

1. A Unique Programme for South Asia

This is a unique course for the region of South Asia as nothing similar exists in any other country in the region. South Asia is one of the most conflict prone zones of the world and this is Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group's (popularly known as CRG) initiative to move slightly closer towards peace in South Asia.

CRG was born as a facilitating group in support of the Third Joint Conference of the Pakistan-India People's Forum for Peace and Democracy 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 course on forced migration in South Asia cannot be doubted owing to the region's increasing vulnerability due to the growing atrocities in the region due to inter ethnic conflicts, conflicts over resources and displacement due to environment related reasons. One of the significant features of the Course has been its ability to treat the issue of "forced migration" as a holistic concept; which combines for its studies various forms of forced migration – internal and trans-border, basic rights of the victims of forced migration and issues of refugee protection, and issues of internal displacement. 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 in 2003 the fifteen day orientation programme in Kolkata (1-15 December). The programme is preceded by three month long distance education segment. The main emphasis of the course is to bring to this forum 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 with a select profile of 20 participants and resource persons from various professional backgrounds has been since 2003 an annual feature which has encouraged and produced critical knowledge on forced migration in this region.

The programme involves several university departments and personnel, and other institutions working in the area of forced migration. 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.

Over the years, the Course syllabi has been designed to treat the issue of “forced migration” as holistic concept; which combines for its studies various aspects of the phenomenon – internal and trans-border forced migration, basic rights of refugees, issues of refugee protection and 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 discussed in the programme. One of the aims of the course is to encourage policy makers to build up protection strategies for victims in consonance with the international legal frameworks and policy guidelines.

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
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;
 - Climate change and environmental degradation – policy analysis (Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India);
 - Victims right to information and the right to 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);

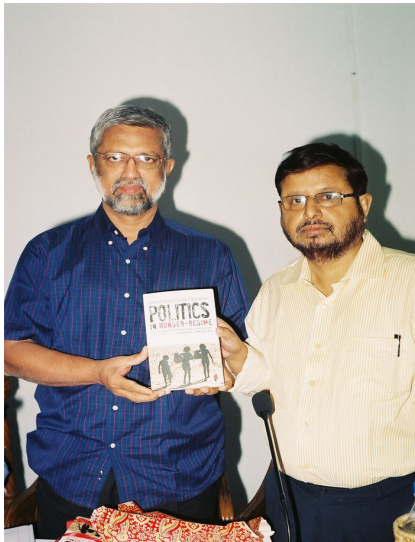
There are several features of the course, which make it a unique programme. Readers of the report will find the details in subsequent pages; however it is important to summarise them and place them at the beginning:

- (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 of the course;
- (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 and 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.



Panelists in the opening session: Asha Hans, Samir Kumar Das, Ranabir Samaddar and Paula Banerjee (from left to right)



V. Suresh (left) and Sibaji Pratim Basu (right)



Angela Liberatore

2. Structure of the Course

On 15 December 2010 the Eighth Annual Winter Course on Forced Migration came to an end. Preparation for this Eighth Annual Winter Course had commenced on 14 December 2009, a day before the Seventh Winter Course formally ended.

Since its inception the course has tried to move beyond individual 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 on issues of forced migration, racism and xenophobia. The Course has attempted constantly to improve keeping with the time and issues like climate change and its impact on forced displacement or media coverage of refugee experiences and displacement issues. In addition to these, the theme of legal regimes of protection and ethics of care and justice are particularly important to understand the recent tightening of borders due to “security” reasons. Like earlier winter courses this year also the course highlighted on various forms of vulnerabilities related to displacement. It built on CRG’s ongoing research work on displacement and forced migration; similarly keeping the crucial issue of stateless people in South Asia in mind, the course committee put stress on *Statelessness* as a special theme for this year’s course.

Like the Seventh Annual Winter Course this year also the course was built around eight modules comprising five compulsory modules and three optional 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

Besides writings assignments, the course activities included workshops’ assignments, media assignments, group discussions, field visit, creative assignments, film screenings, a day-long media workshop, half day city tour and face to face interactions with resource persons.

Participants

Twenty-six participants were selected for the course, of which 19 participants got the certificates on completion of the course. Two Pakistani participants, though successfully completed the distance education segment of the course were unable to attend the workshop

due to visa problems. Participants were selected through public notifications and were drawn from various backgrounds, such as law, social and humanitarian work, film making, academic and research work, human rights activism, etc. This year for the first time we had participants from Sikkim, one of the eastern Himalayan states of India, also from Brazil. We had human rights activist working at the camp in Jhapa, Nepal, who brought in direct experiences of problems relating to rehabilitation and care. We had media practitioner and filmmaker, activist from Sri Lanka engaged in conflict transformation and peace-building. Besides we had participants from Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan and Canada.

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 Eighth 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, journalism, legal studies, UN functionaries, particularly UNHCR functionaries; public policy analysis, and concerned human rights and humanitarian work. Attention was paid to diversity of background and region. Importance was attached to the requirements of the syllabus; the faculty was also involved in developing a permanent 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. (Please find the list of faculty members at the end of this brief report)

Evaluation

The participants were evaluated by a number of resource persons. The core faculty evaluated each of their assignments. Resource persons evaluated their presentations, including presentations of their term papers. They were given grade for the distance education segment and another for the Kolkata workshop segment. At the end of the course each participant was given a cumulative grade. The course is equivalent to eight credit hours of graduate level work.

The course 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 Professor Pradip Kumar Bose, an eminent Sociologist was invited for the programme as evaluator.

Special Activities Included in the Eighth Annual Winter Course Workshop

- For the first time the 15 day Kolkata workshop started with inaugural panel discussion on “War and Refugee Women in South Asia” on 1 December. The Panelists were Professor Asha Hans, Sansristi and Dr. Paula Banerjee, University of Calcutta and CRG and the session was chaired by Professor Samir Kumar Das, University of Calcutta and CRG.
- Special workshop on “*How to make an appropriate digital resource centre in Forced Migration Studies*” held on 10 December.

- Special Roundtable under Module F on “The CRG Report, *Voices*” held on 11 December.
- Special half-day workshop on *Statelessness in South Asia* held on 11 December.
- Half-day Kolkata visit was organized on 12 December to give an impression of *Kolkata, as the city of Migrants*
- This year CRG uploaded audio lectures (under the Modules D, F and G) on the secured segment of the Winter Course website.

Follow-Up Activities

- ***Workshop on Media and Forced Migration at Gangtok, Sikkim***

The CRG in collaboration with Panos South Asia organized a Media workshop on Forced Migration at Gangtok during 21-23 January 2011. The main focus of the workshop was on India’s northeast. The workshop was divided into six business sessions namely, i) *Refugees in the North-east*, ii) *Conflict/Violence-induced displacement*, iii) *Resource politics, climate change, environmental degradation and displacement*, iv) *Laws/Policies relating to forced migration*, v) *Sources and research on forced migration*, vi) *From the field to the newsroom: Challenges of news gathering, politics of editing and media ethics*. (For the detailed report please see page 48)

- ***Students’ Workshop on Border and Forced Migration***

A day long Students’ Workshop on *Border and Forced Migration* was held on 29 March 2011 in collaboration with the Centre for Refugee Studies, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University at Jadavpur University. The workshop was divided into two main sessions i) *Migration, Border and Women* and ii) *Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) with special reference to Conventions and Protocols*. (For the detailed report please see page 48)



Participants in the workshop: Cyntia Sampaio, Deepali Gaur Singh, Karma Lhendup Kaleon and Arpita Das (from left to right)

3. Participants

Ajit Acharya: Fellow in population studies, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal. He teaches population studies at Graduation level. At present he is working with Nepal Institute of Peace (NIP).

Ali Ahmad Jan: Director of a Sustainable Solutions based in Islamabad, Pakistan, and engaged with capacity building for social safeguards, early recovery, programme monitoring etc.

Arpita Das: UGC-Junior Research Fellow and a PhD candidate at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. Her PhD topic focuses on the Politics of Floods in Assam. Her Masters Dissertation was on *Movement Participation and Disengagement based on the Assam Movement (1979-85)*. Her research interests include social change and social movements, governance and policies, communities in disaster situations and environmental politics.

Azmiya Badurdeen: Master in Development Studies and Public Policy at the Open University of Sri Lanka. At present she works as a consultant, independent evaluator/trainer for conflict transformation and peace-building projects in Sri Lanka.

Cyntia Sampaio: Social worker currently working with UNHCR, Brazil in the *Solidarity Resettlement Programme* that grants international protection for refugees resettled in the country, mainly Colombians and Palestinians. Her area of interest includes issues related to local integration of refugees in the receiving societies, such as Canada and Brazil.

Deepali Gaur Singh: Academic and media practitioner. She is the author of a book, titled, *Drugs Production and Trafficking in Afghanistan* (Pentagon Press: 2007). She completed her PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (2006). As a filmmaker and photographer she has been actively engaged with developmental organisations across India documenting social change. As a freelancer she has written extensively on Afghanistan and the Central Asian Republics and on gender from the South Asian perspective. She is currently working on a film on the Afghan diaspora.

Evelyn Vandhana Ariyaratnam Dissanayake: Senior Programme Manager, Disaster Management Training Centre, Sri Lanka

Govinda Bahadur Sunar: Working as Field Assistant in UNHCR Sub-office located at Damak, Jhapa, Nepal.

Jacqueline Strecker: Research intern at the International Development Research Center (IDRC) under the *Peace, Conflict and Development Program*, Canada.

Jinu Abraham: Research Associate, 'Kabani - the other direction', a non profit initiative carrying out research, advocacy, campaigns, networking and training activities to endorse sustainability in the context of tourism and development. She completed her Masters in Social Work from Loyola College, Chennai in 2009.

Karine Mac Allister: Doctoral student in international law at the University of Montréal. She holds a B.A. in International Studies from the University of York in Toronto, a Master in European and International Law from the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands and a Minor in Conflict studies from the Centre for Conflict Studies at Utrecht. She was Legal Advocacy Coordinator of Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Residency Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory for three years and a half. Her research is on the response to population transfer, in particular on the effectiveness of foreign national and regional courts to provide remedy and reparations to victims of population transfer.

Karma Lhendup Kaleon: Retired Engineer from Gangtok, Sikkim.

Nour Mohammad: Assistant Professor, Department of Law, Premier University Chittagong. He is also an Advocate of the Chittagong Judge's Court and Emerald Literati Network member in UK and a member, Board of editors Law Vision, Chittagong University.

Raja Adnan Razzaq: Ph.D. Candidate in Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Rajat Kanti Sur: Research Assistant, CRG.

Shristee Singh Shrestha: Development worker; she is currently the Project Officer and member, Board of Directors at the Consortium for Land Research and Policy Dialogue. She has been engaged in research on land issues and women and has several publications to her credit.

Sucharita Sengupta: Research Assistant, CRG. She completed her Masters in Political Science from the University of Calcutta in 2009.

Sujit Kumar Saksena: Masters in Anthropology, Tribhuvan University of Nepal. He has been working as a Programme Coordinator in Nepal Institute of Peace (NIP), an organization working on displacement and human rights. Before this, he has worked as a Network Coordinator of National Disaster Management Network of Nepal, a network of organizations working on disaster issues at grass roots level in various regions of Nepal.

