

A REPORT
ON
THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL ORIENTATION COURSE
ON
FORCED MIGRATION
2013

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 Winter Course on Forced Migration. Thanks are due to the participants and all others who contributed towards it. Thanks are due in particular to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS). Thanks are also due to the British Deputy High Commission, Kolkata for its special support to the media module of the orientation course.

1. A Unique Programme for South Asia	1
2. Structure of the Course	3
3. Participants	7
4. Members of the Faculty	9
5. Partnerships, Supporting and Collaborating Institutions	11
6. Schedule of the 8-day Programme	12
7. Distance Education: Modules and Assignments	17
8. Media and Forced Migration (Film Screenings and workshop)	25
9. Field Visit	30
10. Interactive Sessions	31
11. Inaugural and Valedictory Sessions	37
12. Evaluation	41
13. Outcome of the Course	46
14. Research Segment and Follow-up Programmes	48
15. CRG Team	51
16. Advisory Committee	52
17. Alumni of Winter Course	53

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 on 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. It has been primarily 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. In South Asia, there is immense potential for building 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 2011, CRG partially altered the format of the course by introducing an 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 its 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 phenomena of 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 – 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, grassroot organisations, Mothers' Fronts, research foundations, UN institutions etc.

2. Structure of the Course

After ten years of experience, the Calcutta Research Group (CRG), for the first time, took steps to alter the format of the orientation course (popularly known as Winter Course) to make the best use of the accumulated knowledge of past years and take the course forward. The previous ten Winter Courses were more in the nature of classical instruction. Class lectures, seminars, assignments, field visits, evaluation, grading and allotment of credit were features of the programme. This year with reduced budget and with different collaborators with varying priorities, the course was framed in the nature of an inquiry into research and study methods on the theme of forced migration with a series of workshops with integrated exercises, such as assignments, lectures, field visits, and question-answer sessions. CRG intended to make the course a rich experience towards innovation and switching over to an intensive pedagogical exercise. It was a programme of modest budget, less duration, and greater involvement of participants and the resource persons.

The Eleventh Annual Orientation Programme in the nature of a bridge course was an eight-day programme and held from 7 December to 14 December 2013 in collaboration with the UNHCR, New Delhi; Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Study (MAKAIAS), Kolkata; Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Eastern Region; and the British Deputy High Commission, Eastern India. Preparation for this year's course commenced on the day before the Tenth Winter Course formally ended. The structure of the programme was built around six workshops. In doing this, CRG wanted to take the advice of all those who have been involved in its activities. The members of CRG and its partners had realized that the Winter Course has grown into a full-fledged programme with components of 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 during 2-3 August 2013 at Akashdeep hotel, Kolkata. Representatives from the MAKAIAS, ICSSR (Eastern region), the British Deputy High Commission (Eastern region), our colleagues, members of the course committee and ex-course-participants attended the two-day long deliberations to discuss participants' profile, structure of the course, field visit, etc.

Various Aspects of the Course

A. Migration is a critical global issue today. Not merely in academic discourse, but also in understanding global inter-connectedness and the current profile of insecurity and vulnerability, forced migration plays an extremely important role. From the end of the Cold War, forced migration (involving refugee flows, internal displacement, forced migration of women and children, migration in the wake of human rights violations, natural calamities and humanitarian disasters, statelessness, illegal immigration of vulnerable people, victims of border violence and militarisation of borders, and trafficking in sex and labour) has emerged as a major phenomenon in the world. South Asia is no exception to it. South Asia is a great migration-producing region. There are many reasons for this, including the Partition which was effected as a solution to colonialism; decreasing status of women and increasing levels of poverty of women; economic neo-colonialism and resource crunch leading to creation of footloose people on the move; new legal regimes that create marginalization of the vulnerable, leading to their migration; new developmental paradigms that leave large groups distressed and destitute, etc. The recent boom in migration has therefore taken citizens, refugees, officials, and demographers by surprise, and when it comes to international migration, popular thinking remains mired in nineteenth-century concepts, models, and assumptions. Discussing migration in South Asia, one speaks of the global north as the destination; however, that is no longer true. Today, most of the South Asian migrants are forced to live within South. This results in the production of large groups of footloose people. These groups are both the cause and effect of increasing conflicts in South Asia. At present, there is no single, coherent theory of South Asian or Southern global migration, but only a fragmented set of theories that have developed largely in isolation from one another, sometimes, but not always, fractured along

disciplinary boundaries. Often, migration is considered to be a product of voluntary and individual choice. However, lately migration has often manifested itself as a result of factors that are usually structural and outside the scope of individual choice. As a result, the boundary between voluntary and forced migration is becoming increasingly thin. Hence it becomes imperative to develop new understanding, conceptual, practical and methodological tools to understand forced migration and the measures of relief, rehabilitation, and resettlement. Above all, there remains the critical dimension involving gender that requires to be integrated in the understanding and policy responses.

Against this backdrop, the main theme of this year's course was research methodology in forced migration studies. Keeping the main theme under consideration, CRG planned to have six modules. Each of the modules was conceptualized and structured around a theme lecture, a workshop, some assignments relevant to the workshop theme and rapporteurs' presentation on the deliberations. Each workshop had one day 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 note under each module to be discussed in the relevant workshop.

The Six Modules

- A. *Partitions, Borders, and Forced Migration: Refugee Recognition, Status Determination, Relief, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement*
- B. *Gender Dimensions of Migration: Vulnerabilities, and Issues of Justice*
- C. *Legal Regimes for Protection of the Victims of Forced Migration: Refugees, IDPs, and the Stateless Population Groups*
- D. *Research Methodology in Forced Migration Studies*
- E. *Climate Change, Environmental Degradation, Resource Politics, and Migration*
- F. *Humanitarian Disasters, Human-Rights Violations, and Social Media Journalism*

Besides the research assignments, the course activities included film screenings, field trips and interactions with resource persons.

B. As part of the Orientation Programme, CRG in collaboration with the British Deputy High Commission, Eastern India organized a four-day Media Workshop in Kolkata, India, from December 11 to December 14, 2013 (Wednesday-Saturday). The theme of the workshop was 'Humanitarian Disasters, Human Rights Violations and Social Media Journalism'. The workshop was a segment of the eight-day Eleventh Orientation Programme on Forced Migration, organized by the CRG in Kolkata from December 7 to December 14, 2013.

The relevance of the workshop's theme is incontrovertible, given the contemporary excitement and anxiety around the issue of how to come to terms with the social-media boom across the world. Speculation is rife about the role the social media, in its varied avatars, is likely to play in organizing dissent and raising questions of social justice, particularly in the event of a cresting trend of human rights violations and humanitarian disasters around the globe. As such, the response to the call for participation and papers was overwhelming, from social media activists and mainstream media professionals alike. The desire to develop and gain a better understanding of the field in question, its multi-modal use and interstices, was palpable. **(For the detailed report please see pages 25-29)**

C. CRG organized a special Q and A session with Meghna Guha Thakurta, Director, Research Initiative Bangladesh, on 8 December 2013 at 4.30 - 5.30 pm.

D. This year the orientation course had two film screening sessions. Two documentaries on internal displacement in Congo and Philippines produced by the Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) were screened on 11 December 2013. A special session on *Dalit Camera: through Untouchable Eyes* was organized on 13 December 2013 at 7 - 8 pm. **(For the detailed report please see page 25)**

E. CRG organized a special session on Statelessness on 10 December 2013 at 4.30-5.30 pm. Ranabir Samaddar elaborated CRG's research on statelessness in India in this session.

F. In collaboration with MAKAIAS, Kolkata, CRG organized a special round table discussion of *Borders, States and Statelessness* at MAKAIAS on 12 December 2013 at 10 am -12 noon.

(Find the full schedule of Kolkata workshop from pages 12-16)

Participants

Twenty-seven participants altogether attended the main course out of which twenty were selected through public notifications and were drawn from fields of law, social and humanitarian work, and academics. This year we had two participants from each of the countries: Nepal and Sri Lanka. We had social workers, human rights activists, academics from India and a researcher from Bangladesh as participants. We have legal experts from Nepal and India. Besides, we invited six ex-participants of the earlier courses to enrich the workshop with their expertise in the field of forced migration. **(For the detailed list of participants please see pages 7-8)**

On the other hand, the number of participants attending the special media workshop of the Orientation course was twenty-one. The young and senior practicing journalists along with academics working on social media enriched the discussion of the workshop. **(For the detailed list of participants please see pages 28-29)**

Faculty

Resource persons from various universities and institutions across South Asia were invited to join as faculty members of the Tenth Orientation Course on Forced Migration. The faculty members were drawn with experience in refugee studies, internal displacement, teaching and research, humanitarian work in NGOs, journalism, legal studies, UN functionaries, particularly UNHCR functionaries, public policy analysis, and concerned human rights activism and humanitarian work. Importance was attached to the requirements of the six modules; the faculty was also involved in developing, on a permanent basis, a set of reading materials, evaluation, and follow-up activities. They graded participants on their skills of communication and analysis and presentation of research assignments. **(For the detailed list of faculty please see pages 9-10)**

Evaluation

The main orientation course comprising the structure of the workshop, nature of discussion, and participants' involvement was evaluated by an external evaluator, Professor Sanjukta Bhattacharya, Director, Centre for Refugee Studies, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University. Besides, the core faculty members also graded the participants' research assignments and presentation. 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 orientation course has a built-in evaluation system. Each participant was required to present a written evaluation and each resource person is also expected to do the same.

The special media workshop of the course was also evaluated by eminent journalists with the help of the coordinator. **(For the detailed report please see pages 41-45)**

Follow-Up Activities

The CRG has decided to take up the following steps as follow-up activities of the Orientation Course

- Publication of a book on research methods in forced migration studies
- Publication of a book on statelessness in India
- Publication of some of the good assignments of the participants in the journal *Refugee Watch*
- Publication of a media reader on social media, citizen journalism, and human rights and humanitarian protection



Paula Banerjee, Ranabir Samaddar, Prasanta Ray, Susanta Ghosh & Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury (From left to right)

3. Participants

Gobardhan Niroula: He is an MA in English from Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal and currently works with International Organization for Migration, Nepal.

Ishita Dey: She is a doctoral candidate at Department of Sociology, Delhi University. Her publications include *Sustainability of Rights after Globalisation*, co-edited with Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury (2011) and *Beyond Kolkata: Rajarhat and the Dystopia of Urban Imagination*, co-authored with Ranabir Samaddar and Suhit K. Sen (2013).

Laxman Lamichhane: He is an Advocate and holds Master of Laws (LLM) in International Human Rights and Refugee Law from Nepal Law Campus, Tribhuvan University, Nepal.

Lopita Nath: She is the Associate Professor and Chair, Department of History, and also the Coordinator, Asian Studies Program, University of the Incarnate Word, Texas, USA.

Manoj Kumar Mishra: He is Assistant Professor, Malaviya Centre for Peace Research, Varanasi, India.

Mausumi Chetia: She is an independent researcher from Mumbai, India.

Mobassherul Alam Chowdhury: He is a Project Coordinator at Research initiatives (RIB), Bangladesh.

Mohamed Munas: He works at Centre for Poverty Analysis, Sri Lanka.

Nand Kishore: He is Assistant Professor, Department of Geopolitics and International Relations, Manipal University, Udupi District, Karnataka, India.

Neamatullah Neamat: He is an independent researcher from Afghanistan.

Rajesh Kharat: He is Professor, School of International Studies (SIS), JNU, New Delhi, India.

Rajkumar Nagarajah: He teaches at National Institute of health and Social Studies, Sri Lanka.

Samata Biswas: She teaches English Literature at Haldia Government College and is completing her PhD from the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad. Her areas of research are gender, body and the media, and the cross-section of feminism and popular culture.

Sanalembi Devi: She is a District Coordinator, Women in Governance, Assam.

Sayantani Chatterjee: She is a Post Graduate student, Department of Ecology, Environment, and Sustainable Development, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati, Assam, India

Shreya Ghosh: She is currently pursuing her MPhil dissertation at Centre for Political Studies, JNU, New Delhi, India.

Shuvro Prosun Sarker: He works at CRG as Research Assistant and is also pursuing his Ph.D.

Shyamalendu Majumder: He is the Associate Professor, Sivnath Sastri College, Kolkata, India.

Somali Bhattacharyya: She is a PhD scholar, Department of South and Southeast Asian studies, University of Calcutta, India.

Subha Protim Roychowdhury: He works at Banglar Manabdhikar Suraksha Mancha (Masum), Serampore also editor of Human-rights journal.

Suchita Kumari: She works at The Other Media, New Delhi, India as Programme Coordinator.

T. Limanochet Jamir: He is the Lecturer at City Law College, Dimapur, Nagaland. He holds LL.M degree in Human Rights Law from National Law School of India University, Bangalore.

Vikash Kumar: He is the Senior Officer, Working Group on Human Rights in India and the UN (WGHR) , New Delhi, India and also Deputy Editor, *India Quarterly*.



Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury and Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury



Participants Presentation: Paula Banerjee (Moderator), Vikas Kumar and T. Limanochet Jamir (From Left to right)

4. Members of Faculty

Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury: Research and Programme Associate, CRG

Anita Sengupta: Fellow, MAKAIAS, Kolkata

Atig Ghosh: Assistant Professor, Department of History, Vidya-Bhavana, Visva Bharati, Santiniketan and honorary researcher at the CRG

Diloram Karamat: Visiting Fellow, MAKAIAS, Kolkata

Fatima Azmiya Badurdeen: Faculty, Technical University, Mombasa, Kenya

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

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

Manabi Majumder: Faculty, CSSS, Kolkata

Meena Poudel: IOM, Nepal

Meghna Guha Thakurta: Director, Research Initiatives Bangladesh (RIB), Dhaka

Mrinal Kanti Chakma: Fellow, MAKAIAS, Kolkata

Nilanjan Dutta: Journalist based in Kolkata

Nirmal Mahato: Patha Bhavan, Visva Bharati University

Nirmalya Banerjee: Senior journalist and columnist based in Kolkata

Priya Singh: Fellow, MAKAIAS, Kolkata

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

Prasanta Ray: Secretary, CRG, and Emeritus Professor in Sociology, Presidency University

Rajat Roy: Senior journalist based in Kolkata

Ranabir Samaddar: Director, CRG

Ratan Khasnabis: Honorary visiting Professor IDSK.

