

# CRG Panels on the Occasion of IASFM 14

Date -7.1.13 || Time-2-3.30 pm

Name of the panel- *Borders and Right to Escape*

Participants-

**Sandro Mezzadra**, University of Bologna, Italy – “Rights to Escape”

**Sanjay Chaturvedi**, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India- “Trespassing 'Borders': Geopolitics of Fear in Israel and the Right to Escape”

**Paula Banerjee**, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India- “Democracy, Women and Borders in India”

**Sumit Chakraborty**, Burdwan University, Kolkata, India- “Of Borders and Exiles: Reading \*I Saw Ramalla”

Panel Abstract-

The panel explores the role of individual agencies and identities in negotiating with the ideas of borders, borderlands and border crossings. Here, borders are not merely seen as territorial boundaries, but as ever shifting demarcating lines between inside/outside, self/other, citizens/denizens, security/insecurity, and purity/impurity. The panel consists of four papers. The first paper in this panel uses the concept of ‘right to escape’ to understand the agency of individuals in border crossings. The second paper looks into the specific case of Israel to understand how the material and mental borders are being negotiated and ‘trespassed’ and the role of imagined geographies of fear and the underlying demographic-cartographic anxieties in dictating these movements. The third paper studies the case of India and interrogates the concepts of border and borderland from a feminist point of view. The last paper studies the politics of space, the rights of crossing, the temerity of violating borders and sanctions through the reading of the memoir of a Palestinian poet Mourid Barghouti.

Name of the Panel- *Other Histories of Partition: Lives in Transit*

Participants-

**Anwasha Sengupta**, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India- “To Leave or Not to Leave: Patterns of Muslim Migration from West Bengal to East Pakistan (1947 -1950)”

**Ishita Dey**, Delhi School of Economics, New Delhi, India- “Life in a Permanent Liability Home: Gendered experience of Partition”

**Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury**, Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata, India- “Politics of Rehabilitation after Partition: Lower Caste Refugees in West Bengal”

**Anjali Gera Roy & Sarmishtha De Dutta**, IIT, Kharagpur, India – “Untamed Voices from the Unknown Margins: Partition Narratives from a Remote Region of West Bengal”

Panel Abstract-

The main objective of this panel would be to look beyond the experience of partitioning of the sub-continent of 1947 as a cartographic exercise. What is interesting and crucial in this debate is how “contested spaces” were recreated and reproduced in post-colonial South Asia as a result of the massive forced migration across 370,000 square miles of territory leading to the formation of two nation-states of India and Pakistan. Much of the contested spaces have to do with how people negotiated with the “borders” that forced them to migrate, as well as become subjects and agents of post-colonial statecraft. In this context it is important to understand that the post-colonial statecraft’s narrative of ‘care and protection’ towards

“refugees” was embedded and continues to be influenced by the existing social structures of religion, caste and gender.

**Time-4-5.30 pm**

**Name of the panel-*Branding the Migrant***

**Participants-**

**Atig Ghosh**, Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata, India- “Anxious Economy, Nervous State”  
**Badri Narayan Tiwari**, Govind Ballabh Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad, India- “Photos and Colonial Governance of Migrants Identities in Suriname”

**Ranabir Samaddar**, Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata, India- “Figuring the Alien, Governing the Monstrous”

**Panel Abstract-**

The figure of the non-citizen — and the imminent irruption of the Heimlich pleasures of the hearth that it represents — violently unsettles the homogeneous, secure self-image of the nation-state. Anxiety dictates that states try to map, monitor, mobilize, or exclude the non-citizen alien — that is, the refugees, the asylum seekers, the stateless persons, or even the IDPs and other immigrants. To this end, the nation-states have resorted to manifold methods and manoeuvres. The three papers in this section track the various yet convergent, variant yet conjoint, modes in which states have grappled with the ‘problem’ of aliens and migrants.

**Date -8.1.13 || Time-9-11.30 am**

**Name of the panel-*Disaster and Displacement***

**Participants-**

**Pari Velan**, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India- “Policies of Disaster Management in India”  
**Nirmal Mahato**, Independent Researcher, West Bengal, India- “Labour Trafficking in Purulia: An Ecological Context”

**Mithilesh Kumar**, University of Western Sydney, Australia- “Governing Flood, Migration and Conflict in North Bihar”

**Madhulika Sahoo**, Independent consultant & Researcher, Odisha, India – “Environmental Injustice to The Conservation & Mining Induced Displaced People in Odisha”

**Panel Abstracts-**

Environmental challenges and related displacements are some of the major concerns of contemporary development discourse. Forced migration due to resource crisis caused by climate change and environmental degradation is a serious impediment to attaining the basic normative goal of equity, participation and development. In this panel, it is particularly intended to examine to what extent the issues of environmental challenges, resource crisis, climate change and resultant displacement are impairing social equality on the one hand, and to what extent existing social inequality, particularly in the relationship between developed and developing countries are causing the problems of resource crisis and displacement on the other. The basic objective of this panel is to contemplate the impacts of environmental challenges, resource crisis, climate change and subsequent displacement on the development of society.

