

**EUROPE-ASIA RESEARCH
PLATFORM ON
FORCED MIGRATION**

BIANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2021-MARCH 2022

**CALCUTTA RESEARCH GROUP
INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SCIENCES, VIENNA**

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A. OVERALL AIM OF THE PROJECT

This project, supported by the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, is designed to produce new and critical knowledge on migration and forced migration in Asia (with focus on South Asia) and its European-Asian dimension. While the research and policy advocacy on the European component has been based out of IWM, CRG has been responsible for formulating an annual research and orientation programme in South Asia. The programme is designed to enable IWM to link the European and the Asian experiences by partnering with relevant institutions, organizations and academics in South Asia and developing a collaborative research platform on issues of migration and forced migration.

The programme activities and the collective research undertaken in this project has ensured exchange of knowledge and expertise between Europe and the Global South by bringing together scholars, academics, policy makers and analysts, activists from various relevant fields and regions. The project calls for a critical investigation into the uneven geographies of global protection for refugees and migrants by turning attention towards the various faultlines of race, caste, gender, class, religion and sexuality in the global protection system, the neoliberal politics leading to further precarities, statelessness and the increasing incidence of climate refugees among other themes. To ensure innovative knowledge production and dissemination of information about migration and forced migration in South Asia and its link with the European cases, the project organized a series of individual research segments, workshops, conferences and other types of events throughout the year.

B. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Sl. No.	Activity	Source(s) of Funding	Results
1.	Annual Research & Orientation Workshop on Global Protection of Migrants & Refugees	Co-funded by RLS and IWM	Six day research and orientation workshop and conference on Global Protection of Migrants and Refugees, 15-20 November 2021, Hyatt Regency, Kolkata
2.	Annual Research Agenda	IWM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 11 papers on 'Long 2020' by 11 contract researchers and 1 staff researcher (work on an edited volume going on) 2. Election Study: The Figure of the Migrant in the Electoral Time – three reports on Assam, Bihar and West Bengal assembly elections (forthcoming from Frontpage) 3. Two research papers by staff researchers – Ankur Tamuli Phukan, 'Practices, Contingencies, Politics of the Locals and the Indian State: An Overview from Assam';

			Rituparna Datta, "Witnessing the Birth of a Nation': Narrative Frames of Refugee and Relief in the Liberation War 1971'
3.	Visiting Fellowships	IWM	Researchers from Nepal and Bangladesh visited CRG and presented their work in various forums as well as produced research papers
			Under the Europe-Asia Platform on Forced Migration fellows from CRG visited IWM
4.	Distinguished Chair in Migration & Forced Migration Studies		Prof. Ranabir Samaddar is the Distinguished Chair in Migration and Forced Migration Studies. The details of membership, publications, fellowships, and workshops are given on pages 11 to 14.
5.	Camp Activities-Youth Meet on Ethics of Solidarity, Care and Protection	Co-funded by IWM and BABSEACLE & OSJI	28 participants [including 3 IWM Fellows and 2 BABSEACLE Fellows] attended the Meet at Darjeeling from 13-16 March 2022. For a detailed report see page: 18-20.
6.	Public lectures	Co-funded by IWM & RLS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15 public lectures in the Winter Workshop (Refer to section G. ANNEXURE on pages 27-29 for further details) Webinar on 'Afghanistan: Transition and Justice', 8 November 2021 Roundtable on 'Pedagogy of Migration Studies', 13 January 2022
		IWM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Online Lecture on 'Nationalism and the Refugee Question in Bangladesh' by Niloy R. Biswas, IWM Visiting Fellow, CRG, 10 December 2021, in collaboration with the Department of South and South-East Asian Studies, University of Calcutta
7.	Preparatory and Follow-up Programmes	IWM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Committee Meeting, 26-27 January 2021, Kolkata Regional Dialogue on Conflict and Migration – Bengal-Bihar Dialogue,

			29-30 October 2021
8.	Participation in Workshops & Conferences	IWM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Biannual Conference: IASFM18: 'Disrupting Theory, Unsettling Practice: Towards Transformative Forced Migration Scholarship and Policy', University of Ghana, Accra, 26-30 July 2021 2. 'Beyond Refuge: Virtual Summer School on refugee Rights and Forced Migration', organised by BABSEACLE, BLAST, CRG and others, 23-26 August 2021 3. Public Lecture on 'Perspectives on Human Mobility: Normative and Political', by Achin Chakraborty, Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata', 28 October 2021, Swabhumj, Kolkata
9.	Refugee Watch & Refugee Watch Online	IWM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refugee Watch Issue No. 58: A Special Issue on Displacements and Dispossessions 2. Refugee Watch Online has been updated with new articles, reports, and book reviews
	Publications: Books, Reports & Articles		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The consolidated list of publications [printed & forthcoming] is given on pages 27-29 of G. ANNEXURE.
10.	Teachers' Orientation Course on in migration and refugee studies and Workshop on syllabus making and research methodology	IWM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Online Orientation Course for University and College Teachers on 'reading Refugees, reading Migration', 17 July-29 August 2021 2. Teachers' Workshop on Syllabus Making and Research Methods in Migration and Forced Migration Studies, postponed to 23-24 February 2022 due to Covid19 third wave
11.	Preparation of Audio-Visual Material	IWM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Video Lecture Series titled A CRG Series in the Corona Time: Six Lectures on Migrants and Refugees

			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Third documentary film in the CRG series, Calcutta a Migrant City (Provisional Title: City of Transit). Production work has started.
12.	Translation in Regional Languages	IWM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Translation of the Kolkata Declaration of 2018 into Assamese, Bengali, Hindi, Urdu, Nepali and Malayalam 2. Translation of Manjira Saha's <i>Labour Train</i> is underway 3. Publication of the Bengali and Hindi translations of the <i>Borders and Burdens of Pandemic</i> is in the last stage
13.	Website & Digital Resources	IWM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Subscription to JStor, Project Muse and Economic and Political Weekly has been renewed 2. Living Archive on COVID 19 and Migrant Workers on mcrg.ac.in 3. Project page on Migration & Forced Migration Studies with particular focus on South Asia and its European-Asian Dimension (2019-2021) 4. Construction of a new and improved website of the institution is underway
14.	Media Segment	IWM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Five short-term fellowships for investigative reports or photo-essays on 'What Happened to the Refugees and Migrants in the Covid Year of 2020' (completed in October 2021) 2. Two-day workshop on 'Media and the Politics of Migration', 3-4 December 2021
15.	Library & Archive Building	IWM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New librarian joined 2. Updation of library catalogue in Koha software 3. New books and reports acquired

I. WINTER WORKSHOP AND CONFERENCE [Sixth Annual Research & Orientation Workshop & Conference, 15-20 November 2021]

The Sixth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop and Conference was designed and organized on the foundation prepared by the experiences from last year. With the scare of the pandemic still looming large, it was decided from early on that the 2021 Winter Workshop will be held in a hybrid mode while trying to accommodate as much physical participation as possible. The Annual Planning Meeting on 26 and 27 January 2021 came up with a basic structure of the workshop and conference, including the sub-themes, module distribution, name of module tutors and other details. Soon a Task Force was formed with Professor Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chadhury, Honorary Director, CRG, as the convenor and included other module tutors and Forced Migration Desk members. The Task Force carried on further planning and preparations of the event. [Six modules](#) were finalized to address different sub-themes and further structured and designed by the respective module tutors. Adverts inviting application for the workshop were published on CRG's website, facebook page, and in newspapers. Like last year, the application deadline was [extended](#) from 10 May 2021 to 31 May 2021 keeping in mind the exigent circumstances during the pandemic. A Selection Committee was formed with Paula Banerjee, Professor, University of Calcutta and Member, CRG and Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury as internal members and Maidul Islam, Associate Professor, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta and Rajesh Kharat, Dean of Humanities, University of Mumbai as external members who selected a total number of 32 candidates from the pool of applications. The final selection was carefully made to ensure a balanced representation of gender, disciplinary and regional diversity. While two selected candidates later withdrew their applications, the rest duly registered for the workshop. Participants were enlisted from different South Asian countries like India, Vietnam, Nepal, Bangladesh as well as Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan) and Europe. The participants were distributed into six modules of the workshop according to their preferences and suitability.

This year, a special emphasis was given to the distance (virtual) segment of the programme which preceded the final residential event in Kolkata from 15 to 20 November 2021. An introductory online meeting with all the participants and resource persons was held on 30 July 2021. In the months of August and September, the module tutors/coordinators had three online meetings with the participants to discuss their abstracts and guide them through the process of writing their research papers for the workshop. A secured portal was created to share all relevant information including the module notes, reading materials and resources from CRG repository (with links to access them) with the participants.

Due to travel restrictions caused by the pandemic and other personal reasons, four participants discontinued after the distance segment. Four others were unable to come to Kolkata for the residential segment in November and were accommodated virtually. From 15 to 20 November the workshop and conference participants and resource persons were accommodated in Hyatt Regency in Kolkata for the event. An elaborate health protocol was set in place to ensure the safety of the participants and avoid health emergencies. As many sessions were hybrid in nature, a specialised studio set-up and a support team was hired to execute that. Proper planning and effective logistics ensured a combination of physical and virtual participation in both the four days of the workshop and the following two days of

conference as a result of which CRG was able to incorporate more than eighty participants from all over the world.