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

Sahana Basavapatna: Lawyer based in New Delhi

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

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

Samita Sen: Vice-Chancellor, Diamond Harbour Women's University, South 24 Parganas

Scott Fursedonn-Wood: British Deputy High Commissioner, Eastern India

Sibaji Pratim Basu: Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Sree Chaitanya College, Habra and Treasurer, CRG

Sreeradha Dutta: Director, MAKAIAS, Kolkata

Subhash Ranjan Chakraborty: Historian and Member, CRG



Ranabir Samaddar



Prasanta Ray



Samir Kumar Das



Atig Ghosh

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 collaborating institutions. The Eleventh orientation course was supported by the UNHCR, New Delhi; MAKAIAS, Kolkata; ICSSR, Eastern Region; and the British Deputy High Commission, Eastern India. CRG acknowledges its debt to its collaborators, without whose support it would have not been possible to organise this course. Besides, the experts in the field of forced migration studies and social media, our colleagues, members of the course committee and former course participants collectively decided the selection procedure, participants profile, module structure of the course, media segment, field visit and follow up segment.

CRG is especially grateful to the Director and researchers of MAKAIAS for their cooperation to organise a special round table discussion on *Borders, States and Statelessness* held on 12 December. CRG thanks all the researchers who participated in this discussion for making it so vibrant.

Field Visits

The field visit was held on December 12, 2013 was a hands-on training session where participants (of the main course along with the media segment) were divided into three groups and taken to field visits to three different venues. The first group, which excluded practicing journalists, were taken to the newsroom of *The Telegraph*, which is the largest circulated English daily in Eastern India. The second group was taken to the Priya Manna basti (slum) in Sibpur, Howrah. The third group visited the office of Banglar Manabdhikar Suraksha Mancha (Masum) in Serampore. **(For detailed report on field visit please see page 3)**

Detailed reports on all the features of the programme in 2013 will be on our website by March 2014.



Participants of the Eleventh Annual Orientation Course with few CRG Members

6. Schedule

The Eleventh Orientation Course on Forced Migration

Schedule for eight-day workshop, Kolkata (7 December-14 December 2013)

(Venue – Hotel Sojourn, Hotel Pearl and Rangdarbar, Swabhumi, Kolkata)

Course Modules

- A. *Partitions, Borders, and Forced Migration: Refugee Recognition, Status Determination, Relief, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement*
- B. *Gender Dimensions of Migration: Vulnerabilities, and Issues of Justice*
- C. *Legal Regimes for Protection of the Victims of Forced Migration: Refugees, IDPs, and the Stateless Population Groups*
- D. *Research Methodology in Forced Migration Studies*
- E. *Climate Change, Environmental Degradation, Resource Politics, and Migration*
- F. *Humanitarian Disasters, Human-Rights Violations, and Social Media Journalism*

This course includes field visit, round tables, course assignments, workshops, special lectures, etc.

[A two and half month long distance education programme precedes the 8-day 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.]

7 December (Saturday) Formal Inauguration

Venue: **Hotel Pearl**

04.00 - 05.00 PM	Orientation of the Course
05.00 - 05.30 PM	Tea and Registration
05.30 - 05.45 PM	Welcome Address by Paula Banerjee , President, CRG and Faculty, South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Calcutta
05.45 - 06.00 PM	Introducing CRG's research on Forced Migration by Atig Ghosh , CRG
06.00 - 06.10 PM	Brief address by Chief Guest, Susanta Ghosh , Eastern Regional Centre, ICSSR, Kolkata
06.10 - 07.25 PM	Inaugural Round Table on Reflections on the Decade of Forced Migration Studies Speakers: Paula Banerjee , Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury , Rabindra Bharati University and Member, CRG Moderator: Ranabir Samaddar , Director, CRG
07.25 - 07.30 PM	Vote of Thanks by Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury , CRG Chair: Prasanta Ray , Secretary, CRG and Emeritus Professor in Sociology, Presidency University
08.00 PM	Reception & Dinner

8 December (Sunday): *Partitions, Borders, and Forced Migration: Refugee Recognition, Status Determination, Relief, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement*

Venue: **Hotel Sojourn**

Module A

09.30 - 11.00 AM	Theme Lecture by Ranabir Samaddar , Director, CRG
11.00 - 11.30 AM	<i>Tea break</i>
11.30 - 01.00 PM	Participants' Workshop: Speakers: Subho Protim Roychowdhury , MASUM, West Bengal; Shreya Ghosh , JNU, New Delhi; Mobassherul Alam Chowdhury , RIB, Dhaka
01.00 - 02.00 PM	Lunch
02.00 - 03.30 PM	Interactive session with Rajesh Kharat , School of International Studies, JNU, New Delhi; Shuvro Prosun Sarker , CRG Co-Chairs: Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury and Ranabir Samaddar
03.30 - 04.00 PM	<i>Tea break</i>
04.00 - 05.30 PM	Q and A session with Meghna Guha Thakurta , Director, Research Initiatives Bangladesh (RIB), Dhaka
06.00 - 08.00 PM	Library hours

9 December (Monday): *Gender Dimensions of Migration: Vulnerabilities, and Issues of Justice*

Venue: **Hotel Sojourn**

Module B

09.30 - 11.00 AM	Theme Lecture by Paula Banerjee
11.00 - 11.30 AM	<i>Tea break</i>
11.30 - 01.00 PM	Participants' Workshop: Speakers: Vikash Kumar , WGHR, New Delhi; T. Limanochet Jamir , City Law College, Dimapur.
01.00 - 02.00 PM	Lunch
02.00 - 03.30 PM	Participants' Workshop continued: Speakers: Gobardhan Niroula , IOM, Nepal; Sanalembi Devi , Win-G, Assam. Co-Chairs: Paula Banerjee and Subhas Ranjan Chakrabarty , Member, CRG
03.30 - 04.00 PM	<i>Tea break</i>
04.00 - 04.30 PM	Rapporteurs' presentation on Module A
04.30 - 05.30 PM	Round table on <i>Labour, Migration and trafficking in South Asia</i> Speakers: Samita Sen , Diamond Harbor Women's University, Kolkata; Meena Poudel , IOM, Nepal; Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury , CRG Chair: Manabi Majumder , CSSSC, Kolkata
06.00 - 08.00 PM	Library hours

10 December (Tuesday): *Legal Regimes for Protection of the Victims of Forced Migration: Refugees, IDPs, and the Stateless Population Groups*

Venue: **Hotel Sojourn**

Module C

09.30 - 11.00 AM	Theme Lecture by Sahana Basavapatna , Lawyer based in New Delhi
11.00 - 11.30 AM	<i>Tea break</i>
11.30 - 01.00 PM	Participants' Workshop Speakers: Laxman Lamichhane , Advocate, Nepal; Neamatullah Neamat , UNAMA, Afghanistan; Rajkumar Nagarajah , NIHSS, Sri Lanka.
01.00 - 02.00 PM	Lunch
02.00 - 03.30 PM	Participants Workshop continued: Speakers: Nanda Kishore , Manipal University, Karnataka; Lopita Nath , University of Incarnate Word, Texas, USA. Co-Chairs: Sahana Basavapatna and K. M. Parivelan .
03.30 - 04.00 PM	<i>Tea break</i>
04.00 - 04.30 PM	Rapporteurs' presentation on Module B
04.30 - 05.30 PM	Special Session on Statelessness CRG's brief Research Presentation by Ranabir Samaddar followed by an interactive session with representative of the UNHCR
06.00 - 08.00 PM	Library hours
08.30 pm onwards	Film with dinner

11 December (Wednesday): *Research Methodology in Forced Migration Studies*

Venue: **Hotel Sojourn**

Module D

09.30 - 11.00 AM	Theme Lecture by Samir Kumar Das , North Bengal University, and Member, CRG
11.00 - 11.30 AM	Tea break
11.30 - 01.00 PM	Participants Workshop: Speakers: Somali Bhattacharyya , Calcutta University, Kolkata; Mohamed Munas , CPA, Sri Lanka, Shyamalendu Majumder , Sivnath Sastri College, Kolkata. Chair: Samir Kumar Das
01.00 - 02.00 PM	Lunch
02.00 - 03.30 PM	Special lecture on research methodology by Prasanta Ray
03.30 - 04.00 PM	Tea break
04.00 - 04.30 PM	Rapporteurs' presentation on Module C
04.30 - 05.30 PM	Panel discussion on CRG's two research reports, <i>Voices</i> and <i>Eroded Lives</i> Speakers: Paula Banerjee and Nilanjan Dutta , Journalist, Kolkata Moderator: Ratan Khasnabis , Honorary visiting professor, IDSK

Venue: Hotel Pearl

06.30 - 06.45 PM	General session on Media Introduction of Participants
06.45 - 08.30 PM	Broaching the theme A.S. Panneerselvan, Executive Director, Panos South Asia; Patricia Mukhim, Editor, The Shillong Times, Meghalaya Chair: Ranabir Samaddar, Director, Calcutta Research Group
08.30 PM onwards	Dinner

12 December (Thursday)

Venue: **MAKAIAS**

10.00 - 12.00 AM	Special Round Table discussion on <i>Borders, States and Statelessness</i>
01.00 – 02.00 PM	Lunch at the Hotel Sojourn
02.00 – 07.00 PM	Field Visit The entire group would be divided into three parts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group 1: Composed of non-mainstream journalists, this group were taken to the newsroom of <i>The Telegraph</i>, Kolkata between 3pm and 6pm. (in-charge: Sibaji Pratim Basu & Chandrima Bhattacharya)• Group 2: This group were taken to Priya Manna basti (slum) in Sibpur, Howrah: between 3pm and 6pm. (in-charge: V. Ramaswamy & Samaresh Guchhait)• Group 3: This group visited the office of Manabadhikar Suraksha Mancha (Masum), Serampore, between 2pm and 7pm. (in-charge: Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury & Atig Ghosh)

Bus will start from the Hotel Sojourn

08.00 PM onwards	Dinner Discussion on the field visit at the Hotel Pearl Moderator: Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury and Atig Ghosh
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13 December (Friday)

Venue: **Sojourn, Room A**

Parallel sessions (*Climate Change, Environmental Degradation, Resource Politics, and Migration Humanitarian Disasters, Human-Rights Violations, and Social Media Journalism*)

Module E

09.30 - 11.00 AM	Theme Lecture by K M Parivelan , School of Law Rights and Constitutional Governance, TISS, Mumbai.
11.00 - 11.30 AM	<i>Tea break</i>
11.30 - 01.00 PM	Participants Workshop Speakers: Mausumi Chetia , Independent Researcher, Mumbai; Suchita Kumari , The Other Media, New Delhi;
01.00 - 02.00 PM	Lunch
02.00 - 03.30 PM	Participants' Workshop continued: Speakers: Sayantani Chatterjee , TISS, Guwahati; Manoj Kumar Mishra , BHU, Varanasi. Co-Chairs: K M Parivelan and Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury .
03.30 - 04.00 PM	<i>Tea break</i>
04.00 - 04.30 PM	Rapporteurs' presentation on Module D
04.30 - 05.30 PM	Special session on <i>Historical Accounts on Environment, Resource Crisis and Migration</i> Speakers: Nirmal Mahato and Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty , Historian and Member, CRG Chair: Sanjukta Bhattacharya , Director, Centre for Refugee Studies, Jadavpur University

Module F

Venue: Sojourn, Room B

Please see separate schedule for Module F

General Session

Venue: **Hotel Pearl**

7.00- 8.00 PM

Dalit Camera: Through Untouchable Eyes

Presentation by Georgy Kuruvila Roy, CSSS, Kolkata

14 December (Saturday)

Venue: **Rangdarbar, Swabhumi**

09.30 - 10.00 AM

Rapporteurs' presentation on **Module E**

10.00 - 11.00 AM

Discussion on the Course with **Ranabir Samaddar**

11.00 - 11.30 AM

Tea

11.30 - 01.00 PM

Evaluation

Valedictory Session

Venue: **Rangdarbar, Swabhumi**

05.00 - 05.20 PM

Tea and Registration

05.20 - 05.30 PM

Opening song by Sikha Ganguli, New Delhi based eminent classical vocalist

05.30 - 05.35 PM

Welcome address by **Paula Banerjee**, President, CRG and Faculty, South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Calcutta

05.35 - 05.45 PM

Report on the Eleventh Annual Orientation Course on Forced Migration by **Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury**, Course Coordinator, CRG

05.45 - 06.00 PM

Remarks by Chief Guest, **Ramesh Dadhich**, Member Secretary, ICSSR, New Delhi

06.00 - 06.15 PM

Brief remarks on the Course by some participants

06.15 - 06.35 PM

Distribution of Certificates to the Media course participants followed by brief address by Guest of Honour, **Scott Fursedonn-Wood**, British Deputy High Commissioner, Eastern India

06.35 - 06.55 PM

Distribution of Certificates to the Orientation course participants followed by brief address by Special Guest, **Hans Friedrich Schodder**, Deputy Chief of Mission, UNHCR, New Delhi

06.55 - 07.25 PM

Valedictory Lecture by **Pamela Philipose**, Director and Editor-in-Chief, Women's Feature Service, New Delhi

07.25 - 07.30 PM

Vote of Thanks by **Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury**
Chair: **Paula Banerjee**

7. Distance Education: Modules and Assignments

Distance Education: Modules and Assignments

The Course was structured around six modules.

Course Modules

- A. *Partitions, Borders, and Forced Migration: Refugee Recognition, Status Determination, Relief, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement*
- B. *Gender Dimensions of Migration: Vulnerabilities, and Issues of Justice*
- C. *Legal Regimes for Protection of the Victims of Forced Migration: Refugees, IDPs, and the Stateless Population Groups*
- D. *Research Methodology in Forced Migration Studies*
- E. *Climate Change, Environmental Degradation, Resource Politics, and Migration*
- F. *Humanitarian Disasters, Human-Rights Violations, and Social Media Journalism*

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 six 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 23-24).**

MODULE A: *Partitions, Borders, and Forced Migration: Refugee Recognition, Status Determination, Relief, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement*

Core Faculty Member: **Ranabir Samaddar**

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

Partition also imposes on the people the obligation of making a choice out of a menu of nations being partitioned as national alternatives. Non-national alternatives are clearly ruled out. One is obliged to belong to either of the two newly formed nations and cannot choose to remain stateless and without any nation in the wake of a partition. At the same time, partition is not an end in itself. Partition gives rise to a sort of sub-territoriality: a space situated within the territory of a state that has been for all practical purposes rendered

ethnically homogeneous by one particular community or an organization claiming to represent it. Sub-territoriality also contests state territoriality.

