

## **1. A Unique Programme and its Objectives**

The Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group popularly known as the Calcutta Research Group (CRG) was born as a facilitating group in support of the peace movement in West Bengal, particularly during the Third Joint Conference of the Pakistan-India Peoples' Forum for Peace and Democracy - an unprecedented public gathering of 400 peace activists of the sub-continent for 4 days in Calcutta in 1996. The founders were a group of researchers, trade unionists, feminist thinkers and women's rights campaigners, academics, journalists, and lawyers. This was to be a forum for policy discussion and analysis on issues of democracy, human rights, peace, and justice. Developing as a forum of mostly young public activists and socially committed researchers, CRG is now well known for its research, dialogues, and advocacy work. It has carved out a niche for itself in the scholar-activist world for its policy studies on autonomy, human rights, women's dignity, issues of forced displacement and migration, peace and conflict resolution, citizenship, borders and border-conflicts, and other themes relevant to democracy.

The relevance of organizing a peace and human rights education in South Asia cannot be doubted owing to the region's increasing vulnerability and to the rising atrocities in the region due to inter ethnic conflicts, conflicts over resources and displacement caused by environment related reasons. One of the significant features of the Course has been its ability to treat the issue of "forced migration" as holistic concept; which combines for its studies various forms of forced migration – internal and trans-border, the basic rights and issues of refugee protection and issues of internal displacement. Various types of forced migration – violence induced, environmental disaster induced, mixed forms of migration; development induced, gender oppression induced and various types of discrimination induced migration are also discussed throughout the programme. While on the other hand South Asia has built up extensive knowledge and capacity to work for the victims of forced migration through human rights programmes, humanitarian assistance, scholarly researches, publications, network building, policy deliberations and exchanges, yet there has been no course available to the human rights activists, functionaries of humanitarian agencies, young jurists, journalists and policy makers in the region of South Asia till CRG with the support of the UNHCR, the Brookings Institution, and the Government of Finland in particular, introduced the fifteen day orientation programme (1-15 December) in 2003. The orientation is preceded by a three month long distance education segment to deal with and spread the particular knowledge of South Asia on: a) coping with partition refugees and mass disasters including environment related disasters b) community initiatives, independent human rights activism and monitoring c) best practices of protection mechanisms by the state d) gender issues and women's initiatives at various levels and e) internal displacement. The main emphasis of the course was to bring to this forum the South Asian experiences in coping with massive forced migration – both cross border and internal; - flows from the awareness of the need for a politics of justice that is underlined by gender rights, ethics of care and protection. The winter course, since 2003 has been a regular annual feature which has encouraged and produced critical knowledge in the area of forced migration in South Asia with a select profile of 20 participants and resource persons from various professional backgrounds.

The programme involves several university departments and personnel, and other institutions working in this area. It draws attention to the benchmark set by national and

international human rights and humanitarian laws and principles, and the experiences of the relevant organisations and front-ranking personnel. The course is special because of its emphasis on experiences of forced displacement, creative writings on refugee life, nature of internal displacement, critical legal analysis, analysis of notions of vulnerability, care, risk, protection, and settlement, and attention on gender concerns as an integral part of the course.

The main objectives of the course are:

1. To encourage dialogue between policy makers, research scholars, activists and media persons in South Asia.
2. To train personnel working in national human rights institutions in South Asia
3. To encourage researchers and scholars working on displacement studies through CRG's network of researchers, activists and scholars working on forced migration related issues in South Asia
4. To build up a resource centre for future research work in this area for young scholars and activists
5. To collaborate with educational and research institutions interested in using CRG's expertise on displacement and peace studies for short orientation programmes.
6. To encourage exchange of scholars and dialogue in the following key areas:
  - The right to return (State responsibility and state practices to protect the victims of forced migration in South Asia – comparative analysis);
  - Climate change and environmental degradation – policy analysis (Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India);
  - Victims right to information and communicate (India);
  - Trafficking, health of the migrants, and reflections on monitoring mechanisms (Nepal, Bangladesh and India);
  - Refugee Camps in South Asia (India, Nepal, Sri Lanka);
  - Internal displacement – revisiting legal frameworks (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal);
7. Over the years, the Course syllabi have been designed to treat the issue of “forced migration” as holistic concept; which combines for its studies various forms of forced migration – internal and trans-border, the basic rights and issues of refugee protection and issues of internal displacement. Various types of forced migration – violence induced, environmental disaster induced, mixed forms of migration; development induced, gender oppression induced and various types of discrimination induced migration are also discussed throughout the programme.
8. To encourage policy makers to build up protection strategies for victims in forced migration in consonance with the international legal frameworks and policy guidelines.
9. There are several features of the Course, which make it a unique programme. Readers of the report will find the details in subsequent pages; however it is important to summarise them and place them at the beginning:
  - (a) Emphasis on distance education, its innovation, and continuous improvement through interactive methods, including the use of web-based education;

- (b) International standard, rigorous nature of the Course, customizing methodologies for forced migration research and generating original research inputs, fieldwork, analysis of the protracted IDP situations, and a comprehensive regional nature;
- (c) Emphasis on experiences of the victims of forced displacement in the conflict zones; such as India's Northeast, Jammu & Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh and Chattisgarh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Israel/Palestine;
- (d) Special focus on auditing and strategizing media through workshops, film sessions and creative assignments;
- (e) Emphasis on gender justice;
- (f) Special attention to policy implications;
- (g) Follow up programmes such as spreading it to universities, providing inputs to future researchers, innovating local modules, training participants to become trainers of the future programmes;
- (h) And, finally building up the programme as a facilitator of a network of several universities, grassroots organisations, Mothers' Fronts, research foundations, UN institutions etc.



*From Left to Right: Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury and Paula Banerjee*

## **2. Structure of the Course**

On 15 December 2009 the Seventh Annual Winter Course on Forced Migration came to an end. The course since its inception has tried to move beyond the issues of forced migration and incorporated various salient features about the reasons of migration and displacement. Despite its South Asian focus, an attempt is made to draw a comparative analysis from other regions to discuss issues of forced migration, racism and xenophobia. The Course has attempted to constantly reinvent itself keeping with the time and issues like climate change and its impact on forced displacement, media coverage of refugee experiences and displacement issues were some of the highlights of this year's programme. In addition to this, the legal regimes of protection and ethics of care and justice are particularly important to understand the recent tightening of borders due to "security" reasons. This only reproduces vulnerability of the migrants and creates hierarchies. The Course builds on CRG's ongoing research work on displacement and forced migration has attempted to question these power structures and hierarchies. It pays particular attention to various forms of vulnerabilities in displacement without creating any hierarchies. Hence it is constantly evolving.

With the increasing importance to study the impact of climate change the course committee introduced a compulsory module on "Resource politics, climate change, environmental degradation, and displacement". The course is built around eight modules.

### **The Compulsory Modules**

- A. States, Partitions, and Issues of Citizenship
- B. Gender Dimensions of Forced Migration, Vulnerabilities, and Justice
- C. International, Regional, and the National Legal Regimes of Protection, Sovereignty and the Principle of Responsibility.
- D. Internal Displacement with Special Reference to Causes, Linkages, and Responses
- E. Resource Politics, Climate Change, Environmental Degradation, and Displacement

### **The Optional Modules**

- F. Research Methodology in Forced Migration Studies
- G. Ethics of Care and Protection
- H. Media and Displacement and Forced Migration

The Course activities besides the writings assignments, included workshops assignments, media assignments, group discussions, field visit, creative sessions of film screenings and a day long media workshop and face to face interactions with resource persons experienced in related areas.

### **Duration and Activities**

Preparation for the Seventh Annual Winter Course on Forced Migration commenced on 14 December 2008, a day before the Sixth Winter Course formally ended. By that time, CRG members and its collaborators had realised that the Winter Course has grown into a full-fledged programme with components of research, networking, particularly partnership between Indian and Finnish institutions, and training under innovative and different formats.

This was later accepted and endorsed by the advisors during the advisory committee meeting on 4-5 April 2009 in Shillong. Representatives from the UNHCR, the Embassy of Finland, our colleagues and members of the Course Committee and former participants attended the two-day deliberations to discuss the selection procedure, participants' profile, module structure of the Course, media segment, field visit and follow up segment. The participants to the advisory meeting put forward various recommendations and suggestions pertaining to the publicity of the Course and its research segment. Some of the suggestions that emerged from the two day discussions are highlighted below:-

- The discussion on research segment highlighted the need and significance of research in three areas: Chin Refugees in India's Northeast, Sri Lankan Refugees and environmental refugees.
- The fifteen-day on-site training in Kolkata was interactive in general but it also requires special attention in some areas; some of the ex-participants felt that CRG's initiative to involve participants in roundtables and panel discussions were interesting and generated discussion while the workshops needed to be redesigned.

## **Participants**

Twenty two participants were selected, of whom eighteen could complete the Course by way of finishing the different assignments and attending the fifteen day workshop in Kolkata successfully. These participants were selected through public notifications and were drawn from backgrounds of law, social and humanitarian work, human rights work, academic background and research work. This year we had participants from Human Rights Commissions in Nepal and Sri Lanka along with psychosocial practitioners; lawyers and researchers from Pakistan; Bangladesh; Sri Lanka and India. Participants from the USA, Nigeria and Canada brought forth with them wider experiences of refugee-hood and of rehabilitation and care. Those who could not complete the course were unable to do so mainly due to sudden personal indisposition and visa problems.

## **Faculty**

Resource persons from various universities and institutions across South Asia, South East Asia and outside South Asia were invited to join as faculty members of the Seventh Winter Course on Forced Migration. The faculty was drawn from people with recognized backgrounds in refugee studies, studies in internal displacement, university teaching and research, humanitarian work in NGOs, legal studies, UN functionaries, particularly UNHCR functionaries; public policy analysis, journalism, and concerned human rights activism and humanitarian work. Attention was paid to diversity of background and regional representativeness. Importance was attached to the requirements of the syllabus; the faculty was also involved in developing on a permanent scale a syllabus, a set of reading materials, evaluation, and follow-up activities. They graded participants on their skills such as speaking and writing skills, analysis of themes chosen, execution of creative assignments etc.

## **Evaluation**

The participants were evaluated by a number of resource persons. The core faculty evaluated each of their assignments. All the resource persons present evaluated their presentations, including the presentation of their term papers. They were given a grade for

the distance education segment and another for the Kolkata Workshop. At the end of the Course they were given a cumulative grade. The Course is equivalent to six credit hours of graduate level work. It has a built in evaluation system. Each participant is required to present a written evaluation and each resource person is also expected to do the same. Every year CRG invites independent researchers, scholars, activists and administrators to evaluate the course. This year Paul Ryder, Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford was invited for evaluating the programme. Excerpts from his evaluation report are presented in Section 13.

### Follow-Up

This year CRG in collaboration with Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP), Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, organized a three day national workshop on “Resource Politics, Climate Change, Environmental Degradation, and Displacement in India” from 22-24 January 2010. This workshop was an outcome of the ongoing and past work by the Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (CRG) and its collaboration with different universities in South Asia, particularly in the context of forced migration, over the last seven years. A select number of university students from southern India, in particular, from Andhra Pradesh, participated in the workshop and the resource persons were selected jointly by CRG and the CSSEIP. Participation ranged from research scholars, activists, and university and college teachers to journalists.



*From Left to Right: Samaresh Guchhait, Sutirtha Bedajna, Geetisha Dasgupta, Salman Kazmi, Janga Bir Rana, Suba Priyadarshini Chakravorty, Mst. Umme Habiba Fahmina Karim, Khushboo Jain, Scott Risley, Rani Varghese, Anne-Claire Gayet, Sivaprashanthi Thambiah, Kanta Singh, Ishita Dey, Subhash Burman, Olajumoke Yacob-Haliso, Rajiv Kumar, Regam Maharjan, Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury, Rajesh Bag, Amitava Das, Feroz PMM, Patrick Hoenig, Kamal Bahadur Rajlawat, Ashok Kumar Giri, François Crépeau*

### **3. Participants**

**Amitava Das** is a journalist working with India's largest news agency - Press Trust of India. He is interested in studying the migration of people due to climate change and conflict.

**Anne-Claire Gayet** holds a Master's in International Studies and is candidate to the LLM (University of Montreal). Her research bears on the rights of low-skilled temporary migrants in Canada. In 2009, she was the coordinator of the Hans & Tamar Oppenheimer Chair in International Public Law at McGill University. She did an internship with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees at the Regional Office in Montreal in 2008.

**Janga Bir Rana** has a Master's Degree in population studies from Tribhuvan University, Nepal. Currently, he is working as a Cultural Orientation Trainer for the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Damak, Nepal. He has been involved in a number of research activities in the field of IDPs and migration. He is also a research fellow of Social Inclusion Research Fund (SIRF)/SNV, Nepal, 2007.

**Kamal Bahadur Rajlawat** is the Section Officer/ Camp Supervisor in Refugee Coordination Unit, Chandragdi, Jhapa under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Nepal. He has degrees in public administration, business administration and law.

**Khushboo Jain** has finished her M.Phil degree in Sociology from Delhi School of Economics and submitted her dissertation titled 'Locating Women's Empowerment in Maoist Movement in Nepal'. She is now working as Program Head with 'Jamghat', Delhi based NGO that works towards rehabilitation of street children and plans to do further research on survival strategies of homeless population in Delhi.

**Manish Kumar** is a human rights activist, who works with a nongovernmental organization called 'The Ant' in Bongaigaon, Assam. He is working with the indigenous people of Assam and the victims of ethnic cleansing in the state, especially the Santhals. He is also involved as an activist with the right to food movement, and the construction workers in Pune.

**Mohamed Feroz Pakkeer Mohideen** is working as a Programme Officer at NPDS for IDPs Project, National Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka. He is pursuing his Master Degree in Sociology. He is also a Consultant to the "Youth for Human Rights – Sri Lanka". Also he is doing the Commonwealth Diploma in Youth in Development Work (from the Open University of Sri Lanka).