The first four days of the event was devoted to the workshop whereas the concluding two days had an international conference which had a total number of ten sessions. The programme began with an inaugural lecture by James Milner, Carleton University, Canada, and Rez Gardi, R-SEAT, New Zealand, on 'The Politics and Practice of Refugee Participation in the Governance of the Global Refugee Regime' and a panel discussion on 'After the Pandemic: Recalling the Kolkata Declaration of 2018' with Paula Banerjee, Calcutta University and CRG, Meghna Guhathakurta, Research Initiative Bangladesh, Bangladesh, Ayse Caglar, IWM, Vienna, as the speakers and Nasreen Chowdhory as the discussant. The following days of the workshop had lectures by module tutors and paper presentations by the participants followed by discussion. In addition to each module had special lectures on the module themes given by experts from different countries.

Like last year, the pandemic forced CRG to cancel the fieldtrip to the local refugees and migrants quarters, an integral part of the programme for many years, and have a screening of two films of the CRG documentary series Calcutta Migrant City, which look at the history of the different migrant communities in Kolkata, India and the foundation of post-partition refugee colonies which contributed to the making of the city from colonial to post-colonial times. A very interesting discussion followed the screening, moderated by Samata Biswas, The Sanskrit College and University and CRG, and Priyankar Dey, CRG.

The workshop and the conference provided an opportunity for the activists, experts and academics from all over the world to reflect on the recent Afghan crisis. Highlighting the limitations of the two Global Compacts and recalling the principles of the Kolkata Declaration of 2018, which called for a Global South perspective on the global protection of refugees and migrants, the [*Kolkata Declaration on the Need for a Coherent Protection Policy and Justice for Refugees and Migrants of Afghanistan, 2021*](#), was adopted after due deliberations on the last day of the conference.

The Workshop and the Conference ended with a valedictory session which had the Jayanta Dasgupta Memorial Lecture given by Professor Walden Bello, State University of New York at Binghamton, USA, on 'Labour Trafficking: Modern Day Slave-Trade' in the context of contemporary Philippines. As Professor Bello pointed out, Philippines emerged as a major exporter of unskilled and semi-skilled labour in the wake of structural adjustment in the economy following neoliberal capitalism. He claimed that capitalism in the era of globalization is in the process of creating a working class that is global in consciousness and the challenge is to conceptualize new modalities of transborder organization.

For the full schedule of the programme, details of participants, resource materials and paper abstracts, please visit the [secured portal](#) of the event.

For Full report see http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_Migration_2021/Report_Winter_Workshop_2021.pdf

II. ANNUAL RESEARCH AGENDA

1. Long 2020:

In the Planning Meeting of this year, Long 2020 was taken up as the overarching theme for this year's research agenda. The collective engaged in a collaborative research which sought to understand the present crises in terms of a *longue duree* unfolding of historical trends and experiences of epidemiological management, a combination of several crises in the form of a pandemic, public health policies and practices, migration realities, and the question of life and death in the public arena. A total number of 12 papers have been produced in this project. The concept note, details of the researchers in the collective, their abstracts and full papers can be accessed [here](#). This segment had a [research planning workshop](#) on 26 March 2021 where the individual abstracts were discussed and a [final workshop](#) on 7 October 2021 where the full drafts were presented and discussed.

CRG has started planning an edited book volume with the essays produced by the Long 2020 research collective and is in talks with potential publishers. Professor Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty, CRG, Professor Paula Banerjee, University of Calcutta and CRG, Dr. Kaustubh Mani Sengupta, Bankura University will be the co-editors of the proposed book volume.

2. Election Study - The Figure of the Migrant in the Electoral Time:

At the beginning of this year, CRG thought that more rigorous studies of the political dimensions of migration are necessary to understand the precarities of the migrant and the refugee at the junctures of neoliberal economies and growing majoritarian-identitarian trends in politics in contemporary times. With this understand, a collaborative research project was planned to study how the migrant and the refugee figured in the recent assembly elections in the three states of India: Bihar (2020), Assam (2021), and West Bengal (2021). In Bengal and Assam, crossborder migration from Bangladesh has left a deep impact on the societies and economies and subsequently emerged as a major contentious theme of the public discourse. On the other hand, all these three states have been major sources of labour out migration. With a carefully designed research plan provided by Professor Ranabir Samaddar, Distinguished Chair in Migration and Forced Migration Studies, CRG, a [team of researchers](#) from both CRG and its partnering institutions conducted intensive field visits in the three states, studied campaign materials, social media posts, newspaper articles and other printed materials, interviewed the voters as well as political leaders and civil society campaigners. Three separate reports have been produced on these three states which were presented and discussed by experts in a [virtual workshop](#) on 30 June 2021. The three reports will soon come out as a book from Frontpage by March 2022.

3. Individual Research Projects:

- **‘Practices, Contingencies, Politics of the Locals and the Indian State: An Overview from Assam’ (Researcher: Ankur Tamuli Phukan)**

In this [paper](#) the researcher will try to locate the basic structure of the operation process of identification, determination and the deportation of individual as foreigners, in order to understand the shifts and changes in disciplinary politics of a nation-state and how in a particular historical-cultural context of Assam the cartographic anxiety of the nation-state would align itself with other sub-national(s), bureaucratic anxieties of a particular local.

On the basis of extensive fieldwork and archival research, the researcher has produced a paper which was initially presented at the Staff Researchers’ Workshop held on 8 October 2021. A final version of the paper, titled ‘Practices, Contingencies, and the Politics of Local: An Overview from Assam’, was presented in the Sixth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop in November.

- **‘Witnessing the Birth of a Nation’: Narrative Frames of Refugee and Relief in the Liberation War 1971’ (Researcher: Rituparna Datta)**

This [project](#) tries to locate the new praxis of viewing refuge as a temporal category in nation making rather than nation seeking and repatriation as a logical outcome of the process. The researcher has done archival research to produce a paper, the versions of which was subsequently presented in the Staff Researchers’ Workshop on 8 October 2021 and in the Sixth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop in November.

- **Public Health in Refugee Camps and Colonies of West Bengal during 1947-1958: Policies, Practices and Politics (Researcher: Priyankar Dey)**

The [researcher](#) has been able to produce two slightly different papers titled ‘Thinking about the ‘public’ and the ‘refugee’ through the discourses of public health in West Bengal, 1948-1958’ (presented and discussed at the Long 2020 conference on 7 October 2021) and ‘Politics of health in post-partition Bengal: A historical investigation into practices of care and solidarity, 1947-1966’ (presented and discussed in the Sixth Annual Research & Orientation Workshop). On the basis of feedback received from the workshops and CRG’s own experts, the researcher has combined the two papers as ‘Politics of health in post-partition Calcutta: the refugees, the left movements and the question of life in the city’ which is being considered for the forthcoming Long 2020 edited volume.

Other Research Assignments

- i) Priyankar Dey is writing a research paper on the theme tentatively titled *Ecology, Land and Infrastructure Building: A Historical Study of the Sundarbans Region*.
- ii) Dr. Shyamalendu Majumdar is writing a research paper on the tentative theme of *Pandemic Theatre in Calcutta & Society*.

- iii) Sucharita Sengupta has written a research paper titled, *Waiting to Belong? Women, war of words and activism in Rohingya camps of Bangladesh*.
- iv) Sangbida Lahiri is writing a paper on the tentative theme *Caregivers at the time of pandemic*.
- v) Dr. Samata Biswas conducted fieldwork on migration studies as part of research programme.

4. Research activities by the Distinguished Chair in Migration and Forced Migration Studies:

The Distinguished Chair in Migration and Forced Migration Studies, Professor Ranabir Samaddar, has led CRG's research in 2021 with his own contributions. Shatabdi Das, the current Associate of the Chair, has been updating his works on the Chair's [page](#) in our website. Below are select activities of the Chair in July to December 2020:

- **Memberships:**

- i) Member, Advisory Board, Human Migration Research, F1000 Research, Taylor & Francis Open Research Gateway (2021-23)
- ii) Member, Editorial Committee, Inventory, on Mobility and Socio-Economic Change, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology (2021-)

- **Select Interviews/Lectures/Podcasts:**

- i) *Book launch for "The Postcolonial Age of Migration", authored by Ranabir Samaddar, in the Penn-Birmingham Speaker Series, 21 February 2022 on Zoom*
http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Ranabir/Ranabir_updated_CalcuttaResearchGroup.jpg
- ii) "Refusing Refugees", *Gagarin, the Eurozine Podcast, Eurozine*, 17 December 2021 –
<https://soundcloud.com/user-202834037/refusing-refugees-ranabir-samaddar-on-forced-migration>
- iii) "Seventy Years of the Geneva Refugee Convention: A Reason to Celebrate?", *Medizinische Flüchtlingshilfe, Bochum and the Institute of International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict*, 25 November 2021 - <https://mfh-bochum.de/ringvorlesung-70-jahre-genfer-fluechtlingskonvention-ein-grund-zu-feiern/> and <https://www.ifhv.de/news/70AnniversaryUNConventionStatusofRefugees>
- iv) "Postcolonial Reflections on the Refugee Convention of 1951", , 25 November 2021
- v) "Democracy and Bio-politics from Below", *Central European University, Vienna and the Albert Hirschman Centre for Democracy*, 18 October 2021 - <https://www.ceu.edu/article/2021-10-26/newest-episode-democracy-question-podcast-features-ranabir-samaddar>
- vi) "The Impossibility of Politics: Brecht, Manto, and Two Itinerant Situations", *IWM, Vienna*, 19 October 2021- <https://www.iwm.at/index.php/event/the-impossibility-of-politics-brecht-manto-and-two-itinerant-situations> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gp0TDg7q7rg>
- vii) 'Bharatbarsho Ki Adou Ekti Juktorashtro' (Is India a federal state?), 8 August 2021, Khas Khabar
- viii) "A Pandemic and the Politics of Life", *Kerala Council of Historical Research*, 15 June 2021 - https://www.youtube.com/c/KCHR_Archives and <https://youtube/2kXVjo8Xg3o>

