

A REPORT
ON
THE TENTH ANNUAL ORIENTATION COURSE
ON
FORCED MIGRATION
2012

Offered by

Calcutta Research Group (CRG)

A Centre of Excellence

CONTENTS

The report is a product of notes and writings prepared by the participants, faculty members and members of the CRG desk for the Orientation Course on Forced Migration. Thanks are due to the participants and all others who contributed towards it. Thanks are due in particular to the UNHCR, the Brookings Institution, and Government of Finland. Thanks are also due to the British Deputy High Commission, Kolkata for its special support to the media module of the orientation programme.

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1. A Unique Programme for South Asia

The Orientation Course on Forced Migration Studies conducted by the Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (popularly known as CRG) for the last few years is a unique course reflecting the situation of forced migration in South Asia. This region is one of the most conflict prone zones of the world and it has largely been CRG's initiative to move slightly closer towards peace building 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, academicians, journalists, and lawyers. This was to be a forum for policy discussion and analysis on issues of democracy, human rights, peace building, 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 space 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 the South Asian context is critical owing to increasing human rights violations and state-community conflicts in the region. 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, until CRG with the support of the UNHCR, the Brookings Institution, and the Government of Finland in particular, introduced in 2003 the fifteen day Winter Course in Kolkata (1-15 December). Since last year CRG partially altered the format of the course as the orientation programme to make the best use of the accumulated knowledge of past years and to take the course forward.

The programme is preceded by a three month long distance education segment. The main emphasis of the course is to bring to this forum South Asian experiences in coping with mixed and massive flows of 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 association with several university departments and personnel, and other institutions working in the area of forced migration. It draws attention to the benchmarks 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 syllabus has been designed to treat the issue of "forced migration" as a 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 protection of the victims of internal displacement and of the victims of racism and xenophobia. Various types of forced migration –

violence induced, environmental disaster induced, 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 and train researchers, scholars and activists working on displacement issues
4. To build up a resource centre for young scholars and activists for future research work in this area
5. To collaborate with educational and research institutions interested in using CRG's expertise and resources on displacement and peace studies
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);
 - Stateless people in South Asia
 - Media and Forced Migration

Several features of the course 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) High standard, rigorous nature of the course, customizing methodologies for forced migration research and generating original research inputs, fieldwork, reports, 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 in South Asia,
- (d) Special focus on auditing and strategizing media through workshops, film sessions and creative assignments;
- (e) Emphasis on gender justice;
- (f) Special emphasis on statelessness in South Asia
- (g) Special attention to policy implications;
- (h) Follow up programmes spreading it to universities, providing inputs to future researchers, innovating locally relevant modules and training participants to become trainers of the future programmes;
- (i) And, finally building up the programme as a facilitator of a network of several universities, grassroots organisations, Mothers' Fronts, research foundations, UN institutions etc.

2. Structure of the Course

On 14 October 2012 the Tenth Orientation Course on Forced Migration (former known as the Winter Course) came to an end. Preparation for this course commenced on the day before the Ninth Winter Course formally ended. Last year after an eight-year experience the CRG, for the first time, took steps to partially alter the format of the course to make the best use of the accumulated knowledge of past years and take the course forward. In doing this, CRG wanted to take the advice of all – particularly those who had been involved in its activities. The members of CRG and its partners had realized that the Course has grown into a full-fledged programme with components such as research, publications, networking, and training under innovative and different formats. CRG's proposal to make the course more participatory was accepted and endorsed by the advisors during the advisory committee meeting held on 14 April 2012 in Darjeeling, West Bengal. Representatives from UNHCR, the Embassy of Finland, our colleagues and members of the course committee and former participants of the course attended the day-long deliberation to discuss the selection procedure, participants' profile, and structure of the course, field visit and follow-up segment.

Significant Features of the Schedule

A. This year we had five modules. Each of the themes conceptualized in the form of a module was structured around a workshop, a theme lecture, a lead paper on CRG's research presented to the participants for discussion in the workshop, assignments relevant to the workshop theme and rapporteurs' presentation on the deliberations. Each workshop had two days devoted to it. The resource person under each module was intensely involved in the workshop for the entire period. In place of the earlier module notes, we had concept notes under each module to be discussed in the relevant workshop. The workshop identified certain key problems relating to the themes of the modules. The five modules were:

The Five Modules

- A. Refugee Flows in South Asia: New Structures and Strategies of Protection
- B. Gendered Nature of Forced Migration
- C. Environmental crisis, Conflict, Resource and Internal Displacement
- D. Statelessness in South Asia
- E. Media and Forced migration

B. In view of the importance of the role of media in reporting forced migration, this year CRG decided to devote special attention to the module on 'Media and Forced Migration'. Under this module CRG organized a special media workshop consisting of assignments, field visit, and round tables between 9 and 13 October 2012. Leading media personnel young and practicing journalists participated in the media workshop organised under Module E. **(For detailed report please see pages 27-33)**

C. Besides the research assignments, and the media workshop the course activities included film screenings, field trip and interactions with resource persons. This year CRG also organized a dinner discussion with Michele Millard, Coordinator, and Centre for Refugee Studies and York University, USA on 2 October 2012.

Participants

Initially our selection committee selected 24 participants for this year's orientation course out of which 19 participants attended Kolkata workshop, out of them South Asian participants were 14 in number, and rest were from outside the region. This year we invited one of our ex-participants Dr. Sudeep Basu to be the chief rapporteur for the entire Kolkata workshop. All these participants were selected through public notification and were drawn from fields of law, human rights and humanitarian work, and academics. Like the Ninth Orientation course this year we had a participant from the UNHCR, New Delhi. **(For detailed list of participants please see pages 6-7)**

Faculty

Resource persons from various universities and institutions across South Asia and outside the region were invited to join as faculty members of the Tenth Orientation Course. The faculty members were the experts in refugee studies, studies on internal displacement, legal studies; academicians, activists associated with different NGOs, UN functionaries, particularly UNHCR functionaries; and the journalists. Attention was paid to diversity of background and region. Importance was attached to the requirements of the modules; the faculty was also involved in developing a set of reading material, evaluation, and follow-up activities. The core faculty members under each of the five modules graded participants on their skills of communication and analysis and presentation of research assignments.

(For detailed list of faculty members please see pages 8-9)

Evaluation

The participants were evaluated by core faculty members who also graded their research assignments and presentation. The course is equivalent to 8 credit hours of graduate level work. For the distance education 50% of the grade was decided by research assignment while 25% each was allotted for Kolkata workshop and field visit. They were given a grade for the distance education segment and another for the Kolkata workshop. At the end of the course they were given a cumulative grade.

The course has a built-in evaluation system. Each participant was required to present a written evaluation and each resource person also expected to do the same.

Special Activities Included in the Tenth Orientation Course

- This year we took this opportunity to organize a performance piece on Kalpana Chakma by Parnab Mukherjee in the inaugural session held on 30 September 2012 and it was a public event.
- A public lecture on 'Forced Migration in Middle East' by Nergis Canafe, held on 3 October 2012 in collaboration with Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Calcutta.
- A special interactive session with Hans Schodder, Deputy Chief of Mission held on 8 October 2012.
- A round table on "Are Women's Experiences Exceptional in Forced Migration Annals?" held on 4 October 2012.
- A round table on "River Erosion & Displacement" held on 5 October 2012.
- Considering specially the importance of media in reporting issues related to forced migration CRG organised a set of round tables in Darjeeling during field visit and in Kolkata between 9 and 13 October 2012. **(For detailed report on media workshop please see pages 27-33)**

Follow-Up Activities

- Students' Workshop on "Partition and Displacement in the East" in collaboration with Jadavpur University, Rabindra Bharati University and University of Calcutta.

The CRG in collaboration with Jadavpur University, Rabindra Bharati University and University of Calcutta organised a day-long students' workshop on 20 November 2012 at Swabhumi, Kolkata. 20 participants were selected for the workshop. The entire workshop was divided into four business sessions namely, i) Partition and Forced Migration, ii) Testimonies and Memories of Displacement, iii) Participants' Round Table, iv) Interactive session on the two themes of partition and displacement - literature review and caste and politics of Rehabilitation. **(For the detailed report on the students' workshop please see page 50)**



Heli Lehto, Ranabir Samaddar, Paula Banerjee and Peter Burgess in the inaugural session (from left to right)

3. Participants

Amrita Limbu: Research Associate in the Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility, Kathmandu. She did her MA from South Asian Studies, Pondicherry University and Postgraduate Diploma in Human Rights.

Amruta Paradkar: A Ph.D student working on ‘Food Security and Migration’ at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. She also works with the Office of the Advisor (Maharashtra) to the Commissioners appointed by the Supreme Court in the case of PUCL v/s UoI,CWP 196/2001.

Anwasha Sengupta: Research and Programme Assistant in MCRG and is also pursuing her Ph.D from Centre for Historical Studies, JNU, New Delhi.

Aradhana Jena: RSD Assistant in UNHCR, New Delhi. She manages the refugee/asylum seekers’ reception desk in the Office of the Chief of Mission, UNHCR, New Delhi.

Benoit Mayer: A PhD Student at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore. He specializes on the global governance of climate and environmental migration, international human rights law and European Union law.

Debraj Deb: Journalist working with local media in Tripura, India since 2008. He is also pursuing his Post Graduation in Journalism and Mass Communication from Tripura Central University.

Gitta Shreshtha Thapa: She works as a research officer with NCCR, Kathmandu. She holds M. Phil degree in Resources and Human Adaptations from University of Bergen, Norway.

Himadri Chatterjee: An M.Phil student in the Centre for Political Studies, JNU, New Delhi. He is presently in the process of finishing his dissertation on ‘Refugee Rehabilitation in West Bengal: A Study of The Camp and The Colony’.

Madhurilata Basu: Completed her MA from University of Calcutta and is currently pursuing her dissertation on ‘Women in India’s Informal Sector: Select Spheres’.

Mohd. Amirul Islam: Bangladesh Overseas Manager at the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies. He did his MA in International Relations from the University of Dhaka.

Marko Szilvester Macskovich: A PhD student working on ‘Technological Innovations and their Effect on the Refugee Protection Context’ in Osaka School of International Public Policy, Osaka University, Japan.

Natalia Herbst: She holds a Lic. in International Studies, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, and awarded a Fulbright Commission Young Leaders scholarship. She specialises on international cooperation in the Latin-American region with special reference to Brazil and Haiti.

Pravina Gurung: Project Coordinator in IOM, Kathmandu. She has also served as a Deputy Director at Nepal Institute of Development Studies (NIDS).

Preeti Rani: A PhD student in Delhi University. She did her MA in Social Work from DSSW.

Sanghita Dutta: A PhD student in Centre for the Study of Social Systems, JNU, New Delhi. She specializes on partition related issues, forced migration and refugee studies.

Shaivya Verma: Rresearcher at Institute for Research on India and International Studies, Gurgaon. She did internship at National Foundation for India.

Shilpa Nandy: Assistant Professor in Political Science, Khudiram Bose Central College, Kolkata. Currently she is pursuing her Ph.D from Rabindra Bharati University.

Vanessa Tarantini: A volunteer of the United Nations in Brazil working on the education projects. She specializes on International Relations.



*Participants presenting their assignments, moderator::
Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chandburi (from left to right)*



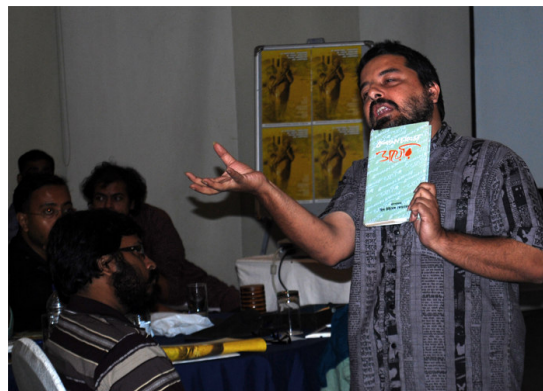
*Participants presenting their assignments, moderator::
Ranabir Samaddar (from left to right)*



*Participants presenting their assignments, moderator:
Asha Hans (from left to right)*



*Special panel on Voices: Nasreen Chowdhury, Sudeep Basu and
Paula Banerjee (from left to right)*



Parnab Mukherjee performing his play on Kalpana Chakma in inaugural session

4. Members of Faculty

Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury: Research and Programme Associate, CRG.

Asha Hans: Director, Sansristi, Bhubaneswar, Orissa and member of CRG.

Atig Ghosh: Research and Programme Associate, CRG.

Biswajit Roy: Eminent Journalist, The Telegraph, Kolkata.

Chris Dolan: Director, Refugee Law Project, Makerere University, Uganda.

Hans Schodder: Deputy Chief of Mission, UNHCR, New Delhi.

Heli Lehto: Second Secretary, Embassy of Finland, New Delhi.

Kalyan Rudra: Chairman, West Bengal Wasteland Development Corporation.

K.M. Parivelan: Senior Project Manager, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai and member of CRG.

Manoj Sinha: Associate Professor, WB National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata.

Michele Millard: Coordinator, Centre for Refugee Studies, York University, Canada.

Monirul Hussain: Professor, Department of Political Science, Gauhati University.

Montserrat Feixas Vihe: Chief of Mission, UNHCR, New Delhi.

Nasreen Chowdhory: Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Delhi University.

Nergis Canefe: Associate Professor, School of Public Policy & Administration and Associate Director, Centre for Refugee Studies, York University, Canada.

Nilanjan Dutta: Eminent Journalist and member of CRG.

Parnab Mukherjee: An alternative Theatre Director and freelance media analyst based in Kolkata.

Paula Banerjee: President, CRG and Associate Professor, Department of South and South East Asian Studies, University of Calcutta.

Pekka Voutilainen: Charge d' Affairs, Embassy of Finland, New Delhi.

Peter Burgess: Research Professor, PRIO, Oslo, Norway.

Pradip Kumar Bose: Sociologist and member of CRG.

Ranabir Samaddar: Director, CRG.

Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury: Vice Chancellor, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata and member, CRG.

Sanjukta Bhattacharya: Director, Centre for Refugee Studies & Professor, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

Samir Kumar Das: Vice-Chancellor, North Bengal University, West Bengal and member of CRG

Samita Sen: Professor and Head, Department of Women's Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata

Subhash Ranjan Chakraborty: Historian and member, CRG.

Sucharita Sengupta: Independent Researcher based in Kolkata.

Sudeep Basu: Assistant Professor at the Gujarat Institute of Development Research (GIDR), Ahmedabad. He extensively worked on refugee diasporas with special reference to the Tibetan refugee settlement in eastern India.