Surinder Singh: M. Phil from the Department of Political Science, Punjab University, Chandigarh. His area of interest includes *Dalit* Politics in Punjab.



Participants of the Eighth Annual Winter Course with a few CRG members

4. Members of the Faculty

Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury, Guest Faculty of South and South East Asian Studies, University of Calcutta and Research & Programme Associate, Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata

Asha Hans, Feminist Activist, Director Sansristi, Bhubaneswar, and Member of Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata

Bertil Lintner, Eminent Journalist, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Chareen Stark, Senior Research Assistant, Brookings Institution Programme on Internal Displacement, Washington DC

Ishita Dey, Member of Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata,

Kalyan Rudra, Eminent Geographer, Kolkata

Kavita Panjabi, Faculty, Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University, Kolkata

K.M. Parivelan, Independent Consultant, Disaster Management, Chennai

Meghna Guhathakurta, Director, Research Initiatives Bangladesh (RIB), Bangladesh and Member of Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata

Nasreen Chowdhory, Faculty, Asian University of Women, Chittagong, Bangladesh and Member of Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata

Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, Director, Centre for Policy Alternatives, Colombo, Sri Lanka

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

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

Prasanta Ray, Eminent Sociologist, Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata and Member of Calcutta Research Group

Ranabir Samaddar, Director, Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata

Roberto Mignone, Deputy Chief of Mission, UNHCR, New Delhi

Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, Faculty, Department of Political Science, Rabindra Bharati University and Member of Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata

Samir Kumar Das, Faculty of Political Science, University of Calcutta and Member of Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata

Sanjay Hazarika, Eminent Journalist and Faculty of Jamia Milia Islamia University, New Delhi

Sanjukta Bhattacharya, Faculty, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University, Kolkata

Shiva K. Dhungana, Nepal Institute of Peace, Kathmandu

Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty, Eminent Historian and Member of Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata

Sudeep Basu, Faculty, Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion & Inclusive Policy, Bengaluru

Sultana Kamal, Executive Director, Ain -O- Salish Kendra, Dhaka

V. Ramaswamy, Member of Calcutta Research Group, Social Activist, Kolkata

Valerie Amiraux, Faculty, University of Montreal, Canada

Vinai Kumar Singh, Indian Society of International Law (ISIL), New Delhi

Walter Kaelin, Bern University, and Form Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for the Protection of the Rights of the IDPs, Switzerland

Xonzoi Barbora, Regional Programme Manager-Conflict, Panos South Asia, Guwahati



Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty



Prasanta Ray

5. Partnerships, Supporting and Collaborating Institutions

The Winter Course has grown into a full-fledged programme with components of research, networking and training through innovative formats. The programme has become particularly significant because of partnerships and interactions between Indian and Finnish Institutions. The course is supported by the Government of Finland, UNHCR, Brookings Institution, Panos South Asia. Representatives from the UNHCR, the Embassy of Finland, experts in the field of studies on forced migration, our colleagues and members of the course committee and former course participants collectively decide the selection procedure, participants profile, module structure of the course, media segment, field visit and follow up segment. There are several other institutions and universities that are joined in this collaborative effort.

Besides receiving help for organizing the course CRG also gets support from the Government of Finland to build up a Resource Centre on Forced Migration, a part of the Winter Course programme. The Refugee Research Network (RRN), York University and the Refugee Study Centre (RSC), Oxford University also support CRG's initiative to install a digitized resource centre that forms part of the forced migration programme.

Field Visits

With the help of the Department of Refugee, Relief and Rehabilitation, Government of West Bengal and the United Central Refugee Council (UCRC) of Nadia district CRG, this year arranged a field visit on 8 December 2010 for the participants of the Winter Course to the Cooper's Camp, located at Ranaghat subdivision of Nadia district, West Bengal.

A half day city tour of Kolkata – a migrant city - was organized for the first time in this Winter Course on 12 December.

Public Event

West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (WBNUJS) at Salt Lake, Kolkata collaborated with CRG to organize the public lecture by Valerie Amiaux, University of Montreal on "Immigrants as minorities in the world today with special reference to Europe" on 10 December 2010.

Follow-up Programmes in Collaboration with Various Institutions across India

- *Workshop on Media and Forced Migration at Gangtok, Sikkim*
- *Students' workshop on Borders and Forced Migration*
(For summary of the reports of these two workshops please see page 48)

6. Schedule

The Eighth Annual Winter Course on Forced Migration

(1-15 December 2010)

(Venue – Sabhaghar I, Swabhumi, Kolkata, *unless otherwise stated*)

Schedule of Classes under the Compulsory and Optional Modules, Field Visit, Seminars, Course Assignments, Workshops, Public Lectures, etc.

[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 bars the participants from participating in the Kolkata workshop.]

1 December (Wednesday)

04.30 – 05.00 PM	Tea and Registration
05.00 – 05.15 PM	Welcome Remarks by Ranabir Samaddar , Director, Calcutta Research Group (CRG)
05.15 – 06.15 PM	Inaugural Panel Discussion on “War and Refugee Women in South Asia - Identity and Nationhood” / Asha Hans , Director, Sansristi and Paula Banerjee , Secretary, CRG, and Faculty, Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Calcutta
06.15 – 07.15 PM	Release of two CRG Books – (a) <i>Counter-Gaze: Media, Migrants, Minorities</i> , edited by Subir Bhaumik – to be released by Angela Liberatore , Research Division, European Commission, and (b) <i>Politics in Hunger Regime: Essays on the Right to food in West Bengal</i> , edited by Sibaji Pratim Basu and Geetisha Dasgupta – to be released by V. Suresh , Eminent Human Rights Activist and the General Secretary of the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), Chennai
07.15 PM	Vote of Thanks by Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury , Coordinator, Forced Migration Studies Desk, CRG (Chair: Samir Kumar Das , Department of Political Science, University of Calcutta and President, CRG)

2 December (Thursday)

09.30 - 11.00 AM	Introducing the Course and Formation of the Group/ Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury and Ishita Dey , Member of CRG
11.00 - 11.30 AM	<i>Tea Break</i>
11.30 - 01.00 PM	Inaugural Lecture by Chareen Stark , Senior Research Assistant, Brookings Institution Project on Internal Displacement, Washington DC

01.00 – 02.00 PM	<i>Lunch Break</i>
02.00 – 03.30 PM	Module A (Borders and Immigration Practices: Some of the Critical Questions for Refugee Studies) / Ranabir Samaddar
03.30 – 04.00 PM	<i>Tea Break</i>
04.00 – 05.30 PM	Q and A with Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu , Director, Centre for Policy Advocacy, Colombo, on “Difficulties for Civil Society Activism for the Protection of Refugee Returnees and IDPs in Sri Lanka”
06.00-08.00 PM	Library hours / Editorial Board Meeting of <i>Refugee Watch</i> and discussion on the Resource Centre

3 December (Friday)

09.30 – 11.00 AM	Module D (Legal Basis of the Rights of the IDPs and the Relevance of UN Guiding Principles) / Chareen Stark
11.00 – 11.30 AM	<i>Tea Break</i>
11.30 – 01.00 PM	Module B (Gendered Nature of Forced Migration – An Overview) / Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury
01.00 – 02.00 PM	<i>Lunch Break</i>
02.00 – 03.30 PM.	Module A / Film Screening and discussion on the film <i>Home is a Distant Land</i>
03.30 – 04.00 PM	<i>Tea Break</i>
04.00 – 05.30 P.M.	Module D (Roundtable: Land Question, Minorities, and the Continuing Crisis of Displacement in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh) / Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu ; Nour Mohammad , Assistant Professor, Department of Law, Premier University Chittagonj and also an Advocate of the Chittagong Judge’s Court, Bangladesh; Azmiya Badurdeen , Consultant - Independent Evaluator / Trainer for conflict transformation and peace building projects in Sri Lanka / Moderator: Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury
06.00 – 08.00 P.M.	Library hours

4 December (Saturday)

09.30 – 11.00 AM	Module E (Resource Crisis and Forced Migration in India in the Colonial Era) / Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty , Member of CRG and Deputy Director, West Bengal State Police Archive
11.00 – 11.30 AM	<i>Tea Break</i>
11.30 – 01.00 PM	Module C (Human Rights Origins of the International Regimes of Protection of the Victims of Forced Migration) / Vinai Kumar Singh , Indian Society of International Law, New Delhi
01.00 – 02.00 PM	<i>Lunch Break</i>
02.00 – 03.30 PM	Modules A and G (Self-Help Movement of the Tibetan Refugees in India) / Sudeep Basu , Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, National Law School, Bengaluru
03.30 – 04.00 PM	<i>Tea Break</i>

04.00 – 05.30 PM	Module G (The Journey of Humanitarianism)/ Ranabir Samaddar
06.00 – 08.00 PM	Library hours

5 December (Sunday)

09.30 – 11.00 AM	Module E (Disaster, Displacement, and Disaster Management – Evolution of Government of India’s Disaster Management Policy) / K.M. Parivelan , Independent Consultant, Disaster Management, Chennai
11.00 – 11.30 AM	<i>Tea Break</i>
11.30 – 01.00 PM	Module C (The 1951 Convention and Nepal’s Experiences in Refugee Protection) / Shiva K. Dhungana , Nepal Institute of Peace, Kathmandu
01.00 – 02.00 PM.	<i>Lunch Break</i>
02.00 – 03.30 PM	Panel discussion on Internal Displacement in Nepal, Govind Bahadur Sunar, Ajit Acharya, Sujit Saxena / Moderator, Shiva. K. Dhungana
03.30 – 04.00 PM	<i>Tea Break</i>
04.00 – 05.30 PM	Participants’ Presentation under Module B and Module C / Moderators: Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury (B) and Vinai Kumar Singh (C)
06.00 – 08.00 P.M.	Library hours / Revision of Term Papers under Module B (with Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury) and C (with Vinai Kumar Singh) at CRG office

6 December (Monday)

09.30 – 11.00 AM	Module F (The Issue of Method/s in Forced Migration Studies) / Prasanta Ray , Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata, and member, CRG
11.00 – 11.30 AM	<i>Tea Break</i>
11.30 – 1.00 P.M.	Module E: Roundtable (Cyclones, Tsunamis, Other Natural Disasters, and the Experiences of Relief and Disaster Management in Bangladesh Delta, Bay of Bengal Region, and the Terai Region) / Sultana Kamal , Executive Director, Ain-O-Salish Kendra, Dhaka; K. M. Parivelan ; Shiva K. Dhungana , and Evelyn Vandhana Ariyaratnam Dissanayake , Senior Programme Manager, Disaster Management Training Centre, Sri Lanka / Moderator: Kalyan Rudra , Eminent Geographer
01.00 – 02.00 P.M	<i>Lunch Break</i>
02.00 – 03.30 PM	Module D (Evolution of IDP related Policies in India) / Paula Banerjee
03.30 – 04.00 P.M.	<i>Tea Break</i>
04.00 – 05.30 PM	Presentation of Term Papers under Module D and E / Moderators: Paula Banerjee (D) and K. M. Parivelan (E)
06:00 – 07:00 PM	Library hours