- ix) “Everyday State”, Lecture at *Young South Asia Scholars Meet, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies*, Geneva, 3 June 2021 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTmtJUhZ000> and <https://youtu.be/LuKikwrH3dk>

• **Published Papers:**

- i) “The Democratic Route to Authoritarianism: Authoritarian Power and Populist Resistance”. *International Journal of Critical Diversity Studies*, Volume 2, No 2, 2021
- ii) “Labour’s Burden of the Epidemic Covid-19 and Internal Migrant Workers: The Case of India”, *Migrant Worlds*, No 1, 2021
- iii) ‘Refugees and Migrants as Subjects of Economy and Politics’, *Policies and Practices* 121 (Calcutta research Group, November 2021)
- iv) ‘Layers of Solidarity’ in Samir Kumar Das and Ranabir Samaddar, ‘Two Essays on Ethics and Practices of Care and Solidarity’, *Policies and Practices* 123 (Calcutta Research Group, November 2021)

• **Short Interventions:**

- i) “Statelessness a condition of existence” (in German translated by the IWM editorial board), *IWM Post*, December 2021 - <https://www.iwm.at/publication/iwmpost-article/staatenlos-und-entrechtet>
- ii) “Six Markers of the Postcolonial Destiny of the Refugee Convention of 1951”, *FluchtforschungsBlog*, 21 December 2021 - <https://blog.fluchtforschung.net/six-markers-of-the-postcolonial-destiny-of-the-refugee-convention-of-1951/>

Besides these, The Telegraph carried a [review](#) of Ranabir Samaddar’s latest book *A Pandemic and the Politics of Life* by Harsh Mander, 13 August 2021.

5. Publications by other researchers:

- i) Ankur Tamuli Phukan, Bidyut Sagar Boruah, Anshuman Gogoi, Gaurav Rajkhowa & Ankur Tamuli Phukan, “[In the Womb of the Brahmaputra’: A Flawed Land Policy Lies Behind Violent Eviction Drives in Assam](#)”, *Scroll.in*, 18 October 2021.
- ii) Ankur Tamuli Phukan, “[Development and the Politics of Depoliticization in Northeast: A note on Sanjib Baruah's ‘In the Name of the Nation’](#)”, *NENOW*, 12th December, 2021.
- iii) Ankur Tamuli Phukan, ‘River Bank Erosion, Land and Politics of Identity in Assam’, *India in Transition*, Centre for the Advanced Study of India, University of Pennsylvania (forthcoming).

6. Publications: Books and Report

- i) Ritajyoti Bandyopadhyay, Paula Banerjee, and Ranabir Samaddar ed., *India's Migrant Workers and the Pandemic* (Social Science Press, 2022).

- ii) Ankur Tamuli Phukan, Rajat Kanti Sur, Priyanka Dey, Anamika Priyadarshini, Gopal Krishna, Abdullah Rehman, *Migrants in Electoral Times: Assam Bihar and West Bengal, Assembly Elections 2020-2021, Report* (FrontPage, 2022).
- iii) Rajat Roy ed. *Mahamarir Nana Seemanay: Covid-19 Ebong Parijayi Shromik*, translated from *Borders of an Epidemic*, edited by Ranabir Samaddar (Progressive Publishers, 2022).
- iv) Piya Srinivasan ed., *Ecology, Climate, Disaster, Displacement and the State* (forthcoming).
- v) Nasreen Chowdhury ed., *New Frontiers in the Register of Migration and Refugee Studies* (forthcoming).
- vi) Kaustubh Mani Sengupta, Paula Banerjee, and Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty, eds., *The Long 2020: Reflection of Epidemiological Times* (forthcoming).
- vii) Paula Banerjee ed., *On the Margins of Protection* (Orient BlackSwan has sent the contract, forthcoming).

Book Launch

The book launch for '*Migrants in Electoral Times: Assam Bihar and West Bengal, Assembly Elections 2020-2021, Report*' in collaboration with Frontpage Publications Limited was held on 22 April 2022 (initially planned to be held on 4 March 2022 was postponed due to delay in publication procedure). Gopal Krishna and Rajat Kanti Sur were among the authors present. The book launch was followed by a discussion by Prof. Suranjan Das, Vice Chancellor of Jadavpur University and veteran journalist Anirban Chattopadhyay, former editor of Anandabazar Patrika. For details of the event see <https://www.facebook.com/MahanirbanCalcuttaResearchGroup/photos/a.394726843969506/4780171082091705/>

7. Other creative activities by the researchers:

Priyanka Dey has designed and directed a theatre, 'Timirer Harlem' which narrates the story of a partition refugee in Calcutta and his rootlessness in the city, for a theatre group named Candid Theatre in Kolkata, India.

III. VISITING FELLOWSHIPS

The visit of the four fellows selected in 2020 had to be rescheduled for November 2021 due to the prolonged lockdowns and travel restrictions following Covid19 pandemic. Fresh invitations were sent to the four fellows - Mujib Ahmad Azizi from Afghanistan, Nadarajah Sooriyarah from Sri Lanka, Neetu Pokharel from Nepal, and Dr. Niloy Biswas from Bangladesh. While Sooriyarah has been unable to accept our invitation, Mujib Ahmad Azizi, despite his willingness to visit CRG in November, could not ultimately come because of the sudden regime change in Afghanistan and the humanitarian crisis that followed it. The other two fellows from Nepal and Bangladesh have duly visited CRG, worked here to

finish their research papers, interacted with CRG colleagues, and delivered in-house presentations of their work conducted with the fellowship. The research topics, abstracts, full papers and reports of the two visiting fellows can be found [here](#).

Som Niroula from Alliance for Social Dialogue was the visiting fellow from 25-31 March 2022. During the fellowship he has submitted the paper on the theme *Governance of Labour Migration in Nepal*. Visiting fellow Neetu Pokharel from Alliance for Social Dialogue submitted her paper titled *Statelessness and the Plight of Women in Nepal*. Dr. Niloy Biswas of Dhaka University, as part of his visiting fellowship submitted the paper on the theme *Rethinking home from the Experience of Home [State] Lessons: The Discursive Expose of Rohingya Narratives from Cox Bazar Camps*.

Prof. Ranabir Samaddar as one of the Heads of the Project *Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration* was Guest of the Institute at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna, from 1 February to 31 March 2022. A book chapter provisionally titled "Layers of Solidarity" and "universalism of the specific" through perusal of the writings of B.R. Ambedkar and Frantz Fanon, were among the themes of his work during the fellowship. Rajat Kanti Sur was the junior visiting fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna under the Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration from 1-31 March 2022. He has worked on *Cooperative as the Solution to the Vulnerability of the Migrants: A Study on the Sex Workers' Cooperative in Kolkata*. Shatabdi Das was junior visiting fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna under the Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration from 1-30 April 2022. She has worked on the theme *Urbanization and Climate Crisis: A Study on Kolkata*. Prof Paula Banerjee was a visiting fellow at IWM from 01.09.2021 to 31.09.2021. Her research theme was *Locating the Diseased Body*.

Prof. Paula Banerjee and Prof. Ranabir Samaddar were invited for a planning workshop in the framework of Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration from 7 to 8 February 2022.

IV. MEDIA SEGMENT

The media segment of CRG-IWM programme on migration and forced migration in 2021 has been divided into two parts: the fellowship programme and the workshop.

1. Short-term Media Fellowships:

With the pandemic still raging the country and last year's long exodus of the migrant workers still fresh in mind, it was decided to follow up on the question of the footloose labour and their precarities. Hence, in consultation with its media sub-committee, consisted of senior journalists and academics like Rajat Roy, Jayanta Roy Chowdhury, Pranay Sharma, Shubhojyoti Ghosh, Shoaib Daniel and others, CRG in March announced [five short-term media fellowships](#) (Rs. 40,000 each for a period of three months) on 'What Happened to the Refugees and Migrants in the Covid Year of 2020'. Aman (Siddhant) Gupta (Freelance journalist), Devika Singh Shekhawat (PhD Scholar, Ambedkar University, Delhi), Nivedita Manpoong (Nellie) (Journalist, *Arunachal Times*), Sukanta Sarkar (Journalist, *Ei Samay*), and Shuvankur

Ghosh (Freelance Photojournalist) were selected as the fellows for 2021 and assigned mentors for their proposed investigative stories and photo-essays. The deliverables were submitted in October and peer-reviewed by CRG's internal and external colleagues.