Vinai Singh: Associate Professor, Indian Society of International Law (ISIL), New Delhi



Special panel on “Reporting Conflict, Development and Displacement in East and Northeast”: Sopan Joshi, Nirmalya Banerjee, Anirban Roy and Rajat Roy (from left to right)



Paula Banerjee, Asha Hans, Samita Sen and Sanjukta Bhattacharya in a special panel on “Are Women's Experiences Exceptional in Forced Migration Annals?” (from left to right)



Nikhil Rosban, Jayanta Kalita, Sibaji Pratim Basu and Chitra Abantbem (from left to right)



Participants presenting their assignments, moderator: Atig Ghosh (left to right)

5. Partnerships, Supporting and Collaborating Institutions

The Orientation 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, 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. They 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 has got support from the Government of Finland to build up a Resource Centre on Forced Migration, a part of the Forced Migration programme and CRG is grateful to The Government of Finland for that. CRG also takes this opportunity to acknowledge its debt to The Refugee Research Network (RRN), York University and the Refugee Study Centre (RSC), Oxford University, for supporting CRG's initiative to install this digitized resource centre, which has become a significant part of the forced migration programme.

Field Visits

This year CRG arranged a field visit to Darjeeling, West Bengal as one of the major components of media workshop for the participants of the Orientation Course during 9-11 October 2012. At Darjeeling, CRG organized two panel discussions namely, i) 'State, Media and the People' held on 9 October 2012 and, ii) "An interface with the local media" held on 10 October 2012. CRG is indebted to Anup Sekhar Charkaborty, Assistant Professor and Padam Nepal, Associate Professor, St. Joseph's Collage, Darjeeling for coordinating visits to Tibetan Refugee Re-settlement Centre in Darjeeling and to Lepcha Jagat near Kalimpong. CRG wishes to thank Amar Rai, Chairman, Municipal Board, Darjeeling Municipality and Trilok Dewan, MLA for their support. CRG also organized a participants' discussion on the reflections of field visit in collaboration with North Bengal University held on 11 October 2012 at the campus of the esteemed university. CRG acknowledges debts to the University. **(For detailed report on field visit please see page 32)**

Follow-Up Programme

The CRG organised a day-long students' workshop on 20 November 2012 at Swabhumi, Kolkata. CRG is grateful to the Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Calcutta, Centre for Refugee Studies and School of Women Studies, Jadavpur University and Department of Human Rights and Human Development, Rabindra Bharati University in encouraging their students to participate in the workshop. **(For detailed report please see page 50)**



*Participants presenting their assignments, Moderator:
K. M. Parivelan*

6. Schedule

The Tenth Orientation Course on Forced Migration

(30 September -14 October 2012)

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

Schedule of Workshops, Round Tables under Four Modules, Course Assignments, Field Visit, Media Workshops, 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.]

30 September (Sunday)

Formal Inauguration

05.00 - 5.30 PM	Tea and Registration
05.30 - 5.45 PM	Welcome address and introducing CRG's research on forced migration by Paula Banerjee , President, CRG and faculty, University of Calcutta
05.45 - 6.00 PM	Introductory remarks by the Special Guest, Heli Lehto , Second Secretary, the Embassy of Finland, New Delhi
06.00 - 6.45 PM	Inaugural Lecture (Fourth CRG Distinguished Lecture) on 'What is Critical Migration Studies?' by Peter Burgess , PRIO, Oslo, Norway
06.45 - 7.30 PM	Performance piece on Kalpana Chakma by Parnab Mukherjee , an alternative theatre director
07.30 – 7.35 PM	Vote of Thanks by Suha Priyadarshini Chakravorty , CRG Chair: Paula Banerjee

1 October (Monday)

09.30 -11.00 AM	Orientation of the Course by Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury , CRG & Sudeep Basu , Gujarat Institute of Development Research (GIDR), Ahmedabad
11.00 - 11.30 AM	Tea break
11.30 - 01.00 PM	Theme Lecture on Module A by Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury , Vice-Chancellor, Rabindra Bharati University and member CRG
01.00 - 02.00 PM	Lunch
02.00 - 03.30 PM	Special lecture by Nergis Canafe , York University, USA Chair: Paula Banerjee
03.30 - 04.00 PM	Tea break
04.00 - 05.30 PM	Participants Workshop under Module A Participants: Anwesha Sengupta , Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi & CRG; Himadri Chatterjee , Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Amrita Limbu , Centre for the Study of Labour & Mobility, Nepal; Marko S. Macskovich , Osaka University, Japan Moderator: Ranabir Samaddar , Director, CRG
06.00 - 08.00 PM	Library hours

2 October (Tuesday)

09.30 - 11.00 AM	CRG's Research Presentation by Paula Banerjee
11.00 - 11.30 AM	Tea break
11.30 – 01.00 PM	Participants' workshop continued Moderator: Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury
01.00 – 02.00 PM	Lunch break
02.00 – 03.30 PM	Special Lecture by Vinai Singh , Indian Society of International Law (ISIL), New Delhi
03.30 - 04.00 PM	Tea break
04.00 - 05.30 PM	Rapporteurs' presentation on Module A
07.00 PM onwards	Dinner discussion with Michele Millard , Centre for Refugee Studies, York University, USA

3 October (Wednesday)

09.30 – 11.00 AM	Theme Lecture Module B by Asha Hans , Sanshristi, Bhubaneswar.
11.00 – 11.30 AM	Tea break
11.30 – 01.00 PM	Participants' Workshop under Module B Participants: Aradhana Jena , UNHCR, New Delhi; Preeti Rani , Delhi University, New Delhi; Shaivya Verma , Institute for Research on India and International Studies, Gurgaon; Gitta Shreshtha Thapa , NCCR, Kathmandu Nepal; Vanessa Tarantini , UN volunteer, Brazil Moderator: Asha Hans
01.00 – 02.00 PM	Lunch break
02.00 – 03.00 PM	Participants' workshop continued
04.00 – 05.30 PM	Public Lecture by Nergis Canafe in collaboration with DSSEAS, University of Calcutta Venue: DSSEAS, University of Calcutta

4 October (Thursday)

09.30 – 11.00 AM	CRG's research presentation on "Voices" by Nasreen Chowdhory, Delhi University & Sudeep Basu
11.00 – 11.30 AM	Tea break
11.30 – 01.00 PM	Round Table under Module B on "Are Women's Experiences Exceptional in Forced Migration Annals?" Speakers: Samita Sen , Jadavpur University; Paula Banerjee , Sanjukta Bhattacharya , Jadavpur University; Moderator: Asha Hans
01.00 – 02.00 PM.	Lunch break
02.00 – 03.30 PM	Rapporteurs' presentation on Module B
03.30 – 04.00 PM	Tea break
04.00 – 05.30 PM	Special Lecture by Ranabir Samaddar
06.00 – 08.00 PM	Library hours IASFM meeting Venue: CRG Office

5 October (Friday)

09.30 – 11.00 AM	Theme lecture on Module C by Monirul Hussain , Gauhati University
11.00 – 11.30 AM	Tea Break
11.30 – 01.00 PM	Participants' workshop under Module C Participants: Amruta Paradkar , Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai; Madhurilata Basu , Independent Researcher; Shilpa Nandy , Khudiram Bose Central College, Kolkata; Mohd. Amirul Islam , American Institute of Bangladesh Studies, Bangladesh; Benoit Mayer , National University of Singapore, Singapore Moderator: K.M. Parivelan , TISS, Mumbai
01.00 – 02.00 PM	Lunch break
02.00 – 03.30 PM	Participants' workshop continued
03.30 – 04.00 PM	Tea break
04.00 – 05.30 PM	Roundtable on "River Erosion & Displacement" Speakers: Nilanjan Dutta , Journalist; Kalyan Rudra , Chairman, West Bengal Wasteland Development Corporation Chair: Monirul Hussain
06.00 – 08.00 PM	Library hours

6 October (Saturday)

09.30 – 11.00 AM	CRG's Research Presentation by K. M. Parivelan
11.00 – 11.30 AM	Tea Break
11.30 – 01.00 PM	Special Lecture by Subhash Ranjan Chakraborty , Eminent historian & Member CRG
01.00 – 02.00 PM	Lunch break
02.00 – 03.30 PM	Rapporteurs' presentation on Module C workshop
03.30 – 04.00 PM	Tea break
04.00 – 05.30 PM	Film Screening Bhangan (in Bengali with Sub-title)
06.00 – 07.30 PM	Introduction to the field trip at CRG's office

7 October (Sunday)

09.30 – 11.00 AM	Theme Lecture on Module D by Paula Banerjee
11.00 – 11.30 AM	Tea Break
11.30 – 01.00 PM	Participants' workshop under Module D Participants: Sanghita Dutta , Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Pravina Gurung , International Organization for Migration, Nepal; Natalia Herbst , Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, Argentina
01.00 – 02.00 PM	Lunch break
02.00 – 03.00 PM	Experiences of Field Work on Stateless in Arunachal Pradesh Speakers: Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury and Sucharita Sengupta , Independent Research
03.00 – 04.00 PM	Interactive Session with Chris Dolan , Director, Refugee Law Project, Makerere University, Uganda
04.00 – 05.30 PM	Special lecture by Manoj Sinha , NUJS, Kolkata
05.30 - 07.00 PM	Film Screening: Hotel Rawanda

8 October (Monday)

09.30 – 11.00 AM	CRG's Research presentation on Module D by Atig Ghosh , CRG
11.00 – 11.30 AM	Tea Break
11.30 – 01.00 PM	Special lecture by Hans Schodder , Deputy Chief of Mission, UNHCR, New Delhi
01.00 – 02.00 PM	Lunch break
02.00 – 03.30 PM	Rapporteurs' presentation on Module D workshop
03.30 – 04.00 PM	Tea break

*Departure for Field visit to Darjeeling (Resource Persons: **Sibaji Pratim Basu** Member of CRG and Sri Chaitanya Habra College; **Nirmalya Banerjee**, The Times of India, Kolkata; **Raghab Bandopadhyay** Eminent Journalist; **Rajat Roy**, Kolkata TV; **Biswajit Roy**, The Telegraph, Kolkata; **Anup Sekhar Chakraborty**, and **Padam Nepal**, St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling)*

9 October (Tuesday- Arrival) – 11 October (Thursday - Departure)

Field visit in Darjeeling

12 October (Friday)

11.30 – 12.30 PM	Special Lecture on “Myanmar’s Rohingyas and Assam’s Muslims of Bengali Origin: Comparative Perspectives of Exclusion and Statelessness” by Subir Bhoumik , Eminent Journalist Chair: Pradip Kumar Bose , Eminent Sociologist
12.30 – 01.30 PM	Lunch break
01.30 – 02.30 PM	Participants’ workshop under Module E: Group A Participants: Nikhil Roshan , the Bengal Post, Kolkata; Chitra Ahanthem , Imphal Free Press, Imphal; Jayanta Kalita , Seven Sisters’ Post, Guwahati Moderator: Sibaji Pratim Basu , Sri Chaitanya College, Habra and member, CRG
02.30 – 03.30 PM	Workshop continued: Group B Participants: Amitava Das , PTI, Kolkata; Subhasish Chatterji , Akash Bangla, Kolkata; Vikhar Ahmed Sayeed , Frontline, Bangalore; Debraj Deb , Free lance journalist, Tripura Moderator: Rajat Ray , eminent journalist
03.30 – 04.30 PM	Tea break
04.30 – 05.30 PM	Workshop continued: Group C Participants: Sohini Majumdar , Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Sabir Ahamed , SNAP, Kolkata; Vishu Rita Krocha , The Eastern Mirror, Nagaland Moderator: Sibaji Pratim Basu
05.30 – 07.00 PM	Round table on “Reporting Conflict, Development and Displacement in East and the Northeast” Speakers: Nirmalya Banerjee , The Times of India, Kolkata; Sopan Joshi , freelance journalist; Rajat Roy , Kolkata TV; Moderator: Anirban Roy , The Bengal Post, Kolkata

13 October (Saturday)

09.30 – 11.00 AM	Field Visit Reporting
11.00 – 11.30 AM	Tea break
11.30 – 01.00 PM	Rapporteurs' presentation on Module E
01.00 – 02.00 PM	Lunch break
02.00 – 03.30 PM	Evaluation
04.00 – 05.30 PM	Interactive Session with Montserrat Feixas Vihe , Chief of Mission, UNHCR, New Delhi.

14 October (Sunday)

09.30 – 11.00 AM	Discussion on the Course with Ranabir Samaddar
05.00 – 05.30 PM	Tea
05.30 – 05.35 PM	Welcome address by Paula Banerjee
05.35 – 05.45 PM	Report on the Tenth Orientation Course on Forced Migration by Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury
05.45 – 06.00 PM	Remarks by Chief Guest, Montserrat Feixas Vihe
06.00 – 06.15 PM	Brief remarks on the Course by some participants
06.15 – 06.40 PM	Distribution of Certificates to the course participants followed by brief address by Guest, of Honour, Pekka Voutilainen , Charge d' Affaires, Embassy of Finland, New Delhi
06.40 – 07.30 PM	Valedictory Lecture by Samir K. Das , Vice-Chancellor, North Bengal University and member CRG
07.30 – 07.35 PM	Vote of thanks by Suha Priyadarshini Chakravoty Chair: Paula Banerjee



Participants of the Tenth Annual Orientation Course with a few CRG members

7. Distance Education: Modules and Assignments

Distance Education: Modules and Assignments

The Course was structured around four modules all of which were mandatory for the participants.

Course Modules

- A. Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): Definitions and New Issues in Protection
- B. Gendered Nature of Forced Migration
- C. Environmental Crisis, Conflict, Resource and Internal Displacement
- D. Statelessness in South Asia
- E. Media and Forced Migration

The distance education segment of the Orientation Course began on **1 July 2012**. As in earlier courses, this was carried out through the secured segment on the CRG website www.mcrg.ac.in which was accessed by the participants and the faculty. The segment was uploaded with circulars with the details of participants, faculty members, assignments, chat sessions, reading materials etc. The distance education based on regular interactions between the course desk, the participants and faculty formed the fulcrum on which the Kolkata Workshop was based. Two chat sessions under each module were organised, where the participants could engage in one-to-one conversations with their module tutors.

Participants were requested to submit a research report/research article/review of literature (of 4,000-5,000 words) based on any of the sub-themes under any one of the five modules during the distance-education segment. Participants presented their research findings at the workshops held at Kolkata. **(Please see the list of themes selected by the participants on pages 25-26).**

Module A: Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): Definitions and New Issues in Protection

Core Faculty Members: *Ranabir Samaddar*

The module dealt with the definitions of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the emerging issues related to their protection. While international law on protection of refugees deals with the condition, status, and the rights of persons who have already escaped the persecution and crossed the border to seek asylum, this module deals with what may be called the “root causes” of the flight. It is in this respect that one has to discuss the phenomena of racism and xenophobia, and the relation of the state controls on immigration with the issue of protection of refugees.

