

Eighth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop
Global Protection of Refugees and Migrants
&
Eighth Annual Conference
**War, Climate Disaster, and Displacement:
Call for New Protection Strategies**
17-22 November 2023

A Report

Calcutta Research Group
Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (RLS)
Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna
International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada



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The Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (RLS) is a German-based foundation working in South Asia and other parts of the world on the subjects of critical social analysis and civic education. It promotes a sovereign, socialist, secular, and democratic social order, and aims at present members of society and decision-makers with alternative approaches to such an order. Research organisations, groups working for self-emancipation, and social activists are supported in their initiatives to develop models that have the potential to deliver social and economic justice.

The work of Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, South Asia can be accessed at www.rosalux.in.

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on
Global Protection of Refugees and Migrants

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The Calcutta Research Group (CRG) is thankful to the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (RLS)-South Asia, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada, The European Master in Migration and Intercultural Relations (EMMIR), University of Oldenburg, Rabindra Bharati University, and several other universities and institutes in India and abroad, for the support and collaboration in organising the Eighth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop on “Global Protection of Refugees and Migrants,” and the Eight Annual Conference on “War, Climate Disaster, and Displacement: Call for New Protection Strategies,” from 17 to 22 November 2023, at Hotel Monotel in Kolkata. This programme is part of several ongoing research projects of CRG on migration and forced migration studies in collaboration with the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (RLS)-South Asia, and several other universities and institutes in India and abroad.

The activities and programmes spanning across multiple disciplines with participation of scholars, activists, academicians, journalists, media representatives, from diverse backgrounds and work experiences and excellence, organised throughout the year by the Calcutta Research Group (CRG) would not have been possible without the constant support of all the partner institutes. CRG expresses gratitude to the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, and Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (RLS)-South Asia, for their long association, support and collaboration with CRG over the years in a multitude of research and educational initiatives as well as in media renditions, popular discourses and dialogues with minds working in grassroot foundations. Senior members and distinguished scholars of CRG have not only ceaselessly been part of framing and guiding CRG’s programmes but have also motivated and initiated dialogues and discussions in research programmes throughout the year – CRG is grateful for their encouragement and participation. CRG is also grateful to scholars from the partner institutes for enriching the programmes with their ideas and contributions and for enabling CRG to take the work further ahead. CRG expresses gratitude and is indebted to all valued resource persons and guests for their significant contributions in the offline and online seminars, panel discussions, webinars, lectures and workshops and in making the programmes distinct and engrossing. CRG thanks the rapporteurs of all the programmes for their assistance.

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OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

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The Calcutta Research Group (CRG) over the past twenty-five years has tried to open a discourse on redefining migration and migrants from a Global South perspective, critically analysing the global turn in migration studies that failed to comprehend the regional nuances of particularity and complex social outcomes. In the last few years, with readjustments in the post pandemic world that has opened a new face of capital restructuring where migrants and refugees as marginal humanity suffered at the bottom line of the society be it in terms of solidarity, charity or effects of wars, violence or climate change. CRG has been exploring the emerging complex of institutions, procedures, policies, practices, and laws that outline the multifaceted forms of care and protection linked with the well-being of the society, realignment of borders and disaster mitigation in the backdrop of climate calamities. Creative programmes such as travelling photo exhibition and film screening, work of translation, workshops, primary investigative studies at grassroot level for incorporating research findings into ground practices and network building have been some of the approaches culminating into the research activities this year. In understanding the significance of justice for vulnerable population groups, including the displaced, those disaster-driven, preparing cities to battle climate hazards and conflicts and the responsibilities to protect people through community building, the methods of studying governmental practices, labour protection, the societies in democratic set-ups, reeling under the burdens of pandemic as well as a post-COVID world, the intricacies of journeys and mobility within a country and beyond its territorial limits, have been re-examined through the studies that the staff researchers and contracted researchers have engaged in through course of this academic year.

The Calcutta Research Group has been organising workshops, lectures, webinars, conferences, panel discussions as well as facilitating research fellowships in collaboration with a number of institutes, in addition to its voluminous work on publications and reports. In 2023 CRG has taken forward the academic and research endeavours related to issues of migration, forced migration, human rights, justice, and peace. CRG's sustaining efforts and approach to work for justice for the victims of war, violence, minority repression, denial of women and children's rights, together with addressal of ecological calamities in the form of successive severe droughts and other climate issues and the related cases of displacements, helped to design the sub-themes in the Eighth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop and the Eighth Annual Conference in November 2023. In the backdrop of the overarching theme of protection for refugees and migrants in the wake of growing incidences of disasters and climate crisis and conflicts, the Eighth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop steered around the concept of "Global Protection of Refugees and Migrants" and the Eighth Annual Conference was conceptualised with the broad theme of "War, Climate Disasters, and Displacement: Call for New Protection Strategies." Drawing from the significance of justice, governmentality, climate crisis, disasters and displacement, and the challenges of working with policies and protection strategies for refugees, migrants – the chief focus of this year's workshop, conference and research programmes had been to look at networks and community-based organisations that work towards resilience building and disaster and conflict management.

Displacement or involuntary migration of human population is a reality today. Even though it is slowly taking the centre stage of policy discussions yet it is not fully understood all the time. Anthropocentricity of development and the consequent sudden climate events, degrading environmental conditions and hazards, conflicts and wars that also threaten life to a great extent including persecutions of varied hues—are rooted in the changing nature of relationship of groups of people to resource and their utilisation. Models of development debate, necessity of urgent action to defend and protect affected groups, displaced people struggling in the pursuit of a more

equitable world and social order, call for protection strategies and discourse for the concerns regarding migration as a complex process. Reactions to large-scale disruptions such as those caused by severe environmental distress, or eruptions of conflict or wars, or development projects that demand policy-making addressed towards the aftermaths of large-scale movement of human groups and their protection and safety are significant. Such multilinear process needs re-examination of documents and analysis of the diverse experiences, connections, interlinkages, implications and forms of threats. Questions of distribution of essential commodities, disaster response teams, civil and international collaboration, local partnerships, victims and other affected sections of population, structure of camps, clamour for attention. While immediate relief of distress of displaced, forced migrants are crucial, protection strategies must address longer-term and more fundamental concerns too such as determination of the efficacy of immediately relief in addition to longer-term survival and growth of the displaced populations. Herein comes the role of analytical attention on the efficacy of the protection mechanisms and the roles played by international organisations, governments, local groups, etc. An important issue is that of examining the change in demography or topography of a region and its relationship with migration/displacement contestations of economics, politics, international relations. The research contributions and presentations by participants in the workshop and conference as well as the discussion by experts in several online panels and sessions of public lectures have helped to permeate through the modernisation-tradition-identity- resource-power web of continuums.

In 2023, the academic year was lined with a number of events such as the planning meeting that discussed the research plans for the year in detail. Elaborate discussion was held in the webinars on 'Urban and Environmental Histories: The Legacy of Mike Davis' and the book discussion on 'Imprints of the Populist Times' by Ranabir Samaddar, public lecture, dialogue and follow-up Workshop (from January to September 2023). The distance-segment of the Eighth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop was conducted from June to October 2023 with several online classes held by the Workshop Module Tutors with the respective Module Participants and finally the Annual Workshop and the Conference was held in Kolkata from 17 to 22 November 2023. The programme details are available at http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_Migration_2023/RLS_Migration_2023_Home.asp and http://www.mcrg.ac.in/IWM_Migration_2023/IWM_Migration_Home_2023.asp.

This report is divided into the following segments:

- Annual Planning Meeting 2023
- Research Briefs
- Webinars and Lectures
- Follow-up Workshop
- Eight Annual Workshop
- Eighth Annual Conference
- Evaluation
- Research Outcomes
- Participants and Organising Team

ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING 2023

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The Annual Planning Meeting 2023 was held on 3 February 2023 and the venue was Sojourn, Kolkata. Research plans for the academic year 2023 were presented by CRG's staff researchers, namely Debashree Chakraborty, Rajat Kanti Sur, Rituparna Datta and Shatabdi Das, and also by honorary researchers namely Paula Banerjee, Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury and Samir Kumar Das. There was also discussion on a popular book on the Ports of Migration with Subir Bhaumik and Kaustubh Mani Sengupta.

Session 1: Review of the CRG Research Activities in 2022

Introduction to the Programme

Rajat Kanti Sur introduced the session and laid a brief outline of the aims and objectives of the planning meeting. Paula Banerjee discussed the activities of the past year in detail which consisted of both the programme segment and the research segment. The session was moderated by Mahalaya Chatterjee.

Review of CRG's Research Activities in 2022

Paula Banerjee began by discussing the two major themes on which research began last year – question of migrant labour and climate change – and noted the road map for 2023 would draw from previous year's work which would be substantively carried on this year as well. Banerjee then discussed the activities of CRG's researchers, members and contracted researchers. CRG Researchers Rajat Kanti Sur and Shatabdi Das' respective articles got published in *IWMpost* – Issue No. 129 and Issue No. 130 respectively. Shatabdi Das was a Visiting Fellow at IWM Vienna in April 2022 and for her research she looked at climate crisis in Kolkata as well as the larger Indian context. During her visit and stay at the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, she was able to learn about the different environment conservation methods that are being adopted by in certain European cities like Vienna, and other cities, in the wake of climate change and its effects. Her observations and learning experience have helped her to delve deep into the problems that plague Indian cities and based on that she undertook research, the observations of which have been published in the *IWMpost Issue 130 (2022)*. Rajat Kanti Sur's research on sex co-operatives involving organisations like Durbar has also been published in the *IWMpost Issue 129 (2022)*. Both Das and Sur's papers were discussed and they received suggestions from Samir Kumar Das and Subir Bhaumik who spoke about the various aspects, themes, questions and problem areas that the research projects could raise, detail out and the way to take forward. Apart from this, the staff researchers presented papers in the *Seventh Annual Research & Orientation Workshop and Seventh Critical Studies Conference* (13-19 November 2022). Debashree Chakraborty, Imran Philip and Kaveri presented their research work in the Workshop Modules while Rajat Kanti Sur, Rituparna Datta and Shatabdi Das presented their research papers in the Conference. Banerjee mentioned CRG members' presentations of ILO Policy Brief on Human Mobility and Climate Change in Egypt; Bharat Bhushan's series of articles on different aspects of migration which have also been published in *RefugeeWatchOnline*; Parivelan K.M.'s series of Podcasts on Refugee Children's Education and noted that he has also been part of another CRG podcast where he talked about his role as a member of the UNHCR. Banerjee further noted that CRG has done a series of podcasts on the theme "Migration Matters" with resource persons from across continents, namely Joris Shapendonk (the Netherlands), Amena Mohsin (Bangladesh) and K.M. Parivelan (India). Details of research endeavour were highlighted—there had been 7 Contracted Researchers for the year 2022, 3 of them were RLS researchers and 4 were IWM researchers, all of whom presented their research papers in the Conference. The 3 RLS researchers had presented the following titles, "Navigating Precarity-Analysing Multiple Narratives of Citizenship in Assam" (Gorky Chakraborty and Samik Roy Choudhury); "Climate Refugees: Health and Livelihood in the Bay of Bengal - India and Bangladesh" (Debojyoti Das and Upasana Dasgupta); and "Mitigating the

Impact of COVID and Conflict: Empowering and Securing Futures of Children Belonging to Pastoral Communities in Jammu and Kashmir” (Afreen Gani Faridi). The IWM researchers had presented on the following themes, “Pandemic and Governance in Central Asia” (Anita Sengupta); “Politics of Populist Policies” (Santi Sarkar); “Indian Droughts, Drought Policy and Climate Change” (Sohini Sengupta); “Urban Renewal Stage in City’s life and Its Impact on Slums and Slum Dwellers” (Ankita Singh and Johnny K.D.).

CRG in collaboration with IWM, also invited Amena Mohsin (University of Dhaka, Bangladesh) as CRG Visiting Professor in Kolkata; as Visiting Fellow, Gulzina Daniyarova (Osh State University, Kyrgyz Republic) and Kamal Thapa Khsetri (National Human Rights Commission, Nepal). Mr. Khsetri and Ms. Daniyarova could not come down but Mr. Khsetri presented his paper via Zoom in the November Conference. Mohsin’s paper titled “The politics of Space: Refugees, Displaced and Stranded” delved deep into the experiences of camps through the lenses of freedom, culture and identity.

Banerjee mentioned about the different programmes that were held during the year. She began with the One Day **Follow-up Workshop** held in June 2022, in collaboration with the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (RLS), and the Institute of Development Studies Kolkata (IDSK), where select participants from the Winter Workshop of 2021 discussed the progress of their work. The other programmes included the **Summer Camp on “South Asian Labour Migration and Maritime Migrants”** held in May in Kathmandu, the **Media Fellowship Programme** where 4 media fellows (3 under RLS and 1 under IWM) were chosen. They presented their respective work in the **Media Workshop** that was organised in collaboration with the IWM, RLS and Commonwealth Journalists Association-India (CJA-I). The Workshop also saw 12 eminent panellists speaking on various aspects of media representations of migrant labour, climate change, etc. The **Teachers’ Workshop** held in September 2022 again drew from the work of previous years and focussed on the discussion of the syllabi prepared by teachers. Apart from this discussion, several teachers from across the country came and discussed about their experiences of teaching migration in classrooms, especially the challenges in classroom education during and after the pandemic phases. The evaluation of the **Seventh Annual Research and Orientation Workshop and Conference** and feedback from its participants in November 2022 in Kolkata, were highlighted. CRG has also been extensively working on caregivers and under the aegis of Krishna Trust, it had organised a **“Dialogue on Caregivers.”** Besides this, CRG has continued work in the field of girl child education, recognition of women health workers and educationists. Sunandan Basu (Neurosurgeon, Medica Super Speciality Hospital, Kolkata) had delivered the Ninth Krishna Memorial Lecture, in 2022.

CRG with the support of IWM participated in the **‘19th International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) Conference’** themed on **“Global Issues, Regional Approaches – Contexts, Challenges, Dialogues and Solutions”** hosted by the Universidade Catolica de Santos; the Conference on **‘Digitised Migrants’** in Istanbul by Koc University; Seminar on **‘Climate Change, Conflict and Question of Labour and Migration’** with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) Mumbai. CRG also organised the Seminar Series on Forced Migration with the University of Vienna and a webinar **“As the West Goes to war, Crafting Peace Today.”**

CRG in collaboration with the IWM, supported Dipanwita Saha, a photographer, in her ongoing project on photo documentation of important landmarks of the Calcutta Riots of 1946. The photo exhibition, titled **“Trail of Blood: Calcutta Riots of 1946 and its Aftermath”** was inaugurated at the November Workshop 2022 in Kolkata.

CRG’s journal *Refugee Watch*, came up with Issues 59 and 60. Issue 59 was based on the theme of community, region and displacement and Issue 60 came out as a special volume on “Contemporary Politics of War and Displacement: Afghanistan and Ukraine”. *RefugeeWatchOnline* also continued to publish regularly. 2 translation works were commissioned by CRG in 2022. The papers of the staff researchers and the contracted researchers would be published as PPs. With the support of

the Krishna Trust, CRG has initiated the publication of *Covidkale Bipannata O Sanghati [Pandemic, Precarity and Solidarity]* by researcher Sangbida Lahiri. A primary investigative report on *Pandemic and Precarity* is also under publication.

Paula Banerjee spoke about CRG's expansion into South Asian networks and highlighted how these collaborations are getting manifested in the programmes. The importance of making research popular and understandable to the masses is also a thing that CRG has been thinking on. The question of Migrant Labour is one such issue and CRG plans to initiate work on the same. This aspect of the research would be led by Rajat Kanti Sur. She spoke about the various collaborations of CRG with IWM, RLS, KDC and DW Akademie, and also with 360info. Mahalaya Chatterjee, the moderator for the session, gave the closing remarks highlighting the scope and future prospects of taking the research themes forward.

Discussion and Review on *Keywords in Refugee and Migration Studies*

The session was initiated by **Paula Banerjee** who as the introductory remark, noted, "A word is not semantics, it is politics", while drawing reference to what the *Handbook on Keywords in Refugee and Migration Studies* entails – i.e., creation of a compendium of concepts that help to explain the nuances of migration and forced migration in contemporary parlance. She discussed the beginnings of the volume by saying that as the editor of *Refugee Watch* for more than 10 years, she has noticed how the meanings of certain words have shifted or changed over the years from what they used to be. These paradigmatic shifts eventually make one ponder on the need of having a collection of keywords which would better explain the changes and also include the newer theoretical concepts that have emerged in the past few years. One of the driving forces which led to the ideation of this compendium has been the general understanding that theoretical changes come from the Global North. CRG has always challenged the notion and the current volume is an extension of this challenge whereby, in its spirit, it will reflect the perspectives of the Global South which is also a veritable ground for research and also take into consideration the aspect which will enable the readers/users to view migration and refugee studies through the prism of the postcolonial or the decolonised world. She then talked about the expanse of the framework of the keywords and the collaborations that have been made with researchers from across the globe. Talking about the focus of the volume, she mentioned that its stress is on the Global South perspective. 105 words have been collected, out of which 40 words have roots in India. She noted that the volume has entries like "girmitya", "bidesiya", etc., which not only denote a quintessential South Asian experience but also shed light on forced migration from a different prism and hence the volume under discussion has the capacity to transcend the limitations of a general volume of keywords. She mentioned that the editorial board comprising **Paula Banerjee** and **Priya Singh** along with editorial assistant **Rajat Kanti Sur** have decided to adopt a rigorous approach which would ensure that the volume retains the flavour of the South Asian or Global South perspective. She further noted that the editorial work is in its final stages and that the web publication of the volume is on the way. She mentioned that the project is thriving and would be duly carried forward in the months to come so that future editions could be launched; and a print version of the current edition could be planned.

Ranabir Samaddar, in his discussion, referred to the previous four volumes of *Keywords on Social Justice* and related themes that CRG had worked on. He noted that those volumes were well received. He mentioned that for undertaking a venture such as this, initiating the conceptual work is important. He also mentioned two predicaments that one can associate while undertaking such work – some of these entries are more descriptive and normative and are not equally attentive to the basic information that should be there. To bring to the attention of policy makers, these entries must have basic factual information and the other trouble, which is more like a requirement is the criteria of selecting keywords. While inclusion of more words is definitely an advantage, it also leads to a loss of the rigour in some ways. In case of this volume under discussion, what remains to be seen is whether such inclusions (as has been planned) lead to a fresh round of

thinking to determine its centre. He further referred to critical materials on Keywords like Raymond William's *Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society* and a few others to illustrate his point. He also mentioned that there would be a lot of challenges but the effort should be toward standardising it. Revising and uploading new content to the already existing corpus of keywords should form part of the exercise.

Samir Kumar Das stressed on the need for having a live lexicon of keywords. He opined that this would add more rationality to the exercise and would widen up the boundaries which might be restricting the volume as it stands presently. He pointed out a few words like “dakhar”, “bongal”, etc., and mentioned the problematic associated with the inclusion of such words in a volume on refugee and migration studies as these words do not exactly mean either refugee or migrants, rather prefigure more as pejorative terms. He went on to add that the Global South is a heterogeneous space and is marred with multiple contestations of ethnicity, race, etc., and hence any indiscriminate incorporation of words might risk the rationale of the exercise. He ended by saying that the volume should be absolutely circumspect about the kind of words to be incorporated. **Subir Bhowmik** agreed with Samir Kumar Das' remark and noted that the volume should focus on the politics of migration as much as it should focus on migrants. As an example, to this, he stated that the volume could take into cognizance how migrants are otherised in India's northeast and also elsewhere. **Arup Sen** pointed about universal ideations/categories and how these can have separate meaning or whether these can be interrogated separately in the context of the Global South. In response to the suggestions, **Paula Banerjee** urged everyone to come up with ideas and advice on the disparaging connotations of certain words; she noted that probably a discussion on the same in the introductory note of the volume would solve the problem. **Ranabir Samaddar** noted that indexing could be another option which would help in categorising the words.

Session 2: Presentation of Research Agendas I

The staff researchers Rajat Kanti Sur and Debashree Chakraborty conducting research under the programme “Global Protection of Refugees and Migrants” supported by Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung presented their research proposals in this session. **Shyamalendu Majumdar** moderated the session. **Subhoranjan Dasgupta** was the discussant for **Debashree Chakraborty's** presentation and **Arup K. Sen** was the discussant for **Rajat Kanti Sur's** presentations. This was followed by a discussion on the proposed popular book on “*Routes and Ports of Migration*”.

Debashree Chakraborty's presentation titled “**Literary Imagination of Climate Change and Climate Disaster**” proposed to look into the effects of climate change – climate disaster, migration, etc., as these have been represented in literature. She particularly talked about the existing relationship between contemporary climate change and colonialism and how postcolonial Indian Literature has explored the same. Since India has been at the forefront of colonialist and imperialistic designs, it has suffered from the brunt of it for the longest time. Her research would focus on looking into literary works which have addressed what could be termed as the foundation of climate change – environmental degradation, deforestation, etc., and seek to understand how these facets have influenced the world around and the subsequent ways in which these changes have been represented in Indian fiction.

Shubhoranjan Dasgupta, in his discussion of Chakraborty's paper referred to Gunter Grass and Amitav Ghosh's works on the human hubris which he termed to be the main cause of climate change. He advised Chakraborty to read Grass's *The Wretched* in order to understand the epistemological substratum of what constitutes the work. He further advised her to read novels like Mahasweta Devi's *Aranyer Adbikar* to understand primeval sanctity of forest and the indigenous people who live and take care of it. He noted that there should not be any advocacy of a fanciful return to an “impossible ilium” in the theorisation of the work. He further advised her to read works of neo-Marxists like Walter Benjamin, Theodor Adorno and Herbert Marcuse. Samir Kumar Das advised the same to her and suggested reading the Bengali novel, *Laal Shaluk* and also advised her to think about the process of “subjectification of objects”.

Rajat Kanti Sur's presentation titled “**The Need to be Organised: A Case Study on Domestic Workers and Workers in Small Industries**” follows on his previous year’s research on four labour cooperatives. His current year’s proposal would expand the idea of social security in the unorganised sector. His proposal focussed on two communities—a) The unorganised workers in small factories and the business sector and b) the domestic workers. Citing the ILO declaration on “Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998)” and “The Unorganised Worker Social Security Act (2008)”, Sur argued that none of the acts were able to ensure social security for the unorganised workers. None of the labour organisations is concerned about ensuring the social security of the workers. Very recently one of the organisations took some initiative. The research would try to prove the role and necessity of making an organisation secure the future of workers. He said that he would also put focus on whether cooperative building would be a viable solution for that or not.

Arup K. Sen discussed Rajat Kanti Sur’s proposal. He advised Sur to focus on studying the changes in the patterns of organisations as well as to undertake a study on the alternative initiatives taken in the late 1980s. He particularly referred to the initiatives taken by Shankar Guhaniyogi who helped the unorganised workers in Chhattisgarh. Sen commented that the study should focus on different solidarity initiatives that functioned as alternatives to the trade unions. He advised Rajat Kanti Sur to analyse the role of formal trade unions critically in the contemporary framework of labour studies and research. Samir Kumar Das advised Sur to think about new forms of labour. He gave examples of different initiatives (e.g. Aaya Centres, Car Rentals, App-based Cars, etc.) where the labours are taken as partners. He advised Sur to study the new trends in the partnership business and cooperatives in the light of partnership initiatives.

Discussion on the Preparation a Popular Book on *Routes and Ports of Migration*

Routes and Ports of Migration project aims to look into the trajectory of the evolution or transition of migratory routes from the ports of migration in colonial India to the more arduous land routes or air routes taken by the migrants, especially undocumented migrants and refugees in post-colonial India as nation-states became more anxious in securitising their borders in their attempt to restrict their territorial boundaries to citizens only. Sea and land routes had been perennially important in the case of India due to its unique geographical position that connects India to the rest of Asia and Europe via land routes in the northern territories whereas the peninsular position connects India with the major oceanic routes in South, South-East and West Asia. Thus, India served as both the hinterland and entry point for trade activities and it is the same sea route and the sea-faring trading activities that became the many-headed hydra that bonded India to the long history of colonial exploitation and capital of the Empire-British, French, Dutch, etc. Apart from the despatch of goods and capital, cargoes of humans were sailing through the Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras ports chiefly as labourers and migrants could only depend on the steam power of the Empire to cross the oceans or the Kala Pani to reach overseas destinations as indentured labourers, lascars, wayfarers and many others to countries like Mauritius, Fiji, Guyana, etc. **Kaustubh Mani Sengupta** proposed to work on ‘**Calcutta Port Complex and the Story of Indentured Labour.**’ The ebb and flow of trading activities, connected with the general political and economic condition of India as a colony of the British Empire, shaped the ways in which the port complex developed in Calcutta. Calcutta Port Trust was officially established in 1870, and it made rapid progress in building additional jetties and streamlining dock logistics and cargo handling. A new phase in the development of the Calcutta port complex took place from the 1880s. This was facilitated by the increase in import trade which brought about a corresponding increase in export trade as well as a greater demand for facilities to accommodate the steamers that were replacing sailing vessels. The Calcutta port also emerged as a crucial entry-point for goods destined for the eastern and northern provinces of the subcontinent. Excellent transport routes, especially railways, acted as a catalyst for trading activities and, despite its unfavourable geographical features, the Calcutta port became the leading centre of trade and commerce for the colonial state in India. Along with the

trading activities, Calcutta was also the main port of departure for indentured Indians to the Caribbean during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Indentured labourers were recruited from the vast hinterland of India —stretching from the Chota Nagpur plateau in the west to the region of the north-eastern states of present-day India. Some structures in the port area still bear the story of these migrants. A small pier bearing the unlikely name ‘Suriname Ghat’ is situated on the eastern bank of the river. Garden Reach was the last stop for the labourers coming from other parts of eastern India before their departure to the sugar colonies. These details provide us with a vivid history of migrant labourers and the central role of the Calcutta port complex in the global network of movements and migrations during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Subir Bhaumik raised the pertinent question of the changing nature of migration: **‘Does migration take place any longer as in the colonial times through ports?’** Big ships carrying labour from India to Jamaica as far as the West Indies are part of the colonial legacies. The reason for this shift is the changing nature of the agencies involved in transporting migrants which in the present scenario is both the labour and stakeholder sans the state involved in the transportation of the migrants. Illegal migrants do not operate through ports any longer due to the strict legal procedures followed at the ports. Unlike the colonial times when the empire itself was a stakeholder in the transportation of human capital as migrants, in post-colonial times, the state proclaims to be champion in safeguarding the human rights and offering protection against any illegal manoeuvring towards trafficking of humans. Hence, seaports have become a less likely choice as operating routes of migration to avoid state scrutiny and policing. To board the ship an illegal migrant has to swim ashore to board the ship which has left the port as the migrant does not have any legal papers to board the ship at the port. The present technological advancements when tracking and tracing encroachments are easier and more sophisticated than their colonial counterparts. For example, human traffickers in Bangladesh do not take migrants on ships anymore. Some actually loan out leaky boats to take the Rohingya refugees from their camps across the seas in South-East Asia, yet they do not go through the ports. They assemble these people at shady points which are beyond the point of any kind of security check and transfer these refugees into bigger boats or smaller ships to South-East Asia. But due to the precarity of sailing routes and the condition of the ships, many of them sink into the deep-sea waters. So instead of ports, the shady beaches or shores along the coastline have become more active over the past decades as a preferred sea route for migration. This changing nature of the sea routes and boarding points of illegal migrants forces us to reconsider the notion of ports of migration and broaden its lexicon beyond just its legal definition of operating within the purview of the state. In view of the difficulties in legalising travel across the seaports, most of the illegal migrants and traffickers find it more convenient to forge travel documents to take either air routes or land routes to travel from India. Migrants often struggle with the acquisition of travel documents to go to the UAE. Migrants sell their land and property to purchase fake travel documents to go to the Middle Eastern countries, as they believe the remittances would ease the poverty of the left behind families. So, ports of migration presuppose that most of these migrants formal, legal or illegal are assembled at ports and taken abroad in ships. But unlike the migration from West African nations, in India, migration takes multifarious routes including, sea, land and air routes. There is a need to reorient the lens of migration and broaden the understanding of the transportation of migrants by analysing the mechanics of migration across transnational routes which is a dynamic process with regional variations due to the diversity existing in the ethnic, economic, social composition of the migrants, the varied customs laws existing within the national boundaries and above all, technology now plays a massive role in administering illegal migrations, especially the role of biometric ‘Unique Identification’ database that has been recently used to track illegal migrants and has aided in tightening the grip of nation-states in checking illegal migration through intergovernmental collaboration. The post-colonial age of migration is much more dynamic with multiple interlocutors involved in illegal trafficking across borders.

The routes and ports of migration in colonial and post-colonial India developed as nodes of migration. The central focus is to see how people set off on their journey of migration from different ports of India. Ports here will substantially and metaphorically be used as an umbrella term for land, sea and air ports of migration. The essence will be to understand as, **Ranabir Samaddar**, points out to see, visualise through, maps, commentaries, etc., and document the ‘via politics of migration from India. The project aims to prepare a popular book based on archival research to map the trajectory in colonial India and focused essays based on field research to map the mechanics of migration in post-colonial India.