07.00 – 08.00 PM Introduction to Field Visit by **Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury** and **Ishita Dey**, Member of CRG, and discussion on the revision of term papers under Module D (with **Paula Banerjee**) and Module E (with **K.M. Parivelan**) – venue: CRG office

7 December (Tuesday)

09.30 – 11.00 AM Panel discussion on “Cooper’s Camp, Nadia” (background discussion on field visit) / Panelists – **Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury** and **Ishita Dey**

11.00 – 11.30 AM *Tea Break*

11.30 – 01.00 PM Module G (Ethics of Care and Protection) / **Samir Kumar Das**

01.00 – 02.00 PM *Lunch Break*

02.00 – 03.30 PM Module C and G: Participants’ Roundtable (Issues of Public Health and Mental Health of the Refugees and the IDPs with Special Reference to Camps in South Asia) / **Govinda Bahadur Sunar**, Field Assistant in UNHCR Sub-office located at Damak, Jhapa, Nepal; and **Ajit Acharya**, M. Phil Fellow in population studies, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal and freelancer research consultant, currently attached with Nepal Institute of Peace (NIP) – Moderator: **K. M. Parivelan**

03.30 – 04.00 PM *Tea Break*

04.00 – 05.30 PM Module C (Legal and Judicial Responses to the Requirements of Refugee Protection) / **Vinai Kumar Singh**,

06.00 – 08.00 PM Library hours

8 December (Wednesday)

Field visit to Cooper’s Camp, Nadia

9 December (Thursday)

Module H / Media Workshop and Film Session

09.30 – 10.30 AM Introduction by **Sanjay Barbora**
Keynote address on “Media and Forced Migration in the Northeast”: **Sanjay Hazarika**, eminent journalist

10.30 – 11.00 AM *Tea Break*

11.00 – 01.00 PM Presentation of assignments by **Deepali Gaur Singh**, Academic, media practitioner and filmmaker based in New Delhi, **Azmiya Badurdeen**, Consultant - independent evaluator/trainer for conflict transformation and peace-building projects, Sri Lanka, and **Jacqueline Strecker**, Research intern, International Development Research Center (IDRC) Canada, **Sucharita Sengupta**, CRG followed by discussion

01.00 PM – 02.00 PM *Lunch Break*

02.00 PM – 03.00 PM	Lecture on “Media and Displacement” by Bertil Lintner followed by discussion.
03.00 PM - 03.30 PM	<i>Tea Break</i>
03.30 PM – 04.30 PM	Panel Discussion on “The Citizen Journalist and Forced Migration: prospects for Alternative Media” by Sanjoy Borbora, Anindya Bhattacharya , Editor, Ekak Matra and Member Conveners’ Body, Little Magazine Samanwoy Mancha, Bertil linter , eminent journalist. Moderator: Nilanjan Dutta
04.30 PM – 05.30 PM	Audio-visual Presentation on “The Sunderbans after Cyclone Aila: Compulsions of Forced Migration” by Canvas , a West Bengal based forum of video activists, followed by discussion

10 December (Friday)

09.30 – 11.00 AM	Module F (The Issue of Method/s in Forced Migration Studies) / Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury
11.00 – 11.30 AM	<i>Tea Break</i>
11.30 – 01.00 PM	Modules F and H (Workshop on “How to Make an Appropriate Digital Resource Centre in Forced Migration Studies?”) Resource persons: Sanjay Barbora, Sanjay Hazarika and Bertil Lintner . Participants: Sucharita Sengupta , Research Assistant, Calcutta Research Group; Ali Ahmed Jan , Director, Sustainable Solutions, Islamabad, Pakistan; Deepali Gaur Singh , and Ajit Acharya / Moderator: Sanjay Barbora
01.00 – 02.00 PM	<i>Lunch Break</i>
02.00 – 03.00 PM	Workshop continued
03.30 – 05.30 PM	Public lecture by Valerie Amiraux , University of Montreal on “Immigrants as Minorities in the World Today with special reference to Europe” (in collaboration with WBNUJS)
06.00 – 8.00 PM	Library hours

11 December (Saturday)

09.30 – 11.00 AM	Module E (Land Question, Displacement, and Forced Migration – Experiences of Latin America) Roberto Mignone , Deputy Chief of Mission, UNHCR, New Delhi
11.00 – 11.30 AM	<i>Tea Break</i>
11.30 – 01.00PM	Module F (Panel Discussion on CRG’s Report, “Voices”) Participants: Paula Banerjee; V. Ramaswamy , Social activist and Kavita Panjabi , Faculty, Comparative Literature Department, Jadavpur University / Moderator: Sanjukta Bhattacharya , Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University
01.00 – 02.00 PM	<i>Lunch Break</i>
02.00 – 03.30 P.M.	Workshop on Statelessness / Resource Persons: Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, Nasreen Chowdhory , Asian University of

	Women, Chittagong; Roberto Mignone and Samir Kumar Das (with special reference to the Rohingyas, and other South Asian cases)
03.30 – 04.00 P.M.	<i>Tea Break</i>
04.00 – 05.30 P.M.	Workshop continued
06.00 – 07.00 P.M.	Discussion on Field Visit / Moderators: Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury and Ishita Dey
07.00 – 08.00 PM	Library hours

12 December (Sunday)

09.30 – 11.00 AM	Module A (Return of the CHT Refugees, and Land Problem in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh) / Meghna Guhathakurta , former Professor, Dhaka University, and currently Director, RIB, Bangladesh
11.00 – 11.30 AM	<i>Tea Break</i>
11.30 – 01.00 PM	Presentation of Creative Assignments on the Experiences of the Displaced / Moderator: Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury
01.00 – 02.00 PM	<i>Lunch Break</i>
02.00 – 06.00 PM	Half Day Visit through the City of Kolkata – a city of migrants
06.00 – 08.00 PM	Library hours

13 December (Monday)

09.30 – 11.00 AM	Participants' roundtable on Modules A and C (Who is a Refugee in Situations of Massive and Mixed Flows of Forced Migration? / Needs for New Protection Strategies) / Karine MacAllister , Doctoral student in International Law at the University of Montréal, Canada; Raja Adnan Razzak , Visiting faculty, International Islamic University, Islamabad and Shristee Singh Shrestha , Project Officer and member of the Board of Directors at Consortium for Land Research and Policy Dialogue, COLARP, Nepal, Karma Lhendup Kaleon , Engineer, Sikkim Moderator: Nasreen Chowdhory
11.00 – 11.30 AM	<i>Tea Break</i>
11.30 – 01.00 PM	Presentation of Term Papers under Module A / Moderator: Meghna Guhathakurta
01.00 – 02.00 PM	<i>Lunch Break</i>
02.00 – 03.30 PM	Modules F and G / Roundtable on “Ethical Dilemmas in Research Methods on the Displaced” (participants: Cyntia Sampaio , Social worker, currently working with UNHCR, Brazil and Valerie Amiraux / Moderator: Samir Kumar Das)
03.30 – 04.00 PM	<i>Tea Break</i>
04.00 – 05.30 PM	Presentation of Creative Assignments on the Experiences of the Displaced / Moderator: Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury

06.00 – 08.00 PM Library hours and revision of term papers under Module A (with **Meghna Guhathakurta**) / Group Reports / Modules A, B, C, D, E (moderators: **Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury** and **Ishita Dey**)

14 December (Tuesday)

09.30 – 11.00 AM Module A: Roundtable (Indo-Bangla, Indo-Nepal, and Indo-Pakistan Issues of Border, Migration, and Violence) / Participants: **Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury**, **Aditi Bhaduri**, Independent Journalist, **Arpita Das**, UGC Junior Research Fellow and PhD candidate at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay, **Sujit Saxena**, Programme Coordinator in Nepal Institute of Peace (NIP), Kathmandu, and **Surinder Singh**, Research Scholar, Department of Political Science, Punjab University, Chandigarh / Moderator: **Meghna Guhathakurta**

11.00 -11.30 AM *Tea Break*

11.30 - 01.00 PM Evaluation Session / Moderated by **Samir Kumar Das** and **Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury**

01.00 -02.00 PM *Lunch Break*

02.30 – 04.30 PM Library Hours

15 December (Wednesday)

09.30 – 11.00 AM Question and Answer session with **Ranabir Samaddar** and **Paula Banerjee**

04.30 – 05.00 PM *Tea Break*

05.00 – 05.05 PM Welcome address by **Samir Kumar Das**,

05.05 - 5.15 PM Report on the Eighth Annual Winter Course on Forced Migration by **Paula Banerjee**

05.15 - 05.45 PM Brief remarks on the Course by some participants

05.45 - 06.00 PM Distribution of Certificates to the course participants

06.00 - 06.15 PM Brief address by Chief Guest **Terhi Hakala**, H.E. Ambassador, Embassy of Finland, followed by her remarks

06.15 - 07.00 PM Valedictory Lecture by **Walter Kaelin**, Berne University, and Ex-Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for the Protection of the Rights of the IDPs on “Climate Induced Displacement – A Challenge for International Law”

07.00 - 7.05 PM Vote of thanks by **Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury**

Chair: **Samir Kumar Das**

7. Distance Education: Modules and Assignments

Distance Education: Modules and Assignments

The Course was structured around eight modules. There are five compulsory modules (A-E) and three optional modules (F-H) of which participants selected only one as their special field of study.

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. Ecological change, environmental degradation, and displacement

(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 dispatched to the participants by 31 July 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 relating to one of the two optional modules (F and G). The second assignment was a term paper (3000 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. It was declared that 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 modules assignments are presented below.

Module A: States, Partitions, Forced Migration and Issues of Citizenship

Core Faculty: *Meghna Guhathakurta*

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)

- a. Discuss the complex interconnection between population flux, the rise of xenophobia and racism in the wake of globalization.
- b. Have the partition refugees enjoyed the right to return? Give reasons for your answer.
- c. Do you think that partition refugees are a case by itself? Argue your case.
- d. 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: *Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury*

South Asia is the fourth largest refugee-producing region in the world. A majority of these refugees are 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 verses 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)

- a) Is there a gendered structure in people's ability to access resources? If so substantiate on how it impacts on forced migration?

- b) Is there a relation between trafficking and statelessness? Discuss this with examples taken from the Indo- Bangladesh or Indo Nepal Border?
- c) Write on camps as sites of insecurity for women. Give examples taken from any refugee or IDP Camps.
- d) 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: *Vinai Kumar Singh*

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 the ‘primitive’ constructions by the Northern countries that can extend asylum only when ‘barbarity’ marks the state in the asylum seekers country of origin. It is indeed necessary to draw 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. The focus will also be on ‘sovereignty’: asylum and refugee; the implication of ‘sovereignty as responsibility’ and ‘responsibility to protect (R2P)’ on refugee problem. The basic question is; what did the opponents of R2P mean when they argued that third world states should not accept the R2P because it ‘allows powerful states to intervene in poor countries for illegitimate purpose’. And what did the proponent mean when they said that such argument did not lead to the opponent’s conclusion.