It must be understood that when we discuss the root causes of the refugee flow and the un-wanted and unprotected status of the refugees, we are not ignoring the historic patterns of migration on which population flows including forced population movements are often built. Some have termed this as “transplanted networks”. The problem one is often confronted with in studying root causes is the “exceptional” nature of the refugee situation. Is the refugee situation exceptional because the refugee is merely outside some state responsibility? Or, and this is what we are implying, is the refugee situation exceptional because of the inherent violence of the state, and the incapacity of all states to fulfil their human rights obligations consistently? The question is complicated, because it affects the political attitude and will of the States to grant asylum to a person on the ground of “well founded fear.” Also, refugees enjoy very few rights but one of the most intrinsic rights for a refugee is the right to return.

In this module the relation between refugee flow and immigration flow, and the way in which immigration is controlled today impacts on refugee protection was highlighted. The flow of (illegal) immigration has not only overwhelmed in some cases the flow of refugees, it has got mixed with it also to such an extent that we can say that ‘aliens’ have appeared as a subject in the world today. The mix of the two flows, of the refugees and illegal immigrants, now accentuates all the problems facing humanitarian politics today.

Another failure has been the inability of the convention to recognise the special needs of women, children, and aged people within the sections of refugees, though this has been addressed to some extent in the provisions of CEDAW convention but need to be reflected in 1951 convention as well. The provisions of 1951 convention further need revision due to increased complexities in the process of refugee generation, protection and also owing to advances in the field of refugee studies. The increased focus on refugee studies has led to the broadening of definitions of ‘refugee’, ‘protection’, ‘rights’, ‘justice’ etc.

In this module the focus was on various aspects of refugee protection at an international level in general and on South Asian level in particular. To mention a few of them:

1. What do we mean by Refugees, Asylum Protection etc in socio-politico and legal terms?
2. What are the special provisions required for protection of women, children and other marginalised communities in the overall context of refugee protection and law?
3. What’s the distinction between the Human Rights Law and Humanitarian Law with respect to refugee protection?
4. What are the safeguards available for the protection of refugees in International Law?
5. What is the responsibility of the state and society towards the refugees? Can they simply be seen as problems and responsibility of the host country alone?
6. Is there a link between the refugee protection regime, international law and globalisation?
7. What has been the record of Indian state vis-à-vis refugee protection since partition?

Contextualising Internal Displacement in South Asia

Besides being ‘potential refugees’ who might cross international borders, most of the IDPs living in the countries share ethnic continuities with the people of the neighbouring countries. The Pashtuns of North-West Pakistan for example, seem to harbour an active interest in the affairs of their ethnic cousins living in Afghanistan and vice versa. Similarly, much of what happens inside today’s Myanmar has its implications for the minorities of northeastern India and Bangladesh. Massive displacement and the resulting plight of the predominantly tribal populations such as, the Nagas of Myanmar continue to be one of the pressing issues of the Naga rebel discourse across the borders and the ethnic cousins of Myanmar are described by it as, ‘the Eastern Nagas’. Insofar as the creation of national borders could not make many of these pre-existing ethnic spaces completely obsolescent, South Asia’s living linkages with West or South East Asia can hardly be exaggerated. Also national specificities notwithstanding South Asian IDPs are connected by their ethnicities, minority status and situations of extreme marginalisation. This portrays the reality that in so far as in South Asian IDPs cannot be regarded as a national category. It is essential to think of them as regional categories and thereby framing questions around why IDPs are more vulnerable, what special provisions are there for women and whose responsibility it is to protect them becomes important to reassess.

Assignments

- What are the basic differences between the refugees and IDPs? Argue your case with suitable illustrations.
- Why the ‘right to return’ is an important issue so far as refugees are concerned? Illustrate with at least two suitable examples.

- What is meant by the phrase ‘mixed and massive flows’? Write an essay on emerging juridical discourses in view of the massive and mixed flows of displaced persons.
- Make an assessment of the resettlement and rehabilitation policies of the conflict-induced or development-induced IDPs in your own country/province.

Module B: Gendered Nature of Forced Migration

Core Faculty Members: *Asha Hans and Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury*

The module analyses the various modalities of the gendered nature of forced migration. It discusses the way in which natural disasters, conflicts etc. contribute to people being forced to flee their homes and leave their relatives and belongings behind. This leads to their homelessness, and they are left traumatized and in a situation of displacement which alters their life radically making their future uncertain. According to the annual report of the UNHCR entitled "Global Trends" the number of people forcibly uprooted by conflict and persecution worldwide stood at 42 million at the end of 2009, out of which 16 million people are refugees and asylum seekers and 26 million internally displaced people uprooted within their own countries. More than eighty percent of the total number is made up of women and their dependent children. An overwhelming majority of these women come from the developing world with South Asia being the fourth largest refugee-producing region in the world. Both displacement and asylum is undoubtedly a gendered experience and at least in the context of South Asia since it results from and is related to the marginalization of women. The South Asian 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.

The nation building projects in South Asia have led to the creation of a homogenized identity of citizenship. State machineries seek to create a “unified” and “national” citizenry that accepts the central role of the existing elite. This is done through privileging majoritarian male and monolithic cultural values that deny the space to difference. Such a denial has often led to the segregation of minorities, on the basis of caste, religion and gender from the collective ‘we’. One way of marginalizing women from body politic is done by targeting them and displacing them in times of state versus community conflict. As a refugee, a woman loses her individuality, subjectivity, citizenship and her ability to make political choices. As political non-subjects refugee women emerge as the symbol of difference between ‘us’/citizens and its ‘other’/refugees/non-citizens. By taking some select examples from South Asia in this module we will address such theoretical assumptions. Here the category of refugee women will include women who have crossed international borders and those who are internally displaced can also be regarded as potential refugees.

Women in the Camps

Generally, refugees or internally displaced persons (IDPs) may have no other option than to seek protection and assistance in camps. Although camps are necessarily a choice of last resort, they often represent the only option for displaced persons in need of assistance, safety and security. In situations of conflict and natural disaster it seems initially that camps may be needed for only few months. Often the reality is that camps last for years and sometimes even for decades. Yet it is true that regardless of their life span, they can only offer temporary assistance and protection and do not represent a durable solution for displaced persons. Despite their temporary nature, therefore it becomes imperative that camps exist in order to ensure that the basic human right to life with dignity is upheld for the camp community. Once camps are established efficient and sensitive management is needed to ensure that they function effectively in what are often complex and challenging circumstances. Where humanitarian assistance and protection in a camp are not organized properly, coordinated, and monitored, the vulnerability and dependence of the camp population increases. Gaps in assistance, or duplication of humanitarian aid, can lead to partial and inequitable provision of services and inadequate protection.

There are insufficient accounts of camp lives of women partition refugees. What we have is mostly stories and some autobiographical writings. After all we have to remember that the partition of the Indian subcontinent in 1947 witnessed probably the largest refugee movement in modern history. About 8 million Hindus and Sikhs left Pakistan to resettle in India while about 6-7 million Muslims went to Pakistan. Such transfer of population was accompanied by horrific violence. Some 50,000 Muslim women in India and 33,000 non-Muslim women in Pakistan were abducted, abandoned or separated from their families. Women's experiences of migration, abduction and destitution during partition and State's responses to it is a pointer to the relationship between women's position as marginal participants in state politics and gender subordination as perpetrated by the State. In this context the experiences of abducted women and their often forcible repatriation by the State assumes enormous importance today when thousands of South Asian women are either refugees, migrants or stateless within the subcontinent. Abducted women were not considered as legal entities with political and constitutional rights.

Women are discouraged from taking up employment outside the camps. During multiple displacements women who have never coped with such situations before are often at a loss for necessary papers. When separated from male members of their family they are vulnerable to sexual abuse. The camps are not conducive for the personal safety of women, as they enjoy no privacy. In fact, when they get shelter in camps with other women as well as men, their private space get merged with the public space. Above all, what is more worrying is that, without any institutional support women become particularly vulnerable to human traffickers. These people aided by network of criminals force women into prostitution.

The overwhelming presence of women among the refugee populations is not an accident of history. It is a way by which states have made women political non-subjects. The de-politization of women becomes marked in refugee and IDP camps, which are the epicenter of marginalization of groups that are considered as alien or unwanted. They face a hostile world outside of the camps as they are marked as aliens and within the camps they are victimized by their own patriarchies. The physical structure of these camps emphasizes the total disregard of women's concerns. The camps are often built in such a way that there is usually a complete lack of privacy of women. Their lack of mobility outside of the camps makes them isolated and completely robs them of their right to make free choices. Despite the excessive abuse and violence that women are exposed to, they are resilient and resourceful in camps. These prove that camps can be islands of protection if different agencies and women's groups assist women to take up the challenges.

By making women permanent refugees, living a savage life in camps, it is easy to homogenize them, ignore their identity, individuality and subjectivity. By reducing refugee women to the status of mere victims in our own narratives we accept the homogenization of women and their de-politicization. We legitimize a space where states can make certain groups of people political non-subjects. With these facts under consideration this module analysed the causes of such de-politicization that often results in displacements keeping the refugees, IDPs and stateless women in mind and considers policy alternatives that might help in their rehabilitation and care in South Asia.

Assignments

- Why listening to women's experiences and chronicling them is particularly relevant for understanding refugee situations in South Asia.
- Is lack of control over resources a reason for women's displacement? Argue your case with reference to one particular group of women refugees/IDPs.
- Critically discuss whether the policies pursued by national and international actors have been adequate in addressing the specific issue of women refugees / displaces.
- Write on camps as sites of insecurity for women. Give examples taken from any refugee or IDP Camps.

- Can the right to return be the only durable solution for women? Give your response with examples taken from any one of the following cases: Sri Lankan IDPs/ Afghan refugees in Pakistan/ Bhutanese Refugees.

Module C: Environment, Resources and Displacement

Core Faculty Member: *K.M. Parivelan*

Module C focused on environment challenges, resource crises and related displacements as major concerns facing the contemporary development discourse today. Forced migration due to resource crisis caused by climate change and environmental degradation is a serious impediment to attaining the basic normative goal of equity, participation and development. The module intended to examine to what extent the issues of environmental challenges, resource crisis, climate change and resultant displacement are impairing social equality on the one hand, and to what extent existing social inequality, particularly in the relationship between developed and developing countries are causing the problems of resource crisis and displacement on the other.

It is already accepted that one of the major sources of climate change, environmental degradation, and subsequent resource crisis is our present mode of production and consumption. Climate change and a resultant resource crisis as direct cause of forced migration is an issue on which there are different views. On the one hand, there is a view that climate change and environmental degradation are increasingly becoming a significant cause of forced migration, and, therefore, one should give proper attention to the environmental factors of forced migration by officially recognising these migrated people as environmental refugees. On the other hand, there is a view that while environmental degradation and climate change do play a part in forced migration, they are at the same time closely linked to a range of other political and economic factors. Therefore, focusing on environmental factors in isolation from political and economic factors cannot help to adequately understand the issue of forced migration. On the contrary, identifying these people as merely environmental refugee might divert attention from the complex nature of the relationship between climate change, resource crisis and displacement of the population. There is need for a comprehensive and multi-dimensional approach by fusing together approaches to understanding natural resource management, climate change and global warming. In India, while the institutional mechanism is geared up at the national level, many States are yet to create disaster-management structures. It is yet to be seen whether the paradigm shift from reactive responses to proactive preparedness and mitigation is going to be a reality. There is a long way to go. Particularly there is a need to strengthen community resilience through community-based disaster management. Thus, we need to look at the linkage between environmental challenges, climate change and natural disasters with a holistic and integrated approach all over South Asia.

Forced migration due to resource crisis caused by climate change and environmental degradation is a serious impediment to attaining the basic normative goal of equity, participation and development. In this module it is particularly intended to examine to what extent the issues of environmental challenges and resource crisis and resultant displacement are impairing social equality on the one hand, and to what extent existing social inequality, particularly in the relationship between developed and developing countries are causing the problems of resource crisis and displacement on the other. The basic objective of this module was to therefore contemplate the impacts of environmental challenges, resource crisis, climate change and subsequent displacement on the development of society with the following framework suggested:

- Resource conflict and internal displacement – experiences of indigenous population and groups in India (Review of resettlement policies in South Asia)
- Disaster induced displacement – experiences and policies
- Global Survey of the IDP situation and the question of standards-relevance of the Guiding Principles.
- Voices from the IDP camps

Resource Crises

Natural resource management is a discipline in the management of natural resources such as land, water, soil, plants and animals, with a particular focus on how management affects the quality of life for both present and future generations. Natural resource management is interrelated with the concept of sustainable development, a principle that forms the basis for land management and environmental governance throughout the world. There can be many examples to show that natural resources are by no means purely economic entities but also have political connotations, therefore, resource politics is an apt category. There is a strong interplay between economic and political issues vis-a-vis resources. Basic natural resources like water and fertile land are about survival of people, whereas other natural resources like ore, oil, timber are about revenue; therefore political behaviour/structures are also important. From an overall South Asian perspective, there is need to look at resource politics to see how and why resource scarcity and dependence can trigger or have detrimental effects on the processes and structures of democracy, peace, stability, socio-economic development and ethnic balance. At inter-state levels, for example, there have always been water-sharing problems between India and Pakistan or India and Bangladesh. Even taking an intra-state example, in Sri Lanka the ethnic conflict got perpetuated because of strife over social, cultural, economic and political spaces.

Global warming has effected a change in the quantum and patterns of precipitation. The changes in temperature and precipitation patterns have increased the frequency, duration and intensity of extreme weather events like floods, droughts, heat waves and cyclones. Other effects of global warming include higher or lower agricultural yields, further glacial retreat, reduced summer stream flows, species extinctions and disease outbreaks. Hence, intervention is essential with the participation of people so as to mitigate the effect of the global warming. Awareness is lacking among the public on the need to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, to follow energy-saving methods.

Assignments

- Analyze the current environmental and resource crises causing involuntary migration with a suitable case study of your choice.
- Discuss the relevance of the UN Guiding Principles vis-à-vis displacement induced by development or natural disasters.
- Discuss the experiences/voices of vulnerable groups/marginalised (e.g. indigenous tribes) in development induced displacements in South Asia.
- Analyse any natural disaster case study (flood, cyclone, earthquake, tsunamis etc.) in the context of relief and rehabilitation policy.
- Discuss the scope of integrating Climate Change Adaption and Disaster Risk Reduction with suitable illustrations.
- Write an essay on the debate between developed and developing nations' position on tackling global environmental challenges.