Today multi-ethnic states are a global phenomenon and South Asia is no exception. Yet rising nationalisms all over the world is privileging certain groups while others are being marginalized. A concrete example of this phenomenon can be found in the laws created by the states after what is now patently mythologized as 9/11. The attack on the World Trade Centre on September 11, 2001 became the *raison d'être* to enact many laws and treaties that severely curtail the movement of people in search of a better life and keep them trapped in precarious and often dangerous situations. Specific examples can be given from the US, Canadian, Australian and Indian contexts to illustrate how these new laws affect migrants. These laws, taken together, create a climate of intolerance towards immigrants and other migrants, especially people of colour resulting in racist attacks, endangering their physical and psychological security. Xenophobia and intolerance tear away at the fabric of all (and especially multicultural) societies. South Asia is by no means unique in its response to 9/11 and indeed it is not the worst amongst the regions of the world. However, when the rights of marginalized people are trampled upon to secure an *imagined* security, the rights of all citizens are at risk.

The category of forced migrants complicates the situation even further. While resource crunch, political choice, imperatives of national security and developmental paradigms are creating greater vulnerabilities and swelling the ranks of marginalized people, the walls of the nations are growing taller against those who are considered different/aliens. Faced with increasingly xenophobic states, the marginalized masses are either forced to remain within a state system that dispossesses them or embark on dangerous migrations that can reduce them to near-slave situations and even cost them their lives.

This is the predicament that a course on forced migration today has to deal with. In this perspective laws, policies, and institutions on “refugee rehabilitation and resettlement” will be discussed thoroughly.

The theme paper focused on emerging issues in forced migration studies and the methodological implications for studying them.

Assignments

- Critically evaluate the situation of Rohingya refugees in South Asia with special emphasis on the issue of durable solutions. Can their prolonged refugee condition lead to statelessness?
- Write an essay on struggle of climate and environmental refugees of Char area, Murshidabad with special emphasis on the issue of protections.
- Write a paper on politics at the borders focusing on the state policies and subject practices in South Asia. Discuss how these control practices impact on norms and the goal of protection of refugees, the stateless, and other displaced population group.

MODULE B: Gender Dimensions of Migration: Vulnerabilities, and Issues of Social Justice

Core Faculty Member: **Paula Banerjee**

This module is meant to portray that migration and asylum is a gendered experience. At least in the context of South Asia it results from and is related to the marginalization of women by the South Asian states. These states at best patronize women and at worse infantilize, disenfranchise and de-politicize them. It is in the person of a migrant that a women's marginality reaches its height. One way of marginalizing women from the body politic is done by targeting them and displacing them in times of state-versus-community conflict. As a migrant, a woman loses her individuality, subjectivity, citizenship and her ability to make political choices. As political non-subjects, women emerge as the symbol of difference between us/citizens and its other/refugees/non-citizens/migrants.

Seen from another perspective, resource crunch all over the world is creating large groups of pauperized people who are unable to access national resources. These groups include in the context of South Asia, ethnic, religious and caste minorities. When certain groups get poorer, the impact of pauperization is the greatest on the women of such a group. Therefore, everywhere women are swelling the ranks of migrant labour. They are the least paid often they are the least organized. Their vulnerabilities are making them attractive recruits to labour cartels and traffickers. Also their visibility in the labour markets is making them competitors in the scramble for the paltry resources existing for unskilled labour. In this competition they are becoming targets of violence. In fact, violence itself is getting more sexualized and feminized. Sexual and structural violence is rampant as the infrastructure is yet to be created which could accommodate or facilitate the lives of labouring women. Faced with this dual violence, poor women are getting more and more exploited, so much so that traditional forms of income generation through bar dancing, sex work, employment in overseas sex industries and mail-order brides are becoming preferred options for many. But even these options come with no insurance and can put women at greater risks.

There is another aspect to women's migration and this has to do with women's employment in the informal sector. Often poverty, war, hunger, persecution are driving women away from South Asia into the swelling domestic labour market of rich countries. With increasing number of women entering white-collar or professional job markets, they are dependent on poor women for domestic labour. These women from the global South are becoming nurses, wet nurses and maids the world over. Even this industry is low paying and thoroughly exploitative. Many of these women fall prey to traffickers. Sexual harassment seems to dog their steps. Away from family or informal networks of support, these women become extremely vulnerable. The state seldom steps in to save these women because they cannot even exercise their right of complaint knowing one such complaint will close all doors of opportunities. Therefore with the increase in the number of women migrants, their vulnerabilities also multiply, thereby making them the most exploited section among the migrants.

The theme paper in this module addressed the issue of a feminist research methodology in forced migration studies.

Assignments

- Write a report on the post conflict situation of women in Bodoland Territorial Area Districts (BTAD).
- Critically evaluate the situation of migrants in Nagaland with special reference to Eastern Nagas vis-à-vis illegal immigrants.
- Write a note on rights based mechanism for women in India- Bangladesh border.
- Prepare a report on domestic violence and vulnerability of Bhutanese refugee women at the camps.

MODULE C. Legal Regimes for Protection of the Victims of Forced Migration: Refugees, IDPs, and the Stateless Population Groups

Core Faculty Member: **Sahana Basavapatna**

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

The eviction of indigenous people from their land is a recurrent theme in South Asia. Be it Ranigaon, Golai, Motakeda, Somthana, Ahmedabad, Bandarban, or Trincomalee, thousands of families are being evicted from their homes either in the name of conflict or in the name of modernization. The last two decades have witnessed an enormous increase in the number of internally displaced people in South Asia. Since the early 1990s the need for a separate legal mechanism for IDPs in South Asia has increasingly been felt. Only recently the international community has developed such a mechanism that is popularly known as the UN Guiding Principles on internal displacement. This has given us a framework within which rehabilitation and care of internally displaced people in South Asia can be organised. This module discusses in detail the ways in which the South Asian nation states have addressed the issue of internally displaced persons, the policies regarding the rehabilitation and care of these groups within South Asia.

This module will also examine 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. Within the realm of public international law, rules have evolved in response to the problem of statelessness. Against the backdrop of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness this module intends to analyse the dynamics of this problem in South Asia.

The theme lecture focused on critical jurisprudence in this respect.

Assignments

- Given the history of migration in South Asia, do you consider the question of South Asian countries ratifying the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees relevant? If yes, on what basis could one argue that this is so? Given the systematic erosion of the principles of the 1951 Convention, are South Asian countries finding novel ways of managing its population flows? If this is not a relevant issue anymore, how may one visualize a better legal protection mechanism for refugees in the South Asian region?
- What does the current Australian forced migration policy (one of the forms being the Australian-Malaysian swap deal) mean for forced migration discourse? Should it not be taken too seriously given that most states who have ratified the 1951 Convention have failed to abide by its principles? Or does it signify a changing pattern of refugee protection in the post (Sri-Lankan) and Snowdenian world?
- In what ways have refugees in “urban areas” benefited from the UNHCR Urban Refugee Policy? Discuss this with the realities of refugee protection in the South Asian region
- Do countries in the South Asian region, specially Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan (the last country although not officially part of South Asia, increasingly participating in the political and economic realities of the SA region) provide unique examples of the blurring of the terms “refugee”, “stateless person” and “internally displaced person”? Add to this that the overall conflict has forced many to leave in order to find better economies that are violence free (a case in point being Afghanistan), what becomes of the idea of the “refugee”?

MODULE D. Research Methodology in Forced Migration Studies

Core Faculty Member: **Samir Kumar Das**

In the social sciences methodology is almost taken to be a discipline, bordering on philosophy, whose function is to recommend and examine the methods, which should be used to produce valid knowledge. Methodology lays down procedures to be used in generation of valid knowledge and these procedures are justified or criticized by means of philosophical arguments. It is clear that methodology’s claim to prescribe correct procedures to social sciences presupposes a form of knowledge that is thought to be provided by

philosophy. In this sense, methodology presupposes a particular kind of relationship between philosophy and the social sciences where judgment and validation of the claim to knowledge is possible. Different philosophies may conceive of that relationship in different terms and, to that extent, each discourse describes a different 'regime of truth'; that is, the operation of criteria, norms and procedures for identifying or arguing about 'true' propositions in any given case.

At a more functional level, methodology is a set of practices. This term may be used to refer to practices which are widely used across an industry or a discipline, the techniques used in a particular research study, or the techniques used to accomplish a particular project. People may also use the term 'methodology' to refer to the study of such methods, rather than the methods themselves. In terms of research on migration, the orthodox school focuses on differentials in wages and employment conditions between countries and on migration costs; it generally conceives of movement as an individual decision for income maximization. The 'new economics of migration,' in contrast, considers conditions in a variety of markets, not just labour markets. It views migration as a household decision taken to minimize risks to family income or to overcome capital constraints on family production activities. Dual labour market theory and world systems theory generally ignore such micro-level decision processes, focussing instead on forces operating at much higher levels of aggregation. The former links immigration to the structural requirements of modern industrial economies, while the latter sees immigration as a natural consequence of economic globalization and market penetration across national boundary. The growing concern about forced migration within the genre of migration studies disturbs all these orthodox theoretical models.

'Forced migration' as a problematic demands a critical epistemology. It believes in value-determined nature of inquiry, unlike positivism and post-positivism which are interested in explanation only. Further, it wants inquiry to critique with an intention to transform social, political, economic, and ethnic and gender structures, which constrain and exploit woman and man. The inquirer becomes an instigator, a 'transformative intellectual' confronting ignorance and misconceptions. Theoretical critique of positivism has encouraged in recent times a shift to qualitative methodology in social research. The basic assumptions central to this critique can be briefly stated as: (i) commonsense knowledge of social structures, including individual bias, cannot be discounted in favour of the misplaced hope of achieving an objective knowledge; (ii) Statistical logic and experimental methods are not always appropriate for the study of this inter-subjective world and it might require newer models such as analysis through oral narratives; (iii) In an inter-subjective world, policy interventions based on a stimulus-response model of change can neither be analytically nor politically acceptable. Also, in these situations quantitative method is often ineffective. By contrast, qualitative methods involve use and collection of a variety of empirical material— case studies, personal experience narratives, introspective accounts, life stories, interviews, and observational, historical, interactional and visual texts— that describes routine and problematic moments and meanings in individuals' lives. A qualitative researcher becomes a 'jack of all trades', so to speak, ready to use any strategy, method or data. There is no prior commitment to any. This type of critical methodology is suitable for migration studies.

Along with all these, this module helped to understand how feminist methodology can influence research on forced migration. By adding women as a separate category, the scholars have begun to recover and re-appropriate women's work. However, the question may arise: Is it the best way to eliminate sexism and andro-centrism? Should we study women as victims of male dominance? These are few questions, besides the fundamental methodological issues, that this module intended to raise while dealing with research methodology in forced migration studies. This module also discussed CRG's own work on mapping IDP voices in South Asia.

Assignments

- Do you think that there is any divergence between the legal and the ethical? Give reasons for your answer.
- Point out, in brief, the limitations of quantitative methods in Forced Migration Studies.

- Please read the Section on ‘Shefali’ in Samaddar’s *Marginal Nation* and comment on the methodology informing it.

MODULE E: *Climate Change, Environmental Degradation, Resource Politics, and Migration*

Core Faculty Member: **K.M.Parivelan**

Each year, millions of people are forcibly displaced by environmental crises, climate change, conflicts and resource crunch. These are some of the pertinent concerns of contemporary development discourse. Although internally displaced persons are often defined as those uprooted by conflict, human-rights violations and natural or human-made disasters, they also include those displaced by development projects. While victims of natural disaster and those displaced by conflict dominantly constitute the focus of sympathetic action and international aid, the same cannot be said for victims of development-induced displacement, although the consequences development may be equally dire.

Forced migration due to resource crisis caused by climate change and environmental degradation is a serious impediment to attaining the 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 the 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, is causing the problems of resource crisis and displacement, on the other. The basic objective of this module is to contemplate the impacts of environmental challenges, resource crisis, climate change and subsequent displacement on the development of society within the following suggested framework: (a) Resource conflict and internal displacement: experiences of indigenous population and groups in India (Review of resettlement policies in South Asia); (b) Disaster-induced displacement - experiences and policies; and (c) The mixed nature of climate induced displacement.

The module lecture will be based on original research on the related issues of sustainability, resource crisis, floods, disasters and displacement.

Assignments

- The Impact of Climate Change on the Resources and Migration Patterns: Case Study of Sundarban Biosphere
- Climate Change and Environmental Refugees: The Case of Bangladesh
- The Role of State in Displacement due to Natural Disasters: Case Study of Assam
- Pattern of Displacement and Migration due to New Economic Developmental Models: Case Study Burma.
- Impact of Climate Change and Environmental Degradation in the Coastal Regions of India: Case of Orissa

MODULE F: *Humanitarian Disasters, Human-Rights Violations, and Social Media Journalism*

Core Faculty Member: **Atig Ghosh**

From the Tahrir Square in Cairo to the Shahbag Square in Dhaka, the world, in recent times, has seen an explosion of digital culture in the organization of protests as well as in the dissemination of news. Citizen journalism has asserted itself in the social-media space globally, even as the traditional media have been slow to wake up to the phenomenon. Now, gradually comprehending its social and political traction, the powers that be various political and government establishments too, are trying to join the social-media bandwagon. At least one major media group has rededicated its prestigious “excellence in journalism” awards to social media. This module will take advantage of this historic conjunction to debate and discuss the issue in a

workshop/ media research lab format. The questions that face the workshop are critically important and not easy to resolve: How empowering, after all, is social media? Has it indeed democratized news? If yes, in what modes and forms has this democratization been attained? Also, where do we draw the line between freedom of expression and defamation?