**Mst. Umme Habiba Fahmina Karim** is working as Community Service Assistant with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, Bangladesh. Fahmina is also a student of M-Phil at Dept. of International Relations, University of Dhaka and preparing research paper on HIV/AIDS, Women and Human Rights: The role of Bangladesh Govt. and International Institutions.

**Olajumoke Yacob-Haliso** is a PhD student at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Her doctoral research is on post war reintegration of returnee refugee women in Liberia. Other research interests are gender and conflict, transitional justice, and peace studies and forced migration generally. She also teaches Political Science at Babcock University, Nigeria.

**Rajesh Bag** is currently pursuing Ph.D. in Political Science, at University of Hyderabad. His Ph.D. research is broadly focused on “Development, Xenophobia and Displacement: A Comparative Study in Orissa”. He has also completed his M.Phil research on “Rights Issues in Development and Displacement: A Study of Utkal Alumina International Limited (UAIL) Project in Orissa”.

**Rajiv Kumar** belongs to rural area (Border) of Ferozepur District in Punjab. He is currently pursuing M.Phil with dissertation on "Changing political economy of rural Punjab: A Micro level study of village Mohan-Ke-Hittar" in Department of Political Science, Panjab University, Chandigarh. His further plan is to work on Forced Migration, particularly on the refugee communities living in border areas of Punjab.

**Rani Varghese** is currently pursuing her MPhil in International Studies from Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi. She completed her M.A in Sociology from the Department of Sociology JMI in 2008. She is presently working on her MPhil Dissertation on Climate Change Induced Forced Migration in Bangladesh.

**Regam Maharjan** holds Masters Degree in English Literature from Pokhara University of Nepal and is currently working as a Human Rights Officer at National Human Rights Commission of Nepal.

**Salman Kazmi** is a legal practitioner from Lahore, Pakistan. He teaches courses in Law at the Quaid-e-Azam Law College in Lahore and also runs a law firm called ‘Kazmi and Rana’ where he practices as an independent lawyer specializing in immigration law.

**Scott Risley** is a Professor of Environmental History in Prescott College for Liberal Arts and the Environment, the USA. He has completed his doctoral dissertation on African American farm worker community in Allenville, Arizona. He presently teaches courses on environmental history at the undergraduate level.

**Sivaprashanthi Thambaiiah (Shanthi)** has over 8 years of experience in the Psychosocial and development sector in Sri Lanka. An experienced facilitator, and a practitioner of participatory approaches, she has also been extensively involved in various capacity building exercises. She has worked on participatory action researches and evaluations. Shanthi has also lent her knowledge to humanitarian assistance during emergency times.

**Subhash Barman** is a Senior Lecturer of the Department of History at Goalpara College, Assam. He has completed his Masters in History from Gauhati University and is presently working on his PhD thesis on “Santhals in Assam, colonial past and post-colonial present: socio-historical study of a marginalised community”.

**Suha Priyadarshini Chakravorty** has completed her Masters in Science, Society & Development from IDS (University of Sussex) and has worked as a Research Associate with CRG. She is currently working on issues of 'Common Property Resources' and 'Environment and Risk' in the Jadugoda region in Jharkhand, India.



## 4. Members of the Faculty

**Amites Mukherjee**  
Faculty, Department of Sociology,  
University of Kalyani

**Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury**  
Calcutta Research Group

**Anu Hirsiaho**  
University of Tampere, Finland.

**Andrew Solomon**  
Deputy Director and Fellow Brookings-Bern  
Project on Internal Displacement, The  
Brookings Institution

**Bertil Lintner**  
Eminent Journalist

**François Crépeau**  
Trudeau Fellow 2008-2011 Hans & Tamar  
Oppenheimer Professor of Public  
International Law Faculty of Law McGill  
University

**Kalyan Rudra**  
Eminent Geographer

**Kanta Singh**  
Independent Consultant based in Kathmandu  
on Community development, gender and  
social inclusion and natural resource  
management/biodiversity conservation

**Khalid Koser**  
Geneva Centre for Security Policy

**K.M. Parivelan**  
Independent consultant to Anna Institute of  
Management and Save the Children, Chennai



*Pradip Kumar Bose*



*Anu Hirsiaho*

**Masud Hossain**  
KEPA, Bangkok

**Oren Yiftachel**  
Ben Gurion University

**Paula Banerjee**  
Calcutta Research Group and Faculty,  
Department of South and South East Asian  
Studies, University of Calcutta

**Pradip Kumar Bose**  
Member Calcutta Research Group. Eminent  
Sociologist and former Faculty, Centre for  
Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta.

**Ranabir Samaddar**  
Calcutta Research Group

**Samir Kumar Das**  
President, CRG and Faculty, Department of  
Political Science, University of Calcutta.

**Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty**  
Senior Member of CRG and Retired  
Professor of Presidency College , Kolkata

**Oishik Sircar**  
O.P. Jindal Global Law School

**P. Sarvanamuttu**  
Centre for Policy Alternatives, Sri Lanka

**Patrick Hoenig**  
Currently Visiting Faculty at the Academy of  
Third World Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia  
University, New Delhi. Prior to that he  
worked in the UN Mission of the Congo and  
at UN Headquarters

**Prasanta Ray**  
Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata  
and senior member of the Calcutta Research  
Group

**Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury**  
Calcutta Research Group & Faculty,  
Department of Political Science, Rabindra  
Bharati University

**Sanjay (Xonzoi) Barbora**  
Regional Programme Manager – Conflict,  
Panos South Asia, Guwahati, India.



*From Left to Right: KM Parivelan, Samir Kumar Das,  
Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu and Amites Mukherjee*

## **5. Partnerships: Supporting and Collaborating Institutions**

The suggestions by the winter course advisory committee were incorporated in the planning of the course design, distance education segment and the research segment which is an integral part of the upcoming Resource centre on Forced Migration Studies. The Winter Course is a product of some of the most effective collaborations with a number of both national and international institutions. The collaboration CRG shares with the national and international institutions have helped CRG is advertising the course in various forums, designing the course, organizing the field visit, media segment of the programme and follow up activities.

Various institutions have collaborated with CRG to organize the field visit and public events (lectures and roundtables) from 1-15 December 2009. The follow-up activities reflect CRG's association with a number of institutions in the past like Panos South Asia and in the recent times like Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP), Andhra University, Visakhapatnam and Indian Institute of Advanced Studies Shimla.

### **Field Trip to Subhanitola Char (8 December 2009)**

On 8 December the participants of Seventh Winter Course on Forced Migration visited the Subhanitola *Char* (River Island) on the western side of the river Ganga near Panchanandapur in Malda district, West Bengal. The Ganga Bhangam Pratirodh Action Nagarik Committee (henceforth GBPANC), had organized an interaction with local inhabitants of the char for the Seventh Winter Course participants. GBPANC has been leading a movement for the rights of the victims of river erosion.

### **Public Events in Collaboration with Educational Institutions in Kolkata during the Fifteen Day Workshop (1-15 December 2009)**

The Seventh Winter Course on Forced Migration had a number of public events in collaboration with other academic institutions in Kolkata. Oren Yiftachel delivered a public lecture on "Reproduction of Partitions, Urban Restructuring, and Displacement of Population Groups" at the Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Calcutta, on 14 December 2009. A public lecture on "Burma's Foreign Policy: Issues of Regional Security and Refugees" was delivered by Bertil Lintner at the Department of South and South East Asian Studies at the University of Calcutta on 9 December 2009 at 3pm. Calcutta Research Group in collaboration with the Women's Studies Research Centre, University of Calcutta hosted the roundtable on "Experiences of Seclusion of Women in South Asia: Minorities, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons" on 4 December 3 pm in which Paula Banerjee, Patrick Hoenig, Kanta Singh, Maleka Begum, Dhaka University participated. The session was chaired by Ishita Mukhopadhyay, Women's Studies Research Centre.

## Follow up Programmes in Collaboration with Various Institutions across India

Following the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, this year CRG paid particular emphasis on introducing the theme of resource politics and environmental degradation not only in the compulsory module but also in the follow up workshops. As an extension of CRG's engagement with this theme in collaboration with Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP), Andhra University, Visakhapatnam CRG organized a three day national workshop on "Resource Politics, Climate Change, Environmental Degradation, and Displacement in India" from 22-24 January 2010. A second follow up workshop was organized with full financial support from Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla on "State of Research on Forced Migration in East and North East" on 12-13 February 2010 where the scholars, activists and media experts from India's East and Northeast explored the possibilities for newer research agendas through a stock taking exercise of ongoing and previous research on resource politics, conflict, militarization and disasters that led to forced migration and displacement in India's East and Northeast. One of the key areas that the participants from media background expressed in Guwahati Press Club is the need for organizing a two to three day workshop that enlightens media persons on using new media technologies to cover issues of forced migration and displacement keeping in mind the constraints the press in North East faces due to paucity of media personnel and lack of sufficient interaction between the knowledge generating bodies and the ports of dissemination.



*Left to Right: Andrew Solomon, Shivaprasanthi Thambiab, Feroz PMM, Paikiasothy Sarvanamuttu*



*Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty*



*Patrick Hoenig*



*Oishik Sircar*

## 6. Schedule of the 15-day Programme

### Course Modules (Compulsory)

- A. States, Partitions, and Issues of Citizenship
- B. Gender Dimensions of Forced Migration, Vulnerabilities, and Justice
- C. International, Regional, and the National Legal Regimes of Protection, Sovereignty and the Principle of Responsibility
- D. Internal Displacement with special reference to Causes, Linkages, and Responses
- E. Resource Politics, Climate Change, Environmental Degradation, and Displacement

### Course Modules (Optional)

- F. Research Methodology in Forced Migration Studies
- G. Ethics of Care and Protection
- H. Media and Displacement and Forced Migration

*[A three-month long distance education programme precedes the 15-day winter workshop in Kolkata. Course reading, assignments of various types, on-line interaction, discussions on assignments, and distribution of responsibilities and participatory roles in various events during the Kolkata workshop are features of the distance education period. Performance in the distance education period contributes to the overall credits in the programme. Low performance standard in the distance segment bars the participants from participating in the Kolkata workshop.]*

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### 1 December (Tuesday)

Venue: Hotel Sojourn

5.00 -5.30PM	Tea and Registration
5.30-5.40PM	Introduction by Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, Honorary Course Coordinator, and Professor, Department of Political Science, Rabindra Bharati University.
5.45-6.00PM	Welcome Remarks by Samir Kumar Das, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Calcutta and President, Calcutta Research Group
6.00- 6.45PM	Inaugural Lecture by Andrew Solomon, Deputy Director and Fellow, Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement, Brookings Institution on “Justice, Accountability, and the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons”.
6.45PM	Vote of Thanks by Geetisha Dasgupta, Research Associate, CRG. Chair: Samir Kumar Das.
7:30 PM	<i>Reception and Dinner</i>

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### 2 December (Wednesday)

9.30 – 11.00 AM	Introducing the Course and Formation of the Groups/ Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, and Paula Banerjee, Department of South
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and South East Asian Studies, University of Calcutta and Calcutta Research Group.

11.00 – 11.30 AM

*Tea break*

11.30 – 1.00 PM

Module A (States, Borders and Immigration: Some of the Critical Questions for Refugee Studies) / Samir Kumar Das

1.00 – 2.00 PM

*Lunch break*

2.00 – 3.30 PM

Module D (Legal Basis for the Rights of the IDPs and the Relevance of UN Guiding Principles)/ Andrew Solomon

3.30 – 4.00 PM

*Tea break*

4.00 – 5.30 PM

Parallel Sessions: Module F (Research Methodology in Forced Migration Studies)/ Pradip Kumar Bose, Eminent Sociologist and Member, Calcutta Research Group / Module G (Ethics of Care and Justice)/ Ranabir Samaddar, Calcutta Research Group

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### 3 December (Thursday)

9.30 – 11.00 AM

Module C (Human Rights Origins of the International Regimes of Protection of the Victims of Forced Migration) / Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury

11.00 – 11.30 AM

*Tea break*

11.30 – 1.00 PM

Module A (Rights or Charity? State Response to Refugee Crisis in Post Partition India)/ Samir Kumar Das

1.00 – 2.00 PM

*Lunch break*

2.00– 3.30 PM.

Module B (The War in South Waziristan: Forced Migration and Gender Dimensions)/ Patrick Hoenig, Eminent Jurist and Visiting Professor, Jamia Milia Islamia University

3.30 – 4.00 PM

*Tea break*

4.00 – 5.30 P.M.

Module D: Roundtable: End of War and the Continuing IDP Crisis in Sri Lanka /Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, Centre for Policy Alternatives, SriLanka; Mohamed Feroz Pakkeer Mohideen, NPDS for IDPs Project, Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, Sivaprashanthi Thambaiiah, Freelance Consultant/Psychosocial Practitioner from Sri Lanka Moderator: Andrew Solomon

6.00 – 8.00 P.M.