Term Paper Assignment (Any one of the five questions)

- a) Do you think that the definition of refugees indicated by the UN Convention on Refugees is appropriate in the present context? Argue your case.
- b) To what extent present durable solutions available in refugee system be workable? A central issue in durable solution of refugee problem whether ‘voluntary repatriation’ is better than ‘local integration’ and ‘third state resettlement’, that is used rarely. Could it be possible to develop law of state responsibility in regard to refugee problem?
- c) 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.
- d) Do we promote international human rights machinery to play a more active role in refugee affairs? To what extents are recent proposals enforcing obligations on states reflected in various meetings/symposiums become reality?
- e) 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: *Paula Banerjee*

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 eight questions)

- a) Analyze the causes of internal displacement and its consequential effects with a case study of your choice.
- b) To what extent the UN Guiding Principles can deal with the problems faced by the persons suffering from development-induced displacement?
- c) Do you think that the internalization of the UN Guiding Principles in national laws would be able to protect the rights of the IDPs?
- d) 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.
- e) "Although internally displaced people now outnumber refugees by two to one, their plight receives far less international attention." Discuss
- f) 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.
- g) Is it possible to make UN Guiding Principles legally binding? Discuss the pros and cons.
- h) 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 : *K. M. Parivelan*

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. It will talk on Kyoto Protocol, Bio-diversity and disaster management. As case studies it will focus on- Sundarbans of West Bengal, Kathgora forest of Chattishgarh etc.

Term Paper Assignment (Any one of the five questions)

- a) Discuss the issue of resource politics and displacement with a suitable case study of your choice.
- b) Analyse the environmental and climate change debates globally between developed and developing countries?
- c) Pick up a recent natural disaster case study (flood, cyclone, earthquake, tsunamis, etc) and analyse the relief and rehabilitation policy in your country.
- d) Discuss the scope of integrating Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction with suitable practical examples.
- e) Analyse the scope for integrating social equity issues in disaster management and rehabilitation policies?

Module F : Research Methodology in Forced Migration Studies

Core Faculty : *Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury*

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 (Any one of the five questions)

- a) What is qualitative methodology? Illustrate your account with some examples from the texts.
- b) Can biographies be helpful in displacement studies? What do you think the advantages and disadvantages in using the biographical materials in such studies?
- c) 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?
- d) 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: *Samir Kumar Das*

Caring the other however may be the means of caring for the self. The ethical language of care therefore is expected to establish some form of a connection between us and those people who really need care. Ethics in other words cannot but be dialogical. Its language in no way denies agency to the victims. Ethical language therefore is a language of universality that cuts across the given boundaries of the victims' groups and communities. While ethical language has to be universal, the phenomenon of forced displacement is not. We care for the displaced persons and our practices of care and protection may have been issued from diverse foundational principles. That we differ on the ethical principles does not put an obstacle to the very act of caring and protecting others. The dialogue must cut across the established divisions of ethical and moral systems and elaborates itself in a way that it does not remain captive to any given modality of ethical practice. There are many arguments and reasoning in justification of our advocacies for care and protection of the displaced persons namely, the *rights-based argument*, the *community-based argument* and the *humanitarian argument*.

Keeping these under consideration this module intends to highlight on the fact that that social life is all about the way we negotiate and make compromises – our way of life and temperament – and not ethics. Social life in other words is far less ethically demanding than what we take it to be. This module raises questions: Are we then entering into a phase where there will be withering away of ethics? Will ethics of care and protection be replaced by politics of everyday negotiation and compromise?

Review Assignment (Any one of the five questions)

- a) 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 human rights treaties and their limitations in ensuring the implementation of ethical standards in protecting the rights of the persons/people forced to migrate.
- b) 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, “Social life is all about the way we negotiate and make compromises – our way of life and temperament – and not ethics”.
- c) Explain (in about 700-1000 words) with reference to any particular reading material contained in the module note the limits of rights-based argument in the making of interventions.
- d) How does the argument of the ethical duty to protect become an argument of power? Write your comments (in about 700- 1000 words) on the basis of the reference material (for instance Samaddar’s article, “In Life, in Death: Power and Rights”. Please see additional readings on module G uploaded in secured segment of WC 2010.).

Module H: Media and Forced Migration

Core faculty: *Xonzo Barbora*

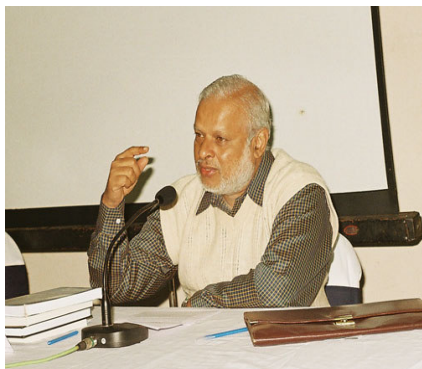
This module reflects on the Public Sphere and whether the growth of Media in South Asia has ensured victims right to communicate. Are all media representations guilty of bias?

At the very outset it is important to consider the fact that nearly one fourth of humanity inhabits the region we call South Asia. Their voices are an important consideration, therefore, in the manner in which conflicts are expressed and experienced. It is a fact that social representation often falls short of actual representation and the media has a lot to do

with perpetuating the illusions of democratic participation. Interactive television programmes, complete with a sample audience and well-dressed host, typify the remote, impersonal nature of modern democracies. While it is true that in most people share an orientation to the public world, where matters of common concerns are addressed, the public connection is focussed principally on the mediated versions of that public world. The 20th and 21st century public spheres are actually conscious of status differentials, where alternate and opposing cultures are not readily accommodated. Hence it is worthwhile to examine four dimensions of the media that go on to create a public sphere: (a) media institutions, where one can specifically look at ownership patters; (b) media representation, where representatives and experts stand in for citizens; (c) general social structure with its multiple public spheres and (d) face-to-face interaction. In the interplay between the four dimensions, one can have a fairly accurate understanding of the nature of the public sphere, vis-à-vis issues of conflict and forced migration of vulnerable people.

Media Assignments (Any one of the five questions)

- a) Against such a backdrop, participants who chose to take up this module will be asked to prepare to following:
- b) A brief, cursory *media mapping* of their neighbourhood (the scale can be discussed with tutors), where the report will have to include a list of print, television, radio and internet portals that exist. This can be a one-page document.
- c) Identify one issue related to immigration/migrants that appears in any media; crosscheck and track its progress. Write three or four paragraphs on the difference/similarity of the manner in which the issue is represented.
- d) If possible, identify 3 knowledgeable persons in your locality and record their opinion on the story. The audio recording has to be brought to Calcutta in December.
- e) Participants will have to present their findings to their peers on the assigned day in Calcutta, in December 2010.



Ranabir Samaddar



Valerie Amiraux

8. Creative Assignments

Creative Assignment over the years has become one of the most interesting aspects of the fifteen-day residential programme of the Winter Course. During the distance education segment suggestions were sent to the participants to indicate their choices. This year, we improvised a bit and we made the Media Assignment and Creative Assignment alternative to each other. The participants, who opted for the Creative Assignment, did not require to take the Media Assignment any more and vice versa. The participants, who opted for Creative Assignment submitted and presented their assignments during 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 forced migration.
2. Prepare a 4-5 day course syllabus, which will include issues of Forced Migration, both from the perspectives of the 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. Propose 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 you have chosen them?

Name of Participant	Details of the Creative Assignment
Ajit Saxsena	He proposed a 4-day short course on Forced Migration. The main aim was to impart knowledge of various aspects of forced migration among graduate students especially from the South Asian region.
Arpita Das	She presented a short story on an IDP family, who were victims of flood in Dhemaji district of Assam
Cyntia Sampaio	She showed a short documentary film on Palestinian refugees from Iraq who were resettled in Brazil. This film shows the interactions between the host community and the Palestinian refugees.

Evelyn Vandhana	She narrated a short story entitled “It wasn’t a full moon night”. The story was on the 1990 eviction of Muslims from the north of Sri Lanka by the LTTE.
Fatimah Azmiya Badaruddin	She presented a short write up on “Sustainability of return: Voices from Trincomalee, Sri Lanka”. In her write up she talked about the challenges that ‘returnees are facing at present.
Govind Bahadue Sunar	He wrote a short story of the Bhutanese refugee camp based on his work experience in Sangbatary Paklai block, Beldagi– II refugee camp. The story was about Bhutanese refugees’ emotional attachment to their homeland.
Jinu Abraham	She made a poster on the IDPs in Tutucorin, Tamilnadu.. Tuticorin’s old Harbour built in the early 1960s displaced fish workers on a massive scale, some of them were rehabilitated later.
Karine Mac Allister	She proposed a course on “Litigation as protection for the people displaced by war crimes and crime against humanity”.
Karma Lhendup Kaleon	He prepared a write up on “Resource politics and displacement in South Asia” with special emphasis on Sikkim.
Nour Mohammad	He prepared a syllabus of a short course on “Forced Migration in South Asia”.
Rajat Kanti Sur	He narrated a story on the experience of a refugee family in West Bengal. The protagonist of the story was a boy, who after crossing the border suddenly disappeared. He was found one year later begging and injured in a market.
Shrisstee Singh Shrestha	She proposed a short course on forced migration.
Sujit Saxena	He prepared a concept note on “Resource Center on Internally Displaced Persons in Nepal”.
Surinder Singh	He drafted a 4-5 day course syllabus on Forced Migration.

9. Media and Forced Migration (Film Screenings and A One day Workshop)

Film Screenings

The media segment of the Eighth Annual Winter Course began with screening of the docu-film on *Home is a Distant Land* on 3 December. The film deals with the partition of India in 1947 with the creation of Pakistan and its impact on the population on both sides of Bengal. The narratives of various protagonists in the film from a cross-section of the affected populace as well as those who witnessed it directly explain how cycles of migration have not ceased as a fall out of the partitions – first during the independence of India and later during that of Bangladesh. A particularly stark representation of the horrors of the time is when one of the respondents in the film talks about ‘choice’ as that being between swimming across a crocodile infested river to escape police firing. As the various narratives meander between both a historical documentation and emotional recollection of the memories of the journey, its circumstances and the aftermath it ends on the question of the right to remain.

The Audio-visual presentation on *Aila Perije (Surviving Aila)* held on 9 December during the media workshop was the second film screening session. The film deals with the reconstruction of lives after *Aila*. One year after the cyclone *Aila* tore through the lives of people of Sunderbans, the struggle is still on to come to terms with the losses. Aid is coming only in trickles, relief has stopped altogether. The film depicts the desperation and determination of the survivors of this great natural calamity and its human-made consequences.

Both the films are on the theme of displacement. While the two have completely different kinds of issues and different kinds of treatment, the common thread that runs through both is that of personal narratives and remembrances.

Media Workshop

The Media-workshop of the Eighth Annual Winter course on Forced Migration was held on 9 December 2010, Thursday. The workshop started with the introductory lecture by Xonzoi Barbora, which was followed by the keynote address on *Media and Forced Migration in the Northeast* delivered by Sanjoy Hazarika.

At the very outset Sanjoy stressed on media’s fundamental role. The issues of impunity, consent, and dissent were discussed in this context. He stated that it becomes important to trace impunity in forced migration. Impunity is rooted in conflict. Further he stated that today the notion of metro-media has taken the place of national media. His presentation focused on three major factors namely: international dimensions, consequence and impact of forced migration and the fundamental nature of impunity and its remedy. He explained these three factors in the context of Assam.