This module will attempt to engage with these questions through the optic of humanitarian disasters and human-rights violations. The media module will endeavour to sensitize social media activists to humanitarian disasters and human rights violations resulting from forced migration, and, in the process of the workshop, establish a connect between mainstream journalists working on forced migration issues and social-media activists. The participation of social media activists will be the main source of information. The various ways in which social media has been active will be documented and thus made visible. This is because even our fragmentary knowledge tells us of the important ways in which social media has been active, for instance, in the Northeast of India in humanitarian crises like the Brahmaputra floods and human-rights violations in various parts of the country.

The speciality of the module was that besides the course participants selected citizen journalists and social-media activists will join the programme. However, since the workshop also aims at skilling traditional media activists in the tools of social media, it is important that innovative professional journalists are also involved in this. Their interaction with human-rights activists, policymakers, academics, media specialists, refugee rights activists, and others working in the field of human rights and humanitarian assistance for victims of forced migration will be a valuable dimension to the project. Internet journalism will be also discussed in the frame of human rights and humanitarian protection. The workshop would consist of lectures, visits, and interactive exercises.

(For details on Media workshop please see pages 25-29)

Assignments

List of Themes Selected by the Participants for their Assignments

Time Allotted for Presentation: 20 Minutes

Module A

Date of Presentation: 8 December (Sunday)

Presenters	Theme
Mobassherul Alam Chowdhury	Forced Migration and Rohingya Refugees in SA: Prospects for Long Term solution
Shreya Ghosh	Politics at the Borders: State Policies and Subject Practices
Subha Protim Roychowdhury	Partition, Migration, Divergence: The Ethnography of Char Area, Murshidabad

Module B

Date of Presentation: 9 December (Monday)

Presenters	Theme
Vikash Kumar	Identifying Rights Based Mechanisms for Women in International Migration: A case study of India-Bangladesh Border
T. Limanochet Jamir	The Study of Migrants in Nagaland with special reference to Eastern Nagas vis-à-vis Illegal Immigrants
Gobardhan Niroula	Bhutanese refugee women in Sanischare camp
Sanalembi Devi	Women in Bodoland after Ethnic conflict

Module C

Date of Presentation: 10 December (Tuesday)

Presenters	Theme
Lopita Nath	Legality, Illegality and Accountability: the case of the Lhotshampa Refugees from Bhutan
Laxman Lamichhane	Reality of Protection: Case of Urban Refugees Residing in Nepal
Neamatullah Neamat	Internal displacement in Helmand province Southern Region Afghanistan
Rajkumar Nagarajah	In what ways have Refugees in Urban Areas Benefited from the UNHCR “Urban Refugee” Policy?

Module D

Date of Presentation: 11 December (Wednesday)

Presenters	Theme
Somali Bhattacharyya	Gender Dimensions in labor migration: The Case of Migrant Women from distant places of West Bengal to the metropolis Kolkata
Mohamed Munas	Methodological good fit; Limitations of quantitative methods in Forced Migration Studies

Module E

Date of Presentation: 13 December (Friday)

Presenters	Theme
Sayantani Chatterjee	The Impact of Climate Change on the Resources and Migration Patterns: Cast Study of Sundarban Biosphere Reserve
Mausumi Chetia	Displacement Due to Natural Disasters Vis-à-vis Policy Framework
Suchita Kumari	Pattern of displacement and migration due to economic developmental models” - Case study of newly liberalized Burma
Manoj Kumar Mishra	Climate Change, Forced Migration and Conflict: Lessons for India

Module F

Date of Presentation: 12 December (Thursday)

Presenters	Theme
Samata Biswas	Protects against Rape and Social Media
Ishita Dey	Orchestrating collective Action: Social media and Human Rights

8. Media and Forced Migration

(Film Screenings and the workshop)

Film Screenings

This year the Orientation Course had two film screening sessions. Two documentaries on internal displacement in Congo and Philippines produced by the Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), an award-winning humanitarian news and analysis service, were screened on 11 December 2013. The first film screened was located in the conflict affected city of Minova in Eastern Congo. The film is produced by Louise Tunbridge; Polly Renton; David Gough; Pierre-Julien Quiers; Integrated Regional Information Networks; United Nations and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The film on recent conflict in Congo portrays the issue of internal displacement and the problems and challenges faced by the people during the crisis. While the second film is based on the experiences of the and internally displaced people in Philippines. In November 2006, Typhoon Reming hit the Philippines. Flash floods brought thousands of tons of sand and stones crashing down the side of the volcanic Mount Mayon, smothering the rice fields, houses and people in its path. Against this backdrop this film is based on the story of survival of thousands of displaced people.

In the evening of 13 December, there was a presentation by Georgy Kuruvila Roy, doctoral candidate at Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, who is associated with *Dalit Camera: Through Un-Touchable Eyes*. This is an online forum that focuses on issues concerning Adivasis and Dalits. By showing some of the selected video clippings of *Dalit Camera*, Roy demonstrated how the social media can in fact be leveraged to build online communities of like-minded people around issues that otherwise remain marginalized in the mainstream media.

Media Workshop

For four days the workshop saw engaged discussion on how to leverage the social media to sensitize the masses to important human-rights issues as well as how to spread awareness in the event of humanitarian disasters. Participants debated and discussed the possibilities of organizing popular protests over such issues on the social media. There were also segments that sought to elaborate in a hands-on manner how to use the social media in its various forms. However, and to allay doubts, this was no romanticized discussion over the all-encompassing positive nature of the emerging field of social media. Many participants did, in fact, choose to look this gift horse in the mouth. While many admitted the ineluctability of this technological innovation and accepted the democratization of public opinion that its emergence has brought about, they remained chary— if not cagey— of unthinkingly endorsing the benefits of social media without concomitant critical comment.

The **Inaugural Session** of the special media workshop (December 11) was chaired by Ranabir Samaddar. The two speakers were A.S. Panneerselvan, a well-known journalist and Executive Director, Panos South Asia and Patricia Mukhim, a Padma Shri awardee, educationist, activist and editor of the *Shillong Times*, Meghalaya. Panneerselvan expressed his doubt about the much-hyped possibilities of the social media. He elaborated on how, from its inception, the social media is intimately tied to the structures of global capital— a result that has taken at least 200 years to transpire for the mainstream media. He also remained unconvinced that the social media is such a liberating space as it is often made out to be. Describing it as dual-use technology, he maintained that this is after all a mode of governmental surveillance of citizens— the most recent one in a long line of such modes— only, a far more dangerous one perhaps because citizens voluntarily step into this snare. He advised caution and substantiated his claim by citing examples, in Gujarat and West Bengal, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, of how the social media has often been used to persecute

unwitting citizens. He also spoke of how the initial hype surrounding the ‘Arab Spring,’ and its social-media aspect, has soured and in fact retrojected into reaction.

Patricia Mukhim was less pessimistic, though she too maintained that the social media cannot produce news that can stand up to critical re-interrogation. Her doubts gravitated around the issue of ethics in news production. She was also suspicious of the actual outreach of social media. Hailing from the Indian Northeast, she told the audience of the limits of the social media’s catchment in those parts, though she admitted that the net is spreading and spreading fast. Having said this, Mukhim also emphasized that social media and activism related to it can no longer be ignored. It has emerged as a potential tool for the creation of public opinion, forging networks across geographical limits and rapid dissemination of news feed. In many ways, the two inaugural speakers set the tone for the discussions to follow in the days to come.

The first session of the Second Day (December 12) was titled *Contentious Concepts: Defining Social Media, Human Rights and Humanitarian Disasters*. It was expected that the speakers would engage conjointly with the elements of the overarching workshop theme and thereby establish the terms of debate. The session was chaired by Subir Bhaumik, senior editor, bdnews24.com, Dhaka; the three speakers were, and in this order: Ishita Dey, Member, CRG and doctoral candidate, Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, Atig Ghosh, associated with the CRG and Assistant Professor, Department of History, Visva-Bharati and Sreyoshi Dey, reporter associated with *T2 The Telegraph*). In this session the role of social media was critically examined and along with it the term ‘citizen journalist’. While the social media is widely believed to bring people together on the same platform, by sharing a common identity as ascribed by social media, it is increasingly being observed that Facebook or Twitter also helps the viewer to navigate multiple roles: from an administrator, manager to a content producer. Have these sites, then, through their multimodal navigability produced the ‘citizen journalist’, a powerful actor instead of merely an engaged audience? How has this actor responded to issues of human-rights violation or humanitarian disaster? These were the questions raised by the speakers in this session.

The second session of the day was chaired by Rajat Roy, member, CRG and senior journalist. It was titled *‘New’ Social Protests and the Social Media*. The speakers were Haroon Habib, executive editor, Journalism & Peace Foundation, and the Dhaka correspondent of *The Hindu* and *Frontline*; Samata Biswas, member, CRG and Assistant Professor, Department of English, Haldia Government College and Ayanangsha Maitra, freelance journalist and postgraduate candidate, Department of English, University of Kalyani.

The three presentations of this session perform the important task of marking out the limits as well as possibilities of the social media. Habib’s presentation clearly spells out the mobilizational capacity of this media nationally. It did, in fact, in 2013 create a country-wide sentiment cutting across classes which turned into a national movement. However, one will have to bear in mind that a counter-sentiment too was forged in the same mediaspace in Bangladesh and, going by the quantum of violence across the country, it too was pretty muscular and nationally representative. Further, what was possible in Bangladesh, which is overwhelmingly monolingual, might not be achievable in a multilingual country like India. The formation of a national technocultural affective public would essentially remain limited to the participation of those who can write and communicate in English; that is, the English-educated minority of the Indian population as it stands now. As such, the national technocultural affective public in India would be unrepresentative. If Habib spoke of the social media’s national traction, Biswas’s presentation dealt with the issue of gender and caste, the interface of the two, and their/its representation and circulation in social media. Clearly, her take was not as positive as Habib’s and she expressed her doubts about how far the social media activists, who are after products of this very society, would go out on their limbs to project and fight for the rights and entitlements of Dalits and women, a Dalit woman. She concluded that the social media, though more useful in performing this *rôle* than the mainstream media, remains after all sexist and casteist like the society which uses it. Finally, Maitra’s paper brought to the fore questions of first-word condescension, questions of race, neo-orientalism and mythistory. Against the claim of the social media bestriding national and geographical boundaries and forging a global affective public, Maitra’s narrative paints a picture of racist obsession of the West with the

rest, neo-orientalist strategies of falsely creating the impression of cultural superiority through deliberate fomenting of ugly mythistories. The social media, clearly in this instance, is no unifying, empowering medium.

The first session of the Third Day (December 13) was on *Human Rights, Humanitarian Tasks and Social Media in India's Northeast*. The session was chaired by Nirmalya Banerjee, member, CRG and senior journalist and the four speakers were: Raju Mimi, activist-journalist who runs an anti-dam blog in Arunachal Pradesh; Aheli Moitra, senior reporter/ part-time editor, *The Morung Express*, Nagaland; Babul Gogoi, new media trainer and exponent in Assam and Sangeeta Tete, development worker, WinG, Assam. The three issues that stemmed from the discussions in this session were: political rootedness of the social media, social media and its actors, and access and reach of social media. At the very outset it was pointed out that the social media could be a useful tool in India's Northeast because of the lack of coverage in mainstream media due to the existing revenue model. With these remarks, the chair of the session requested the panellists to reflect on the *rôle* social media is playing in building public opinion in India's Northeast. The discussion threw up interesting issues. Questions were posed about whether ethics of journalism could be inculcated in citizen journalists through training sessions organized for them. The contradictory roles of social entrepreneurship and public relations were also brought up. But most interestingly it was suggested that for social media to be effective it had to retain its 'unruly' spontaneity.

The second session of the third day, entitled *Cinema, Photography & Social Media*, was chaired by Nilanjan Dutta, senior journalist and civil-liberty activist. The two speakers were Pragya Paramita Ghosh, doctoral scholar, School of Arts & Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University and A.F. Mathew, Associate Professor, Humanities & Liberal Arts in Management, Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode. This session, particularly A. F. Mathew's presentation, used a horde of images from popular culture and the arts to demonstrate how images circulating in the social media can be used to sensitize students about the concepts of caste, class, race, gender, war, nationalism and sexuality. Linking the images to products enables the instructor to draw the students' attention to those who are the target of the images, and those who, therefore, by definition, are excluded from the target. Pragya Paramita Ghosh continued on the cautionary note that had been sounded during the inaugural session. At the same time, like the inaugural session, she also spoke about the possibilities of change that might be present when social media is used cautiously and effectively, Justin Beiber being a case in point, who was discovered courtesy Youtube.

The post-lunch session of the third day was chaired by Neingulo Krome, former General Secretary, Naga Hoho, former Secretary General, NPMHR, and, presently, Member, Forum for Naga Reconciliation and Executive Member, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact. The three speakers - Sanjay Barbora, Associate Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati, Mirza Zulfiqur Rahman, doctoral candidate, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati and Dipyaman Adhikary, works at the Manabadhikar Suraksha Mancha or MASUM, West Bengal - engaged effectively with the provocative theme of this session: *Rise of the Citizen Journalist*. The session began with Krome's pertinent observation on the nomenclature of 'social media'. The discussion soon delved deep into the hype surrounding the 'rise of citizen journalism' as Sanjay Barbora shared the Assamese experiences in this regard. He observed that both the 'citizen' and 'journalism' are under threat today. Quoting the changes that the act of writing has underwent over time, Barbora drew up a timeline of the Assamese media evolution and the rise and fall of the citizen journalist. Mirza Zulfiqur Rahman based his presentation on his personal observations and pointed out that social media is a tool for citizen journalism but the latter is not just limited to the social form, but can be extended to the traditional forms. Dipyaman Adhikary brought forth the human rights violation issue through cross-border smuggling and the lack of media response in this regard. He further shared that documenting the events, the Manabadhikar Suraksha Mancha resorted to the social media for putting across their findings and message and also to sensitize public opinion on the issue.

The day closed with the rapporteurs' presentation on the whole workshop. The session was chaired by Chandrima Bhattacharya, Senior Assistant Editor, *The Telegraph*, Kolkata.

List of Participants

A.F. Mathew: He is Associate Professor, Humanities & Liberal Arts in Management, IIM, Kozhikode.

A.S. Panneerselvan: He is an eminent journalist and a teacher of journalism. Currently, he is the Executive Director of Panos South Asia and is also an editor of *The Hindu*.