*Library hours*

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### 4 December (Friday)

9.30 – 11.00 AM

Module B (Gendered Nature of Forced Migration – An Overview) / Paula Banerjee

11.00 – 11.30 AM

*Tea break*

11.30 – 1.00 PM

Sexual Violence as a Weapon of War: Displacement and Dislocation in the Democratic Republic of Congo/Patrick Hoenig

1.00 – 2.00 PM

*Lunch break*

3.00 – 5.00 PM

Module B (Roundtable on Experiences of Seclusion of Women in South Asia: Minorities, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons) / Paula Banerjee, Patrick Hoenig, Kanta Singh, Women's Rights Activist, Nepal, Maleka Begum, Dhaka University; Chair: Ishita Mukhopadhyay, Women's Studies Research Centre, in

Collaboration with Women's Studies Research Centre, University of Kolkata

6.00 – 8.00 PM *Library hours*

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### 5 December (Saturday)

- 9.30 – 11.00 AM Module E (River Erosion, Displacement and the Issue of Disaster Management) / Kalyan Rudra, Eminent Geographer, Habra College.
- 11.00 – 11.30 AM *Tea break*
- 11.30 – 1.00 PM Module E: Roundtable (Cyclones, Natural Disasters, and the Issue of Relief and Disaster Management: Experiences of Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka) / KM Parivelan, Independent Consultant to Anna Institute of Management and Save the Children, Chennai; Amites Mukherjee, Department of Sociology, University of Kalyani; Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu/ Moderator: Samir Kumar Das
- 1.00 – 2.00 PM. *Lunch break*
- 2.00 – 3.30 PM Module B (Gender Dimensions of Forced Migration in Nepal) / Kanta Singh
- 3.30 – 4.00 PM *Tea break*
- 4.00 – 5.30 PM Participants' Presentation under Module A and Module B (Moderator: Samir Kumar Das and Paula Banerjee)
- 6.00 – 8.00 P.M. *Library hours* and Discussion on the Revision of Term Papers under Module A (with Samir Kumar Das) and Module B (with Paula Banerjee) at CRG office
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### 6 December (Sunday)

- 9.30 – 11.00 AM Module C (1951 Refugee Convention and the Institutional Mechanisms Set Up by the Convention)/ François Crépeau
- 11.00 – 11.30 AM *Tea Break*
- 11.30 – 1.00 P.M. Module D (Evolution of IDP Policies in India)/ KM Parivelan
- 1.00 – 2.00 P.M. *Lunch break*
- 2.00 – 3.30 PM Participants' Presentation under Module C and D (Moderators: KM Parivelan)
- 3.30 – 4.00 P.M. *Tea break*
- 4.00 – 5.00PM Introduction to Field Visit / Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury
- 6:00 – 8:00 PM Revision of Term Papers under Modules C (with Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury) and D (with KM Parivelan)
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### 7 December (Monday)

- 9.30 – 11.00 AM Module G (Vulnerable Subjects in Migration Research: Social Justice, Care and Claims to Knowledge Class) Anu Hirsiaho /Module F (Research Methodology in Forced Migration Studies) Prasanta Ray, Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata and Member, CRG
- 11.00 – 11.30 AM *Tea Break*

11.30 – 1.00 PM

Module A (Politics of Literacy and Immigration)/ Anu Hirsiaho,  
Department of Social Research, University of Tampere

1.00-2.00PM

*Lunch*

2.00 – 3.30 PM

Module B (Trafficking and Statelessness in South Asia: Problems  
and Policy Implications)/ Oishik Sircar

8.00 PM

Departure for *Field Visit*



*From Left to Right: Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury  
and Geetisha Dasgupta*



*Andrew Solomon*



*From Left to Right: Regam Maharjan, Salman Kazmi, Khushboo Jain and Mst.  
Umme Habiba Fahmina Karim*



## 8 December (Tuesday)

*Field visit to Subbanitola Char, Malda*

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## 9 December (Wednesday)

11.00-11.30	<i>Tea</i>
11.30 – 1.00 PM	Module D (Conflict and Internal Displacement in Burma)/ Bertil Lintner, Eminent Journalist <i>Tea in session</i>
1.00-2.00PM	<i>Lunch break</i>
3.00 PM	Public Lecture by Bertil Lintner on “Burma’s Foreign Policy: Issues of Regional Security and Refugees” at the Department of South and South East Asian Studies, University of Calcutta
6.00 – 8.00 P.M.	<i>Library hours</i>

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## 10 December (Thursday)

9.30 – 11.00AM	Module E (Colonial History of Environmental Displacement in South Asia)/ Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty, Member, CRG and Additional Director of the Police Archival Wing, West Bengal State Archives
11.00 – 11.30AM	<i>Tea break</i>
11.30 – 1.00PM	Module C (The Need to Strengthen the Legal Basis of the Rights of the Refugees and the Migrants)/ François Crépeau
1.00 – 2.00 PM	<i>Lunch break</i>
2.00– 3.30 PM	Presentations of Creative Assignments by Participants / Moderator: Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury
3.30 – 4.00PM	<i>Tea break</i>
4.00 – 5.30 PM	Presentations of Creative Assignments (contd.)

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## 11 December (Friday)

9.30 – 11.00AM	Module E (Climate Change, Resource Crisis, and Displacement) Masud Hossain, KEPA, Bangkok
11.00 – 11.30 AM	<i>Tea break</i>
11.30 – 1.00PM	Participants’ Presentation of Term Papers under Module E and Revision of Term Papers under Module E/ Moderator: Masud Hossain.
1.00 – 2.00 PM	<i>Lunch break</i>
5.00 P.M	One and half day Media Workshop Film Screening and Discussion

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*Masud Hossain*



*Bertil Lintner*

## 12 December (Saturday)

9.30-9.45 AM	Introductory Session
9.45-11.00 AM	Chair: Sanjoy Barbora, Programme Manager, Panos South Asia Inaugural Lecture on “Violence, Disasters and Displacement – Media coverage in India / Siddharth Varadarajan, <i>The Hindu</i> Chair: Ranabir Samaddar, Director, Calcutta Research Group
11.00-11.30AM	<i>Tea Break</i>
11.30-1.00 PM	Roundtable on “Displaced Lives: Family Histories and Individual Narratives”/ Rakhee Kalita, Cotton College, Guwahati and Aditi Bhaduri, Independent Journalist. Chair: Mandira Sen, Samya-Stree Publications, Kolkata
1.00- 2.00 PM	<i>Lunch</i>
2.00- 3.30 PM	New Media Technologies and Citizen Journalism: Issues of Forced Migration (Presentation of Media Assignment and Discussion) Moderator: Sanjoy Barbora, Programme Manager, Panos South Asia
3.30- 4.00PM	<i>Tea Break</i>
4.00- 5.30 PM	<i>Discussion Continued</i>

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## 13 December (Sunday)

9.30 – 11.00 AM	Module A (War and Forced Displacement in Afghanistan)/ Khalid Koser, Geneva Centre for Security Policy
11.00 – 11.30 AM	<i>Tea break</i>
11.30 – 1.00 PM	Module C (Need for a Re-look into the Global Protection Regime for the Displaced – Views from the South)/ Khalid Koser
1.00 – 2.00 PM	<i>Lunch break</i>
2.00 – 3.30 PM	Module C and G: Participants’ Roundtable (Ethics of Care: How Humanitarian our Humanitarian Institutions and Laws are?) / Anne-Claire Gayet, Researcher on legal issues and coordinates the Oppenheimer Chair in Public International Law at McGill, Mst.Umme Habiba Fahmina Karim, Community Service Assistant with the UNHCR, Bangladesh, Janga Bir Rana Magar, Nepal Moderator: Khalid Koser
3.30 – 4.00 PM	<i>Tea break</i>

- 4.00 – 5.30 PM Roundtable - "Revisiting Protection Strategies for People in Situations of Forced Migration" / Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury, Calcutta Research Group, Oren Yiftachel, Ben Gurion University, Khalid Koser Moderator: François Crépeau.
- 6.00 – 7.30 PM Presentation of Group Reports Modules A, B, C, D & E/ Moderator: Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury
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### 14 December (Monday)

- 9.00 – 10.30AM Module A: Roundtable (War, Terror, and Displacement in Pakistan and Afghanistan)/ Khalid Koser, Anu Hirsiaho, Salman Kazmi, Legal Practitioner based in Pakistan. Moderator: Samir Kumar Das
- 10.30-11.00AM *Tea break*
- 1.00- 3.00PM Public Lecture on “Reproduction of Partitions, Urban Restructuring, and Displacement of Population Groups” (Module A) by Oren Yiftachel, Ben Gurion University in Collaboration with Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Calcutta
- 4.00-4.30PM *Tea break*
- 4.30-6.00PM Q & A session with Montserrat Feixas-Vihe, Chief of Mission, UNHCR, New Delhi on “Need for New Legal Strategies for the Protection of the Displaced”  
Moderator: Samir Kumar Das
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*From Left to Right: Janga Bir Rana Magar, Mst. Umme Habiba Fabmina Karim, Anne-Claire Gayet and Khalid Koser*

## 15 December (Tuesday)

9:30 – 12.00 noon	Evaluation Session / Paul Ryder, Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford
12.00 – 1.00 PM	<i>Lunch</i> Venue: Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata
5.30 – 5.35 PM	Welcome Address by Samir Kumar Das
5.35-5.50 PM	Report on the Seventh Annual Winter Course on Forced Migration by Ranabir Samaddar
5.35-5.50PM	Remarks by Special Guest, Montserrat Feixas Vihe, Chief of Mission, UNHCR, New Delhi
5.50-6.10PM	Brief remarks on the Course by some Participants
6.10-6.30PM	Distribution of Certificates to the Course Participants followed by brief address by Sanna Selin, First Secretary, Embassy of Finland.
6.30-7.20PM	Valedictory Lecture on “Protecting Migrants’ Rights as a Test for Democracies” by François Crépeau, Trudeau Fellow 2008-2011, Hans & Tamar Oppenheimer Professor of Public International Law Faculty of Law McGill University.
7.20PM	Vote of Thanks by Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury Chair: Samir Kumar Das.
7.30PM	Farewell Dinner and Reception (Venue: Calcutta Club)



*Kanta Singh*



*Kalyan Rudra*

## **7. Distance Education: Modules and Assignments**

The Course was structured around 8 modules. There are five compulsory modules (A-E) and three optional modules (F-H).

### **Course Modules (Compulsory)**

- A. States, Partitions, Forced Migration and Issues of Citizenship
- B. Gender Dimensions of Forced Migration, Vulnerabilities, and Justice
- C. International, Regional, and the National Legal Regimes of Protection, Sovereignty and the Principle of Responsibility
- D. Internal Displacement with Special Reference to Causes, Linkages, and Responses
- E. Resource Politics, Climate Change, Environmental Degradation, and Displacement

### **Course Modules (Optional)**

- F. Research Methodology in Forced Migration Studies
- G. Ethics of Care and Protection
- H. Media and Forced Migration

The readings are divided into two sections: essential and supplementary. The essential reading materials with an introductory note on each module were sent to the participants by 8 August 2009 as the distance education segment was scheduled to begin on 1 September 2009. The additional reading material was uploaded on the secured segment of the website meant for the course participants and the faculty. The secured segment started functioning on 1 September. On their arrival in Kolkata, participants received supplementary reading material, as and when prescribed by the resource persons in the form of books, CDs, essays and reports.

The participants had to complete three assignments during the course of the distance education segment. The first assignment was a short (700-1000 words) review essay/note on any of the reading materials sent to the participants received relating to one of the two supplementary modules (F and G). The two optional modules are: Module F, Research Methodology in Forced Migration Studies and Module G, Ethics of Care and Protection. The second assignment is a term paper (2500 words). Participants had to submit their first draft of the term paper during the distance education segment. On the basis of the comments they received during the interactive sessions with their respective module tutors, they had to present a revised term paper during the Kolkata workshop. Some of the best term papers will be eventually published in Refugee Watch. The third assignment was a choice between a Media Assignment and a Creative Assignment. The abstracts of the introductory notes and module assignments are presented below.

## Module A (States, Partitions, Forced Migration and Issues of Citizenship)

**Core Faculty:** *Samir Kumar Das*

### Module Note

Cracking and splitting of empires and kingdoms in the pre-Partition era were not rare and were hardly associated with population movements. It is only with Partition that population movement becomes an essential part of the process.

While partition evidently upsets and shatters the preexisting 'way of life', it also gradually becomes 'a way of life' itself as people are forced to 'select' their nations and states 'naturally'. One partition creates and hides many other partitions. At one level, instead of mitigating the Hindu-Muslim divide, it has sharpened and exacerbated it. At another, it turns us away from what is called the 'denationalized peoples' perspective' – including the gender perspective on that epochal event. Now that the ethnicities and nationalities within each nation-state have become relatively free from the control of nation-states – thanks to the forces and processes of globalization - their assertions too are couched in the demand for partition. The demand for partition reenacts the territoriality of the nation-state as much as the demand also subverts it.

Partition also imposes on the people the obligation of making a choice from out of a menu of nations being partitioned or national alternatives. Non-national alternatives are clearly ruled out. One is obliged to belong to either of the two newly formed nations and cannot choose to remain stateless and without any nation in the wake of partition. At the same time, partition is not an end in itself. One partition creates and hides many other partitions. Partition gives rise to a sort of sub-territoriality: a space situated within the territory of a state that has been for all practical purposes rendered ethnically homogeneous by a particular community or an organization claiming to represent it. Sub-territoriality also contests state territoriality.

### Term paper Assignment (Answer any one of the four questions)

1. Discuss the complex interconnection between population flux and the rise of xenophobia and racism in the wake of globalization.
2. Have the partition refugees enjoyed the right to return? Give reasons for your answer.
3. Do you think that partition refugees are a case by itself? Argue your case.
4. Demonstrate through an analysis of state formation how forced migrations due to partitions pave the way for fictive core of nationalism.

## Module B (Gender dimensions of Forced Migration, Vulnerabilities, and Justice)

**Core Faculty:** *Paula Banerjee*

### Module Note

South Asia is the fourth largest refugee-producing region in the world. Again, a majority of these refugees is made up of women. This module is meant to portray that undoubtedly both displacement and asylum is a gendered experience. At least in the context of South Asia it results from and is related to the marginalization of women by the South Asian states. These states at best patronize women and at worse infantilize, disenfranchise and de-politicize them. It is in the person of a refugee that women's marginality reaches its climactic height. One way of marginalizing women from body politic is done by targeting them and displacing them in times of state versus community conflict. As a refugee a woman loses her individuality, subjectivity, citizenship and her ability to make political choices. As political

non-subjects refugee women emerge as the symbol of difference between us/citizens and its other/refugees/non-citizens.