Session 3: Presentation of Research Agendas II

The staff researchers Rituparna Datta and Shatabdi Das conducting research under the programme “**Justice, Protection, and the Government of the People: A Two-Year Research and Orientation Programme on Protection and Democracy in a Post-Covid World [2021-2023]**”, in collaboration with and supported by the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, presented their research proposals in this session. **Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury** moderated the session, and **Samir Kumar Das** was the discussant for the presentations.

Rituparna Datta, presented her research proposal titled “**Death in Diaspora: A Social History of Coolie Lives in Mauritius**”, and threw light on the fact that the different experiences of individuals in several ways depict the norms of the society, the economy and politics of the time. The lived experiences of the body are essentially biopolitical and biosocial in nature, raising the questions – what does method as a historical tool of analysis mean or culminate to when it comes to death, as there are no trajectories afterwards; can we consider death as a method to reflect on the trajectories lived through the silences of bodies preserved in the passage to the afterlife? Deriving from the concept of ‘Border as a Method’ of Mezzadra and Nielsen’s work, Datta discussed the major objective of the research theme in looking at ‘death’ as a method to reflect back on the conditions of colonial coolie labour regimes within the capitalist transformations of the overseas plantation economies of the Empire as mortality-morality-sickness were the common conditions accompanying not only during the transit of labour but a constant worry of the Empire in its attempts to sedentarise the population. She went on to elaborate how mortality-morality in the overseas plantation economies can be treated as asphyxiating labyrinths which rest supposedly in between the disenfranchisement of the dual consciousness of reflections of identity as dislocation and relocation and new social beginnings on the one hand and the ever-experimenting apparatus of the Empire to preserve the health of the labourers with the ideal of ‘healthy body and hard hands’ on the other.

Shatabdi Das presented her research plan on the theme “**Climate Disaster Mitigation in Coastal Megacities of India,**” and discussed the limitations and challenges of combating climate crises for the coastal megacities of India, namely Mumbai and Kolkata. She highlighted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the initiatives that global conventions deliberate upon, and research point towards, such as protecting settlements from disasters through climate actions, building safe cities, technological inclusiveness and sustainable industrial growth, as ways of combating climate change. In her presentation Das focused on the geographical location, fragile ecosystems and vulnerable topography on which coastal megacities like Mumbai and Kolkata are in a way thriving. The research will attempt to analyse the changes in population, land-use, migration and livelihood systems and the role of planning by development authorities and urban local bodies, civil society organisations, disaster management authorities and the risks for stakeholders from the impacts of climate hazards.

Samir Kumar Das while discussing the research proposals brought to light the fact that ‘method’ is already given but the experience is never given, and thereby the tools of understanding the lived experiences become important in case of the coolie lives, both while living, and after death. It was suggested that the context of global cities and policies formulated and adopted by other cities and the role of capital in combating climate crises and interventions for disaster mitigation, should be

studied. The research should aim at understanding climate hazards and policies in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries regarding the decades when management for climate disasters was initiated. The study should also try to examine the gaps and absence of civic amenities, and how innovative solutions on climate change that Bangladesh has come up with, in case of Dhaka, may fit into the comparisons with Indian scenario.

Session 4: Discussion on Research Agendas by CRG's Honorary Researchers

Paula Banerjee mentioned that, her research titled **“Is Protection only a Legal Matter? Migrant Labour in South and South-East Asia,”** is the outcome of several years of her engagement with policy issues and the paradigm created for migrant labour that has a simple definition in the context of legal regimes, unlike refugee or protection. The understanding of the concept is that at some point the migrant labourer returns (home) bringing in the connotation of migration cycle for persons crossing international border and within a state. The research will be based on the policy framework that has been created on migrant labourer—severely jarred as a result of the pandemic. When the framework had been created, the notion was accepted that a labourer with rights going from one part of the country to another or to another country retains his or her rights, but in a situation of crisis rights become almost absent. The research will try to make a comparison of the regions of South and South-East Asia because the problem of migrant labourer in the context of South-East Asia during the long 2020 with its precarious nature—whether climate related issues or environmental disasters or financial disasters or the pandemic, Asia along with the world has witnessed a crisis situation where rights had to be forgone. The study would look into the question of what happens during crisis when a migrant worker (even if he or she has not crossed international border) suddenly becomes shorn of rights, even with the struggle and challenges faced by activists and scholars in their efforts to augment the ambit of legal rights.

Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury spoke on the research theme **Platform Economy: A platform for a free fall?** – The research aims to look at the platform economy labour. There has been casualisation and informalisation of labour in the neoliberal times in India and other countries of South Asia, but there has also been paradigmatic shift in the management of labour in the recent times with the invention of smart phones and innovation of algorithmic logic and what has come out as a significant pattern is that the platforms created through different software applications, smart phones and other digital support system and the people engaged with or working for the delivery services of such platforms – delivery of groceries at door steps like Blinkit, bigbasket, delivery of medicines like tata1mg, delivery of food items like Swiggy, Zomato, the ride apps like Uber, Ola, Indrive in Kolkata and other cities of India and South Asia; the labourers of such platform economies are mostly declared as independent partners. The question that arises is whether such labourers are independent and what does the word ‘partner’ then mean in such cases? The research question tried to hint at the fact that such workers are neither independent nor partners. The objective of the research will be two-fold—one, to interact with some of the platform economy labourers, particularly with two or three companies with which they are associated, may be food delivery mechanism, and ride giving app-based company, and their expectations and perceptions regarding adjustments and readjustments of their working conditions (with the almost exclusion of women workers from the delivery sector). The second, the existing legal mechanism available in India as well as some of the other countries in South Asia to find out what kind of legal protection mechanism within the legal framework supports the employment of such workers, and the research in this context will try to look at case laws if any, along with the precarious nature of working conditions of platform labourers.

Samir Kumar Das presented his research proposal on **“Governing the Pandemic: Negotiating Democracy in Our Time.”** The research aims to find out the implications of social governance and the state of democracy. In recent research on the state of democracy in the world, one major finding that has come forth is that all major democracies of the world have been in decline, and

not just during the pandemic but before. In the context of CRG's theoretical contribution and research on pandemic, Samir Das highlighted that a serious call for redefinition of democracy is on the way. The term social governance essentially shuttles between the frameworks of complementarity and being compensatory to the state in some ways. Social governance has three major implications on democracy and these will be formulated in the form of research objectives that will look at the following: i) social governance has the potential of breaking out to different sites, thus the site of control of a democracy no longer remains only confined to the auspices of the state and its institutions. There has been a proliferation of democratic sites in different parts of the country with multiple centres of governances, sites of democracy compounding and shifting to different locations instead of just one; ii) the initiatives of a variety of solidarity groups and multiple lines of solidarity that came into play during the pandemic and through protest movements – raising the question whether such solidarity can be subsumed under the discourse of global justice, or the framework of national justice, showing that justice other than the global or national context, exceeding beyond the territorial boundaries may be called border justice; iii) the forces that draw migrants through the routes of mobility to reach different parts of the country, compelling scholars to understand the organisation of governance and ordering of society, destabilisation of administrative divisions and organised responses, overcoming ethnic divisions.

Ranabir Samaddar, discussant for the session, mentioned that the three themes of presentations drawing reference from the pandemic and post pandemic time synergised into the continuing research on long 2020. He highlighted that 'Do laws protect?' was one of the questions raised and the supposition reverberated through the three presentations. The disjunction between rights and protection – rights in the liberal way of thinking are an end in itself, because an individuation comes from rights, but protection does not always come with rights, though the two are intertwined. Protection materialises through laws, but rights are insignificant if they are not grounded in law – thus envisaging the term 'the right to protection;' and while protection is situated in law, there is a disjuncture between protection and right when the society is faced with a crisis situation like Covid or war. Ranabir Samaddar discussed Charles Tilly's essay 'where do rights come from?' while speaking on the conviction that rights normalise life, and how rights are produced through different situations, series of bargaining, and then institutionalised at different levels. The research collective should aim at asking 'why are rights disrupted in a crisis?' Rights are not meant for situations of eruptions. The economy being turned into a platform and the categories of work fading and in the neoliberal time an economy survives on the facet of addition of flexibility to the functioning of an economy, is another area of study; while in case of social governance, the debate that arises happens to be - is populism a form of governmentality; with opinions that - populism is the latest form of governance, most effective, an institutionalised democracy survives as a populist form of government during crisis. The programme concluded with the vote of thanks delivered by Shatabdi Das, Researcher with the Calcutta Research Group.

The full report of the Annual Planning Meeting 2023 is available at:

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_Migration_2023/CRG_ANNUAL_PLANNING_MEETING_2023_Report.pdf

RESEARCH BRIEFS

RESEARCH BRIEFS

The CRG staff and honorary researchers in 2023 worked on the themes of organised and unorganised work, on literary articulation of climate change, climate disaster mitigation in coastal megacities of India, history of social life and death among coolies in Mauritius. The contracted researchers analysed recovery, response and democracy in Post-Covid Central Asia, the nuances of legal protection for Migrant Labour in South and South-East Asia, Indian Labour in the Platform Economy, Governance and Negotiations in pandemic for a democratic set-up.

Literary Imagination of Climate Change and Climate Disasters

Debashree Chakraborty, *CRG, Kolkata*

Over the last few years, a lot has been written and discussed about the representation of climate change in literature. The discussion escalated with the publication of Amitav Ghosh's *The Great Derangement* (2016) where he noted, rather sadly, about the conspicuous failure of contemporary "realist" fiction to address climate change. He went on to add that even though science fiction engages with climate change, it does so by relegating it to an extent that makes the literary imagination of climate change "somehow akin to extraterrestrials or interplanetary travel". His argument is quite straight forward in this regard – since climate change is an event that is all pervasive, its reflections in literature must also have semblance of its impact in the here and now. With this argument, Ghosh cites a few novels published in recent times that deal with climate change in the present like Barabara Kingsolver's *Flight Behaviour* (2012) which looks into climate change and climate migration in the border areas of the USA and Mexico and a few others. Three years after the publication of *The Great Derangement*, Ghosh published *Gun Island* (2019) which, apart from being an attempt to use climate change as a thematic concern, is also a literary representation of the historiography of climate change beginning with the Little Ice Age and covering present day events like wildfires, exceeding numbers of cyclones and super cyclones, erratic patterns of non-human migration and of course, human migration. While scientific discourse on climate change started building up during from the time of the discovery of ozone layer depletion, recent sociological and historicist critiques largely attribute the onset of this present-day crisis to the times when colonialism and imperialism were at the peak. Alfred Crosby's *The Columbian Exchange* (1972) is one of the preliminary works that sought to understand how colonialism brought about unprecedented changes in earth system in North America and elsewhere. Recent critical works like *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate* (2014), Eva Horn and Hannes Bergthaller's *The Anthropocene: Key Issues for the Humanities* (2020), Ghosh's *The Nutmeg's Curse* (2021), Naomi Klein's *Kohei Saito's Capital in the Anthropocene* (2021) are a few works that have also sought to establish the deep relationship which exists between colonialism and climate change. Add to that the notions of development, liberal economy, etc., and what transpires is an entanglement of multiple factors like deforestation, clearing of catchment areas, recoursing of major rivers for dam constructions, scrapping off indigenous forest communities' rights to forests, etc., that play a role in the escalated climate crisis as we face it today. For my research this year, I would like to look into those literary works which have addressed what could be termed as the foundation of climate change and seek to understand how these facets have influenced the human and by extension, non-human life as the world around them changed and the subsequent ways in these changes/occurrences have been represented in Indian fiction. Read the full abstract at:

http://www.mcrgh.ac.in/RLS_Migration_2023/Abstract_Debashree_Chakraborty.pdf

The need to be Organised: A Case Study on Unorganised Workers

Rajat Kanti Sur, *CRG, Kolkata*

Last year, I did a brief study on the four types of cooperatives in Kolkata to understand whether the cooperatives played a crucial role to secure the socio-economic condition of the migrant labours or not. This year, I want to extend my research to a larger context and planned to study the socio-economic condition of the unorganised labours and the role of organisation to improve their socio-economic condition. International Labour Organisation's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998) identified four categories of rights that should be ensured to every worker. These are; a) freedom of association and effective association of the right to collective bargaining, b) elimination of forced and compulsory labour, c) abolition of child labour and d) elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation. My current research will argue the role of the organisation as one of the solutions to reduce the exploitation of the informal workers. To prove this argument, I have planned to study the informal workers in the small factories (mostly bag and garment making factories) in the surrounding areas of Kolkata. I have planned to do an extensive (at least one month) field work on each of the sectors. I have also planned to do a field work in the slum areas adjacent to the Dum Dum Railway Station to study the life of the domestic workers. I will interview the NGOs, labour union leaders and government officials of the labour department and some of the small factory owners (if possible) regarding their view on the unionisation. I will also want to do a survey among the small factory worker and domestic workers regarding their view on making a workers cooperative which may help them to economically strengthen their positions in the society. Full abstract is available at: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_Migration_2023/Abstract_Rajat_Kanti_Sur.pdf.

Death in Diaspora: A Social History of Coolie Life in Mauritius

Rituparna Datta, *CRG, Kolkata*

Marcel Granet once proposed that 'method is the road once you have travelled it'. Such a sense of method probably invokes the concept of life as lived experiences with all its sensorial qualities and experiences of the body that is biopolitical and biosocial. So, the different experiences of the individual talk about norms of the society, contemplating the economy and politics of the time. But what does method as a historical tool of analysis mean or culminate to when it comes to death as there are no trajectories afterwards. Can we consider death as a method to reflect on the trajectories lived through its silences of bodies preserved in its passage to the afterlife? To borrow from Mezzadra and Nielsen's 'Border as a Method', this paper will try to look at 'death' as a method to reflect back on the conditions of colonial coolie labour regimes within the capitalist transformations of the overseas plantation economies of the Empire as mortality-morality-sickness were the common conditions accompanying not only during the transit of labour but a constant worry of the Empire in its attempts to sedentarise the population. Death while being acknowledged as the end of the biological span of a physical being, here it is also looked at as an expository character that edifies the life exposition of absolutely everything lived for and lived in the bio-social being. Thereby, while, death is an individual [in]voluntary performative act, it also canvases the social setting in which the form of life was lived. For the full abstract see: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/IWM_Migration_2023/Abstracts/RITUPARNA_DATTA_2023_ABSTRACT.pdf.

Climate Disaster Mitigation in Coastal Megacities of India

Shatabdi Das, *CRG, Kolkata*

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its Sixth Annual Report (2022) warns of the risks of flooding in coastal Indian cities such as Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata that necessitate infrastructural interventions with growing number of storm surges, cyclones and the rising sea surface temperatures. With intensification of cyclonic occurrences and spiralling damages after landfall along the Bengal coast in the last two decades, the patterns of urban expansion, livelihood and consumption and emission trends together with the ensuing bearings on migration, and at times displacements, require appraisal. Mumbai is prone to flooding due to the low-lying topography along the Arabian Sea coast, accompanied by high tides and heavy rains. While the expansion of built-up space in Mumbai encroaches upon natural land cover, the challenges arise in formulation of development policies, delineation of hazard prone zones, hazard adaptive measures for mitigation and infrastructure projects that are inclusive of sustainability and conservation in a time when climate resilient cities call for attention. The study attempts to look into the role of planning and development authorities, civil society organisations, urban local bodies, along with disaster management authorities, law and governance, coastal zone management act and coastal regulation zone rules, resettlement rehabilitation schemes, infrastructural interventions, social protection schemes, environment management and conservation in combating and mitigating climate disasters in Kolkata and Mumbai. To read the abstract click http://www.mcrg.ac.in/IWM_Migration_2023/Abstracts/SHATABDI_DAS_2023_ABSTRACT.pdf.

Mitigation, Recovery and Response: Democracy in Post-Covid Central Asia

Anita Sengupta, *Asia in Global Affairs, and CRG, Kolkata*

The ineffectiveness of state response in the face of a crisis, excessive bureaucracy, and lack of public confidence in the state leading to narratives around the theme ‘when governments fail’ continue to dominate Central Asia in the backdrop of a harsh winter and chronic energy crisis, in a region that was once projected as an alternative energy reserve to the Middle East. The pandemic exacerbated pre-existing issues of lack of health infrastructure, an unstable economy unduly reliant on remittances based on fluctuations in oil prices, and restrictive human rights bringing into question citizens’ rights to justice and democracy. Temporary security measures put in place to handle the crisis mostly remain in place while the possibility of the emergence of civil society remains nascent in urban settings and practically non-existent in traditional rural locations. However, there was some change in the perception of sections of the youth in Kazakhstan, for instance, who for the first time questioned the results of the Parliamentary elections forcing the ruling Nur-Otan Party to form a coalition. The loss of a super majority was significant in itself as was the realisation of exaggerations in the stereotypical understanding of centralised governments as being most effective during times of crisis. Recovery inevitably involved emerging vectors of foreign assistance, consequent foreign influence and disputes about intrusions into national sovereignty. This research paper is an attempt to analyse the implications of these domestic and international dynamics on the protection of citizen rights in the region with a view to understanding the extent to which a combination of factors shaped domestic responses. For abstract see:

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/IWM_Migration_2023/Abstracts/Anita_Sengupta_Abstract.pdf.

Is Protection Only a Legal Matter? Migrant Labour in South and South-East Asia

Paula Banerjee, *Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand, and CRG, Kolkata*

Can policy issues and the paradigm created for migrant labour have a simple definition in the context of legal regimes, unlike refugee or protection? The understanding of the concept is that at some point the migrant labourer returns (home) bringing in the connotation of migration cycle for persons crossing international border and within a state. The research will be based on the policy framework that has been created on migrant labourer—severely jarred as a result of the pandemic. The research will try to make a comparison of the regions of South and Southeast Asia because the problem of migrant labourer in the context of South-East Asia during the long 2020 with its precarious nature - whether climate related issues or environmental disasters or financial disasters or the pandemic, Asia along with the world has witnessed a crisis situation where rights had to be forgone. The study looks into the question of what happens during crisis when a migrant worker (even if he or she has not crossed international border) suddenly becomes shorn of rights, even with the struggle and challenges faced by activists and scholars in their efforts to augment the ambit of legal rights. The full abstract can be read at:

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/IWM_Migration_2023/Abstracts/Paula_Banerjee_Abstract.pdf.

The Future of Indian Labour in the Platform Economy

Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, *Rabindra Bharati University, and CRG, Kolkata*

Classification as an employee is perhaps the point of departure to determine who deserves the protections of labour and employment laws. These safeguards may include the right to organise, the right to minimum wage, and the right to unemployment compensation, among many others. However, access to workers' rights at the outset requires classification as an employee. There has been increasing informalisation of labour over the last three decades. More and more work in the neoliberal economy has been casualised and outsourced. After the invention of smartphones and artificial intelligence, more and more workers are being managed now by data and through various algorithms. Most of the start-up or unicorn companies increasingly rely on algorithms to apply automated managerial control or algorithmic control over workers. To understand these new realities of an increasing number of workers, the work focuses on two sectors of the platform economy in India, namely ride-hailing service and grocery delivery service. The full abstract is available

at:
http://www.mcrg.ac.in/IWM_Migration_2023/Abstracts/Sabyasachi_Basu_Ray_Chaudhury_Abstract.pdf.

Governing the Pandemic: Negotiating Democracy in our Time

Samir Kumar Das, *University of Calcutta, and CRG, Kolkata*

While much of the act of governing the Covid19 pandemic was conducted - not by the State - but by a plethora of self-organised solidarity groups and even unorganised social initiatives, a phenomenon variously called 'social governance', 'biopolitics from below' or even 'social policing' – this project proposes to focus on its implications for the state of democracy in India. It argues that the pandemic has opened many a democratic site outside the architecture of State institutions. The literature in this respect seems to oscillate between two extremes: On the one hand, there is the commonplace narrative of the great tragedy that democracies have been forced to meet with, thanks to the outbreak of the deadly pandemic. On the other hand, and parallel to it, the over two-

year long and counting pandemic also led people to rebel against the Covid diktats issued from time to time by the WHO and the government agencies. The anti-masking movement - mainly in the West - is only one of them. The opposition was at times not so acute. It expressed itself in the form of a healthy disrespect for the laws and protocols. Recent writings on democracy across the globe, however, portray a very gloomy picture of its decline and decay regardless of regions and continents. A recently published report, for instance, points out that the share of people living in autocracies has gone up from 49 percent (2011) to 70 percent (2021) whereas the share of people living in autocratising countries has gone up during the same period from 49 percent to 70 percent with the proliferation of the number of such States. Many of these research consortiums have already pronounced the secular decline of democracy across the board. The report also points to the decline of democracy that precedes the surfacing of the virus in late 2019. The decline, according to this report, set in regardless of the surfacing of the virus although it is true that the process has only reinforced it. If pandemic has played a key mediating role in this context, then the factors that contributed to the decline are – individuation, inequality and selective exposure. Secondly, the pandemic - by all accounts - has exacerbated the existing inequalities and in many cases introduced newer ones. These inequalities are on occasions known to have taken on a racist character. Thirdly, the poor, mainly unskilled migrant labour ironically also serves as the crucial bridgehead for restarting the economy insofar as the delivery boys, the health professionals, frontline workers, scavengers and sweepers are pressed into service and exposed to the virus. It implies what is called ‘arbitration of death’ in the sense that the pandemic brings into play a sovereign power that decides who must die in order that the rest of the society feels safe. The quarantining principle brought forth as it were the unmitigable schism between those whose lives matter and those whose lives do not and hence could be dispensed with at will for the larger safety and security of the society. Each of these three strands adds a neo-Malthusian spin to the neoliberal process that accelerates the process of democracy’s decline. What we call ‘social governance’, by contrast, is facilitated by social vigilantism, indigenous medicinal practices and life per se trumping over identity. The project proposes to conduct select ethnographies in order to illustrate how in each case newer solidarities are formed or pre-existing solidarities are strengthened. There was new concern for indigenous medicinal practices. Some of the tribes of Arunachal Pradesh, for instance, have the habit of quarantining their members when they run fever in the bodies, or even abandoning their villages and taking shelter in jungles when the fever hits the entire settlement. There have been attempts at bringing these practices back into circulation by the State agencies. Moreover, we also notice that many of the solidarities in fact transcend the preexisting ethnic lines. The crucial question is: Are these two spheres of democracy – of State-led and social governance – mutually exclusive? What implications does social governance have for the state of our democracy? For full abstract see:

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/IWM_Migration_2023/Abstracts/Samir_Kumar_Das_Abstract.pdf.

Creative Segment

Routes and Ports of Migration

Tamil Indenture Labour: Witnesses at Madras Port

Francis Adaikalam, *Loyola College, Chennai, and CRG, Kolkata*

Secondary Literature shows that between 1840-1940, the number of people who crossed the Bay of Bengal alone was 28 million, and most of them after the 1880s went to work in the plantations. Nineteenth and early twentieth century indenture labourers were transported through Chennai port through a recruitment process. Tamils were taken as indentured labourers in British plantations (tea, coffee, rubber estates and rice farming) and later for laying rail tracks to countries

like Malaya (1844), Ceylon (1839) Mauritius (1834), Trinidad (1844), Jamaica (1845), Grenada (1856), Saint Lucia (1858), Vincent Island (1861), and Natal in South Africa (1860). The practice of Indenture labour presented ‘a new system of slavery’ (Hugh Tinker: 1974) and was in practice in different parts of the British colonised areas until the end of the 19th century in spite of a ban on slavery by 1807 and 1833 Acts by British Parliament. In addition, Kanganis system was followed by the imperial Government. The Kanganis, a tamil word literally means overseer. An overseer usually from a dominant caste group or from the same caste group and from the same geographical location monitored the group of labourers. He would hire, monitor their movement and ensure that workers are bound by the contract in British colonies. The Colonial State controls the entire process by determining the volume (number of people allowed to travel), composition (male or female, type of community) and destination (depending on the need to different geographical regions of British empire). Indentured labourers were bound by a five-year contract; coming back home hardly materialised, as some of them were in the far-away countries. The Kanganis system, the imperial State was not a party to the contract and it facilitated the process. It is reported that in the ‘Kanganis’ system, a person from the same caste in the Tamil Nadu villages recruited the labour and supervised the work in the plantations sector. Tamils who emigrated mostly belonged to the lower caste. There is absolutely no photographic / visual literature which captures the recruitment procedure, condition of indenture labour, pamphlets issued during those period and articles written about the indenture labour. The current study using archival sources tries to bring out these historical facts for the reader. The full abstract can be read at: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_Migration_2023/Abstract_Port_Francis_Adaikalam.pdf.

Calcutta Port Complex and the Story of Indentured Labour

Kaustubh Mani Sengupta, *Shiv Nadar University, Greater Noida*

The Calcutta Port Trust was established in 1870 and then on the Calcutta Port made rapid progress in building additional jetties and streamlining dock logistics and cargo handling. A new phase in the development of the Calcutta port complex took place from the 1880s. This was facilitated by the increase in import trade which brought about a corresponding increase in export trade as well as a greater demand for facilities to accommodate the steamers that were replacing sailing vessels. The research aims to look at the expansion of Kolkata as an industrial hub and entry point for goods destined for the eastern and northern provinces of the subcontinent. The work also aims to explore the phases of development of transport routes, especially railways, that acted as a catalyst for trading activities and, despite its unfavourable geographical features, while the Calcutta port became the leading centre of trade and commerce for the colonial state in India. Many new additions to the dock complex were proposed, but the First World War halted the process. The post-war era put a lot of pressure on the Port Commissioners to replace the material taken during the war, but the cost of finance was almost 50–75 per cent higher than in the pre-war period. Up till 1921, few additions had been made to the Calcutta port and it took some time to restore it to its previous condition. Next major phase in port activities was during the Second World War, when eastern India became a part of the war-effort for the British. Sengupta refers to a few works like Hossain and other reports that provide a vivid history of migrant labourers and the central role of Calcutta Port complex in the global network of movements and migrations during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. For full abstract see: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_Migration_2023/Abstract_Port_Kaustubh_Mani_Sengupta.pdf

Policy Briefs on Climate Disaster and Displacement

Climate Disasters and Displacement: Role of Policies and Protection

Shatabdi Das, *CRG, Kolkata*

The severity of climate disasters has increased over the last few decades, with episodes of droughts on the rise, and floods, thunderstorms and cyclones frequently battering cities and coastal states. Weather and climate related disasters have surged manifold, coursing out of proportion, in the last half of a century, but early warning systems and disaster management help save lives to an extent. Natural hazards manifested in the form of disasters account for deaths and economic losses. Deforestation, increased volume of emission of air pollutants, expansion and encroachment of built-up space, disappearance of waterbodies and open spaces, trigger changes in the atmospheric processes. Research and data analyses project intensification of the number of extreme weather and climatic events in the near future. Water extremes, heat waves, droughts, forest fires, storms, to name a few, have pushed different parts of India and the world to the thresholds of climate change. Policies for protection of displaced persons ought to root for the causes of transitions in environment and sustainability of living and making cities and infrastructure climate resilient incur extra costs, but in turn favours long-term cost benefits. The research attempts to develop an overview of the crisis and protection issues that climate disasters and displacements ensue and the protection mechanism that builds-up on policies and plans for management of disasters and recovery from catastrophes.

The full abstract is available at:

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_Migration_2023/Abstract_Policy_Brief_Shatabdi_Das.pdf.

Understanding Climate-Mobilities for Policy Direction in the Global South

Sohini Sengupta, *Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) Mumbai*

Migration, according to observers signifies not just uneven development or unsafe places torn by conflict, from which people must escape either because they aspire to better their lives economically (first case) or because they must just to survive (second case), but also the climate change disrupted living contexts. Depending upon whether the people who migrate chose to leave a location or were forced to leave because of unbearable conditions, ranging from wars, scarcity and persecution, the state of vulnerability is assessed by external observers. But subjective assessment of migrants themselves are also crucial for understanding migration flows generated by environmental disruption but manifested by individual and household decisions to move to a different location (the concept of agency in migration). This form of classification is better known as the voluntary versus involuntary nature of migration, though causal reasons for migration streams are not very easy to compartmentalise. For political ecologists, environmental contexts, including climate must be viewed in the long term that 'reaffirms the central role of human agency'. The centrality of human agency is especially visible in population mobility and the proliferation of climate change discourse that make the connection between climate and mobility tangible and urgent for observers. As Hulme argues, the normative knowledge of the world, how humans come to be, to know and to act, is beyond climate knowledge as produced by science and social sciences. Complex, historical, and contextual understanding of climate-mobilities in the Global South, will be required to understand how survival and adaptation trajectories are taking shape in this epoch. For full abstract click:

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_Migration_2023/Abstract_Policy_Brief_Sohini_Sengupta.pdf.