**Time-4-5.30 pm**

**Name of the Panel- *People's Response to Development Induced Displacement***

**Participants-**

**Paula Banerjee**, University of Calcutta, India- "The Development induced Displaced and their Protests"

**Samir K. Das**, North Bengal University, India- "Forced Migration and the Economy of Sovereign Gaze"

**Manish Jha**, TISS, India- "Development, Displacement and Resistance"

**Panel Abstract-**

The question of 'development' is explored in this panel with a special emphasis on the way it has created displacement in the post colonial world. This challenges the notion that displacement is exceptional to development. It also challenges the notion that, since states are sovereign, if they chose to treat displacement as collateral damage for higher gains then citizens have to accept that. This panel is all about people's initiatives in India and how they handle displacement. The panel would comprise three papers covering an array of theoretical and empirical issues pertaining to development and displacement that have shaped much of the popular and discursive politics in the post colonial world. The papers have used archival material, ethnographic research and all kinds of primary and secondary resources including books, journals, papers, surveys, newspapers and census etc.

**Date-9.1.13 | | Time-9-11.30 am**

**Name of the panel- *Issues of Statelessness/Citizenship in South Asia: Some Case Studies***

**Participants-**

**Anasua Basu Roy Chaudhury**, Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, "Nowhere People: Stateless Chakmas in Arunachal Pradesh"

**Ashok Nayak**, ActionAid, Kolkata-"Presentation on the Chhitmahals"

**Anup Sekhar Chakraborty**, St. Jopseph's College, Darjeeling- "Brave Mercenaries to Becoming Honorable Citizens: Statelessness, Befuddled Public Sphere and the Gorkha"

**Abba Pullu**, "Stateless Chakmas: Displaced and Deprived"

**Panel Abstract-**

Statelessness is the quality of being, in some way, without a state. In fact it means without a nationality, or at least without the protection that nationality should offer. Normally statelessness emerges from succession of states or territorial reorganizations. But it also emerges from persecution of minorities and state's majoritarian bias, which lead the states at time to expel citizens or inhabitants. This condition, reinforced by the protracted refusal of the involved states to take them back creates a condition, which may lead at times to loss of their nationality and citizenship. Much of the problem of statelessness that exists in South Asia has its origins in the way the region was decolonized and partitioned and the international borders were reorganized.

Against this backdrop the panel will focus on three different cases of statelessness in India: Chakmas of Arunachal Pradesh, Chinese in Kolkata and the Gorkhas. How certain groups and communities are rendered

stateless? While successor states in South Asia remain far from being ethnically homogeneous, are minorities living within them more vulnerable to statelessness than others? Does protracted refugeehood eventually result in statelessness? Is the distinction between refugeehood and statelessness increasingly wearing thin? Is the existing legal regime adequate in dealing with the problem of statelessness? Do the policymakers need to think beyond legal terms? These are few questions that the panel will bring to the surface.

**Time-2-3.30 pm**

**Name of the panel- *Transitional Justice: Justice in Transition***

**Participants-**

**Sabyasachi Basu Roy Chaudhury**, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, India- “Forced Migration and Justice in the Time of Transition”

**Arani Sanyal**, National Law School, Bangalore, India- “Transitional Justice as a Human Right?”

**Sibaji Pratim Basu**, Sri Chaitanya College, West Bengal, India

**Panel Abstract-**

Justice is considered to be the constant and perpetual wish to render to everyone her/his due. It is perhaps quite elusive in terms of legal jurisprudence. But, this eternal eagerness to reach a cherished goal of a just world and the contested claims for justice by different groups of people sharing the same territorial, social, legal and political space, make the discourse on justice fairly thought-provoking. Meanwhile, the concept of transitional justice has gained considerable importance in the different branches of social sciences. The concept of transitional justice came to the fore in view of the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in South Africa as that country was groping for a just system after the collapse of its age-old apartheid regime. Later on, transitional justice gained further acceptance in view of the “new wave” of democratisation across the globe in the late 1980s and early 1990s when many other countries were going through another kind of transition from an authoritarian political system to some kind of a democratic one in the post-Soviet world. These developments brought the issue of transitional justice to the fore of the contemporary discourses on justice. It has interesting moral, religious and philosophical dimensions. This panel explores the concepts of transitional justice, the idea of developing transitional justice as a human right, relevance of the concepts in studying forced migration and formulating policies by nation states towards the IDPs and refugees.