Atig Ghosh: Assistant Professor, Department of History, Vidya-Bhavana, Visva Bharati, Santiniketan and honorary researcher at the CRG. He has edited *Branding the Migrant: Arguments of Rights, Welfare and Security* and written articles in various journals and edited volumes.

Aheli Moitra: She is a senior journalist with *The Morung Express* who also does research on land and gender issues.

Ayanangsha Maitra: He is doing M.A in English (with New Gender Studies, Film and Adaptation & Post-Colonial Literature as Special Paper) at the University of Kalyani and is also working as an Input Editor of *Bengal News*.

Babul Gogoi: He has been working in the field of IT, particularly website development, for almost two decades. He has initiated the Citizen Journalism Project where, through a series of workshops held across India's Northeast, he trained people to use IT efficiently for their benefit. He is the editor of the e-newspaper www.assamtimes.org

Chandrima Bhattacharya: She is a senior journalist with *The Telegraph*, Calcutta.

Dipyaman Adhikary: He is with Banglar Manabdhikar Suraksha Mancha (MASUM). He looks after the website of MASUM.

Georgy Kuruvila Roy: He is a doctoral candidate at Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta and is also associated with *Dalit Camera: Through Un-Touchable Eyes*.

Haroon Habib: He is an eminent journalist from Bangladesh. He is associated with Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), the premier national news agency, run by the state and is also the Dhaka Correspondent of *The Hindu* and *Frontline* magazine of India for over two decades.

Mirza Zulfiqur Rahman: He is a doctoral candidate at IIT Guwahati and a media activist.

Neingulo Krome: He is the former General Secretary, Naga Hoho, the former Secretary General of the Naga People's Movement for Human Rights (NPMHR), and, presently, Member, Forum for Naga Reconciliation and Executive Member, Asia Indigenous People's Pact.

Nilanjan Dutta: He is a journalist based in Kolkata. He has worked for more than 20 years for the dailies *The Times of India* and *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, and weeklies *Sunday* and *Current*. He has edited the volume *Forced Migration in Northeast India: A Media Reader*.

Nirmalya Banerjee: He is a senior journalist and columnist. He has worked for many years with the *Times of India*, Kolkata.

Pamela Philipose: She is an eminent journalist and activist. She is now the Director and Editor-in-Chief of Women's Feature Service (WFS).

Patricia Mukhim: A Padma Shri awardee, she is the editor of *The Shillong Times*. She also contributes to *The Telegraph*, *Eastern Panorama* and *North East Daily*. Currently, she is also serving as the Director of the Indigenous Women's Resource Centre, Shillong.

Pragya Paramita Ghosh: Earlier she was with *The Indian Express*, *The Hindustan Times* and *Ready to Go*. She has also been in assistant director for documentaries, films and television serials. Currently, she is doing MPhil in Cinema Studies, School of Arts & Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Rajat Roy: He is a senior journalist based in Kolkata. He has worked for many Bengali newspapers, including *Ananda Bazar Patrika*. He was also a media consultant working with the *Kolkata TV*.

Raju Mimi: He is a journalist and environmental activist, an active anti-dam blogger and is also associated with the International Accountability Project.

Samata Biswas: She teaches English Literature at Haldia Government College and is completing her PhD from the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad. Her areas of research are gender, body and the media, and the cross-section of feminism and popular culture.

Sangeeta Tete: She has ten years experience in the NGO sector. Currently, she is a development worker with WinG, Assam. She is also in charge of the women's desk (Nawa Bihan Samaj) and the Secretary of the All Adivasi Women's Association of Assam (Lakhimpur district, Assam).

Sanjay Barbora: He is Associate Professor at TISS, Guwahati and a regular contributor to various journals and newspapers.

Sibaji Pratim Basu: He is Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Sree Chaitanya College, Habra and Treasurer, CRG. He regularly contributes to *Ananda Bazar Patrika* and is also a political analyst, working with several news channels in Kolkata. He has authored the book *The Poet and the Mahatma: Engagement with Nationalism and Internationalism* and has edited the volume *The Fleeing People of South Asia*.

Sreyoshi Dey: She is a former journalist with two years of work experience with *T2*, *The Telegraph*, Calcutta and she is an active blogger.

Subir Bhaumik: He is former BBC correspondent and now senior editor with *bdnews24.com*. He is author of the books *Insurgent Crossfire: Northeast India* and *Troubled Periphery: Crisis of India's Northeast*.



Ranabir Samaddar and A.S. Panneerselvan
(From left to right)



Nirmalya Banerjee, Sangeeta Tete and Raju Mimi
(From left to right)

9. Field Visit

The post-lunch session was a hands-on training session where participants were divided into three groups and taken to **field visits** to three different venues.

The first group, which excluded practising journalists, were taken to the newsroom of *The Telegraph*, which is the largest circulated English daily in Eastern India. Launched on July 07, 1982, this newspaper in its short life span of 26 years has become the largest circulated English daily in the eastern region published from Calcutta. At the newsroom, the participants got hands-on training about how to access and leverage social media sites to generate news. *The Telegraph*, like all major mainstream newspapers, follows social media sites to sift out newsworthy items. The participants received practical demonstration of what *rôle* the social media play in the functioning of a newsroom. Also, the interaction turned into a very fruitful dialogue between some of the participants and the senior journalists they met at the newspaper's office over how responsible coverage of humanitarian issues as well as questions of human rights and gender should be foregrounded in daily news reportage. Discussions revolved around how social-media newsfeed could be engaged with to gauge popular temper over an issue and how, as a result, the mainstream media could use this understanding to further sensitize the citizens' body. This group conducted its field visit under the capable stewardship of Chandrima Bhattacharya (Senior Assistant Editor, *The Telegraph*) and Sibaji Pratim Basu, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Sree Chaitanya College, Habra.

The second group was taken by V. Ramaswamy, Member, CRG and independent researcher, and Samaresh Guchhait, Administrative and Account Assistant, CRG to the Priya Manna *basti* (slum) in Sibpur, Howrah. Set up as a shantytown in the early-1900s to house migrant mill workers, little has changed a century later for the 40,000 poor Muslims who inhabit the *basti*. However, internet cafés have sprung up in this settlement and the school here has also incorporated classes to make its students net-literate. The participants were made to interact with the teachers, café owners as well as the people of the settlement to understand how they use burgeoning social media for networking and, even so, self-empowerment. What is their attitude towards social media? Whether, at all, they find it useful in rewarding ways? Do they think this new space in terms of livelihood enabling and capacity building? - these were the questions and issues that were enthusiastically discussed. In fact, so meaningful was the exchange, that it was felt that one of the participants, Sreyoshi Dey, should be given the responsibility to revisit the slum a few times more and produce a full-length paper on the subject. At the time of writing this report, Dey is completing her extended fieldwork and preparing the above-mentioned paper for submission to the CRG.

The third group accompanied Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury, Coordinator of the course and Atig Ghosh to the office of Banglar Manabadhikar Suraksha Mancha (Masum) in Serampore. Masum has for many years been struggling against custodial violence, custodial rape, torture & death, illegal detention and enforced disappearance from police custody, BSF torture, extrajudicial killing and police-firings. The organization has also been involved with life and livelihood issues of marginalized communities. It continues to fight against starvation, forced eviction, enforced migration and trafficking of human beings, while at the same time trying to create pressure on the government and administration to strictly adhere to the letter of law. Masum has also developed a complaint mechanism: this helps in filing complaints about individual incidents of human rights violation to authorities and different human rights institutions and also in acquainting the international fraternity with these incidents. In their activism, they heavily lean on and use the social media to disseminate information, build online campaigns and sensitize public opinion. At its office, the secretary of Masum, Kirit Roy, instructed the participants on how a human rights group like theirs leverages social media to do their very important work. Hands-on demonstration and training was a part of the visit: Roy, along with five of his colleagues, in fact, made a multi-media presentation before the visitors to demonstrate the nature and mode of their work and their presence in social media.

10. 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 in workshop mode. 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.

Module A: Partitions, Borders and Forced Migration: Refugee Recognition, Status Determination, Relief, Rehabilitation and Resettlement

Session I: Theme Lecture

Ranabir Samaddar delivered the theme lecture on the aforementioned module. Given the vastness of the module theme, the speaker focused on introducing the key concepts of partition, constructions of borders in south Asia and how refuge-hood in post-colonial times begins with de-colonization and Partition. Tracing the history of refuge-hood, it was highlighted that Partition and territorial re-organizations have created problems internally and internationally and led to displacements. Revolutions in Soviet Union, Hungary, Germany, and subsequent reorganization of states in Europe, changes in political map of Europe and civil wars created enormous refugee flows. All these, in Europe, led to a need to define who a refugee was. Accordingly the question of what to do with refugees became important and with the creation of state of Israel, UN created a relief organization called UNRAR in 1948, but with subsequent creation of the UNHCR in 1951, the UNRAR was not brought under UNHCR.

Session II: Participants' Presentation

The speakers of the session were Subho Protim Roychowdhury of MASUM, Serampore, West Bengal; Shreya Ghosh of JNU, New Delhi; and Mubassherul Alam Chowdhury of Research Initiative Bangladesh.

Subho Protim's presentation was titled 'Torture and Migration: An Inseparable Relationship'. The speaker highlighted the crisis of partition, erosion, state-torture, absence of social schemes affecting the demographic, ethnographic, geopolitical, sociopolitical and socioeconomic features of a region. Shreya Ghosh highlighted the postcolonial status of the Indian state's border policies. The research work was concentrating on two time lines ranging from 1947-90 and from 90 to the present times. The geostrategic importance of Mushirabad and it leading to larger issues was highlighted. Mubassherul Alam spoke on the issues of forced migration and Rohingya Refugees in South Asia. The speaker started with the anecdote of India-Pakistan partition in 1947 and 1971 partition of East Pakistan and Pakistan. His discourse revolved around the question of recognition, repatriation, rehabilitation and resettlement.

Session III: Interactive Session

Rajesh Kharat, Associate Professor, SIS, JNU gave an elaborate account about the Mompa community that lives along the India-Bhutan border in the Tepai region. The aspect discussed about this community was regarding their choice of citizenship and the dilemmas regarding the same. It was highlighted that the Madhesi community living along the India- Nepal border in the Tawang region are also equally important. The speaker spoke about the systematic socio-economic exclusion of these communities by the state on

account of its 'one nation one people' policy. Lastly he spoke about the Numbra valley region along India-Pakistan border in the Takshi and Turtuk areas.

Shuvro Prosun Sarker of CRG began with the suggestion that research in the field of statelessness should be focused on those who lack meaningful nationality; consisting of those who do not have nationality of any state legally and secondly those who cannot count on protection of the state. Thus both *de-jure* and *de-facto* statelessness needs to be considered. The speaker spoke of the two UN Conventions on Statelessness that India has not signed. But India has signed/ ratified ICPPR, ICERD, ICESR and CEDAW which has helped shift the discourse on protection from the idea of compassion to right. The speaker highlighted the case of *Swajan v. Union of India* on the issue of conferring citizenship or refugee status to the Bangladeshi minorities staying in Assam that is presently sub-judicial. He also spoke of a study on Parliamentary discussions, wherein legislators seem to have discussed the question on Chakmas and others a number of times since 1993 but there has been no discussion on definition of a stateless persons. But in response to a question he, in conclusion, suggested that the process on creating a discourse on statelessness in India has to be dialogic.

Session IV: Question and Answer Session with Meghna Guba Thakurta, Executing Director, Research Initiatives Bangladesh

The speaker began her discourse of how 'family' can be a methodological tool in the study of forced migration. 'Family' can be an important site of investigation for looking at how decisions to migrate are taken, as migration is generally negotiated through the family. It can also be an important site to look into gender roles involved in negotiating decisions on migration. The speaker gave an account of how a regime of care and protection *visa vie* refugees has to be negotiated through existing cultural codes of the communities instead of adopting a developmental model of forcing change from top down.

Module B: Gender Dimension in Migration: Vulnerabilities and Issues of Justice

Session I: Theme Lecture

The theme lecture was presented by Paula Banerjee, President CRG and Faculty, University of Calcutta on “*Is there a feminist methodology in the studies of forced migration?*” As an individual who like to tell stories and being a Historian, Dr. Paula begun the lecture through a story of Rigu Betu Menchu, a woman from Guatemala who played an active role in guerrilla movement. In the context of feminisation of forced migration, she spoke about the idea of valourising death over birth in the society. In qualitative approach one should analyse the thing from a vantage point. Using orthodox tools is nothing but using the same old readings. The discussion was finally ended with a conclusion that feminist methodology is nothing but a fresh way of looking at things.

Session II: Participants' Presentation

The participants of this session were Vikash Kumar of WGHR, New Delhi and T. Limanochet Jamir of City Law College, Nagaland. Vikas Kumar's paper was titled as “Identifying Rights Based Mechanisms for Women in International Migration: A case study of India-Bangladesh Border”. He argued that there are several factors which do not allow enforcement of a non-permeable border line between India and Bangladesh. Therefore, along with strategic and political factors, the agent-victim continuum of migrant women needs to be understood from the human rights perspective. T. Limanochet Jamir presented on “The Study of Migrants in Nagaland with Special Reference to Eastern Nagas vis-à-vis Illegal Immigrants”. A qualitative and feminist research design is to be carried out especially in Dimapur city of Nagaland among migrant women using interviews and observations.

Session III: Participants' Presentation

The participants of this session were Gobardhan Niroula of IOM, Nepal and Sanalembi Devi of Win-G, Assam. Gobardhan Niroula's paper was titled as “*Perception of Domestic Violence: A Quantitative Study among*

Bhutanese Refugee Women in Sanichare Refugee Camp". As per his version in the Bhutanese refugee community, women have faced the different domestic violence in their life time. This paper draws together the existing data on perception of domestic violence of refugee women of Sanichare refugee camp. Sanalembi Devi presented her paper titled "Women in Bodo Land after Ethnic Conflict". This paper looks on the post conflict situation of women in Bodoland Territorial Area Districts (BTAD). The rights of the conflict induced IDPs are not about prolonging any conflict as many trend suggest.

Session IV: Round table on "Labour, Migration and Trafficking in South Asia"

Post tea break evening session was the Round table on "*Labour, Migration and Trafficking in South Asia*". The speakers were Samita Sen, Vice Chancellor, Diamond Harbour Women's University, Kolkata and Dr. Meena Poudel, Policy and Programme Adviser, IOM, Nepal. This session was chaired by Manabi Majumdar of CSSS, Calcutta. The session was very interactive with regard to new trends of migration and trafficking issues in Nepal.