WEBINARS AND LECTURES

WEBINARS AND LECTURES

Urban and Environmental Histories: The Legacy of Mike Davis

Webinar, 20 January 2023

An Online Panel Discussion was organised by the Calcutta Research Group and held on Zoom on 20 January 2023. The speakers were Ravi A. Palat (Binghamton University, New York) and Sohini Sengupta (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai), and the session was moderated by Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury (Rabindra Bharati University & CRG). The panel discussion was organised as a tribute to Mike Davis, the American born historian. The discussion was chaired by Sabyasachi Ray Chaudhary, the Honorary Director of CRG, who began by giving a detailed account of the life and works of Mike Davis as well as a brief overview of the major arguments that Mike Davis put forward in his books. Mike Davis was a pioneering radical historian of the US working class and a fierce critic of the economic, political, and military apparatuses of the US State machinery and of Empires in general. He was both a writer and activist and his work expand through economics, politics, sociology and literature. His work primarily deals with the separation and dislocation of people from land brought about by the exigencies of capitalism. Davis was a fierce critic of imperialism and colonialism and his celebrated work, *The Late Victorian Holocausts: El Niño Famines and the Making of the Third World* (2000) ushers in a new dimension to Postcolonial and Decolonial Studies. Ravi Palat talked about three of Davis's books namely, *Prisoners of the American Dream* (1986), *City of Quartz* (1990), *The Late Victorian Holocausts*. He discussed the three books from the American national perspective, local and global perspectives respectively. Palat argued that Davis' world view and historical understanding of the worlds as is reflected in all of his works was shaped by the kind of life and upbringing he had as belonging to the working-class community. Sohini Sengupta focussed her discussion on *The Late Victorian Holocausts*. She began by how Davis integrated the disciplines of Political Science, Economics, Climate Science, Anthropology, and History to talk about human suffering. She highlighted Davis's continued focus on 'people' who face the risks that arise as a result of policy decisions and the irresponsible governance. She discussed in detail how pre-colonial agrarian practices ensured a certain security of food and supplies for the community—a practice that was destroyed as a result of imperial and colonial designs in the Global South. Citing examples of the Bengal Famine. The detailed report can be read at:

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/IWM_Migration_2023/2_REPORT_Webinar%20on%20Mike%20Davis_20JANUARY2023.pdf.

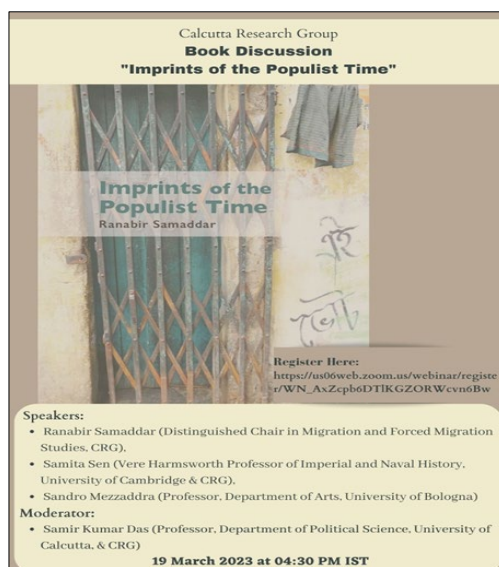


Webinar, 20 January 2023

Imprints of the Populist Time Book Discussion (Online), 19 March 2023, on Zoom

Ranabir Samaddar (CRG), Sandro Mezzadra (University of Bologna) and Samita Sen (University of Cambridge & CRG) discussed the book “Imprints of the Populist Time” authored by Ranabir Samaddar, while Samir Kumar Das (University of Calcutta & CRG) moderated the online session. The discussion began with an introduction to the book given by the moderator, pointing out three sub-themes: a) the historicity of the people, b) breaking the distinction between ‘politics’ and ‘political’, and c) populism as an anathema to economic rationality - three departures important for understanding society. Ranabir Samaddar began the discussion with the idea of preparing the book. The idea came as a response to the Left Politics in India as well as in the global scenario. He said that the book which is the second one of his writings on populist politics, was a response to his colleagues who told his book “Passive Revolution in West Bengal 1977-2011” (2013) is ‘under-theorised’. According to Samaddar, ‘populism’ defines ensemble of popular political practices which could not be theorised all the time. Therefore, the book is a mix of theoretical exercises and experiential understandings. Samita Sen began the discussion with the complicated framework of the book. She said that Samaddar’s approach towards populism pointed out both historical as well as theoretical complexities. Although Ranabir Samaddar tried to define populism with a particular historical context, he also brought an analysis of contemporary global politics with a historical understanding of populism, she added that there were many spatial and territorial layers in that book which made the argument more interesting. Sandro Mezzadra began with a quote from Samaddar’s book, “left-wing populist upsurge today is all about the class question of our time.” According to Mezzadra the book is searching for a new class politics that is capable of new democratic and socialist transformations and mentioned that the book along with Samaddar’s “Passive Revolution in West Bengal (2013)” shows the transformation in the materiality of politics in West Bengal which led to a specific kind of class politics emerging into populism. The book provides one of the most important debates on populism. Mezzadra pointed out the chapter where Ranabir Samaddar gave importance to populist economy and popular literature to define populism. “Populist Economy” as Samaddar explained “the economics grounded with the idea of protection, as well as the idea of economic justice.” For full report see:

http://www.mcrgh.ac.in/IWM_Migration_2023/2_REPORT_Book%20Discussion_19MARCH2023.pdf.



Calcutta Research Group
Book Discussion
"Imprints of the Populist Time"

Imprints of the Populist Time
Ranabir Samaddar

Register Here:
https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register?r=WN_AxZqb6DTIKGZORWcyn6Bw

Speakers:

- Ranabir Samaddar (Distinguished Chair in Migration and Forced Migration Studies, CRG).
- Samita Sen (Vere Harmsworth Professor of Imperial and Naval History, University of Cambridge & CRG).
- Sandro Mezzadra (Professor, Department of Arts, University of Bologna)

Moderator:

- Samir Kumar Das (Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Calcutta, & CRG)

19 March 2023 at 04:30 PM IST

Book Discussion, 19 March 2023

**Texts from the Void:
Machiavelli's The Prince and Lenin's What is to be Done?
Distinguished Chair's Lecture, 18 September 2023**

Ranabir Samaddar (Distinguished Chair in Migration and Forced Migration Studies, Calcutta Research Group) delivered a public lecture titled "Texts from the Void: Machiavelli's The Prince and Lenin's What is to be Done?" on 18 September 2023 in the CRG Seminar Hall. The session was moderated by Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury (Rabindra Bharati University and CRG). What connects the two texts separated from each other by nearly four hundred years—Niccolo Machiavelli's The Prince (1513) and Vladimir Ilyich Lenin's What is to be Done? (1902), was the pivotal theme of the lecture. The first is a compendium of formulations on what a Prince ought to be, the pitfalls on the path of his success, how to rule, how the Prince should relate to his subjects, and what is necessary to mobilise the people to the unity and glory of a principedom. The second written in the Russian revolutionary age discusses how to build a revolutionary party, how to unite an ideology and a class and how a political party can become a tribune of the people. The contexts are different, situations vastly dissimilar. Yet, there is a strange connection between the two. Both carry the enigmatic quality of being timeless while being entirely focused on the problems of the time. Both resonate with concerns that share similar grounds. Both evoke themes that play upon the great question of contingency and uncertainty. They seem to carry no lineage, as if, they came out of void. The discussion was live streamed on Facebook: <https://fb.watch/p1116NhM0B/?mibextid=RUbZ1f>.

CALCUTTA RESEARCH GROUP
DISTINGUISHED CHAIR'S LECTURE 2023

THE PRINCE
BY
NICCOLÒ MACHIAVELLI
TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH BY
LUIGI RICCI
HUMPHREY MILFORD
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
LONDON EDINBURGH GLASGOW
NEW YORK TORONTO MELBOURNE CAPE TOWN
BOMBAY CALCUTTA AND MADRAS

**Texts From the Void:
Machiavelli's The Prince
& Lenin's What Is to be
Done?**
Speaker: Ranabir Samaddar,
Distinguished Chair in Migration and
Forced Migration Studies, Calcutta
Research Group, Kolkata
Chair: Sabyasachi Basu Ray
Chaudhury, Honorary Director,
Calcutta Research Group and
Professor of Political Science,
Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata

**WHAT IS
TO BE DONE?**
BY V·I·LENIN

Date & Time:
September 18, 2023, 5:00 pm (IST)
Venue:
Meeting Hall, Calcutta Research
Group (IA-48, Ground Floor,
Sector 3, Salt Lake, Kolkata-97,
Beside IA Market, Gate No.2)
**For Online Participation: [Click
here to Register](#)**

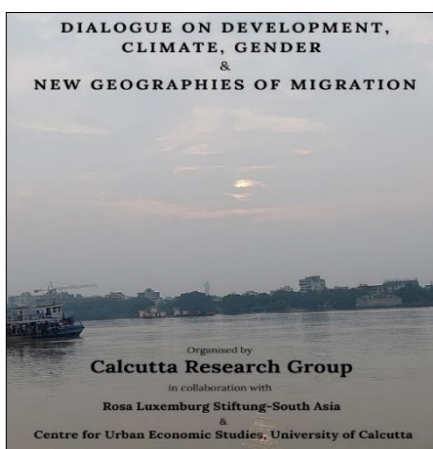
Distinguished Chair's Lecture 2023

FOLLOW-UP WORKSHOP

FOLLOW-UP WORKSHOP

Development, Climate, Gender and New Geographies of Migration 14 July 2023, Sojourn, Kolkata

The Follow-up Workshop organised by the Calcutta Research Group (CRG) in collaboration with Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (RLS)-South Asia and the Centre for Urban Economic Studies (CUES), University of Calcutta, was designed as a dialogue and themed “**Development, Climate, Gender and New Geographies of Migration.**” This programme was held on 14 July 2023 in the form of a civil-society dialogue where former participants of RLS-CRG workshops, media programmes and research programmes participated. The follow-up workshop comprised four sessions with speakers from diverse fields of expertise. **Shubha Srishti** (Seventh Annual Workshop Participant, 2022), **Banhi Sarkar** (CRG-RLS Media Fellow, 2022), **Gorky Chakraborty** (RLS Contracted Researcher, 2022), **Dipanjan Sinha** (RLS Contracted Researcher, 2021), **Priyankar Dey** (Sixth Annual Workshop Participant, 2021) **Debashree Chakraborty** (Seventh Annual Workshop and Seventh Critical Studies Conference Participant, 2022) were the key participants of the programme. Joya Mitra (eminent writer and Sahitya Academy Award Winner in 2022), Pushyamitra (eminent journalist and Former Participant of the Bengal-Bihar Dialogue, 2021), Swati Bhattacharjee (Senior Editor, Ananda Bazar Patrika, Kolkata), Mohammed Reyaz (Alia University and former Participant of Bengal-Bihar Dialogue, 2021) were the other senior invited speakers. The news of the dialogue and the write-up by Joya Mitra was published in the Ananda Bazar Patrika, the Bengali daily. The detailed report of the follow-up workshop can be read at: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_Migration_2023/FollowUp_2023_Report.pdf.



Follow-up Workshop, 14 July 2023

**EIGHTH ANNUAL RESEARCH AND
ORIENTATION WORKSHOP**

EIGHTH ANNUAL RESEARCH AND ORIENTATION WORKSHOP

Global Protection of Refugees and Migrants 17-20 November 2023, Monotel, Kolkata

Migrants are the most vulnerable communities all over the world. There are multiple reasons behind the vulnerabilities. War, natural disasters, economic bankruptcy, state policies and the pandemic are a few of them. Several policies have been drafted to improve the living conditions of the people since the end of World War II, but the solution to the problem is yet to be solved. New challenges have emerged with time and technological progress along with complications in the concept of worldwide migration. Many new concepts have been incorporated in the field of migration studies in recent years. Governance structures now are often based on moulded power, humanitarianism and human rights, bound together into governmental complexes that create an order where power and responsibility share an asymmetric relationship (Samaddar, *The Postcolonial Age of Migration*, 2020; p.8). Climate change, natural disasters, disasters due to development policies, geopolitical dynamics, socio-economic conditions, new dimensions in gender and caste, inter and intra-state conflicts play a crucial role in this relationship.

The Calcutta Research Group (CRG) has devoted itself to the study of migration, especially forced migration and the dignity of migrants in particular, now for more than 25 years. The two declarations on the protection of refugees and migrants (Kolkata Declaration and Afghanistan Declaration) adopted during the Research and Orientation Workshops in 2018 and 2021 respectively, are evidences of the possibilities for interventions of the Research and Orientation Workshops and Conferences of CRG. The Declarations addressed the different dynamics of the contemporary global refugee crisis which is valuable for its understanding of the gravity and nuances of migration in the present period, its articulation in the South Asian milieu, its expression of solidarity with the victims of forced displacement, and its assessment of international efforts to improve distress of such uprootedness. Prepared in the wake of the Global Compacts, the matters to which the Declarations turned attention are fundamental to CRG's research agenda and its valued association with the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung's project 'Global Protection of Refugees and Migrants' and the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna's project 'Justice, Protection and Government of the people- a two-year research and orientation programme on Protection and Democracy in a post-Covid world'. CRG's attempt to deal with the issues through the drafting of policy briefs, panel discussions, dialogues, and preparation of a volume of Keywords in Refugee and Migration Studies and the Annual Workshop on the newly imposed challenges to deal with the idea of global protection aimed at engaging researchers, activists, journalists, teachers and experts.

The Eighth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop and Conference, November 2023, played a pivotal role in extending further CRG's aspiration to voice the experiences, opinions and discontents of the South in global discussions on the subject of protection of refugees and migrants, and the increased vulnerabilities. The event comprised a four-day workshop and two-day conference. Deliberations during the workshop centred on five core modules and one secondary module with three options, and brought together young researchers, activists, academics, lawyers, journalists, artists, filmmakers and experts from the field of humanities, social sciences and migration studies. The young participants of the workshop were guided by experts in the field of migration studies and presented their research activities through the distance-segment and during the workshop in Kolkata. The workshop this year had Five Core Modules and the secondary module/sub-theme had three options, elaborated as follows:

Core Modules

Module A: Shock migration in the wake of crises like war, famine, flood, other natural disasters, and pandemic (visibility, scale, migrant networks, adaptability, policy response, and migrant's autonomy)

Coordinators: *Nasreen Chowdhory, University of Delhi & CRG, India, and Manish K. Jha, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (Mumbai) & CRG, India*

Module B: Legal regimes and policy frameworks (international human rights law, international humanitarian law; global compact, refugee protection regime, and the limits of the Convention, and Global Compacts, regional conventions, national jurisprudence, etc.)

Coordinator: *Sabana Basavapatna, Trial Courts in Bengaluru & CRG, India*

Module C: Statelessness

Coordinator: *K. M. Parivelan, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (Mumbai) & CRG, India*

Module D: Gender, race, religion, and other fault lines in protection architecture

Coordinator: *Paula Banerjee, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand & CRG, India*

Module E: Refugee and migrant labour, precarious forms, and globalisation

Coordinators: *Arup Kumar Sen, CRG, India, and Iman Kumar Mitra, Shiv Nadar University & CRG, India*

Secondary Module with Options (participants have to choose any one from the options)

Module F1: Climate, ecology, and displacement

Coordinator: *Shatabdi Das, CRG, India*

OR

Module F2: Ethics of care and protection

Coordinator: *Samir K Das, University of Calcutta & CRG, India*

OR

Module F3: Media and displacement

Coordinator: *Samata Biswas, The Sanskrit College and University & CRG, India*

Distance Segment (July-November 2023)

The first online orientation meeting for the workshop was held on 12 July 2023. Participants of all the modules attended the meeting. The Module Coordinators of the Core and Secondary Modules introduced the respective themes to the participants. The participants also introduced themselves and their respective research areas and how they planned to work on their assignments and research papers for the workshop. The classes for each module began from 19 July 2023. The Module Coordinators presented a brief overview of the subthemes that each module consisted of, in the initial classes and accepted revised abstracts from participants based on their introductory comments and rework of some of the research titles and sub-themes that the participants worked on. The second phase of the online classes and module meetings were held in end-August and early-September of 2023, where the Module Coordinators discussed in detail the abstracts that they had received along with the outlines of draft research papers sent by the participants. Participants were guided and given detailed feedback/notes for their assignments and scope of improvement and revisions for the core and secondary modules. The third-round of meetings were held in late October and the first week of November 2023, and the Eighth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop was held from 17-20 November 2023, followed by the Eighth Annual Conference on 21-22 November 2023, in Kolkata.

Programme Schedule

Eighth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop

17-20 November 2023, Monotel, Kolkata

17 November 2023 (Day 1)

9:00 am–9:45 am: Registration

9:45 am–10:30 am: Inaugural Session

Chair: Shyamalendu Majumdar, Director, Calcutta Research Group, India.

9:45 am–9:50 am: Welcome Address and Introduction to the Workshop by Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, Rabindra Bharati University and Calcutta Research Group, India

9:50 am–10:00 am: Introduction of Participants

10:00 am–10:30 am: Inaugural Remarks by Nadja Dorschner, Resident Representative, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung-South Asia

10:30 am–11:00 am: Tea

11:00 am–12:30 pm: Parallel Sessions (Module A & B)

(Room No. 1) 11:00 am–12:30 pm: Module A: Shock Migration in the Wake of Crises like War, Famine, Flood, Other Natural Disasters, and Pandemic (Visibility, Scale, Migrant Networks, Adaptability, Policy Response, and Migrant's Autonomy)

Resource Persons: Nasreen Chowdhury, University of Delhi & Calcutta Research Group, India and Manish K. Jha, Tata Institute of Social Sciences & Calcutta Research Group, India

11:00 am–12:00 pm: Presentation of the Theme by Resource Persons

12:05 pm–12:30 pm: Presentations by the Participants of Module A (Each Participants will get 15 minutes to present their papers)

Participants/ Presenters:

1. Charles Murata, European Masters in Migration and Intercultural Relations Programme at Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Germany. **Altered Mobilities in Climate Disasters and Resilience Building Initiatives among Cyclone Idai Impacted Communities in Chimanimani, Zimbabwe**

2. Chiranjib Boruah, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India. **State Refugee Relationship: A Case Study of the Chin Refugees in Mizoram**

(Room No. 2) 11:00 am–12:30 pm: Module B: Legal Regimes and Policy Frameworks (International Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law; Global Compact, Refugee Protection Regime, and the Limits of the Convention, and Global Compacts, Regional Conventions, National Jurisprudence, etc.)

Resource Person: Sahana Basavapatna, Trial Court, Bangalore & Calcutta Research Group, India.

11:00 am–12:00 pm: Presentation of the Theme by Resource Person

12:00 pm–12:30 pm: Presentations by the Participants of Module B (Each Participants will get 15 minutes to present their papers)

Participants/ Presenters:

1. Julia Verbeek Hofbauer, University of Vienna, Austria. **Negotiating Temporalities within the context of Forced Migrants of Tibet in India**
2. Mrinalini Subba, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta, Kolkata. **Old Questions, New Alternatives: Looking at Criminalisation of Mobility in South Asia**

Participants will assemble at Room 1 for Module A presentations in post lunch session.

12:30 pm–1:30 pm: Lunch

1:30 pm–3:00 pm: Parallel Sessions II (Module A & B)

(Room No. 1) 1:30 pm–3:00 pm: Presentations by the Participants of Module A (Continued)
(Each Participants will get 15 minutes to present their papers)

Participants/Presenters:

3. Debasree Sarkar, Calcutta Research Group, India. **Many Faces of the Migrants in the MCU: Collaboration, Resistance, and Militarisation of the Shapeshifting Skrulls in Secret Invasion**
4. Kritika Katyayan, Indian Institute of Management Kolkata, India. **Climate Change and Shock Migration: Why are Women More Vulnerable?**
5. Shebeen Mehboob A.P., Madhyamam Daily and Mahatma Gandhi University, India. **Climate Change-Induced Coastal Migration: Mapping the Vanishing Life-world of Seafarers of Malabar**

3:00 pm–3:30 pm: Tea

3:30 pm–5:30 pm: Visualising Migration in Kolkata: Historical and Contemporary Experiences

Chair: Samata Biswas, The Sanskrit College and University & Calcutta Research Group, India

3:30 pm–5:00 pm: Film Show, Kolkata: A Migrant City I, II, III

Discussant: Iman Mitra, Shiv Nadar University & Calcutta Research Group, India

5:00 pm–5:30 pm: Photo Exhibition: Trail of Blood, Part I: The Calcutta Killings of 1946 and its Afterlives

Artist: Dipanwita Saha, Software Engineer, IBM and Visual Artist, India

Curator: Debasree Sarkar, Calcutta Research Group, India

5:30 pm–6:00 pm: Break

6:00 pm–6:30 pm: Book Release and Discussion

Postcolonial Compendium: Keywords in Forced Migration and Refugee Studies edited by Paula Banerjee, Nasreen Chowdhory and Priya Singh (Frontpage 2023).

Book Release: Nadja Dorschner, Resident Representative of the South Asia Office of Rosa Luxemburg-Stiftung.

**Book Discussion: Samir Kumar Das, University of Calcutta and Calcutta Research Group, India
Paula Banerjee, IDRC Research Chair in Gender and Forced Migration at Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand and Calcutta Research Group, India**

Priya Singh, Asia in Global Affairs, India

Nasreen Chowdhory, University of Delhi and Calcutta Research Group, India

Abhijit Mazumder, Publisher, Frontpage, India.

7:00 pm–9:30 pm: Welcome Dinner

9:00 am–9:30 am: Registration

9:30 am–11:00 am: Parallel Sessions I (Module C & D)

(Room No. 1) 9:30 am–11:00 am: Module C: Statelessness

Resource Person: K.M. Parivelan, Tata Institute of Social Sciences & Calcutta Research Group, India

9:30 am–10:30 am: Presentation of the Theme by Resource Person

10:30 am–11:00 am: Presentations by the Participants of Module C (Each Participants will get 15 minutes to present their papers)

Participants/Presenters:

1. Avantika Dureha, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India. **Humanitarian Diplomacy in Motion: India's Approach to Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees and the Complexities of Care in Migration Governance**

2. Blessy Mathew, University of Hyderabad, India. **Invisible Lives: Exploring Statelessness among the Up-Hill Country Tamils in India**

(Room No. 2) Module E: Refugee and Migrant Labour, Precarious Forms, and Globalisation

Resource Persons: Arup Kumar Sen, Calcutta Research Group, India and **Iman Mitra**, Shiv Nadar University & Calcutta Research Group, India

9:30 am–10:30 am: Presentation of the Theme by Resource Person

10:30 am–11:00 am: Presentations by the Participants of Module E (Each Participants will get 15 minutes to present their papers)

Participants/Presenters:

1. Ahmad Ibrahim, Winrock International, Bangladesh. **Pawns for Profits–Analysing the Plight of Bangladeshi Female Migrant Workers to KSA Between 2015–2018.**

11:00 am–11:30 am: Tea Break

11:30 am–12:30 am: Parallel Sessions II: Presentations by the Participants (Module C & E Continued)

(Room No. 1) 11:30 am–12:30 pm: Presentation by the participants of Module C (Continued) (Each Participants will get 15 minutes to present their papers)

Participants/Presenters:

1. Navas M Khadar, Mahatma Gandhi University, India. **Inclusiveness as Organising Principle: Ensuring Rights and Social Protection for Interstate Migrants in Kerala, India**

2. Sahla Rahmathulla, University of Hyderabad, India. **Statelessness of Rohingya Refugees in India**

3. Samik Ray Chowdhury, Institute of Development Studies Kolkata, India. **Beyond Tangible Spaces: Researching Non-Citizenship in Assam**

(Room No. 2) Presentations by the participants of Module E (Continued) (Each Participants will get 15 minutes to present their papers)

Participants/ Presenters:

1. Beatriz de Figueiredo Gomez, Central European University, Austria. **Bodies in Solidarity: Exploring Neapolitan Migrant Struggles through Embodiment**
2. Sandra MJ, University of Hyderabad, India. **Modern Transhumance; Working Women in Kerala**
3. Nirvan Pradhan, SRM University, India. **Can Recruitment Be Fair? Possibilities and Paradoxes of Ethical Recruitment in the Eastern Himalayas**

12:30 pm–1:30 pm: Lunch

All Participants will assemble at Room 1 (Conference Hall) to attend the Module Lecture D & Presentations after the lunch.

1:30 pm–3:45 pm: Module D: Gender, Race, Religion, and Other Fault-lines in Protection Architecture

Resource Person: Paula Banerjee, IDRC Research Chair in Gender and Forced Migration at Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand & Calcutta Research Group, India.

1:30 pm–2:30 pm: Presentation of the Theme by the Resource Person

2:30 pm–3:45 pm: Presentations by the Participants of Module D (Each Participants will get 15 minutes to present their papers)

Participants/Presenters:

1. Chandrika Ray, Utkal University, India. **The Bangladeshi Immigrants in India: Refugee or Diaspora. A Special Reference to a Settlement in Odisha**
4. Kalpana Jha, University of Victoria, Canada. **Cross-border Networks and Their Function: Tracing the Changing Nature of India-Nepal Open Border**
3. Nargis Choudhury, The Assam Royal Global University, India. **Access to Justice for Rural Women under Foreigners Tribunal Act**
4. Sonu Tewari, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India. **The Intersections of Gender, Im/Mobility, and Governance in the Sundarbans Delta, India**

3:45 pm–4:15 pm: Tea

4:15 pm–5:15 pm: Special Lecture “Platformed Precarity: A Tale of Two Cities”

Chair: Arup Kumar Sen

Speaker: Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury

19 November 2023 (Day 3)

9:00 am–9:30 am: Registration

9:30 am–11:00 am: Parallel Sessions I (Module F1, F2 & F3)

(Room 1) 9:30 am–11:00 am: Module F1: Climate, Ecology and Displacement

Resource Person: Shatabdi Das, Calcutta Research Group, India.