Module D: Statelessness in South Asia

Core Faculty Member: *Paula Banerjee and Atig Ghosh*

The module examined the various aspects and intricacies enmeshed with the issue of statelessness in general and the way it thwarts South Asia. Statelessness refers to the condition or quality of being, in some way, without a state. In fact it means someone 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 or membership of a state – 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.

According to the International Law Commission, the definition of stateless persons contained in Article 1 (1) of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons now forms part of customary international law. The Article defines ‘stateless persons’ as those who are not recognized as nationals by any state under the operation of its law. They therefore have no nationality or citizenship and are unprotected by national legislation and left in the arc of vulnerability. The International Law Commission has observed that the definition of a stateless person contained in Article 1(1) is now part of customary international law. 1954 Convention relating to the status of Stateless Persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness exclusively deal with the issue of statelessness. These two legal instruments explain statelessness mainly in two ways *de jure* and *de facto*. A stateless person as defined by the 1954 convention is generally equated with the term *de jure* statelessness. Besides, the Convention also refers to the category of *de facto* stateless persons - who remain outside the country of their nationality and hence are unable, or, for valid reasons, unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of that country. ‘Protection’ in this context refers to the right to diplomatic protection exercisable by a State of nationality in order to remedy an internationally wrongful act against one of its nationals, as well as diplomatic and consular protection and assistance, generally including her return to the State of nationality. Again, Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights lays down: “Everyone has a nationality. No One shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality or the right to change his nationality”. It implies first of all that one cannot have the option of remaining stateless and secondly, deprivation of nationality or denial of the right to nationality is possible provided it is not ‘arbitrary’. International Law empowers the state to determine by the operation of law who are its citizens. The operation of law must be in accordance with the principles established by International Law. The stateless are those who do not have any nationality and not having nationality may be the outcome of the way a state determines its nationality. One acquires one’s nationality insofar as a ‘genuine and effective link’ is established through any combination of birth, descent and residency within the state. In this context, it is to be kept in mind that nationality and citizenship are two words most commonly used to describe the same phenomenon – the legal bond of membership between an individual and a State. Nationality can only be conferred or confirmed by states and states are responsible for protecting the fundamental rights of everybody on their territory including those of stateless persons.

Statelessness most commonly affects refugees although not all refugees are stateless, and not all stateless men, women and children may be able to qualify as refugees. Refugee status entails the extra requirements that the refugee be outside his or her country of nationality (or country of habitual domicile if stateless), and is deserving of asylum based upon a well-founded fear of persecution for categorized reasons which make it unwilling or unable to avail itself of the protection of that country. Statelessness can have a severe impact on the lives of the individuals concerned as well as on the internal – and international – affairs of States. This is in part due to the role that nationality, as membership, plays in the formation of people’s identities and the connection that they feel to the place where they live and the people around them. The possible consequences of statelessness are profound and touch on all aspects of life. It may not be possible for them to work legally, to purchase property or to open a bank account. Stateless people may be easy prey for exploitation as cheap labour. They are often not permitted to attend school or university, may be prohibited from getting married with persons from other communities and may not be able to register births and deaths. Stateless people can neither vote nor access the national justice system. It is against this backdrop, that the module explores the condition of ‘statelessness’ especially in the South Asian context.

Normally statelessness emerges from succession of states or territorial reorganisations. But it also emerges from persecution of minorities and a state’s majoritarian bias, which lead states at times to expel citizens or inhabitants. This condition, reinforced by the protracted refusal of the involved states to take them back, creates a circumstance which may eventually lead to the loss of their nationality and citizenship. Also, states in

South Asia, being what is sometimes referred to as 'kin states', represent social and ethnic continuities across the borders and the cases selected below illustrate this, although there are overlapping sources of statelessness in contemporary South Asia.

Against this backdrop, this module attempted to find answers to the following questions in the light of the experience in South Asia.

- How certain groups and communities are rendered stateless? While successor states in South Asia remain far from being ethnically homogeneous, are minorities living within them more vulnerable to statelessness than others?
- Does protracted refugee-hood eventually result in statelessness? Is the distinction between refugee-hood and statelessness increasingly wearing thin?
- Is it possible to put in place an early warning system for addressing and, if possible, pre-empting the problem of statelessness?
- Is the existing legal regime adequate to deal with the problem of statelessness? What has been the experience with case laws in different countries of South Asia?
- Can judicial activism, as evident in some of the countries, particularly in recent years, serve as an effective guarantee?
- Does the varied nature of our experience in South Asia call for changes in the existing municipal and international laws? Does this underline the necessity of framing a regional law relating to the stateless in South Asia?
- Do policymakers need to think beyond legal terms?
- Does all this call for activating and strengthening the civil society institutions? But how does one take the first step towards combating xenophobia directed at stateless groups?

Some Relevant Cases of Statelessness in South Asia that the Module Explores-

- Chakmas living in Arunachal Pradesh, India
- The inhabitants of the Chhitmahals (Indian enclaves in Bangladesh/ Bangladeshi enclaves in India)
- Lhotshampas in Bhutan
- The displaced Hindus from Pakistan living in India
- Tamils in Sri Lanka and Sri Lankan Tamils in India
- Biharis in Bangladesh
- Rohingyas in Myanmar

Assignments

- Discuss with reference to a case study how the distinction between a Refugee and a Stateless Person is increasingly getting blurred.
- Discuss the 1954 Convention on Statelessness. Frame a Model Regional Law in order to address the problem of Statelessness in South Asia against the background of international legal regimes.
- Suggest with reference to a case study a roadmap for civil society activism in order to address the problem of Statelessness.
- Do you think that the Stateless should have a right to citizenship in the host country? Please enunciate your view on global responsibility relating to statelessness.
- Can stateless women be considered as a special category? Write a research paper on one group of stateless women in South Asia.

Module E: Media and Forced Migration

Core Faculty Member: *Sibaji Pratim Basu*

The module dealt with looking at the ways in which the issue of migration especially that of forced migration is covered by the media. Migration – forced or otherwise – is not an issue that exercises the mainstream media, print or electronic, in any sustained manner. This is particularly true of the metropolitan or more generally urban media. The situation is somewhat different in areas where migration creates endemic and secular problems of governance and everyday life, as with northeast India by and large, where the media has to engage in a more sustained fashion. This would appear to many, as a logical consequence of a combination of factors. But from another perspective, this unwillingness to engage can also be seen to be counter-intuitive. Any large city in South Asia is of necessity beset by the problem of migration, often forced, as the recipient of large numbers of migrants. It is improbable that a citizen who ventures out of his home – or gated community – for even a couple of hours will not have chanced upon people who have been forced to leave their homes to camp in the city in search of livelihood or bare sustenance. Of course, many will have seen such people either without registering them at all or without knowing that they are migrants in the first place. Dwelling on pavements, hawking, begging usually fall on a negative register and are merely looked at as inconveniences.

A large number of migrants to big cities make the move however, because of more push than pull factors. That is to say, they are driven to the city by endemic poverty, disasters and environmental/ecological unsustainability, or conflict situations. Even though they provide a pool of cheap labour, which benefits the host city, the hostility to migrants is unremitting among the citizenry and among the administration. Even the judiciary is often unsympathetic. This is just a thin slice of the problem of forced migration. But it is a good point of departure principally because it serves to highlight a salient point: that the metropolitan mainstream media does not even report the problem of migrants who arrive at their very doorsteps and live their deracinated lives within spitting distance. It is seldom considered necessary that the plight of these migrants should be brought to the notice of the citizenry and the factors behind and dynamics of such migration explained so that host populations can arrive at a more informed understanding of the problem and the issues involved, if they choose to. Given this set of circumstances, it is hardly surprising that newspapers, television channels, the almost extinct radio and internet sites with a predominantly big city market are not moved to report on forced migration and population flows within national borders and even less across national borders, unless, in the latter case, national security is construed to be compromised. A case in point is, for instance, the targeting of Bengali-speaking migrants to Delhi as being Bangladeshi by the state, which receives widespread support from both the media and the citizenry, without, all too often, any attempt to verify actual provenance.

In this kind of a context, it is incumbent, first, on any media organization and the personnel it deploys to understand what forced migration is about: its multifarious manifestations, the factors that cause it, the disabilities it imposes on victims, its macro-social, macro-political and macroeconomic consequences and the ways in which forced migrants can be delivered their ‘just’ entitlements from both a humanitarian and a rights perspective. Consequent to that, it is further incumbent on media organizations to use this understanding and an array of tools, either existent or devised, to present to readers and citizens the various facets and dimensions of the problem to generate public debate about forced migration and perhaps by doing so create citizens’ movements aiming at resolving the problem of forced migration within equitable frames. The module therefore explores ways in which the foregoing can be made more practicable, pragmatic and ‘do-able’.

The media module on forced migration thus, aimed to build media skills so that it can report in a more sustained and extensive manner on the problem, thus playing a necessary and a more effective role in strengthening the rights of forced migrants and ensuring that they get the opportunities that both citizens and non-citizens are entitled to within a nation-state. Therefore, this course focused on acquainting the participants with the problem of forced migration in its myriad forms –causes, forms and remedies in the

shape of national and international legal frameworks. Specific case studies were referred to – for instance, the northeast of India. The module also provided the participants an opportunity to interact with rights activists, survivors, policymakers and academics.

Assignments

- Write a news report on out-migration caused by Cyclone Aila (2009) with special emphasis on relief and rehabilitation measures. Compare the situations in West Bengal and Bangladesh. You may also write a report on the Kashmir earthquake of 2005, comparing relief and rehabilitation on the two sides of the Line of Control.
- Write a follow-up report on the condition of those displaced in Tamil Nadu by the 2004 tsunami.
- Prepare a script for a documentary on conflict-induced displacement in the northeast. You may select any sub-region.
- Review the national and international legal regime governing forced migration. What does India have to do to strengthen it or implement it more effectively? Examine with a case study of your choosing.
- Write a feature report on life in a rehabilitation camp. You can choose your area.
- What is the status of Julian Assange? Write a biased report, reflecting on the Leveson inquiry into Press standards. You can also reflect on the situation refugees in India find themselves in when they are pushed back into an indeterminate country of origin in the context of the policy of *refoulement/non-refoulement*.

List of Themes Selected by the Participants for their Assignments

Time Allotted for Presentation: 20 Minutes

Module A

Date of Presentation: 1 October (Monday) & 2 October (Tuesday)

Presenters	Theme
Anwasha Sengupta	Way Back Home: The Partition of India and the Right to Return of the Refugees
Himadri Chatterjee	From refugees to immigrants: the career of a population at the borders between necessity and potentiality'
Amrita Limbu	Right to Return: The Tibetan & Bhutanese Refugees in Nepal
Marko S. Macskovich	New Protection Strategies for Protracted Refugee Situations: e Solutions in the New Delhi Urban Context

Module B**Date of Presentation: 3 October (Wednesday)**

Presenters	Theme
Aradhana Jena	Burmese women in Delhi: Present Challenges and Future prospects
Preeti Rani	Urban Site and Changing Categories of Migrants
Shaivya Verma	Refugee Women and Protection Regimes in India
Gitta Shreshtha Thapa	Women in post-conflict Nepal: Engendering the issues of women IDPs in national regimes.
Vanessa Tarantini	Violence against Women in Haiti's IDP camps

Module C**Date of Presentation: 5 October (Friday)**

Presenters	Theme
Amruta Paradkar	Parched Districts fuels Migration to Cities: Drought Situations in Satara, Maharashtra
Madhurilata Basu	Developed and developing nations' position on tackling global environmental challenges
Shilpa Nandy	Exploring the Voice of the Women- Induced - Dams Related Displacement: A Case Study of Narmada, Bargi and Kaptai Dam of India Pakistan and Bangladesh
Mohd. Amirul Islam	Kaptai Dam: Revisiting Old Experiences
Benoît Mayer	Environmental Refugees?: A Critical Perspective on the Normative Discourses

Module D**Date of Presentation: 7 October (Sunday)**

Presenters	Theme
Sanghita Dutta	Fighting for rights in a Contesting Space
Pravina Gurung	Stateless in South Asia, Case of the Bhutanese refugee population in Nepal
Natalia Herbst	Statelessness and the Question of Citizenship at birth: Lessons Learned from the cases of ethnic Haitians in the Dominican Republic and the Chakmas in Arunachal Pradesh

Module E**Date of Presentation: 12 October (Friday)**

Presenters	Theme
Debraj Deb	Media & Forced Migration: A Case Study of Media Response to Reang Displacement in Tripura

8. Media and Forced Migration (Film Screenings and the workshop)

Film Screenings

Two films namely *Bhangan*, a Bengali film and *Hotel Rwanda* were screened during the Tenth Orientation Course on Forced Migration. On 6 October *Bhangan*, a film on river erosion by Saurav Sarangi was screened. Banks along the Ganga and Padma in West Bengal are being eroded at an unprecedented pace. More than six hundred thousand people have been rendered homeless. The hapless victims watch it in silent endurance as the soil takes away their culture, history and livelihood. This film seeks to disseminate the pains, anger and resoluteness of the sufferers of erosion.

On 7 October, *Hotel Rwanda*, a 2004 American drama film directed by Terry George, was screened. This film is based on real life events which took place in Rwanda during the spring of 1994. It shows hotelier Paul Rusesabagina's attempts to rescue his fellow citizens from the ravages of the Rwandan Genocide, by giving them shelter in the besieged Hôtel des Mille Collines. Hotel Rwanda explores genocide, political corruption, and the repercussions of violence.

Media Workshop

This year in view of the importance of the role of media in reporting forced migration, CRG decided to devote special attention to the module (Module E) on 'Media and Forced Migration'. Migration – forced or otherwise – is not an issue that exercises the mainstream media, print or electronic, in any sustained manner. This is particularly true of the metropolitan, or more generally urban, media. The situation is somewhat different in areas where migration creates endemic and secular problems of governance and everyday life, as with northeast India by and large, where the media has to engage in a more sustained fashion. Considering the fact CRG organized a special workshop on Media and Forced Migration under Module E consisting of assignments, field visit, and round tables as part of the 10th Orientation Course held between October 9, 2012 and October 13, 2012. Leading media personnel young and practicing journalists participated in the media workshop. **(For detailed list of participants of the workshop please see pages 30-31)**

The workshop had aimed to build media skills to report in a more sustained and extensive manner on the problem, thus playing a necessary and perhaps crucial role in strengthening the rights of forced migrants and ensuring that they get the opportunities that both citizens and non-citizens are entitled to within a nation-state. Thus, first, CRG intended to focus on acquainting students with the problem of forced migration in its myriad forms – this included material on causes, forms and remedies in the shape of national and international legal frameworks. Specific case studies were referred to – for instance, the northeast of India. This workshop also provided participants an opportunity to interact with rights activists, survivors, policymakers and academics. The workshop consisted of two major segments: a field visit to Darjeeling between October 9 and October 11 **(For Details see pages 32-33)** and the continuation of the workshop in Kolkata on October 12 and 13.