2. Media Workshop:

The Media Workshop, held on 3 and 4 December 2021 in Monotel, Kolkata, was themed on 'Media and the Politics of Migration'. The two days of the workshop had [presentations](#) by the media fellows and other media practitioners and began with an inaugural lecture by Bharat Bhushan on the theme of the workshop. A hybrid session on 'Politics of Reporting Migrants and Refugees in Europe and Asia' accommodated media practitioners from Bertil Lintner from Thailand, Reka Kinga Papp of Eurozine, Austria and Muktadir Rashid from Bangladesh. Besides the state of the migrant labour in a pandemic-hit world, the deliberations in the workshop also engaged with the global politics around the contemporary refugee crises and the increasing flow of climate change induced migration. The role of the 'new media' was also critically discussed by the participants. A separate session with documentary photographers addressed the problems and challenges in visual representations of the migrants. The event ended with a valedictory lecture by Pratik Sinha of Alt News, India on the challenges thrown up by the deluge of the 'fake news' and how that has complicated the work of the media practitioners of today. For the full report of the workshop, see [here](#).

Rajat Kanti Sur has worked with Rituparna Datta in organising the media workshop in December 2021, in compilation and co-ordination of tasks and assignments for website designing, and preparation of database for applications for the media workshop.

3. Media Reader:

Media on Migrants in the Time of an Epidemic: A Reader, edited by Bharat Bushan, which is a product of CRG's media programme in 2020, is going to come out from Routledge in February 2022.

V. TEACHERS' ONLINE ORIENTATION COURSE AND WORKSHOP

The Teachers' Online Course and the Workshop has been a major constituent of CRG-IWM collaboration in 2021.

1. Teachers' Online Orientation Course:

Building on the foundations laid at last year's Teachers' Workshop, a one and a half month online orientation course was organized for the college and university teachers in July-August. The [course](#), titled *Reading Refugees, Reading Migration: An (Online) Orientation Course for College and University Teachers*, started from 17 July and continued till 29 August 2021. A total number of 35 participants were selected from a large pool of applications from all over the world, keeping in mind a representational

balance of gender, regions and disciplines. The classes were held on each Saturdays and Sundays (16 classes in 7 weeks) and were taught by a group of eminent scholars and experts of the field including Ayse Caglar, IWM, Vienna, Amena Mohsin, Dhaka University, Bangladesh, Darshana Mini, University of Wisconsin, USA, Hari Sharma, Social Science Baha, Nepal, Paula Banerjee, University of Calcutta, India & CRG, Ranu Basu, York University, Toronto, Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty, Former Professor, Presidency University, Kolkata & CRG, Lydia Potts, Oldenburg University, Germany and others. The full report of the course can be accessed [here](#).

Sudeep Basu, Ananya Chatterjee, Suchismita Majumdar as participants of the Teachers' Online Orientation Course titled *Reading Refugees, Reading Migration*, were engaged as educational resource designers for migrants, refugees, children, and specially-abled persons.

2. Teachers' Workshop:

Building on CRG's long engagement with the pedagogy of migration studies, this year's Teachers' Workshop on *Syllabus Making and Research Methods in Migration and Forced Migration Studies* was originally planned to be held on 13 and 14 January 2022. The primary goal was to consolidate and extend the outcomes of the previous teachers' workshop (December 2020) and the recent online orientation course (July-August 2021) by facilitating further discussion on the questions of research methods, challenges in educating migrant and refugee students, issues of pedagogy, navigating bias and prejudice in the classroom, and historical ownership of knowledge among other topics.

However, with the preparations for the January workshop underway, India was hit with the third wave of Covid19. Amidst growing health concerns and mobility or gathering restrictions, CRG had no other option but to postpone the event to 23-24 February 2022.

Second Two Days Teachers' Workshop on Syllabus Making and Research Methods in Migration and Forced Migration Studies

23-24 February, Kolkata, India

Migration and forced migration studies have emerged as an interdisciplinary field of study, to be reckoned with in most university and school systems, across disciplines and continents. From the study of histories of migration (induced by colonialism, slavery or epidemics) to reading present day population patterns, from analysing the contributions of migrants to a national economy to exploring narratives of refugees and migrants—migration and forced migration are now key components in different established disciplines: History, Demography, Geography, Political Science and International Relations, Anthropology, Literary and Cultural Studies, Economics, and many more. This is both a response to our contemporary history, marked by massive flows and displacements of people and recognition of the importance of recording, researching and teaching migration.

The Second Two-Day Teachers' workshop framed a series of syllabi through world café and other consultative methods, keeping in mind that the syllabi for interdisciplinary fields that require provisional, contingent interactions and speak to the teachers' and the students' intersectional

locations. The workshop tackled questions of research methods, challenges in educating migrant and refugee students, issues of pedagogy, strategies for navigating bias and prejudices in the classroom environment, historical ownership of knowledge, etc., drawing upon experts in the field who have introduced and engaged with migration studies within institutional settings. Individuals from faculty of different colleges, universities, educational institutes as well as researcher and experts from varied fields and research institutes, constituted more than 30 participants belonging to disciplines such as History, Economics, Sociology, Literature, Law and Refugee Studies, Political Science, Geography to name a few. Associates from publishing houses and authors transformed the session on book release into a mesmerizing one with narratives of their encounters from the past. Migration, women, cultural production, violence, pandemic, education, migrant children, mobility, group discussions on syllabi and submission of draft syllabi, film screening and discussion, encompassed some of the themes of the workshop during the two days. See full report http://www.mcrg.ac.in/IWM_Migration_2021/Teachers_Workshop/Report%20CRG%20Second%20Teachers%20Workshop%2023,%2024%20Feb%202022.pdf

As part of the programme a roundtable discussion (in online mode) was held on 13 January 2022 on 'Pedagogy of Migration Studies'. The panellists were Anju Mary Paul (Yale-NUS College, Singapore), Joyce C. H. Liu (National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan) Natalija Perisic (University of Belgrade, Serbia) with Paula Banerjee (University of Calcutta and CRG) moderating the discussion. The panellists and discussants were from among the faculties of South Asian and European universities – discussing the pedagogical challenges, syllabus making, research methods, child centred perspectives and education as a response to in migration studies and refugee studies. For Full Report, see <http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Webinars/Report%20on%20WEBINAR-13%20JAN%202022%20on%20Pedagogy%20Studies.pdf>

The 'second' two days' teachers' workshop was in continuation with the a *Two-Day Teachers' Workshop on Research Methodology and Syllabus Making*, held in December 2021, organised by CRG and IWM with participants from all over India and virtual panelists from Europe, Australia and other parts of Asia (see report here: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/IWM_Migration/Report%20Teachers'%20Workshop.pdf), following the online orientation course in migration studies and pedagogy for college and university teachers held in July-August 2021. The online course titled *Reading Refugees, Reading Migration: An (Online) Orientation Course for College and University Teachers*, in July-August 2021 had a participation of 27 teachers and 16 resource persons from different disciplinary and geographical locations explored the thematic and the problematic of migration studies, questions of methods, and, literary and cultural registers of migrants and refugees (see details here: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/IWM_Migration_2021/IWM_Migration_Teachers_2021.asp).

For full report, see: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/IWM_Migration_2021/Teachers_Workshop/Report%20CRG%20Second%20Teachers%20Workshop%2023,%2024%20Feb%202022.pdf

VI. Youth Meet 2022 on Ethics of Solidarity, Care and Protection, Darjeeling, India:

To consolidate the outcomes of the year-long research and orientation programme and expand the network of activists and scholars from South Asia and Europe, CRG organised a youth meet in Darjeeling, themed 'The Youth Meet on *Ethics of Solidarity, Care and Protection*'. The meet was designed to invite young scholars, activists, journalists to share their experiences of and engagement on and among the migrants/refugees/displaced. The Youth Meet with twenty-eight participants including fellows joining the meet with the fellowship support from IWM and fellows from the Summer School on 'Beyond Refuge', organised by CRG, BABSEACLE, OSJI, BLAST, and BRAC in August 2021. The call for application received a widespread response and the selected pool of resource persons and participants joined from a number of different countries including India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Austria and UK. The event is unique as it tries to engage not only a cross-section of solidarity activists but also those individuals who often become the subject of care. The camp was originally scheduled to be held from 23-26 January 2022 at Darjeeling, India but was postponed to 13-16 March 2022, due to restrictions imposed on travel and limitations of holding public events in the wake of the Covid-19 third wave.

A Four-Day Youth Meet on “Ethics of Solidarity, Care, and Protection”, 13-16 March 2022, Darjeeling, India

“Solidarity is a life question, but one of life at its limit. Solidarity reflects the bio-political nature of the collective at the time of crisis, life in crisis; yet what is paradoxical is that it is through the acts of solidarity that a collective comes into being.”

Ranabir Samaddar, Layers of Solidarity

The Covid pandemic and the ensued migrant crisis in India since 2020 made visible the caveats or the fault lines inherent in the public health management systems operating in India and at the same time the very event of the pandemic produced a high level of solidarity among various sections of society. The surge of solidarity has been chronicled by journalists, diarists, commentators, news portals, and photographers. Solidarity activists have emerged from all walks of life. They have mobilised and provided food, money, shelter, medical treatment, and passage assistance to migrant workers returning home, and in general to all those in need of urgent medical assistance. The solidarity activists have provided strength to the migrant workers who faced odds in face of various lockdown restrictions all over the country. In the wake of the internal and international borders being tightly controlled to arrest the spread of Covid-19 and an overwhelming public perception that migrants were among the deadliest carriers of the virus, the unprecedented solidarity assumed exceptional significance. In this background, the Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (CRG) decided to organise a four-day Youth Meet to exchange, discuss, and deepen our ideas and experiences of solidarity as part of a general ethic of care and protection. The Youth Meet was organised in collaboration with and funded by the Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna under its Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration Programme as part of CRG's ongoing programmes supported by Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, IWM Vienna, and several other universities and institutions in India.