9:30 am–10:30 am: Presentation of the Theme by Resource Person

10:30 am–11:00 am: Presentations of Creative Assignments by the participants of Module F1 (Each Participants will get 15 minutes for presentation)

Participants/Presenters:

1. Ahmad Ibrahim, Winrock International, Bangladesh. **Ha-Beema–The Conservation Discourse and Shrinking Ecologies in Madhupur’s Sal Forests**

11:00 am–11:15 am: Tea

(Room 1) 11:15 am–12:30 pm: Presentations of Assignments by the Participants of Module F1 (Continued) (Each Participants will get 15 minutes for presentation)

Participants/Presenters:

3. Charles Murata, European Masters in Migration and Intercultural Relations Programme at Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Germany. **Storytelling after Cyclone Idai Disaster in Chimanimani: Community-driven Support Beyond State**

4. Kritika Katyayan, Indian Institute of Management Kolkata, India. **Climate Change and the Rural Communities: The Case of Uttarkashi District**

5. Mrinalini Subba, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta, India. **Understanding Landslides in the Hills of North Bengal**

(Room 2) 9:30 am–11:00 am: Module F2: Ethics of Care and Protection

Resource Person: Samir Kumar Das, University of Calcutta & Calcutta Research Group, India

9:30 am–10:30 am: Presentation of the Theme by Resource Person

10:30 am–11:00 am: Presentations of Assignments by the Participants of Module F2 (Each Participants will get 15 minutes for presentation)

Participants/Presenters:

1. Avantika Dureha, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India. **Unveiling the Politics of Ethics and Care: Alternative Approaches to understanding Body Politics**

2. Beatriz de Figueiredo, Central European University, Austria. **Catholic Ethics and the Religious Moral Economy in Neapolitan Migrant Care**

11:00 am–11:15 am: Tea

11:15 am–12:30 pm: Presentation of Assignments by the Participants of Module F2 (Continued) (Each Participants will get 15 minutes for presentation)

Participants/Presenters:

3. Blessy Mathew, University of Hyderabad, India. **Between Two Worlds: Love, Loss and Longing**

4. Chiranjib Boruah, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India. **Ethics, Care and Protection for Chin Refugees in Mizoram: A Comparative Analysis of the Localised Understandings, Government and Universal Refugee Regimes**

5. Julia Verbeek, University of Vienna, Austria. **The Role of Ethics of Care and Protection in Ethnographic Field Work**

(Room 3) 9:30 am–11:00 am: Module F3: Media and Displacement

Resource Person: Samata Biswas, The Sanskrit College and University & Calcutta Research Group, India

9:30 am–10:30 am: Presentation of the Theme by Resource Person

10:30 am–11:00 am: Presentations of Assignments by the participants of Module F3 (Each Participants will get 15 minutes for presentation)

Participants/ Presenters:

1. Chandrika Ray, Utkal University, India. **The Bangladeshi Immigrants in Odisha: Presenting the Community from Their Lenses**
2. Debasree Sarkar, Calcutta Research Group, India. **The Politics of Representation in Films: Documenting Displacement and Visualising the Vulnerable**

11:00 am–11:15 am: Tea

11:15 am–12:30 pm Presentation of Assignments by the Participants of Module F3 (Continued) (Each Participants will get 15 minutes for presentation)

1. Sahla Rahmathullah, University of Hyderabad, India. **Interview of Rohingya Refugees in Balapur, Hyderabad**
2. Samik Ray Choudhury, Institute of Development Studies Kolkata, India. **An Interview of the Immigrants in Assam**
3. Sandra M.J., English and Foreign Languages University, India. **A Photo Essay on Female Migrant Workers in Kerala**
4. Shebeen Mehboob A.P., Mahatma Gandhi University, India. **Problematic Portrayal of Migrant Workers in Malayalam Print Media: An Analytical Examination**

12:30 pm–1:30 pm: Lunch

1:30 pm–2:30 pm: Parallel Sessions II (Module: F1, F2 & F3)

(Room 1) 1:30 pm–2:00 pm: Presentations of Assignments by the participants of Module F1 (Continued) (Each Participants will get 15 minutes for presentation)

Participants/Presenters:

6. Nirvan Pradhan, SRM University, India. **Heatwaves of Change: Climate Crisis and Hope in “The Ministry for the Future”**
7. Sonu Tewari, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (Mumbai Campus), India. **Encounters and Efforts in Adversity: Narratives from the Sundarban**

(Room 2) 1:30 pm- 2:30 pm: Presentations of Assignments by the participants of Module F2 (Continued) (Each Participants will get 15 minutes for presentation)

Participants/Presenters:

6. Kalpana Jha, University of Victoria, Canada. **Navigating Sovereignities: Life Beyond the Limits of The State**
7. Nargis Choudhury, The Assam Royal Global University, India. **A study of women’s access to justice under Foreigner’s Tribunal Act, 1946 in Assam**
8. Navas M Khadar, Mahatma Gandhi University, India. **Gendered Migration in Kerala: Exploring the Challenges and Human Rights Issues Faced by Female Migrant Workers in Ernakulam District, Kerala**

2:30 pm–2:45 pm: Break

All Participants will assemble at Room 1 (Conference Hall) to attend the Presentations by the CRG-RBU-EMMIR Students after the Break

2:45 pm–3:30 pm: Care and Protection of Migrants and Refugees in the Global South, Presentations by the EMMIR Students (Each Participants will get 15 minutes for presentation)
Moderators: Nasreen Chowdhory and K.M. Parivelan

Participants/Presenters:

1. Anastasiia Lukina, European Masters Programme at Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Germany & RBU-CRG-EMMIR Programme, India and Germany. **Transnationalism and the Notion of Integration: Case Study of a Ukrainian Mother with Temporary Protection in France**

2. Amanda Dionis, European Masters Programme at Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Germany & RBU-CRG-EMMIR Programme, India and Germany. **Between Agency and Exploitation: Migrant Food Delivery Couriers in Italy**

3. Carolina Garcia Jarquin, European Masters Programme at Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Germany & RBU-CRG-EMMIR Programme, India and Germany. **Migration through the Darien Gap**

3:30 pm–4:00 pm: Tea

4:00 pm–5:30 pm: Presentations by the EMMIR Students (Continued) (Each Participants will get 15 minutes for presentation)

Moderators: Samata Biswas and Arup K Sen

Participants/ Presenters:

1. Esmé Starke, European Masters Programme at Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Germany & RBU-CRG-EMMIR Programme, India and Germany. **Exploring the Paradox of Humanitarianism: Can Nakivale Refugee Settlement Achieve a Balance between Protection and Self-Reliance?**

2. Francesca Panico, European Masters Programme at Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Germany & RBU-CRG-EMMIR Programme, India and Germany. **Environmental Migrants in The Shadows: Can the Climate Change Emergency Produce Visibility?**

3. Vania Vergara Martinez, European Masters Programme at Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Germany & RBU-CRG-EMMIR Programme, India and Germany. **The Role of Civil Society Organizations in the Formal Labor Market Insertion of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Mexico City**

4. Vitor de Azevedo Amador, European Masters Programme at Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Germany & RBU-CRG-EMMIR Programme, India and Germany. **Cross-Border Mobility of Afghan Refugees in Pakistan**

20 November 2023 (Day 4)

9.30 am–10.00 am: Registration

10:00 am–11:30 pm: Parallel sessions [Presentation of Rapporteur's Report by the Participants (Reporting on module lecture & presentations, inaugural and special lectures)]

Room 1: Reporting on Module A, B, C, Inaugural Lecture/Panel Discussions and Special Lectures

Moderator: Debashree Chakraborty, Calcutta Research Group, India

Room 2: Reporting on Module D, E & F 1, F2, F3
Moderator: Sucharita Sengupta, Calcutta Research Group, India

11:00 am–11:30 am: Tea

11:30 am–12:30 pm: Evaluation of the Workshop

Evaluator: Hari Sharma, Purak Asia, Nepal
Moderators: Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury and Paula Banerjee

12:30 pm–1:30 pm: Lunch

1:30 pm–1:45 pm: Assemble at the Hotel Lobby for Field Trip

1:45 pm–7:00 pm: Field Trip: Kolkata: A Migrant City
Resource Person: Sabir Ahamed, Pratichi (India) Institute, India & CRG and **Samata Biswas**

7:00 pm: Dinner (Outside)

Eighth Annual Conference
War, Climate Disaster, and Displacement: Call for New Protection Strategies
21-22 November 2023, Monotel, Kolkata

21 November 2023

9:00 am–9:30 am: Registration

9:30 am–10:00 am: Inaugural Session

Chair: Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, Rabindra Bharati University & Calcutta Research Group, India

9:30 am–9:40 am: Welcome Address: Shyamalendu Majumdar, Calcutta Research Group, India

9:40 am–9:50 am: Introducing the Conference: Amit Prakash, Jawaharlal Nehru University & Calcutta Research Group, India

9:50 am–10:00 am: Self- Introduction by Participants

10:00 am–11:00 am: Keynote Lecture, “Governing the Displaced in Cities: Wars, the Rule of ‘Emergency,’ and Extraction”

Speaker: Ayşe Çağlar, University of Vienna & Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, Austria

11:00 am–11:30 am: Tea

11:30 am–1:00 pm: Parallel Sessions 1A and 1B

(Room 1) Panel 1A: Media, Identity, Conflict and Challenges of Planning
Chair and Discussant: Amit Prakash

Panellists:

1. Ritambhara Malviya, Allahabad University, India. **The Media, Identity and Conflict: Studying the Discourses in the Indian Media on the 2023 Manipur Violence**

2. Magdalena M Baran, Pedagogical University, Poland. **Narratives as a Tools of War – Ethics of Old and New Media in the Face of the Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts**

3. Azeemah Saleem, JK Lakshmiipat University, India. **The Politics of Urban Spatial Planning towards Colonial Settlement: The Case Study of Apartheid Wall at Aida and Jalazone Refugee Camp in Palestine**

(Room 2) Panel 1B: Wars and Aftermath

Chair and Discussant: K.M. Parivelan, TISS Mumbai and Calcutta Research Group, India

Panellists:

1. Sabeena Khatun, University of Hyderabad, India, and Geeta Gopinath, University of Hyderabad, India. **Peace Education, a Panacea for Refugees: A Quasi-Experimental Research among Refugees Escaping War**

2. Sanam Sharief Khan, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India. **Life of Control: Mapping the Lifeworld of Borderlanders in Jammu and Kashmir**

3. C. Lalmuansanga, Mizoram University, India. **Conflict and Displacement: Exploring Masculinity in the Village Grouping during Rambuai**

1:00 pm–2:00 pm: Lunch

2:00 pm–4:00 pm: Panel 2: Policymaking for Stateless Persons in Asia

Chair and Discussant: Paula Banerjee, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand & Calcutta Research Group, India

Panellists:

1. Nyi Nyi Kyaw, Chiang Mai University, Thailand

2. Abhijit Patnaik, ActionAid Myanmar

3. Niloy Ranjan Biswas, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

4. Kundan Mishra, IDRC, Canada

4:00 pm–4:30 pm: Tea

4:30 pm–6:30 pm: Panel 3: Migration, Governance and Protection: Journeys through the Pandemic and Beyond

Chair and Discussant: Ranabir Samaddar, Calcutta Research Group, India

Panellists:

1. Samir Kumar Das, University of Calcutta & Calcutta Research Group, India. **Governing the Pandemic: Negotiating Democracy in Our Time**

2. Paula Banerjee. **Is Protection Only a Legal Matter? Migrant Labour in South and South-East Asia**

3. Ishita Dey, South Asian University and Calcutta Research Group, India. **Journeys and Internal Migrant Workers: A Report on Railway Connectivity**

4. Anita Sengupta, Asia in Global Affairs and Calcutta Research Group, India. **Mitigation, Recovery and Response: Democracy in Post-Covid Central Asia**

6:30 pm–7:00 pm: Book Release and Discussion, Pandemic and Precarity, edited by Rituparna Datta (Sampark 2023)

Book Release and Discussion: Arup Kumar Sen and Rituparna Datta

9:00 am–9:30 am: Registration

9:30 am–11:00 am: Parallel Sessions 4A and 4B

(Room 1) Panel 4A: Health, Resources and Climate Change

Chair and Discussant: Sahana Basavapatna, Trial Court, Bangalore & Calcutta Research Group, India

Panellists:

1. Nivash Prakash, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India. **Self-Organising Behavior and Traditional Knowledge Practice as a Response to Seasonal Heatwave: Narratives from Informal Settlements of Delhi**
2. Nirmal Kumar Mahato, Vidyasagar University and Calcutta Research Group, India. **Climate Change, Labour Migration and Spread of Disease in South West Bengal, 1890-1947**
3. Anindya Sen, Assam University, India, and Debashree Chakraborty, Calcutta Research Group, India. **Death by Water: A Study of the Global North Imagination of Climate Apocalypse in Loosed Upon the World**

(Room 2) Panel 4B: Climate Change, Disasters and Relief

Chair and Discussant: Hari Sharma

Panellists:

1. Shiladitya Chakraborty, Kalyani University, India, and Jayanta Debnath, Mrinalini Datta Mahavidyapith, India. **Politics of Relief and Disaster Risk Governance: Exploring the Experiences of Two Blocks in Indian Sundarban**
2. Shreyoshee Sen, Jadavpur University, India. **Indigenous Communities Transformed by Climate-induced Migration: Migration and Adaptability among Sundarbans' Traditional Resource Users in West Bengal, India**
3. Rouf Dar, University of Kashmir, India, and Muzamil Yaqoob, Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi, India. **Climate As the Cost of Development: Hydro Electric Projects in Jammu and Kashmir**

11.00 am–11.30 am: Tea

11.30 am–12.30 pm: Panel 5 (Room 1): Discussion on Policy Briefs on Climate Change

Chair and Discussant: Madhurilata Basu, Sarojini Naidu College for Women, India & Calcutta Research Group

Panellists:

1. Shatabdi Das, Calcutta Research Group, India. **Climate Disasters and Displacement in India: Role of Policies and Protection**
2. Sohini Sengupta, TISS Mumbai, India. **Climate-Mobilities and Policy Direction for the Global South**

12:30 pm–1:30 pm: Lunch

1:30 pm–3:00 pm: Panel 6 (Room 1): Disasters and the Road to Relief

Chair and Discussant: Sohini Sengupta

Panellists:

1. Shailendra Mani Pradhan, Sarojini Naidu College for Women, India. **Bringing Back Traditional Institutions of Governance: A Study of Samaj in Disaster Emergencies in Darjeeling Hills**

2. Sayeed Hossain Sarwar, East West University, Bangladesh. **Reevaluating the Principle of International Cooperation and Assistance in the International Law of Disaster Response (IDRL) from Third-World Perspective**
3. Nirmal Kumar Upreti, Suman Neupane and Manju Gautam, Forum for Nation Building, Nepal. **Learning and Sharing the Experiences of Legal Clinics: Mobile Clinics during Disaster and Pandemic**

3.00 pm–4.30 pm: Parallel Sessions 7A and 7B

(Room 1) Panel 7A: Camps and Protection
Chair and Discussant: Nasreen Chowdhory

Panellists:

1. Jigme Wangdi, Jogesh Chandra Chaudhuri College, India. **Of Camps, Doles and Bare Life: Interrogating Differential Responses of Indian ‘Nation-State’ towards IDP’s and Refugees**
2. Sariful Islam, South Asian University, India. **Agency of the Refugees in Camp Governance: Rohingyas in Bangladesh**
3. Ananya Chatterjee, Haldia Government College, Calcutta Research Group, India. **Friendship Networks as a Strategy for Reintegration of Refugees with Host Communities**

Room 2: Panel 7B: Long Migrations
Chair and Discussant: Samata Biswas

Panellists:

1. Nilanjana Bhattacharjee, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India. **Geographies of Exile: Situating the Motif of ‘Journey’ in Partition Remembrance from Barak Valley**
2. Arpita Bose, Hooghly Mohsin College, India. **The Tragic Displacement from Burma to India: A Case Study on Burma Returnee Bengali Community**
3. Angmo Bhotia, Delhi University, India. **Transition of Transhumance Community: A Case Study of Khampa Bhotias**

4:30 pm–5:00pm: Tea

5:00 pm–6:00pm: Valedictory Lecture “Illiberalism, Migration, and the Politics of Dedevelopment in Europe: A Profile of Racial Capitalism”

Chair: Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty, Calcutta Research Group, India

Speaker: Ioana Vrabiescu, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands

6:00 pm–6:10 pm: Distribution of Certificates

6:10 pm–6:25 pm: Remarks by Participants and Partner Institutions

6:25 pm–6:30pm: Vote of Thanks, Debashree Chakraborty

***This is a tentative schedule subject to last minute changes.*

Workshop Sessions

The workshop began in Kolkata on 17 November 2023 with the inaugural session. Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury welcomed all the participants and other guests in the workshop. Nadja Dorschner, Resident Representative, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (RLS)-South Asia, gave the inaugural remarks. Apart from the Module Coordinators and participants' presentations, there was a book release and discussion on the handbook of Keywords in Forced Migration and Refugee Studies on 17 November 2023. Nadja Dorschner, Resident Representative, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (RLS)-South Asia, formally released the book. Paula Banerjee, Nasreen Chowdhury, Priya Singh (the co-editors of the book) and Samir Kumar Das the discussant as well as Abhijit Mazumder from Frontpage publishing house shared their views on the edited volume. The workshop had parallel sessions in addition to the stand-alone sessions and a field trip. The field trip was arranged on the last day of the workshop. Sabir Ahamed, Research Coordinator of the Pratichi (India) Institute and Member, CRG, facilitated the field trip in the port area in collaboration with the organisation Know Your Neighbour. The main aim of the field trip was to familiarise the workshop participants with one of the oldest migration routes and the role of the port in migration.

Inaugural Session

The inaugural session of the Eighth Annual Winter Workshop was chaired by the Director, Shyamalendu Majumdar, who gave the introductory remarks on the Workshop and the Calcutta Research Group's (CRG) long-time engagement with the field of migration. Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury introduced the pioneering work, research and areas of specialisation of the Calcutta Research Group and the themes of the Annual Workshop, often referred to as the "Winter Workshop" over the last twenty-five years. He also spoke on the basic structure of the Workshop, its themes, and the necessity of participants' feedback forms. Noting the importance of the feedback form, he remarked that it is an essential document that aids in the understanding of the nuances of the **Inaugural Session of the Workshop, 17 November 2023** ce is of great help in formulating the structure of subsequent workshops. He also gave a brief account of the evolution of the Workshop from its inception until today. This was followed by a round of self-introductions by all the participants. **Nadia Dorschner**, the resident representative of Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, offered her comments on the Workshop after the introduction of participants. She spoke about the CRG-RLS collaboration and highlighted the constructive nature of this joint endeavour. Nadia's comments were followed by Prof. Paula Banerjee's briefing about the workshop. She spoke on the importance of engaging in rigorous academic engagement throughout the days of the Workshop. She also pointed out the strict anti-harassment stance that CRG has against all sorts of harassment and how CRG can be a place of learning and creating a network of likeminded people working with displacement and migration.



Inaugural Session

Workshop Module Lectures

MODULE A. Shock Migration in the Wake of Crises like War, Famine, Flood, other Natural Disasters, and Pandemic (Visibility, Scale, Migrant Networks, Adaptability, Policy Response, and Migrant's Autonomy)

Nasreen Chowdhory, University of Delhi, and Calcutta Research Group, India and Manish K. Jha, Tata Institute of Social Sciences-Mumbai and Calcutta Research Group

Chowdhory began the module lecture by talking about the idea of “shock mobility” in the larger framework of “mobility turn” in social science, that delved into the experiences of migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Referring to the work of Shelly and Urry who initiated the paradigm of “mobility turn” she highlighted the multidisciplinary aspect of the paradigm, shedding light on how traditional ideas of “nation-state citizenship” are being transformed in the face of growing transnational mobility. She put forth the complexity of shock migration as it is difficult to conceptualise and categorise because of its wide range of underlying reasons, the behavioural differences in affected people, and the institutional adaptations to such sudden displacements. Shock mobility, as opposed to long-term displacement, arises in reaction to abrupt and severe disruptions. This is exemplified by the images of migrants escaping dangerous boat journeys in the Mediterranean Sea, intense heat during the pandemic, and war-torn areas like Syria, Ukraine, Afghanistan and presently Gaza. Shock mobility denotes not just a lack of voluntariness but also the difficulty of completing a journey or arriving at a desired location. Mobility is associated with freedom and choice, whereas shock mobility sometimes represents a condition of not having any rights. Furthermore, given that migrants are vulnerable to ongoing or unanticipated difficulties in their lives and surroundings, it is important to comprehend shock mobility beyond situations in which shocks are explicitly induced. As the talk proceeded, Manish K. Jha underlined how shocks have supported the ruling class to advance extreme neo-liberal policies. He brought up the fact that shocks or disasters divert attention away from detrimental policies, citing the pandemic as an example of how some of these effects occurred. He illuminated the complicated and extremely unsettling scenario of migration in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak, especially during the lockdown periods. In an attempt to stop the virus from spreading, the lockdown closed businesses, forced people out of their temporary housing, and left migratory populations more susceptible to hunger, disease, and poverty. The exodus of migrants raises pertinent questions whether the government should have assisted migrants to return home or should have ensured their stay in their places of residences. Furthermore, choices to bring workers back to fulfil corporate and state needs in the midst of economic instability compound the issue, demanding a comprehensive and nuanced approach to addressing the various difficulties encountered by migrant populations during these exceptional times. Moving away from situation of pandemic, he highlighted the daily existence of migrants in metropolitan settings that is characterised by their lack of visibility, eclipsed by shocking incidents that bring them to the attention of the public. The vulnerability of migrants is periodically brought to light by accidental deaths at worksites, including construction site collapses, girder and crane mishaps, fires, and numerous other workplace events. Their employment in dangerous sectors such as manufacturing, mining, agriculture, and construction places them at a higher risk of dying from work-related accidents. The Global Migration Data Analysis Centre has emphasised that migrants are disproportionately exposed to occupational dangers due to the nature of their profession. Their susceptibility to injuries, accidents, and even fatalities position them consistently on the precipice of shock-inducing situations.

Module B. Legal Regimes and Policy Frameworks (international Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law; Global Compact, Refugee Protection Regime, and the Limits of the Convention, and Global Compacts, Regional Conventions, National Jurisprudence, etc.)

Sahana Basavapatna, Trial Court, Bangalore and Calcutta Research Group, India

Basavapatna spoke about three law cases (two from Assam, one from West Bengal) of Rohingyas in India, pointing to the legal frameworks under which the so called “refugees” can be clubbed. The referred cases were those of Dipak Gharti (No. 25/2022), Mohammad Sadiq & Anr. Shilpa Singh (No. 123/2022) and Sayed Noor and others (No. 2060/2017). Basavapatna walked everyone through the process of claiming refugee status and the right to reside in India, when Rohingyas fall under the category of foreigners according to the Foreigners Act, 1946. It was also demonstrated how the UNHCR refugee certificates are handled by Indian courts and authorities. She talked about the uncertainty in how the issue of Rohingya refugees in India are dealt with despite being recognised as refugees by the Indian state as well as by the media, where the courts especially at the level of magistracy are dealing with cases differently. She also talked about the policy of non-refoulement in this case since India is not a signatory to the 1951 Geneva Convention. Sahana Basavapatna further elaborated the complexities through her discussions of three prominent cases involving the Rohingyas.

The questions circulated around the different roles and mechanisms of Indian jurisdictions, the nation states’ way of classifying and handling various types of foreigners, as well as the knowledge and support transmitted to the Rohingyas in court settings.

Module C. Statelessness

K.M. Parivelan, Tata Institute of Social Sciences-Mumbai and Calcutta Research Group, India

Parivelan’s session explored the concept of statelessness, delving into the examples of various stateless groups such as the Urdu speaking Biharis in Bangladesh, the Rohingya refugees, Sri Lankan Tamil refugees and the West Pakistan refugees in India. He noted how the de facto statelessness of some communities are not adequately studied as much as researches focus on de jure statelessness. He gave the example of Urdu speaking Biharis in Bangladesh who despite acquiring citizenship and being documented are not able to gain their basic right of shelter properly. With regards to the Rohingya refugees, he suggests that India must investigate the example of Bangladesh which hosts a huge population of Rohingya refugees and extend humanitarian support to its neighbouring state. Coming to the case of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees also known as the “hill country” Tamils, he notes the arbitrariness of the Shastri-Bandaranaike pact which caused a scattering of their community across India and Sri Lanka, which depicts an inhumane treatment of the refugees. And amidst the global efforts to end statelessness across the world, he brings attention to the classic emergence of paradox in India, where the government is trying to create a new group of stateless people through the NRC and CAA acts passed in 2019. He concluded the session by giving some suggestions to address the plight of statelessness. Mapping the stateless population and bringing in more humane nationality and citizenship laws are important to address the issue and, a political will to accommodate the stateless population is important from the government as well as the civil society.

Module D: Gender, Race Religion and other Faultlines of Protection Architecture

Paula Banerjee, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand and Calcutta Research Group, India

Banerjee in her module lecture talked of the intersectionality of gender, race, religion and among several instances, highlighted the most contemporary instance of Jews in Gaza, amidst an ongoing conflict. This example underscores the shared impact of conflict situations on common people. It draws attention to the fact that in conflicts like these, it is the common people who bear the ultimate brunt of the situation. The talk emphasised the paramount importance of gender issues, surpassing even race and religious concerns, especially regarding resource allocation. Gender was viewed as an intersectional issue, intersecting and intertwining with various aspects such as race, religion, and power dynamics. Racism played a pivotal role, influencing citizenship issues and often being a deciding factor in power politics. The discourse highlights how identity politics rooted in power dynamics, contributed to unequal treatment and continuous exclusion. Authors referenced historical contexts, including African women's experiences in the 18th and 19th centuries and the struggles of domestic workers, especially women, who faced significant challenges during the pandemic due to their informal work status. The speakers emphasised the importance of recognising and empowering women in various sectors, including healthcare and immigration, where women often faced challenges due to their gender. The discussions called for increased control over resources and a shift in societal perceptions to acknowledge women's roles and contributions, advocating for changes in policies, particularly in the context of migration and citizenship. The talks also delved into the complexities faced by marginalised groups like Rohingya women and the necessity to address power imbalances for effective change. They highlighted the interconnectedness of gender, power, and control, emphasising the need to challenge societal norms and power structures for the empowerment and recognition of women's rights.

Module E: Refugee and Migrant Labour, Precarious Forms and Globalisation

Iman Mitra, Shiv Nadar University and Calcutta Research Group, India

Mitra offered a genealogy of the idea of informal labour in India and the world at large. Starting from a report of the Royal Commission on Labour in India published by the colonial government in 1931, the lecturer provided a long duration view of how the worker was imagined and idealised, how industrial and agricultural labour was defined against one another, and how all these social transformations were implicated in the desired trajectory of forward moving progress. In a nutshell, the argument was we can find the genesis of gig and platform labour not on the digital boom, but further back. The last chronological point fixes the early 1970s, when the ILO 'discovered' the weight informal sector and argued that it should be linked to the formal sector, by flexibilising the latter. Following on from that, Professor Arup Sen argued that hegemonic discourses pertaining to the imposition of the logic of capitalism is but one part of the story. The realities of the ground may, at times, subvert or transform these agendas in different ways. For example, Prof Sen cites the fact that even as labour agencies came into being, the initial labour officers were often military or law enforcement, highlighting that even in the creation of informality, the coercive aspect of capital accumulation figured prominently. Following the lectures, the discussion figured around the new relations inscribed into labouring subjects by neoliberal platform economies. Particularly, the flexibilisation of capital itself has embedded entrepreneurial characteristics within labouring subjects – workers now need to own capital and must engage their jobs from the position of the 'self-employed' a largely unprotected category.

Special Lecture “Platformed Precarity: A Tale of Two Cities”

Speaker: Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury
Chair for the Session: Arup K. Sen

The lecture elaborated on the challenges the gig workers face and in so doing, brought to light how platform economy generally functions across the world. Ray Chaudhury chose two cities on which he based his interviews and observations. The chosen cities were Kolkata and Vienna. For Kolkata, he observed that gig workers like Uber drivers, Swiggy, Zomato delivery persons have to work beyond their means to ensure sustenance because the business models of the concerned service providers are such that the gig workers are left with little amount as the commission money of the company is high. The speaker further noted that many of the workers suffer from ailments which are made worse by their long duty hours but due to poverty on one hand and the lack of proper health insurance which is others supposed to be provided by the companies, they are left with no other choice but to continue with the work often times risking their wellbeing. He spoke of one Uber driver who suffers from severe bouts of stomach ache but has no other option to continue driving except when he is having an attack. The only medication he ever took was once when he visited a Govt Health Care Centre and was diagnosed with ulcer. But he could not continue with the medication because buying medicines for himself would mean that he can't send adequate money to his family which live in a village in Bihar. He talked about a young boy who delivers food through certain food delivery apps. Since he doesn't have a bike, he could not attempt too many deliveries. Whatever little he earned, most of it was deducted by the apps as commission. The cycle of poverty he was in deterred his chances of taking up another job and the one he pursued did not promise any chance of coming out of that cycle either. The deliberations on the life of gig workers of Kolkata and in extension, India, highlighted the short comings of policy for platform workers in the sense that the companies or the apps for which they work, have no solid policy to assure their social or health security. The ambiguous label of 'Delivery Partner' harm their cause all the more as they don't receive the share as need to be accorded to business partners nor do they receive benefits as employees in corporate or government organisations do. The status of gig workers in India thus hangs on a loose thread. About his observations on Vienna, he remarked that gig workers there mostly come from underprivileged countries. They are migrants who live on the outskirts of not just the city but of the imagination of the citizens and the nations. While the state does not hesitate to utilise their services, they hardly extend any social security to these migrant workers who work hard not only to make their ends meet. The condition of the gig workers in both the cities is precarious nonetheless but precarity here operates in different ways.



Special Lecture by Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, 18 November 2023

Module F1: Climate, Ecology and Displacement

Shatabdi Das, Calcutta Research Group, India

Shatabdi Das pointed out the complex relation between ecosystem and climate, the interconnectedness and that one influences the other, both conducive and adversely. She highlighted, while biodiversity and ecosystem services help to adapt to and mitigate climate change - playing a crucial role in climate change combat, climate change also weakens the ability of natural systems to provide resources and essential services. The continuous loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems heighten risks of irreversible damages. Human occupancy of areas that are seismically unstable, ecologically fragile, and prone to natural hazards as an outcome of urban sprawl, paves the path to destructive calamities that uproot lives and disrupt ecological interfaces—such as the Kedarnath deluge of 2013, in the mountainous region of the state of Uttarakhand in north India. Sustainable practices for infrastructure, abstinence from overuse and over consumption that reduce waste - help to prevent habitat deterioration. Das questioned—how do persons with disabilities cope with environmental disruptions and climatic events and what are the specific approaches for preparing and protecting such persons? How can public and private enterprises develop social protection nets for reducing the damaging effects of disasters and the ensuing incidences of displacement thereafter? Community involvement and stakeholder participation in planning, play decisive roles for mitigation and management of environmental and climate disasters and related displacements. In the analysis of climate change, the frame of differentiated responsibility but differential vulnerability is important from policy perspective and global action. Analysis of the trajectories followed by labour migrants in the aftermath of natural hazards into detrimental environmental settings is important. In the international conventions and agreements, these aspects shape the core issues and focus areas, for assurance of environmental justice and protection of rights. Studies indicate that the impact of climate change is likely to be more intense in poor countries with higher population growth. Hence, the addressal of regional vulnerability to climate events and ecological deterioration becomes significant for prevention of displacement, protection of cross-border migrants, and the resettlement and rehabilitation of displaced communities.