After the inaugural session, three course participants, Sucharita Sengupta, Deepali Gaur Singh and Jacquelin Strecker (who opted for Media Assignments) presented their media assignments. Sucharita focused on the role of local newspapers in Arunachal Pradesh (A.P).

She said that, the media interestingly plays a paradoxical role insofar as the Chakma refugee issue is concerned. While the national media takes a stoutly rights-sensitive stand and often pleads for accepting them as Indian citizens, the local media appears to be completely polarized along ethnic lines. Jacqueline Strecker projected photographs on African Kukuma refugee camps while explaining their struggle for survival. On the other hand Deepali showed a self-made documentary film on Afghan diasporas. She highlighted on the fact that, for Afghans, the timing of their migration, the circumstances under which they migrated, the countries through which they made their journeys, where they belonged in the social hierarchy in Afghanistan and the rung they occupied in the host nation determine the composition of identities and their heterogeneity as a migrant group. And these experiences in turn determine their ability or willingness to return to their ancestral home. Thus, their identities in the diaspora too have to be understood as a multi-layered construct, wherein the relationships and positioning of each layer in its specific historical context affect and even construct one's identity in collectivities in the different layers.

In the post lunch special lecture on *Media and Displacement* delivered by Bertil Lintner talked about two main objectives of media: i) to look at what media can work on and ii) to look at 'citizen journalism' as an alternative media. He emphasized on the fact that media is not interested in displacement unless it makes news which has a high upheaval such as – Haiti earthquake, Nepali refugees from Bhutan and Burma etc. He discussed about the 'compassion fatigue' and why public is not interested in reading news papers. He argued that the reason is that maximum newspapers have lost their actual news worthiness. The reporters always cover immediate crisis but not interested of the victims ongoing sufferings. He shared his experiences on reporting a story of a woman from Manipur He also cited his experiences with Swedish press and the reporters; which made him black-listed journalist. He explained the issues of difficulty and dangerousness in getting news from the Refugee or IDP- camps of South Asia. He distinguished a keen difference between mainstream media and alternative media. In the connections he mentioed 'citizen journalism', which is excluded from the mainstream media but forms an essential part of alternative media.

The workshop ended with a panel discussion on *Citizen's journalism and forced migration: Prospects for alternative media*. Xonzoi Barbora and Anindya Bhattacharyay, the editor of *Ekak-matra*, and the member of the Convenor body of *Little Magazine Samnnay Mancha* were the speakers and the discussion was chaired by Bertil Lintner.



Participating in the Media workshop: Sanjay Hazarika, Xonzoi Barbora and Bertil Lintner (from left to right)

10. Field Visit

Visit to Cooper's Camp, Nadia, West Bengal

This year, with the help of the Department of Refugee, Relief and Rehabilitation, Government of West Bengal and the United Central Refugee Council (UCRC) of Nadia district CRG, arranged a field visit for the participants of the Winter Course to the Cooper's Camp, located at Ranaghat subdivision of Nadia district, West Bengal. Ranaghat is 74 kilometres north of Calcutta and 26 kilometres south of Krishnanagar.. The Bangladesh border is very close to this town. Ranaghat, another well-known town is located on the bank of River Churni. The city is well connected to the Sealdah railway station. CRG's aim to organise this field visit to Cooper's camp was to help the participants to interact with the camp-dwellers, the victims of the partition of India 1947, who have been surviving within the camp as *Permanent Liability* (PL members) of the Government of West Bengal since 1950.

Built in 1949 as a camp for the refugees who came at the time of partition Coopers Camp was initially a major transit camp in Ranaghat, where displaced populations would stay for 10-15 days before their permanent resettlement. Coopers Camp was later converted into a permanent relief camp. In 1997 the camp was declared a 'Notified Area'; comprising of 12 wards. At present the area has both a camp and a territory for refugee rehabilitation. The entire area was home to 22,000 inhabitants, including 35 individuals who are still considered as the permanent liabilities (PL) of the state. These PL members receive cash and dry doles (ration supplies) from the government.

Meeting with the Officials and Leaders of Refugee Movement

The participants along with the faculty members first visited the old camp office where they had a conversation with Ashok Chakrabarty, the district secretary of UCRC and Dipak Chakrabarty, an official of the Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation Department. Both of them gave a brief history of camp and the present environment. They also showed some historical documents regarding the rehabilitation process of the government (making a Horticulture farm, building Refugee Industries Corporation etc.). They shared the history of the refugee movement in Coopers against the state government's decision to send them to Dandakaranya in 1961, and the role of UCRC behind the movement that ensued from the refugees opposing such a move.

Conversation with the Cooper's Camp Inmates

After visiting the camp office the participants used this opportunity to explore a variety of facets of community life in the camp. This included assessing the cost of food items, while also speaking with school children to gain insights on their ideas of identity and student life. After gathering in a community hall, which was located behind the temple of the camp, the participants spoke to Maho Rajbanshi who was the first guard of Coopers Camp. The participants also spoke to some of the women inmates of Coopers Camp. The inmates of the Ranaghat Women's Camp were also present to share some of the experiences as the PL members.

After the meeting with the officials, leaders and the refugees the participants participated in a community lunch with the inmates of the Coopers Camp. After taking lunch the participants headed back to Kolkata by bus.

Despite the bad weather the field visit provided many participants with a unique opportunity to see a functioning refugee camp and a rehabilitation area. For others, who had worked in similar contexts, the visit provided a different experience, enabling important comparisons which highlighted some of the long-term results of refugee life.

Half-day City Tour of Kolkata

Kolkata is a large and complex city, a city of migrants, a city of much diversity and disparities. For the first time CRG organized a half-day coach tour of the city for the participants of the Winter Course 2010 keeping certain emerging issues in mind.

- Kolkata - city and metropolis
- Industrial collapse and survival of the labouring population through the informal and unorganized sector
- Kolkata's bastis (slums)
- Refugee colonies
- Squatters in the city
- City Ecology



Participants at Cooper's Camp, Nadia



Participants at the camp office

11. Public Event and Interactive Sessions

Over the past few years and also drawing from the Advisory Committee's recommendations, CRG felt the need to widen the scope of the Eighth Annual Winter Course on Forced Migration. In other words the fifteen day workshop needed to move out of the usual classes so that the participants could interact with the experts, scholars and researchers from other institutions who are working on related issues. This year CRG emphasized more on interactive sessions than public lectures. Keeping the expertise of the participants under consideration CRG wanted to provide opportunity to the participants to share their work experiences. As a result the course had a series of roundtables and workshops where the course participants were invited to take part along with the faculty members.

Public Lecture

The public lecture by Valerie Amiraux, University of Montreal on "Immigrants as minorities in the world today with special reference to Europe" was organized by CRG in collaboration with West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (WBNUJS) at Salt Lake, Kolkata at 4 pm on 10 December 2010. Those who came to listen included M. P. Singh, Vice Chancellor and other NUJS members, CRG members, all the participants of the winter course were present at the NUJS Conference Hall. Valerie Amiraux started her lecture saying that her purpose was to give snapshots of migrants and what is happening to them in Europe today. At the very outset she categorized the migrants in three groups: 1) Classical Migrants; 2) Elite Migrants; and 3) New East European Migrants. Later she distinguished between the classical and post colonial migrants. The ethnic minorities from Asia and Africa in the 80s and the 90s were classified under the classical and post colonial migrants. These migrants were considered more from the aspect of asylum seekers. Elite migration was also discussed from the basis of free movement of populations who had the wealth and skills. She highlighted that such ethnic minority migrants are Europeans and are not seen in the context of classical migrants. While categorizing the migrants she put stress on two minority populations – the Romas and the Muslims in Europe.

The question of integration was discussed with the impact of policies at the national level. She said, here the term discrimination needs to be considered where 'non discrimination' is the key in policies. She claimed, though the anti-discrimination policies in EU are described as right based, however, often these are more institution based and centered around the city of Brussels. After the completion of the lecture, Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury thanked Valerie Amiraux, M. P. Singh, WBNUJS colleagues and the participants on behalf of CRG.

Roundtables/Workshops/Panel Discussions

- Roundtable under Modules D and E on "Land Question, Minorities, and the Continuing Crisis of Displacement in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh" 3 December (4-5.30 PM).
Speakers: **Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, Nour Mohammad, Azmiya Badurdeen, Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury (Moderator)**

That land remains one of the principal resources around which social and political wars take place is often forgotten in this age of virtual money and connections. Yet the ways in which in majoritarian politics minorities are dispossessed, displaced, and turned into precarious

existences are instructive of the crucial issue of land in national economies and international economy. One of main factors leading to large scale displacement is land, at the same time one of the impediments in the way of the return and /or resettlement of the displaced is also the land question. This roundtable was meant to deliberate on this issue with the help of select South Asian instances.

- Panel discussion on Internal Displacement in Nepal, 5 December (2.00 – 3.30 PM)
Speakers: **Govind Bahadur Sunar, Ajit Acharya, Sujit Saxena, Shiva K. Dhungana (Moderator)**

The participants discussed the situation of conflict induced IDPs and IDPs generated by the Kosi flood.

- Roundtable under Module E: “Cyclones, Tsunamis, Other Natural Disasters, and the Experiences of Relief and Disaster Management in Bangladesh Delta, Bay of Bengal Region, and the Terai Region”, 6 December (11.30 AM – 1 PM).
Speaker: **K. M. Parivelan, Shiva K. Dhungana, Evelyn Vandhana Ariyaratnam Dissanayake, Kalyan Rudra (Moderator)**

Increasingly a government’s credibility and legitimacy is judged by its capacity to cope with disasters, and ability to protect the victims – its own subjects, country’s own citizens – from the disaster that has taken place. Displacement due to disasters is now one of the worst kinds affecting different population groups. The process of providing relief, rehabilitation, and resettlement is now increasingly open to scrutiny by rights groups. Human rights discourse questions: Is the humanitarian actions undertaken just? Are they reproducing inequalities or mitigating them? Does the disaster management policy of a government take into account a society’s natural coping ability to face disasters? All these questions seem pertinent in the context of some of the worst natural disasters of the last century in this part of the world. This roundtable aimed to recall them, their histories, and draw lessons from them.

- Participants’ Roundtable under Modules C and G: “Issues of Public Health of the Refugees and the IDPs with Special Reference to Camps in South Asia”, 7 December (2-3.30 PM).
Speakers: **Govinda Bahadur Sunar, Ajit Acharya, K. M. Parivela (Moderator)**

The consequences of conflicts and disasters do not end with forced migration of large number of population groups. The consequences in terms of public health are severe as well. High death rates of victim populations are often due to lack of provisions of adequate food, clean water, sanitation, and shelter. The consequences in terms of mental health are also high. Effective interventions on these issues have been demonstrated to be of more relevance and direct utility than most medical programmes. The focus of emergency health programmes for the refugees and the IDPs has thus shifted to health promotion, nutritional rehabilitation, epidemic control measures, immunization, essential medical supplies and health provisions, etc. In these respects how much do we know of the experiences of front line field works working on refugee health? How good are the manuals? How inhospitable usually the terrain? How much are the camp experiences of the IDPs and refugees taken into account in formulating health policies? When and how is it decided that the emergency

phase is over and the post-emergency stability of some kind arrived? All these issues came in discussion in this roundtable. Participants choosing to speak narrated the experiences of situations at home, and the aim was to highlight the problems, constraints, and good practices in this region in the field of refugee and IDP health.