The theme of the camp was 'Ethics of Solidarity, Care, and Protection'. The event was designed to be held from 22 to 26 January 2022 in Darjeeling, India. But in view of the deteriorating health crisis due to the sudden threat from the Omicron virus, CRG in the bigger interest of the nation and its commitment to conduct the event in a safe and healthy atmosphere decided to postpone the event to 13-16 March 2022. The Meet brought together from various backgrounds experts and solidarity activists who shared their experiences during group sessions, film screening, book discussion, and panel discussions on different aspects of solidarity, care and protection. There were more than 25 invitees participating in the Youth Meet. The Youth Meet became a forum of diverse global representation from different parts of India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Austria and UK. The event was meant to be a platform for voices to be heard and hence an equal representation of the women's voices was pre-decided for the event with almost fifty percent of our invitees being women. Two fellows joined the event as part of the BABSEACLE fellowship from 'Beyond Refuge' Summer School organised in collaboration with CRG in August 2021. Four fellows joined the event as part of the CRG-IWM fellowship for participants from Europe. The event received representation from different organisations and institutes like ActionAid, GeFont, WOREC, Solidar Suisse, Pratichi Trust, PUKAR, Rashtriya Hamal Panchayat, Wildlife Protection Society of India, CEHDRF, IDSK, TISS, Central European University, Kingston University, IWM Vienna, University of Vienna, Sanskrit College & University, independent artists, filmmakers, trade union activists and poets.

The Youth Meet designed as a discussionary platform was forthcoming for the invitees sharing their experiences of work on issues of care and protection. Expressions of solidarity were not limited to the active participation of the civil society or organisations but were conceptualised as an expansive summation that included within its sceptre personal experiences of living on the margins of the society to artistic expressions. The event commenced with the inaugural session where participants introduced themselves followed by the inaugural lecture and a storytelling session that strengthened the threads of solidarity among the participants. The four-day event was divided into four themes: (1) The Ethics of Solidarity, (2) Layers of Protection, (3) Layers of Solidarity, (4) Ethics of Care. The focus of the sessions was to connect the self with the issues of working in solidarity and how layered in reality solidarity is in its operational mechanisms. The limitations of working conditions of solidarity were more visible as participants shared their personal narratives of living through the pandemic and how community identity forecloses all receivable dialogues of solidarity. During the field trip 'Tracking Darjeeling' participants had scope to interact with the returnee migrants in Darjeeling. Throughout the four day different exercises attempted to connect how the concept of home, migration, experiences, compassion and risk play definitive roles in creating the ethics of solidarity and multi-scalar dimensions. The closing session ended with the valedictory lecture and expressions of the takeaways from the meet.

VII. REFUGEE WATCH AND REFUGEE WATCH ONLINE

The Refugee Watch journal has brought out the latest issue (No.58) on the theme of 'Displacements and Disposessions'. Ayse Caglar, IWM, Vienna and Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, CRG has been the guest

editors for this special issue which presents six essays from three European and four Indian researchers combining experiences and knowledge from both the Global North and the South. The editorial team of the Refugee Watch has planned two special issues for 2022: one reflecting on the uncertainties of 'Afghan Futures' in the wake of the regime change and subsequent humanitarian crisis in the country, and the other to mark the 75 years of the Indian nationhood and the event of the partition which ushered into a new trajectory of mobility in South Asia. The editorial team have already begun to commission special articles by experts in the field for both the issues.

Among the most recent pieces published on the [Refugee Watch Online](#) are 'Report: Chotoder Border – A Conversation between Rituparna Roy and Manjira Saha' by Isha Lahiri, a review of Amitav Ghosh's latest book *The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis* by Niranjana Chakraborty, 'Violence in the City: Calcutta Riots of 1946 and Experiences of Muslim Residents' by Sohini Majumdar. The editorial team has met for an Evaluation and Planning Meeting on 24 December to decide on the course of the blog in 2022. A new batch of interns will be inducted early next year. In order to have better synergy between the Refugee Watch journal and the Refugee Watch Online, it was decided that authors contributing to the journal (from Issue No. 57) would be requested to submit short pieces for the blog as well.

VIII. PREPARATORY AND FOLLOW-UP PROGRAMMES/MEETINGS

From July to December, CRG organised a number of preparatory meetings to discuss and plan various segments of your research programme and events. Keeping in mind the health safety of the participants, these meetings were conducted online. In addition to these, every event was followed up with evaluation meetings where the challenges and the possible areas of improvements were discussed.

IX. Advisory Committee Meeting:

The Advisory Committee met at Swabhumi, Kolkata on 26-27 January 2021 to discuss and plan the annual research agenda and the year-long programme in migration and forced migration studies. The full report of the meeting can be accessed [here](#). Following this, a number of consultative meetings were held between CRG and IWM on the progress of the project.

X. Regional Dialogue on Conflict and Migration:

As part of its CRG-IWM's programme in migration and forced migration studies, a regional dialogue between journalists, academics, lawyers, rights activists, NGOs from Bihar and West Bengal was organised on 29 and 30 October 2021. This was a unique event in the recent history of the two states where stakeholders came together to discuss how migration moulded the past and the present of the two neighbouring states of Eastern India. The [deliberations](#) called for more data on the migration flows and mapping of the imprints of migration in these two states. Relevant issues like border towns, logistical infrastructure development, ecological crisis followed by displacement and migration and the role of independent media in bringing out more information animated debates and discussions in these two days of congregation in Kolkata. At the end of the event, a press communiqué asserting the

takeaways from the Dialogue was released. The full report of the Bengal-Bihar Dialogue can be accessed [here](#).

CRG will hold the second dialogue in Bihar as a follow-up of the first. Planning and preparations are on the way.

XI. PUBLIC LECTURES

The Sixth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop and Conference accommodated a number of public lectures, held in hybrid mode, a full list of which can be found in Annexure I. Besides them, the following webinar was organized in the second half of the 2021:

1. Webinar on '[Afghanistan: Transition and Justice](#)', 8 November 2021.
Speakers: Paula Banerjee, University of Calcutta and CRG; Nargis Canefe, York University; Giorgia Dona, University of East London
Moderator: Anita Sengupta, Asia in Global Affairs and CRG
2. Lecture on 'Nationalism and the Refugee Question in Bangladesh' by Niloy R. Biswas, Visiting Fellow, CRG, and University of Dhaka, 10 December 2021, Department of South and South East Asia, University of Calcutta
Moderator: Paula Banerjee, University of Calcutta and CRG
3. Roundtable discussion on 'Pedagogy of Migration Studies', 13 January 2022
Panelists: Anju Mary Paul, Yale-NUS College, Singapore; Joyce C. H. Liu, National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan; Natalija Perisic, University of Belgrade, Serbia
Moderator: Paula Banerjee, University of Calcutta & CRG

XII. PARTICIPATION IN WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

Due to the limited opportunities of physical participation amidst the pandemic, the researchers of CRG attended various workshops, conferences, public lectures across the world in virtual mode. Besides the events organized in collaboration with IWM, the researchers have participated in the following:

1. Biannual Conference: IASFM18: 'Disrupting Theory, Unsettling Practice: Towards Transformative Forced Migration Scholarship and Policy', University of Ghana, Accra, July 26-30 2021.
CRG organized [two panels](#) on 'The Relationship between Forced Migration and Inequality' and 'A Postcolonial Engagement with the Issue of Protection: The Kolkata Declaration of 2018' in the conference. For full report of the panels, see [here](#).
2. [Beyond Refuge Virtual Summer School on Refugee Rights and Forced Migration](#), organised by BABSEACLE, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) and the Asia Pro Bono Conference

and Access to Justice Exchange Secretariat in collaboration with Calcutta Research Group, Open Society Justice Initiative, Centre For Peace and Justice/BRAC University, 23rd-26th August 2021.

3. Public Lecture on '[Perspectives on Human Mobility: Normative and Political](#)', by Achin Chakraborty, Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata', 28 October 2021, Swabhumi, Kolkata.

XIII. PREPARATION OF AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES

1. **Video Lecture Series titled *A CRG Series in the Corona Time: Six Lectures on Migrants and Refugees***

In September, CRG published a new video lecture series titled *A CRG Series in the Corona Times: Six Lectures on Migrants and Refugees* on select themes such as global protection, migrants and the epidemic, neoliberalism and migrant workers, statelessness and de fact statelessness, legal regimes of protection and the pandemic, and ethics of care and public health. Originally delivered by the module tutors during last year's Winter Workshop, these six lectures are now edited, compiled and repackaged (with a new introduction by Ranabir Samaddar) as a series for instructions in migration and forced migration studies.

2. **Third documentary film in the CRG series, *Calcutta a Migrant City***

Due to the pandemic, the work on the third documentary film (provisional title: *City of Transit*) in the series *Calcutta Migrant City* has already begun late this year. A team of experts consisting of Anwesha Sengupta, Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata, Debarati Bagchi, Max Weber Stiftung, India Branch, Kaustubh Mani Sengupta, Bankura University, and Samata Biswas (The Sanskrit College and University, Kolkata & Treasurer, CRG) came to the decision that the film will document the riverine and overland transit networks which facilitated different types of migration in colonial as well as post-partition Calcutta. A contract was signed with Debalina Majumdar, director of the last documentary *Tale of a Migrant City*, and the preproduction work has begun.

