Seventh Critical Studies Conference

MIGRANT ASIAS: REFUGEES, STATELESSNESS & MIGRANT LABOUR REGIMES

17-19 November 2022
Venue: Hotel Monotel, Kolkata

17 November 2022

4:30pm–5:00pm: Registration & Tea

5:00pm–5:30pm: Inaugural Session

Chair: Shyamalendu Majumdar, Calcutta Research Group and Sivanath Sastri College, India

5:00pm–5:10pm: Welcome Address

Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, Calcutta Research Group and Rabindra Bharati University, India

5:10pm–5:30pm: Introducing the Conference

Ishita Dey, Calcutta Research Group & South Asian University, India

5:30pm–5:40pm: Self Introduction by the Conference Participants

5:40pm–6:30pm: Keynote Lecture

“Medicalisation of Racism and Classism in the Context of Migration”

Speaker: Sevasti Trubeta, University of Applied Sciences, Magdeburg-Stendal, Germany

18 November 2022

9:00am–9:30am: Registration

9:30am–11:00am: Parallel Sessions

Room 1: Panel 1A-Seeing Like a State

Chair and Discussant: Arup K. Sen, Serampore College, and Calcutta Research Group, India

Panellists:
1. Ajeet Kumar Pankaj, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, India; Manish K. Jha, TISS-Mumbai, India; Saima Farhad, University of Kashmir, India; and M. Ibrahim Wani, University of Kashmir, India
   “Document’ and North-Indian Labour Migrants: Governing Labour Mobility in Manipur”
2. Baidehi Das, University of Hyderabad, India
“Exploring ‘recent histories’ of Re-Bordering Along Indo-Bangladesh Border: Stories Emerging from Villages Lying Along Porous Borders of North Twenty-Four Parganas in West Bengal”

3. Yojak Tamang, Institute of Development Studies Kolkata, India
   “The Seasonal Migrant Labourers Living on the Edges of the State”

Room 2: Panel 1B-Seeing Like a State

Chair and Discussant: Anup Shekhar Chakraborty, Netaji Institute for Asian Studies, and Calcutta Research Group, India

Panellists:
1. Sonika Gupta, IIT Madras, India
   “Tibetan Rehabilitation in Arunachal: Local State and Geopolitical Anxieties”
2. William Singh, Pachhunga University College, India
   “Border Crossings in Mizoram: Desirables and Unwanted Communities”
3. Santi Sarkar, Vidyasagar University, and Calcutta Research Group, India
   “The Politics of Populist Policies in West Bengal”

11:00am–11:30am: Tea Break

11:30am–1:00pm: Parallel Sessions

Room 1: Panel 2A-Metamorphosis of the Migrant: State, Migration and Identity Politics

Chair and Discussant: Manish K. Jha, Calcutta Research Group and TISS, Mumbai, India

Panellists:
1. Rajarshi Dasgupta, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
   “Metamorphosis of the Migrant: State, Migrant and Identity Politics”
2. Anasma Gayari, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
   “A Cosmopolitan Race: Representations of Northeast Migrants in Delhi- NCR”
3. Krishanu Bharagava Neog, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
   “Migrant as Political Entrepreneur”
4. Bidhan Golay, Sikkim University, India
   “The Migrant at Home: A Case of the Gorkha Conundrum”

Room 2: Panel 2B-Climate Migration: Documents and Distractions

Chair and Discussant: Nirmal Kumar Mahato, Vidyasagar University, and Calcutta Research Group, India

Panellists:
1. Sampurna Das, University of Delhi, India
   “Thin documents, Thick claims: Reflections of Liminal Citizenship in the Floodplains of Assam, India”
2. Upasana Ghosh, Indian Institute of Public Health, India, and Debojyoti Das, India
   “Climate Refugees: Health and Livelihood in the Bay of Bengal – India and Bangladesh”
3. Sohini Sengupta, TISS-Mumbai, India
   “Indian Droughts, Drought Policy and Climate Change”
1:00pm–2:00pm: Lunch Break

2:00pm–3:00pm: Special Lecture

“A Critical Genealogy of the Forced Migratory Labour in the Asian Mediterranean Sea”

Speaker: Joyce C.H. Liu, National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan, and Jonathan Parhusip, National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan

Chair: Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury

3:00pm–3:30pm: Tea Break

3:30pm–5:00pm: Panel 3-Partition: Texts and Contexts

Chair and Discussant: Samir Kumar Das, University of Calcutta, and Calcutta Research Group, India

Panellists:
1. Anindya Sen, Assam University, India, and Debashree Chakraborty, Calcutta Research Group, India
   “Partition, Migration and Identity Formation: Narratives from Southern Assam”
2. Anushmita Mukherjee, North Bengal University, India
   “‘Those forgotten after Partition’: Migration and Identity in Debesh Roy’s Select Works”
3. Samata Biswas, The Sanskrit College and University, and Calcutta Research Group, India
   “What Does the Border Mean for Children? Narratives from the Indo- Bangladesh Borderlands in Manjira Saha’s Chhotoder Border”

5:00pm–5:15pm: Tea Break

5:30pm–6:15pm: Jayanta Dasgupta Memorial Lecture

“Gig Economy and Migration - The Future of the Work or of Precariat?”