- Workshop under F and H on “How to Make an Appropriate Digital Resource Centre in Forced Migration Studies?” 10 December (11.30 AM – 1 PM).
Speakers: **Sucharita Sengupta, Ali Ahmed Jan, Deepali Gaur Singh, Ajit Acharya, Xonzo Barborá (Moderator)**

There is a strange paradox: Displacement of people due to forced migration is seen today as a global phenomenon. Even though most displacements occur in the South, relief, return, etc. are seen as global responsibility. In other words, events are local, while the discourse is global. Therefore, human rights groups and humanitarian agencies working for the victims of forced migration while working locally – amidst scarcity of information of the actual disaster in question – there is abundance of information on the net on past events and relief operations. The global nature of concerns, institutions, and authorities produces online connections also leading to greater sharing of information and experiences. Academic networks also contribute to increasing digitalisation of knowledge. In this background, it is no longer the question, namely, whether we need a digital resource centre for work on issues of forced migration, but how to make it appropriate? In this workshop, the participants were requested to discuss the problematic at length based on their own experiences of documentation.

- Panel discussion under Modules F and G on “Ethical Dilemmas in Research Methods on Forced Migration”, 13 December (11.30 AM – 1 PM)
Speaker: **Valerie Amiraux, Cytia Sampaio, Samir Kumar Das (Moderator)**

It may be asked: Research methods are scientific, so why should there be a question of search methods in forced migration studies? This is a question that can be answered when first of all we remember that we are here speaking of research in a field that is constituted by human rights abuses. We are studying abuse of rights. Second, whether we are aware or not, the victims of certain human rights abuses are the constant shadows over our studies, and we can ignore them only at the cost of the principal goal of our research. Third, it can be also shown that the issue of the ethical imperative has link with the political task of restoring the subjectivity of the victim of forced migration. What we take as scientific carries strong traces of power. More often than not, a research method is designed with researcher’s interest in mind. The object of research, in this case the victims of abuses, becomes once more subject to another power play. Therefore, what the victims want, think, act on, react to, and how they take care of their own selves constitutes a significant part of the ethical. This was an important roundtable to discuss on research methods in an hitherto un-interrogated field.

- Participants’ roundtable on Modules A and C: “Who is a Refugee in Situations of Massive and Mixed Flows of Forced Migration? Needs for New Protection Strategies”, 13 December (9.30 – 11 AM)

Speakers: **Karine MacAllister, Raja Adnan Razzak, Shristee Singh Shrestha and Karma Lhendup Kaleon, Nasreen Chowdhory (Moderator)**

The history of forced migration has presently been recognized as a history of mixed and massive flows of people, which have rendered, to a considerable extent, the older forms of protection inadequate. These early signs of new kinds of flows on the map of forced migration have led governments and humanitarian agencies to adopt newer strategies to cope with massive displacements and unrest. In this context - of massive and mixed flows of forced migration and the need for newer strategies to handle such migrations – determination of refugee status has become more difficult than ever. Should there be new criteria? Or should the protection mandate be simply widened? What can be the new strategies of protection? The discussion deliberated on possibilities of new protection strategies.

- Roundtable Module A: “Indo-Bangla Issues of Border, Immigration, Refugee Flows, and Violence”, 14 December (9.30-11 AM).

Speakers: **Aditi Bhaduri, Arpita Das, Sujit Saxena, and Surinder Singh, Meghna Guha Thankurta (Moderator)**

The present state system in South Asia, in particular the state system of the sub-continent, is a result largely of the partitions in the eastern and western parts of the erstwhile united India, giving birth to three states – India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. The borders dividing these countries are markers of past bitter history, current separate, distinct, and independent existence, and the sign of the territorial integrity of these states. These borders are also lines of hatred, disunity, informal connections and voluminous informal trade, securitised and militarized lines, heavy paramilitary presence, communal discord, humanitarian crisis, human rights abuses, and enormous suspicion, yet informal cooperation. While the Indo-Pakistan border (and the Line of Control) is often discussed due to political reasons, the border in the East – the Indo-Bangladesh border – remains neglected in terms of discussion. Security concerns overwhelm all other equally legitimate concerns and values. Military security dominates over human security in the border region. As a result of this, States often forget that borders are not only lines to be guarded, they are also lines of humanitarian management, because borders are not lines but borderlands – that is to say these are areas where people live, pursue economic activities, and lead civilian lives attuned to the realities of the borders. This roundtable intended to bring to light different aspects of borderland existence, the abuses marking the borders, and the human rights issues emerging as consequence.

- Q & A session with Ranabir Samaddar and Paula Banerjee

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 on various issues related to forced migration in South Asia. Questions revolved around the relevance of 1951 convention and 1967 protocol with special reference to South Asia.

Special Roundtables/Workshops

- Roundtable under Module F: “The CRG Report, *Voices*” / 11 December (11.30 AM – 1 PM)

“Voices of the IDPs” is a seminal report (2007) by CRG. The study was conducted as part of a wider study on the same topic conducted in several countries in 2006. In South Asia CRG conducted it in 4 countries. How was the study conducted? What were the salient findings? Why has the report become famous? Why is it considered as a landmark in research method in forced migration studies? The experts like **Paula Banerjee**; **V. Ramaswamy**, **Kavita Panjabi** and **Sanjukta Bhattacharya** discussed the salience of the report and its stakes as a site of creative method in documenting voices, giving the persons with the voices visibility and audibility.

- Workshop under Module C: Statelessness in South Asia / 11 December (2 – 5.30 PM)

Statelessness is the quality of being, in some way, without a state. In fact it means without a nationality, or at least without the protection that nationality should offer. Nationality is the legal bond between a state and an individual. It is a bond of membership that is acquired or lost according to rules set by the state. Once held, nationality – membership – brings with it both rights and responsibilities for the state and for the individual. As the world has been divided into state systems not to be a member of any one of them is a serious concern. While membership of a state is the norm statelessness continues to be widespread and has not escaped the interest of the international community. Within the realm of public international law, rules have evolved in response to the problem of statelessness. A definition has also emerged describing a stateless person as a person who is not considered as a national by any state under the operation of its law (generally equated with the term *de jure* statelessness). This definition can be found explicitly in Article 1 of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, one of the two major international instruments to deal specifically with the issue of statelessness. Keeping these facts under consideration this workshop intended to focus on the issues related to statelessness in South Asia. Experts on statelessness like **Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury**, **Nasreen Chowdhury**, **Roberto Mignone** and **Samir Kumar Das** participated to discuss various aspects related to statelessness in the region.



Panelists participating in the Statelessness workshop: Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, Samir Kumar Das, Roberto Mignone and Nasreen Chowdhury (from left to right)



Panelists participating in the workshop on 'Voices': V. Ramaswamy, Kavita Panjabi, Sanjukta Bhattacharya and Paula Banerjee (from left to right)

12. Inaugural and Valedictory Sessions

Inaugural Session

The fifteen day workshop segment of the Eighth Winter Course on Forced Migration began with the formal Inaugural Session on 1 December 2010. The session was initiated by a brief welcome address by **Ranabir Samaddar**. 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.

This year for the first time the 15 day Kolkata workshop started with inaugural panel discussion on “War and Refugee Women in South Asia - Identity and Nationhood”. The Panelists were **Asha Hans** and **Paula Banerjee**. In this session CRG took the opportunity to release two of its publications namely – (a) *Counter-Gaze: Media, Migrants, Minorities*, edited by **Subir Bhaumik** and (b) *Politics in Hunger Regime: Essays on the Right to food in West Bengal*, edited by **Sibaji Pratim Basu and Geetisha Dasgupta**. The first book was released by **Angela Liberatore**, Research Division, European Commission while the second one was released by **V. Suresh**, Eminent Human Rights Activist and the General Secretary of the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), Chennai. At the end of the session on behalf of CRG the vote of thanks was proposed by **Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury**. The whole session was chaired by **Samir Kumar Das**.

Valedictory Session

The Valedictory Session of the Eighth Annual Winter Course on Forced Migration took place on the evening of 15th of December 2010. The occasion was graced by the presence of our Chief Guest, Her Excellency **Terhi Hakala**, Hon'ble Ambassador of Finland to India, **Sanna Selin**, First Secretary, Embassy of Finland. Her Excellency **Terhi Hakala** distributed the certificates to the participants of the course who successfully completed it. Our Guest of Honour, Madam **Monsterrat Feixas Vihe**, Hon'ble Chief of the Mission UNHCR, New Delhi, was unable to attend the session due to her sudden indisposition, but she sent her best wishes for the programme. A short report on the Eighth Annual Winter Course was presented by **Paula Banerjee**.

Valedictory Lecture was delivered by **Walter Kaelin**. Kaelin started his lecture by highlighting the difficulties to define what climate change is. His presentation described three distinct sets of obligations that the States are confronted with under international law. He then looked at the different scenarios of displacement as a consequence of the effects of climate change. This was followed by a discussion of existing normative frameworks to protect persons displaced by effects of climate change and the gaps that exist in this regard. He concluded his lecture with some remarks on the way forward and a word of caution. The valedictory session was chaired by **Samir Kumar Das**.

13. Evaluation

Participants and faculty members were asked to fill in their evaluation forms relating to various aspects of the Winter Course programme that was handed over to the external evaluator. 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 Pradip Kumar Bose, an eminent Sociologist was invited to the course as the external evaluator. Excerpts from his report are reproduced below.

Participation

Selection of participants by CRG ensured a good mix of professionals, lawyers, NGO workers, academics and researchers, social workers and so on. Gender-wise balance was maintained, in fact, in this course there were ten women and seven men participants. Age-wise the group consisted of mostly (though not all) young people. Internationally participants came from various countries: there were participant from Bangladesh (1), Nepal (4), Sri Lanka (2), Canada (2) and Brazil (1). While Africa is missing, on the whole the group was a good mix of participants from South Asia and other states. Varied backgrounds and experience of the participants ensured interesting and productive interactions. In spite of careful screening absolute heterogeneity among participants in terms of academic abilities, scholarship, and knowledge background was difficult to achieve. Admittedly this is an extremely difficult process and it requires constant planning and reflection on the part of CRG.

Course Content

The course focuses on the South Asian experience and divided into five compulsory module and three optional modules out of which a participant can choose one. The course focuses on the ground realities related to displacement, rights, gender and other forms of discriminations. This can be complemented with few lectures, especially at the initial stage of the course, on the various perspectives on the apprehension of realities, different 'ways of seeing' and approaching the realities at the ground level. The course can particularly benefit from the services of anthropologist, psychologist and health specialist if they are able to spend a week with the participants during the course.