3. **Podcasts on *Disaster, Displacement and the State***

A series of podcast on the theme *Disaster, Displacement and the State* is being edited and translated by Utsa Sarmin from English to Bengali.

XIV. TRANSLATION IN REGIONAL LANGUAGES

CRG has undertaken the task of translating the Kolkata Declaration of 2018 into a number of regional languages. So far translations in [Assamese](#), [Bengali](#), [Hindi](#), [Urdu](#), [Malayalam](#), and [Nepali](#) have come out and uploaded on CRG's website with a new [introduction](#) to the document. Work for translating the 2018 Declaration into other South Asian and European languages are also going on.

Timely publication of the Bengali and Hindi translations of the two CRG publications from the last year, *Borders of an Epidemic* and *Burdens of an Epidemic*, has hit a snag because of renewed Covid19 shutdowns and restrictions early this year. However, the work has been resumed once again and both the volumes are expected by March 2022.

The work of translating Manjira Saha's *Labour Train* (a compilation of newspaper articles and journal entries by the author reflecting on the returnee migrant workers, the circularity of their precariousness, ethnographic accounts of young migrant workers from *chars* and borderlands) into English by Purna Banerjee, Presidency University, has been going on and is expected to be completed by early next year.

Prasit Das is translating the book, 'Pradip Kumar Bose ed., *Refugees in West Bengal: Institutional Processes and Contested Identities* (Kolkata: Calcutta Research Group, 2000)' originally published in English, into Bengali. Utsa Sarmin is editing the podcast series on the theme *Disaster, Displacement and the State* and is translating her work from English to Bengali.

The book 'Borders of an Epidemic' edited by Ranabir Samaddar has been translated into Bengali titled '*Mahamarir Nana Seemanay: Covid-19 Ebong Parijayi Shromik*', edited by Rajat Roy (Progressive Publishers, 2022).

C. RESOURCES (ACTIVITIES OR RESOURCES INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING TO THE PROJECT AND PROJECT PARTNERS)

I. WEBSITE

CRG's official website has been developed keeping in mind two agendas: to disseminate CRG's project activities to a wider public and as an important cache of resources and of materials for activists and researchers working on migration and forced migration. To this end, the website has been regularly updated with news of CRG's programmes, publications and additions have been made to the digital resources hosted on it. Secured portals were created for both the Teachers' Online Course in July-August and the Sixth Annual Research and Workshop and Conference in November to share information and reading materials with the participants and resource persons.

The construction of a new website with an improved design is at the final stage.

II. LIBRARY AND RESOURCE CENTRE

CRG's excellent collection of books, journals, reports, primary documents, photographs, and other digital resources have been a great support for the researchers. As most of the libraries and archives remained closed for most of the year, the researchers relied extensively on CRG's own resources. Timely additions have been made in terms of book acquisitions and document collections related to migration and forced migration, development, logistics and infrastructure, urban studies, political economy, public

health and many other topics. CRG's [Living Archive](#) on the migrant labour, developed in collaboration with Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, has been of major assistance for its research programme.

Rajat Kanti Sur is working as documentation associate and assisting the CRG Librarian in collecting and organising study materials (like newspapers, pamphlets, books etc.) on Assam, and Bengal's election study. Rajat Kanti Sur is working on media fellowship programme and workshop and overall coordination of publication and editorial for the proposed handbook on media, coordinating the Bengali publications under IWM.

Rituparna Datta is also working as documentation associate. She is working on documentation and archival resource materials, monographs and pictorial representation, preparation of index of reference resources and copyright restrictions on the Bangladesh Liberation War for CRG's Library Resource Centre under its project on Annual Programme in Migration and Forced Migration Studies with Particular Focus on South Asia and its European-Asian Dimension. The project is supported by the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

- i) The renewal of Jstor, Project Muse and Economic and Political Weekly subscriptions has been very useful in conducting the research.
- ii) Since regular and effective dissemination of knowledge has been a cornerstone of CRG's activities, it has invested in developing technological capacities in terms of buying digital tools like Canva and others.
- iii) In the last six months, CRG has been able to expand its network of collaborators and partners in South Asia and beyond which has been a great support for its annual research and orientation programme. In recent times, its collaboration with organizations and institutions like IASFM, BABSEACLE, University of Calcutta, Wageningen University and Research (Netherlands) has helped in amplifying its own programme in migration and forced migration studies.
- iv) CRG's has formed a media sub-committee with eminent journalists and media activists which has helped it to formulate a media programme of its own and also in reaching out to the public with its own research and activities.

D. RISKS (INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL)

- I. Much like 2020, CRG had to work under the constant risk of Covid19. It both curtailed physical attendance in the office as well as constrained the field visits required for its research to a large extent.

- II. The practice of work-from-home as adopted for the large part of the last six months made communication a daunting task and the Forced Migration Desk had to work hard to coordinate among themselves as well as with other colleagues and participants in different programmes.
- III. Participants came from all over India as well as from abroad making the health safety precautions critical. More than 40 persons attended the event physically and sufficient health protocols were followed to avoid the risk of Covid19 infection. The usual field visit during the workshop had to be scrapped off due to the same risk.
- IV. Research in like migration and refugees always run a risk because of increased polarisation and politics over these issues. The researchers of the election study, for example, had to be cautious in their field visits because this reason.

E. INSIGHTS FROM PROJECT EVALUATIONS (EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE AND EXPERIENCED CHALLENGES)

Careful planning, efficient coordination and good work practices have helped CRG to overcome the unprecedented challenges caused by the pandemic and the increased programme activities of the organization in the last year.

- I. From July to August, spike in Covid19 cases made CRG to readjust its work schedule again and again. Different combinations of work-from-home and physical attendance had to be adopted to comply with the changing pandemic situation and it was only from the week before the Winter Workshop the office started opening for five days a week.
- II. To ensure the safety of the researchers and office staff, the office premises were regularly disinfected and a strict safety protocol was maintained.
- III. Strict health guidelines were also followed in all physical events organized by CRG. The venues were chosen keeping this in mind. The Winter Workshop, which had the largest number of scholars participating in person, had sent out repeated circulars to the participants emphasizing the health safety guidelines. Only those participants were allowed who carried a Covid19 negative report or were fully vaccinated. Daily sanitization of the workshop and conference venue and other rooms were ensured. Single room accommodation was arranged and the participants were advised not to venture out of the hotel to maintain the safety bubble.
- IV. The pandemic has also led CRG to recognize the importance of virtual meetings and webinars. While it presented a challenge, CRG was soon able to transform it into a positive effect by expanding its outreach with the help of virtual communication technologies. Online participation helped the organization to broaden its horizon and induct more academics, researchers, journalists and activists from abroad. It has taught CRG to invest in technological capacities of the institution. While reliance on platforms like zoom and google meet has increased, a webinar committee was formed to ensure smooth functioning of the virtual

workshops and lectures. A professional studio set-up and a team of experts were hired to execute the hybrid sessions of this year's Winter Workshop.

- V. Execution of different research segments were also creatively tailored in response to the evolving pandemic scenario. Restrictions in field visits, closure of many repositories and archives have led the researchers to constantly negotiate their research plan and use digital resources and other modes of research imaginatively.
- VI. The Forced Migration Desk utilized all kinds of virtual methods of communication to coordinate with the scholars involved in research projects as well as the participants and resource persons of CRG's various events. Regular circulars and communiqués were sent to the participants and resource persons of every workshop and conference to ensure a hassle-free experience.
- VII. CRG, and its Honorary Director personally, too the effort to communicate with Indian embassies in different foreign countries in order to facilitate travel of Winter Workshop participants amidst Covid19 restrictions on international travel.
- VIII. CRG partnered with a professional travel agent to manage the elaborate logistics of the Winter Workshop.
- IX. CRG's collaboration with media has helped in the outreach of its programme. Last year, more media practitioners could be inducted in CRG's programme.
- X. In running the programme in the last semester of 2021, the organization has been able to continue with its old collaborators and at the same time has formed new partnerships in South Asian region and beyond that.
- XI. A policy of constant evaluation was followed and every event was followed by an evaluation meeting where the shortcomings and potential areas of improvements were discussed.

F. SUMMARIES

- I. In the last half of 2021 CRG has been able to secure substantial progress on the fundamental goal of this collaboration with IWM that is production and dissemination of critical knowledge about migration and forced migration in South Asia. To foster greater knowledge exchange between Europe and Asia, scholars, researchers and activists from different parts of the world were roped in for writing research papers or for its various workshops and conferences.
- II. A number of relevant organizations and institutions like IASFM, BABSEACLE and others in both Europe and South Asia have come up as partners of CRG is executing its annual research and orientation programme.
- III. The research into the 'rightlessness' of the refugees and migrants incorporated many important themes like the question of public health, their participation in the political society, ecological crises and climate change induced mobilities and de facto statelessness.
- IV. CRG's three flagship programmes – the Winter Workshop, the Media Workshop and the Teachers' Workshop – provided excellent platforms to share its own as well as other cutting-edge researches in the field.

- V. Various publications were brought out or are in the pipeline to facilitate effective dissemination of knowledge and information about the precarious lifeworlds of the migrants and the refugees. A close association with the media has also helped the institution in this regard.
- VI. A series of efficient coordination strategies, creative use of technologies, and good work practices have helped CRG to negotiate the challenges and obstacles caused by the continuing pandemic and carry forward with its annual research and orientation programme with success.