Module F2: Ethics of Care and Protection

Samir Kumar Das, University of Calcutta, and Calcutta Research Group, India

Samir Kumar Das began his lecture by deftly asking “why should we care for and protect the victims of forced displacement”? The “we” here refers to those who had not faced displacement themselves yet harbour some form of ethical commitment to the victims of forced displacement. For those who have not personally experienced forced displacement, there exists a moral imperative to care for and protect its victims. The ethical language surrounding this commitment seeks to establish a communion between those untouched by displacement and those directly affected by it. This communion can only be realised through dialogue, as ethics is fundamentally dialogical, emerging at the site of conversation. The objective is to bridge divides and create an ethical community that transcends established boundaries. The module outlined three main streams of arguments and reasonings. First, the rights-based argument frames care and protection as a duty when the well-being of displaced persons constitutes a sufficient reason. However, the right against displacement is not an end-in-itself, requiring nuanced consideration. The second argument emphasised community and kinship as the basis for care, acknowledging the difficulty of organising responses beyond these established lines, especially in regions like South Asia. The humanitarian argument attempts to overcome these limits by viewing care as a moral exercise benefiting not only the individual but also others within the community. Power relations underpin

the discourse on care and protection, with the acknowledgment that ethics cannot be disentangled from power dynamics. Despite this, ethical agents often refuse to recognise the influence of power in their actions. The ethics of care and protection imposes the obligation of denying power's existence in the public sphere while simultaneously being shaped by it. The erasure of power becomes a precondition for ethical functioning in the public sphere, achieved through the language of argumentation and reasoning. Derrida's concept of “performative powerlessness” highlights how arguments aligning with systems and norms can become power bases themselves. In conclusion, Das highlighted the commitment to care for forced displacement victims relies on ethical dialogue, seeking to create a shared community. Argumentation and reasoning are crucial, contributing to a nuanced understanding. The various argumentative streams and the intricate relationship between ethics, power, and argumentation underscore the need for self-consciousness and acknowledgment of uncertainties in addressing forced migration.

Module F3: Media and Displacement

Samata Biswas, *Sanskrit University and Calcutta Research Group, India*

Biswas began the discussion with her module lecture titled ‘Framing the Illegal immigrant’. The overarching theme of this presentation related to the manner in which the perceived illegality of Bengali speaking migrants is reproduced in popular media, which in turn, facilitates discriminatory treatment of these individuals. In the initial part of the lecture, she focused on the manner in which a recently released Bengali movie *Raktabeej*, utilised pre-existing Islamophobic tropes to warn about illegal infiltration and cross border terrorism. In the latter parts of her lecture, she highlighted multiple examples of how the perceived illegality of Bengali speaking Muslim’s is regurgitated in various media reports, often exposing these sections to expulsion and eviction. In conclusion she highlighted certain spaces where immigrant/ migrant identities and histories are accepted and engaged with. The module in a nutshell took a closer look at the different ways in which media with a special focus on South Asia, recognise media as both channels of information and also as sources that shape reception of migrants and policy framing. After the presentation the participants discussed the scope of media and whether academics can be considered a part of it.



Module Lectures in the Workshop

Module Presentations

Module A. Shock Migration in the Wake of Crises like War, Famine, Flood, other Natural Disasters, and Pandemic (Visibility, Scale, Migrant Networks, Adaptability, Policy Response, and Migrant's Autonomy)

“Altered Mobilities in Climate Disasters and Resilience Building Initiatives among Cyclone Idai Impacted Communities in Chimanimani, Zimbabwe”

Charles Murata explored the long-term effects of Cyclone Idai in Chimanimani, Zimbabwe, concentrating on livelihood patterns and movement following the cyclone. Through participant observation and primary data from the researcher's own experience, he investigated mobility patterns, relocation choices, and survival tactics brought on by cyclones. He integrated secondary data from several sources to reveal the societal dynamics following the calamity. Further, Murata intended to contribute to efficient post-disaster recovery and climate change adaptation techniques, with a focus on community-driven resilience programmes. He looked at how policymakers, academics, and practitioners working in the fields of disaster management and community resilience can contribute greatly by understanding the complex relationships that exist between climatic catastrophes, mobility, and livelihoods.

“State Refugee Relationship: A Case Study of the Chin Refugees in Mizoram”

Chiranjib Boruah explored the complex dynamics of state-refugee relationships and the role of ethnic homogeneity in giving rights to the refugees through a case study on Chin refugees in Mizoram. Despite India's historical role as a refuge for displaced individuals, the absence of comprehensive legislation addressing refugee issues, compounded by its non-signatory status to key refugee conventions, poses challenges. Examining the perspectives of both displaced individuals and local inhabitants, he shed light on the acute crisis faced by the former while analysing the responses of Mizo locals toward Chin refugees. It addressed historical socio-economic ties that attract immigrants to Indian bordering areas, notably the community linkage between Chin immigrants and neighbouring Mizo communities. When asked whether the migration could be termed shock migration given its long-term nature, Baruah noted that while much of the migration was involuntary—stemming from housing blazes and attacks—it indeed represented shock migration. Addressing the query on assimilation into the local community as a solution, he acknowledged it as a complex dilemma, suggesting that refugee status could transform into citizenship upon assimilation into the local community sharing a similar communal identity.

“Many Faces of the Migrants in the MCU: Collaboration, Resistance, and Militarisation of the Shapeshifting Skrulls in *Secret Invasion*”

Debasree Sarkar examined how the refugee problem is portrayed in the Marvel Cinematic Universe by looking at the *Secret Invasion* series (2023) and concentrating on the Skrulls, an extra-terrestrial species that can change their appearance and seek sanctuary on Earth. With a focus on mistrust, terrorism, and the diverse makeup of refugee populations, she drew similarities with contemporary worries around refugees following the election of President Trump and the end of the Ukrainian War. Examining how the media shapes public opinion, Sarkar posed a question whether the Skrulls represent a “secret invasion” that people believe to be happening or whether they dispel the myth that all immigrants are inherently dangerous. She attempted to comprehend how, in an uncertain environment, popular media both reflects and shapes society views towards displaced persons.

“Climate Change and Shock Migration: Why are Women More Vulnerable?”

Kritika Katyayan explored the complex relationships between migration, gender, vulnerability, and climate change, highlighting the varied everyday effects of climate change on rural population of Sankri village of Uttarakhand. She engaged with the concept of “shock mobility,” a reaction to sudden hardship that is influenced by intricate relationships between social, economic, and ecological variables. Further, Katyayan focused on the long-term, covert consequences of climate change, likened to “slow violence,” especially for marginalised and disadvantaged communities. She brought forth the experiences from her fieldwork in Sankri which illustrated the slow violence of climate crisis. She examined how cultural norms increase women’s susceptibility to climate impacts and affect their migration decisions, with a focus on gender dynamics.

After the presentation, one comment was raised regarding the need to briefly describe the village for people to have a better view of the place and the other comment focussed on the need to distinguish between climate change crisis and the geological induced crisis.

“Climate Change-Induced Coastal Migration: Mapping the Vanishing Life-world of Seafarers of Malabar”

Shebeen Mehaboob A. P emphasised climate change-induced coastal migration as a pressing global issue, potentially surpassing traditional migration patterns. He delved into the correlation between climate change and migration, spotlighting Ponnani’s challenges—a coastal village in Kerala, India—such as dwindling fish stocks, rising sea levels, and erosion, advocating immediate coastal protection measures. Highlighting how environmental degradation propels migration, Shebeen looked at climate change as a “threat multiplier”, amplifying human insecurities and potential conflicts. Leveraging ethnographic methods to capture seafarers’ narratives, he advocated proactive strategies to safeguard vulnerable coastal regions and preserve seafarers’ traditional life-worlds.

A significant audience comment noted that declining fish availability compels fishers to venture into deeper seas, exposing them to heightened crises.

Module B. Legal Regimes and Policy Frameworks (international Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law; Global Compact, Refugee Protection Regime, and the Limits of the Convention, and Global Compacts, Regional Conventions, National Jurisprudence, etc.)

“Refugee’ a Legal Term? Implications of Non-Uniform Refugee Understandings for Conducting Research - An Anthropological Perspective on Working with Tibetans in India”

Julia Verbeek, coming from a European academic background with a focus on refugee and migration studies argued the term “refugee” is commonly understood and worked with as outlined in the 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. Her intent was to shed light onto the application of the term “refugee” to non-Western contexts and the implications aligned with that practice. Based on field research in Darjeeling, India at the Tibetan Refugee Self Help Centre, the Indian legal understanding of what being a refugee entails, as well as the emic perspective in the Tibetan community was explored. The goal was to identify different systems, how they intersect and to learn how to navigate them as a researcher while maintaining a decolonial approach. Obstacles came clear when viewing the term ‘refugee’ as a legal term, since this meaning doesn’t necessarily stand. If not—what does that leave the researcher of refugee studies with?

The presentation was followed by questions evolving around decolonial methodology and the usefulness of reflecting upon western gazes when entering different contexts. Another point of discussion was the applicability of the term “refugee” and its manifold meanings contrasting rather rigid legal scope.

“Criminalisation of irregular border crossing and its dilemma in the state of West Bengal”

Mrinalini Subba in her paper discussed the contradictions and complexities of criminalisation of mobility in the India Bangladesh Border. Her paper focusses on how the various legal categories contest the modalities of this process of criminalisation against the backdrop of a cultural and spatial dynamic of the border which has its own peculiarities in the Global context. She also talked about processes of repatriation of incarcerated Bangladeshi nationals. The questions her paper received were regarding the politics of border extending towards border villages in India, how repatriation is carried out and how do Bangladeshi inmates negotiate the process, their negotiations with identity and how resistance is performed through cross border mobility.

Module C. Statelessness

“Humanitarian Diplomacy in Motion: India’s Approach to Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees and the Complexities of Care in Migration Governance”

Avantika Dureha, in her paper titled engaged with the introduction to understanding India's approach to forced migration. The second part of the paper looked at the trajectory of forced migration from Sri Lanka. Then, it investigated the root causes behind the emergence of stateless populations in Sri Lanka. It critically assessed the policies and practices of the Sri Lankan government that have contributed to statelessness among specific communities. Additionally, it shed light on the challenges stateless individuals face in Sri Lanka. It then took a deep dive into India's foreign policy, revealing its approach to addressing the statelessness issue among Indian-Origin Tamil refugees. It also delved into potential solutions for managing the problem of statelessness wherein the solutions encompassed legal, diplomatic, and humanitarian approaches. The analysis considers not only India's role but also underscores the importance of international cooperation in resolving statelessness.

“Invisible Lives: Addressing Statelessness among the Up-Hill Country Tamils in India”

Blessy Mathew, in her paper, threw light on the multifaceted issue of statelessness among the Up Hill Country Tamils in India. It introduced and established the context of statelessness by giving a general overview of its definition, the causes of statelessness, its effects, the international legal agreements and its history in the South Asian context. She gave a thorough overview of the Up Hill Country Tamils, tracing its historical origins, demographic composition and sociocultural contributions and analysing the legal system surrounding statelessness in India. The presentation drew upon historical and socio-economic analysis of rehabilitation in India, particularly Sullia and Puttur taluks of Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka and through purposive sampling data has been collected from respondents. She discussed and highlighted the issue's importance within this community by exploring their *de facto* statelessness-legal and human rights implications, socio economic implications, discrimination and vulnerabilities, and the psychological toll it has on individuals and families of this community. The concluding section of the presentation highlighted that even though the repatriates have been granted citizenship, they are denied the rights they have to legally receive because they were sometimes treated as foreigners by the receiving polity and denied full citizenship privileges.

“Inclusiveness as Organising Principle: Ensuring Rights and Social Protection for Interstate Migrants in Kerala, India”

Navas M Khadar, in his paper focused on *de jure* and *de facto* statelessness in practice. The paper conducted the study in 12 districts of Kerala from November 2022 to August 2023 under the project titled “Effect of Social Institutional and Technological Interventions” on access to health care among interstate migrant labourers in Kerala where 790 migrants were interviewed in depth. The paper delves into the historical migration patterns within India, starting from 1891, highlighting the socio-economic factors influencing migration. Then, it discusses the complexities of internal migration trends in India from 1971 to 2011, emphasising on factors such as employment, marriage, and urbanisation, with notable gender differences in migration patterns. The concept of “bare life” was introduced to illustrate the vulnerable position of migrant workers, devoid of legal protections and political participation. The conclusion emphasised the necessity for a right-based and inclusive policy for migrant workers in Kerala, grounded in human rights principles.

“Statelessness of Rohingya Refugees in India”

Sahla Rahmathulla, in her paper, examined the statelessness and the plight of Rohingya refugees living in India. She began by analysing the historical context of Myanmar explaining how the Rohingya as an ethnic community were discriminated during the British colonial rule which administered the region through “divide and rule” policy. And the discrimination which continued even after the colonial period through the hostility of the Buddhist majority and the subsequent governments in Myanmar rendered the Rohingya effectively stateless. Coming to the refugee population in India, she described the ways in which the Rohingya are experiencing the effects of statelessness in their everyday lives taking the case study of Rohingya refugees in Balapur, Hyderabad. She highlighted how the surveillance by the government and the undocumented situation causes the denial of basic rights to refugees such as right to work, get educated etc. The refugees are thus living with a sense of hopelessness about the future. She concluded by suggesting that some means of accommodating the refugees through the framework of law needs to be considered. She also suggested that proper documentation of the Rohingya refugees in India and providing them the right to work and get educated are also important to lift them out of their precarious situation.

“Beyond Tangible Spaces: Researching Non-Citizenship in Assam”

Samik Ray Choudhury, in his paper, discussed the way the current anxieties relate to the drastic demographic and geographical changes that the region underwent during the colonial period. While the latter parts discussed the way the figure of the foreigner/illegal immigrant became central to the manner in which legal and social norms of citizenship were articulated in Assam, which allows for the emergence of the non-citizen. The concluding section of the presentation highlighted the probable features of a non-citizen, which were, the definitive declaration of one’s foreignness, absence of nationality, specific location in Assam. These aren’t by any means exhaustive characterisations, and it is hoped that further discussion on the emerging issue of non-citizenship provides a more nuanced perspective.

The presentation was followed by discussions regarding the differentiation in terms of categories between the Sri Lankan Tamils and Hill Tamils and it later revolved around the idea the post-colonial envisions of citizenship and if it was possible to have different kinds of citizenship based on one particular case study in Assam.

“The Bangladeshi Immigrants in India: Is it Diasporic Community? A Special Reference to a Settlement in Odisha”

Chandrika Ray examined the Bangladeshi immigrant community settled in Odisha, India, evaluating whether their multi-generational presence reflects a diasporic identity. Despite residing among the host Odia population for decades, these immigrants maintain a distinct Bangladeshi Bengali identity through language and cultural practices reminiscent of their homeland in Bangladesh. Their strong ties to specific locations in Bangladesh and connections with other settlements in India have been underscored in this paper. However, despite these characteristics aligning with diasporic traits, the community lacks formal recognition. Through ethnographic research and a blend of primary and secondary data, the study aimed to uncover the community's perceptions of their diasporic status, shedding light on the discrepancy between their identity and the absence of acknowledgment within academic and official realms.

“Cross-border Networks and Their Function: Tracing the Changing Nature of India-Nepal Open Border”

Kalpana Jha aimed to explore the *embodied displacement* suffered by Dalits in the Koshi plains vis-à-vis recurring floods in the region. She used Deleuze and Guattari's (1984) “assemblage” as an analytical framework to theorise *embodied displacement* as a permanent form of displacement that Dalits in the Koshi region navigate to survive in relation to necro politics that is a way of subjugating and excluding marginalised segments of the population, as if they were disposable or sheer apathy that treats them as simply absent. Referring to assemblage like the nervous system, which transmits sensory signals from the brain to the body's organs through neurons, she argued how politics reach from the highest levels of government into every corner of society and unfolds on most marginalised bodies of Dalits further pushing them at the margins. She used the concept of assemblage to highlight the intricate web of interconnected issues such as caste hierarchies, economic disparities, and landlessness, state apathy and neglect that reproduce and perpetuate and exacerbate displacement, vulnerability, and dire life circumstances in the face of disaster.

“Access to Justice for Rural Women under Foreigner's Tribunal Act”

Nargis Choudhury highlighted the pivotal role of justice in upholding equity for women in Assam, amidst historical challenges of “illegal immigration”. She addressed the hurdles faced by women, including biases and limited documentation, especially evident in the exclusion of 1.9 million individuals, mainly women and children, from the 2019 National Register of Citizens, risking statelessness. Choudhury's study focused on women's struggles within Assam's Foreigner Tribunals, revealing biases and discriminatory practices under the Foreigner's Tribunal Act of 1946. Her non-doctrinal and empirical approach, incorporating personal interviews, legal analysis, and experiential insights, substantiated the need for reform. Her research featured three compelling cases depicting the immense suffering of women in detention camps. These narratives vividly revealed the financial struggles these women endure, showcasing the lasting consequences of being labelled “foreigners” by the Tribunals in Assam. Even after release, these women continued to grapple with enduring financial hardships, highlighting the profound and lasting impact of their wrongful detention. Additionally, she presented pragmatic solutions to mitigate these challenges, emphasizing the imperative of gender-sensitive procedures, broader acceptance of documentation, and policy amendments ensuring equality and access to justice for women in Assam. Her recommendations included raising legal awareness among vulnerable groups, and

improving access to legal aid, especially for women facing issues under the Foreigner's Tribunal Act. These pragmatic solutions aimed to promote equality and access to justice in Assam's legal landscape.

“The Intersections of Gender, Im/Mobility, and Governance in the Sundarbans Delta, India”

Sonu Tewari argued in the complex mobility grid in this fluid ecological space of Sundarbans Delta, climate change is a relatively new driver that complicates mobility patterns. The disasters act as triggers to propel destruction and expose the wrongdoings of experimentation done in Sundarbans in the form of embankments, deforestation, reclamation, settlements. Landscapes, Waterscapes and Fishscapes are changing rapidly, and the viability of fishing, agriculture, and freshwater is at stake. Her findings suggested not only male, but also female, and young and able-bodied people are moving out for work based on their networks, due to demand for labour, and the level of crisis at home- As they migrate out, those vulnerable are left behind to deal with the problems back home, both economic and ecological. ‘Problems Back home’ also requires coping with different forms of mobility ranging from being relocated or displaced, both temporarily and permanently, depending on whether/ or how often their lands were submerged/washed away/ or swallowed by the sea and how social factors like age, caste, gender and political affiliation of people facilitates/delimits the access to land and resources.

Module E: Refugee and Migrant Labour, Precarious forms and Globalisation

“Pawns for Profit-Analysing the Plight of Bangladeshi Female Migrant Workers to KSA between 2015-2018”

Ahmad Ibrahim, highlighted the plight of Bangladeshi female migrant workers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, between 2015 and 2018. He provided a Foucauldian analysis of transnational migration governmentality, emphasizing the mutual constitutiveness of the market, state and migrants themselves. These women are thus turned into "pawns for profit" — they internalise at least part of the disciplining and/or self-surveilling discourses, jeopardising their security in order to enable male migration to the same receiving states, remittances for the state and profits for migration industry. The discussion session approached legal protection regimes and the possibilities of bettering the lives and labour conditions for these migrant workers, but legal provision remains scarce and NGO work seems to be directed only at advocating for further state intervention (controversial, at least, considering that the Bangladeshi state directly profits from this labour regime).

“Bodies in Solidarity: Exploring Neapolitan Migrant Struggles through Embodiment”

Beatriz Gomes de Figueiredo, spoke on how migration in/to Europe is always a politically charged topic. This was brought to the forefront by the ‘European Migration Policy’. In this context, the presentation highlighted Naples, the biggest city in Southern Italy and the ways in which migrants mobilise themselves through the “Movimento Migranti e Rifugiati Napoli” (MMRN), building synergies between anti-racist, anti-capitalist movements building up in the backdrop of Naples’ own genealogy of labour organisation. In this analysis, Beatriz provided a reading of the movement as the cite of subjectification, where migrant bodies subvert exploitative ascriptions of racialisation and marginalisation to demand a more pronounced subjecthood within the polity. Beatriz asserted that the development of “body of the migrant” forms prior to the journey itself, through western impositions and interventions that necessitate mobility; and that the movement becomes a unique space for subversion, as well as consensus building across

differing strata of migrants and, consequently, workers in Europe. The discussion following the presentation approached the notion of sexualised bodies within radical spaces of migrant/labour organising; particularly focusing on the ways in which women migrants, and women's bodies figured within the movement. The discussion ended with the understanding that migrant solidarities can also be spaces for contestations. Beatriz highlighted how the racial category of blackness was instrumental in the organising, but that similar space was not always occupied by other non-white bodies.

“Can Recruitment Be Fair? Possibilities and Paradoxes of Ethical Recruitment in the Eastern Himalayas”

Nirvan Pradhan's paper looked at the role of recruiting agencies in engendering “economies of anticipation” within young people in the Himalayas. In this emic reading of aspirant young migrants, Nirvan located the process through which recruitment agencies engage in the production of dreams, which in turn ascribes young people with potentialities for transnational labour. This anticipation, Nirvan contended, re-territorialises futures across time and space and allows for the reclamation of masculinities by engendering hope and the promise of stability. Conversely, the recruitment spaces inculcated a sense of immobility and stagnation with regards to being in Indian cities for these aspirants. The production of these dreams based itself on an assemblage of actors that work to instil these aspirant subjectivities. The presentation focused on how the anticipation of moving abroad becomes a moral economy, influencing present actions. The presenter also discussed the role of *The Emigration Act* of 1983 and its regulation of recruitment agencies. The discussion session focused on the ways in which the State in India continued to benefit from migration as a portion of its unemployed workforce found employment abroad while contributing towards national economy in the form of remittances.

Module F1 Climate, Ecology and Displacement

“Ha Beema – The Conservation Discourse and Shrinking Ecologies in Madhupur's Sal Forests”

Ahmad Ibrahim's work, a photo essay traced the histories of the protests of the Garo community living in Madhupur and struggling with the continuous degradation of ecology in Madhupur. The relationship between the forest department, the indigenous community and the forest itself is complex and marked by state violence and state-sanctioned profiteering. The essay followed the perspective of Eugene Nokrek, a Garo rights activist, and President of the Joyenshahi Adibashi Porishod, an indigenous rights group that sprang up in 1962 to protect the rights of forest dependent indigenous communities in Madhupur.

“Storytelling after Cyclone Idai Disaster in Chimanimani: Community-driven Support Beyond State”

Charles Murata did a photo essay technique (Nithil, 2021) combined with extracts of video interviews to portray the displacement and devastation caused by Cyclone Idai while highlighting various community-driven responses that surpassed state efforts in Chimanimani, Zimbabwe. Drawing from on-site experiences, the researcher presented a narrative in the aftermath of the cyclone disaster, utilising photographs taken shortly after the event and video testimonials from individuals who witnessed and survived the tragedy. The primary focus of this study revolves around exploring how community initiatives can effectively mitigate the impact of cyclone disasters and foster community resilience.

“Climate Change and the Rural Communities: The Case of Uttarkashi District”

Kritika Katyayan investigated the often-overlooked effects of climate change in Sankri, Uttarakhand, an ecologically delicate region that relies largely on agriculture and tourism. Extreme weather occurrences interrupt daily life and damage livelihoods in the Himalayan state, and the situation is deteriorating. Climate change, a “wicked problem,” complicates daily life for the predominantly rural population. She emphasised the disproportionate impact on women, who make up the majority of the agricultural labour. The destruction of apple orchards demonstrates both obvious and hidden repercussions, emphasising the importance of long-term community resilience through sustainable solutions that integrate old knowledge with new ways.

“Understanding Landslides in the hills of North Bengal”

Mrinalini Subba spoke of incidents of landslides in the hills of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Kurseong, and Mirik. Landslides in the region happen on an annual basis and a large number of people are harmed by them. Monsoon further aggravates the problem. Against this backdrop, Subba gave an overview of the ways in which the people in the region navigate their lives through the frequency of landslides and the strategies they use to mitigate the effects of landslides. She used a video documentation by Sumit Dewan for the news platform “Video Volunteers” to further elaborate the point.

“Heatwaves of Change: Climate Crisis and Hope in the “Ministry of Future”

Nirvan Pradhan’s presentation centred on heat as a thermodynamic category that affects the working capabilities and living conditions of people in India and the world. His discussion focussed on the effect of heat on people in their working conditions. How does heat as a thermodynamic category affect millions of people in India? Through his creative blog post, he drew on heat stress and the book under discussion to discuss heat waves as a serious crisis that impacts people on a warming planet.

“Encounters and Efforts in Adversity: Narratives from the Sundarbans”

Sonu Tewari presented an investigative report on the lived experience of women dealing with mobility and immobility in the Sundarbans Delta. She used the concept of “Kostho” and “Chestha” to capture the essence of the experiences and efforts in coping with adversities. Without any state-led support, the pressures are entirely dealt by households facing the stressors. She highlighted that the coping labour takes various forms; hardships, sufferings, and struggles that lay the foundation of their agency and endeavours, thus revealing the power politics of mobility and immobility in the Sundarbans Delta and how these dynamics intersect with the embodied experiences of women were further delved upon.

Module F2: Ethics of Care and Protection

“Camped Realities: Exploring Ethical Frontiers in India's Sri Lankan Refugee Camps”.

Avantika Dureha in her exploratory research attempted to contribute to the existing scholarly discourse concerning refugee camps as a distinctive form of exclusionary and coercive refugee governance. This aligns with a growing body of scholarship that has emerged in recent years, examining India's social and political landscape and its responses to Sri Lankan refugees engages with the politics of invisibility. Emphasising the significance of the politics of ethics and care in refugee management, this research offered valuable insights for policymakers and practitioners to develop more compassionate and effective strategies in addressing the needs of refugees, ultimately contributing to a more inclusive and human-centered approach to the global refugee

crisis. The paper unfolds with an introductory overview, progresses to scrutinise the politics of invisibility, navigates the intricacies of sovereignty and refugees as political entities, examines India's response to the Sri Lankan refugee influx and camp life, culminating in a conclusive remark in the final section. In the discussion session with the audience, she shed more light on the special camps for refugees and according to her these special camps are like prisons where the violation of human rights cases is there.

“Catholic Ethics and the Religious Moral Economy in Neapolitan Migrant Care”

Beatriz de Figueiredo's presentation was a meditation on the effects of power on ethical concerns. She looked specifically at the impact of catholic ethics in Naples, southern Italy, where the lack of state resources (or political will) externalises migrant care towards mutualist and solidarity associations — which her main fieldwork focuses on — and catholic solidarity networks, such as the Red Cross or Caritas, for example. In the context of charity, the emphasised oftentimes is not bettering migrant's livelihoods, but on performing moral virtue, on achieving purity and salvation through service to others. This approach prioritised the volunteer over the migrant, with obvious connotations of neocolonialism and "white saviourism". As such, her presented work consisted of a photographic essay that, through digital collage, juxtaposed catholic roadside shrines in the city with migrant portraits, and so at least symbolically reclaiming public space for migrants, their experiences, and their bodies. Hence, these kinds of “memento mori” migrant shrines shed light on the unequal power structures that condition the provision of migrant protection, one that continually erases the agency of migrants to the benefit of painting “natives” (imagined as white, catholic, and Italian) as the moral subject par excellence. Further a discussion with the audience through question answer was held where she further discussed the importance of catholic ethics in humanitarian crisis and her limitation of the study in understanding of the responses of the public in it.

“Between Two Worlds: Love, Loss and Longing”

Blessy Mathew's presentation on “Between Two Worlds: Love, Loss and Longing” was a poignant short story that delved into the plight of statelessness among Sri Lankan Tamils in India. Set against the backdrop of civil war and its aftermath, the narrative explored the ethical dimensions of care and protection for a community marginalised and rendered invisible in their adopted homeland. The story centred around Meera, a young Tamil woman born and raised in a refugee camp in Tamil Nadu, India. Meera's parents fled Sri Lanka during the height of the civil war, seeking safety and refuge in India. However, due to bureaucratic oversight and convoluted legal process, Meera and thousands of other Sri Lankan Tamils in similar circumstances found themselves in a stateless limbo, denied of citizenship and the rights that come with it. With a deep focus on the ethics of care and protection, the story brought to light the struggles and challenges of the stateless individuals living on society's fringes, constantly facing the fear of deportation and separation from their families. Additionally, the story examined the emotional and psychological toll that it has on Meera and her peers' lives. The ongoing dread of imprisonment and deportation and the psychological wounds from fleeing war-torn Sri Lanka highlight how urgent it is from an ethical perspective to address refugees and their issues. It drew attention to the urgent need for policies prioritising the rights, care, and protection of the individuals trapped in this impenetrable limbo. In the end, the narrative motivated to confront the perpetuating systems and embrace the values of empathy and care as agents of change in the fight for justice and equality for everyone. At last, she got some suggestions from the audience where she got some constructive suggestions to use “storification” as her story felt like a research report.

