

# **First Annual Report on the CRG-IWM Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration**

**January-December 2020**

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## **I. Preface**

The Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration aims to address multiple geographical and temporal dimensions of forced migration and explores the mechanisms, strategies, and challenges of labor and population movements and their governance from a global and postcolonial perspective. By approaching the histories, dynamics, and governance of forced migration in Europe and South Asia in relation to each other, the platform seeks to decenter scholarship and debates about migrant labor and their contradictions, the protracted state of displacement and statelessness, borders and bordering regimes, and migration/refugee politics both in Europe and Asia. Through interdisciplinary research, workshops, conferences, and publications, this joint project between the IWM and CRG brings leading European and North American institutions, and South Asian scholars together to foster scholarly exchange on forced migration in a global comparative perspective; to discuss their policy implications for the Global South as well as the Global North.

## **II. Overall aim of the project**

As stated in the project proposal, this project is being conducted by the Institut für die Wissenschaft vom Menschen (IWM), Vienna, and aims at knowledge production on migration and forced migration in Asia (with focus on South Asia) as well as the European dimensions of the issues involved.

Vienna is the headquarters of and an important node in several international organizations which play an important role in the global management and governance of policies on migrants and refugees as well as in knowledge production on them (such as the UN, UNHCR, the Human Rights Commission, and organizations such as the IOM and International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)). Besides IWM's network of scholars working on issues of governance and human rights, the Institute also has other scholars contributing to the in-house knowledge production on related issues.

While research and policy advocacy of the European component are located at the IWM in Vienna, it has partnered with the Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (CRG) to develop a full-fledged annual research and orientation program primarily in South Asia and implemented by CRG in Kolkata. In CRG, the IWM has a partner institution with a long and distinguished record of research, activism, policy advocacy and training in the area of the political economy of forced migration and border studies.

The collaboration between the two institutions has strengthened research and policy analysis at the IWM on issues of migration and forced migration. The program has enabled the IWM to build collaboration with relevant Asian, and particularly South Asian academics and institutions, towards setting up a joint research platform on innovative knowledge production on issues of migration and forced migration.

The series of research activities has enhanced the capacity of the IWM and CRG to further advance the Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration. Panels, workshops, conferences, and other exchanges brought together policy makers and practitioners working on the subject of forced

migration, as well as scholars across disciplines and from different regions of the world. While all activities were moved online because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, they have nonetheless benefitted from reaching a wider audience, from Australia to Brazil, from Kenya to Canada. In addition to the research events, project publications included articles, book, commentaries, as well as a robust online presence both through CRG and the IWM. Through the events and publications, the Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration established a closer collaborative relationship between Europe and South Asia by bringing on board fellows focusing on the variety of topics in forced migration scholarship.

The knowledge production through the Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration and via the IWM and CRG focused on a range of topics initially established in the project proposal including: changing regimes and forms of governance of migrants/refugees; the solidarity networks and demands for social justice entangled with increasing inequalities, austerity politics, and racism; the institutional components regulating and managing different forms of displacement; incorporation and exclusion of refugees and migrants from labor markets and protection regimes along the lines of gender, race, religion, and work. These topics were covered through the research of the fellows, as well as through the launching of above mentioned activities, collaborations, and public events.

### III. Project activities

| Sl. no. | Activity  | Source(s) of co-funding | Results  |
|---------|---|-------------------------|--|
| 1.      | Annual Research & Orientation Workshop  | RLS                     | <u>Six day research &amp; orientation workshop and conference on Global Protection of Migrants &amp; Refugees (November 16-21, 2020)</u>   |
| 2.      | Annual Research Agenda – at least <b>four publishable research papers</b> on select themes (ethics and politics of protection, protection regimes, intersecting histories of human rights and humanitarianism, IDPs, migration and conflict, statelessness, migration and gender with focus on health, and education in conflict zones and migrant settlements, mothers without borders, migration and politics, juridical reasoning, security, migration, and the State, labor mobility and historical forms of labor flows under conditions of servitude and semi-servitude, comparison between the Euro-Mediterranean and the Asia-Pacific regions, migration and global governance, etc.), and publications and other research activities |                         | <p>1. <b>7 papers</b> on various issues of protection, migrants and refugees, state, labor mobility, climate change, and comparison between protection regimes in Europe and Asia.</p> <p>2. <b>3 papers</b> Public Health and Migrant Labor in India.</p> <p>3. <b>3 publications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Situating Social Media: Gender, Caste, Protest, Solidarity</u></li> <li>- <u>Borders of an Epidemic: COVID-19 and Migrant Workers</u></li> <li>- <u>Burdens of an Epidemic: A Policy Perspective on Covid-19 and Migrant Workers</u></li> </ul> |