G. ANNEXURE

I. List of Public Sessions in Winter Workshop & Conference 2021

15 November 2021:

- 5:40-7:10 pm: Panel discussion on “After the Pandemic: Recalling the Kolkata Declaration of 2018”
Chair: Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, *Rabindra Bharati University & CRG, India*
Speakers: Paula Banerjee, *University of Calcutta & CRG, India*; Meghna Guhathakurta, *Research Initiative Bangladesh, Bangladesh*; Ayse Caglar, *IWM, Vienna*
Discussant: Nasreen Chowdhory, *University of Delhi & CRG, India*
- 7:10-8:00 pm: Inaugural lecture on “The Politics and Practice of Refugee Participation in the Governance of the Global Refugee Regime” by James Milner, *Carleton University, Canada*, and Rez Gardi, *Refugees Seeking Equal Access at the Table (R-SEAT), New Zealand*
Chair: Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, *Rabindra Bharati University & CRG, India*

16 November 2021:

- 2:00-3:30 pm: Module C [Refugees and Migrants as Subjects of Economics, Politics, and Gender Division] Special lecture on “From Stateless Migrant Plantation Labour to Landless War-torn Labour in Northern Sri Lanka” by Ahilan Kadirgamar, *University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka*
Chair: Parivelan K.M., *TISS Mumbai, & CRG, India*
- 6:00 pm-7:00 pm: Module A [Protection and Punishment (Race, Caste, and Policing)] Keynote lecture on “Protection and Punishment—The Paradox of Global Governance” by Paolo Novak, *School of Oriental and African Studies, UK*
Chair: Nasreen Chowdhory, *University of Delhi & CRG, India*.

17 November 2021:

- 9:00-10:00 am: Module E [Derogation of Rights of Refugees and Migrants, and Situations of Statelessness] Special lecture on “Fishermen, Statelessness, and the Sea” by Joyce C.H. Liu, *National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taiwan*
Chair: Ranabir Samaddar, *CRG, India*
- 4:00-5:30 pm: A Special Session: Two Presentations on “Climate Change, Ecology, Displacement, and the State” – Podcasts by Utsa Sarmin, *Independent Researcher, India*; Research Paper Presentation by Piya Srinivasan, *Independent Researcher, India*
Discussant: Ingrid Boas, *Wageningen University, Netherlands*
Moderator: Sanjay Chaturvedi, *South Asian University & CRG, India*

- 6:00-7:00 pm: Module B [Migrant Workers and the Refugee: Complicated Terrains of Welfare and Asymmetric Social Protection] Keynote lecture on “Back to Square One” by Shahram Khosravi, *Stockholm University, Sweden*
Chair: Mouleshri Vyas, *TISS Mumbai & CRG, India*

18 November 2021:

- 9:30-11:00 am: Module F [Protection Ethics and Practices of Care and Solidarity] Special lecture on “Layers of Solidarity” by Ranabir Samaddar, *CRG, India*
Chair: Samir Kumar Das, *University of Calcutta & CRG, India*
- 6:00-7:00 pm: Module D [Forced Migration, Law and Critical Jurisprudence] Keynote lecture on “Production of Statelessness in Europe” by Elspeth Guild, *Queen Mary University of London, UK*
Chair: Paula Banerjee, *University of Calcutta & CRG, India*

19 November 2021:

- 9:30-11:00 am: Inaugural lecture on “Climate Disaster, Migration, and Responses from Below” by Sanjay Chaturvedi, *South Asian University, India, & CRG, India*
Chair: Samata Biswas, *The Sanskrit College & University & CRG, India*
- 4:00-5:00 pm: Panel discussion on “Migrant Asia: Experiences from Afghanistan & Indonesia”
Chair: Anita Sengupta, *Director of Asia in Global Affairs, & CRG, India*
Speakers: Fahmi Panimbang, *Solidar Suisse, Indonesia*; Liza Schuster, *City, University of London, UK*; Reza Hussaini, *City, University of London, UK*
Discussant: Sumaiya Islam, *Open Society Foundations, UK*
- 5:30-6:30 pm: Keynote lecture on “Facilitating Human Mobility? The Global Compacts” by Francois Crepeau, *McGill University, Canada*
Chair: Ranabir Samaddar, *CRG, India*

20 November 2021:

- 9:00-10:30 am: “Law and Protection Strategies: Presentation of a Report on ‘Access to Justice’” by Hamsa Vijayaraghavan, *Migration and Asylum Project, India*
Chair: Ranabir Samaddar, *CRG, India*
Discussants: Oishik Sircar, *Jindal Global Law School, India* and Ridwanul Hoque, *University of Dhaka, Bangladesh*
- 1:30-3:00 pm: Panel discussion on “Seventy years of the Refugee Convention of 1951”
Chair: Paula Banerjee, *University of Calcutta & CRG, India*
Speakers: Sara Hossain, *Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust, Bangladesh*; Ulrike Krause, *Osnabruck University, Germany*; Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, *Rabindra Bharati University & CRG, India*
- 4:15-5:15 pm: *Jayanta Dasgupta Memorial Lecture: “Migrants, Migrant Economy, and the Philippines”* by Walden Bello, *State University of New York at Binghamton, USA*
Chair: Ranabir Samaddar, *CRG, India*

II. List of Publications: Books, Reports & Articles

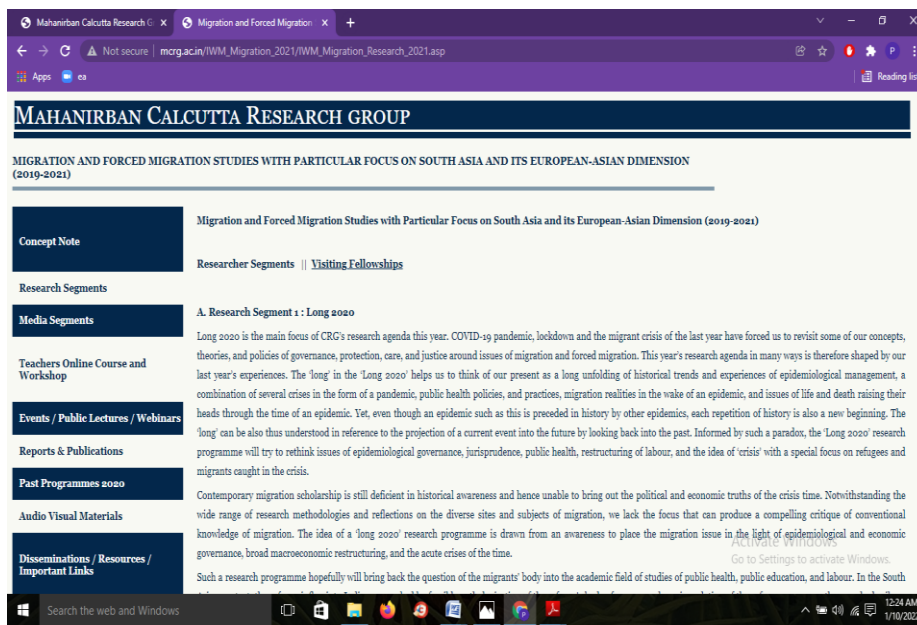
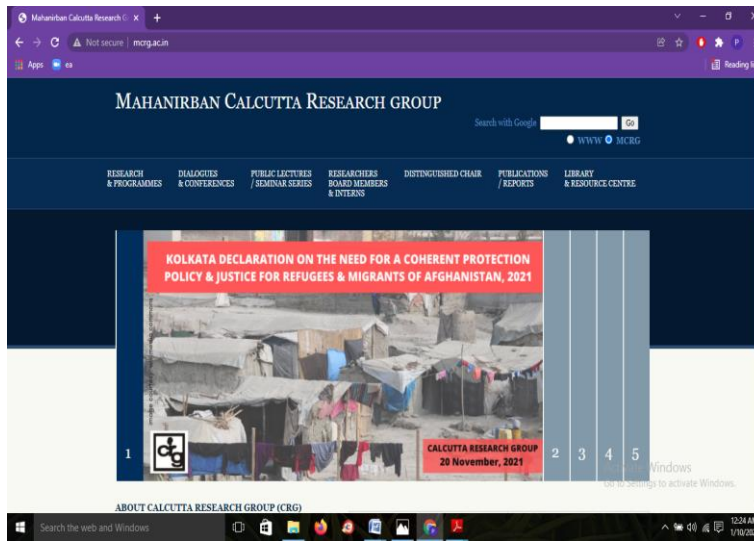
- iv) Ritajyoti Bandyopadhyay, Paula Banerjee, and Ranabir Samaddar ed., *India's Migrant Workers and the Pandemic* (Social Science Press, 2022).