The Kolkata chapter began with a special lecture by the eminent journalist Subir Bhoomik, who spoke on 'Myanmar's Rohingyas and Assam's Muslims of Bengali Origin: Comparative Perspectives of Exclusion and Statelessness'. At the very outset Bhoomik started by saying that when some Indian Muslim groups gathered to protest in a Mumbai park in August against the persecution of the Muslims in Assam and Myanmar, little did they know who these Muslims were and whether there was any common thread of history binding them together that could explain their current plight. The protest turned violent and led to a few deaths in police

firing but the issue got buried in the Pan-Islamic narrative that the protest organizers were trying to circulate to whip up passions across South Asia. This lecture sought to find that missing thread of history that binds the Muslims of East Bengali origin in India's Assam state and the Rohingya Muslims of Myanmar's Arakan province - about how their ancestors moved out from the eastern borderlands of undivided Bengal into the neighbouring provinces of British and Burmese empires at various points of historical time for reasons of livelihood and trade and how they have shared varying degrees of welcome and hostility in host societies.

The Rohingyas have been stripped of citizenship rights in military-ruled Myanmar in 1982 and there is no indication that they are likely to get that back in a relative democratic dispensation that now runs the country. The Muslims of East Bengali origin secured Indian citizenship and voted in successive Indian elections in Assam until a powerful nativist movement (1979-1985) challenged their status as Indian nationals. The community which had been once welcomed by the Assamese elite as "Na-Asamiyas"(Neo-Assamese) suddenly found itself dumped as a suspect community, derided as "infiltrators", "illegal migrants" and "Bangladeshis". Since then, these Muslims have been periodically attacked by armed groups, even as their growing numbers and rising influence in local electoral politics have fuelled movements by local Assamese and tribal groups who demand detection and deportation of all of them who cannot conclusively prove their Indian citizenship. For the first time, violence against these Muslims in Assam and those against the Rohingyas in Arakans coincided and helped attract some level of global attention to their plight. While looking at the various issues involving these communities in Assam and Arakans, the lecture will seek to explore the various categories that emerge out of migration and how it plays into political systems as far apart as modern democracies and military dictatorships. It is important to look out for the critical threshold -- at which point the welcome evaporates into unbridled hostility.

The session was chaired by the eminent sociologist Pradip Kumar Bose.

The entire group of participants for the media workshop was divided into three sub groups. In the three following sessions, we shall briefly discuss the presentations of the attended participants of the media workshop including the participant of the Orientation Course who had opted for this module presented their papers.

The Group A consisted of Nikhil Roshan (*The Bengal Post*, Kolkata), Chitra Ahanthem, (*Imphal Free Press*, Imphal) and Jayanta Kalita (*Seven Sisters' Post*, Guwahati) and this session was chaired by Sibaji Pratim Basu.

Jayanta Kalita briefly talked about the recent conflict in the Bodoland Territorial Autonomous Districts (BTAD) of Assam. The conflicts between two communities created terror and affected some adjoining districts of the area. It was interpreted as a "communal riot" but actually it was a result of absence of a proper land policy. The violence resulted due to huge influx of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh which led to a land crisis within and outside the BTC areas. The state government also failed to protect the tribal land. This created communal fury not only in Assam but also in cities like Bangalore, Hyderabad and Pune and Mumbai. "Hate campaign" was launched by a section of fundamentalists through internet which further complicated the situation. In this context, Jayanta Kalita also touched upon the possible locations and the role of a journalist reporting such a conflict.

Related to the same theme was Nikhil Roshan's photo essay. This was put together with the images captured over one week in early September, 2012 during which he traveled through 5 districts of western Assam, two of which – Chirang and Kokrajhar – fall under the Bodoland Territorial Autonomous Districts (BTAD) and were worst affected during ethnic clashes in the months of July and August, with spurts of violence continuing till early October (2012). The strife that led to a loss of lives and property, and displaced nearly half a million people, received widespread media coverage, thanks largely to the repercussions it caused in other parts of India where prejudices against people from the North East of India took violent form. The chain of events that ensued was simplistically portrayed by large sections of the media as a communal situation with the Muslim "outsider" resurfacing once again as the bogeyman, feeding into a paranoid global

narrative. But Assam's woes were more complex and in many ways, even unique in a society as diverse as India, claimed the presenter. Instead of trying to put the blame simplistically to one community or the other, this presentation reflected on this fractured landscape of Assam in the immediate aftermath of a devastating conflict.

In her paper Chitra Ahanthem talked on the highlighted Kuki-Naga clashes, Kuki-Paite class and Meitei and Meitei-Pangal clashes. The primary conflict involved the fight for statehood. In the course of time, secondary conflicts have arisen out of tensions between various ethnic and tribal subgroups, and as a result of changes in patterns of land distribution. She also highlighted about the gender dynamics and the vulnerability of women in the conflict-ridden Manipur.

The discussion under Group B started with a presentation from Subhashish Chatterjee, journalist from *Akash Bangla*, a West Bengal-based news channel. Chatterjee focused on the plight of Internally Displaced People (IDP) who was displaced in Sunderban areas of West Bengal after torrential cyclone – Aila hit the area. In the same session, Amitava Das, journalist from the Press Trust of India (PTI), also spoke on the issues of climate induced displacement in Sunderban. Referring to certain specific cases of policies of rehabilitation of the people displaced by environmental hazards, Das showed how such schemes often led to conflict between the local people and the newly settled community over available resources. He also pondered on the role of media in highlighting these issues of displacement and rehabilitation. To what extent academic discussion on such issues can actually have some effect in the ground level was another question that was raised by this speaker.

In this session, the other presentation, made by Vikhar Ahmed Sayeed, Special Correspondent of the *Frontline* magazine from Bangalore focused on the case of displacement and rehabilitation of the Nagarhole tribes. Sayeed referred to the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 and said that the Act had changed the lives of tribesmen living in the forests across the country. He also added that initiation of the Act has affected the lives of a wide array of tribal communities living in Nagarhole. He also said that introduction of the Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act in 2006 has further complicated matters by recognizing the rights of tribal folk and forest dwellers to possess land inside the forests across India.

This session was chaired by Rajat Roy, an eminent journalist presently associated with *Kolkata TV*.

In the last session of the participants' workshop there were three presenters by Sohini Majumdar, research scholar, J.N.U, Sabir Ahmed, *SNAP*, Kolkata and Vishu Rita Krocha, *Eastern Mirror* under Group C. For this session, Sibaji Pratim Basu was the chair.

Sohini's paper was unique as it was a fictitious account, written in the form of a newspaper report, reflecting on the role of the government in rehabilitating the refugees coming from East Pakistan in 1960s. Coming from history background, she gathered the empirical details from the official archives to narrate her story. It reflected on the woes of the refugees and the complex history that partition unfolded in this part of the world.

Sabir Ahmed in his presentation discussed the role of new social media (like the Facebook and Twitter) in mobilizing and pressurizing the government on issues of rehabilitation. He argued that people, even from the remotest part of the world, who are being displaced now could use the internet and various social media sites to reach out and raise their voices.

In Vishu Rita Krocha's presentation complex issues of conflict, "illegal" immigration and unemployment in context of Kohima (Nagaland) came up. In narrating the tension between the "illegal immigrants", popularly known as the "Miyans" and the local people, she too has studied the role of the new social media in generating opinion among the people of the state.

The next day was allotted for the field visit report and the rapporteurs' presentation on the media module.

Round Table

As a part of the media workshop, a round table discussion was organized on October 12 on “Reporting Conflict, Development and Displacement in East and Northeast”. The Speakers for this round table were Nirmalya Banerjee, *Times of India*, Sopan Joshi, Gandhi Peace Foundation, Rajat Roy, *Kolkata TV*, and it was moderated by Anirban Roy, *The Bengal Post*.

Rajat Roy started his discourse on the role of reporter in conflict situations. He raised some questions regarding identity of a reporter and he referred to the riots of 1992-93 and the issue of illegal labour migration to Mumbai. He highlighted this point by mentioning that identity of the journalist in different situations becomes paramount to access information. He concluded his talk with an emphasis on the neutrality and objectivity of reporter.

Next presentation by Nirmalya Banerjee was in the context of development and displacement. The main focus of his presentation was on the comparison in the context of journalism in Bengal and North East. He also raised the security issues of the reporters particularly in conflict situations. He further mentioned about the political affiliations which he termed as “politicization of media” and stigma attached to it becomes the major obstacle.

Third speaker, Sopan Joshi related the experiences from different parts of the country to the situations in North East. He raised some questions on indigenusness and remoteness. He mentioned that the major reason for forced migration is non-violence i.e.; livelihoods. He concluded by elaborating on the three main reasons for migration precisely water, drought & famines and market economy of the particular area.

Thus, the round table concluded with vibrant discussion that revolved around some important questions related to the issues of identity and accessibility to the information, mainstreaming of media and the role of vernacular media in conflict situations.

List of Participants

Sl	Name	Affiliation
1	Amar Rai	Is the Chairman, Darjeeling Municipality
2	Amitava Das	Is a journalist working with the Press Trust of India, the country's largest news agency. His responsibilities include writing and editing news stories and coordinating with reporters in east and northeastern states of India
3	Anirban Roy	Is a senior journalist, at present Executive Editor, <i>The Bengal Post</i> , Kolkata.
4	Anup Sekhar Chakraborty	Is Assistant Professor, St. Joseph College, Darjeeling
5	Biswajit Roy	Is a senior journalist, at present working with <i>The Telegraph</i> , Calcutta.
6	Chitra Ahanthem	Is a feature writer and columnist with the <i>Imphal Free Press</i> . She is also a freelance consultant working on documentation and analysis in the HIV/AIDS, armed conflict and gender sectors.
7	Jayanta Kalita	Is the Deputy Editor, <i>Seven Sister's Post</i> , Guwahati
8	Nikhil Roshan	Is a journalist working with <i>The Bengal Post</i> , Kolkata.

9	Nirmalya Banerjee	Is a senior journalist, at present working with the <i>Times of India</i> , Kolkata and has worked in the northeast for about seven years.
10	Padam Nepal	Is the Associate Professor, St. Joseph College, Darjeeling
11	Raghab Bandopadhyay	Fashioned a long career in journalism, holding senior positions. At present he writes both fiction and non-fiction and runs a publishing house.
12	Rajat Roy	Is a senior journalist who worked for many years for <i>Ananda Bazar Patrika</i> . Is now a media consultant.
13	Sabir Ahamed	Is the Research and Advocacy Manager (Minority Rights), SNAP, Kolkata
14	Sibaji Pratim Basu	Is associate Professor, Sri Chaitanya College, Habra, West Bengal and member, CRG
15	Sohini Majumdar	Has an M.A in History from the University of Calcutta. She is currently pursuing an M.Phil degree in History at CHS, JNU
16	Sopan Joshi	Has worked in many media organizations in Delhi, including <i>Tehelka</i> . He is now a freelancer.
17	Soumen Nag	Is the Deputy Editor, Uttorer Saradin (Vernacular daily),
18	Subhashis Chatterjee	Works with <i>Akash Bangla</i> , a Bengali television channel.
19	Subir Bhaumik	Is an eminent journalist, now based in Kolkata. His last position was Editor, <i>Seven Sister's Post</i> , Guwahati.
20	Trilok Dewan	Is the MLA, Darjeeling
21	Vikhar Ahmed Sayeed	Works with <i>Frontline</i> , Bangalore. He has contributed to <i>The Book Review</i> , <i>Biblio</i> , <i>Infochange Agenda</i> , <i>Deccan Herald</i> , <i>Tehelka</i> and <i>The Hindu</i> apart from his regular reportage in <i>Frontline</i> .
22	Vikram Rai	Works for <i>Channel 10</i> and the General Secretary, Darjeeling Press Guild
23	Vishu Rita Krocha	Is a journalist with <i>The Eastern Mirror</i> of Nagaland.
24	Vivek Chetri	Works for <i>The Telegraph</i> and the Vice-President,, Darjeeling Press Guild



Chris Dolan



Subir Bhaumik

9. Field Visit

This year CRG had organised its field visit to Darjeeling, West Bengal to offer the course participants a kind of practical experience towards a better understanding of the day-to-day lives of the Tibetan refugees and the Lepcha population in the district.

The history of the district of Darjeeling is intertwined with the fuzzy histories of Bengal, Sikkim, Bhutan and Nepal. The region eventually fell into the hands of British East India Company between 1828 and 1835. The British colonial encounter led to the development of the region as a sanatorium and a military depot, an educational centre and a plantations area for tea. Darjeeling remains a mosaic of cultures in terms of architectural styles, religion, cultures and people. Post-independence Darjeeling was merged with the state of West Bengal. A separate district of Darjeeling was established consisting of the hill towns of Darjeeling, Kurseong, Kalimpong and some parts of the Terai region. The region of North Bengal has remained ethnically sensitive with the hill population comprising the ethnic Nepalis who mostly migrated during British times, and the plains occupied by ethnic communities such as Bengali, Santhali, Kamtapuri etc.

The ethnic minorities of North Bengal have been rallying their identity against the silhouette of ‘underdevelopment’ and ‘step-motherly treatment by the South’. The restricted exploration of the region’s potentials has in turn fuelled the strong sense of *relative deprivation* among the people ranging from ‘anti-outsider feelings’ to ‘anti-South Bengal’ feeling to ethnic fissures etc., further substantiating the complex axiomatic relationship between material inequality and political instability. A strong sense of discontent has emerged among the prominent ethnic communities in the north reverberating itself in the form of demands for smaller states, certain other concessions from the Union and the state government etc. The rationale put forward is that the formation of separate states would protect linguistic and cultural identities and also facilitate rapid development.

The three-day tour of Darjeeling comprised various discussion sessions on the politico-economic history of the region coupled with a few panel discussions on the problems of human trafficking, notion of refugee and questions of citizenship in the region. It also included a visit to the Tibetan Refugee Camp in Darjeeling and a visit to the Lepcha village near Kalimpong.