Module C: Legal Regimes for Protection of the Victims of Forced Migration: Refugees, IDPs, and the Stateless Population Groups

Session I: Theme Lecture

The theme lecture was presented by Sahana Basavapatna. The session was based on the *Exclusion provision in the 1951 convention*. It was discussed how the international instruments governing refugee law have certain criteria for the recognition of refugees. However there are certain parameters by which an individual may be denied international protection, and the legal provisions which help doing it is known as exclusion clause. These clauses are elucidated in Article 1F of the 1951 Convention.

Session II: Participants' Presentation

The presenters of this session were Laxman Lamichhane, Lawyer from Nepal, Neamatullah Neamat of UNAMA, Afghanistan and Rajkumar Nagarajah of NIHSS, Sri Lanka. Laxman Lamichhane presented his paper on -Reality of Protection: A Case of Urban Refugees Living in Nepal. He highlighted on the UNHCR Urban Refugee Policy 2009 and its implementation aspect. During his presentation he stated that the policy has adopted more right based approach than that of its previous 1997 Policy. The second presenter Neamatullah Neamat in his presentation highlighted the issue of forced internal displacement in Hilmand province of Afghanistan and its impact on the residents and area. He added that hundreds of civilians have been killed while several hundred were injured as a result of the unexploded IEDs that were planted in residential areas and agricultural lands. Rajkumar Nagarajah presented a study on ways through which urban refugees could benefit from the UNHCR "urban refugee" policy. He highlighted upon the realities of refugee protection mechanisms in South Asian region. In his study Rajkumar talks about the current forced migration situation in the South Asian Region, rights of the urban migrants and the UNHCR's urban refugee policy.

Session III: Participants' Presentation

The participants of this session were Lopita Nath of University of Incarnate World, USA and Nanda Kishore of Manipal University, Karnataka, India. In her presentation called "Legality, Illegality and Accountability: The Case of the Lhotshampa Refugees from Bhutan", Lopita expressed that the role of India in Bhutanese refugee crisis has remained questionable. As per the Friendship treaty between India and Bhutan was one of the major causes of India's silence. Nanda Kishor highlighted on the internal displacement induced by development projects in Hyderabad City of India in his presentation. He presented 3 case studies of the project from Hyderabad city i) Microsoft project Manikonda, ii) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, and iii)

Multi Model Transportation System project. In all of these projects lands were confiscated from local people as a result they displaced.

Session IV: Special Interactive Session

In this session issues ranging from IDPs, Afghan Urban Refugees, issues of torture and Chakma Refugees were extensively discussed. Participants included Neamatullah Neamat, Subhu Protim Roy Chowdhury, Sahana Basavapatna, Manabi Majumder, Laxman Lamichanne.

Module D: Research Methodology in Forced Migration Studies

Session I: Theme Lecture

The theme lecture was presented by Samir Kumar Das, Vice Chancellor, North Bengal University and Member, CRG. His presentation was entitled “In search of a Methodology in forced Migration Studies”. At the very outset he opined that our methodologies have been methodologies of truth – whether by serving as a means of verifying or refuting our conjectures with truth claims or by seeking to understand the intricacies of truth production. He also specified that critical forced migration studies (CFMS) makes it imperative to move beyond these methodologies of truth. It calls for not just a shift in our methodology of truth, but a shift in our *understanding* of methodology which posits the displaced not as presence but as absence, not as truth but as ‘exteriority’ of truth – an exteriority that is also constitutive of ‘truth’ by way of being ruled out by the truth regime and constantly interrupting it. The new understanding of methodology therefore calls for a certain reorientation of such concepts as space, state and sovereignty. He ended his deliberation by highlighting ethics of social research, which obliges the researcher to focus on the ‘absence’ of the displaced beyond the truth regime, to see how she ‘endures’ with her resilience and thereby constantly destabilizes the ‘sedentary metaphysic’. Ethics is about resilience not victimhood, about life not death, - a life that lives although dangerously. The presentation was followed by a rich discussion.

Session II: Participants’ Presentation

The presenters in the afternoon session were Somali Bhattacharyya from Calcutta University, Mohammad Munas from Sri Lanka and Shyamalendu Majumdar from Shivnath Shastri College, Kolkata. Somali Bhattacharyya’s presentation was entitled “Gender Dimensions in Labour Migration: The Case of Migrant Women who Migrated from Distant Rural Areas of West Bengal to the Metropolis Kolkata”. She used an ethnographic research methodology. Her respondents were four women and identified 5 themes. Mohammad Munas’s presentation was entitled: “Methodological good fit: Limitations of Quantitative method in forced Migration Studies”. He discussed a mixed method or combined methodology. He also commented that methodologies cannot be right or wrong, only more or less useful. He also defined forced migrants as fearing persecution and not a homogenous group, based on origin. They are vulnerable and heterogeneous resulting from the issues of the environment they live. In conclusion, he said that there can be no single right method. He finally concluded that the various elements of forced migration add to the complications. The final presenter of this session was Shyamalendu Majumder. Shyamalendu Majumdar’s presentation was entitled “Brus in Mizoram: The Unresolved Crises”. His main focus of study was on the Reang tribes in Mizoram, primarily in the Reang Camps in Tripura.

Session III: Special Lecture on Research Methodology by Prasanta Ray, Secretary CRG and Emeritus Professor in Sociology, Presidency University.

Prasanta Ray’s session was entitled as “Right to Return: Seeking an Epistemological Path”. He talked about the paradigms that are needed to understand forced migration. He said that normally researchers’ get stuck into ‘certain positions’ in methodology while carrying out their research. In terms of the subject, one knows

that the broad area is Forced Migration but; “how to know” is the crux of the matter. Forced Migration research should be placed at the core of the agenda.

Session IV: Panel Discussion on CRG’s Two Research Reports- ‘Voices’ and ‘Eroded Lives’

The speakers of this session were Paula Banerjee and Nilanjan Dutta, Kolkata based Journalist. It was moderated by Ratan Khasnabis, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Calcutta. Ratan Khasnabis spoke on the methodology on research in social sciences. He mainly discussed about the research questions and hypothesis and that explorative and descriptive study should have an empirical basis. Paula Banerjee began her speech with the concept of quasi-quantitative study, followed by the initial work on IDPs, about why is it necessary to talk about IDPs in South Asia. She emphasised that good research depends on gut feeling. She took the example of camps about her study of camps in Nepal, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Nilanjan Dutta shared his experiences of research on displacement due to river bank erosion in West Bengal, with a focus on women. The research was sponsored by the National commission of women.

Module E: Climate Change, Environmental Degradation, Resource Politics and Migration

Session I: Theme Lecture

The theme lecture was presented by K M Parivelan, TISS, Mumbai. He gave an introductory overview on how the climate is changing. Besides this he mentioned the anthropogenic input to Climate change is from – fossil fuel use, deforestation and industrial activities. Finally he drew participants’ attention to some incidents which influenced the disaster management policy like the earth summit, Cartagena Declaration, Yokohama review of ICNDR, Millennium Declaration, World Summit on SD and Hyogo Framework for Action. Following the discussion he mentioned the role of Government of India and Act of Disaster Management, which focuses on disaster victims, risk mitigation and reduction measures, sustainable and for safer economic development, disaster development continuum and community role.

Session II: Participants’ Presentation

The speakers of this session were Mausumi Chetia, Independent Researcher from Mumbai and Suchita Kumari, The Other Media, New Delhi. Chetia’s paper was entitled as “Natural Hazard induces Displacement vis-a-vis India’s Policy: Case Study Missing Community of India”. This paper was based on the dissertation prepared during her post graduation. It looks into the issues of flood and erosion affected missing people of Majuli. Missing community constitutes 47% of the total population of Majuli. Suchita’s paper was entitled as “Pattern of Displacement and Migration Due to Economic Developmental Models - Case study of Newly Liberalized Burma”. Her presentation started with the political history of Burma. She mentioned the contemporary socio-political situation in Burma at the first instance. She also discuss about the foreign investment in Burma and the proposition of displacement.

Session III: Participants’ Presentation

The speakers of this session were and Manoj Kumar Mishra, BHU, Varanasi and Sayantani Chatterjee, TISS, Guwahati. Manoj kumar Mishra’s topic was “Climate Change, Forced Migration and Conflict: Lessons for India”. The paper shows an exercise to explore the intersection of climate change, forced human migration and conflict, which has posed a unique challenge in the 21st century. He presented his presentation in three parts- global consequences of climate change, cumulative effects of climate change, contemporary debate on climate change, migration and conflict. Sayantani Chaterjee’s presentation was on “The Impact of Climate Change on the Resources and Migration Patterns: Case Study of Sundarban Biosphere Reserve”. She added that the situation is very complex in this world heritage site. The life and livelihood of the people are mired in layers of threat and trouble is it from climate change, lack of proper planning by the government, poverty or

life threatening attacks from tiger or crocodiles. However issues of security and livelihood can be tackled with proper planning by the government and other authorities involved.

Session IV: Special Session on Historical Accounts on Environmental Resource Crisis by Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty and Nirmal Mahato

Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty, Eminent Historian and Member, CRG threw light on the history of Bengal and involuntary labour migration due to different factors including environmental induced factors. He explained the various reason and types of migration that took place during 18th to 19th century during pre colonial and colonial period in undivided Bengal. He also talked about rebellion and revolt during this period. He also included in his discourse Dewani system, commercialization of Agriculture and forest and forced migration. Migration also included movement to external areas. Nirmal Mahato, Patha Bhavan, Visva Bharati, Santiniketan presented a very comprehensive and chronicle study of Purulia District in colonialism period in field of migration due to environmental degradation. In his paper he presented study of environmental migration. His paper explored the relationship between environment and migration. He presented data on soil and water degradation in colonial Purulia district of West Bengal. He also drew inference of forest rights land use pattern and railways role. In a nutshell he presented a perfect blue print that how slowly environmental degradation bereft livelihood of communities and force them to migrate. His discourse included the problems that arose due to monoculture opening of coal field, sexual division. He also talked about pattern of droughts, micro climatic, social stratification and loss of land by adivasis as factors that induced mass migration.



Participants Presentation: Sanjukta Bhattacharya (Moderator), Shreya Ghosh, Subho Protim Roychowdhury and Mubassherul Alam Chowdhury (From left to right)



Mainak Dey and Patricia Mukhim



Participants Presentation: Manoj Kumar Mishra, K. M. Parivelan (Moderator) and Sayantani Chatterjee (From left to right)



Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty, Nirmal Mahato and Sanjukta Bhattacharya (From left to right)

11. Inaugural and Valedictory Sessions

Inaugural Session

This year the formal inaugural session was held on 7 October 2013. The session started with the welcome address delivered by Prasanta Ray, Secretary, CRG and Emeritus Professor, Department of Sociology, Presidency University, Kolkata, which was followed by introduction of the orientation course by Atig Ghosh, Coordinator, Media workshop. Atig gave an overview of the CRG's work on forced migration, starting with refugees, internally displaced person to resource politics and its impact on forced migration. In his remarks he introduced CRG's latest work on statelessness, which provided the wide range of issues that CRG has worked on while developing the resource material, around the course.

In his remarks, the Chief Guest of the session Susanta Ghosh, Director, Eastern Regional Centre, ICSSR, Kolkata indicated that ICSSR would be happy to collaborate with CRG on developing a databank of available work on forced migration in South Asia. He was appreciative of the new approach that the course has introduced in terms of structure and content in its eleventh year.

The course in its Eleventh year organised an inaugural roundtable reflecting on the decade of the forced migration studies as it has evolved in the curriculum of the Winter Course taking into account the changes in the field. Paula Banerjee, President, CRG and Faculty, Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Calcutta and Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, Vice Chancellor, Rabindra Bharati University and Member, CRG participated in this discussion. The session was moderated by Ranabir Samaddar.

As the moderator of this panel discussion Ranabir Samaddar, Director, CRG commented that the evolution of the course, restructuring of the module of the course particularly the introduction of the module/s on internally displaced persons and climate change indicated the broadening of forced migration studies beyond refugees. The debate on law extended beyond the discussions around 1951 Convention and issues of borders, and borderlands became more crucial as protracted situations of displacement (in case of refugees) led to statelessness. Against this backdrop, Ranabir Samaddar requested the panellists to reflect on the changing field of forced migration.

At the outset Paula Banerjee, argued that the evolution of the course should be located against the backdrop of how the field has evolved in the global South. It emerged as a challenge to the establishment. Most of the work focussed on policy documentation compared to "documenting voices". The challenge was to bring back the question of narrative into the field of forced migration. There was an attempt to move beyond the folds of methodology. She referred to creative writings from South Asian subcontinent which brought forth multiple perspectives. There was a distinct shift in mode of writing and subjectivities. This scholarship involved a critical reading of events, and its effect on human beings. As circumstances changed, with an increasing number of internally displaced persons, people at the risk of being displaced due to environmental reasons, and the increasing collapse of categories and reasons of displacement, it was felt that not only there needs to be a distinction between refugee and IDP but also the nature of forced migration itself. At this juncture, it was felt to address the "mixed and massive flows of migration" and how to encapsulate the changing course of events, subjectivities in the fold of "forced migration studies". It was also felt that the concerns around forced migration need to be looked through a gendered lens for a critical reading not only in its impact but also in resettlement and rehabilitation efforts. Similarly, experiences and impact on forced migration differ across gender, age and particularly its impact on physically challenged or people with life threatening diseases and it was felt to develop tools and methodologies to address these concerns through various dialogic exercises organised as part of the short courses in collaboration with organisations, research

centres across India. As the discourse on trafficking underwent a change, CRG's research showed that it was difficult to disaggregate labour from sex and nationality.

Partitioning of the subcontinent has led to multiple re-drawing of borders and CRG's work on the partition has shown that the experiences across gender, caste and minorities are varied and there needs to be an interdisciplinary approach to document the multiple effects it has continued to produce as issues of statelessness haunt people living on enclaves. Borders, sovereignty has assumed a new dimension because situations of protracted displacement also tend to create stateless people. In a nutshell the decade long study has attempted to reclaim "our" space of creating "grand narratives" as the field has undergone a change.

Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury discussed the geo-political backdrop against which the shift in forced migration studies needs to be situated. At the outset he pointed out that in the context of South Asia partitioning of the sub-continent has not only been responsible for redrawing of borders but it also shaped the lives of millions who were forced to flee. Some, among them were forced to move twice. Through the case of Chakmas of Chittagong Hill Tracts he illustrated how the re-drawing of borders has reduced "refugees" to being "stateless". Added to these, are the development, environmental and disaster related reasons which forces "forced migrants" to remain undocumented. The research work produced as part of the ten year course on forced migration engaged with these issues in their research work which was a collaborative research platform of researchers, policy makers. In this exercise, the organisation organised a series of consultation workshops in collaboration with state and national human rights institution/s on questions of resettlement and rehabilitation and was one of the first organisations to work on Internally Displaced Persons. He pointed out that the shift in forced migration studies has been the changing circumstances, recognition of those in the ambit of international protection framework which has been instrumental in working towards regional frameworks of protection in South Asia. CRG's work on ethics of care and protection brings about the ways in notion of "care" and "rights" are juxtaposed in policies of care and protection. He ended with a note that while anthropologies of reconciliation are one of the ways to address subjectivities of forced migration, the issue of caste and gender as research here shows needs a closer introspection.

The Inaugural session was chaired by Prasanta Ray and at the end of the session Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury, Coordinator of the course offered the vote of thanks.

Valedictory Session

On 14 October 2012 at the end of the 8-day workshop the valedictory session started with a Welcome Address by Paula Banerjee, who chaired the session. This was followed by a brief address by Ranabir Samaddar on the change of structure of this year's course and the presentation of a short report on the Eleventh Orientation Course by Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury. Scott Fursedonn-Wood, the British Deputy High Commissioner in Kolkata, had kindly agreed to be the Guest of Honour for the occasion. The Chief Guest was Ramesh Dadhich, Member Secretary, Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, while Hans Friedrich Schodder, Deputy Chief of Mission, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), New Delhi, was the Special Guest. Ramesh Dadhich, Member Secretary, ICSSR, New Delhi gave his remarks on the winter course and appreciated the way course has attracted the global audience in a short period even being away from the capital of the country. He mentioned that an issue such as a refugees and forced migration is sensitive and dealing with such subject requires specialized skills not to antagonize either the victims or the State per se. He also highlighted the way research has grown in India and the path it chose to develop. The pedagogy of research essentially depends on patronizing and support from important institution in the country and ICSSR is more than happy to be associated with CRG in this endeavor for the quality it has been able to maintain over the years in spite of difficulties in carrying out a programme of such magnitude to attract scholars across the world.

Then Mr. Fursse-donn-Wood shared a few words, congratulated the participants for completing the workshop fruitfully, and distributed the certificates to the participants of the media workshop. He started by congratulating the participants and went on to draw attention to the vitality and the role social media was playing in the present world, especially in the context of forced migration. He emphasized that in an increasingly interdependent world we all have a stake in addressing the causes and the consequences of humanitarian crisis and conflict. Keeping this in mind, the British government has placed promotion and protection of human rights at the heart of UK's foreign policy objectives. Supporting a programme such as the one organized by CRG was essentially a part of such efforts. He expressed his satisfaction that the British Deputy High Commission was able to partner with the CRG to hold the media segment of the course. He stated that the aim of the segment had been to bring together professional journalists and social media activists to engage in debate about how best to use social and digital media to ensure freedom of expression and protection of human rights, especially as a consequence of forced migration. In this, he held, the course had been successful. Following Mr. Fursse-donn-Wood, Mr. Schodder then distributed the certificates to the participants of the main course in appreciation of their successful completion. A short report on the Eleventh Orientation Course was presented by Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury.

In this session the Valedictory Lecture was delivered by Pamela Philipose, Director and Editor-in-Chief, Women's Feature Service, New Delhi. Her lecture was titled 'The Time We Live In (Framed by New Media).' Philipose began by underscoring the unique tradition that has been followed by CRG in bringing into focus themes of exemplary contemporary relevance since its inception. She highlighted that her effort of the day was to understand the issues of connection as well as disconnection by unsnarling two threads from the tangled skein of modernity. She set about doing this by engaging with the first thread: this she termed as new media, ranging from social media, digital media, cyber media to virtual media. This was not just about new hardware or software, she explained, but was also about new patterns of inter-personal and mass communication. She defined social media as a *mélange* of interactive digital technologies and communication modes and practices. The second thread, she pointed out, comprised the word that holds great resonance: migration. In the course of the unfolding of human history, migration has become part and parcel of life and an impressive set of nomenclatures have evolved to describe the positive and negative aspects of migration. She explained that the economic liberalization of the so-called 'roaring 90s' has, at a time, led to the mushrooming of myriad mainstream media houses and to the corporatization of mainstream media in general. The number of registered newspapers in India stood at 86,754 as on March 31, 2012. India has also been recognized for having hosted 825 private satellite channels and 242 FM radio stations. The speaker took the audience through the journey of media in India from the 1970s to the latest phenomenal campaign of India against Corruption which projected Baburao Hazare as a 'national saviour'. This could also be dubbed as the first mass contact programme in India to exploit the potential of the social media to the greatest extent. She drew a parallel with the Egyptian experience that put an end to dictatorship in the West Asian region. The widespread use of facebook and twitter and campaigns such as 'Mera Neta Chor Hai' were visible and had made its ways even into the mainstream media. The speaker went on to attribute the success of Aam Aadmi Party in the Delhi elections as a success of social media activism and organization. The emergence of social media as the primary site of political and civic engagement for many young Indian could no longer be disputed, she averred, with the kind of social media activism that came about in the wake of the Delhi rape case. The question that would remain unanswered, however, is: which section of the society was using and being organized by the social media and what went on to constitute the pith and marrow of such online campaigns? Would the marginal sections also find space in social media? She insisted that these issues need to be probed. Issues such as Kokrajhar and Muzaffarnagar would stand out as classic examples of events that the social media could not (or, perhaps, would not) transform into movements in the way anti-corruption, for example, was successfully taken up. The problem of cyber war is also an issue which has no ethical compass and has the potential to destabilize any society. The perceived sense of anonymity has meant that oftentimes there has been endless and indeed iniquitous manipulation of information. At the same time, the positive aspect of the new media also needs to be emphasized: its role in the Libyan crisis in 2011 is a case in point which led to the safe return home of thousands of Indians. The recent incident of the cyclone Phailin in Orissa is also an example of how, through mobile phone technology, thousands of lives were saved. There is

a need for mapping of social and community situations and the psychological state of the displaced so that there is greater understanding of not just the proximate causes of dislocation/displacement but their human consequences. Information is central to the process of responding and real-time information made possible by the social media can be invaluable. The speaker opined that many challenges lie in the way of achieving this, including that of the digital divide that has to be bridged. This, of course, presupposes the creation of a basic standard of living, education and the means to easily access the virtual space. She concluded her address with a remark that if social media are to frame the times of displacement we live in and do this in ways that are credible, empathetic and life-affirming, then the word ‘social’ in this context must truly come to define ‘social media’.

At the conclusion of the workshop, Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury offered the vote of thanks.



Pamela Philipose



Ramesh Dadhich



Scott Fursseidonn-Wood



Hans Friedrich Schodder



Mandira Sen, Mainak Dey, Ranabir samaddar and Scott Fursseidonn-Wood (From left to right)



Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury, Pamela Philipose, Hans Friedrich Schodder and Scott Fursseidonn-Wood (From left to right)

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 Sanjukta Bhattacharya, Director, Centre for Refugee Studies and Professor, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University, Kolkata for agreeing to be the external evaluator of the course. Following is the excerpts of the report prepared by Sanjukta Bhattacharya.

Introduction

A certificate course on Forced Migration, keeping in view the hundreds of thousands of people so affected over the past six and a half decades and more since the countries of the sub-continent began to emerge as independent states, is a necessity to understand the dynamics of inter-state and intra-state relations in the region as well as to get a critical idea of legal regimes, human rights, inclusion and exclusion policies, women's issues and the rights debates as they apply to South Asia. Over the years, the Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group has held 10 winter courses, all of them highly acclaimed. The 11th Orientation Course, conducted in December 2013, operationalizing lessons learnt from the earlier courses, decided to cut down the number of days for the course from 15 to 8, and further, added a 'methodology' segment, which had not been emphasized earlier. This was done not only because the CRG had additional partners for the 11th course, who have a research orientation, but it was also gauged to be important since many of the participants come from an academic background and a module on research methodology in forced migration studies would help in giving a better focus to the future research work of the participants. Research methodology can also aid activists and advocacy groups to shape their questions, find answers and present their findings in an appropriate manner.

Along with the Orientation Course, a media workshop on "Humanitarian Disasters, Human Rights Violations, and Social Media Journalism" was also held. Though this was not part of the course, course participants also sat through some of the sessions in which they were interested. Since there is a connection between humanitarian disasters, human rights violations and forced migration, it was good planning to have parallel sessions going on in different conference rooms at the same venue, giving an opportunity to interested participants to learn from the workshop.

One of the collaborators, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), also hosted a discussion on 'Borders, States and Statelessness' in their institute building, giving scope for interaction with a wider set of experts from MAKAIAS. As in other years, the participants also went on field visits. The entire group was divided into three and there were simultaneous visits to a newspaper office (The Telegraph), a basti in Shibpur, Howrah, and the Masum office in Serampore. In all three sites, the role of the social media was highlighted, making the visits relevant to the themes of both the orientation course and the workshop; further, this added a contemporary note to the subject of study.

Overall, the programme was well planned and executed.

Participants

The number of participants for the orientation course was 27, 16 of whom were males and 11 were female. All the participants were from South Asia; the largest contingent was from India, with two from Nepal, two from Sri Lanka, 1 from Bangladesh and 1 from Afghanistan. All the foreign participants were males, the implication being that the Indian participants were largely female. Perhaps this is significant because it may indicate that more women are interested in India in refugee, migration, border and related studies than men, and the same may not be the case in other South Asian countries.

Another interesting observation is that the large majority of participants belonged to the field of academics. There was a mix of professors, assistant professors, associate professors, research scholars and post-graduate students. This meant that there was a very mixed age group, which is a good thing because the young and the older group could benefit from experience and fresh insights and viewpoints. There were some project coordinators, one activist, one advocate and one independent researcher from Afghanistan. Had there been more persons from advocacy groups and more activists, perhaps fresh perspectives could have been brought in. As it was, the mixture of age, countries and professions led to interesting exchanges during the interactive sessions. Further, the Indian participants came from all over the country and this too led to a much wider focus on the subjects under scrutiny.

Some of the participants had attended earlier courses and they were brought in specifically to add their insights to the discussions, since they are continuing their work on various aspects of forced migration.

While the participants were a vibrant group and represented five countries of the subcontinent, it did not represent all the countries. If the intention of the course was to have participation only from South Asian countries, Pakistan, Bhutan and Maldives should have been represented. While it is difficult to get people from Pakistan over for a course like this, it may not be impossible. Representation from these countries would have made the course more inclusive because forced migration, particularly refugee flows and internal displacement, affects every country in the region. Pakistan has seen major refugee inflows; Pakistani representation particularly, would have added another dimension to the discourse.

There have been foreign participants from outside the region in previous orientation courses. Their inclusion has always enriched the programme. Hopefully, there will be more such participation in the future.

Method of Evaluation

Evaluation of the course is based on: (i) external evaluator's observation of the programme, and (ii) a questionnaire that the external evaluator circulated among the participants requesting their feedback on specific aspects of the programme. The form was qualitative and not quantitative, giving the participants scope to express their views. The questions asked were:

1. What was your expectation from the programme?
2. Were these expectations met (fully, partially/not at all)? Explain.
3. Which segment/segments did you like the most? Why?
4. How is this programme going to help you in your career objectives?
5. Can you mention two 'best practices' of this programme?
6. Any suggestions for improvement?

15 of the evaluation forms were returned, duly filled, and they have helped the external evaluator immensely in looking at the programme from the participants' point of view and making an objective assessment of the programme. The external evaluator has also interacted with the participants during the programme and participants gave valuable insights on how they viewed it and what were its strong points. The evaluation will factor in the feedback I received from the participants.

Course Content and Modules

The course was divided into five modules (with a sixth module meant for the media workshop participants). Each module began with a theme lecture followed by presentations from participants on the theme. In the second half, there was always a Q & A session or an interactive session with an expert or a panel discussion of experts or a special lecture on the theme by an expert followed by more interactive sessions. Late evenings were earmarked for use of the library or there was a film show.

The modules included an introductory module on partitions, borders and forced migration, followed by gender dimensions of forced migration, legal regimes, research methodology and climate change (environment) and migration. The research methodology module was a new addition and very well thought out.

The persons brought in for the theme lectures were well-known experts in the field and all the lectures were informative; some of them were also thought-provoking and led to discussions. What was most satisfying, however, was the quality of the participants' presentations. The two and a half month distance education segment must have been very effective for the participants to have produced the kind of in-depth work that they presented. Many of the participants, as mentioned, were researchers and academics, who had on-going projects. They presented their on-the-ground findings and field experiences which evoked much interest. For the most part, the presentations were structured. Those who worked with refugees in different capacities brought their own knowledge and perspectives into their presentations, making it interesting for all, faculty and participant.

While speaking to the participants it was found out that among the things that impressed them about the course was that they had got the opportunity to present their research. According to them, most such courses revolve around lectures and presentations by experts, while participants are expected to listen and are evaluated at the end. The structuring of the orientation course gave them the space to share their own research with their peer group. This is one of the commendable things about the orientation course: the participants learn how to prepare a presentation, get a feedback on their work, and also learn from each other.

The feedback forms also indicated that the new segment, viz., methodology, was perhaps the one segment that was most appreciated. A few participants mentioned feminist research methodology in particular. Given the fact that the majority of the participants were academics, researchers or were involved in project work, methodology (as some noted) was something that would help them to focus on their subjects in a more organized manner. Modules B and D were therefore especially useful to them.