- v) Ankur Tamuli Phukan, Rajat Kanti Sur, Priyanka Dey, Anamika Priyadarshini, Gopal Krishna, Abdullah Rehman, *Migrants in Electoral Times: Assam Bihar and West Bengal, Assembly Elections 2020-2021, Report* (FrontPage, 2022).
- vi) Rajat Roy ed. *Mahamarir Nana Seemanay: Covid-19 Ebong Parijayi Shromik*, translated from Borders of an Epidemic, edited by Ranabir Samaddar (Progressive Publishers, 2022).
- vii) Rajat Roy ed. *'Mahamarir Nana Seemanay: Covid-19 Ebong Parijayi Shromik'* (Progressive Publishers, 2022).
- iv) Piya Srinivasan ed., *Ecology, Climate, Disaster, Displacement and the State* (forthcoming).
- v) Nasreen Chowdhory ed., *New Frontiers in the Register of Migration and Refugee Studies* (forthcoming).
- viii) Kaustubh Mani Sengupta, Paula Banerjee, and Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty, eds., *The Long 2020: Reflection of Epidemiological Times* (forthcoming).
- ix) Paula Banerjee ed., *On the Margins of Protection* (Orient BlackSwan has sent the contract, forthcoming).
- x) "The Democratic Route to Authoritarianism: Authoritarian Power and Populist Resistance". *International Journal of Critical Diversity Studies*, Volume 2, No 2, 2021.
- xi) "Labour's Burden of the Epidemic Covid-19 and Internal Migrant Workers: The Case of India", *Migrant Worlds*, No 1, 2021.
- xii) 'Refugees and Migrants as Subjects of Economy and Politics', *Policies and Practices* 121 (Calcutta research Group, November 2021).
- xiii) 'Layers of Solidarity' in Samir Kumar Das and Ranabir Samaddar, 'Two Essays on Ethics and Practices of Care and Solidarity', *Policies and Practices* 123 (Calcutta Research Group, November 2021).
- xiv) Purna Banerjee trans. *Labour Train*, Manjira Saha (Forthcoming).
- xv) Prasit Das trans. 'Pradip Kumar Bose ed., *Refugees in West Bengal: Institutional Processes and Contested Identities* (Kolkata: Calcutta Research Group, 2000)

Policies and Practices:

Ranabir Samaddar, 'Refugees and Migrants as Subjects of Economy and Politics', *Policies and Practices* No. 121 (November 2001).

III. Website Screenshots






Mahanarban Calcutta Research C x Migration and Forced Migration x

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Reading list

B. Research Segment a: The Migrant in the Electoral Time

Carving out of modern nation-states through partition of territories at the end of the colonial period has led to massive and mixed flows of migrants in India and South Asia in general. Besides political and communal conflicts, environmental crises and lack of food security and livelihood are also major contributing factors to large scale population movements in this region. In a country like India, the sheer number of the migrant population from neighbouring countries has traditionally made the migrants a distinct electoral population group and migration an important electoral issue. On the other hand, around 10% of India's working population constitutes of migrant workers who suddenly erupted into visibility due to the pandemic and the subsequent nation-wide lockdown. With this as the background, this research seeks to investigate how the figure of the migrant features in the campaigns of different political parties and other organizations during elections. A major focus of this study will be to understand how different connotations and representations of the migrant are mediated through the strategies as well as contingencies of electoral politics. This research will produce a report through an investigation of these issues through three comparative, fieldwork-based, case-studies of electoral campaigns for the assembly elections of Bihar (2020), Assam (2021) and West Bengal (2021). The study will aim to collect and archive election manifestos, speeches, leaflets, handbills, posters, photographs, video clips, newspaper reports, and trends on social media platforms on issues involving the migrants and refugees, texts of select interviews of voters, election workers, and local leaders. Special emphasis will be on getting the voices of women migrants, and daughters, mothers, sisters, and wives of male returnee migrants – their presence or lack thereof in the electoral sphere. It will also study electoral metaphors, and the deployment of the language of violence, racism, and masculinity in the election campaigns.

Researchers	Research Segments	Abstracts / Full Paper
 Anamika Priyadarshini, Centre for Catalyzing Change	Bihar	Abstracts
 Gopal Krishna, Toxic Watch & Patna High Court	Bihar	
 Ankur Tamuli Phukan, CRG	Assam	Activate Windows Go to Settings to activate Windows.

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Reading list

Sixth Annual Research & Orientation Workshop on Global Protection of Migrants and Refugees


Kolkata, 15-20 November 2021

Welcome Workshop and Conference Participants

- Secure Research Portal for Workshop
- Participants
- Module Coordinators
- Conference Participants
- A CRG Series in the Corona Times: Refugees

Participants

Participants of Module A: Protection and Punishment (Race, Caste, and Policing)

Names & Details of the Participants	Country	Photo
Sarulakshmi R., Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science, Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi Email: sarulakshmi439@gmail.com	India	

Bionote: Sarulakshmi is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science, Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi. She has submitted her thesis (PhD) in International Migration Law from the Centre for International Legal Studies, School of International Studies, JNU. She has worked on the Rights of Migrant Workers in International Law and her areas of interest includes a wide range of issues like international migration law, labour rights, rights of unaccompanied and trafficked persons, and trade

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Reading list

For Previous Issues

REFUGEE WATCH-A SOUTH ASIAN JOURNAL ON FORCED MIGRATION

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Ranu Basu -- Geopolitical Framings of Subalternity in Education III:Context of Displacement
 Shri Prakash Singh & Akshay Kumar Singh -- The Pandemic, Economic Recession, and the Indian Expatriates: Tiding Over the Gloom in Indo-Gulf Relations
 Shubhira Seth -- Conflict-Induced Internal Displacement:A Case Study of Gujarat
 Ayse Çaglar -- City as a Method
 Dogus Simsek -- Forced Displacement and Access to the Labour Market: The Case of Gaziantep
 Meriç Çaglar Chesley -- Refugee Labour and the Politics of Care in Satellite Cities: The Case Study of Eskisehir, Turkey
 --
 Book Review
 Sukanya Bhattacharya -- Book Review
 Tamoha Majumdar -- Book Review

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 Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group
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ISSN (Print) 2347-495X

About the Journal
 Refugee Watch: A South Asian Journal on Forced Migration is a peer-reviewed and refereed flagship journal brought out biannually by the critically recognized Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group in June and December, on a regular basis in both printed and electronic formats. It publishes original research papers that broadly engage with issues of forced displacement and migration, refugees, statelessness, internally displaced people, development related displacement, climate change and democracy, borders and border conflicts, citizenship, human rights, peace and conflict resolution, women's dignity and myriad other themes relevant to

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Mahanirban Calcutta Research G x refugeewatchonline - formerly h x

refugeewatchonline.wordpress.com

Reading list

refugeewatchonline
 formerly hosted at refugeewatchonline.blogspot.in

ABOUT EDITORIAL TEAM SUBMISSIONS

Hooghly: A river, a book, an exhibition and a sonic experiment

Review: The Nutmeg's Curse

Report: Chotoder Border – A Conversation between Rituparna Roy and Manjira Saha

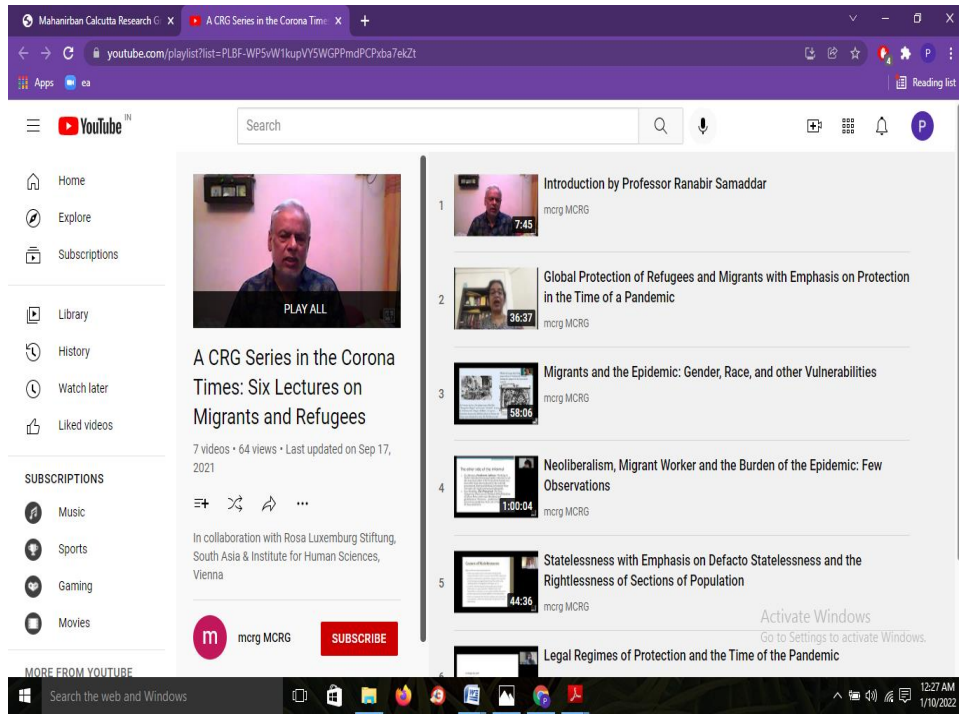
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IV. Photos of Workshops and other Events



Sixth Annual Research & Orientation Workshop and Conference, Inaugural Lecture by James Milner and Rez Gardi, 15 November 2021



Sixth Annual Research & Orientation Workshop and Conference, Presentations of Module A, 16 November 2021



Sixth Annual Research & Orientation Workshop and Conference, Special Lecture by Umut Kuruuzum, 17 November 2021



Media Fellows' Presentations at the Workshop on Media and the Politics of Migration, 4 December 2021



Photographer Nikhil Roshan showing his works in the Workshop on Media and the Politics of Migration, 4 December 2021