Teaching and Guidance

Primarily teaching is conducted through experts in various fields, who are knowledgeable, competent and qualified. However the teaching model is based on itinerant teachers who generally decamp after their lectures are over. In such cases it is very difficult for the teacher to know the background of the group she is teaching and orient her lecture suitably. The participants also are not able to fully explore the expert knowledge that the teacher possesses. It is suggested that there should be a core group of experts numbering four to five, who should stay with the participants at least for a week. If the core group stays for a week then they have to be replaced next week by a similar group. The core group would sit-through all the sessions, comment, clarify, explain relevant points in question, alert

participants on wider issues, provide them with bibliographical help, clear up persistent confusions and guide them in their individual interest and orientation. It is true that some CRG members often do provide these services but it should be undertaken on a more structural scale.

Course Material

The course material is quite comprehensive, detailed and exhaustive. Module-wise reading list is substantial and well thought-out. However, it appears that many participants are not conversant with the materials supplied to them, may be because of the bulk or size of the reading list. The reading materials can be divided into two groups: the first group will have a compulsory reading list (about 300 pages) which every participant must read before they attend the course. The second group will consist of related literature that can provide more specialized knowledge on particular issues.

Organization

During the selection stage, the contact is maintained through e-mails and directions are given through circulars. However it appears that varied circulars create confusions, delays and some participants complained that they did not have a clear idea of their tasks and duties during the workshop. It will be useful if CRG prepares an itemized document consisting of the tasks, assignments, that a participant has to complete, detailing out the nature of Review Assignment, Term Paper, Creative Assignment, Panel Discussion, Field Visit, modalities and presentations (time allotted, structure of presentation, etc), and overall outline of the program. If possible an FAQ can also be added in the website. Advance notice of different tasks, various types of presentation, time allotted, format, different types of sessions, in one document can clarify some of confusions. But in a course of this magnitude some amount of confusion is inevitable.

Group Discussion

This time the course was structured mainly in terms of panel discussions and round tables and only one Group Discussion took place. It was suggested that more Group Discussions will facilitate informal interaction, bonding between participants, and group discussions provide a way of exploring an issue in an unconstrained manner. The other suggestion is that group discussions can be slotted at the early stage of the program so that participants can get a chance to know each other early. The course is intensive and tightly packed with various time-bound activities. Group work and group discussions might ease the pressure of formal pedagogy a little. Since CRG has been experimenting between different modes of pedagogy more group discussions may be slotted in one year.

Media and Films

Film screening and discussion thereof require careful planning. It is best to leave the film to talk about itself, instead of introducing the film before the show and explaining its rationale and purpose. Discussion and explanation should take place after the screening. Lectures on media should also contain a segment which can guide a participant in ways of using the media in productive fashion.

Field Visit

Field visit in Bengal is bound to create language problem for the participants who do not speak Bengali. This problem can be resolved through planning in advance, by dividing the participants into smaller groups with each group having a person conversant with local language and custom. Again field visits are meant to accustomed the participants to the many problems that are faced in research. No amount of planning can make a field visit completely free of challenges and that is recognized.

Practitioners/ Activists versus Researchers/ Theorists

Those who are practitioners or activists and those who are research-driven have two different kinds of expectations from the workshop. The researchers' complaint is that course is not theoretical enough, while the activists' criticism is that their practical expertise is not thoroughly deepened. The two divergent expectations cannot be fully bridged but this will remain a problem and efforts may be made to reduce the distance by restructuring the course in such a way that one year it may be more scholarly and another year more geared for practical purposes..

Classroom Set-Up

Present informal arrangement has certain advantages. But conference-room format or sitting in one long circle can facilitate face-to-face interaction and this arrangement is more conducive to conversation and exchange between participants.

Areas of Strength (Identified by the evaluator)

- Course Materials
- Selection of Participants, and their Composition
- Participatory Sessions
- Film Shows
- Sustained Collaboration with Other Institutions

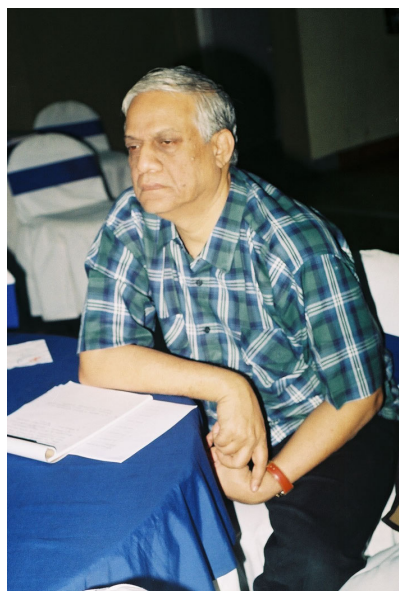
Areas of Improvement (Suggested by the evaluator)

- Varied Multi-Media Approach.
- Creative Assignments can be done in groups or as a team. As a part of creative assignment CRG can collect narratives or organize a poster competition.
- Tutors should be urged to give detailed comments on assignments and not just one-word comment.

Evaluation by the Participants who Attended the Workshop

	Yes	No	Not applicable	Total
Delivery on time	16	1		17
General relevance and usefulness	16	1		17
Relevance vis-à-vis assignments	16	1		17
Usefulness/relevance in future work	17	0		17
Difficulties with instructions	3	14		17
Tutors' comments	14	3		17
Proper info on field visit	17	0		17
Relevance of the field visit vis-à-vis the course	15	2		17
Quality of participatory sessions	15	2		17
Adequate preparedness for the sessions	16	1		17
Quality of film sessions	16	1		17
Regular visits to the website	16	1		17

	Excellent/ Good	Bad	Not applicable	Total
Accommodation	17	0		17
Food	17	0		17
Classroom	17	0		17



*Evaluator of the Eighth Winter Course:
Pradip Kumar Bose*



*A Participant from Sikkim: Karma
Lhendup Kaleon*

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 Calcutta, Rabindra Bharati University through co hosting public events. Thirdly, the resource persons on many occasions have played a key role in building a sustained collaboration with the Course through nominating participants and encouraging exchange programmes. In South Asia, CRG is grateful to UNHCR, India; Ain-O-Salish Kendra, Bangladesh; Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies, Sri Lanka and various others for nominating participants to the Course. CRG is indebted to the Department of Refugee, Relief and Rehabilitation, Government of West Bengal and the United Central Refugee Council (UCRC) of Nadia district, West Bengal for their help to make our field visit successful.

- **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 and Refugee Study Centre, Oxford University have 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 on Statelessness**

A 'stateless person' is someone who is not recognized as a national by any state under the operation of its law. The stateless persons therefore have no nationality or citizenship and are unprotected by national legislation and left in the arc of vulnerability. Whether or not a person is stateless can be determined on the basis of an assessment of relevant nationality laws and how these laws are implemented by the state. Since nationality is generally acquired on the basis of an existing, factual link between the individual and the state – some kind of connection either with the territory (place of birth or residence) or with a national (descent, adoption or marriage) – it is important to look at the nationality legislation and relevant practice of states with which an individual enjoys a relevant factual link, to see if nationality is indeed attributed to the individual under any state's law. If not, then he or she is stateless. With these facts under consideration CRG has started working on *The State of Being Stateless* to assess the present situation of Chakmas in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. CRG intends to gather information on the aforesaid community to understand the magnitude of statelessness.

- **Research and Resource Centre on 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. **(For detailed report on Resource Centre please see page 52)**

15. Research Segments and Follow up Programmes

Research papers produced out of the programme on Forced Migration are 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 published in CRG publication series and also referred by the module tutors during the course are:-

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

The research article entitled *Environment and Migration, Purulia, West Bengal* was published in Policies and Practices No 30. The paper explores continuous labour migration streams from the forest belts of Purulia District (principally the indigenous peoples' belt in Santhal Parganas) in West Bengal (Manbhum in colonial times) to nearby industrial areas. The paper, to begin with, holds into perspective the fact that labour migration from Purulia in colonial and post-colonial times has been least discussed in contemporary academic discourses. It then unfurls that environmental degradation and factors like deforestation has exacerbated labour migration from the forest district of Purulia. People have been shorn off livelihood choices and survival became tough. This ultimately forced people to opt for the surrounding brick, coal or tea industry belts where they moved as coolies. The paper explores the process of alienation from the traditional agriculture based economic setup and the consequent uprooting of the people from the familiar arboreal ecological context, where the ecology itself was destroyed without any concern for conservation with

Policies and Practices No 32 entitled *Two Studies on Asylum Seekers and Other Immigrants in Finland* published two articles on *The Finnish Alien's Act, 2004* by Sahana Basavapatna and *Skilled Migrants in Finland* by Geetisha Dasgupta. Both the articles in this issue, looking at migration situation in Finland, are result of study visits by two Winter Course Participants to Finland in February-March 2009. Sahana Basavapatna's research studies Finland's asylum policy, especially in the context of the Finnish Alien's Act 2004. This paper further seeks to see if the Finnish asylum policy is any different from the overall attitude portrayed by the European Union, and if so, why? Geetisha Dasgupta's article researches the skilled migrants in Finland, separated from the asylum seekers by capacity of work. This study researches how Finland performs as a new destination for the skilled migrants in the traditional atlas of labour migration.

The research articles entitled *Incomplete citizenship, statelessness and human trafficking: a preliminary analysis of the current situation in West Bengal, India* by Pascale MacLean and *Place of Poor in Urban Space* by Manish K. Jha have been published as *Policies and Practices* No 38 and *Policies and Practices* No 39.

• Refugee Watch

Refugee Watch issue No. 35 published articles by Sudeep Basu on *Organizing for Exile! "Self-Help" among Tibetan refugees in an Indian Town*, by Shiva Dhungana on *Third Country Resettlement and the Bhutanese refugee Crisis: A Critical reflection*, by Giorgio Grappi on *Refugees and Partition in a Migrants' World*. Apart from Ved Bhasin's interview on Forced migration and three reports on displacements in Nepal the issue of the *Refugee Watch* No. 36 published the following articles:

- *Refugee, Memory and the State: A Review of Research in Refugee Studies* by Pradip Kumar Bose
- *Eviction, Housing and Livelihood in Chennai* by Francis Adaikalam

All these were contributory to the overall reading repository of the Eighth 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)

RWO 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.

Short-Term Writing Fellowships

Two young researchers namely, Fatima Azmiya Badurdeen of Sri Lanka and Juha Rudanko of Finland were awarded with the short-term writing fellowships under the Winter Course programme.

Being one of the participants of Eighth Winter Course Azmiya successfully utilised the opportunity to finish her research on *The Conditions for Sustainable Return: The Case of Sri Lanka in the Post-conflict Context: A Study from the District of Trincomalee* after completion of the Kolkata workshop. Against the backdrop of Sri Lanka government's plan to provide "durable solution" for the IDPs in post war situation Azmiya in her study focused on the need for the sustainability of returnees. Her research paper was divided into four major sections: i) Geography and historic context of Trincomalee District ii) Theoretical underpinning and the methodology iii) Analysis of the study and iv) conclusion and recommendation.

Juha Rudanko in his study on *What is the Finnish immigration debate really about?* aimed to sketch some of the central challenges for Finland, as it faces both rising numbers of immigrants and a rise in anti-immigrant sentiment. He intended to examine the anti-immigrant discourse that is gaining popularity in Finland through examining blog posts and discussion forum post as

well as the official response to the discourse by government ministers. He highlighted the shift in the political spectrum from moderately pro-immigration to seeing immigrants as a serious problem, and the 'mainstreaming' of anti-immigrant discourse.