“Ethnicity and refugee care: The case of Chin refugees and North-eastern state of India”

Chiranjib Barua in his presentation discussed the practices of community ethics while dealing with the Chin refugees in Mizoram. He discussed the complexities of ethnic similarities and their implications for refugee care in the context of Chin refugees in Mizoram, India. The Chin refugees in Mizoram shared ethnic ties with the local Mara community. He discussed how various ethnic factors help in shaping the attitude of the local community toward accepting or rejecting refugees. While addressing the Chin refugee issues, he also discussed instances of discrimination and exclusion based on ethnicity, particularly the displacement of Reang's from Mizoram and Kuki's from Manipur. He further exemplified the Mizo's gradual shift from welcoming to discriminatory attitude against Chin refugees who engaged in illegal activities, posing a challenge to their society. He highlighted how the willingness of the host community to provide refuge may change when their societal norms are threatened. His presentation explained the role of ethnic similarities in shaping refugee care and protection, emphasising the importance of understanding local dynamics and ethnic relations in providing a humanitarian ground for some refugees while potentially displacing others with different ethnic backgrounds. At the end, he concluded the presentation by arguing that the host communities welcoming attitude will only last till their community is economically and socially safe from the inclusion of refugees into their community.

“The Role of Ethics of Care and Protection in Ethnographic Field Work”

Julia Verbeek's presentation emphasised the ethical responsibilities in anthropological research, particularly qualitative ethnographic studies where clear protocols may not exist. While guidelines from organizations like the American Anthropological Association are available, the nature of ethnographic research often exempts researchers from formal ethical committees. This absence of oversight prompts reflection on the researcher's responsibility and the discipline itself in ensuring ethical standards, especially when working with marginalised groups in complex political contexts. Using the example of Tibetan refugees in Darjeeling, she acknowledged the imperative of ethical research practices, considering the vulnerability of the participants. Despite not assuming an activist or humanitarian role, the researcher grappled with the responsibility to protect participants in a non-harmful research process. Additionally, being a European researcher working in an Indian context prompts a critical examination and adaptation of ethical standards. According to her, the argument underscores the need to explore ownership of responsibility for ethical standards in the absence of rigorous supervision. She discussed how Western ethical guidelines can be applied to diverse contexts like Darjeeling, acknowledging potential obstacles and opportunities. Ultimately, in her presentation, she seeks to provide an outline for ethical research in ethnography, benefiting not only their own work but also guiding researchers in similar disciplines facing similar challenges. In response to the audience questions on the problem of following ethics in the field, she said that irrespective of giving case and other gifts to the respondent during the interview, she often provides food stuff to the respondent. Further, the Module Coordinator, Professor Samir Kumar Das clarified by saying that it should be the responsibility of the researcher to stay away from giving any rewards, instead it should be the ethically responsibility of the researcher to make a clarity on his/her helplessness on not able to help them.

“Gendered Migration in Kerala: Exploring the Challenges and Human Rights Issues Faced by Female Migrant Workers in Perumbavoor, Ernakulam District, Kerala”

Navas M Khadar's presentation delved into the challenges faced by female migrant workers in Perumbavoor, Kerala, focusing on the data collected from October 2022 to August 2023. During the presentation, he explored the ethical aspects of migrant women workers globally, referencing international organisations and legal frameworks. His study emphasised the feminisation of labour migration in India, particularly in Kerala, showcasing the diverse ways women migrate. Job

categories and case studies illustrate the experiences of migrant women, including issues like low wages, inadequate facilities, and exploitation. The conclusion highlighted recommendations for improving migrant worker conditions, urging enhanced labour law enforcement, empowerment initiatives, and comprehensive support systems. In response to the audience question he explained three different cases of female migrant workers and how they faced discrimination differently based on their origin. Also, in the audience question on how he can use the policy suggestion mentioned in his presentation, he said that these suggestions already published in journals and he also thinking to recommend it to the government.

“Silenced by the System -A Study of Women’s Access to Justice under Foreigner’s Tribunal Act, 1946 in Assam”

Nargis Choudhury in her creative assignment, focused on a documentary titled "Silenced by the System," shedding light on the plight of forty-seven-year-old Momiran Nessa, detained for nearly a decade after being declared a foreigner by the Foreigners Tribunal. The documentary included interviews with advocate Aman Wadud and Anjuman Ara Begum, who asserted that Momiran Nessa’s case was not merely about detecting a foreigner but represents a broader issue of arbitrary denationalisation. In her presentation she said that the detained women experience numerous challenges, lacking basic access to human rights and enduring unsafe and unsanitary conditions. Confined together without regard for safety or hygiene, women describe their situation as hellish, stripping away their livelihoods. In the response to the audience questions, she discusses the detention camps situated in Assam and how it has become problematic for a researcher to get entry to the detention camp. She further response to questions on ethicality to present the documentary to public platform and said that she will discuss with CRG about it. Also, in the discussion she shows the ground reality of the detention camps which are highly violating human rights by not giving proper living facilities and keeping detainees for more than ten years.

Module F3: Media and Displacement

“The Bangladeshi Immigrants in India: Refugee or Diaspora. A Special Reference to a Settlement in Odisha”

Chandrika Ray, shed light on the often-ignored Bengali refugees settled in Odisha who are known as “Bangladeshi Immigrants community”. In her presentation she highlighted the manner in which this population group came to occupy this region. She further explored the manner in which experiences of displacement and refugee identity varied from generation to generation. Finally, she highlighted the importance of documents like refugee cards to these groups.

“The Politics of Representation in Films: Documenting Displacement and Visualising the Vulnerable”

Debasree Sarkar presented on the documentary Fatima’s drawing, which, through innovative methods of storytelling highlighted the effects of war and displacement on the mental health of a child. Debasree elaborated on these themes in her presentation and simultaneously pointed out the manner in which the displaced child had to learn the native language of the region she was displaced to. After both these presentations the participants discussed the question of ethics and identity that researchers have to confront while doing field work.

“Interview of Rohingya Refugees in Balapur, Hyderabad”

Sahla Rahmatulla in her presentation brought out the difficulties faced by Rohingya refugees living in Hyderabad. The narratives in her interview brought out abject difficulties faced by this community and how their identity and indeterminate legal status proved to be a roadblock in

accessing even the basic human rights like education. After the presentation the participants discussed how collecting information is complicated by the fact that there aren't any "legally recognised" camps for the Rohingya's and how that may complicate the process of collecting information.

“Problematic Portrayal of Migrant workers in Malayalam Print Media”

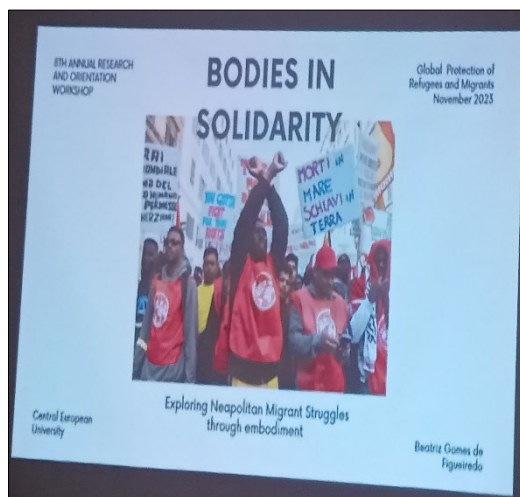
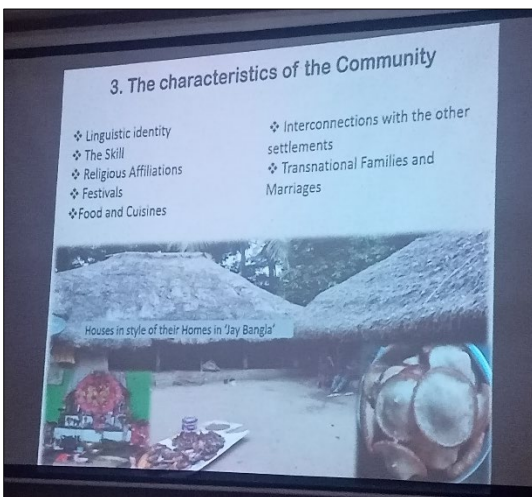
Shebeen Mehboob A.P. in his presentation chronicled the manner in which newspaper propagated alarmist narratives in relation to the presence of inter-state migrants in the state of Kerala. This presentation, unsurprisingly, led to a discussion on the inner functioning of newspapers and how journalistic responsibility should be understood. He critically reflected upon lives of migrant workers in Kerala after a particular incident in July 2023, after which media kept on pointing out the negatives of having migrants. The prevalence of such narratives peddled an atmosphere of fear in migrants' lives that overshadowed their positive contribution in the economy of Kerala.

“Navigating Sovereignities: Life Beyond the Limits of the State”

Kalpana Jha's presentation focused on the 2015 border blockade in the Indo Nepal border. She pointed out how these instances tend to, momentarily; transform the contested space of no man's land into a zone of refuge. Her presentation focussed on the Madheshis and their proportionate representation, federal demarcation and citizenship provisions. The presentation highlighted the event of blockade and the Madhesh protest that unravels the complex characteristics of the border looking at the media framing of border disputes.

“An Interview of the Immigrants in Assam”

Samik Ray Choudhury's work focused on the Miya movement and how it has been perceived by an individual not directly involved in the construction or articulation of the said movement. Miya community's existence in Assam is precariously predicated on their ability to justify their presence in the social and the legal sphere. In this context the classical distinction between formal and substantive citizenship melts away under the Burden of History (Misra, 2017). Miya poetry and the larger Miya movement, emerged from this ubiquitous denial of citizenship in each and every sense and points to the divisive and violent manner in which the 'ideal' Indian citizen is construed in Assam. Obviously, the divisive and recent nature of the movement meant there remained uncertainties in regards to the impact and the direction of the movement. Furthermore, this movement challenges the imagined fixity of culture by reclaiming and representing themselves as “Miyas”, a derogatory term, in doing so, it challenged researchers to learn and adapt to the specificities of the region. After the presentation the participants discussed the politics of reclaiming the term “Miya” and how it may impact our perception of culture and identity.



Presentations by Module Participants

Photo Exhibition
Trail of Blood: The Calcutta Killings of 1946 and its Aftermath

Artist: *Dipanwita Saha*, Software Engineer, IBM and Visual Artist, India

Curator: *Debasree Sarkar*, Calcutta Research Group, India

The photo exhibition “Trail of Blood: The Calcutta Killings of 1946 and its Aftermath,” was inaugurated on 17 November 2023 and remained open for public viewing until 22 November 2023. This work was planned and developed as a travelling photo exhibition by the Calcutta Research Group in collaboration with the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, as part of its project titled “Justice, Protection, and Government of the People: A Two-Year Research and Orientation Programme on Protection and Democracy in a Post-COVID World (2021-2023)”. The exhibition put together the visual documentation by artist Dipanwita Saha, an independent artist based in Kolkata and the exhibition was curated by Debasree Sarkar from the Calcutta Research Group. This impactful exhibition delved into the events and consequences of the largest communal riots in Calcutta in August 1946, resulting in the tragic loss of more than thousands of lives. The exhibition opened with a brief introduction to the background of the work by the artist, citing the trail of migration to West Bengal in the wake of partition of 1947 and the 1971 war of Independence based on several incidences encountered. This resulted in the idea of the work on the infamous Calcutta Killings of 1946 coming together, in an attempt to visualise the collective memories of the city. The narrative of the exhibition, skilfully realised and documented the enduring impact of the Calcutta Killings, the Partition, and the prevailing uncertainty of that era on the lives and memories of the city’s residents. The deep essence of such memories, captured through the series of images that displayed historical sites, archived scenes, and powerful portraits, was endearing for viewers and workshop participants. Featuring nearly fifty photographs, the exhibition presented a cohesive narrative of witnesses who still recall the tumultuous period. The collection of photographs managed to bring to the surface tragic landmarks lost to history, locations where communal violence erupted, dilapidated structures of sanctuaries and medical facilities. These narratives not only highlight life-experiences, including trauma and emotions, but they also depict the irreversible transformations of the entire cityscape of Calcutta from 1946 on. For further details see:

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/IWM_Migration_2022/Trail%20of%20Blood%20Final.pdf



Photo Exhibition, 17-22 November 2023

Book Release and Discussion

'Postcolonial Compendium: Keywords in Forced Migration and Refugee Studies'

Book Release:

Nadja Dorschner, Resident Representative of the South Asia Office of Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung

Book Discussion:

Samir Kumar Das, University of Calcutta and Calcutta Research Group, India

Paula Banerjee, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand and Calcutta Research Group, India

Priya Singh, Asia in Global Affairs, and Calcutta Research Group, India

Nasreen Chowdhory, University of Delhi and Calcutta Research Group, India

Abhijit Mazumder, Frontpage, India

The book *Postcolonial Compendium: Keywords in Forced Migration and Refugee Studies* edited by Paula Banerjee, Nasreen Chowdhory, and Priya Singh (Publisher: Frontpage, 2023) was released and discussed in the Eighth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop. In recent years, dynamic debates and contributions have reshaped academic analyses, thus, expanding the scope of this field and influencing how scholars, policymakers, and practitioners approach the study of refugees. The book has been presented as a timely response to the evolving landscape of refugee and forced migration studies, offering concise explanations of key terms within the multidisciplinary realm of refugee and forced migration studies. Despite the growing importance of addressing the challenges faced by migrants and refugees in the contemporary world, the vocabulary associated with it has not had a dedicated compendium until now. The *Postcolonial Compendium: Keywords on Forced Migration and Refugee Studies* is a pioneering effort to fill gaps for the academic community working in forced and refugee studies. It not only compiles and explains key terms but also reflects the global reach and interdisciplinary nature of contemporary research and advocacy for the rights of migrants and refugees. The session began with Priya Singh narrating the background of her getting involved with the book based on the keywords for the migrants for the study in Global South. Then she explained the gradual process of nurturing the book starting with the stuck with the word “statelessness” to the plethora of the words from different parts. The final result is the book. She also gave credit to the contributors to the book for their joint and rigorous journey all through the writing of the book to Publishing. After her, Nasreen Chowdhory, started her talk with the credit of inspiration from Samaddar. Stressing on the idea of collate-collect-collaborate, she explained the weight of each keyword having its own story of the collaborative work. The book is based on the idea of “connect”— connectivity with the various scholars transcending the boundary of the binary exists. Paula Banerjee began her talk transcending through the lines of the base of the book, her personal encounters and the article of Ranabir Samaddar on the *Keywords* getting published which was proposed by her to make it the introduction of the book. She then explained how she engaged most of the minds of CRG and the publisher to give the shape to the journey in form of the book. Quoting Nasreen Chowdhory’s words, this book also comes as “an invitation to continue in more than one place, and foster more contributions from different parts of the world”. At the end of the session, the first copies of the book were unwrapped by the presenters. The book was released by Nadja Dorschner (RLS). Samir Kumar Das provided the macroscopic as well as the microscopic view of the book in every aspect of the book as a standard reference point with capturing the words in motion from different regions. He also provided a brief critique to the book in terms of challenges.

Field Trip Calcutta, A Migrant City

History

Established in 1925, the Seaman's Welfare Association, commonly known as the Marine Club, is located strategically between Netaji Subhas Dock and Khidderpore Docks of Kolkata Port. The association's primary focus is to offer boarding, lodging, and various amenities to seafarers who need to stay ashore for different purposes. The main city area is conveniently situated within a 4 to 5-kilometer distance and is well-connected by road. The Marine Club is a three-story building providing eighty-five rooms, including 15 air-conditioned rooms, 64 non-air-conditioned rooms, and six dormitory rooms. Additionally, the club features two bars, one on each floor, and dining facilities, a swimming pool, billiards, a piano, a dance hall, and more. The club's grounds include well-maintained lawns and quarters for employees.

Present Situation

With the establishment of the new port, there has been a decline in the influx of people to the old port. The building is in a state of disrepair and is in need of renovation.

Armenian Church

The Armenian Church, located next to the Marine Club, features remarkable wall paintings. Armenian churches are scattered throughout different areas of Kolkata. The field instructor mentioned that prayers are conducted in this particular church in four languages.

Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port, Kolkata

Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Port, formerly known as Kolkata Port Trust or Port of Calcutta, stands as India's singular riverine major port, situated in Kolkata, West Bengal, approximately 203 kilometres (126 mi) inland from the sea. The port's historical roots trace back to the early 16th century when Portuguese mariners utilised the current location to anchor ships, deeming the upper Hooghly River, beyond Kolkata, unsuitable for navigation. In 1690, Job Charnock, a British East India Company administrator, is believed to have established a trading post at the site, strategically chosen for its safety from potential enemy invasions due to its riverfront and jungle surroundings. Following the abolition of slavery in the British Empire in 1833, the port served as a departure point for hundreds of thousands of Indians sent as 'indentured labourers' to distant corners of the Empire. Between 1838 and 1917, the port facilitated the transportation of over half a million Indians, predominantly from the Hindi Belt, to destinations such as Mauritius, Fiji, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Suriname, and other Caribbean islands, shaping the diaspora of millions of Indo-Mauritians, Indo-Fijians, and Indo-Caribbean people. Initially conceived as a commercial port and eastern India's gateway, the port assumed significant wartime importance during World War II, enduring Japanese bombings. Post-Independence, the Calcutta Port Act of 1870 established the Calcutta Port Commissioners, who oversaw port operations until the Major Port Trusts Act 1963 was enacted in January 1975. Today, the port operates under a board of trustees with representatives from the government, trade bodies, various port users, labour unions, and nominated members. On 12 January 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi renamed the port Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Port, commemorating 150 years of operation.

Indenture Memorial Hall

The Indenture Memorial, situated near Kolkata's docks, pays tribute to the multitude of Indians who embarked on a journey to work as labourers in former British colonies after the abolition of slavery in 1833-1834. These early migrants, pioneers in seeking livelihoods abroad, laid the groundwork for the present-day Indian Diaspora, encompassing professionals such as engineers, teachers, and corporate leaders.

Even though the thriving tourism circuits in other countries centred around similar memorials, Kolkata displays a striking indifference to these historical markers, indicating a lack of awareness and neglect of valuable historical fragments deserving preservation and appreciation. The practice of indentured labour, introduced by the British government after the abolition of slavery, involved recruiting able-bodied youth for work in the sugar, cotton, and tea plantations, as well as railway projects in British colonies. From 1834 to 1920, around two million Indian indentured workers were transported to British colonies, with Kolkata port as a significant departure point. The Indenture Memorial, inaugurated on 11 January 2011, in Kidderpore, is a significant testament to this history. Its unveiling drew hundreds of people of Indian origin from countries that were the destinations of these labourers. Placed alongside the river Hooghly, the memorial holds particular significance as it preserves the context of the labourer departure from these shores. Adjacent to the Indenture Memorial stands a clock tower, erected in 1899 by the “Commissioners of the Port of Calcutta.”

Inland Waterways Authority of India

Established on 27 October 1986, the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) was formed to develop and regulate inland waterways for shipping and navigation. CRG members received a special pass from IWAI for entry, and two ships from West Bengal were docked at the port. Interestingly, during this time, there was minimal discussion about labour migration within the maritime industries. The instructor shared that he gained access by collaborating with the Port Police for coordination.

Suriname Memorial

Sabir Ahmed spoke about the Suriname Memorial, though recent, reflects a longstanding relationship between India and Suriname spanning nearly 150 years. A collaborative effort between the governments of India and Suriname, the memorial honours Indian contract workers who migrated to Suriname, a small nation on the northeast Atlantic coast of South America, from 1873 to 1916. This modest memorial features a statue depicting Baba and Mai or Mai Baap (Father and mother). The plain-dressed couple, carrying a pot, symbolises the Indian labourers who left their homeland to toil in sugarcane plantations in Suriname. It is a replica of the Baba and Mai monument in Suriname's capital, Paramaribo, representing the first Indian man and woman to set foot on Suriname. The initial ship, departing from Calcutta on 26 February 1873, carried 399 workers, including 279 men, 70 women, 32 boys, and 18 girls under 10. Over the period from 1873 to 1916, a total of 64 ships sailed from Kolkata to Suriname, transporting 34,304 contract workers from India. During the colonial era, over a million Indians migrated as indentured workers to the Caribbean, South Africa, Mauritius, and the Fiji Islands to work on sugarcane plantations. These workers were recruited from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and the former Madras Presidency area. The depots in Calcutta served as lodgings for indentured recruits awaiting their ships. The jetties or ghats from which they embarked came to be known by the names of their destinations, with the area around Suriname's jetty still referred to as Suriname Ghat, or locally preferred, Balu Ghat. After the official abolition of slavery in Suriname in 1863, the need for labour on plantations persisted. The Dutch, seeking to replace enslaved Africans, ceded a colony on the coast of Guinea to Great Britain on 8 September 1870, in exchange for the right to recruit workers from British India. Today, unbeknownst to many in Kolkata, the Baba Mai Suriname Memorial silently pays homage to the courage and resilience of thousands of Indian labourers who undertook perilous journeys across the high seas for a new life on the distant shores of Suriname.

In conclusion, the field trip undertaken on November 20, 2023, organised by the Calcutta Research Group, profoundly explored Kolkata's rich historical and maritime heritage. Beginning with the Marine Club, established in 1925, the journey unfolded narratives of seafarers and the significant role played by Kolkata's port in the indentured labour migration. The visit to the Armenian

Church, steeped in historical wall paintings, highlighted the city's multicultural fabric. The exploration of Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port delved into its historical roots and its crucial role during the colonial period, reflecting Kolkata's maritime significance. The Indenture Memorial Hall was a poignant reminder of the labourers who embarked on arduous journeys, shaping the Indian Diaspora. However, the city's apparent indifference to such historical markers raises questions about the awareness and preservation of its invaluable history. The field trip concluded with a visit to the Suriname Memorial, symbolising the enduring relationship between India and Suriname and honouring the Indian labourers who made significant sacrifices in a quest for a better life. This silent tribute underscores the courage and resilience of those who ventured across the seas to Suriname.

Overall, the field trip offered a comprehensive understanding of Kolkata's diverse history, maritime legacy, migration routes and the enduring impact of labour migration on the global Indian community.



Field Trip to the Dockyard of the Calcutta Port



At the Indentured Labour Memorial, Field Trip, 20 November 2023

EIGHTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

EIGHT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

War, Climate Disaster, and Displacement: Call for New Protection Strategies
21-22 November 2023, Monotel, Kolkata

The growing incidences of displacements induced as a result of conflicts, wars, disasters, climate change, and other cataclysmic events call to question current migration management and interventionist strategies and a re-examination of the dynamics of migration and displacement. The consequences of these events, now more pronounced across the world, has made it necessary to engage in discussions about these issues now more than ever as these have a direct impact on the lives of people. The Eighth Annual Conference on “War, Climate Disaster, and Displacement: Call for New Protection Strategies,” was organised by the Calcutta Research Group (CRG) in collaboration with the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada, and several other universities and institutes in India and abroad, on 21-22 November 2023, at the Conference Hall of Hotel Monotel, in Kolkata. The Conference delved into the problematics of interrelated issues and broadly looked into the following themes of study and areas of research:

The Matrix of Migration – Events related to climate change, wars, and other disasters can trigger shock migration and long-term displacements leading to complexities in the process of mobility. From disorganised and frenzied relocations to organised movements - multiple dimensions to displacement and migration need to be examined afresh.

Relief Mechanisms– The adequacy and nature of relief operations which include distribution of essential commodities, disaster response teams, civil and international collaboration, local partnerships, role of the victims and other affected sections of population, structure of camps, etc. call for scrutiny.

Protection Strategies – Evaluation of the need for protection mechanisms and the roles played by international organisations, governments, local groups, etc.

Mobile Geographies – The change in demography or topography of a region and the contestations of economics, politics, international relations in the wake of climate induced or war related disasters.

Disaster and Gender Roles – The effects of disaster and displacement on genders and gender roles, resultant violence, etc.

The Visceral Effects of Disaster – The effects of disaster on the human body – diseases, deformities, outbreaks, and the medicalisation of the displaced.

War, Narratives and Media – Narratives including visualisation of war, climate disasters and displacement in media.

Climate and Displacement in Popular Culture – The representations of climate change, disasters in literature, films, art, etc.



Inaugural Session of the Eighth Annual Conference, 21 November 2023

Conference Sessions

Inaugural Session

The inaugural session was chaired by **Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury**, while **Shyamalendu Majumdar** delivered the welcome address for the conference participants. He highlighted the major takeaways of the Eighth Annual Research Workshop, popularly known as the Winter Workshop, and enumerated the key themes of the conference that would take the discourse ahead and cited the recent incidents of wars and conflicts, and the importance of engaging with these issues in a scholarly forum.

In the introductory remark, **Amit Prakash** threw light on the thought process that led to framing the Conference. He emphasised on highlighting the questions of migrations of all kinds and noted that it is imperative to focus on the question of resources—how these are organised and distributed. What are the relevant models creating distress? He focused on the urgent needs to do – about the time of crisis and how the protection strategies had been used. Reassignment to control over resources, large scale to organise move over the people and attention also need to be placed earlier. The post population that would not be affect the exception become the norms that save peoples' life. Prakash also highlighted the anthropogenic character of societies in general and noted how particular societies, nations have different intra group processing, structures and technical matters and issues to address. He highlighted that is incumbent of the concerned states to address issues unique to itself and arrive at sustainable conclusions in order to ensure that lives are protected while at the same time formulate laws and provisions to ensure protection to the citizens against calamities.

Keynote Lecture

The keynote lecture of the conference was delivered by **Ayse Caglar**. Caglar spoke on **“Governing the Displaced in Cities: Wars, the Rule of ‘Emergency’ and Extraction.”** Caglar spoke about cities as contested sites for rights, of imaginations, participation, belonging, justice claims, and solidarities for urban residents and contextualised, how migrants become the subjects and objects of urban governance as well as of contentious politics in particular ways. The lecture brought to light capital and urban restructuring restructuring within austerity urbanism that transforms cites not only into frontiers of accumulation but also into battlefields for resources, space, rights and justice anew; with municipalities and city governments rising to the fore in neoliberal urbanism with and increasing empowerment of mayors. The lecture focused on the tensions and frictions of the growing prominence of cities in the governance of the displaced in the context of the reconfiguration of state power particularly strengthened by the mutations of “emergency” rule. Ayse Caglar explored the interrelations between increasing authoritarianism, the power of mayors, and the private and corporate capital through the lens of wars and several forms of “crises” with a focus on the displaced. In her presentation, she argued that the increasing number of initiatives in cities, is playing a gradually dominating role in governance, in terms of city-based enterprises and initiatives and the securing of city-based rights, given the fact that cities are mostly built by migrants. She questioned how the cities have been used in matters of migrants and migration by hinting at the permanence of the cities' administrative and fiscal power of internalisation. It increases the power of local authorities, centers of trade and investments, and part of a public mode of urban development. The sharp change in internal development leads to cities not only made for development but also for rights and justice. The talk threw light on the politics of participation within the context of migrants and migration particularly, urban labour

markets and workers' rights, who are subjects and objects of urban governance. Caglar argued that it is crucial to explore the changing context of neoliberalism, where cities that acquire a relative autonomy, political and business elites of the city scrutinise the nature of power with the strong dependence of 'relative' autonomy of the city and the prominence of city initiatives. Further, she elaborated on counter politicisation where the first observation came as a prominence of the cities that support the local decision-making processes and bring in the impacts of the migrant and refugees' interplay in the levels of politics-decision making as power to the municipalities. She reasoned how authoritarianism as a part of useful rule and dissembling has an exception of emergency law. The city power could not be equated with Mayor's power. Central Authority that changes the rule of Mayor's power-politics of urban residence, where the state promotes the radiates to update the city structure. It was added that pandemic affected mobility, and immobility along with the role of rights and discourses for migrant workers. The urban migrant governance and migrant politics mobility unable to move between cities also acted as an indicator of increased power restrictions, that were imposed by central government. She explained how the Central State determine top-down business, by giving examples of Turkey where agricultural workers provide mobility restrictions. The allocation of refugees to different countries, where cities provide care to refugees, who are displaced from Ukraine and rearrange the implementation of the basic care system, contrary to the refugee system as a part of system in many other cities of the globe. Ayse Caglar also talked about the cities and the private capital, where interventions and orchestrations in the federal states, substitute central state over local politics. With the state of exception within the context of increased power of the mayor, the central cities can capture the role of emergency. She gave the example of Nusaybin, a city dominated by Kurds, that has experienced the trench warfare between the Kurdish militia and state militaries playing an important role. Due to fight between Kurdish Militia and Turkish security forces close to 15 neighbourhoods are destroyed. Thus, here it is seen that destruction, displacement and desperation especially, as part of public security and order receives less importance. The increased power of mayors in the city council reflected in the appointment of trustee mayors where the unpacking of power constellation are important cases for comprehension, and show the forms of connections and disconnections, where migrants and refugees are interconnected within multiple frames, as city residents and not migrants. Caglar concluded the session by discussing the role of new model of urban development and the contradictory trend in the treatments that migrants are met with.