Meeting the Officials, Activists, Teachers, Journalists

The participants of the Orientation Course and that of the Media Workshop were introduced to the politico-history of the region through a lecture by Anup Shekhar Chakraborty (Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, St. Joseph’s College, Darjeeling) ‘*On Darjeeling.*’ He raised the issues of Bhutanese and Tibetan refugees and specially the question of their citizenship in Darjeeling, India. He also talked about the *Gorkha* movement; the ideology behind Gorkhaland, and the active role of the women in the movement. He talked about the ways in which prominent ethnic forces in the hills of Darjeeling have been demanding a separate state of Gorkhaland, while in the plains there is the demand the state of Kamatapur and Greater Cooch Behar.

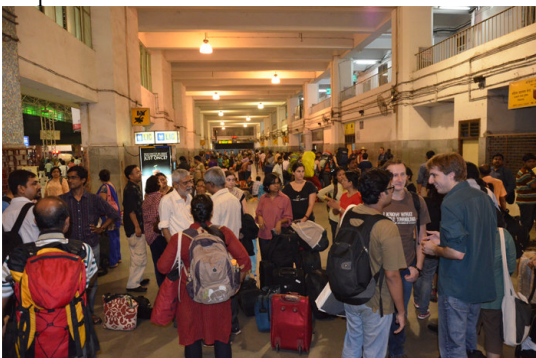
The lecture was followed by a Round Table on *Between the State, Media and People* in which Padam Nepal (faculty, St. Joseph College), Sudeep Basu (GIRD, Ahmedabad) and Biswajit Roy (Journalist, *The Telegraph*) participated. The session was moderated by Rajat Roy (media professional, Kolkata TV). The local journalists also participated in this session.

On the following day, the entire group was divided into three sub-groups and Group I and III visited the Tibetan Refugee Self Help Centre in Darjeeling, while the remaining group was taken to the Lepcha Settlement and a Lepcha Museum near Kalimpong. The Tibetan Refugee Self Help Centre, established in

October 2, 1959, today has become a prime centre of the Tibetan refugees staying in Darjeeling. It includes a craft-production centre, a sales counter to sell the local produce, a museum that exhibits Tibetan artifacts, old photographs and newspaper clippings as well as a community health centre and a school. The visit to this place gave the participants an idea about the lives of the Tibetan refugees in India, who, compared to the other refugee communities in India, are well off today. On the other hand, in their visit to the Lepcha Settlement, the participants learned about identity claims of the Lepchas (expressed mostly in terms of the revival of Lepcha language and culture), and the subterranean tension between the Gorkha Janamukti Morcha at one level and the state of West Bengal at another. A visit to the Lepcha museum in Kalimpong and conversations carried out with apical leaders of the community also made the participants aware of the on-going struggle of the Lepchas, the oldest people of the hills, to preserve their customs and traditional ways. In fact, the team also had the opportunity to visit a traditional Lepcha village, situated about an hour's drive away from Kalimpong town, where, with the funding obtained from various international NGOs and welfare organizations, some of the older hutments have been restored. Here too, like at the museum site, the insistence of the local Lepcha youth was on education in Lepcha language and founding of schools to serve this end. The visit, on the whole, made the participants aware of the socio-economic marginalization of the Lepchas in the hills.

In the evening, a meeting was organized with the local journalists where issues of statehood, citizenship the problem of trafficking in this area were raised. This session was moderated by Amar Singh Rai (Chairman, Municipal Board, and Darjeeling). The MLA from Darjeeling, Mr. Trilok Dewan, also attended the session and made critical comments on these issues.

On the last day of the field trip, a participants' interactive session was organized in North Bengal University, Siliguri to reflect on the findings of the field visit. The faculty and the students of the university also participated in this session.



Participants assembled at Sealdah station for the field visit



Workshop on Media and Forced Migration in Darjeeling



Participants interacting with a respondent in Tibetan Refugee Centre



Participants in Tibetan Refugee Centre

10. Public Lecture and Interactive Sessions

Since 2011 CRG felt the need to widen the scope of the Orientation course. The Advisory Committee appreciated CRG's initiative to move out of the usual classes during the fifteen day workshop in Kolkata in order to give the participants more scope to interact with the experts, scholars and researchers from other institutions who are working on related issues. This year CRG continued its emphasis on interactive sessions. During the course CRG organized one public lecture delivered by Nergis Canafe, York University, Toronto, Canada in collaboration with Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Calcutta. 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. Against this backdrop this section of the report will cover the public lecture, all the theme lectures along with CRG's research presentations under each of the five modules and the round tables held during Kolkata workshop.

Public Lecture

In the public lecture on "Forced Migration in Middle East" held at the University of Calcutta in conjunction with the course, Nergis Canafe dealt with the problem as to how one can distinguish a postcolonial state from a colonial one. In case of postcolonial states, the issue of modernity became a field of political contestations and she defined it with the examples of Middle Eastern states. Ethno-linguistic and religious communities complicated the situation. Histories of conflict have stopped neighbouring states from coming together in their search for solutions. During the discussion it was mentioned that, although there are continuities, there are new tendencies exhibited by the postcolonial states, like the new logic that guides the postcolonial state. It was also felt that vocabularies and terms have to be transplanted and there has to be novelty in such translations. The arbitrariness of how the boundaries were created gave rise to many complications in the postcolonial world, in particular in the Middle East. Thus, perhaps, it is better to deal with different events as specific issues and not use a single lens to understand the problems.

Theme Lectures, Special Lectures and CRG Research Presentations

Module A

Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury delivered the theme lecture under module A while Paula Banerjee presented CRG's research on 'Forced Migration and Politics of Protection'. CRG held a special lecture under module A delivered by Vinai Kumar Singh

The lectures delivered by Basu Ray Chaudhury and Banerjee brought out the central sources of uniqueness of the South-Asian region, identified in and attributable to human failures, state failures and the mismanagement of community relationships; marked by practices of ignorance of the characteristics of border land areas' population. He argued that, the cumulative effect of these elements is responsible for the salient attributes of South-Asia. Within the interconnection of these elements Module A underlined the central effect of partition, where one partition led to the other and one migration flow led to multiple flows. He discussed the partition refugees, Bangladeshi refugees during 1971 independence war, the Tibetan influx, Chakmas from the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), inflow of Tamils from Sri Lanka, Rohingyas from Myanmar (then Burma), and Afghans after Soviet invasion. Further attention was directed; through extended discussion, the dynamic relation between nationalism and citizenship, role of corporate houses in the region, issues of undocumented Rohingyas in Bangladesh, the question of UNHCR policy failures, and current status of refugee citizenship issue in Arunachal Pradesh. Given the political context of South Asia; the presenter argued that it seems more viable to nurture the existing state policies with revisions to provisions that suppress the marginalized communities than international or regional alternatives. While the State; presumably, is expected to ensure the

enforceability of citizenship rights and laws notwithstanding histories of migration, in a reasonably uniform manner across its territory, in many cases it fails to do so. The case of the Chakma refugees was discussed as an example where in spite of an Indian Supreme Court directive to consider Chakmas as Indian citizens under the Article 22 of its constitution; there have been systematic attempts to drive out this community by All Arunachal Pradesh Student Union. It was argued that such state weaknesses therefore must be addressed with proper consultation with and accommodation of the voices of all sections of its jurisdiction. This on the other hand relates to state responsibilities to develop effective mechanisms that check displacements.

Beyond national instruments, regional and international instruments have also been identified as a potential for strengthening of the existing protection space of displaced persons and contribute to an answering mechanism which reflects the particularities of the regional dynamics. However, as none of the South-Asian countries except Afghanistan are members of the 1951 Convention on Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, existing answering mechanisms of different states are under extended scrutiny and critical analysis. Reluctance towards the forging of a consensus on a regional or an international instrument remains overwhelming. As elaborated on by Vinai Kumar Singh and referred to by Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury's and Paula Banerjee's lectures, the South-Asian countries were reluctant to be party to the international convention on refugees as it was produced in the post-cold war era and remains incapable of explaining the mass exodus of various communities from various regions of South Asia. They have also remained apprehensive of the resource constraints that may accompany the signing of the convention. In India, references are made to existing legal instruments, arguing that the Foreigners Act provides ample protection to refugees. International instruments are criticized for being exclusive tools for helping the developed countries in their efforts towards the consolidation of a potentially exclusive and repressive aid economy. The existing argument that several scholars subscribe to was reiterated while emphasizing that India being already "humane" to refugees is not in need of signing the international instrument, nor is it in need of joining or founding a regional instrument. The political context of the region and its particularly contested realities makes it impossible to arrive at a sense of shared community among the existing nation-state units. This was marked as the central problem in articulating an operational regional framework or the initiation of a process of mutual outreach.

Presentations and lectures under module A highlighted that an increasing number of people are becoming refugees, displaced and stateless across South Asia and the world. In South Asia, the number of the displaced far outnumbers the refugees, and the refugees are in a better position when compared to the IDPs. The sheer magnitude of the problem and the inadequacy in the treatment of IDPs call out for greater emphasis on this particular form of vulnerability. The South Asian region will probably continue its struggle to converge on one regional policy or instrument for addressing the problem of refugees and IDPs. Therefore, enhanced attention has to be directed separately to the variety of migration flow phenomenon. New strategies are necessary in dealing with the displaced population beginning with their definitional categorization, legal frameworks to address and provide protection and in understanding the multifaceted dimensions of the right to return. The treatment of refugees and IDPs call out for new strategies that encompass a standard and acceptable mechanism to deal with the refugees and IDPs with an emphasis on their rights.

Module B

Asha Hans delivered the theme lecture under module B while Nasreen Choudhory and Sudeep Basu presented CRG's research on 'Voices'. CRG held a special lecture under module B delivered by Ranabir Samaddar.

Module B focused on "Gendered Nature of Forced Migration". It began with the theme lecture, delivered by Asha Hans. Many important points were discussed and important questions were raised. Gender perspectives came to the fore when the world was torn with conflicts in Bosnia and Rwanda, as women were specifically targeted among civilian population. At this stage, the need was felt to tackle gender issues specifically. Women generally carry the burden of patriarchy with them, wherever they go. They have little decision making power,

while their labor and contributions to their families often go unrecognized. The lecture emphasized that there are issues common to all women and issues specific to refugee women. In movements and agitations (such as, recently, in Libya, Egypt and Syria), women were often on the frontlines of protests, but played little role in the reconstruction. Often, violence targeted women in particular: this is readily observable not only in the case of honour killings and genital mutilation, but also in case of forced abortion and forced ethnic conversion. It was argued on the basis of the above observations that there remains a lack of protection mechanism addressing gendered violence.

Recent 'National Family Health Survey' (NFHS) showed that 29% of women considered normal that their husbands beat them, although, according to UN institutions, domestic violence can count as a form of torture. Besides, many women are forced to remain silent. Violence against women can also include incest, in particular in the case of girls with physical and other challenges and disabilities. In other circumstances, women may be stigmatized as witches. Generally, there is insufficient attention given to women specific health issues, such as pregnancy issues, hygiene issues, and problems related to reproductive health. There is much need to develop strong women's networks in the camps; as such networks act as an important psycho-social support system.

CRG's Research on "Voices" was presented by Nasreen Chowdhory and Sudeep Basu. This session was chaired by Paula Banerjee, who spoke against the mainstreaming of gender discourse. Sudeep Basu explicitly emphasized on the methodological aspect of the study along with the statistical figure while Nasreen Chowdhory dwelled on the sociological analysis based on this survey. In the course of the presentation, they argued that displacement often came to mean a loss of voice, which is a cardinal element of any facet of right. Thus, this study aimed at giving a voice to the voiceless section of the society.

The criterion of selection of the research methodology was found to be crucial. A semi-structured questionnaire, Focus Group Discussion and case studies comprised the research methodology. Sample size of 528 displaced persons from different regions of Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka were part of study. Three main scenarios of displacement were covered; conflict-induced, development-induced and disaster-induced displacement. Chowdhory laid emphasis on the scenario of the camps and the multidimensional politics internal to these spaces. She explained the situation of Sri Lankan refugees and shared that the notion of 'place' and land is very significant for them. Camp, a geographically segregated category carries the notion of stigma within it. The presenter strongly emphasized that even in the post-conflict situation, the Sri Lankan refugees saw the camp as their home and stressed on the right to not to return.

The findings of the report were crucial for linking the idea of 'home' with 'belonging' in the context of refugees as well as IDPs.

In the special lecture delivered under module B, Ranabir Samaddar spoke of the ethical aspect of care and the protection given to the refugees. The question of ethics, he argued, can seamlessly move towards the formulation of ideology. He also pointed out that the question of ethics has been transferred to the domain of practical facts and in order to deliver justice we need information. It was also argued that the ethics of care, epitomized in the international instruments of care, led towards the refugee's rehabilitation as an 'economic subject'.

Module C

Monirul Hussain delivered the theme lecture under module C while K. M. Parivelan presented CRG's research presentation on "Disasters and Displacement: Indian Experience". CRG held a special lecture under module C delivered by Subhash Ranjan Chakraborty.

In his lecture Monirul Hossain emphasized the need to understand the consequences of river bank erosion of Brahmaputra. At the very outset he pointed out that River Brahmaputra is the only male river which travels a

long path starting from Talung Tso Lake in Tibet and flows towards the Southern Tibet to cross Himalayas and Arunachal Pradesh to enter Assam before flowing to Bangladesh. Apart from the current contexts, River Brahmaputra contained immense pre-colonial and colonial importance. It is a major part of the life of the people of Assam. Out of the 27 districts of Assam, 22 are settled along the banks of the river. Yet during the last few decades, it has undergone a few important changes. First of all, the river course has shifted and this has resulted in the displacement of thousands of people. Secondly, it has widened, affecting the neighbouring peasants, forced to change their livelihood. This has further resulted in migration of labourers to other parts of the country in search of jobs. From 1971 to 2009, fifty-six thousand acres of land were lost and close to hundred thousand villages have been eroded by the river. It has also become a threat for heritage sites like Majuli, Manas National Park and Kaziranga National Park. In 2012, Morigaon has been one of the districts worst affected by floods. People not only have become rootless, but they have also suffered from loss of rights. Insecurity thus has become a phenomenon of daily lives. However, Individuals also need space to access their rights. Entitlements are only granted on the condition of land ownership: hence marginalized communities of migrants are devoid of certain entitlements. People displaced up to eighteen times in a lifetime have mostly become incapable of accessing their rights.