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|    | <p>focusing on forced migration and labor regimes, labor governance, and EU mobility regimes; gender and race in cities; and refugee protection and territorialization. This will also include allied research themes, such as conflicts and dialogues, women in peace, labor flows in South Asia and Asia with focus on transit labor, borderland studies, etc.</p> |  | <p><b>4. <u>publications and other research activities</u></b> on forced migration and labor regimes, labor governance, and EU mobility regimes; gender and race in cities; and refugee protection and territorialization, among them:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Weekly focus at IWM, “Week IV: Virus without borders – of Migrants and Closures”, Ayşe Çağlar</li> <li>2. <i>Made in IWM</i>: “The Multiple Tenses of a Postcolonial Age of Migration”, Ayşe Çağlar</li> <li>3. “‘Chronicle of a Death Foretold’: The Moria Fire”, MügeDalkıran-Alexandridis</li> <li>4. “Refugees, Migrants, and Rethinking Power amid Covid-19 Pandemic”, Ayşe Çağlar</li> <li>5. “Report on EU labor and mobility regimes of temporary work for EU and non-EU labor migrants”, Neda Deneva</li> <li>6. “Territorial Differentiation of the Refugee Protection in the Aegean Sea” MügeDalkıran-Alexandridis</li> <li>7. “Forced migrants and public health”, GoncaSavas</li> <li>8. “Forced Displacement and Access to Labor Market: The case of Gaziantep”, DoğuŞimşek</li> <li>9. “Forced Migrants, gender, and race in a satellite City”, MeriçÇağlar</li> </ol> |
| 3. | <p>Four one month long CRG fellowships (including travel and all other relevant items like field visits, etc.)</p> <p>Six IWM-based remote Junior Fellows</p> <p>One IWM resident visiting Senior Fellow</p>   |  | <p>Four researchers and practitioners have been chosen and contracted from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, but their visits had to be deferred due to COVID 19. They have agreed to carry out their fellowships once the situation improves.</p> <p>Six IWM-based remote Junior Fellows have conducted desk research for the purpose of the project.</p> <p>Senior Fellow, Winnie Lem, had to leave in March due to Covid-19, continuation of the fellowship is foreseen.</p>  |
| 4. | <p>Seminar Series on Forced Migration</p>  |  | <p>CRG hosted the first of its webinar series #bordersofanepidemic on June</p>   |

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|    |                                 |  | <p>12, 2020 to discuss the sudden visibility of migrant workers in India based on its publication, "Borders of an Epidemic: Covid-19 and Migrant Workers".</p> <p>Monthly seminar series bringing together scholars and practitioners from around the globe to discuss innovative projects and research in the field of forced migration, thereby establishing institutional connections and affiliations (Nov. 2020)</p>   |
| 5. | Public Lectures in universities |  | <p>1. Webinar: COVID19: Public health crisis and sudden visibility of migrant workers, June 12, 2020 (no. 2 is a standalone public lecture, while the rest below were accommodated in other CRG workshops)</p> <p>2. Round table: Covid-19 Pandemic and the Spectral Presence of Migrant Workers and Refugees; June 24, 2020</p> <p>Public Health &amp; Migrant Workers August 21, 2020</p> <p>4. Covid 19 in South Asia: Regional Perspectives on Vulnerabilities and Disposessions; August 24, 2020</p> <p>ed Migration Inaugural Lecture; November 11, 2020.</p> <p>6. 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Research &amp; Orientation Workshop &amp; Conference November; 16 – 21, 2020</p> <p>7. Media, Migrants and the Pandemic in Europe; December 5, 2020</p> <p>ed Migration; December 16, 2020</p> <p>9. Teaching Migration in South Asia; December 20, 2020</p> <p>10. Innovative Methods of Research in Migration &amp; Refugee Studies; December 21, 2020</p> <p>11. The Impossibility of Politics - Itinerant Situations in Arts and Literature: December 22, 2020</p> <p>12. Global Lives and World Literature: Can Migrant and Refugee Literature be National? : December 22, 2020</p> <p>13. Refugee Literature(s), Histories, Identities: December 22, 2020</p> |
| 6. | Discussions of publications     |  | <p>1. New Zealand India Research Institute, discussion on "Borders of an Epidemic", June 24, 2020</p>   |