Keynote Lecture by Ayse Caglar, 21 November 2023, at Monotel, Kolkata

Panel 1A
Media, Identity, Conflict and Challenges of Planning

The panel began with **Ritambhara Malviya's** presentation titled **“The Media, Identity and Conflict: Studying the Discourses in the Indian Media on the 2023 Manipur Violence,”** where she critically engaged with newspaper discourse on the ongoing conflict in Manipur. In her research, Ritambhara studied the print media documentation of the conflict as the site of identity formation, where hegemonic identities of the Kukis and the Meiteis—Manipuris at large—are hardened. Ritambhara began by highlighting the start of the recent conflict which came about after the recognition of the Meiteis as a Scheduled Tribe (ST), which was opposed by the Kukis, who saw it as a further marginalisation of non-Meitei identities within Manipur, and consequently, a conflict over identity, recognition and resources ensued. In her analysis, Ritambhara focused on two Hindi and two English language news dailies and their coverage. She asserted that identities are shaped by choice, ascription and structural underpinnings, and that contestations of identities arise as part of competition for resources and power. Ritambhara's study highlighted the various binaries that arise from newspaper coverage, which include the national versus North-Eastern and which implicitly denigrates the conflict in Manipur as something 'extra-national' not impacting the lives of those in the Hindu heartland; the hill people versus valley people, which homogenises groups into Kukis and Meiteis and subsumes various identities and political positions into dominant categories; and the binary of other religions versus one's own religion, which hardens majoritarian practices of Meiteis and Kukis as the hegemon under which difference is made invisible.

The second presentation was made by **Azeemah Saleem** titled **“The Politics of Urban Spatial Planning towards Colonial Settlement: The Case Study of Apartheid Wall at Aida and Jalazone Refugee Camp in Palestine,”** where she built on ethnographic work conducted in two Palestinian refugee camps— Aida and Jalazone to analyse the logic of apartheid inherent within Israeli urban planning and infrastructural development in the West Bank. The wall, Azeemah highlighted, has been constructed under the guise of Israeli security for illegal settlers, but it has impacted the sociopolitical fabric of the residents of the camps. The wall has prolonged communications for the residents of Bethlehem and Jerusalem and has placed them in administrative limbo (in terms of waste management, water facilities, education and so on). The wall has also given birth to its own bureaucratic-surveillance assemblage through the construction of checkpoints, entry points for the Israeli occupation forces and the engendering of surveillance governmentality among both illegal settlers and residents of the camps. The wall has had considerable impacts on the economic life of the residents of the camps as access to jobs has now become even more difficult and it has been exacerbated by the loss of agricultural land due to urban configurations which have enabled illegal Israeli settlements to act as extensions of the wall.

The chair of the panel, **Amit Prakash** questioned the extent to which agendas of national media should be questioned and whether or not to complicate the notion of fair reportage, thereby considering their role in the process of othering. The discussion also focused on the ways in which gender impacts the binaries within the paper and, being an identity itself, how it is a part of monolithic identity formation. Amit Prakash also discussed—what the impacts of the ongoing conflict on Gaza will have been on the situation in these two refugee camps. He noted that the wall and its assemblage of surveillance are manifestations of panopticons, inherent in the Israeli biopolitics towards Palestinians. The discussion focused on how the wall, though a tool of apartheid and occupation, has engendered the space for resistance as well through its graffitied sections.

Panel 1B Wars and Aftermath

The panel discussion focused on the current war between Russia and Ukraine, the Israel-Palestine conflict, the civil war in Syria and the war conventions and rules being violated. The chair for the session **K.M. Parivelan** highlighted points on the bodies that regulate wars and mentioned that they are powerless at the international level to exact ground rules. The large number of displaced people worldwide and the failure of mechanisms such as a 'responsibility to protect' also point towards the central question on new protection strategies when people in conflict zones need special protection. Parivelan asserted that this is critical given the many displaced people during enduring wars worldwide.

In her presentation titled **"Peace Education, A Panacea for Refugees: A Quasi-Experimental Research Among Refugees Escaping War,"** **Sabeena Khatoon** delved into the efficacy of peace education as an intervention for displaced children fleeing conflict zones in Delhi. She underscored the detrimental impact of violence and environmental degradation on the development of their well-being. She highlighted that children face violence and environmental damage affecting their growth, especially in conflict-ridden regions. Such children may be scarred by violent encounters, significantly as they are growing at the adolescent stage. She highlighted that peace education can bring relief and growth to the precarious, vulnerable refugee group she works with.

Sanam Sharief Khan's paper titled **"Line of Control: Mapping the Lifeworld of Borderlands in Jammu and Kashmir,"** discussed the incomplete border making and borders in the Poonch district in Kashmir, increasing the precarity and vulnerability of people living in the borderlands. Moreover, her presentation highlighted the social, cultural and economic consequences that borders have on people. She traced the history of the Line of Control (LOC) along the course of history, emphasising that these borders were never meant to be permanent but had slowly and ominously taken a concretised form. She also highlighted the plight of families whose kinship ties were arbitrarily affected by the demarcation of borders. She argued that people along the borderlands must continuously prove their loyalty to the nation by performing nationalism. Highlighting that people viewed these borders as cages, she made strong linkages between countries and borders, and how ordinary citizens are affected by the state-making process of drawing borderlands at the nation's margins.

In **C. Lalmuansanga's** presentation titled **"Conflict and Displacement; Exploring Masculinity in the Village Grouping During Rambuai,"** he discussed masculinity and delineated its different strands and approaches. He discussed his field site in Mizoram during the insurgency time. The central question he raised was how the men in Mizoram negotiated their identity during the crisis. During a period of ethnic strife and conflict with the Indian state forces, the majority of the men were interested in survival and fighting in the jungles. He also highlighted that many people were displaced from their homes by the state without any prior arrangements. During this period of torture and massive fighting, societal structure broke down. Mizo men were not able to process their trauma or share their grief in public spaces. Thus, men were subjected to patriarchal standards and were victims of it. Working alongside the Indian government was highly tedious for them, and in a period of crisis, the author highlighted how Mizo men were devoid of power and cultural familiarity. In such a context, studying men and masculinity emerges as a critical juncture to take forward the study of societies in which the state is responsible for the internal displacement of people.

Panel 2

Migration, Governance and Protection: Journey through Pandemic and Beyond

Samir Kumar Das opened the session with a detailed elucidation of the major themes of his research on **“Governing the Pandemic: Negotiating Democracy in our Time”**—the dynamics of post-colonial democracy, shrinking of the nation amidst pandemic, distances, safeguards and immunity and how social vigilantism came about strong. He stressed on the paradigmatic shift in the understanding of nation and democracy since the days of Independence, inspiring a generation of statesmen, policy makers and scholars across the country, till the late 1980s. Referring to Kothari, it was underlined how Democracy, is central to nation building through the fact that it cannot be imposed from above, but must evolve from below. A stable political framework is the need of the time and the stability relies on the framework’s ability to involve heterogeneous groups and communities that exist in the Indian society. One of the findings was that though there had been unprecedented proliferation of social solidarities documented during the pandemic, all of them did not give themselves to any single, stable and homogeneous social authority. The study pointed out why new solidarities developing outside the realm of the State are only contingent and ephemeral and in ways bring out the unorganised and often sporadic character of social initiatives.

Paula Banerjee’s research paper titled **“Is Protection Only a Legal Matter? Migrant Labour in South and South-East Asia,”** focused on the protection mechanism of migrant labour, especially the protection of migrant labour debated during Covid-19. Her research aimed at addressing the question of ‘what protects the migrant labour’, and is it only through legal provisions that migrant labour can be protected, also one of the reasons why during Covid-19 thousands came out in the streets and for a short while owned the streets until the state took over. Analysis of the unorganised sector, popularly known as the informal sector, in the paper showed that the contribution of human resources to economic growth is a well-documented phenomenon, particularly in the widespread informal sector in India acting as a major contributor to development. This sector however, faces problems such as lack of well-defined laws on wages, hours of work, working conditions, etc. Reports indicated that many migrant workers in the region lack the protection of basic labour and human rights under the laws and policies of both countries of origin and destination. There is in general a lack of coherent national migration policies and institutions in the South East Asian region. In most ASEAN states (excepting Singapore), immigration and emigration policies are largely short term and reactive. There is distinction between regular and irregular migrants and though some safety nets exist for regular migrants but for irregular migrants there are no such safety nets.

Ishita Dey in her research themed on **“Journeys and Internal Migrant Workers: An Ethnographic Study of Railway Connectivity”** contextualised migrant trajectories in the context of trains and railway network. Pointing out that railway stations are not merely the final destinations but are critical nodal points in migrant journeys, serving as sites of transit in the journeys that migrant workers undertake for their destination and home. The study foregrounded the ‘journeys’ that India’s migrant workers undertake between their place of origin/ home to their destination/place of work. Studies on India’s migrant workers mostly focus on the causes of distress migration, occupational choices of migrant workers, the gendered nature of internal migration, and at times the migration of women as workers independent of marriage or family or as dependants and access to social welfare in places of work, especially wages, health care, food, and housing, are less distinct. Migrants’ association with trains and train journeys and their view on railway compartments and the introduction of digitised facilities in Indian railways, were among the points of discussion. The report is based on fieldwork for five months on one of the longest train routes from Bihar to Mumbai in the Bhagalpur Lokmanya Tilak Express, superfast train, following migrant workers as co-travelers in the ‘sleeper class coach’, along with her research assistants Akhilesh Raj and Saba Parveen, who played important role in establishing conversations

and sharing of experiences with the respondents, due to their social rootedness in Jharkhand and Bihar. This report also included study from her recce visit in December 2023, five onward and five return journeys from Bhagalpur to Mumbai and Mumbai to Bhagalpur between March, during high-demand travel season and occasions of festivals, as well as the ‘summer recess/break’ of May and June for schools across India.

Anita Sengupta while discussing her paper titled **“Mitigation, Recovery and Response: ‘Democracy’ in Post-Covid Central Asia,”** began by mentioning the ineffectiveness of state response in the face of crisis, lack of public reliance and extreme bureaucracy, in the state leading to narratives revolving around the refrain ‘when governments fail’ continue to dominate the backdrop of Central Asia in winter and lasting energy crisis, in a region that was once projected as an alternative energy reserve to the Middle East. The research attempted to analyse the implications of the domestic and international dynamics on the protection of citizen rights in the region, in addition to being able to frame a view to understanding the extent to which a combination of factors shaped domestic responses in the region. Sengupta elaborated on the restoration of order that President Tokayev had called for the installation of a refurbished political system, apparently termed Jana Kazakhstan or New Kazakhstan, aimed at being able to reflect the voices of the people more effectually. However, the author reflected that despite changes in leadership and relative progress towards greater responsiveness to public concerns in some states like Kyrgyzstan, authoritarian tendencies remained in place.



Panel 1B: Wars and Aftermath



Panel 2: Migration, Governance and Protection: Journey through Pandemic and Beyond

Panel 3
Policymaking for Stateless Persons in South Asia

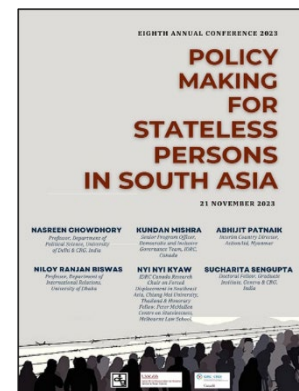
The panel discussion primarily centred around the Rohingya migration into different parts of South Asia and their plight as a classic case of statelessness today. The session was chaired by **Nasreen Chowdhory**.

Nyi Nyi Kyaw's presentation highlighted the historical backdrop of Rohingyas and their patterns of migration. He talked about the representation of Rohingya that has materialised in Myanmar over time. Kyaw also engaged in discussion of problematisation of policies towards the Rohingya population that at times describe inclusions and opportunities for protection of the population but is not always successful in provision of relief.

Abhijit Patnaik discussed the general economic and social context of Myanmar. Patnaik also discussed the role of civil society actors in Myanmar. He highlighted the role of international donors, non-government organisations that operate in Myanmar and how their role has shifted post-coup d'état in Myanmar. Patnaik spoke at length about the recent developments in Myanmar in terms of development of new armed forces. The problematisation of the question of repatriation was also discussed as the most pressing issue. He highlighted from the perspective of a practitioner, that repatriation of people may be considered at times as complex, and added that the participation of Rohingya refugees is low in the consultation committees formed by the non-governmental organisations.

Niloy Ranjan Biswas discussed the concept of resilience for the stateless persons particularly in the context of Rohingya migration. He emphasised on the understanding of the concept of resilience as the central focus of global protection mechanism promoted by governments, aid organisations and international donor organisations. He situated resilience within the context of power politics of South and Southeast Asian region. While engaging with the issue of law and legality as devised by states, Biswas stressed the idea of resilience that needs to be understood within the context of global power politics and made a point that otherwise it will remain only partially understood. Biswas thus pointed out that the concept of resilience often is approached from top-down hierarchical perspective.

Kundan Mishra from IDRC, Canada, brought to fore how the terms stateless and refugees overlap but yet, distinct problems. Policy making for stateless persons according of Mishra is a normatively charged space that limits the scope of policy making itself. He highlighted that it requires a clear charting of short-term and long-term needs. However, he pointed that humanitarian organizations are consumed by mitigating short-term needs and thus does not have the time to look into long-term needs. Mishra also talked about the lack of leadership in framing policy needs of the stateless persons. He also highlighted that repatriation is contested especially after UK's recent effort at repatriation, which was an epic failure.



Panel 3: Policymaking for Stateless Persons in South Asia

Book Release and Discussion 'Pandemic and Precarity'

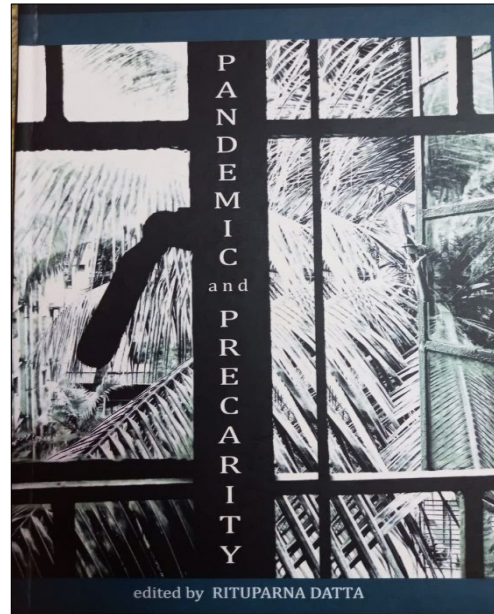
In the ceremonial launch of the book **“Pandemic and Precarity”** edited by **Rituparna Datta** (Publisher: Sampark, 2023), **Arup Kumar Sen** in the presence of the editor and the publisher, Sunandan Roy Chowdhury released and discussed the book. Arup Kumar Sen while also chairing the session, spoke about the overarching theme of the edited volume, while also referring to the fact that the essays in the volume present elaborate upon the complex and extreme circumstances under which a number of communities worked and protected life under trying circumstances during the pandemic, in their efforts to sustain a living. He underscored how the book brings out the effects of the pandemic on varying aspects of public and private life.

Sunandan Roy Chowdhury (Sampark Publishing Group, Kolkata) highlighted the importance of the book to public discourse in India and beyond, and complimented the editor for bringing diverse perspectives into the book. He further discussed the manner in which the pandemic affected the publishing houses in India, especially the smaller publishing houses and mentioned the unfortunate development where several publishing houses had to even cease production and operation as a result of the pandemic.

Rituparna Datta mentioned the difficulty of writing about the pandemic due to the all-encompassing and tragic nature of it. She thanked the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM) Vienna, for supporting the research endeavour and the work of the book. Datta gave a brief overview of the manner in which the vision of the book culminated into the edited volume. She highlighted the broadness of the term pandemic and migrant, and how difficult it was to not only do justice, but also, help the readers visualise and understand the intrinsic link between the two terms. The objective of the book, according to her, was to highlight the manner in which the pandemic magnified the vulnerabilities of marginalised sections of the society and how during the pandemic they were burdened with paranoia of being vectors, further marginalising them. She concluded by stating that this book makes an honest effort to tell the stories of marginalisation in their proper context i.e. when they happened and where they happened.

Arup Kumar Sen explicated how the crisis caused by the pandemic was the very nature of the neo-liberal system that one exists in, as the system requires footloose labour—making their existence precarious. It is in this broader context that the book highlighted the manner in which the structural conditions of labour reproduced the precarious labour. Continuing from here he delved into a brief discussion on the chapters included in the book. The chapters bring together a vast range of experiences and stories that aptly communicate the broad and intrusive effects of the pandemic on varied sections of the Indian society. The book contains three chapters on the experience of contractual workers from different sectors in the NCR region which highlight the manner in which the pandemic had affected the earning ability of these workers. These accounts are followed by two chapters on the effects of the pandemic on the inhabitants of the tea gardens and the accounts highlight how the economic stagnation forced labourers to migrate to other towns in search of work; especially drawing on the impacts of the pandemic on the Asha Care workers, who had to work without pay and had to face marginalisation, due to taking care of the ill. Another essay looks into the effects of the pandemic on the sanitation workers of Bangalore and how private and government workers experienced precarities differently. The story of the coal mine workers who were faced with double precarity due to the nature of their work and the fact that they had to work during the pandemic also makes one of the book chapters. Essays in the book also look into the effects of the pandemic on women at two distinct locations—one on the efforts of women providing help in the Rajabazar area and another looks at the effects of pandemic on women residing in Nagaland. The chair concluded the discussion by mentioning the fact that

these accounts prove that the structural conditions worsened the impact of the pandemic and bring to light the possibilities of engaging with the idea of bio politics from below.



Book Release and Discussion: Pandemic and Precarity

Panel 4A

Health, Resource, and Climate Change

Anindya Sen and Debashree Chakraborty in their paper titled “**Death by Water: A Study of the Global North Imagination of Climate Apocalypse in Loosed Upon the World,**” delved into an insightful analysis of the thematic biases prevalent in dystopian climate fiction, focusing specifically on the short-story anthology *Loosed Upon the World*. By examining the anthology’s recurrent emphasis on water-related catastrophes, particularly floods and droughts, the presenters aimed at unravelling the underlying messages embedded within these narratives. The work underlined the urgent and profound impacts of environmental degradation portrayed in these stories, underscoring how these catastrophic events serve as cautionary tales about the vulnerability of societies and ecosystems in the face of climate change. Through this analysis, the presenters prompted critical reflection on the implicit arguments crafted by the text authors, urging a reconsideration of humanity’s relationship with the environment and advocating for diversified narratives to encapsulate the broad spectrum of environmental challenges beyond the dominant themes showcased in the anthology. The presentation extended beyond narrative analysis to contextualise the thematic choices within the broader discourse on climate change, societal vulnerabilities, and environmental justice. By connecting the thematic focus on water-related catastrophes to geographic disparities and highlighting the disproportionate representation of specific environmental crises, the work encouraged discourse on the need for varied storytelling in dystopian climate fiction. Emphasising the role of narratives in shaping societal perceptions and influencing collective actions, the discussion advocated for an expanded representation of environmental challenges such as species extinction, crop failures, heat waves, and soil erosion. The presentation served as a catalyst for critical reflection, urging audiences to contemplate the significance of diversified narratives in advocating for broader societal awareness and collaborative efforts to address the impending climate crisis.

Nirmal Kumar Mahato in his paper titled **“Climate Change, Labour Migration and Spread of Disease in South West Bengal, 1890-1947,”** explored the transformative impact of community mobile legal clinics, focusing on their sustained operation during both disaster and pandemic situations. This discussion underscored the collaborative efforts between non-governmental organisation (NGO), law schools, and volunteer attorneys in creating mobile clinics. The presenter elucidated how these clinics serve as vital educational platforms, addressing a spectrum of legal issues ranging from domestic violence to aiding survivors of disasters and the 2020 pandemic. Moreover, the paper emphasised the proactive role of such clinics in providing representation to individuals in need, ensuring access to rights and services that might otherwise be overlooked or wrongly denied. With a particular emphasis on addressing document-related challenges faced by disaster and pandemic survivors, the presenter highlighted the invaluable assistance offered by legal professionals and law students in guiding individuals through the complexities of obtaining essential documents for relief and rehabilitation. Additionally, the discussion expanded to encompass the evolving role of such clinics, advocating for policy implementation to alleviate the impact of COVID-19, especially among vulnerable groups. The presenter also delved into the assessment methodologies employed to evaluate the clinics' effectiveness, especially in pre- and post-disaster scenarios, illustrating their continued relevance for disaster preparedness and response efforts in the future.

Nivash Prakash's paper titled **“Self-Organising Behaviour and Traditional Knowledge Practice as a Response to Seasonal Heatwave: Narratives from Informal Settlements of Delhi,”** focussed on the impact of heat-waves on migrant workers living in the informal settlements of Delhi. He provided examples and instances from his field-visits across these settlements, particularly Kusumpahadi in Delhi, to understand how heat-waves impact these people on various levels, at times even on the basis of caste and class. The paper traced the ways in which heat waves create more vulnerabilities and increase the level of exploitation and distress among daily wage earners living in slums in various ways, such as restricting work opportunities, thus sometimes forcing them to return home. The paper argued that the emergence of newer subjectivities and restrictions in economic mobilities in the wake of climate emergency is of utmost importance and should be looked into in all earnest.



Participants in the Eighth Annual Conference, 21 November 2023

Panel 4B
Climate Change, Disasters and Relief

Shiladitya Chakraborty and Jayanta Debnath's paper titled **“Politics of Relief and Disaster Risk Governance: Exploring the Experiences of Two Blocks in Indian Sundarban,”** aimed to understand the factors that gave rise to discrimination during the course of relief distribution in the aftermath of the tropical cyclones *Bulbul* and *Yaas*, in the Basanti and Gosaba Blocks in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal. For context purposes, Jayanta Debnath while presenting the research, gave a historical account of disaster situations in India and the response from state authorities. The presenter also mentioned the evolution of the concept of relief over time, and the current national legal framework for disaster relief. To address the research question, the results from field surveys with disaster victims were highlighted. It was indicated that according to victims' perceptions there had been discrimination in disaster reliefs operations, some of the disaster victims had not been properly rehabilitated. It was further argued that discrimination was linked to corruption, with low salaries of government workers cited as one of the reasons inciting corruption. Lastly, the lack of political competition is an explanation for disaster relief inefficiency.

Rouf Dar and Muzamil Yaqoob's paper titled **“Climate as the Cost of Development: Hydro Electric Projects in Jammu and Kashmir,”** explored the impacts of development projects on the environment and climate in India, particularly in Kashmir, which has suffered the most from it. This analysis attempted to inform policymaking in ecologically fragile zones. Questions such as who pays the costs of state-led development projects and the tension between the benefits of these projects were explored. It was argued that developmental projects and climate change have had considerable impact in agriculture and consequently, in human livelihoods and indigenous modes of life. Furthermore, the speaker argued that there has been a shift from the territorial attributes and population movements, made possible by the advancement of science and technology, and thereby, the approach of positioning environmentalism as one of the ways of articulating state authority and control over population required further analysis.

The chair for the session **Hari Sharma** mentioned added that the concept of “rescue” would enrich the paper. The question of preparedness of state authorities to respond to disaster crisis should also be addressed along with the gaps between relief policies and their implementation. It was mentioned that lack of education as a factor better explains corruption, while an important question that remains is—what is the correlation between education and corruption? Hari Sharma also highlighted the challenges of finding balance between the benefits and the harms developmental projects cause to the local communities because a number of times there are cases where regional communities benefit from developmental projects in a number of ways and hence stand by their implementation.



Panel 4B: Climate Change, Disasters and Relief

Panel 5
Discussion on Policy Brief on Climate Change

Madhurilata Basu, the chair and discussant for the session, introduced the panel theme that reflected on the complexities of developing policy briefs centered on the diverse occurrences triggered by climate change, and the varied ways in which climate-induced displacement is categorised. The theme on policies for climate change had been not only an important part of the conference deliberations, but also relevant because development related displacement and climate-induced disasters and displacement (more so cases of internal displacements) are less accounted for, and discussion on their incidences is mostly limited to certain perceptions with regards to common understanding and societal comprehension—considered many a times an internal process.

Sohini Sengupta illustrated some of the arguments made in the policy brief she worked on titled **“Climate-Mobilities and Policy Direction for the Global South.”** The main question that she explored was ‘how difficult it is to integrate climate as a category in various narratives, debates, and discussion about migration. The scientific and social science literature, also fictional literature on climate change has grown, but integrating human mobility in the discussion about climate change and migration has also been a challenging task. Simple relationships as well as banal connections exist between climate events and human mobility. Sohini spoke about the major objectives of the policy brief and its opening segment aimed at bringing out insights of human mobility in relation to climate induced disasters—how the documentation, comprehension and debates through protection policy regimes and institutions in the Global South are important. In her study, Sengupta concluded that climate influential roles and institutional policy reports reflected that more accountable state-society interactions are required to create supportive structures and legal protection for mobile groups, whether they are displaced at a particular position, or enroute, or in intermediate locations or destinations. Sohini stressed on the importance of social justice and the need of it finding a central place in the methods of looking at human mobility. According to her, the concept of social justice seems to be missing at times from scientific climate change reports and regulatory policy documents and statements that talk about human mobility. Climate change draws attention to large scale potential displacement within and across regions. It also calls for considering the frequency of disaster displacements. Climate Science, however, even today is limited in its elaboration of how survival and adaptation trajectories are taking shape, with often broad generalisation of future projections. Inclusion of voices of people should in ways shape public decisions and reportage on how technology can be used for safeguarding people from disaster driven displacements and migration. The cases of mountain villages and Himalayan rivers falling prey to extraction can be constituted for arguments of neglect on the part of project planners, despite alarms raised by climate scientists. Glacial outbursts, meltwater surges, and unstable and mobile debris can trigger downstream floods without warnings. Examples and images from the terraced farms of Uttarakhand affected by floods, and the areas of Sikkim impacted by glacier lake outburst and the damages to hydropower project (taking lives of people and affecting infrastructure and tourism as a source of income) highlighted how reportage in the present time can help to prepare for disaster and its mitigation. The panelist concluded by pointing out that technological access at times of disaster and its reporting from remote areas and the ways in which such disasters also act as warnings for government and local people, may help in the stages of evacuation and assessment of the purpose of building large number of dams and power projects in tectonically sensitive regions.

Shatabdi Das while presenting her work on the policy brief titled **“Climate Disasters and Displacement in India: Role of Policies and Protection”** mentioned that weather and climate related disasters have surged but early warning systems and disaster management have helped save

lives to an extent. She went on to speak about how deforestation, increased volume of emission of air pollutants, expansion and encroachment of built-up space, disappearance of waterbodies and open spaces, are factors that cause changes in the atmospheric processes, triggering water extremes, heat waves, droughts, forest fires, storms. The severity of climate disasters has increased over the last few decades, with episodes of droughts on the rise, and floods, thunderstorms and cyclones frequently battering cities and coastal states. Natural hazards and disasters intensify deaths and economic losses. The presentation focused on how riverine, coastal and cities in plains of India experience water scarcity and dry spell, while river valleys are flooded, and towns on lower mountain slopes experience higher summer temperatures and settlements in mountains and hills are struck by landslides and avalanches. Extreme events subsequently induce displacement or push people to migrate to safer grounds. The discussion highlighted the policies and environmental acts and initiatives in India, though with limitations in terms of protection for displaced persons and specially-abled persons, and the shortcomings in working and planning development projects and energy-transition that affect sustainability. Shatabdi stressed that field knowledge, identification of target groups and the drivers of potential displacement, and integration of the experiences of local communities, help to determine problems; and assist the bridging of gaps and complexities of implementation of guidelines on the ground. It was emphasised that for overcoming the regulatory, institutional, and financial barriers in planning, and implementation of policy practices, building solutions, planning and allocating budget and finances for climate resilient infrastructure is integral, along with working on binding frameworks for protection of those displaced with collaboration between different tiers of governance and the involvement of stakeholders for protection of displaced persons.