A few feedback forms mentioned the rapporteurs sessions as being useful as well. All the participants were involved in these sessions. They were divided into groups and each group was assigned the task of reporting on a particular module other than their focus module. This is a unique and effective way to involve every participant in the deliberations of a module in which they were not the presenters. This helped to keep them keyed to the topics on which they had not specialized. The rapporteurs' reports were comprehensive and helped to sum up the deliberations through the day. This practice may be emulated in other workshops because while it comprehensively raps up the proceedings, it keeps the participants interested in all issues discussed since they themselves have to report on it before their peer group who can point out anything that may have been missed.

The theme lectures were also appreciated by the participants. They opened up the subject under study for further deliberation. They were intellectually stimulating and informative.

Faculty

The orientation course was conducted by an experienced faculty. The background distance learning section also had group leaders to guide the participants through their study material etc. The theme lectures were by eminent persons and were much appreciated by the participants in their feedback form. While some of the speakers were specifically mentioned, there was a general appreciation of this part of the module.

However, the speakers all came from India and there was a strong regional, even a local, bias in favour of resource persons from Eastern India, more so, Kolkata. This of course, is expected, considering that CRG is based in Kolkata and drawing on local expertise is the general norm. However, if one or two resource persons had been brought in from some of the other South Asian states, this would have certainly enriched the course deliberations, because views other than an India-centric view could have been expressed.

Best Practices

This section will reflect the feedback of the students. Among the ‘best practices’ mentioned by the participants are:

- a. the way the course is structured
- b. time keeping
- c. encouraging participation of all members
- d. course syllabus
- e. the distant education segment which prepares the candidate for the workshop and makes him/her think on the subject
- f. intellectual richness
- g. interaction among participants, faculty and the CRG staff
- h. interactive sessions after every presentation
- i. library hours; access to library material
- j. introduction of methodology into the course

Among the best practices of the course, it can be mentioned that the rigour with which the candidates are selected. They all have a deep interest in the subject and are motivated to attend the course because they wish to take away something from it. Another best practice is the rigorous academic ground work that is done prior to the workshop. The result of the distance segment was visible in the participants’ basic understanding of the subject, their stimulated interest and their preparedness for the course. The fact that all the participants attended all sessions and interacted through out, proves my point.

Suggestions

This section, too, is largely drawn from the students’ feedback:

- a. The online portion of the course needs improvement
- b. Reading material can be provided in pen-drives
- c. The programme was too India-centric; participation from other countries would have broadened the discussions
- d. The course may be expanded to 10 days
- e. Involvement/ participation of victims of forced migration/ a sharing of their personal experience will enrich the course
- f. The reading material should be sent earlier
- g. The time-frame was too tight; more free time should be given

Finally, it may be added that the venue could be less cramped. Since the participants have to spend the entire day in one room, the room should be more spacious and airy. The field visits too could be better thought out, since the participants actually have little time to properly interact or observe. Maybe a visit to the India-Bangladesh border could also be arranged.

Conclusion

The winter course on forced migration is one of the best organized, structured programmes that exist in at least this part of the country. It attracts interested participants from the region and outside and their feedback shows that they are more than satisfied with the course and that it has lived up to their expectations, meeting whatever objective they had when they applied to join. However, there is always scope for improvement, one of the primary ones being attracting participation from all of South Asia and other parts of the world and further, inviting experts from outside India as to share their expertise.

Areas of Improvement (Suggested by the participants)

- Creative Assignments/review assignments/some simulation exercises can be included again.
- More time can be devoted for field visit

Evaluation by the Participants (27)

	Yes	No	Not Answered	Total
Delivery on time	25	2	-	27
General relevance and usefulness	27	-	-	27
Relevance vis-à-vis assignments	27	-	-	27
Usefulness/relevance in future work	27	-	-	27
Difficulties with instructions	-	27	-	27
Usefulness of Tutors' comments	26	1	-	27
Proper info on field visit	27	-	-	27
Relevance of the field visit vis-à-vis the course	27	-	-	27
Quality of participatory sessions	27	-	-	27
Adequate preparedness for the sessions	27	-	-	27
Quality of film sessions	25	2	-	27
Regular visits to the website	26	1	-	27

	Excellent/ Good	Bad	Total
Accommodation	25	2	27
Food	27	0	27
Classroom	25	2	27



K M Parivelan



Meghna Guha Thakurta

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 areas 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 eight-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 8-day Course on Forced Migration.

- **Awareness about Statelessness in South Asia**

Statelessness is the quality of being, in some way, without a state. Normally statelessness emerges from succession of states or territorial reorganizations. But it also emerges from persecution of minorities and state's majoritarian bias, which lead the states at time to expel citizens or inhabitants. This condition reinforced by the protracted refusal of the involved states to take them back creates a condition, which may lead at times to loss of their nationality and citizenship. In fact, 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. Under the circumstances Statelessness can have a severe impact on the lives of the individuals concerned as well as on the internal – and international – affairs of States. Keeping these facts in consideration CRG has started emphasizing on statelessness in India since the Ninth Winter Course 2011. CRG has taken the opportunity to showcase its research on statelessness during these courses.

- **Sensitising Media on Issues of Forced Migration**

Special media workshop as a part of the course has become an important component since its inception. This year CRG has stressed on *Humanitarian Disasters, Human-Rights Violations, and Social Media Journalism* to sensitize social media activists to humanitarian disasters and human rights violations resulting from forced migration. In the process of the workshop, CRG has tried to establish a connection between mainstream journalists working on forced migration issues and social-media activists. As the main aim of the workshop is to skill traditional media activists in the tools of social media, it is important that innovative professional journalists are also involved in this. Against this backdrop the participation of social media activists and selected main stream practicing journalists has become main source of information. The thrust are of discussion remains India's Northeast.

- **Sustained Collaboration with Other Institutions in South Asia**

One of the key outcomes of the course is the sustained collaboration with various institutions in India and special mention should be made of the UNHCR, New Delhi; Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR), Eastern Region; MAKAIAS, Kolkata; British Deputy High Commission, Eastern India. Secondly, CRG has been able to build up a sustained collaboration with MAKAIAS, Kolkata through co-hosting a special session on *Borders, States and Statelessness* during the course. Thirdly, CRG is indebted to *The Telegraph* and MASUM in making the field visits successful. We are especially grateful to the residents of Priya Manna slum of Howrah for their cooperation. Lastly, 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 International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Nepal, and Research Initiative Bangladesh (RIB) 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, President of CRG and the former Course Coordinator, was elected as the President of the Association in 2013. CRG hosted 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 Studies Centre, Oxford University has 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.



Paula Banerjee



Chandrima Bhattacharjee

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's 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 importantly, the course material is based on CRG's original research work.

CRG has published the following articles in *Refugee Watch*, Issue No. 41 (ISSN 2347-405X)

- “Proliferation of Borders and the Right to Escape” by Sandro Mezzadra-
- “IDP resettlement policies in post conflict Sri Lanka: Assessing the evidence-based context of the resettlement process with particular emphasis on IDP participation” by Fathima Azmiya Badurdeen
- “The East Bengali Muslims in Assam and Rohingyas of Myanmar: Comparative Perspectives of Migration, Exclusion, Statelessness” by Subir Bhaumik
- “Bastuhara, the Dispossessed” by Nishi Pulugurtha
- “The Ethics of Recognition: Bearing Witness to Human Rights’ Violations in Australian Detention Centre Narratives” by Maheyryn Chowdhury
- A Report on the 14th Conference of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM 14)
- Book Review of Atig Ghosh’s “Branding Migrants” by Sarvani Gooptu

• 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 Eleventh Annual orientation Course on Forced Migration.

Ongoing Research Segment

• 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, 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. CRG's research on statelessness is in a process of publication.

- **Research on Partition Studies**

The Partition of India, which had multiple layers of meaning for the people of the subcontinent, represents possibly the most contested discursive terrain of South Asian historiography. The conventional interpretation of the event, despite some differences in emphases, nuances and semantics, has consistently argued that Congress had stood all along until the very end of British rule for a secular united India, while M.A.Jinnah and his Muslim League (ML) - which from 1940 began to advocate the 'two nation theory' - were ultimately responsible for the sad but avoidable vivisection of the subcontinent. These twin 'myths of Partition' – the League for Partition and Congress for unity – have been seriously challenged in a revisionist historiography, which has argued that Pakistan demand was only Jinnah's 'bargaining counter'; what he really wanted was a loose federation for India with autonomy for the Muslim majority provinces. But Congress, with its preference for a strong centralised unitary state, accepted Partition as a necessary price to pay to get independence on their own terms. As for Bengal, it has been argued by some scholars the Hindu *bhadralok* elite, under the auspices of the Congress and Hindu Mahasabha combine, orchestrated a campaign for Partition and creation of a Hindu majority province in West Bengal. Some recent studies on Punjab and Bengal also show that Partition movement did not just remain an elite affair; the masses were equally involved, particularly when violence broke out from 1946.

In these narratives of pre-Partition politics the role of the Dalit (ex-untouchable) or Scheduled Caste politicians and their organisation, the Scheduled Caste Federation (SCF), is either completely ignored or mentioned only in passing, as League and Congress are presented as the main players, and the Partition related violence is assumed to be primarily between the Hindus and Sikhs on the one side and the Muslims on the other. Although a few studies have indicated that the Partition precipitated a 'crisis' for the Dalit in both Punjab and Bengal, and their leaders were forced to take sides in Partition politics, this aspect of Partition history has been barely explored.

In recent years it has been widely acknowledged that the Partition of India was not just an event that happened in August 1947 – it had a long afterlife. The historiography of Partition therefore has shifted from a preoccupation with its causes and the allocation of blames, to an increasing interest in recovering the experiences of its victims, as these had profound consequences for the subsequent nation-building processes and communal relations in the subcontinent. The "truth" of the partition' lay in the violence it produced; the scholars have therefore endeavoured to unravel how this violence was 'conceptualised and remembered by those who lived through partition - as victims, aggressors or onlookers'. A series of studies have followed since then, focussing mainly on the refugees in Punjab and Bengal, exploring their experiences, their struggle for citizenship, the politics about their rehabilitation, and the impact of the memories of Partition violence on communal relations in the subcontinent.

In exploring this aftermath of Partition, many voices have been recovered, yet many still remain silent. One such history is that of the scheduled castes, or untouchables'. For eastern India, this relative discursive invisibility of the Dalits still persists. Although some of these studies mention the migration, predicament and the struggles of Dalit peasant refugees, they do not fully relate these issues to the questions of their caste disability or identity politics. Against this back CRG is working on Partition and Dalits in West Bengal in collaboration with Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand. The study is on the verge of completion.

Follow-Up Programme

Publication of a Book on Research Methods in Forced Migration Studies

CRG has planned to publish a book on research methodology comprising all the theme papers presented by the core faculty members of the course. Besides other selected faculty members of the Orientation course will be invited to contribute to this volume. The volume will be edited by Prasanta Ray and Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty.

Publication of a Book on Statelessness in India

CRG's publication on "Meanings of statelessness: An account of South Asia" will be the outcome of a three-year long research project entitled "Mapping the stateless in India". The eight chapters of this volume intend to bring to the surface three sets of questions:

- First, how are certain groups and communities rendered stateless? In the ethnically heterogeneous successor states in South Asia, why are the minorities 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?
- Second, is the existing legal regime adequate to deal with the problem of statelessness? What has been the experience with case laws in different situations related to statelessness in India? Can judicial activism as evident in some cases in recent years serve as an effective guarantee?
- Third, do policymakers need to think beyond legal terms? Why does mere judicial activism prove ineffective? Does all this call for activating and strengthening the civil-society institutions and initiatives? But how does one make the first move towards melting the ice of xenophobia against the outsiders who remain in the host country as stateless?

Publication of Some of the Good Assignments of the Participants in the Journal *Refugee Watch*

Like previous years, this year also the core faculty members of the course have selected some of the good assignments of the participants to make an extensive repository of research articles for the journal *Refugee Watch*. Some of the participants have already submitted their final draft for publication.

Publication of a Media Reader on Social Media, Citizen Journalism, Human Rights and Humanitarian Protection

The offshoot of the special media workshop of the Orientation course will be a volume on Social Media, Citizen Journalism, Human Rights and Humanitarian Protection. This volume will include selected good assignments presented in the workshop and the volume will be edited by Atig Ghosh.



Participants and guests on the Inaugural Ceremony

15. CRG Team

- Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury
- Ashok Kumar Giri
- Atig Ghosh
- Madhurilata Basu
- Manjuri Chatterjee
- Paula Banerjee
- Prasanta Ray
- Raj Kumar Mahato
- Rajat Kanti Sur
- Ranabir Samaddar
- Ratan Chakraborty
- Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury
- Samaresh Guchhait
- Samir Kumar Das
- Samita Sen
- Shuvro Prosun Sarker
- Sibaji Pratim Basu



Ratan Chakraborty and Ashok Kumar Giri



Samaresh Guchhait



Interactive Session: Shuvro Prosun Sarker, Rajesh Kharat and Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury (Chair) (From left to right)



Mubassherul Alam Chowdhury, Ranabir Samaddar and Madhurilata Basu (From left to right)

16. Advisory Committee

- A.S. Panneerselvan
- Biswajiy Roy
- Deepali Gaur
- Dipankar Sinha
- Hari Sharma
- Lipi ghosh
- Mainak De
- Nirmalya Banerjee
- Priyankar Upadhyay
- Rajat Roy
- Sreeradha Dutta
- Subir Bhoumik
- Susanta Ghosh



Discussion Session



Special Programme at MAKAIAS



Valedictory Session: Pamela Philipose, Hans Friedrich Schodder, Scott Fursse-donn-Wood, Ramesh Dadhich, Paula Banerjee and Ranabir Samaddar (From left to right)



Certification: Hans Friedrich Schodder and Neamatullah Neamat (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
- Nanda Kishor
- Priyanca Mathur Velath
- Roopshree Joshi
- Sahana Basavapatna
- Shiva Dhungana
- Som Prasad Niroula
- Sucharita Sengupta
- Sudeep Basu
- Uttam Kumar Das



Participants Interacting with Residents of Priya Manna Bustee, Howrah



Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury, Sanjukta Bhattacharya, Samita Sen and Ranabir Samaddar (From left to right)



Samita Sen, Meena Paudel and Manabi Majumder (Chair) (From left to right)



Participants Presentation: Laxman Lamichhane, Neamatullah Neamat, Rajkumar Nagarajah and Sahana Basavapatna (Chair) (From left to right)



Mausumi Chetia and Ishita Dey