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|     |   |     | <p>2. Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), <a href="#">roundtable conference</a> on “Borders of an Epidemic”, June 24, 2020</p> <p>3. <a href="#">webinars#bordersofanepidemic</a>, June 12, 2020 (start of series)</p> <p>4. Centre for Global Migration Studies, University of Göttingen, <a href="#">discussion</a> on “Borders of an Epidemic”</p> <p>5. LIDC Migration Leadership Team at School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London, <a href="#">weblog entry</a></p> <p>6. The Wire, <a href="#">interview</a>, April 23, 2020</p> <p>7. Mainstream Weekly, <a href="#">review article</a>, May 2, 2020</p> <p>8. India Resists, <a href="#">upload</a> of “Borders of an Epidemic”, April 30, 2020</p> <p>9. Countercurrents.org, <a href="#">review</a>, April 29, 2020</p> <p>10. “Made in IWM” <a href="#">commentary</a> “The Multiple Tenses of a Postcolonial Age of Migration”</p> |
| 7.  | Preparatory and follow-up programs  |     | A one-day workshop on issues around the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the Darjeeling Hills had to be postponed to 2021 due to the pandemic.  |
| 8.  | 1 Advisory Committee Meeting and 1 program planning cum evaluation meeting  | RLS | The <a href="#">advisory committee meeting</a> was held on January 24 & 25 at Hotel Sojourn (co-funded by RLS and IWM). The program planning and evaluation meeting was held on December 18, virtually.   |
| 9.  | Visits and participation in conferences and research workshops  |     | Rescheduled due to COVID 19; attended virtually (see Annex).  |
| 10. | Mid-term workshop “Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration: Initiating a new research focus at the IWM” |     | Instead of holding a mid-term meeting at CRG, a hybrid event was held in form of the Vienna workshop on June 25 & 26. A total of 11 presentations (6 from CRG and 5 from the IWM) were given  |

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|     |  |  | <p>during the hybrid workshop. Each researcher was assigned a discussant, whereby the South Asian researchers were paired with European discussants and vice versa.</p> <p>2021's first issue of Refugee Watch will have works of both European &amp; Asian researchers from the CRG-IWM project. A special issue of Dialectical Anthropology is envisaged. It is also envisaged that a volume will be published with European and South Asian Researchers on a select focus theme.</p>   |
| 11. | Refugee Watch & Refugee Watch Online   |  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Refugee Watch issue no. 56</li> <li>2. Refugee Watch issue no. 55</li> <li>2. A <a href="#">composite website</a> for Refugee Watch and Refugee Watch Online is under construction.</li> <li>3. <a href="#">Refugee Watch Online</a> is being regularly updated with contributions, reports and review articles that are chosen by the editorial team.</li> </ol>   |
| 12. | Workshop for University Faculty Members on research methodology and syllabus making exercise |  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A <a href="#">2 day Workshop for University Faculty members on research methodology and syllabus making in Migration &amp; Forced Migration Studies</a>; December 21 &amp; 22, 2020. The two following events were used to build up the way to this workshop.</li> <li>2. A Virtual Workshop for University Faculty Members on <a href="#">Pandemic, Migration &amp; Politics of Life</a> organized by Calcutta Research Group in collaboration with Vidyasagar University; September 24 and 25, 2020.</li> <li>3. A virtual workshop on <a href="#">Migration and the Pandemic Problematique</a> organized by Calcutta Research Group in collaboration with University of Delhi; September 15 and 16, 2020.</li> </ol> |
| 13. | Preparation of audio-visual material   |  | <a href="#">Calcutta: A Migrant City (Part 2)</a>   |
| 14. | Website & Digital Resources  |  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Subscription to JStor, Project Muse and Economic and Political Weekly has been renewed.</li> </ol>  |



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|     |   |  | <p>2. <u>Living Archive</u> on COVID 19 and Migrant Workers on <a href="http://mcrg.ac.in">mcrg.ac.in</a>.</p> <p>3. Project page on <u>Migration &amp; Forced Migration Studies with particular focus on South Asia and its European-Asian Dimension</u> (2019-2021)</p> <p>4. Project page at the IWM for the <u>Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration</u></p> <p>5. Creation of the mailing list at IWM for targeted dissemination of events</p> |
| 15. | Translation program in regional languages   |  | <p>1. 'MahamarirGondirekha' [<u>Borders of an Epidemic&amp;Burdens of an Epidemic</u> (Bengali)]; December 2020</p> <p>2. <u>Borders of an Epidemic &amp; Burdens of an Epidemic</u> (Hindi); December 2020</p>   |
| 16. | A Media workshop and a media pack as a tool |  | <p>1. A <u>workshop</u> on Epidemic, Migrants and the Media; December 4 &amp; 5, 2020</p> <p>2. <u>Media on Migrants in the Time of an Epidemic: A Reader</u>; 2020</p> <p>3. 4 scholarships given to <u>5 media practitioners</u> (1 has been done jointly) for original reports on Migrant workers in India during the pandemic and lockdown.</p>   |
| 17. | Library & Archive building                  |  | <p>1. Installation of KOHA library software with LINUX OS.</p> <p>2. An <u>index</u> on the Migrant Crisis during the Lockdown in India.</p> <p>3. New books on livelihoods, cultural labor, refugees, vagrancy laws and migration.</p>   |