POLICY BRIEF

Climate Disasters and Displacement in India

Role of Policies and Protection



Panel 5: Discussion on Policy Brief on Climate Change

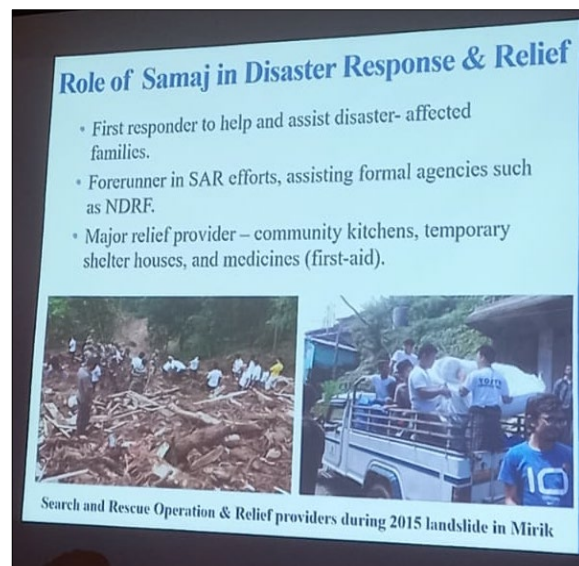
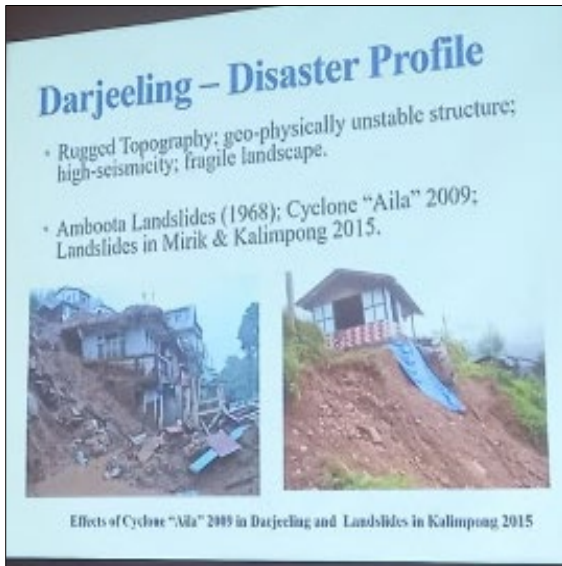
Panel 6
Disaster and the Road to Relief

Shailendra Mani Pradhan's paper **“Bringing Back Traditional Institution of Governance: A Study of Samaj in Disaster Emergencies in Darjeeling Hills,”** focused on insights from Darjeeling Hills and the study of community response to disasters, including the COVID crisis. There is a community response to Darjeeling Hill, focusing on disaster relief and rehabilitation. The presenter talked about the disaster realities and the development projects versus the reality of disasters. He emphasised about the COVID pandemic and how it affected the social system for months, therefore, the communities did not wait for the state interventions. He focused his research on two central research questions, how to respond to disasters, especially when the capacity is lacking and what mechanisms are employed to address the needs of the disaster survivors. Besides, he talked about the institutions of governance and how the parallel institutions and formal laws of the state and the other representing the traditional institutions are considered redundant but follow norms of caste and gender inequality. Therefore, many institutions still endure, with models of enforcement. Nonetheless, there has been a lack of literature about the role of institutions in the involvement in disaster relief. But in the case of Darjeeling Hills, there is an institutional structure of disaster management with a holistic perspective of disasters, though some issues, for instance lack of engagement in the community to look at the capacities and to look at the needs of the people, limitations on the part of governments to help the disaster affected communities in rebuilding their lives. He especially mentioned ‘Project Samaj’ which is a traditional, self-organised, and community-based organisation. It is open to membership with households within a certain geographical boundary. Part of the membership works to discuss and deliberate over issues and concerns that are common such as conflict resolution, as well it provides financial and logistical support to members of families during social ceremonies. Furthermore, the role of ‘Samaj’ in disaster response and relief focuses on being the first responder to help and assist disaster-affected families, assisting formal agencies such as National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF), and as the major relief provider, community kitchens, and provider of temporary shelter houses and medicines (first aid). Therefore, ‘Samaj’ plays a crucial role in providing disaster relief. During the discussion, he referred to the question of the formalisation of the ‘Samaj’ as it functions in a semi-formal manner with autonomy and do not align with any political party; nonetheless the support from the state in terms of resources is an important attribute.

Nirmal Kumar Upreti and Manju Gautam in their paper titled **“Learning and Sharing the Experiences of Legal Clinics: Mobile Clinics during Disaster and Pandemic,”** reflected on the impacts of long-term Community Mobile Legal Clinics (CMLC) functioning in Nepal, which brought legal information and expertise to populations struck by climate disaster (such as the 2015 earthquake in Nepal) and suffering from economic downturn since the pandemic. The establishment of these clinics enables populations to be educated on their legal rights vis-a-vis the state (in the case of access to social security, disaster protection, etc.) or with regards to people such as in cases of land disputes or domestic violence. Other than offering legal counseling services, this organisation continually trains volunteer community lawyers to further their community outreach and offers legal representation in court and written resources for legal matters. Lastly, the forum announced a journalist fellowship, a paid opportunity that seeks to mediate between journalists/writers and climate disasters, so that the former can write about the latter’s issues and bring them into the limelight of public scrutiny.

In the Question-Answer session participants inquired about the grievances/concerns brought to the legal clinic by local populations, the role of the organisation in advocating with the national government, and how the bottom-up, community-based responses are sustained in terms of funding. The answers underlined the advantages of having strong formal and informal networks

that connect different government agencies, activists, entrepreneurs, and NGOs, along with a firm base of volunteers that do a lot of the heavy lifting. This closely knitted structure simultaneously facilitates obtaining funding from the state and being able to advocate for disaster-struck communities for political and legal claims. It was fruitful to put both presentations in conversation with one another, as both were community-based solutions for relief in situations where the reach of the state is limited or in moments of crisis. The panel discussion brought out instances when NGOs, or grassroots-level organisations, civil society, etc., provide strong ground in voicing the demands of people in crisis or struck by disasters.



Panel 6: Disaster and the Road to Relief

Panel 7A
Camps and Protection

Jigme Wangdi in his paper **“Of Camps, Doles and Bare Life: Interrogating Differential Responses of Indian ‘Nation-State’ towards IDP’s and Refugees”** explored the camp life in the post-Partition nation state. The presentation also delved into the ways in which the nation sustained the post-colonial attitude and mentality that depended on surveillance and a securitised discourse as the order of the state. He explored with the example of *Bru* community in Nagaland that witnessed the development of refugee camps rather than relief camps, further re-emphasising the confusion around the nature of rehabilitation. His paper raised major concerns on the lack of sound policies for the IDPs both on paper and in terms of documentation. He traced back the insecurity and anxiety of 1947 Partition that plagued the state to determine policy decision. Further, he pointed out that people often are affected by indifference more than direct hostilities, and focused on the limited scope of refugee policies in India.

Sariful Islam’s paper, **“Agency of the Refugees in Camp Governance: Rohingyas in Bangladesh”** discussed how refugees can provide social protection to their fellow community members. How refugees may contribute to camp governance and the circumstances for their roles in such governance not yet being recognised. He majorly argued how governance maintains law and order in camps and other related aspects. Refugees in camp governance provide social protection in addition to human assistance. However, as a part of refugee governance, social protection is defined from different government perspectives. Through the interview findings, Sariful argued in the context of community representation and elaborated the research findings in four sections, namely, assistance in the camps, leadership, exhibits in community, and overall representation of the activity. The speaker explained the *Majis*—the community leadership that becomes the common point of the local interactions; between Rohingya refugees and other human rights organisation, the community representative is required to communicate and mediate conversations. It becomes vital to provide training to the refugees to foster awareness about their life and social protection and the way to lead their livelihood. The speaker mentioned that Rohingya refugees through the camp governance are following different platforms such as awareness, leadership, and quality education, despite limited policies of the host countries.

Ananya Chatterjee’s paper **“Friendship Networks as a Strategy for Reintegration of Refugees with Host Communities”** looked at how the twenty-first century is marked by significant migration, with a soaring number of displaced individuals exceeding 1% of the global population due to various factors like political instability, armed conflicts, economic deprivation, and climate change. Chatterjee went on to elaborate that migration disrupts social networks, impacting access to resources and support systems, particularly evident in the experiences of refugees forced to flee their homes, leaving behind familiar environments and enduring displacement across borders and within refugee camps for extended periods. Human well-being is deeply tied to social connections, with a strong drive for interpersonal relationships. Impacts of migration extends beyond economic costs, affecting human and social capital. The loss of social ties and belongingness can devalue human and social capital, crucial for integration in a new country. Social capital, encapsulated in interpersonal ties, involves both emotional and instrumental support, highlighting the significance of friendships, especially those crossing ethnic boundaries, for successful integration, language acquisition, and resource access in immigrant students; acceptance not only sustains belongingness but also transcends relational boundaries with other social groups. It was discussed that sociability differs from solidarity and social capital.

The chair and discussant for the panel **Nasreen Chowdhory** added that the dimension of informality and its importance when looking at refugee camp governance and its role within and in conjunction with the legal frame had been discussed in Sariful’s paper. However, she highlighted that the narratives lacked in the concept of women empowerment and the query if local organisations take away from or give agency to the people in the camps. Nasreen Chowdhory also spoke about refugee policies in the postcolonial countries. She pointed to the nature of the 1951 Convention and how things are handled from “below”, outside the realm of law, when refugees enter a state. Discussion evolved around the utility of working with and under the 1951 Convention, especially regarding India—a non-signatory state. The issue of accountability within global power politics was raised too. The floor contributed that international policies are a product of colonial matrixes, focusing on the concept of nation states and that adding the layer of citizenship might be fruitful.



Online Presentation in Panel 7A: Camps and Protection



Panel 7A: Camps and Protection

Panel 7B
Long Migration

Nilanjana Bhattacharjee in her paper **“Geographies of Exile: Situating the Motif of ‘Journey’ in Partition Remembrance from Barak Valley,”** brought to light the understanding of the 1947 Partition as a chain of events with long term spatial and temporal effects, as opposed to a singular cataclysmic event. The research presentation drew attention to the theme of the diverse identities in Assam. This implied that borders were imposed over pre-existing identities, with consequent cases of criminalisation. The history of Assam and the colonial legacy of India, especially through the interactions the East Indian Company created in the local reality of Assam, and its legal status transformation throughout the years were connected. The differences in borders and administration that impacted the indigenous community in connection to citizenship were also discussed. The paper juxtaposed fiction (*Surma Gangor Pani*, *Asbraf Ali’s Homeland*, *The Man of Geramthan* and *Dhuliya*, *The Chronicle of Vyomkesh Kanyatirtha*, etc.) and oral testimonials from Barak against the traditional archive and framed the partition as a site of trauma encapsulating a constant sense of homelessness. In this sense, ethno-linguistic tensions, lack of conclusive rehabilitation and fear of persecution connected to a politicised use of ‘identity’ influenced by partition remembrance/forgetting in Barak.

Arpita Bose focused on the issue of population displacement from Burma (now Myanmar) to India in her paper titled **“The Tragic Displacement from Burma to India: A Case Study on Burma Returnee Bengali Community.”** She stated that this trauma is not very apparent in archival resources but continues to live. Bengali people started migrating towards Burma in 1825, when the territory became a British colony, and established their monopoly over the administration and the economy of Burma. Working in accordance with the British rulers, local Burmese people saw them as colonial agents and exploiters. After a riot in 1938 and the nationalisation of import and export enterprises in Burma, the Bengalis started facing a hostile local environment. This happened especially in 1942 with the first wave of migration towards India, after the Japanese invasion during Second World War. Post arrival/migration the central and state governments jointly chalked out plans to rehabilitate these people in the state and were rehabilitated in three camps which are *Hasnabad*, *Bongaon*, and *Kamarhati* areas and provided them with 50% reservations in various departments. The paper looked into archival data and resources in governmental reports, while using memories which is a form of oral narrative/interviews of Burma returnee Bengalis collected during the researcher’s fieldwork.

Angmo Bhotia in her presentation titled **“Transition of Transhumance Community: A Case Study of Khampa Bhotia,”** briefly explored the everyday lives of the *Bhotias* in the Uttarkashi region of the Himalayas. She explained the meaning of the word *Bhotia*, also used for the Sikkimese Bhotia and Tibetan Burmese community living in West Bengal. There has been Tibetan connect, which is due to the Kailash-Mansarovar pilgrimage which passes through two main passes which is *Meeti* and *Mana* and the other connection is Buddhism. The first point of identification is that they call themselves as shepherds which means they are distinguishing themselves from the cultivators. The Khampa Bhotias have a significant association with space which is the pastoral way of life that can be related to the environment. Bhotias, who are pastoralists and into Tibetan trade, form the main pillar of the economy. The researcher also explained how some Bhotias do not admit their origin and claim to be Rajputs who had migrated from Tibet and re-settled in the Himalayan valleys. The presentation highlighted the migration of Bhotias in the region where in the first movement, only carriers, traders and flocks moved, and in the second, the entire family accompanied in, and in the third, the cattle moved. She concluded by discussing the identity of Bhotias, wherein the identity is not born in a certain place but assessed cases where the spatial

location and village deities (*Kul Devta*) acted as identity-makers for people living the transhuman nomadic life.

The moderator for the session **Samata Biswas** connected the three papers and how they well conversed with and complemented each other, though Biswas pointed out that methodologically the papers varied on the surface. She examined how all three presentations pointed to the connectedness of the South Asian region beginning from the migration of Bengalis from Sylhet and Burma to the transhumance life and community of the Bhotiyas. The moderator also asserted that thematically, all the three presentations were focused on communities which have been undergoing the process of migration for a long time in various ways and commented on the ways in which the presentations problematised the notion of borderlands and borders.



Panel 7B: Long Migration

Valedictory Session

Subhas Rajan Chakraborty, the chair for the session, briefly summarised the key take-aways from the conference and introduced the speaker delivering the valedictory lecture **Ioana Vrabiescu**.

In the valedictory session, **Ioana Vrabiescu's** paper titled **“Illiberalism, Migration, and The Politics of De-Development in Europe: A Profile of Radical Capitalism,”** discussed the larger outcome of the illiberal migration in Europe. Her arguments were built on the politics of de-development under the process of progress bring immense destructions, the rationalised practices including the citizens and the mass migration as the effect of liberalisation. The disintegration has been tackled into two sides of Europe. The European Union (EU) dynamics of integration and disintegration reflected on integration in Europe as the path to the larger political economic project of the racial capitalism. It is ambivalence of the freedom of the movement principle. Iona raised the central question, how securitisation impacts development of project and are met to prevent the precarity of understanding the value of work and non-work, especially within the premises of the de-development of CEE countries for the EU countries. Ioana highlighted the scholarship on disorder, dispossession, destruction, and dislocation—significant for the scholars to be adjusted into different development models. De-development promises progress with the decentralisation of the economic (socialist) system. However, capitalist accumulation through dispossession and dislocation led hundreds of industries to cease to exist. She focused on how ‘de-development’ is primarily meant to control and restrict. During the neoliberal system the development of technologies happened which is represented by mass immigration. Further, mass immigration produces floating and low wage-earning people, leading to an understanding that such vulnerable migrants should be sent home for their own good. Europe producing migrant force should be associated with development, the check on the corrupt government, and the representation of the dispossession of the assets. She pointed out that de-development results in the continuity of socio-economic marginalisation by redefining work. People who are underpaid and undervalued like care workers, domestic workers, recycling workers remain unquantified. The new precarity produced by the mass migration is that the work done by such migrant workers remain unquantifiable. Dispossession of rights and dislocation of the workforce under racial capitalism make migrants vulnerable. The racialised borders that have been normalised, represent the extraction of European migration—the socio-economic rights restricted within the East-West movement. Ioana emphasised how mass immigration in the times of late capitalism inform the process of racialisation, creating additional exploitations, categories, and fostering the argument that “vulnerable migrants” should be sent home for their own good. These characteristics are sold within the parameters of labour migration, thus, facilitating the operation of racial capitalism through de-development. She also argued on the benevolent policies of migration, where the vulnerable migrant is created within the geographical conditions of the mass east-west migration inside Europe. Further, the process of racialisation through social provision impacts the mass migration, and as the security development nexus, they should start changing their pool of life. The securitisation of the Roma migrant to those who failed “social” integration programme, forced the Roma migrants to leave, or they must adopt social integration programme and to assess and fail the subjects. Ioana also discussed illiberal enforcement in the context of Romania. She highlighted the case study of Franco-Romanian police collaboration for migration control in labour agreement that restricts labour movement. Ioana concluded how migration policies in illiberalism is not a ‘failure’ of liberal democracy but an outcome of neo-liberal policies of financialisation and de-development.

The chair for the session, **Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty** while drawing attention to the historical context, also noted that the East has been already considered as a danger and not looked like the

Romanian. Roma areas are discriminated all over Europe resulting in anti-migration to Europe. Since Roma identity is not a specificity, it is related at times with a sort of non-territorial identity and such similarities have been noticed with the African countries as well.

The Conference came to a close with the Vote of Thanks delivered by Debashree Chakraborty of the Calcutta Research Group.



Participants of the Eighth Annual Conference, 21-22 November 2023, Kolkata

EVALUATION

EVALUATION

Eighth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop on Global Protection of Refugees and Migrants and Eighth Annual Conference on War, Climate Disaster, and Displacement: Call for New Protection Strategies, 17-22 November 2023, Kolkata

It was a great honor to observe, participate and evaluate the Eighth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop on Global Protection of Refugees and Migrants. 2023's Annual Workshop was organised by Calcutta Research Group (CRG) in collaboration with Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (RLS) and the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, and several academic institutions, universities and organisations in India and abroad.

This evaluation is done with the spirit of appreciation and looking into ways to improve the future endeavours of CRG in this arena. CRG is known for both academic and policy rigor in its work. Over the years, this annual Workshop and Conference has become its flagship programme. Many in the region and beyond wait for this important event. The workshop is culmination of the three month-long hybrid mentoring course where the course participants (junior faculty, PhD scholars, independent researchers, journalists and academic minded policy enthusiasts and researchers) work on a specific research theme and work closely with an assigned mentor in developing their research paper. During the Workshop and Conference this evaluator spoke to participants, CRG team members, mentors and other participations and co-chaired an hourlong dedicated feedback session held at the conclusion of the Workshop.

I have organised my observation within a structure provided by the CRG organising team. I appreciate their desire and commitment to explore the both strengths and areas of improvement of the programme.

1. Organisation of the Workshop and Conference

The Workshop and the Conference were well organised. The scheduling was flexible and firm both depending on the circumstance. Logistical arrangement was excellent. Schedule, session planning, introduction of each session, short bios of the session participants and moderators and mentors were available both online and in print.

Workshop and Conference protocols were introduced in the beginning and reiterated on later days. It was done to give each participant a safe space to express freely and openly. The whole event was organised in a such way that everybody felt comfortable and encouraged to participate, express and share.

CRG has mastered the methods and processes of organising hybrid online-offline parts of the Workshops and Conference. This allowed wider participation and engagements for both local, national and international participants.

2. Design of the Programme

Looking at the design of the programme, CRG has perfected in designing this programme. CRG has attracted many young researchers from far and wide. They are very conscious of representation of minorities and marginalised community scholars. Over the years with vast network of alumni, CRG has been able to create a community of practice in migration and refugee studies.

I found the remote mentoring of the participants to be a very interesting and important component of the programme as this engagement of mentor and mentee leading to physical presentation is a

journey of discovery and learning. Many participants were telling me this experience is unique in creating a long-term collegiality among the scholars.

Each day session on specific module began with the lecture from Module Mentor and each participant of the modules presented their paper which was followed by Q&A and discussion, everyone has chance to comment and speak. Participants were encouraged to act as rapporteurs for specific session of the workshop was very innovative to make programme participatory and build sense of ownership.

Paper presented as a draft is expected to evolve as a finished writeup on any one of the formats such as policy paper and briefs, monograph, journal article, book chapter. This process of turning draft into final product is very encouraging to the young researchers and academics.

I found the dedicated evaluation session very useful as it allowed participant to air their suggestion and comments openly with the programme and me which helped the evaluator to listen and note their suggestions.

3. Distance Segment/ Online Sessions

Distance and online sessions prepared the participants in advance with regard to what to expect from the programme. This also helped them to socialise with fellow module participants and moderators. The programme regularly communicated with each participant and moderators through emails which many participants found very helpful. Dedicated focal person at CRG was very useful idea. Many participants appreciated the role of programme coordinators as they facilitated any issues emerged during the period of the programme.

Although mentor mentee encounter began remotely, it was good to see very cordial bonding among them during the workshop and conference. This shows the commitment and dedication from the both sides to make relationship workable. Many past participants contributed in the programme as mentor or resource person is testimony of CRG's contribution creating ecosystem of learning and sharing. Thus, making this a unique, one of its kind programmes.

4. Contribution in Terms of Policy Advocacy

Each module was design to attract policy questions or concerns. I found the module presentations and discussions to have some direct or indirect policy concerns. Participants were encouraged to think both normatively and empirically on the research they are undertaking. Using migration and refugee studies as entry point, participants were discussing policy issues of urban-rural linkages, environmental degradation and costs, health and care, women and so on.

5. Academic Merits

The CRG team worked hard to not compromise on the academic rigor and standard. It was evident in overall discussion and conversation in each and every module throughout the workshop and conference. Sound conversation, contestation and arguments around empirical and normative understanding around the issues at hand defined the workshop which is the hallmark of any academic activities.

6. Was there Sufficient Engagement with the Question of Research Methodology?

There was sufficient discussion the research methodology. Comments, questions on research draft always began with the methodological approach, tools and techniques.

7. Was the Programme Informative?

The programme was highly informative. Many participants shared this feeling and given the diverse participation in the event, each participant brought unique experience, observation and take on the subject they are researching on. Two participants said they need to revisit their notes once they return to distill all the information possible. A few participants shared that they have learnt a lot and the same has extended beyond their expectation. Five participants shared with me that it was a good learning opportunity as the group was diverse in background coming from different backgrounds in terms of region, language, rural urban, education, etc.

8. How Far do You Think this has the Potential for Expanding the Frontiers of Research on Migration and Refugee?

I strongly feel this programme makes significant contribution to the field of migration and refugee studies and research. In next two years the workshop will cross the 10th year mark. It has created a sizable discursive community of researchers and activists who work on this issue. CRG through its pioneering leadership has provided guidance to many academics and researchers working in this field.

9. Possible Areas for Improvement

The Workshop is already a stable and strong programme. Continuity with change should be its future direction. Continuity in terms of its independence, academic rigor, collegial, and critical endeavours and being open to new ideas should be its focus.

Next year's Workshop could be organised as Alumni Workshop /Conference to take stock of the field and proposed state of discipline workshop on 10 the workshop.

Managing multiple sessions is always challenging. Thus, there should be plenary type sessions and special sessions where everyone can participate as well as specialised sessions where one can be a part based on their interest.

Use of CRG resources including the library and previous publications should be prioritised. This issue needs to be addressed as many participants come to the city for a short time and cannot use CRG resource physically. A digital archive has thus become essential. Workshop participants should be encouraged to become special member of the library to use the resources post Workshop. Their membership can be categorised based on their contribution in building and maintaining resources.

Field Trip is the highlight of the Workshop. I observed that it takes lots of energy on the part of staff to organise it as number of participants is fairly high. Is it possible to make participants pay partially?

Institutionalising the alumni network to generate resources for future activities.

EVALUATOR: HARI SHARMA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PURAK ASIA KATHMANDU, NEPAL.

DATED: DECEMBER 20, 2023.

RESEARCH OUTCOMES

RESEARCH OUTCOMES

Working Papers

1. Ahmad Ibrahim, “Pawns for Profits - Analysing the Plight of Bangladeshi Female Migrant Workers to KSA Between 2015 – 2018, *Policies and Practices* (2023).
2. Debashree Chakraborty, “Literary Imagination of Climate Change and Climate Disasters,” *Policies and Practices* (2023).
3. Farhana Ahmed, Ritwika Mitra and Riya Singh Rathore, “Media and Migration,” *Policies and Practices* (2023).
4. Franz Graf, “Teaching Local Anthropology on Climate Change: Ethnographic Field Schools at Lake Neusiedl, Austria,” *Policies and Practices* (2023).
5. Nargis Choudhury, “Access to justice for Women under Foreigner’s Tribunal Act, 1946 in Assam,” *Policies and Practices* (2023).
6. Nirvan Pradhan, “Can Recruitment be Fair? Possibilities and Paradoxes of Ethical Recruitment in Eastern Himalayas,” *Policies and Practices* (2023).
7. Paula Banerjee, “Is Protection Only a Legal Matter? Migrant Labour in South and South-East Asia,” *Policies and Practices* (2023).
8. Rajat Kanti Sur, “United We Stand”: Role of Unionisations among the Gig Labours in India,” *Policies and Practices* (2023).
9. Rituparna Datta, “Bhootlane Ki Katha”: Habitation and Construction of Dignity, Health and Well-Being in Indentured Mobility 1830-1920,” *Policies and Practices* (2023).
10. Rituparna Datta, “Death in Diaspora,” *Policies and Practices* (2023).
11. Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, “Platformed Precarity: A Tale of Two Cities in India,” *Policies and Practices* (2023).
12. Samir Kumar Das, “Governing the Pandemic: Negotiating Democracy in Our Time,” *Policies and Practices* (2023).
13. Shatabdi Das, “Kolkata and Mumbai: Climate Disaster Mitigation in Coastal Megacities of India,” *Policies and Practices* (2023).
14. Sonu Tiwari, “The Intersections of Gender, Im/mobility, and Governance in Sundarbans Delta,” *Policies and Practices* (2023).

Report

15. Ishita Dey, *Journeys and Internal Migrant Workers: An Ethnographic Study of Railway Connectivity* (Kolkata: Calcutta Research Group, 2023).

Krishna Memorial Lecture

16. Basu, Sunandan. *Humanity in the COVID-19 Era*, Ninth Krishna Memorial Lecture 2022. Kolkata: Calcutta Research Group, 2023.

CRG Chair Lecture Series

17. Ranabir Samaddar, “Texts from the Void,” Selected texts from Distinguished Chair Lecture held on 18 September 2023, *CRG Chair Lecture Series* (2023).

Journals

18. Refugee Watch: Politics, Space, Memory: Identity Making in the Wake of Partition, Issue 61 & 62 (June and December 2023).
19. Refugee Watch: Migrant Asias Special Issue (December 2023).

Books/Edited Volumes

20. Ranabir Samaddar, *Alternative Futures and the Present: Postcolonial Possibilities* (London and New York: Routledge, 2023).
21. Bharat Bhushan (ed.), *Media, Migrants in the Time of Pandemic: A Reader* (New York: Routledge, 2023).
22. Sangbida Lahiri, *Covidkale Bipannata o Sanghati* (Kolkata: Progressive, 2023).
23. Rituparna Datta (ed.), *Pandemic and Precarity* (Kolkata: Sampark: 2023).
24. Piya Srinivasan (ed.), *Living with the Weather: Climate Change, Ecology, and Displacement in South Asia* (New Delhi: Yoda Press, 2023).
25. Paula Banerjee (ed.), *On the Margins of Protection* (Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan, forthcoming).
26. Ranabir Samaddar, *Biopolitics from Below: Conjuncture, Crisis, and Politics of the Lower Classes* (CEU Press, forthcoming).
27. Kaustubh Mani Sengupta, Paula Banerjee, and Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty (eds.), *The Long 2020: Reflections of Epidemiological Times* (Springer, forthcoming).
28. Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, Ayşe Çağlar, and Ranabir Samaddar (eds.), *Sites of Statelessness: Laws, Cities, Seas* (New York: SUNY Press, forthcoming).

Translations

29. Gopal Krishna, and Anamika Priyadarshini, ed., *Mahamari ki Sarbad-e*, translated by Ashok Jha and Pranav Jha (New Delhi: Aakar Books, 2023).
30. Manjira Saha, *Labour Train*, translated by Purna Banerjee (Kolkata: Frontpage, 2023).
31. Pradip Bose (ed.), *Paschimbangey Udbastura: Pratisthanik Udyog o Parichitir Sanghat*, translated by Prasit Das (Kolkata: Progressive Publishers, forthcoming).

Policy Briefs

32. Shatabdi Das, *Climate Disasters and Displacement in India: Role of Policies and Protection* (Kolkata: Calcutta Research Group, 2023).
33. Sohini Sengupta, *Climate Mobilities and Policy Directions for the Global South* (Kolkata: Calcutta Research Group, 2023).

Popular Book

34. Debashree Chakraborty and Rajat Kanti Sur (eds.), *Routes and Ports of Migration* (Kolkata: Calcutta Research Group, 2023).

Handbook/Encyclopedia

35. Paula Banerjee, Nasreen Chowdhury and Priya Singh (eds.), *Postcolonial Compendium: Keywords in Forced Migration and Refugee Studies* (London: Frontpage, 2023).

RefugeeWatchOnline

36. Sucharita Sengupta, "In between the Sea and fire: The Rohingya in Bangladesh," *RefugeeWatchOnline*, March 1, 2023, <https://refugeewatchonline.wordpress.com/2023/03/11/in-between-the-sea-and-fire-the-rohingya-inbangladesh/#more-1948>
37. Bharat Bhushan, "Daily wage worker suicides unlikely to end soon," *RefugeeWatchOnline*, March 4, 2023, <https://refugeewatchonline.wordpress.com/2023/03/04/daily-wage-worker-suicides-unlikely-to-end-soon/>
38. Mohamed Shafeeq Karinkurayil, "A Lasting Laugh on the Last Word: A Review of Orhan Pamuk's Nights of Plague," *RefugeeWatchOnline*, March 8, 2023, <https://refugeewatchonline.wordpress.com/2023/03/08/a-lasting-laugh-on-the-last-word-a-review-of-orhanpamuks-nights-of-plague/#more-1935>
39. Bharat Bhushan, "India's Manipur: Thousands Flee Ethnic Violence but the Roots Run Deeper," *RefugeeWatchOnline*, May 9, 2023, <https://refugeewatchonline.wordpress.com/2023/05/09/indias-manipur-thousands-flee-ethnic-violence-but-the-roots-run-deeper/>
40. Bharat Bhushan, "Bhutanese Refugees in Nepal: A Scandal that Rocks the Government," *RefugeeWatchOnline*, June 2, 2023, <https://refugeewatchonline.wordpress.com/2023/06/02/bhutanese-refugees-in-nepal-a-scandal-that-rocks-the-government/>
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