**Term paper Assignment (Any one of the four questions)**

1. Is there a gendered structure in people's ability to access resources? If so substantiate on how it impacts on forced migration?
2. Is there a relation between trafficking and statelessness? Discuss this with examples taken from the Indo- Bangladesh or Indo Nepal Border?
3. Write on camps as sites of insecurity for women. Give examples taken from any refugee or IDP Camps.
4. Can the right to return be the only durable solution for women? Give your response with examples taken from Afghan refugees in Pakistan or Bhutanese Refugees

**Module C (International, Regional, and the National Legal Regimes of Protection, Sovereignty and the Principle of Responsibility)**

**Core Faculty: *Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury***

**Module Note**

Module C deals with the national, regional and global legalities of refugee rights, focusing on developing a critical understanding of the history and politics of the international protection regime, which includes questions of citizenship, state accountability, the transnational forced migrant subjectivity and representation, and asylum jurisprudence. The need for Southern countries, especially those in South Asia, to develop a refugee protection regime, over and above a human rights protection system, should ideally be premised on countering such 'primitive' constructions by the Northern countries that can extend asylum only when 'barbarity' marks the state in the asylum seekers country of origin. The module will also draw out the distinctions between the categories of refugee, internally displaced persons, and stateless people in the light of the contested debates around persecution, well-founded fear and asylum adjudication systems.

**Term paper Assignment (Any one of the four questions)**

1. Do you think that the definition of refugees indicated by the UN Convention on Refugees is appropriate in the present context? Argue your case.
2. Do you think that today the host state's obligation to protect is more critical in a situation where escalating concerns about terrorism seem to have heightened exclusionary and xenophobic impulses in developed countries considering asylum applications? Justify your answer.
3. Would you argue that there is a need for framing a South Asian regional framework for Refugees? What could be its difficulties?

**Module D (Internal Displacement with Special Reference to Causes, Linkages, and Responses)**

**Core Faculty : *KM Parivelan***

**Module Note**

The eviction of indigenous people from their land is a recurrent theme in South Asia. Be it Ranigaon, Golai, Motakeda, Somthana, Ahmedabad, Bandarban, or Trincomalee, thousands of families are being evicted from their homes either in the name of conflict or in the name of modernization. The last two decades have witnessed an enormous increase in the number

of internally displaced people in South Asia. Since the early 1990s the need for a separate legal mechanism for IDPs in South Asia has increasingly been felt. Only recently the international community has developed such a mechanism that is popularly known as the UN Guiding Principles on internal displacement. This has given us a framework within which rehabilitation and care of internally displaced people in South Asia can be organised. This module discusses in detail the ways in which the South Asian nation states has addressed the issue of internally displaced persons, the policies regarding the rehabilitation and care of these groups within South Asia.

### **Term paper Assignment (Any one of the four questions)**

1. Analyze the causes of internal displacement and its consequential effects with a case study of your choice.
2. To what extent the UN Guiding Principles can deal with the problems faced by the persons suffering from development-induced displacement?
3. Do you think that the internalization of the UN Guiding Principles in national laws would be able to protect the rights of the IDPs?
4. Write an essay on the best legislative and administrative practices on the protection of the rights of IDPs in the context of the role of the national human rights institutions of any country of your choice.
5. “Although internally displaced people now outnumber refugees by two to one, their plight receives far less international attention.” Discuss
6. In your opinion is social equity in general and gender issues in particular, adequately addressed in the UN Guiding Principles. In this context analyze the relevance of other international laws and conventions applicable.
7. Is it possible to make UN Guiding Principles legally binding? Discuss the pros and cons.
8. Discuss the nature and the extent of displacement in respective countries of South Asia and provide recommendations to minimize the insecurity of the displaced by discussing mechanisms for rehabilitation and care.

## **Module E (Resource Politics, Climate Change, Environmental Degradation, and Displacement)**

**Core Faculty : *Masud Hossain***

### **Module Note**

Objective of this module is to contemplate the impacts of resource crisis, climate change and subsequent forced migration on development of the society. Resource crisis, climate change and forced migration are one of the major concerns of the 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 development i.e. a relatively equal society along with capable social actors by the virtue of favourable structural facilities and opportunities. In this module it is particularly intended to examine to what extent the issues of resource crisis, climate change and resultant forced migration are impairing the social equality on the one hand, and to what extent the existing social inequality, particularly in the relationship between the countries of the North and the South, causing the problems of climate change, resource crisis, and forced migration on the other.



### **Term paper Assignment (Answer any one)**

1. Climate change and environmental degradation – as the main cause of contemporary forced migration.
2. International community and the category of ‘environment refugees’.
3. International climate politics and the issue of forced migration.

### **Module F (Research Methodology in Forced Migration Studies)**

**Core Faculty :** *Pradip Kumar Bose*

#### **Module Note**

Much of research depends on wit, particularly if the enquiry is sensitive in the eyes of the people enquired into. And there is no training in wit. In the social sciences methodology is taken to be a discipline, bordering on philosophy, whose function is to recommend and examine the methods, which should be used to produce valid knowledge. Methodology lays down procedures to be used in generation of valid knowledge and these procedures are justified or criticized by means of philosophical arguments. It is clear that methodology’s claim to prescribe correct procedures to social sciences presupposes a form of knowledge that is thought to be provided by philosophy. ‘Forced migration’ as a problematic demands a critical epistemology. It believes in value-determined nature of enquiry, unlike positivism and post-positivism interested in explanation only. Further, it wants enquiry to critique with an intention to transform social, political, economic, and ethnic and gender structures, which constrain and exploit woman and man. This module addresses the concerns of this problematic.

#### **Review Assignment**

1. What is qualitative methodology? Illustrate your account with some examples from the texts.
2. Can biographies be helpful in displacement studies? What do you think the advantages and disadvantages in using the biographical materials in such studies?
3. Describe the commonly available sources of migration statistics. How can they be meaningfully used in displacement studies? What are the limitations of migration statistics that are generally available?
4. What is survey research? If you have to prepare a report on a refugee camp how would you conduct the survey? Give full details.

### **Module G (Ethics of Care and Protection)**

**Core Faculty:** *Ranabir Samaddar*

#### **Module Note**

The entire history of refugee care and protection has been also one of “refugee manipulation”. Refugees have been used and abused in the interests of the states, and institutions have been either willing accomplices or have been ignored in these policies and acts of manipulation. Indeed, in recent years there is increasing interest in the ethical dimension of the principles and practices of care and protection of the uprooted and the displaced. In this module we address the basic issue as to “Why should we care for and protect the victims of forced displacement”? The “we” here refers to those who have not had experienced displacement themselves, yet harbour some form of an ethical commitment to the victims of forced displacement. The ethical language therefore is expected to establish some form of a connection between them and us – between those who are not forcibly

displaced and those who are. CRG's studies in the partition 'refugees' in the east, for example, underline a plethora of self-help initiatives undertaken by them. Ethical language therefore is a language of universality that cuts across the given boundaries of the victims' groups and communities.

### **Review Assignment**

1. On the basis of the literature (particularly the Reader on International Refugee Law) you have received, please write a review note of about 700-1000 words on the place of the human rights treaties and their limitations in ensuring the implementation of ethical standards in protecting the rights of the persons/people forced to migrate.
2. Write a short essay of about 700-1000 words on the basis of the literature referred to in the module note on the implication of the comment made in the module note, "It is these interrelations and the inter-conflicts that make ethical judgements so complicated and predicated on many a factor beside the moral."
3. Explain (in about 1000 words) on the basis of the note and the reference material (for instance Catherine de Wenden's article) how ethical issues become identity issues, which also involve judgements on the self, and therefore the humanitarian argument is also one of qualified and critical judgement.
4. How does the argument of the ethical duty to protect become an argument of power? Write your comments (in about 700 words) on the basis of the reference material (for instance Samaddar's article, "In Life, in Death: Power and Rights").

## **Module H (Media and Forced Migration)**

**Core faculty:** *Sanjoy Barbora*

### **Module Note**

This module reflects on the Public Sphere and whether the growth of Media in South Asia has ensured victims right to communicate. In this module we try and examine the linkages between the right to information and the right to communicate. Recent developments in the South Asian media landscape is worth delving into if one is to understand the kind of transformation that society, state and media have undergone in the region. The number of satellite television channels in the national and regional levels has increased in the last decade. In countries like Nepal, community radio stations have revolutionized local politics. In Kathmandu alone, there are 17 privately owned radio stations (as of December 2007). Pakistan has recently allowed broadcasts from private radio stations. Moreover the growth of newspapers in countries like Bangladesh and Pakistan are also phenomenal. All these changes would lead one to assume that the average citizen has greater access to information now, than in the past. However, this has not automatically lead to a plurality of voices in the public domain. Therefore, stories of forced displacement, refugees, and civil rights violations and so on, are placed along a same continuum of concerns that compete with advertising space, pageants and hostile business takeovers.

### **Media Assignment**

1. Prepare a brief note on a possible case study of forced displacement near your place of residence or any such area you visited.
2. Produce a script for a radio magazine/ a short television programme script / a field diary/ a photographic presentation/ a short video presentation from the note.
3. Interested participants are also welcome to come up with their own suggestions regarding what they want to do apart from the choices given.

## 8. Creative Assignment

Creative Assignment over the years has become an interesting aspect of the fifteen-day residential programme. During the distance education segment suggestions were sent to the participants to indicate their choices and each of them submitted and presented their creative assignment on the concluding day of the fifteen-day residential programme.

The suggestions sent to the participants regarding the possible creative assignments included:

1. Suppose you are an editor of a magazine. Prepare a special issue of the magazine on issues of forced migration.
2. Prepare a 4-5 day course syllabus, which will include issues of Forced Migration, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons.
3. Prepare an investigative report of any situation of forced displacement in your region (local or national).
4. Prepare short commentaries on the recent reforms towards relief and rehabilitation of IDPs in your countries; these can be posted on Refugee Watch Online.
5. Write a short story on the situation of any refugee/IDP group.
6. Prepare either a photo exhibit or a poster exhibit on forced displacement.
7. Write a few songs on the situation of the victims of forced displacement.
8. Collect some literary pieces (songs, poems, stories) on the theme of forced migration and prepare a compendium with them.
9. A ten-minute documentary on any situation of forced displacement.
10. Prepare a list of at least 5 readings in forced migration you consider important, published in the last three years and explain why?

Name of Participant	Details of the Creative Assignment
Anne-Claire Gayet	She presented a compilation of songs, books, pictures and movies that talk about forced migration, in French, Spanish and English.
Janga Bir Rana	Janga Bir narrated the story of Gama Devi Dahal, a migrant who dreamt to go back to her village in eastern Nepal.
Kamal Bahadur Rajlawat	Kamal Bahadur drew inspiration from his occupation of being a Bhutanese refugee camp supervisor in Jhapa, Nepal and prepared an assignment on the subject of Bhutanese Refugee: Need of Special protection.
Khushboo Jain	Khushboo presented an investigative report of forced displacement in Delhi as a result of demolition of Yamuna Pushta slums when around 40,000 houses were razed to the ground and almost 1,50,000 people were uprooted from their homes leaving them to the mercy of the streets. She located a few families that were as a result of the demolition forced to live on the streets and are now facing eviction from the streets too

due to upcoming Common Wealth Games in Delhi.

Manish Kumar	Manish prepared a 4 day workshop module on forced migration especially for those who do not have any knowledge of migration (for example, lay persons who do not know the causes and impacts of displacement and responsibilities of Democratic states and its different organs including media towards the victims of forced displacement).
Mohamed Feroz Pakkeer Mohideen	Feroz collected literary pieces on forced migration for his creative assignment. His collection consisted of poems by people who live in camps and short stories by displaced people as well as people who have witnessed displacement.
Olajumoke Yacob- Haliso	Ola prepared a syllabus for a five day course on forced migration issues. The syllabus was designed to address the needs of journalists, policy makers, NGO workers, researchers and other persons with a professional and/or academic interest in issues of forced migration generally, but more specifically with reference to Nigeria, her home country.
Rajiv Kumar	Rajiv narrated a story about the forcefully displaced people of Kishangarh village in the Chandigarh. People of the village are forcefully displaced from their agriculture land and their houses due to the establishment of Rajiv Gandhi Chandigarh Technology Park (RGCTP).
Rani Varghese	Rani presented a poster titled 'Shrieking Cry of a Landscape Gone'. With the help of the poster, she spoke about the inevitable submergence of Bangladesh's coastal landmass due to climate change induced rise in sea level.
Regam Maharjan	Regam wrote a short story about the internally displaced people in Nepal.
Salman Kazmi	Salman, with the help of a Powerpoint presentation presented the details of volunteer action of students in Lahore to arrange food, clothing and shelter for the displaced slum children in Mardan, Pakistan.
Sivaprashanthi Thambaiah	Sivaprashanthi (Shanthi) wrote two poems on situations of forced migration in Jaffna, Sri Lanka. The first poem, titled 'The Anguish will Continue' was originally written in Tamil and translated into English

by Sarvarakshani Thambaiah. The second poem, 'The Flag' is inspired by photographs by a Sri Lankan blogger, whose name is unknown.

Subhash Barman

Subhash Barman presented an investigative story based on a report on forced displacement in the region of lower Assam.



*From Left to Right : Janga Bir Rana, Olajumoke Yacob-Haliso, Regam Maharjan, Rajiv Kumar, Prasanta Ray, Rajesh Bag, Amitava Das, Khusboo Jain*



*Olajumoke Yacob-Haliso presenting her Creative Assignment*

## **9. Media and Forced Migration (Film Screenings and a one day workshop)**

### **Film Screenings (11 December 2009)**

The media segment of the Seventh Annual Winter Course on Forced Migration began with screenings of two films on the theme of displacement. While the two had completely different kinds of issues and different kinds of treatment of the subject, the common thread that ran through them was that of personal narratives and remembrances. The first film 'Somewhere in May' is one of the six projections of Part 1 of Amar Kanwar's 19 –channel video installation called The First Torn Pages. The 38 minute film explores the dynamics of two distinct socio-political occurrences on the same day in the city of Oslo. It portrays the 17<sup>th</sup> May celebrations of the Norwegian National Day in the year 2004 which was also coincidentally the day when the Burmese military dictatorship began a sham National Convention for democracy in Burma. Through the Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB) a radio station in Oslo, the Burmese resistance reports on this sham convention and broadcasts news that is secretly heard by thousands within Burma. It is through the eyes of a Burmese refugee that his saga of displacement is told. The film is phenomenal to understanding how cultures do not communicate by way of its treatment. On the one hand the video pans on the gravity of the Burmese situation, and on the other it shifts again to show the colourful celebrations of the National Day of Norway.