## Detailed descriptions of project activities

### 1. 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Research & Orientation Workshop and Conference



The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Research & Orientation Workshop and Conference organized by the Calcutta Research Group looked very different from its predecessors in the year of the global pandemic of Covid-19. The process started with its conceptualization in a planning meeting on January 24 and 25, 2020, where CRG's members, staff, advisors and friends were invited to brainstorm and shape what would culminate in the six-day workshop and conference. Quite a bit changed since then because of the pandemic and its subsequent lockdown. The last date for receiving applications was extended to May 31 from April 10 to accommodate the new and unpredictable inconveniences. The registration fee was waived off. 25 participants for the workshop were shortlisted from inside India, of whom 4 could not make it to Kolkata owing to Covid-19 infections and other health emergencies. International participants could not be invited to India because of travel restrictions, but were brought on board through the virtual sessions. From November 16 to 21, the workshop participants and resource persons were accommodated at ITC Royal Bengal, Kolkata, after due testing and observing other safety protocols: Every guest was requested to not leave the hotel premises to create, as far as possible, a safe bubble. Seating arrangements at the venue were made abiding with the norms of social distancing, and individual rooms were allotted to each guest.

This year required stronger channels of communication between CRG and the participants to resolve the many queries and concerns about holding a physical congregation during a pandemic. The Forced Migration Studies Desk sent regular circulars and invited questions to rule out any complications. Video lectures along with module notes and reading lists meant for the workshop participants by the coordinators had been uploaded on CRG's secure portal (the username and password are available with the IWM). All bio-notes, research abstracts and draft papers are available on the portal.

The workshop and conference schedule was a hybrid of physical and virtual sessions, where the participants staying at the venue joined the virtual sessions from their respective rooms. The first 4 days

(November 16-19) were dedicated to the workshop, where the participants presented their papers in the first half of the 180 minutes allotted to each of the 6 modules. The module coordinators and attendees were actively involved in the discussions. The second half saw the module coordinators discussing texts and screening films relevant to their respective themes followed by a review and exchange of opinions. The details on each module can be found in the report on CRG's secure portal.

Public sessions were held on Zoom on Pedagogy of Migration and Refugee Studies in the Postcolonial Context, Pedagogy of Migration and Refugee Studies in the European Context, Covid-19 in South Asia: Perspectives on Migrant Labor, Society, and the State, New Perspectives of Protection of Refugees and Migrants in Southeast Asia, Face-to-face session with Migrant Solidarity Forum and Refugees and Migrants in the Post Covid-19 world as part of the workshop and conference. These sessions allowed for wider engagement; people joined in from Switzerland, Turkey, the UK, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, the USA, Austria, Spain, Mexico, Nepal, Bangladesh and Australia to listen to internationally renowned experts and field practitioners on migration, human rights and issues of protection.

The year also required impromptu improvisations – for instance, the field trip around migrant quarters in Kolkata was morphed into a bus ride without de-boarding, where CRG's resource people would be talking about the places as the bus made stops at places relevant to the history of Kolkata as a migrant city. The field trip has been an integral part of the workshop and would have been of great value this year as well. However, in spite of thorough planning and organizing, the bus trip had to be cancelled to consider health concerns of all people involved. The time allotted for the bus trip was relocated to a film screening for all those staying at the venue. With the expert guidance of Samata Biswas and Iman Mitra, the members of the Forced Migration Desk screened 'Sudani from Nigeria', a film released in 2018 that has won a National Award for the best feature film; and stimulated an interesting discussion around migration, racism, sports and its relevance in India and abroad. The details can be found in the report on CRG's secure portal.

The concluding session on Refugees and Migrants in the Post Covid-19 world on November 21 saw Alex Aleinikoff from the *Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility*, Alessandro Monsutti from the Graduate Institute Geneva (IWM fellow 2020), and Luiza Bialasiewicz from the University of Amsterdam (former IWM fellow) reflect on the anxieties and optimism of refugee regimes in a 'post-Covid-19 world'. The moderator, Ranabir Samaddar, said that more than the human rights question, there will be a new social contract based on care and protection. The legitimacy of the state will not be based on how much it can guarantee the rights of the people, but rather how much care it can provide to those who need it – not philanthropically but in socially acceptable terms, and concluded the workshop and conference with a poignant question: While the current fault lines in the notion of protection will remain and new ones might appear, will the pandemic bring forth a new kind of social contract where legitimacy based on public power will reorient the existing political structure?

The rapporteurs' report on the workshop and conference along with the evaluator's report is available on the secure portal on CRG's website.



