in them. These divisions are not necessarily in conformity with the administrative divisions (like, corporations, municipalities, wards, and boroughs etc.). These informal divisions are reinforced through such everyday practices as renting and hiring of houses, location of and admission in, free and corporation-run primary schools, access to prepaid mobile phone facility and connectivity, detention and arrest of criminals, group clashes and communal violence, declaration of green zones during the pandemic and a host of them. As these zones are demarcated and reinforced with the boundaries erected around them, social interactions across the zones becomes nearly impossible. The media – whether print or electronic – only add to the reproduction of these imaginaries. Contemporary researches, for instance, point out how ‘civic ties’ across the zones serve as a bulwark against violence, particularly of communal nature. With the growing “participation” of the zones, the local vigilance and initiatives have gone down considerably with the effect that instances of gory cruel violence are not uncommon with the “neighbours next door”.

The Calcutta Research Group (CRG) in collaboration with the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, will be facilitating Media Fellowship/s in 2024 with focus on the following question among others:

1. How are the dichotomies of city imaginaries reproduced through the media, central to the understanding of the changing political and economic landscape of cities?
2. How are the city fault lines to be mapped? How is the ‘love’ for safety and ‘gated community’ reproduced through media?
3. How do the gag and self-censorship on the frequent occurrence of communal violence work in media coverage?
4. How have human settlements been changing in the newly constructed/refurbished towns? How does the changing nature of settlement address issues of communal disharmony?
5. How is the city space mapped and zoned by the media and with what effects on the city’s crime scene?

The fellowship period will be from April to June 2024. Each fellowship will carry a stipend of INR 40,000/- this will include research expenses and travel allowances for fieldwork and the fellow is required to submit their creative piece/photo essay/video essay/short documentary/report/article/media analysis/podcast, etc. Candidates are expected to have experience in reporting, writing, and/or editing for print and/or digital media. **Reports in the form of photo essays (original photographs) and documentaries, discussion maps using media artworks etc. will be particularly welcome.** Selected candidates will also be encouraged to publish short reports/photo essays or analytical pieces based on their work in reputable journals, magazines, newspapers, or web portals. Fellowship proposals with more than one author/investigator, the fellowship honorarium will be considered only as single fellowship. All permissions for fieldwork and usage of data/artworks will have to be obtained by the author.

Apply through the [Google Form](#) by 10 March 2024 with a Statement of Purpose of 500-750 words explaining the selected theme or story for investigation along with one sample of work/previously published investigative or analytical piece, photo essay, link of the podcasts, short films, etc. Applicants should upload their resume, statement of purpose, one reference letter and sample of previous work. The investigative or analytical pieces to be submitted by the end of the Fellowship will be around 4000-6000 words; documentaries for no more than 30 minutes duration; podcasts in a select theme series with auto text caption etc. **Selected candidates will have to submit their reports/writings to the Calcutta Research Group latest by 30 June 2024. CRG will have the first right to publish the Fellowship project submissions.** The selected media fellow will be required to present the creative piece/research/analysis/report in the media workshop to be held in Kolkata (Tentatively in July-August 2024).

Applicants are requested to consult the Calcutta Research Group website (www.mcrgh.ac.in) for further information on previous [media fellowship and workshop](#).

For any query, please write to forcedmigrationdesk@mcrgh.ac in with the subject line “2024 Short Term Media Fellowships”.