The second film 'No More Tears Sister' explores the politically torn apart state of Sri Lanka during the conflicts between the LTTE and the Government through the narrative of Rajini, a human rights activist and a Professor of Anatomy who hailed from the northern part of Sri Lanka called Jaffna. The film is based on interviews with family members of Rajini and uses remembrance to tell the tale. The protagonist Rajini initially supported the freedom fight movement of the Tamil People-- locally through medical support and internationally through advocacy along with her sister Nirmala. Nirmala was an LTTE cadre who had introduced her to the LTTE movement however later they realised that there are too many wrongs in the movement and they both left the LTTE. Both sisters went to the UK however Rajini came back during conflict period in Sri Lanka. Her bold protests ended up in her tragic death by the LTTE.

### **Media Workshop (12 December 2009)**

The introductory session of day 2 of the media workshop was chaired by Sanjoy Barbora. In the lecture on Violence, Disasters and Displacements-- Media coverage in India' Siddharth Vardarajan of 'The Hindu' emphasised on the problematic nature of the media. He maintained that it is because of the non-permanent nature of stringers and gross underpayments especially in the vernacular press that reporting suffers. He also pointed out that a lot of manipulation, personal biases of the media towards certain specific political categories, affinity towards certain groups and individuals coupled with a lack of organisation happens to accentuate huge obstacles towards reporting. The media reporting on various kinds of displacement such as involuntary displacement, development induced displacement, violence induced displacement, the case of land acquisition and displacement and treated them specifically, taking up certain cases from the state of Jammu and Kashmir-- the case of Kashmiri Pandits and Gujarat- after the Godhra riots needs attention. In the case of climate

induced displacement though there exist differences in the media reporting of the case of climate refugees from other categories of refugees and maintained that ‘there is no politics to natural calamity and natural disasters’. However he commented that there exists a politics of treatment of even issues of natural calamity in the media where he gave an example of how there are various versions of the same story of natural calamity and disagreements with the scale and intensity of the affected. Again this is not the same for the violence induced displacement where he said, the politics inherent in the issue and its treatment by the media does not operate uniformly, which is because different players choose to highlight different kinds of displacement, different kinds of violence. He also holds that another key problem with the media is the case of sustained ‘follow ups’ after the event dies out. Precautionary steps need to be taken and in order to make the media more actively involved.

Sanjoy Barbora in his summing up remarks pointed out that the press often serves together with being propagandist in approach. He further says that there are 4 broad constraints that come in the way of effective media coverage of an issue. These are:

- Establishments /institutions have a strong class bias
- There is a strong dependence on official sources
- There are constraints of a professional culture
- Constraint of conventional wisdom



*From Left to Right: Sanjoy Barbora and Siddharth Varadarajan*

The roundtable on ‘Displaced Lives: Family Histories and Individual Narratives’ was chaired by Mandira Sen, Samya–Stree Publications. Rakhee Kalita in her presentation addressed the issue of insurgency and the politics of dealing with it by both the state and media. She highlighted the role of the state in secret killings, raids in connivance with the surrendered

members of insurgency groups and also talked about the various occurrences of missing men in the region. She further maintained that the terrible trauma of conflict that the area witnesses almost always circumscribes the thought and speech of the people living their and their narratives. Particular periods and particular remembrances are major players in North East Indian politics. She takes up certain cases to talk about individual narratives as having a strong historical basis to argue that when these testimonials are missed out, there is too much reliance on official reports that more often than not unrepresentative of real situations. She takes up a special story, 'Living to tell the tale' the case of Anantakalita, a man who escaped death after having being almost shot on his temple and pushed from a hill. She finally seeks resort in narratives in speaking 'real truths' rather than entirely relying on official resources.

Aditi Bhaduri talks about repatriation and maintains how in narratives, the 'more holding on appears when they realise that there's no going back.' Her vignettes of Palestinians and Kashmiri Pandits showed the importance of personalisation of stories in further stating that statistics and hard facts are always not helpful. She also maintains that sometimes even photography or videotaping can have detrimental impacts on the vulnerable by ways of re-victimisation and oftentimes the print media are better off than the other forms since they can skip the option of photography.



*From Left to Right: Rakhee Kalita, Aditi Bhaduri and Mandira Sen*

Finally, Mandira Sen summed up the session by maintaining that it is by ways of personalising stories that one can actually have an idea on evil matters of the commissions and/or their mission together with understanding state activities. She also holds that testimonies have brought up commonalities and they could be regarded as some source of histories. She maintains that there also remains civil society's role and response towards collecting and preserving these narratives.



In the concluding session on New Media Technologies and Citizen Journalism: Issues of Forced Migration Scott K. Risley, Mst. Umme Habiba Fahmina Karim, Suha Priyadarshini Chakravorty, Rajesh Bag and Amitava Das presented their media assignments.

Scott K Risley through his case study “Indians, Eagles and Poor Folks Down by the River: Environmental Justice and the Battle over Arizona’s Orme Dam, 1965-1980” shows how the African Americans of the displaced community of Allenville, Arizona and the Native Americans of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation of Arizona successfully resisted relocation. Both communities were affected between 1945 and 1981 by the most expensive arid land reclamation project in United States history, the Central Arizona Project (CAP). The CAP is a series of open-air aqueducts and dams which extend over 300 miles through the driest part of the United States, elevating water from the Colorado River over 3,000 feet in elevation to serve the metropolitan areas of Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona. The original purpose of the CAP was to provide supplemental agricultural irrigation to the farms of central Arizona. However by the time the CAP was completed, the water delivered through it was so expensive that few farms could make use of it. Further, Arizona has been one of the fastest growing parts of the United States since the end of the Second World War, so by the time the CAP was completed its water was mainly used to perpetuate environmentally unsustainable urban sprawl. In short, in the name of agricultural development a colossal expenditure of federal funds was made almost exclusively to support the continuation of suburban residential development in two urban areas within a single one of the United States. One of the dams proposed to be built as part of the CAP was a structure called Orme Dam, designed to provide regulatory storage and flood control. The reservoir which would have formed behind the dam would have inundated the Fort McDowell Nation’s reservation. This reservation is the last remaining sovereign territory for an indigenous population which once controlled over 9 million acres of land in Arizona. It represents less than .03% of the tribe’s original land base. The Yavapai people mobilized an effective grass roots campaign which articulated their cultural connection to this last remnant of their ancestral homeland and also spoke to the citizens of Arizona in terms of justice, care and hospitality which echo many of the readings for the Winter Course. The Yavapai effort was successful and Orme Dam was cancelled.

Mst. Umme Habiba Fahmina Karim in her case study on Rohingya muslim displaced people in Bangladesh pointed out how they were declined refugee status by Bangladesh government. Apart from that the Bangladesh Government declines their presence on Bangladeshi soil. The reason behind is the Bangladesh Government’s unwillingness to allow anybody to give any humanitarian assistance to these people. The Rohingyas fled their homeland in Myanmar after the military Junta persecuted them. In 1985, the Junta adopted a new citizenship law where muslim Rohingyas were stripped of their citizenship rights in predominantly Buddhist country. They were later forced out of north Arakans state of Myanmar crossing the Naf River to Bangladesh, India and Thailand. They settled in Cox’s Bazar district in Bangladesh. Till 1992, Bangladesh and UNHCR gave refugee status to 28,000 Rohingyas and settled them in six refugee camps. Though humanitarian organizations say they deserve to be refugees, but they are being denied their rights.

Suha Priyadarshini Chakravorty’s radio script dealt with the farmers’ agitation over West Bengal Government’s proposed land acquisition in Singur for setting up Tata Motor’s Nano car factory. The radio documentary opened with interview of Becharam Manna, who was

one of the persons leading the agitation against Nano car factory there. The farmers were seen to have been opposing the project on multi-crop farmland fearing joblessness, insecurity. The Government argues that the car factory will bring in investment and would lead to overall development in the region. It will help to boost the economy of the state as well. The protesters feared they would be displaced from their villages and their livelihood would be affected as a result of the car project.

Rajesh Bag titled his media assignment as 'Xenophobia Induced Displacement: A Study of Displaced People in Kandhamal'. He presented cases where the media has misrepresented views of people from the area while covering Kandhamal after the violence occurred there in 2008. He also showed how the media often ignored views from one side or the other and was biased in its reportage. Such biases have class and ideological bases. He also urged for a broader consensus at reaching a rationale against manufacturing captivating when the truth lay elsewhere. He tried to unearth why the media tended to be biased in its reporting and why a consensus against such malpractice could not be reached.

Amitava Das's radio script on how the climate related migrants of Sundarbans dealt with the plight of people losing land as a result of being flooded by rising sea level. The residents of Manasadwip Colony in Sagar Island in the Sundarbans were overnight transformed into poor from wealthy farmers as sea ate into the Ghoramara Delta. The Government also tried to provide them relief by giving land but as the number of such people grew the quantity of land also went down forcing them to shift to other places to do odd jobs like working in the construction fields.



*From Left to Right: Nayana Bose, Rakhee Kalita, Chitra Abanthem and Mandira Sen*

## 10. Field Visit

On 8 December the participants of Seventh Winter Course on Forced Migration visited the Subhanitola *Char* on the western side of the river Ganga near Panchanandapur in Malda district, West Bengal. The Ganga Bhangon Pratirodh Action Nagarik Committee (henceforth GBPANC), had organized an interaction with local inhabitants of the char for the Seventh Winter Course participants. GBPANC has been leading a movement for the rights of the victims of river erosion.

### The Subhanitola Char

The Subhanitola *char* is a home to more than 5000 internally displaced persons (IDP) which includes more than 2000 children. Subhanitola is an isolated area devoid of any modern means of transport and communication. There are 25 such *chars* in the area that house 1.5 lakh displaced people. According to local people and environmental groups the present plight of river erosion in the area has its origin in the construction of the Farakka Barrage Project. As a result of the project, the river Ganga has divested its flow and devastated the parts of Malda and surrounding area by river erosion. Local inhabitants informed that their forefathers had opposed the project and one of the protesters, Kapil Bhattacharya, was imprisoned for raising his voice against the Government.

The erosion-induced displacement has had severe impacts on the life of the inhabitants of Subhanitola. The river erosion washed away their villages and people were forced to take shelter in the newly emerging *chars* along the western side of the river. Once they were displaced from their earlier villages, the Government of West Bengal refused to accept them as its citizens and thus deprived them not only from basic entitlements but also from every political right including the voting right. The Government of Jharkhand had constructed a school building in the *char* but never accepted the inhabitants of the *char* as its citizens. Thus in their own homeland they form a stateless people.





*Participants with GBPANC members*

The river erosion has uprooted them from their livelihood, agricultural land, and all other necessities for carrying out everyday life processes. In the emergency need of health care, people have to go to the nearby town i.e. Malda. From there, it takes three to four hours to reach the nearest hospital. There is no ASHA or ICDS worker in the area; nor any local health care facility. There is a primary school run by the Government of Jharkhand with an enrollment of 500 students but teachers never visit the school. The GBPANC has been running a *Sabuj Pathshala*—a school in the *char*. People do not get pure drinking water and the area is deprived of any sanitation facility. The children of the area have been facing malnutrition. Interestingly there is no midday-meal in this part of the country. Further though they have been socio-economically very poor but they are not entitled to BPL cards or NREGS. The local people have been complaining in District Committee office but the concerned officers have been insensitive towards the inhabitants of the *char*.

The people earn their livelihood primarily by cultivation of rice, pulses (*kalai*) and various vegetables. Besides, some of them earn their livelihood by fishing. Women and children earn from *bidi* making, which affects their health. Many people migrate to other parts of the country to find work.

The victims of the river erosion have gradually started organizing movement for their rights. Under the leadership of GBPANC the IDPs have demanded that they should be declared Farakka Barrage Project Victims and they raised demand for revisiting the Farakka Barrage Project. Besides, they demanded the amendment of the West Bengal Land Acquisition Act 2000 that deprives them of their right over their earlier land holdings (before river erosion).

Thus the river erosion has severe negative impact on the socio-economic life of the char area. In the process people living at the bottom of the society have been reduced to a position of marginal citizen in their own historic homeland i.e. West Bengal.



## **11. Public Events and Interactive Sessions**

### **Public Events**

Over the past few years and also drawing from the Advisory Committee recommendations, CRG felt the need to widen the scope of the Seventh Annual Winter Course on Forced Migration. In other words the fifteen day workshop needed to move out of the usual venue of the classes so that the participants could interact with the experts, scholars and researchers from other institutions who are working on related issues. Attempts were made to include as many public lectures and interactive sessions as possible this year in the fifteen day schedule.

Three public events were organized in collaboration with various departments and research centres of University of Calcutta. These were:-

1. Roundtable on “Experiences of Seclusion of Women in South Asia: Minorities, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons” on 4 December 2009 where Paula Banerjee; Patrick Hoenig; Kanta Singh; Maleka Begum, Dhaka University took part.