## 2. Annual Research Agenda

In the wake of an unprecedented situation of the Covid-19 pandemic, CRG under the leadership of its Distinguished Chair in Migration & Forced Migration Studies, Professor Ranabir Samaddar, published two research documents on Covid-19 and Migrant Workers that are now being discussed widely on various platforms. The details on Borders of an Epidemic and Burdens of an Epidemic have been discussed in the first semi-annual project report of 2020.

The annual research agenda has been divided between contracted researchers and public health researchers.

The seven contracted researchers under the IWM project anchored at CRG are Francis Adaikalam, Assistant Professor, Loyola College, Chennai (Invisibility of deceased International Labor Migrants: Politics of Recognition); Jyothi Krishnan, independent researcher (Living with Floods: Coping with Livelihood Uncertainties in Post-Flood Kerala); Anjuman Ara Begum, human rights researcher and women's rights activist (Undocumented immigrants in Assam: Understanding the Jurisprudence in past, present and future); Sohini Sengupta, Assistant Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai (Enframing and Digression: Pandemic, Drought and Migrant Accounts From Western India); Nasreen Chowdhury, Assistant Professor, University of Delhi and Shamna Thachampoyil, Ph.D. candidate, University of Delhi (Biometrics and the notion of governmentality in Rohingya refugee camps, who are external researchers). Kusumika Ghosh, Research & Program Assistant, CRG (How Protected are the Refugees: A Comparative study of the contemporary states of Germany and India in light of the Geneva Convention, 1951) and Piya Srinivasan, Research & Program Associate, CRG (Migrant Workers and the Pandemic: A socio-legal enquiry into the Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act, 1979) are CRG researchers.

The three researchers on public health are Mouleshri Vyas and Manish K. Jha (Public Health, Migrant Workers and the Pandemic in Mumbai: Crisis of Work and Life), Ishita Dey (Migrants in India's Health Infrastructure: Ethnography on India's Frontline Workers), and Iman K. Mitra (Public Health, Migrant Workers and a Global Pandemic: From a Social Crisis to a Crisis of the Social). A research symposium on Public Health & Migrant Workers was held on August 21 2020 where they presented their draft papers. The symposium report can be found [here](#).

The links to the above papers are at the draft stage and the final papers are being published as part of CRG's Policies and Practices. As mentioned in the semi-annual report, CRG also produced two research documents titled Borders of an Epidemic: Covid-19 and Migrant Workers and Burdens of an Epidemic: A Policy Perspective on Covid-19 and Migrant Workers earlier this year, one of the first academic responses to the migrant crisis arising from the pandemic and subsequent lockdown. These essays are being compiled into an edited volume by Ritajyoti Bandyopadhyay and negotiations are still underway with an academic publisher for its publication.

A major element of CRG's research is conducted under the auspices of the Distinguished Chair on Migration and Forced Migration Studies, occupied at present by Prof. Ranabir Samaddar. This year, Kusumika Ghosh, a researcher of the Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration has been a Chair's Associate and has contributed regularly to the resources on the page. The following activities have been held this year:

1. The Chair's research has been published now under the title *The Postcolonial Age of Migration* (Routledge, 2020). It was an outcome of his work on the said theme in 2016-19.
2. His published papers during this year are listed below:
  - a. "The Global Gaze of Care, Protection, and Power", *Refuge*, Volume 36, No 1, 2020
  - b. "Migrant, City, and Changing Lives" in S. IrudayaRajan and Sumeetha M. (eds.), *Handbook of Internal Migration in India* (New Delhi and London: Sage, 2020)
  - c. "An Insurgent Constitutionalism is Driving Popular Politics in India Today", *Alternative International Journal*, February 2020
3. Select interviews and public lectures:
  - a. "The Present Epidemiological Moment and Bio-politics from Below", Mahesh Chandra Regmi Lecture 2020, Social Science Baha, Kathmandu, 7 December 2020 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=POhtniJOfV4>
  - b. "Borders, Logistics, and Unequal Lives", Global Humanities Institute, Taipei, and the International Centre for Cultural Studies, Taiwan, 22 September 2020 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IW4sMeslNI5OqeFN3qjbh2j-wS6a5CmT/view?usp=sharing>
  - c. "Epidemic, Migrant labor, and the Politics of Life", IIC, New Delhi, 7 August 2020 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lt-Mm30IYuc> and [https://www.iicdelhi.in/webcasts/view\\_webcast/epidemic-migrant-labor-and-the-politics-of-life/](https://www.iicdelhi.in/webcasts/view_webcast/epidemic-migrant-labor-and-the-politics-of-life/)
  - d. "Borders of an Epidemic", New Zealand India Research Institute, 24 June 2020 - <https://vstream.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=741ac44f-6f5c-46f5-9180-abe400574a7b>
  - e. "Covid-19: Public Health and the Sudden Visibility of Migrant Workers", Calcutta Research Group, 12 June 2020 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15ciFzx4org>
  - f. "Borders of an Epidemic", Centre for Global Migration Studies, Göttingen University, 30 April 2020 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yWRHyOML1E&feature=youtu.be>
  - g. "At the Stroke of Midnight, Migrant Workers became Aliens in a Double Sense", *The Wire*, 23 April 2020 - <https://thewire.in/rights/interview-ranabir-samaddar-migrant-workers-invisible>
  - h. In addition, Piya Srinivasan who is also a researcher of the Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration and CRG research associate, produced a research paper (draft shared above) on the social-legal analysis of the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, which was shared with the Migrant Solidarity Forum members to contribute to discussions on legal perspectives on migrant workers issues during the Covid-19 pandemic in India.