Speaker: Lydia Potts, Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Germany

Chair: Shibashis Chatterjee, Jadavpur University, India

19 November 2022

9:00am–9:30am: Registration

9:30am–11:00am: Parallel Sessions

Room 1: Panel 4A-Solidarity and Agency: Case Studies

Chair and Discussant: Sahana Basavapatna, Calcutta Research Group, India

Panellists:
1. Rajat Kanti Sur, Calcutta Research Group, India
   “Solidarity for Survival: Cooperative Building as a Method to Overcome Vulnerability”
2. Joseph K. Lalfakzuala, Government T. Romana College, India
   “People’s Response to the Influx of Myanmar Refugee in Mizoram: Implication and Limitation of the State policy”

3. Deeksha, TISS-Mumbai, India
   “On the move for Care: Conceptualising Migration for Healthcare in Asia”

Room 2: Panel 4B-Labour and Transition: Then and Now

Chair and Discussant: Ishita Dey, South Asian University, India

Panellists:
1. Raj Kumar Thakur, Assam University, India
   “‘Coolie’ Question in the Age of Transition, the 1940s to 1960s”
2. Kamal Thapa Khsetri, National Human Rights Commission, Nepal
   “Protection of Nepalese Workers in India and Nepal”
3. Rituparna Datta, Calcutta Research Group, India
   “Coolies, Climate and the Territories of Mobility”

11:00am–11:30am: Tea Break

11:30am–1:00pm: Parallel Sessions

Room 1: Panel 5A-Migration and Refugee Issues in and around Central Asia: A Socio-Cultural Perspective

Chair and Discussant: Mahesh Ranjan Debata, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Panellists:
1. Ritika Joshi, University of Delhi, India
   “The Silk Road Migration Trend: Past & Present”
2. Nandini Bhattacharya, Calcutta Girls College, India
3. Kalyani Yeola and Veena Ramachandran, Birla Institute of Technology and Science-Pilani, India
   “Redefining Statelessness and the State: A Case Study of the Tibetan Youth in Exile in India”
4. Rajarshi Chakrabarti, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
   “The Afghan Refugee Issue in the Aftermath of the Taliban Takeover”

Room 2: Panel 5B-Climate Migration: Crisis and Resources

Chair and Discussant: Sohini Sengupta

Panellists:
1. Nirmal Kumar Mahato, Vidyasagar University, India
   “Climate Migrants, Resource Scarcity and the Sustainability Issue: The Case of Jungle Mahals Region”
2. **Shatabdi Das, Calcutta Research Group, India**
   “Kolkata and Climate Crisis”

1:00pm–2:00pm: Lunch

2:00pm–3:30pm: Parallel Sessions

Room1: Panel 6A-Citizenship and Rights to the City

**Chair and Discussant:** **Nasreen Chowdhory, University of Delhi, and Calcutta Research Group, India**

**Panellists:**
1. **Gorky Chakraborty, IDSK, India, and Samik Chowdhury, IDSK, India**
   “Navigating Precarity-Analysing Multiple Narratives of Citizenship in Assam”

2. **Johnny KD, IIT Kanpur, India, and Ankita Singh, National Institute of Education Planning and Administration, India**
   “Urban Renewal in City’s Life and its Impact on Slums and Slum Dwellers – A Case Study of Noida City”

3. **Gulzina Daniairova, Osh State University, Kyrgyzstan**
   “EEU: Problems and Perspectives of Labour Migrants from Kyrgyzstan to Russia”

Room 2: Panel 6B-Asian Mobilities

**Chair and Discussant:** **Ruchira Goswami, West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, India**

**Panellists:**
1. **Ali Dad Mohammadi, Porsesh Research and Studies Organisation, Afghanistan**

2. **Amin Ghadimi, Osaka University, Japan**
   “The Irony of Nations: Shirin Nezamamfi and the Migrant’s History of the Present”

3. **Anita Sengupta, Asia in Global Affairs, and Calcutta Research Group, India**
   “The Pandemic and Governance in Central Asia”

3:30pm–4:00pm: Tea

4:00pm–5:30pm: Valedictory Lecture

“The War in Ukraine and the Global Compacts in Changing Conjuncture”

**Speaker:** **Ayse Caglar, University of Vienna, and Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, Austria**

**Chair:** **Ranabir Samaddar, Calcutta Research Group, India**

5:30pm-5:40pm: Distribution of Certificates

5:40pm-5:55pm: Remarks from Participants and Collaborators
5:55pm-6:00pm: Vote of Thanks: Shatabdi Das

Farewell Dinner