The session was chaired by Ishita Mukhopadhyay (*in collaboration with Women’s Studies Research Centre*). The roundtable was structured such that presentations were given first by each of the panellists on the subject matter as it relates to the specific contexts in which they are working, and then discussions followed. Kanta Singh shared experiences on the seclusion of minorities, IDPs and refugee women in Nepal, based on her work in the high mountains of Assam. She reviewed the relevant documents and literature that speak about women’s experiences of displacement. Two types of displaced were identified in Nepal: the internally displaced by conflict, Maoists, development projects, government policy, natural disasters; and the externally displaced, i.e. refugees. Patrick Hoenig in his presentation proposed a conceptual experiment to help understand gender, a gendered notion of the state and how it affects displacement. Paula Banerjee linked her presentation with Maleka Begum’s discussion on personal laws by asserting that these are very essential to understanding displacement. Nations are in the business of keeping people in one place, of stagnating people, and so for them displacement is an aberration. In the discussions that followed these presentations, attention was drawn to the ‘depressing’ nature of the reports about women’s positions in the various contexts surveyed. The question asked particularly by Parimal Ghosh, Professor, University of Calcutta, was: do these suffering people not have a survival strategy of their own? If so, these strategies should be a part of the account, and when we focus only on their sufferings we deny the *agency* of these displaced women altogether. However, it was pointed out by panellists and participants that sometimes the refugee women’s choices are constrained by restrictions on their leaving the camps to pursue economic activities.

2. “Burma’s Foreign Policy: Issues of Regional Security and Refugees” by Bertil Lintner on 9 December 2009 (*in collaboration with Department of South and South East Asian Studies at the University of Calcutta*).

In his lecture, Lintner elaborated the reasons of lack of information about Burma and its internal politics in world public forum and linked it to the long military regime that Burma has been subjected to. He also shared ideas about smuggling in the border areas of the

country and Burma's relation with its neighbours vis a vis the issue of smuggling. The discussion offered very interesting counter perspectives from the other side of the border. Questions were raised about the role of the military junta in Burma vis a vis human rights. The state's perspective on the women inhabiting the refugee camps were sought to be understood against the context of the building up of the new state.

3. "Reproduction of Partitions, Urban Restructuring, and Displacement of Population Groups" by Oren Yiftachel on 14 December 2009 (*in collaboration with Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Calcutta*).

The lecture focused on the oft-neglected yet critically important aspect – the urban dimension of partitioned space. It traced the urbanization of post-partition societies, the impact of growing regional migration, neo-liberalism and persisting politics of identity, and observed the surfacing of 'gray spaces' and 'creeping urban apartheid' as important hallmarks of the post-partition order. Examples from a variety of cities, most notably Jerusalem and Beersheba, Israel/Palestine, served to illustrate the argument. He concluded his lecture by analyzing the politics of resistance and mobilization in the new urban geopolitics, discussion of the relevance of 'justice', 'rights', 'distribution' and 'recognition', attempting to breathe political life into the promising yet vague concept of 'the right to the city'.



*Oren Yiftachel delivering the public lecture*

### **Interactive Sessions**

Participatory or interactive sessions form an integral core of the Fifteen day Workshop in Kolkata. During the Seventh Winter course on forced Migration participants were

encouraged to participate in roundtables and panel discussion along with other resource persons. The compulsory modules (A-E) had at least one compulsory workshop/roundtable/panel discussion each. At least one roundtable or panel discussion was organised for the optional modules (F-H).

### **The Themes of the Interactive Sessions under the Compulsory and Optional Modules were:**

1. End of War and the Continuing IDP Crisis in Sri Lanka /Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, Centre for Policy Alternatives, Sri Lanka; Mohamed Feroz Pakkeer Mohideen, NPDS for IDPs Project, Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, Sivaprashanthi Thambaiah, Freelance Consultant/Psychosocial Practitioner from Sri Lanka/ Moderator: Andrew Solomon (3 December 2009)

As the military campaign against the armed forces of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam reached its finale in May 2009, in the words of Paikiasothy Saravanmuttu, 300,000 civilians who were held between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan military by “force, fear or family” as a “civilian shield” for the protection of the LTTE. After the last LTTE enclave was captured, these civilians were held in custody without any legal sanction. Sri Lankan authorities also prohibited all but the most basic outside assistance to the IDPs formerly held by the LTTE. The final stages of the armed conflict were a “war without witness” and the government continues to hold large numbers of its citizens in IDP camps, largely hidden from international scrutiny. The government is now engaged in a process of screening the detainees to determine which are LTTE members and/or supporters and is presently holding somewhere between 10,000 and 12,000 such persons incommunicado. Feroz Pakkeer Mohideen discussed the overall situation of IDPs in Sri Lanka, identifying approximately 800,000 Sri Lankans as displaced persons. Sivaprashanthi Thambaiah also discussed the psycho-social issues facing IDPs in Sri Lanka arising from, among other things, pervasive fear, a shattered sense of self and loss of the perception that one controls his or her own life. In addition to PTSD and other psychological concerns, people have experienced serious disruption of their social world. The panelists agreed that these problems posed a serious impediment to any national reconciliation.

2. Cyclones, Natural Disasters, and the Issue of Relief and Disaster Management: Experiences of Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka) / KM Parivelan, Independent Consultant to Anna Institute of Management and Save the Children, Chennai; Amites Mukherjee, Department of Sociology, University of Kalyani; Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu / Moderator: Samir Kumar Das (5 December 2009)

KM Parivelan in his presentation pointed out that tsunami of 2004 saw a paradigm shift in disaster management from ‘response’ to ‘mitigation’ in order to initiate disaster reduction as part of development. In his lecture he analysed if this paradigm shift has percolated down to the ground level. He gave the examples of cyclone Aila in Sundarbans in the year 2009 and cyclone Nisha in Tamil Nadu. Amites Mukherjee submitted that the people of Sundarbans suffer because of the different kinds of governmental rationalities which view the Sundarbans as a wildlife sanctuary rather than a place for human settlements and therefore after the Cyclone hit, the relief and rehabilitation never trickled down to the people. Governmental rationalities operate in layers: both the colonial and post colonial versions have a conservationist rationality that still carries on. Further the wilderness policy has



excluded the disadvantaged people who are under continuous threat of natural disasters. P Saravanamuttu pointed out that soon after the Tsunami the Sri Lankan Government set up post Tsunami management structure which would include the services of both LTTE and the Government. This proposal was shot down by ultra nationalist Sinhalese parties terming it as unconstitutional which violated the unitary nature of Sri Lanka. After the disaster there was huge flow of funds with guidelines to determine the way in which relief and rehabilitation should be led: a) All relief should be conflict sensitive b) recovery should not produce new conflict, c) The demand for subsidiary i.e. to incorporate local knowledge into disaster management. However he feared that in future if there is a disaster of this scale the central govt. would like to be seen as the focus of all existence undermining local government in disaster management. The discussions revolved around five principal questions: a) Is displacement induced from natural disasters any way different from displacement induced from factors other than natural disasters?; b) What would be a possible outline for a more pro-active strategy that govt. of South Asia would take in resolving disaster management issue?; c) Asymmetry involved in relief operations- Why already vulnerable groups became more vulnerable?; d) The role of non-state actors in disaster relief; e) Government's response to victims of disaster was informed by other factors eg. Ethnic conflict and governmental rationality (Sundarbans).

3. Ethics of Care: How Humanitarian our Humanitarian Institutions and Laws are? / Anne-Claire Gayet, Researcher on legal issues and coordinates the Oppenheimer Chair in Public International Law at McGill University; Mst.Umme Habiba Fahmina Karim, Community Service Assistant with the UNHCR, Bangladesh; Janga Bir Rana, Nepal/ Moderator: Khalid Koser. (13December 2009)

Anne-Claire Gayet reminded participants of the definition of what is to be humanitarian: someone or an organization which aims at increasing the well-being of humankind. She then showed that some current practices of humanitarian assistance do not meet that definition, or meets only partially. Fahmina Karim cited the case of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and submitted that though committed to the care of the refugees and the victims of displacement, the state often fails to perform the task of care and mitigating justice. Janga Bir Rana in his presentation stated that humanitarian assistance towards the IDPs pose a greater difficulty most of the time in Nepal. But on the other hand, they themselves fail to collect proper data on the situation of the IDPs and thus are unable to provide effective assistance to them. The state neither encourages intervention, nor are able to cope with it themselves which adds to the vulnerability of the IDPs. He also further argued that state actors and non state actors often forget the basic ethics of care. The forced migrants never get the protection whenever they need it. He further argued that institutional mechanisms or state mechanisms are not that much strong during the transformation period. He also mentioned that refugees are deprived from their basic rights and necessary protection.

4. Revisiting Protection Strategies for People in Situations of Forced Migration/ Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury, Calcutta Research Group; Oren Yiftachel, Ben Gurion University; Khalid Koser, Geneva Centre for Security Policy/ Moderator: François Crépeau. (13 December 2009)

The gruesome massacre that took place in different parts of Gujarat after the burning of a coach of the Sabarmati Express near Godhra railway station on 27 February 2002 has become the testimony of one of the worst violations of human rights in the recent history of

India. Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury submitted that the Government of Gujarat remained a mute spectator while the vandals destroyed life and property of thousands of people belonging to the Muslim minority community almost in a surgical manner. This uninterrupted violence not only claimed more than a thousand lives (this was the official figure) but also displaced thousands of men, women and children. After more than eight years of such a ghastly crime against humanity, the victims are still scared to recall those days of violence. The camps for the displaced persons may not exist anymore, but the displaced in the semi-urban areas and district towns have not yet been able to return to their original homes. Oren Yiftachel conceptualized ‘gray spaces’, positioned between the ‘whiteness’ of legality/approval/safety, and the ‘blackness’ of eviction/destruction/death. The vast expansion of gray spaces in contemporary cities reflects the emergence of new types of colonial relations, which are managed by urban regimes facilitating a process of ‘creeping apartheid’. He used a ‘South-Eastern’ perspective to suggest the concept of ‘planning citizenship’ as a possible corrective horizon for analytical, normative and insurgent theories. In his presentation he linked insights from his recent involvement with marginalized urban communities, with conceptual observations about the political geography of urban informalities (‘gray spaces’) and the subsequent emergence of ‘creeping urban apartheid’. He began with two voices from the Beer Sheva metropolitan region, Israel/Palestine. Khalid Koser in his presentation traced patterns of forced migration around the world and drew attention to the protection strategies adopted for specific situations by the different protection regimes. He drew examples from Pakistan, Afghanistan and the borders between India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

5. War, Terror, and Displacement in Pakistan and Afghanistan)/ Khalid Koser; Anu Hirsiaho; Salman Kazmi, Legal Practitioner based in Pakistan/ Moderator: Samir Kumar Das ( 14 December 2009)

In this session, Khalid Koser narrated how the focus of forced migration is slowly shifting from the India-Pakistan border to the Afghanistan-Pakistan or the ‘Af-Pak’ border. About thirty years have passed since the Soviet forces had sneaked into Afghanistan and the world has undergone a sea-change. The Soviet Union is no more and its forces are no more in Afghanistan. Now the US- led NATO forces are trying to protect the tottering regime of President Hamid Karzai. Anu Hirsiaho narrated the stories of displaced civilians who lived along the border territories. Salman Kazmi presented his experiences of practising as a practitioner of immigration law in Pakistan and narrated the perspective on the border areas from the city of Lahore and Islamabad.

6. Q & A session with Montserrat Feixas-Vihe, Chief of Mission, UNHCR, New Delhi on “Need for New Legal Strategies for the Protection of the Displaced”. Moderator: Samir Kumar Das

This was one of the most interesting sessions where participants and resource persons present at the Course had an opportunity to engage in a face to face discussion with the UNHCR’s representative in for India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Questions revolved around the UNHCR’s policy to protect refugees and its encounters with state regimes where the latter is a non signatory to the UN Convention. Salman Kazmi, a Course participant from Pakistan asked about the role the UNHCR is envisaging care for victims of protracted conflict situation in the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. Rajesh Bag, a participant and a PhD scholar from Hyderabad University asked why the UNHCR is asking South

Asian states to sign the Convention when record shows that the South Asian states often have performed better in terms of caring for the victims of forced migration than their European counterparts which are imposing immigration restrictions.



*Left to Right: Samir Kumar Das & Oren Yiftachel*



*Public Lecture by Bertil Lintner*

## 12. Inaugural and Valedictory Session

### Inaugural Session

The fifteen day workshop segment of the Seventh Winter Course on Forced Migration began with the formal Inaugural Session on 1 December 2009. The session was initiated by a brief introduction to the course by **Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhary, Honorary Course Coordinator of the Seventh Annual Winter Course on Forced Migration** who initiated the course and its contents to the participants and the distinguished faculty members present on the occasion. This was followed by welcome remarks by **Samir Kumar Das, President, CRG** who chaired the inaugural session. The welcome remarks elaborated on past courses and the initiative on part of CRG to bring on a platform available knowledge on forced migration and displacement.



*Andrew Solomon delivering the Inaugural Address*

This year **Andrew Solomon, Deputy Director and Fellow, Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement**, Brookings Institution delivered the Inaugural Lecture on **“Justice, Accountability, and the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons”**. His lecture explored the nexus between justice and displacement in an effort to develop a common understanding of justice and accountability measures as an integral part of comprehensive responses to conflict-induced displacement, including efforts to achieve solutions to displacement that are voluntary, dignified, and just as well as durable. The lecture also addressed how various justice and accountability measures associated with transitional justice have acknowledged and addressed the needs of displaced persons around the world and sought to include victims of displacement.

The program ended with the vote of thanks by Geetisha Dasgupta, Research Associate, CRG

### Valedictory Session

The Valedictory Session of the Seventh Annual Winter Course on Forced Migration took place on the evening of 15 December 2009. It was held at the Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata and the occasion was graced by the presence of **Sanna Selin, First Secretary, Embassy of Finland**; and **Special Guest, Montserrat Feixas Vihe, the UNHCR Chief of Mission to India**. **Sanna Selin** gave her brief remarks about the Course and complemented CRG on its ongoing work.