In addition to the above, research focusing on migration and labor regimes, labor governance, and EU mobility regimes; spatial and legal fracturation of refugee protection and governance; refugees in cities in interaction with class, gender, and race; and refugee protection and territorialization has been

established at the IWM. In fulfilling these dimensions of research on forced migration, below are selected publications and reports by IWM resident and non-resident fellows and affiliates of the Forced Migration project:

1. In the making already throughout 2019 and published in *Geographical Review* on December 21, 2020: "Relational Multiscalar Analysis: A Comparative Approach to Migrants within City-Making Processes", Ayşe Çağlar and Nina Glick Schiller, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00167428.2020.1865817> (received on February 02, 2020, accepted on November 17, 2020, posted online: December 21, 2020).
2. Additional contributions by Ayşe Çağlar (IWM Permanent Fellow)
  - a. Weekly focus at IWM, "Week IV: Virus without borders – of Migrants and Closures"
  - b. 'Made in IWM' "The Multiple Tenses of a Postcolonial Age of Migration"
  - c. "Refugees, Migrants, and Rethinking Power amid Covid-19 Pandemic", in *IWMPost 126*
3. Contributions by Müge Dalkıran-Alexandridis (IWM-based remote fellow)
  - a. "Chronicle of a Death Foretold": The Moria Fire", in *IWMPost 126*
  - b. "Territorial Differentiation of the Refugee Protection in the Aegean Sea"
  - c. METU MIR Webinar Series (25 January 2020): Doing Fieldwork in a Period of Uncertainty: Pandemic, Turkey-Greece Tensions, and Moria Fire: <https://youtu.be/KF-5ZMe-SfE>
  - d. Book Review: Refugees, Civil Society, and the European Experiences and Global Changes, Oxford Border Criminologies blog (22 May 2020): <https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/research-subject-groups/centre-criminology/centreborder-criminologies/blog/2020/05/book-review>
  - e. AB'nin Yeni Göçve İltica Paktı Aslında Bir Geri Gönderme Paktı mı?, Perspektif (13 October 2020): <https://www.perspektif.online/abnin-yeni-goc-ve-iltica-pakti-aslinda-bir-geri-gonderme-pakti-mi/>
  - f. Uluslararası Mülteci Hukukuna Kısa Bir Bakış, UİK Panorama (25 April 2020): <https://www.uikpanorama.com/blog/2020/04/25/uluslararasi-multeci-hukukuna-kisa-bir-bakis/>
  - g. Türkiye, Yunanistan ve AB Kışkacında Mülteciler, Perspektif (9 March 2020): <https://www.perspektif.online/turkiye-yunanistan-ve-ab-kiskacinda-multeciler/>
4. Contributions by Mert Koçak (IWM-based remote fellow)
  - a. One blog post published in November in *Network for Migration Matters*: <https://www.networkformigrationmatters.com/post/legally-unrecognized-but-bureaucratically-tolerated-queer-iranian-refugees-living-in-turkey>
  - b. A four-session online course titled "Gender and Migration" at the *Association for Migration Studies*, Istanbul between October 21 and November 11: <https://www.gocarastirmalaridernegi.org/tr/calismalar/egitimler/dersler/178-toplumsal-cinsiyet-ve-goc>
  - c. An online seminar titled "Deservingness as a Means of Transnational Governance of Displacement, Sexuality and Gender Identity: Queer Refugees in Turkey" presented at *CEFRES*, Prague on October 23: <http://cefres.cz/en/events/event/deservingness-as-a-means-of-transnational-governance-of-displacement?fbclid=IwAR3HI-JQBOdePbF6gih8X1kOUdApHZxrcH6dp1eoXBTaZ59BbvI0g7-xHBU>