The presentation by Parivelan was in the context of three frameworks that addressed the cause-mitigation; the impact-adaptation and protection-response. He started with the introduction to the subject mentioning that the environmental challenges and resource crisis are major concerns of contemporary development. His presentation included the definitions of climate change by UNFCCC, IPCC, Kyoto Protocol, etc. Further, his presentation highlighted the causes of climate change wherein he added the anthropological causes as well. Following this he explained about the impacts of climate change. He commented that the phenomena of climate change impacts globally but the worst hit are the vulnerable populations which are the major concern of scholars and activists. His presentation drew attention to the fact that the European Court of Human Rights has made disaster risk reduction as an obligatory human right. In connection with causes, impact of disasters he then focused on the problems that are often encountered by persons affected by the consequences of natural disasters. He linked the natural disasters to the concepts of hazard and vulnerability and further explained the five categories of hazards & related disasters. While explaining this concept, he stressed on the importance of disaster preparedness and early warning system. His presentation comprised maps explaining distribution of natural hazards across the world, major disasters in India, earthquake zones, cyclone zones and flood zones. This underlined frequency and magnitude of hazards. He continued with the impact of disasters on larger context of GDP, Government's revenues, etc. In the last part of his presentation he explained the Hyogo Framework for Action which talks about institutional and policy mechanisms which could be made into important part of disaster management. He further explained the key features of Disaster Management Act, 2005. He mentioned some of the lacunae in the existing policies as compared to the international frameworks and measures which are based on humanitarian principles. He concluded his presentation with two vital questions regarding the status and policies applicable to people forced to move due to natural disasters and second one regarding the mechanisms to address the climate change disasters after Hyogo Framework for Action which is applicable only till 2015. The session concluded with participants' questions on reliability of reports by IPCC and the dichotomy of the term 'disaster'.

CRG's research presentation was followed by the special lecture by Subhash Ranjan Chakraborty. In his lecture Chakraborty tried to link colonialism and resource crisis with forced migration. The process of land alienation started with the grant of Diwani in 1765. The new structures of tenures forced the small peasants /agricultural labourers to migrate. Land alienation, coupled with recurring famines, further made the situation worse for the poor peasants. They migrated to areas of relative surplus or to the urban centres. Colonialism also took away from the poor, their rights over forests. When the British introduced plantation crops, cheap labour was needed, and landless peasants, poor labourers migrated to different parts of the world like West Indies, Mauritius, South Africa, British colonies in Asia and Oceania became major receivers of Indian labourers.

Module D

Paula Banerjee delivered the theme lecture under module D while Atig Ghosh presented CRG's research presentation on "Words of Law: Worlds of Loss: The Stateless People in the Indo-Bangladeshi Enclaves". CRG held an interactive session with Hans Schodder while Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury and Sucharita Sengupta presented their experiences of field trip to Arunachal Pradesh under module D.

A limited definition of statelessness has critically grounded much of the discussion we have had in the module. This is the de jure definition of statelessness circumscribed by the protecting as also excluding boundaries of national law. Since the Hague convention, we have discussed the preponderance of the rights claimed by the state in terms of identifying and ascribing nationality. Thus the right to have a nationality as a right belonging to the governed population has been a recent development in the discourse of national law as a part of the Universal declaration of Human Rights. Against the background of this right has also been the ephemeral presence of a right to not have a nationality. This notion remained, however, only a subterranean consideration as it was brought out by the lectures as well as the presentations that the substantive notion of rights can only be structured by state power and therefore necessitates membership in politics as asylum seekers. The situation of statelessness, it has been argued is made complex by the simultaneous clarity and ambiguity of international law.

The order of migration and marginalization also became one of the points of discussion as Paula Banerjee argued that the populations affected by trafficking and forced migration are marginal and vulnerable to begin with and not made so necessarily by the act of migration. The picture was further complicated by the possibility of single populations transforming through several layers of legal and political impositions over long periods of time described as "protracted refugee situations". These situations seem to transform the population since then towards statelessness and finally towards new possibilities of identity.

Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury and Sucharita Sengupta presented their field experiences while working with the Chakma and Hajong refugees in Arunachal Pradesh. In the process of the presentation it was underlined that the history of this region as a frontier and its continued existence as a protected region till the late 1970's compounded the problem of statelessness. Added to this is the geopolitical importance of this region which makes it a politically volatile and heavily securitized region. The presenters focused on post electoral identity formation and ethnic conflict that originated in 1994. This period was also marked as the initial field for the ensuing legal battle. The presenters also indicated that there are generational patterns within the stateless communities. It was also underlined that the bias in media coverage has over time contributed to the marginalization of the stateless community. This case was proffered as a prime example of de facto statelessness.

An exciting case of conflict in sovereignties and complicated territorial contestations came up repeatedly in the discussions on the relation between State authorities and statelessness in the case of Chitmahals. These enclaves at the border between India and Bangladesh originated from the integration of Cooch Behar princely state into the Indian Union. It was pointed out by Shanghita Datta that these enclaves exist outside the structure of the rule of law. Though officially, a part of either India or Bangladeshi territory, the competitive politics among the national units has left the population in these enclaves virtually right-less. Atig Ghosh brought out a multifaceted image of this population combining local political contestations, border-making practices, political economic transitions and the modes of negotiation used by the population. In the process, the presenter argued that this is an important example of a de facto stateless population who are nonetheless non refugees.

Hans Schodder presented the perspective of UNHCR when approaching the issue of statelessness. He identified four major points to deal with the problem of statelessness namely, identification of the stateless population, prevention of statelessness, reduction of statelessness and protection of stateless people. Regarding identification, he made special emphasis on the need of finding the causes that led to statelessness.

When considering the existing legal frameworks, he made a statement in line with Banerjee's presentation considering the existing gap between the clarity of law and its implementation in complex scenarios. Manoj Sinha talked about the evolution of refugee law and the different kinds of migration in a broad perspective.

Module E

For detailed discussion on the activities under module E please go to page

Round Tables/Panel Discussions

- Round Table under **module B** on “Are Women's Experiences Exceptional in Forced Migration Annals?”

Speakers: *Samita Sen*, Jadavpur University;, *Paula Banerjee*, *Sanjukta Bhattacharya*, Jadavpur University; Moderator: *Asha Hans*

In this roundtable discussion Samita Sen at the very outset, gave a historical perspective of how women were denied the power of consent to labor contract in the last three decades of the 19th Century, in India. Through this historical discussion, she underscored the need to examine the interface between labor and marriage-induced migration. Sanjukta Bhattacharya followed, speaking about the lack of voice of women in a multidisciplinary perspective. She gave examples from the years surrounding the 1947 Indian partition, where the stories of women were peripheral as they were written about largely by men.

Paula Banerjee brought to the notice of the audience; the phenomena of martyred women. Women in Punjab took their lives to escape rape and torture in the hands of Muslims. She pointed out that the 1951 convention was gender blind as it doesn't take in consideration gender based fear of persecution. It is important to look at pre-displacement, displacement and post-displacement. Women as collateral damage has come up in refugee discourse. Also, she spoke about camps being the epicentre of insecurity as their structure was built through male eyes. Asha Hans wrapped up the session by raising the issue of women as collateral damage in migration settings. Important questions about the fate of widows, older women and men as targets of gender violence were also raised.

- Roundtable under **module C** on “River Erosion & Displacement”

Speakers: *Nilanjan Dutta*, Journalist; *Kalyan Rudra*, Chairman, West Bengal Wasteland Development Corporation

Kalian Rudra presented a case study of Maldah district which is affected by river bank erosions. River Bank erosion is one of the main causes of displacement. Rudra pointed out the oscillatory nature of the river that creates continuous land erosion by using maps and GIS images in his presentation. In his lecture he mentioned that rivers as borders create myriad complexities. He further added that article 21 of the Indian Constitution affirms the “right to life” but the persons displaced due to riverbank erosion have constantly been deprived of this right. During the presentation Rudra drew attention to the plight of displaced people due to river bank erosion and subsequently related aspects of this phenomenon in parts of Maldah.

On the other hand Nilanjan Dutta began with narrating the story of a boy (NASEEM AKHTAR), who had committed suicide due to extensive psychological trauma as a consequence of displacement due to river bank erosion in Malda. There is a large population that has been displaced as many as 18 times. Dutta also presented some of the findings of survey on river erosion and displacement conducted by him from Panchanandpur to Jalangar districts and Cooch Behar districts. Dutta pinpointed that around 10,000 to 12,000 farmers had become completely landless and migrated to cities to earn their livelihoods that due to the phenomenon of river bank erosion. Dutta also referred to some of the important research work conducted by

CRG titled “Impact of River Erosion on Women”. Further in his presentation he highlighted the alarming rate of trafficking in these areas. Dutta concluded the session referring these situations as “Human Disaster” in Bengal.

- Round table under **module E** on “Reporting Conflict, Development and Displacement in East and the Northeast”

Speakers: **Nirmalya Banerjee**, *The Times of India*, Kolkata; **Sopan Joshi**, freelance journalist; **Rajat Roy**, *Kolkata TV*; Moderator: **Anirban Roy**, *The Bengal Post*

Rajat Roy started his discussion by mentioning the role of reporter in conflict situations. He raised some questions regarding identity of a reporter and he has referred to the past incidents of riots in 1992-93 and illegal labour migration to Mumbai. He highlighted this point by mentioning that identity in different situations becomes paramount to access information. He concluded his talk with an emphasis on the neutrality and objectivity of reporter.

The following discourse was tabled by veteran journalist Nirmalya Banerjee who is currently working with the Times of India. His argument was in the context of development and displacement. The main focus of his discourse was on the comparison in the context of journalism in Bengal and North East. He also raised the security issues of the reporters particularly in conflict situations. He further mentioned about the political affiliations which he termed as “politicization of media” and stated that stigma attached to it becomes the major obstacle.

The third panellist in the discussion was Sopan Joshi, who related the experiences from different parts of the country to situations in the north-eastern region. He raised some questions on indigenusness and remoteness. He classified major reasons for forced migration into three specific categories: livelihood, natural disasters like drought & famines and market economy of the particular area.

Thus, the round table discussion concluded with vibrant discourse which revolved around some important questions related to the issues of identity and access to information, mainstreaming of media and the role of vernacular media in conflict situations.



K.M.Parivelan



Subhash Ranjan Chakraborty

11. Inaugural and Valedictory Sessions

Inaugural Session

This year the formal inaugural session was held on 30 September 2012. The session began with the welcome address delivered by Paula Banerjee, President, CRG and Faculty, Department of South & South-east Asian Studies. Heli Lehto, Second Secretary, the Embassy of Finland, New Delhi, who was the special guest delivered a brief introductory note. This was followed by the Inaugural Lecture by Peter Burgess, Research Director PRIO, Oslo and a performance piece on Kalpana Chakma by Parnab Mukherjee, an alternative theatre director in the country.

In his Inaugural Lecture on “What is Critical Migration Studies?” Professor Burgess laid out the foundation of what constitutes the body politic of migration studies and the varying frames that are used for its analysis and in its doing explains the role of ‘critique’ in the discourse. He continued to maintain that a coherent composition of elements of critical migration studies consist of a range of objects, discourses and subjects. Thereafter he enlisted the several subject positions (that collides, intersects and cohabits in the discourse itself) thereby shaping the understanding of critical migration studies. He concluded by stating that there are claims and paradoxes engrained in the very discourse of migration and that these affirm the humanity of the migrant subject which then becomes a source of constant re-tooling and revision. He finally situated his faith in ‘critique’ and calls for critical analysis as forming the fulcrum of the migration discourse.

Parnab Mukerjee through his intimate theatre performance piece on Kalpana Chakma, (a Chakma women’s right activist) engaged in a visual essay of her life and struggle in the context of the larger Bangladeshi politics played out in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region. The performance was reflective of the larger issues of abduction, trafficking and other myriad forms of violence that remain intrinsically bound up in the discourse of forced migration especially in case of vulnerable women and children. The piece involved using the body as dissent and transforming the space to discuss its dialectics with displacement and the way in which the issue is looked into by the larger circles in the academia. The play thus was successful in raising very key questions in the context of forced migration in stressing the need for better praxis as a shift from mere arm-chair theorizing and thereby marking a continuity.

At the end of the session the vote of thanks, on behalf of CRG, was proposed by Suha Priyadarshini Chakravorty, Research & Programme Associate, Forced Migration Desk, CRG. The session was chaired by Paula Banerjee.

Valedictory Session

On 14 October 2012 at the end of the 15-day workshop the valedictory session started with a Welcome Address by Paula Banerjee followed by the presentation of a short report on the Tenth Orientation Course by Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury, coordinator of the course. As the Chief Guest of the programme Montserrat Feixas Vihe, Chief of Mission, UNHCR, New Delhi, graced the occasion and offered her remarks on the course and the Guest of Honour Pekka Vuutilainen, Charge d’ Affairs, Embassy of Finland distributed the certificates to the participants of the course who successfully completed it.. This was followed by a session where the Valedictory Lecture was delivered by Samir Kumar Das, Vice-Chancellor, North Bengal University, West Bengal.

Samir Das tied the issues of ‘migration’, ‘home’, ‘homelessness’, ‘homeland’ and ‘hope’ in a single thread. He went to the extent of drawing a parallel between a character in Bengal’s master nonsense-writer Sukumar

Ray's narrative, Hajabarala, one who lives in a tree-hole and claims to have migrated to a number of places following an impossible route in elucidating the concept of a migrant in the constant exile. He thereafter cites the example of Siliguri as a town in transit and the way in which migration routes have been grafted onto it in successive historical periods. For him, Siliguri is a combination of a classical and a future city that can hardly be compared to a hyper-space. In today's world, spaces come and go and nomads such as one in Ray's narrative (read migrant labours) do not migrate in herds and their journey never ends. Thus for him, identities do not remain identifiable anymore.

The valedictory session was chaired by Paula Banerjee. At the end of the session the vote of thanks was proposed by Suha Priyadarshini Chakravorty.



Vinai Singh



Asha Hans



Atig Ghosh



Monirul Hussai



Nergis Canafe



Hans Schoddar

12. Evaluation

Participants and faculty members were asked to fill in their evaluation forms relating to various aspects of the Orientation Course that was handed over to the selection committee. 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 session was moderated by Paula Banerjee.

CRG is grateful to Michele Millard, Centre for Refugee Studies, York University, USA for agreeing to be the external evaluator of the course. Following is the excerpts of the report prepared by Michele Millard.