*From Left to Right: Montserrat Feixas Vihe, Sanna Selin and Samir Kumar Das*

**Ranabir Samaddar, Director, CRG**, Kolkata in his welcome address briefly spoke about CRG and the Annual Winter Course on Forced Migration. This was followed by brief remarks on the Course by some participants. **Salman Kazmi** from Pakistan, **Olajumoke Yacob-Haliso** from Nigeria, **Scott Risley** from the USA and **Sivaprashanthi Thambaiah** from Sri Lanka gave their valuable observations on the fifteen-day workshop in Kolkata, as well as the Course as a whole and expressed their gratitude at being able to be a part of it. They all complemented CRG on having conducted a very intense and focused course, enabling them to start thinking about the problem of forced migration from completely different points of view and said they would look forward to be associated with CRG's work in the near future.



*From Left to Right: Ranabir Samddar, François Crépeau, Montserrat Feixas Vibe, Sanna Selin and Samir Kumar Das*

**François Crépeau** delivered the valedictory lecture on **“Protecting Migrants’ Rights as a Test for Democracies”**. The lecture drew examples from different countries in narrating the story of refugee protection till date.



*François Crépeau delivering the Valedictory Lecture*

The programme ended with the vote of thanks by **Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury**.



## **13. Evaluation**

The participants and faculty members were asked to fill in their evaluation forms relating to various aspects of the Winter Course programme. The evaluation forms carried specific questions related to the structure of the course, reading material, field visit, assignments and participatory session. Like every year a special session was dedicated to the evaluation of the course. This year Paul Ryder, Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford Department of International Development, University of Oxford was invited to the Course as the external evaluator. Excerpts from his report are reproduced below.

### **1. The Group**

At the heart of any successful Course is a group of participants who are both ready to learn and willing to share their experience. This does not happen by accident and CRG are to be commended for attracting and selecting a fine group. Course promotion— e-mail, print and (importantly) word of mouth – is clearly well organised, attracting a pool of nearly 100 applicants for around 20 available places. Careful selection of the applicants resulted in an enthusiastic and committed group. A varied and balanced representation from the region (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka) was broadened with participants from Nigeria, France and the United States (1 each). This worked well at this level with extra-regional participants making important contributions. However I would have some concerns if the proportion of participants from outside of South Asia was increased. The Course's great strength is its regional focus and specificity and this should be retained.

Participant selection also ensured a good range of professional and personal experiences were represented. As is to be expected there was some variance with some participants clearly more engaged in the topics and debates being addressed than others. There was a sound and even gender balance while the age range was appropriate for the Course. By the start of the second week most of the participants were clearly comfortable in participating in question and answer sessions – both asking questions and adding their own perspectives. No subgroups seem to have formed; this was partly due to group selection and partly to the size of the group which worked well. Expanding the group much beyond the current twenty is likely to lead to very different group dynamics and – without careful consideration and planning – could be detrimental.

The 15-day duration of the Workshop ensured real connections and friendships were made. The value of the networks established among members of each year group and all course alumni should not be underestimated. There were some calls to organise a get together of all previous course alumni. While this may not be practicable, CRG could consider surveying Course participants to help monitor how these connections are maintained and could be further supported. Such a survey could also be used to assess the longer-term impact of the Course overall.

One area where a note of caution could be sounded is on the balance between practitioners versus more research-driven participants. At times, I felt the course may have benefitted from having a greater depth of practical expertise and



experience in the group. This would help form a creative loop between action and analysis, where some of the more academic and research-focused assertions are challenged. The imbalance could be linked to the three-month distance education format and the university accreditation standards that the Course fulfils. This might not be as attractive or appropriate for senior-level practitioners who would otherwise benefit from and contribute to the Course. A dual-track admissions policy that increased the focus on the experience and expertise of participants might be worth exploring in future years.



## 2. Programme

### General

All participants were very impressed with the programme structure and content. Course materials were appreciated and the distance learning aspect of the course added depth to participants' understanding. The advanced reading and assessments ensured that maximum benefit was gained from the residential part of the course. Not all were happy with all elements of the course but there were no significant recommendations for any major changes in structure and content.

### Timings

The length of the course seemed appropriate. As already noted 15 days of Workshop gave the group a good chance to bond. It is long enough for a wide range of content to be covered at an appropriate depth and to give time to ensure that learning is reinforced – good cross-referencing of earlier presentations in various discussions supports this assertion.

Feedback from participants confirmed that they found the Course extremely intensive. A packed schedule of seminars, lectures and module sessions sat alongside requirements to prepare group reports, term papers, creative and media assignments. Accepting that participants are there to learn and work hard, it may still be worth trying to incorporate a few more free sessions into the schedule. More time dedicated to working on assignments or preparing presentations could improve concentration in other sessions (towards the end of the Course some participants were clearly working on their own papers during programme sessions).

Consideration should be given to having at least one day off in the middle of the Workshop, participants could catch up on reading/writing or a tour of places of local interest could be arranged. If this requires extending the Workshop by a day it would still be worth considering.

This report presents a range of responses to and reflections on the Course. These clearly indicate that the Seventh Annual Winter Course in Forced Migration was a great success, fully appreciated by participants and invited resource persons alike. Major strengths are noted throughout the report, recommendations for future Winter Courses are made and some notes of caution sounded.

## **Key Points are Summarised below:**

### **Core Strengths**

- Course materials and breadth of the curriculum and materials provided.
- Participants selection and group size
- Expertise of CRG staff and invited resource persons
- Overall organisation and administration

### **Main areas for Possible Improvement**

- Incorporation of a few interactive or group work sessions into the programme
- Some clearer 'holding' of the course and monitoring of participant expectations by CRG staff
- Field trip – extending contact time with refugees
- Consider including a day off or adding some more free study time to the programme
- Improved social programme - perhaps linked to evening film sessions

### **Small Group Evaluation Exercise**

Participants were divided into four groups of four or five people and asked to discuss and agree (as far as was possible) on their four favourite aspects and their four least favourite aspects of the course. For the least favoured aspects they were asked to give suggestions on how things could be improved. Results were then presented to the group. (50 minutes total)

### **Favourite aspects of the course (summarised)**

#### **Participants and Faculty**

- Interaction between activists/ practitioners and theorists.
- Diversity of participants and faculty
- Selection / diversity /mix of participants (x 3)
- CRG faculty members

- CRG expertise and involvement in / commitment to Course
- Expertise of the invited resource persons (x2)
- Informal interaction with resource persons

### Organisation and Administration

- Administration and hospitality
- Organisation and accommodation
- Food (Wonderful throughout!)

### Programme

- Pedagogical formality of course – just right
- Distance course education – good reading materials; interesting topics;
- The assignments forced people to read through and think about the topics
- Well designed course content
- Quality and availability of the reading materials
- Assignments made participants work really hard and forced them to read and understand the materials provided
- Field trip – good experience for group bonding and individual exposure
- Online chat sessions – encouraging comments; clearing confusion and any doubts; constructive comment on term papers

### Areas for Improvement (Including Suggestions)

#### Participants and Faculty

Slight predominance of male resource persons	Concentrate on gender balance when inviting resource persons ( <i>as far as is possible</i> )
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#### Organisation and Administration

Classroom set up and environment too formal	Seating in one large circle or square to encourage informality and exchange. Fewer “theatre style” sessions.
Lack of space for informal interaction	Choose a hotel with a good lobby or common room. One suggestions to select and out of town ‘retreat’ type venue. ( <i>nb would make logistics very difficult for invited faculty and university-based events</i> )

### Programme (General Comments)

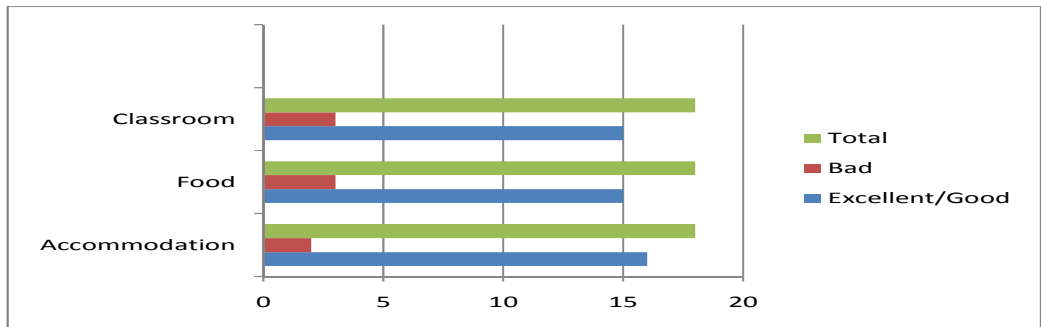
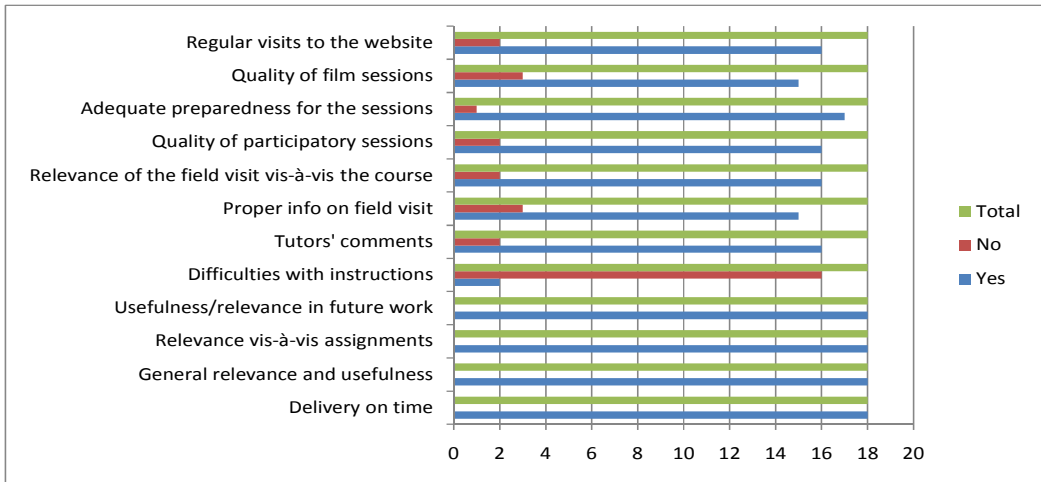
- Pedagogical formality of Course-- too formal in places. Could be more interaction between participants
- Incorporate more task oriented group work with short reporting back sessions
- Course extremely intensive
- Film session could be more focussed. One film too abstract for some. The second could have focussed more on lives of IDPs / refugees.
- Gender session – tried to tackle too much in too short a time. Narrow down the focus of the session or increase time available to deal with the topic.

### Participants' Evaluation

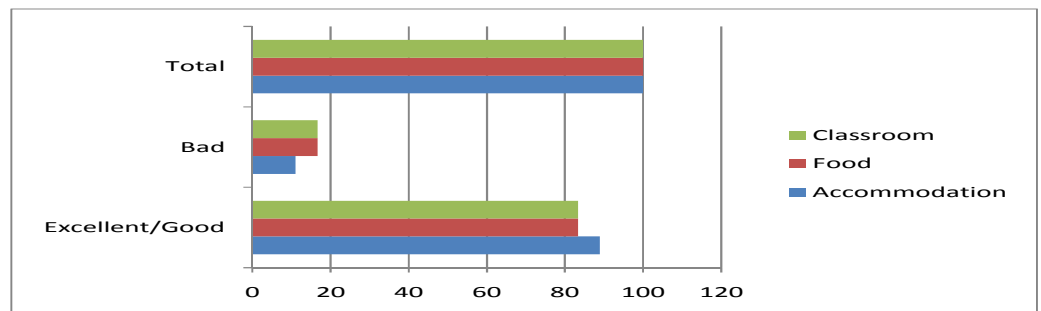
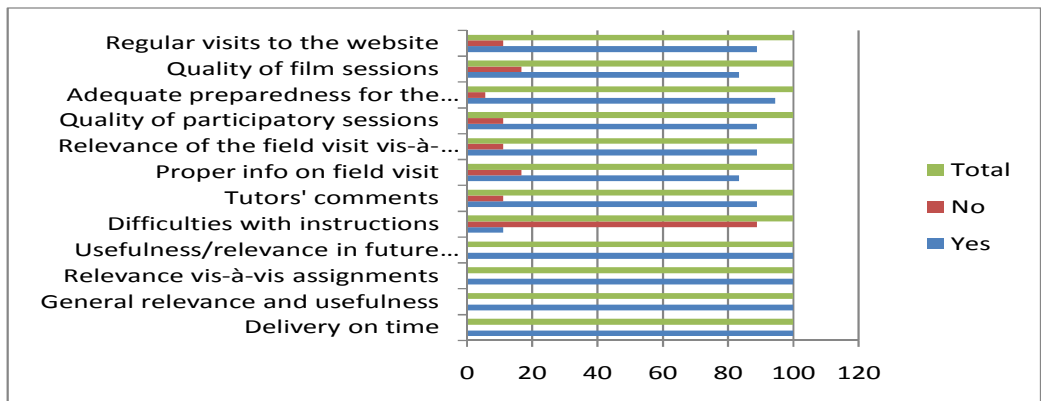
	Yes	No	Not applicable	Total
Delivery on time	18	0		18
General relevance and usefulness	18	0		18
Relevance vis-à-vis assignments	18	0		18
Usefulness/relevance in future work	18	0		18
Difficulties with instructions	2	16		18
Tutors' comments	16	2		18
Proper info on field visit	15	3		18
Relevance of the field visit vis-à-vis the course	16	2		18
Quality of participatory sessions	16	2		18
Adequate preparedness for the sessions	17	1		18
Quality of film sessions	15	3		18
Regular visits to the website	16	2		18

	Excellent/ Good	Bad	Not applicable	Total
Accommodation	16	2		18
Food	15	3		18
Classroom	15	3		18

## Participants' Evaluation (Charts)



## Participants' Evaluation (In Percentage)



## **14. Outcome of the Course**

The Winter Course has been a dialogic process of learning; awareness building and producing critical knowledge and advocacy work in the area of forced migration, conflict resolution, peace building and refugee studies.