5. Contributions by DoğuşŞimşek (IWM-based remote fellow)
  - a. “Forced Displacement and Access to Labor Market: The case of Gaziantep”
  - b. Blog pieces:
    - i. “Feeling of desperation is doubled due to COVID-19 among undocumented African migrants in Istanbul”, *Identities Journal Blog*, April 27, 2020, <https://www.identitiesjournal.com/covid-19-blog-series/feeling-of-desperation-is-doubled-due-to-covid-19-among-undocumented-african-migrants-in-istanbul>
    - ii. “Fear, Desperation, Anger and Stress: The Emotions of Undocumented Migrants During COVID-19 Pandemic”, *Discover Society*, April 9, 2020, <https://discoversociety.org/2020/04/09/fear-desperation-anger-and-stress-the-emotions-of-undocumented-migrants-during-covid-19-pandemic/>
  - c. Podcasts:
    - i. Istanbul & ‘World Refugee Day talk’ “Integration processes of Syrian refugees in Turkey”, June 20, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvNVcDFYk78&t=456s>
    - ii. European Institute, Istanbul Bilgi University, ‘Uluslararası Göç Film Festivali Kapsamında Göç Filmleri Üzerine Düşünmek’, June 18, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L7RMekVdgC4>
  - d. Book review:
    - i. ‘Belonging and Becoming in a Multicultural World: Refugee Youth and the Pursuit of Identity’, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, DOI: [10.1080/01419870.2020.1761556](https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2020.1761556)
6. Additional contributions by IWM-based remote fellows
  - a. “Report on EU labor and mobility regimes of temporary work for EU and non-EU labor migrants”, Neda Deneva
  - b. “Forced migrants and public health”, Gonca Savaş Dogan
  - c. “Forced Migrants, gender, and race in a satellite City”, Meriç Çağlar

Most of these reports were presented at the Winter School in November.

### 3. Visiting Fellowships: CRG and IWM

**Visiting Fellows** were selected for the Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration to work with CRG and IWM.

For CRG, they are Neetu Pokharel (‘Statelessness and the Plight of Women in Nepal’), Mujib Ahmad Azizi (‘War, Conflict, Climate Change and Internal Displacement in Afghanistan’), Niloy Ranjan Biswas (‘The Remaking of Rohingyas in the Host Communities of Cox’s Bazar: The Intersectionality of Identity, Politics and Culture’), and Nadarajah Sooriyarajah (‘Migrants in India’s Health Infrastructure: Ethnography on India’s Frontline Workers’).

Two of the fellows (from Nepal and Afghanistan) were selected on the basis of their papers and participation in the winter workshop in 2019. The workshop management committee (led by Professor Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury who was also the head of the task force for the winter workshop in 2020) selected these fellows. Two other fellows (from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka; they could not attend



the workshop in 2019) were invited after CRG's South Asian partners from the Dhaka University and the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies, Colombo, Sri Lanka, suggested their names. Letters seeking nominations were circulated through CRG's South Asian network. Professor SabaysachiBasuRay Chaudhury was in charge of the process and the program committee accepted the nominations. The proposals of these selected fellows were discussed and were accepted.

The original schedule was designed to have them visit in March 2020, but had to be reworked due to Covid-19. This activity will be carried forward to the next year.

For IWM, the non-resident Junior Visiting Fellows are MeriçÇağlar (Forced Migrants, gender, and race in a satellite City), Neda Deneva (EU labor and mobility regimes of temporary work for EU and non-EU labor migrants), MügeDalkıran-Alexandridis (Territorial Differentiation of the Refugee Protection in the Aegean Sea), GoncaSavaş Dogan (Forced migrants and public health), DoğuŞimşek (Forced Displacement and Access to Labor Market: The case of Gaziantep), and MertKoçak (Migration Industries and Transnational Governance of Queer Migration in Turkey). Taking into consideration the Covid-19 pandemic, the fellows have agreed to carry on desk research and continue their fellowships as remote fellows. They had been selected among young scholars who had already been working on the anticipated topics of the research platform on Forced Migration and collected data and/or were still in the field. They were recruited through a targeted search with the help of established scholars of this field in Europe. All six researchers were interviewed by IWM Permanent Fellow Ayşe Çağlar in April and May 2020 after reviewing their application material (CV, motivation letter and short project proposal). Çağlar held periodic zoom meetings with the researchers individually and as a group since spring 2020.

The resident Senior Visiting Fellow at IWM is Winnie Lem (Toronto University) with the project, "Thinking through Migration". Due to Covid-19, Winnie Lem had to leave Austria early. She is scheduled to resume her fellowship in fall 2021.

