

An Event of Interest- In keeping up with its discussions of critical theory studies, CRG organized a two-part Reading Session or lecture series on Michel Foucault's *Security, Territory, Population: Lectures at the College de France* (1977-1978), by **Ranabir Samaddar**, Distinguished Chair in Migration and Forced Migration Studies, CRG, and CIFAR Fellow, Humanity's Urban Future. Two lectures have been planned under this initiative. The first was delivered on 16 August 2024 at CRG. Approximately, 40-45 attendees were present at the lecture. The second session is tentatively scheduled for 3 October 2024.

In the first session, Prof. Samaddar geared his talk around the Foucauldian concepts of conduct and counter conduct and how that can be used to understand contemporary society and politics. Samaddar also referred to other seminal works of Foucault to explain the exercise of power and notion of security. Foucault's analysis of 'biopolitics' as governance of life and management of populations, according to Samaddar is an amalgamation of his ideas present in his earlier works like "History of Sexuality", and "Society must be defended" lectures that followed *Security, Territory and Population*, which can be heralded as a work on neo liberalism but it is also a commentary on his "Birth of Biopolitics" (1978-1979), where he further explored the concept of biopolitics. Samaddar contended Foucault's logic of surveillance as a security apparatus to monitor populations by questioning the limits of such surveillance techniques of power and technologies of security. To explain further the interplay of power and governmentality, Samaddar referred to contemporary instances like the Covid-19 Pandemic and how the states responded to manage what has been widely reckoned as a public health crisis.