- **Peace and Conflict Resolution Education**

The core strength of the Annual Winter Course on Forced Migration has been to widen the scope of forced migration and incorporate the South Asian experiences of multiple vulnerabilities like ethnic violence, refugee flows and massive displacement of population due to environment related issues in its three month long distance education segment and the fifteen day workshop. The Course builds on the discourse of human security where the state and non- state protection mechanisms of refugee care and internally displaced persons are reviewed and discussed in great detail. The Course is one of its kind in South Asia which has managed to build a huge research archive on peace and conflict resolution in the area of mixed and massive flow of population in South Asia.

- **Awareness about Forced Migration Issues among South Asian Scholars, Personnel Working in Humanitarian Institutions and Activists**

Through the Winter Course CRG has been able to build a network of scholars, human rights activists and personnel working in national human rights commissions in South Asia. This network has been particularly useful in establishing linkages among key stakeholders and institutions working in the area of forced migration and strengthening various organizations. Our alumni has been involved in organizing short orientation courses in their respective institutions and has played a key role as resource persons in various forums like International Association for the Study of Forced Migration including the Fifteen Day Course on Forced Migration.

- **Sustained Collaboration with other institutions in South Asia**

One of the key outcomes of the course is the sustained collaboration with various institutions in South Asia and special mention should be made of National Human Rights Commission, India, Sri Lanka and Nepal which regularly nominates personnel to join the Course. Secondly, CRG has been able to build up a sustained collaboration with various departments and faculties in University of Kolkata, Rabindra Bharati University through co hosting public events. Thirdly, the resource persons on many occasions has played a key role in building a sustained collaboration with the Course through nominating participants and encouraging exchange programmes and special mention must be made of Tampere Peace Research Institute, Finland. In South Asia, CRG is grateful to UNHCR, India and Ain-O-Salish Kendra, Bangladesh and Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies, Sri Lanka and various others for nominating participants to the Course.

- **Expanding Network and Visibility of South Asian Experiences and Dimensions of Forced Migration in National and International Forums**

The Winter Course has evolved itself into a forum of well established scholars and activists who are constantly engaging with various issues of forced migration, displacement and refugee studies. The course owes its success to the strength of its faculty members who occupy significant positions in International forums such as International Association for the Study of Forced Migration where Paula Banerjee, Former Course Coordinator of Winter Course of Forced Migration was elected as the Vice President of the Association 2008-2009. Several other ex-Course participants are actively involved in various such networks on a voluntary basis. Owing to the success of CRG's Annual Winter Course on Forced Migration and its contribution in the area of forced migration studies Refugee Research Network has recognized CRG as one of its partner institutions. Taking note of CRG's work on forced migration, Indira Gandhi National Open University, India has agreed to support our work in the area of Forced migration.

- **Research and Resource Centre of Forced Migration**

CRG has produced and collected various documents which need to be archived for the purposes of future research and advocacy work on forced migration. The South Asia Resource Centre on Forced Migration, one of the newest developments under the wings of the Winter Course on Forced Migration, has been formed to facilitate further research on forced migration and to encourage scholars who wish to work on peace initiatives and displacement in South Asia. The Resource Centre builds and extends the scope of the Winter Course through junior research fellowships and aspires to become a nodal centre in South Asia for building peace and human rights research network.



## **15. Research Segment and Follow-up Programmes**

One of the suggestions that emanated from the Seventh Winter Course Advisory Committee Meeting was the need for research in the area of resource politics and environmental degradation apart from organizing lectures and interactive sessions under this theme. With this objective various research papers were commissioned to explore the issue of environmental disasters and politics of relief and aid. Some of these research papers have been published in our Research Paper Series and have become part of our Resource Centre on Forced Migration Studies. The resource centre has been envisaged as a facilitating centre that will anchor research and training in forced migration and displacement and encourage learning in the field by engaging with all who have worked, are working or wish to work in the field of migration. Research papers produced out of the programme on Forced Migration continue to be published in the Journal “Refugee Watch” and CRG research paper series (Policies and Practices), both of which are distributed widely to all significant educational institutions and united nations institutions. The winter course programme is designed to provide vital inputs to CRG’s ongoing research. But, more important, the course material is based on CRG’s original research work.

The research papers that have been published in CRG publication series and was distributed among the participants are:-

- **Research Paper Series - Policies and Practices**

Amites Mukhopadhyay in the Research Paper Policies and Practices Issue No: 26 on “Cyclone Aila and the Sundarbans: An Enquiry into the Disaster and Politics of Aid and Relief” deals with the politics and problem of Governmentality of aid and relief on the backdrop of the disastrous effect that cyclone Aila left on the island of Sundarbans and adjoining areas. Amites Mukhopadhyay through his narratives and case studies aptly provides an insight to the poignancy that the people of Sundarban passed through during and after Aila washed away their livestock. Even worse perhaps is the dynamics of petty local politics that deprived the majority from getting aid in terms of relief. Basanti and Gosaba blocks in particular epitomize the intense political rivalry circulating around proper distribution of aid and rehabilitation. The main argument of Mukhopadhyay is the enormity of the cyclone which can be attributed primarily to lack of infrastructural facilities and comprehensive policy. Need of the hour is to formulate definite policy of compensation and rehabilitation else it would be very difficult to recover from the deep rooted catastrophe that Aila embarked on the lives of the people of Sundarbans.

- **Refugee Watch**

The *Refugee Watch* Issue No 33 included articles by Ishita Dey (On the Margins of Citizenship: Principles of Care and Rights of the Residents of the Ranaghat Women’s Home, Nadia District), Catherine Wihtol de Wenden (Immigration and Globalisation), Mireille Fanon-Mendes France (Franco-European Policy and Migration), Roberta Cohen (Iraq’s Displaced: Where to Turn?). Some more research articles are ready for publication in the *Refugee Watch* issue of December 2009. The *Refugee Watch Issue No 34* included articles by Vikram Kolmannskog (The Point of No Return - Exploring Law on Cross-Border Displacement in the Context of Climate Change), Brett Neilson (Struggles on the Borders of



Higher Education: The Subjection of Indian Students in Australia), Elizabeth Snyder (Waging Peace: Women, Restorative Justice, and the Pursuit of Human Rights in the Solomon Islands). All these were contributory to the overall reading repository of the Seventh Winter Course on Forced Migration. Currently we are in the process of reviewing articles by participants of the Sixth Annual Winter Course on Forced Migration and Seventh Annual Winter Course on Forced Migration and some of the articles will be published in Refugee Watch.

- **Refugee Watch Online (RWO)** is an online is a co-publication of Refugee Watch on the flow of refugees, other victims of forced migration, and the internally displaced persons in South Asia. It presents news and views, critiques and analyses of policies of the States and international humanitarian institutions with regard to forced migration and forced population flows across the borders in this region. The Refugee Watch Online has an editorial board comprising of the Alumni of the past six courses and the editorial board members are responsible for coordinating the edition of every month. Details are available on <http://refugeewatchonline.blogspot.com/>. This year again, we are planning to redraw the editorial board of the RWO to include the participants of the Seventh Winter Course on Forced Migration.

## Fellowships

This year two research fellowships were given under the follow up segment of the Winter Course. Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury and Rani Varghese visited the Tampere Peace Research Institute for a week (10 March 2010 to 18 March 2010). CRG is thankful to Tuomo Melasuo, Director, Tampere Peace Research Institute and ex Winter Course Participants Eeva Puumala, Ksenia Glebova and Tiina Kaninen for facilitating this visit. The researchers also visited Tampere University.

Rani Varghese conducted her research visit to understand Finland's strategy towards climate change and related displacement issues. In this context, she interviewed experts to analyze the flexibility that international refugee law could offer to accommodate climate change induced migrants and locate Finland's own perspective about the issue. She also sought to understand the policies in place and those being drafted for 'burden sharing' of climate change affected population, keeping in mind the increasing number of asylum seekers in Finland and the latter's attitude towards the refugee issue till date. To understand the scenario, she conducted interviews with advocacy groups from Finland who have studied climate change extensively and written on forced migration due to climate change. Rani also interviewed volunteers from different non government organizations in Helsinki and Tampere who work with people seeking refuge due to climate change and environmental disasters. She sought to compare the perspectives of different agents of intervention and develop her own perspective of the politics of protection of climate refugees.

Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury focused her short research on the question of 'returnee' Ingrian Finns following the landmark declaration by the Finnish President Mauno Koivisto in 1990. Against this backdrop the research sought to analyze the role of identity politics in Finland. Identity became a moot question because there was opposition from several political quarters to the Ingrians who started coming back to Finland after the declaration.

There were attempts to make the law stricter keeping in mind the cultural differences between the Ingrians and the Finns. The members of Parliament from the National Coalition (conservatives) demanded that the Ingrians should speak fluent Finnish and they must have good knowledge of Finnish culture and identity. For her research, Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury interviewed different Government bodies as well as political parties to understand what made Koivisto declare the opening for the returnees. She also discussed the issue with experts on the Ingrian question and how these people were accepted by the native Finns.

### **Short-Term Research Fellowships**

CRG advertised two short-term research scholarships on the CRG website ([www.mcrg.ac.in](http://www.mcrg.ac.in)) for junior researchers to encourage research on forced migration and displacement. The Consultative Committee meeting on *Formation of Resource Centre on Forced Migration in South Asia* was held on 2 December 2009. In this meeting the participants discussed the scope of research cooperation between CRG and others South Asian Institutes/Centres on the basis of the Conference Resolution and CRG's proposal on *Formation of Resource Centre on Forced Migration in South Asia*. François Crépeau, Maneesha Tikekar, Susanta Ghosh, Shiva K Dhungana, Andrew Solomon, Patrick Hoenig, Rajesh Kharat, P. Saravanamuttu attended the meeting and reviewed the proposals and two best proposals were selected. One fellowship was awarded to Francis Adaikalam and a second one was jointly awarded to Manjari Mehrotra and Nandini Basishtha.

### **Ongoing Areas of Research**

The Winter Course programme is designed to provide vital inputs to CRG's ongoing research. But, more important, the course material is based on CRG's original research work. This year the research theme that has been explored with special emphasis is environmental disasters and resource crisis. Nirekha De Silva in her study on 'Protecting the Post-Tsunami Displaced Persons: Critical Analysis of the Sri Lankan Experience' which an analysis of the ways in which Sri Lanka has attempted to protect the victims of the Tsunami during the relief, rehabilitation and the reconciliation phases. Nirmal Mahato in his paper on "Environmental Change and Forced Migration in Purulia, West Bengal- An Account of the Colonial and Post-colonial Times" seeks to argue that environmental crisis in tribal livelihood create difficulties in survival and ultimately force them to migrate. It takes note of Purulia District of West Bengal to point out that increasing deforestation in the region has exacerbated the emigration of indigenous people to other places. Both these papers will be soon published. Two research papers by Sahana Basavapatna on "Implementation of the Finnish Alien's Act 2004 in the context of CEAS" and Geetisha Dasgupta on "Welcoming the Highly Skilled?: Select Experiences of South Asian Migrants in Finland" will be soon published. Aditi Bhaduri has been invited to contribute research essays on media and forced migration.

### **South Asia Exchange Programme**

Under the South Asia Exchange Programme, Paula Banerjee delivered a lecture at Research Initiatives Bangladesh on the theme "AIDS as a Border Disease".

## Follow-up Programmes

CRG over the past few years has been organizing short courses in collaboration with willing centers and departments of universities and research institutions across India as a follow up activity.

CRG in collaboration with Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP), Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, organized a three day national workshop on “Resource Politics, Climate Change, Environmental Degradation, and Displacement in India” from 22-24 January 2010. This workshop was an outcome of the ongoing and past work by the Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (CRG) and its collaboration with different universities in South Asia, particularly in the context of forced migration, over the last seven years. A select number of university students from southern India, in particular, from Andhra Pradesh, participated in the workshop and the resource persons were selected jointly by CRG and the CSSEIP. Participation ranged from research scholars, activists, and university and college teachers to journalists. Participants were given reading materials in advance for each of the sessions. The lectures and roundtables of the workshop were organized on the following themes: the changing paradigm of development, questions of eco-feminism particularly with reference to women in Environmental Struggles in Contemporary Kerala, coastal regulation zones and vulnerabilities, National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy of Government of India and the role of NHRC.

The two day research workshop on “State of Research on Forced Migration in the East and Northeast” jointly organized by Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), Shimla, Panos South Asia and Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (CRG) in Hotel Pragoti Manor, Guwahati from 12-13 February 2010 explored the possibilities for newer research agendas through a stock taking exercise of ongoing and previous research on resource politics, conflict, militarization and disasters that led to forced migration and displacement in India’s East and Northeast. The Workshop was attended by scholars from various academic institutions in east and north east India; activists; and media persons. The two day workshop was divided into eight sessions where the following research concerns were addressed:-

- Changing Land Use Pattern, Conflict and Migration
- Homeland, Displacement, Violence & Memory
- Media and Forced Displacement- victims’ right to communicate
- Gendered Nature of Forced Migration
- Violence, Militarisation and Displacement in North East
- Disasters and Forced Migration
- Conflicts and Displacement in Eastern and Central India

## 15. CRG Team

- Paula Banerjee
- Krishna Banerjee
- Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury
- Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury
- Sutirtha Bedajna
- Pradip Kumar Bose
- Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty
- Ratan Chakraborty
- M. Chatterjee
- Samir Kumar Das
- Geetisha Dasgupta
- Ishita Dey
- Samaresh Guchhait
- Ashok Kumar Giri
- Raj Kumar Mahato
- Ranabir Samaddar



*Left to Right: Ashok Kumar Giri, Rajkumar Mahato, A. K. Ray, Ratan Chakraborty*

## **16. Advisory Committee**

- Asha Hans
- Elizabeth Ferris
- Montserrat Feixas Vihe
- Nayana Bose
- Paula Banerjee
- Pradip Kumar Bose
- Qazimuddin Ahmed
- Rajesh S Kharat
- Ranabir Samaddar
- Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury
- Sanjoy Barbora
- Samir Kumar Das
- Sanna Selin