Introduction

The Tenth Annual Orientation Course on Forced Migration 2012 was an intensive, information-rich programme with a quite comprehensive coverage at the current situation of forced migrants, the internally displaced and other communities vulnerable to displacement in the South Asian region. While the region as a whole was examined by instructors and participants, it became very clear to what extent the lingering effects of the 1947 Indian/Pakistan Partition continues to haunt the area. It is not only the traumatic effects of forcible displacement, loss of home, nationality, livelihoods, status, the particular experiences of women and girls and the violence that accompanied them that remains and continues to be passed down through the generations, but the way various displaced communities are treated, and the remedies available to them today which have deep roots in the politics of partition as well as the consequences of colonialism, religious and ethnic factionalism.

Participants

On the whole, the participant presentations were strong and well researched, and came from perspectives ranging from the more traditionally academic to the front line activists, thus representing a nice range of context and experience. Of the 19 participants, the majority (13) were women, which may be typical of the growing feminization of this field, at least at the student level. (It's interesting to note that once out in the field, the gender ratio tends to skew back to men). Out of all, 4 came from outside of South Asia – 2 were from Europe and 2 were from South America. Once again, past participants were brought back to the course to provide support and enrichment with advanced interventions in each session either as a moderator or resource person.

Course Content

Each course participant was asked to select and present on a research topic from a choice of five modules: A. Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): Definitions and New Issues in Protection; B. Gendered Nature of Forced Migration; C. Environmental Crisis, Conflict, Resources and Displacement; D. Statelessness in South Asia; and E. Media and Forced Migration . They presented their research over the course of 2 weeks in Kolkata.

The presentations were quite well researched and organized. The participants demonstrated a good understanding of the issues and how they manifested themselves within the historical and contemporary complexities of the region. The presenters showed knowledge and understanding – some more theoretically based than others - and they were quite skilled at identifying the “what” of the issues. However, their presentations would have been strengthened with more examples of critical thinking and perhaps a more problem based approach. Otherwise, the experience of the course could easily be overwhelmed by the litany

of suffering and programmatic and policy failures so clearly described in the presentations. The group as a whole engaged in eager discussion around each presentation and actively asked questions of the presenter. As always, some were more active than others, but the moderators made a real effort to ensure that all members of the group had opportunities to engage.

Rapporteurs

Participants were organized into groups of rapporteurs and provided summations of the presentations and lectures at the end of each day. Group cohesion clearly developed as they worked together to deliver coherent summaries of what was said in each module. More attention could have been paid to synthesizing the knowledge, rather than simply reporting out. A lot of information was shared over the course, and it would have been helpful for the group if the rapporteurs had been able to pick out trends or commonalities as well as produce succinct summaries tying the presentations together.

Study Material

Information about the course, including requirements, content, schedule and participants was readily available online. One minor recommendation would be to do a small redesign of the course site to make readings easy. At present, when viewing on a large monitor, the text flows across the entire screen. Reading is much easier if placed in narrow columns

Venue

The venue was quite comfortable and accessible. An easy walk from the hotel, it was clean, well managed with good catering. The rooms had good seating and the IT requirements were well met. As previously discussed, the management of the women's washrooms could have been better – particularly around providing soap for hand washing and adequate amounts of bathroom tissue. Overall, though, the venue was most suitable.

Areas of Strength (On the basis of participants' perspective)

- Course Material
- Selection of Participants, and their Composition
- Round tables/workshops/panel discussions
- Film Shows
- Sustained Collaboration with Other Institutions



*Participants presenting their assignments in the media workshop,
Moderator: Rajat Roy*



*Special panel on "River Erosion and Displacement", Kalyan Rudra,
Monirul Hussain and Nilanjan Dutta (from left to right)*

Areas of Improvement (Suggested by the participants)

- Creative Assignments or review assignments can be included again. For review assignment readings can be assigned during the distance segment.
- More time can be devoted for field visit

Evaluation by the Participants (19)

	Yes	No	Not Answered	Total
Delivery on time	19	-		19
General relevance and usefulness	18	1		19
Relevance vis-à-vis assignments	17	1	1	19
Usefulness/relevance in future work	17	1	1	19
Difficulties with instructions	-	19	-	19
Usefulness of Tutors' comments	19	-	-	19
Proper info on field visit	19	-	-	19
Relevance of the field visit vis-à-vis the course	19	-	-	19
Quality of participatory sessions	18	1	-	19
Adequate preparedness for the sessions	18	1	-	19
Quality of film sessions	19	-	-	19
Regular visits to the website	19	-	-	19

	Excellent/ Good	Bad	Total
Accommodation	19	0	19
Food	19	0	19
Classroom	19	0	19



Pekka Vonitilainen



Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury

13. Outcome of the Course

The Orientation 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 Course 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. This is probably the only course 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 Orientation 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 workshops in their respective institutions and has played a key role as resource groups 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. CRG is indebted to the St. Joseph College, Darjeeling in making the field visit successful. Thirdly, the resource persons on many occasions have played an important 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; International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Nepal and various others for nominating participants to the Course.

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

The 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 was elected as the Vice President of the Association 2008-2012. CRG is going to host the 14th IASFM conference in January 2013 not only to showcase its own research on forced migration but to create a

platform for an inter-disciplinary exchange and communication to stimulate debate and discussion on the research priorities and policy issues on forced migration in South Asia. Several other ex-Course participants are actively involved in various such networks on a voluntary basis. Owing to the success of CRG's 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.

• **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.



Nergis Canafe and Paula Banerjee (from left to right)



Monirul Hussai and Ranabir Samaddar (from left to right)



Subir Bhaumik and Pradipt Kumar Bose



Participants presenting their assignments in media workshop, moderator: Sibaji Pratim Basu



Marko Szilvester Macskovich, a participant of the course



Amitava Das, a participant of the media workshop

14. Research Segments and Follow up Programme

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**

As part of research segment CRG has published article entitled "Colonialism, Resource Crisis and Forced Migration" by Subhash Ranjan Chakraborty, in *Policies and Practices* 42, September 2011. In his article he had tried to link colonialism and resource crisis with forced migration. The process of land alienation started with the grant of Diwani in 1765. The new structures of tenures forced the small peasants /agricultural labourers to migrate. Land alienation, coupled with recurring famines, further made the situation worse for the poor peasants. They migrated to areas of relative surplus or to the urban centres. Colonialism also took away from the poor, their rights over forests. When the British introduced plantation crops, cheap labour was need, and landless peasants, poor labourers migrated to different parts of the world like West Indies, Mauritius, South America, British colonies in Asia and Oceania became major receivers of Indian labourers.

- **Special Issue of Refugee Watch**

This year CRG has decided to publish a special issue of *Refugee watch*, which will be brought out under the Orientation programme 2012.

- **Forthcoming publication on *Protection Strategies in South Asia***

A two day dialogue was held on *Protection Strategies in South Asia* by Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on 14-15 December 2009. Some 30 experts took part in this dialogue from all over South Asia and Geneva. CRG has decided to publish a book, which is a product of research undertaken due to that dialogue on the occasion of 14th Conference of International Association for the Study of Forced Migration to be held on 6-9 January 2013 in Kolkata. The dialogue was meant to help refocus the various protection strategies and needs in South Asia in the context of the new situation. South Asia has witnessed large scale migration, creation of statelessness, massive cyclones and Tsunami disasters. But at the same time, it has witnessed, unprecedented measures of relief, rehabilitation, refugee protection and informal help to victims of various forms of displacement and all these happen without a strong legal framework either to refuse or offer protection. This book deals with the unique South Asian experience.

- **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 Field Visit Grant

A young researcher, Himadri Chatterjee, Ph.D student, CRS, JNU was awarded with the short-term writing fellowships under the Orientation Course programme.

Being one of the participants of Tenth Orientation Course Himadri successfully utilised the opportunity to finish his research on ‘From refugees to immigrants: the career of a population at the borders between necessity and potentiality’ after completion of the Kolkata workshop. In his research he wanted to attempt a retelling of the experiences of multiple splitting and displacements that these families went through in their passage through the rehabilitation apparatus after partition 1947 in West Bengal. The extended research effort aimed at consolidating a larger canvass of oral narratives from certain villages in the Barasat Sub-division of North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal to map the effects of the shifts in policy discourse in the narratives of families that were the targeted by the rehabilitation apparatus in the late 1950s. The aim of this study was to connect the early moment of structuring of the rehabilitation apparatus with a population that was produced through its interventions and came to inhabit a precarious socio-political and legal space in contemporary West Bengal. In the proposed study the ethnographic focus will be shifted from the movement to the underlying social formations. The study focused on the dynamics of the local community, the internal channels of communication, community congregations and local organizational activities. In order to substantiate the notion of a local community network the material existence of the community was grasped in its various facets.

Ongoing Areas of Research

The Orientation 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.

• Research on Stateless in India

CRG in association with the UNHCR, is working on a project entitled ‘Stateless in India’. As is apparent from the title, the project inquires into the status of stateless groups in India. In doing so, the CRG has begun to ask questions about what constitutes ‘statelessness’, epistemologically speaking. The CRG has already successfully concluded a study of the Chakmas in Arunachal Pradesh, the enclave-dwellers living on the Indo-Bangladesh border, the up-country Tamils in Sri Lanka and India, the Chinese population in India and the Gorkhas in the North-East. It is currently on the verge of completing its research on three more similar groups — the Lhotshampas or the Bhutanese refugees of Nepali origin in Nepal, the Hindu migrants from Pakistan to western India and the ‘Stranded Pakistanis’ in Bangladesh. All these case studies seem to suggest so far that the ‘stateless person’ of international legal definition is far too simply drawn to be able to accommodate the variety of status and experience that an actual stateless person in India undergoes. That is to say, between the two poles of citizenship and statelessness, there exists a plethora of dispossessed and disenfranchised identities that do not conform to the gaunt strictures of international legal definition and therefore slips through the interstices of law. As such, the CRG’s research proposes that we rethink and broaden the conceptual net of statelessness so that we could address greater number of people and work for their redress.

- **Research on Branding the Migrants**

CRG's project entitled 'Branding the Migrants' focuses on the impact of the deployment of identificatory technologies on marginal groups, such as the refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless persons, migrant labourers, internally displaced persons and so on. While the project lays emphasis on the activities of the Unique Identification Authority of India and its impact on the above-mentioned groups in different parts of the country, it also embraces other forms of digitized identification — say, financial inclusion — and charts out a general trajectory of identificatory technology as it has unfolded and developed from the colonial times to the present. Is it welfare that animates the state's identificatory activities, or securitization and surveillance? In adopting this question as one of its core concerns, the project also interrogates what may be loosely termed the governmental imperative of the postcolonial, and later neoliberal, nation-state. Two workshops, 'Digital Deliberations-I' and 'Digital Deliberations-II', have already been organized successfully in Kolkata in the last four months in which activists, academics and public intellectuals from all over the country participated. An edited volume on the theme is also being expedited, so that a wider audience/readership can be effectively reached and involved.

Follow-up Programme

- **Students' Workshop on *Partition and Displacement in the East***

The CRG organized a day long Students' Workshop on Partition and Displacement in the East on 20 November 2012 at Swabhum. The total number of selected students was 20. The entire workshop was divided into four business sessions namely, i) Partition and Forced Migration, ii) Testimonies and Memories of Displacement, iii) Participants' Round Table, iv) Interactive session on the two themes of partition and displacement - literature review and caste and politics of Rehabilitation.

The workshop started with a panel discussion on 'Partition, Re-drawing Boundaries and Forced Migration'. Paula Banerjee and Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury participated in this discussion and the session was moderated by Ranabir Samaddar. In the session entitled 'Testimonies and Memories of Displacement' Subhoranjan Dasgupta, IIDS and Atig Ghosh participated and the session was moderated by Sanjukta Bhattacharya, Centre for Refugee Studies, Jadavpur University. To make the workshop participatory CRG devoted a special session on participants' round table. In this session four participants namely, Himadri Chatterjee, Ph.D scholar, JNU; Anindita Ghoshal, faculty, Rishi Bankim College, Naihati, West Bengal; Nandini Ganguly, School of Women Studies, Jadavpur University and Anjuman Ara Begum, Ph.D scholar, Gauhati University, shared their research experiences working on different aspects related to partition and displacement in the eastern part of the subcontinent. The session was moderated by Anwesha sengupta, CRG. In the last session of the workshop two aspects of partition and displacement studies namely, 'literature review' and 'caste and politics of rehabilitation' were discussed. Pradip Bose, sociologist and member of CRG delivered a brief review of literature while Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury made deliberation on cast and politics of rehabilitation after partition in the east. The session was chaired by Subhash Ranjan Chakraborty, historian and member, CRG. The workshop ended with formal vote of thanks proposed by Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury. The participants of the workshop were awarded with certificates for their active participations.



Sudeep Basu, Padam Nepal, Rajat Roy and Biswajit Roy in a special round table on "Media, State and People" held in Darjeeling (from left to right)

15. CRG Team

- Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury
- Anwesha SEngupta
- Ashok Kumar Giri
- Atig Ghosh
- Manjuri Chatterjee
- Paula Banerjee
- Raj Kumar Mahato
- Rajat Kanti Sur
- Ranabir Samaddar
- Ratan Chakraborty
- Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury
- Samaresh Guchhait
- Samir Kumar Das
- Sibaji Pratim Basu
- Suha Priyadarshini Chakravorty



M.Chatterji



R.Chakraborty



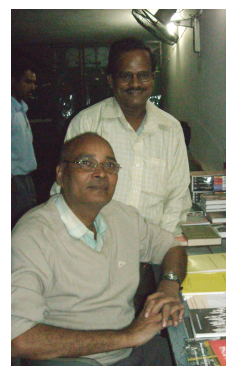
S.Guchhait



A.B.Ray Chaudhury



S.P.Chakravorty



A.K.Giri & R.K.Mahato

16. Advisory Committee

- Asha Hans
- Elizabeth Ferris
- Heli Lehto
- Montserrat Feixas Vihe
- Monirul Hussain
- Nayana Bose
- Prabhu Mohapatra
- Pradip Kumar Bose
- Rajesh S Kharat
- Rakhee Kalita
- Kshesheli Chishi
- Neingulo Krome
- Vijaylakshmi Brara



Montserrat Feixas Vihe



Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury



Ranabir Samaddar, Samir Kumar Das, Pekka Vuontilainen, Montserrat Feixas Vihe and Paula Banerjee in Valedictory Session (from left to right)

17. Alumni of Winter Course

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

- Anita Ghimire
- Anup Sekhar Chakraborty
- Anuradha Gunaratne
- Geetisha Dasgupta
- Ishita Dey
- Ksenia Glebova
- Madhuresh Kumar
- Priyanca Mathur Velath
- Roopshree Joshi
- Sahana Basavapatna
- Shiva Dhungana
- Som Prasad Niroula
- Sucharita Sengupta
- Sudeep Basu
- Uttam Kumar Das



Glimpses of field visit