Both the reports will be published very soon.

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 themes that have been explored with special emphasis are IDPs in Post Conflict Sri Lanka, Forced Migration in Nepal and Stateless in South Asia.

Surendra Kumar in his study on *Conflict and Internal Displacement in Sri Lanka: Concerns and Obstacles to Durable* has attempted to explain the fact that the issue of IDPs being given the top priority in the international arena, it still remains a daunting humanitarian challenge and a long way before the problem is fully addressed. While on the other hand **Anuradha Gunaratne** in her research paper on *Post conflict and Creative Avenues of Reconciling Adolescence: Realising Protection in contemporary Sri Lanka* has tried to analyse the politics of reconciliation in post war Sri Lanka.

Roopshree Joshi has attempted to portray the situation of the Tibetans those who are living in the camps of Nepal. **Anita Ghimire**, on the other hand has emphasized on the impact of forced migration on women in her study on *Rethinking "Women" in forced displacement*. All these papers will be published soon.

Besides, the CRG team has completed the initial survey on the situation of stateless Chakmas of Arunachal Pradesh, India and the report of this research will be published very soon.

South Asia Exchange Programme

Under the South Asia Exchange Programme, Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury of CRG visited Sri Lanka (between 27 February and 6 March 2011) for her research on *States and Stateless in South Asia: The Chakmas of Arunachal Pradesh, India and Plantation workers of Sri Lanka*. As she completed her field trip to Arunachal Pradesh she intended to visit Sri Lanka. Most of the stateless people in Sri Lanka are descendants of people who had been brought from India by British colonisers between 1820 and 1840 to work on coffee and tea plantations in Sri Lanka. Over the years, several Indo-Sri Lankan agreements have granted some of these people either Indian or Sri Lankan citizenship, but as of October 2003, there were still an estimated 300,000 stateless people of Indian origin in Sri Lanka. The 2003 Grant of Citizenship to Persons of Indian Origin Act gave citizenship to persons of Indian origin residing in Sri Lanka since October 1964 and their descendants to solve the problem of statelessness in Sri Lanka. With these facts under consideration Anasua in her study intends to assess the present situation of plantation labourers in Sri Lanka.

Arpita Das, a doctoral student of Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai visited Bangladesh (between 20 and 27 March 2011) in relation to her research on *Living with (the politics of) floods*. In her study Arpita intends to understand and analyse the history of flooding

in Assam and its socio-economic implications for people. She also wants to examine the governmental policies and approaches vis-a-vis floods and people/ community affected by floods. For the sake of her study she looks at policies and practices of neighbouring South Asian nations like Bangladesh who have evolved unique approaches of living with floods.

Follow-up Programmes

• Care and Protection of Refugees and IDPs in Nepal

Nepal Institute of Peace (NIP) and Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (CRG) in collaboration with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Nepal and assisted by the Government of Finland and the Oxford University Refugee Studies Centre organised an Orientation Workshop on 'Care and Protection of Refugees and IDPs in Nepal' from November 21 to 23, 2010 at Kathmandu, Nepal. The interaction between the experts (academics who have worked on forced migration and the socio-political dynamics of Nepal and South Asia) and the general participants (refugees, emerging researchers, advocates, social workers and students who are interested to learn and excel in the field of forced migration studies) was dynamic. The issues of displacement, return of IDPs, UN Guiding Principles on IDPs, national IDP policies, international refugees law, roles and responsibilities of UNHCR to protect refugees elicited reactions and questions.

• Workshop on Media and Forced Migration at Gangtok, Sikkim

The CRG in collaboration with Panos South Asia organized a workshop on *Media and Forced Migration* at Gangtok during 21-23 January 2011. The two and half day workshop revolved around two major points: firstly the control of media by state and non-state actors in reporting on issues of conflict, displacement and forced migration. Secondly, the unavailability of data on forced migration to follow up on a reported story. The main focus of the workshop was on India's northeast. The workshop was divided into six business sessions namely, i) *Refugees in the North-east*, ii) *Conflict/ Violence-induced displacement*, iii) *Resource politics, climate change, environmental degradation and displacement*, iv) *Laws/Policies relating to forced migration*, v) *Sources and research on forced migration*, vi) *From the field to the newsroom: Challenges of news gathering, politics of editing and media ethics*. The main aim of this workshop was to produce a media toolkit on forced migration. Altogether 23 participants including the journalists from print and audio media and the members of CRG attended the workshop.

• Students' Workshop on Border and Forced Migration

The CRG organized a day long Students' Workshop on *Border and Forced Migration* on 29 March 2011 in collaboration with the Centre for Refugee Studies, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University at Jadavpur University campus. The total number of selected students were 38. The Programme started with a special lecture delivered by Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty on *Colonialism, Resource Politics and Forced Migration*. The workshop was divided into two main sessions i) *Migration, Border and Women* and ii) *Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) with special reference to Conventions and Protocols*. The workshop concluded with the distribution of the certificates among the participants.

16. Resource Centre on Forced Migration

The Resource Centre has been envisaged as a facilitating centre to anchor research and training in forced migration and displacement and to encourage learning in the field by engaging with all who have worked, are working or wish to work in the field of migration. The CRG has structured the Resource Centre in such a way that it frames a wide range of data, analytical texts and documents pertaining primarily to forced migration, displacement, and its variegated effects and expressions—from social justice to minority rights, from cultural politics to political maneuverings. Through our website and online holding, we purport to disseminate the same to a global network of students, researchers and empathizers who seek to stand for the cause of the disenfranchised. A secured web page had been patterned for the resource centre in March 2010. Since then, we have been steadily sharing our collection through the cyberspace. Books, journals, contemporary documents and reports are being uploaded—our online catalogue slowly burgeoning. This year for the first time the participants of the Eighth Winter Course have enjoyed the benefit of digitized resource centre. Here is a brief synopsis of what we have and are going to accomplish.

• Books

We procure new and important books, mainly from the field of social science and social activism, and continuously incorporate their details to our online catalogue. Our recent additions include quite a few books on women's studies and labour history, as also pertinent autobiographies and literary texts. Others include foundational texts on political economy and works on media. About 300 books and innumerable academic articles have been incorporated into our library. The articles can be read online.

• Documents

Over the years, CRG has organized many successful workshops and conferences on different aspects of forced migration, gender, media, justice, autonomy, governance and so on. Reports on these are already available in the archives of CRG's website and now they have been enlisted in the resource centre along with their links. Each year CRG organizes a Winter Course on Forced Migration. The details and reading materials of the course in the past years are available in the archive of CRG's website, also with links. Apart from this, CRG has organized workshops in Nepal, Guwahati and Gangtok recently, and a summary of the proceedings there have been uploaded. Now we go to the entirely new endeavours. We have started collecting relevant materials on **Rajarhat** as part of CRG's work on Transit Labour which would culminate into CRG's forthcoming Fourth Critical Studies Conference, to be held in September 2011. The online catalogue has been assiduously categorized and segmented.

Similarly we have uploaded documents on the stateless state of the **Chakmas of Arunachal Pradesh**. Legal entanglements and xenophobic dimensions of electoral politics have left them with neither refugee nor citizen status. The documents are in hard copy, and a comprehensive enumeration of the same is given online, so that researchers know about the documents they must seek.

We have also underscored our commitment to the cause of minority rights and cultural expressions by starting to document the history of the imposing **Hooghly Imambarah**. History reveals that at the time of communal violence that broke out in 1950 as a consequence of partition of India Imambarah, one of the famous *Shiya* Muslim pilgrimage centre in Hooghly district of West Bengal, gave shelter to thousands of displaced Muslim people—exuding an ethics of care. We have already uploaded a photographic presentation of the place. More documents are to come up, spawning an alternative narrative of post-partition riots centering round this shrine.

We have already uploaded the primary data collected during our research program **Women & Borders in South Asia**, and those collected during the programmes **Globalization & Sustainability of Rights**.

- **Audio Files**

Audio files of lectures and interviews, pertaining to the topics of taught in our Winter Course on Forced Migration and issues like statelessness have been edited by professional editors. These files have been uploaded to our website.

- **Fellowships**

Resource Centre facilitates inter-country researches through exchange visits in South Asia, provides short term scholarships/fellowships to young researchers and documents myriad aspects of forced migration. CRG wants to initiate more frequent exchanges of scholars from other South Asian countries to work on the theme of forced migration and displacement. The main objective is to develop first-hand knowledge and experiences about forced migration and displacement in the neighbouring countries of South Asia. CRG will also publicize its research outputs as widely as possible and organize short term training programmes for dissemination of knowledge thus accumulated. For 2010-11, we provided writing fellowships to four researchers. The list is given below:

1. **Anuradha Gunarathne**, National Project Coordinator in National Protection and Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons Project, Human Rights Commission, Sri Lanka

Research Topic: *Post conflict and Creative Avenues of Reconciling Adolescence: Realising Protection (Legal and Institutional Challenges) in contemporary Sri Lanka.*

2. **Surendra Kumar**, Lecturer, Political Science, Bangalore University

Research Topic: *Conflict and Internal Displacement in Sri Lanka: Concerns and Obstacles to Durable Solutions.*

3. **Roopshree Joshi**, Project Manager, Lutheran World Federation, Nepal

Research Topic: *For the Tibetans living in Nepal*

4. **Anita Ghimire**, Project Co-leader and Post Doctoral Fellow, Migration Revisited; NCCR-North and South.

Research Topic: *Rethinking “Women” in forced displacement.*

The reports will be published in due course in our series **Policies and Practices and Refugee Watch** Journal.

17. CRG Team

- Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury
- Ashok Kumar Giri
- Ishita Dey
- Manjuri Chatterjee
- Nilanjan Dutta
- Paula Banerjee
- Raj Kumar Mahato
- Ranabir Samaddar
- Ratan Chakraborty
- Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury
- Samaresh Guchhait
- Samir Kumar Das
- Suhit Sen
- Sutirtha Bedajana



K. M. Parivelan



Roberto Mignone

18. Advisory Committee

- Asha Hans
- Elizabeth Ferris
- Ipshita Sen
- Montserrat Feixas Vihe
- Nayana Bose
- Prabhu Mohapatra
- Pradip Kumar Bose
- Rajesh S Kharat
- Rekha Chowdhary
- Xonzoi Barbora
- Sanna Selin



*Her Excellency Terhi Hakala, Hon'ble
Ambassador of Finland*



Walter Kaelin

19. Alumni of Winter Course

The CRG acknowledges the constant help and support received from the following Alumni of the Winter Course

- **Anita Ghimire**
- **Anuradha Gunaratne**
- **Eeva Puumala**
- **Geetisha Dasgupta**
- **Ishita Dey**
- **Khusboo Jain**
- **Ksenia Glebova**
- **Madhuresh Kumar**
- **Oishik Sircar**
- **Priyanca Mathur Velath**
- **Rajat Kanti Sur**
- **Rani Varghese**
- **Roopshree Joshi**
- **Sahana Basavapatna**
- **Shiva Dhungana**
- **Sivaprashanthi Thambaiiah (Shanthi)**
- **Som Prasad Niroula**
- **Sucharita Sengupta**