#### **4. Seminar Series on Forced Migration**

CRG hosted the first of its webinar series #bordersofanepidemic on June 12, 2020 to discuss the sudden visibility of migrant workers in India based on its publication, "Borders of an Epidemic: Covid-19 and Migrant Workers". The webinar has been recorded and uploaded on [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-YxDbkwVqw&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-YxDbkwVqw&feature=emb_logo) for public reference. A report on this webinar has been published on Refugee Watch Online – and can be accessed here: <https://refugeewatchonline.wordpress.com/2020/06/16/report-on-covid-19-public-health-and-the-sudden-visibility-of-migrant-workers/>. CRG's public lectures and seminar series refer to each other.

A Seminar Series on Forced Migration as part of the Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration was planned and launched in November 2020. While the Seminar Series was not discussed in the original application, it emerged as a possibility to further advance the platform on forced migration; reach a wider audience; make use of the advantages of online events in terms of reaching prominent scholars working on forced migration in different parts of the world; and inflict stronger synergies with IWM, universities, and civil society organizations working with and on refugees. The monthly Seminar

Series brings scholars across disciplines and practitioners from around the globe to present research in the field of forced migration. The Seminar Series is hosted at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Vienna for synergy and outreach purposes and was inaugurated in November 2020. By use of an online platform, it was possible to reach a wider audience and build an internal mailing list of nearly 500 subscribers that may be used for future events and for other news related to the Seminar Series and the Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration. Through the online platforms, we were happy to host audience members from Tunisia, Australia, Brazil, Kenya, Nigeria, India, Turkey, Greece, Canada, and the United States, among others, and to engage with practitioners, students, scholars, and those interested in the topic of forced migration beyond academia while creating synergies with other institutions. All lectures were public, recordings of them were made available on the platform's website at IWM and included below.

The Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration is also connected to the international and interdisciplinary research platform The Challenges of Urban Futures at the University of Vienna (2020-2024, funded by the University of Vienna), where Ayşe Çağlar serves as co-director.

## 5. Public Lectures: IWM and CRG

The events organized by the IWM and CRG encompassed a variety of formats, ranging from panels, round tables, to lectures and workshops. Considering the Covid-19 pandemic, all public events were moved to an online platform. To accommodate changes in the mode of delivering lectures from physical to virtual, CRG instituted a Webinar Committee to specifically organize all public lectures and events to be held during the lockdown. The following public lectures have been organized:

- Webinar: COVID19: Public health crisis and sudden visibility of migrant workers, June 12, 2020
- Round table: Covid-19 Pandemic and the Spectral Presence of Migrant Workers and Refugees; June 24, 2020
- Research Symposium: Public Health & Migrant Workers, August 21, 2020.
- Covid 19 in South Asia: Regional Perspectives on Vulnerabilities and Dispossessions; August 24, 2020
- Seminar Series on Forced Migration Inaugural Lecture; November 11, 2020
- 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Research & Orientation Workshop & Conference November; 16 – 21, 2020
- Media, Migrants and the Pandemic in Europe; December 5, 2020

These lectures were screened live on CRG's [Facebook page](#):

- Seminar Series on Forced Migration; December 16, 2020
- Teaching Migration in South Asia; December 20, 2020
- Innovative Methods of Research in Migration & Refugee Studies; December 21, 2020
- The Impossibility of Politics - Itinerant Situations in Arts and Literature: December 22, 2020
- Global Lives and World Literature: Can Migrant and Refugee Literature be National?: December 22, 2020
- Refugee Literature(s), Histories, Identities: December 22, 2020

Webinar, June 24, 4-6:00pm (CET)  
Follow the [link](#) to the Event.  
Further details: [www.iwm.at](#)



### Covid-19 Pandemic and the Spectral Presence of Migrant Workers and Refugees

A Round Table with Ranabir Samaddar, Alex Aleinikoff and Roger Zetter

For the last 100 years, scholars by the East-Asians have examined the existing world of our planetary societies and depicted the complex fissures and dynamics of global capitalism, social sovereignty, and governance structures. On the basis of Calcutta Research Project's book, *The Spectral Presence of Migrant Workers and Refugees*, edited by Prof. Ranabir Samaddar, which highlights the critical and political implications of the pandemic, this round table addresses the changing landscape of visibility and invisibility of migrant workers, refugees, as well as national states, and conceptualises positions of care, responsibility, justice, and politics of care.

Alex Aleinikoff, Director of the Center for Migration and Mobility, The New School, New York; former United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees

Ranabir Samaddar, Founder of the Migration Cultural Research Centre, Kolkata, former IAS Foreign Officer

Roger Zetter, Director, Professor of Refugee Studies, former Director, Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford

Moderated by Ayşe Çağlar, IWM Postdoctoral Fellow, Professor of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Vienna

Organised by IWM, in collaboration with Migration Cultural Research Group

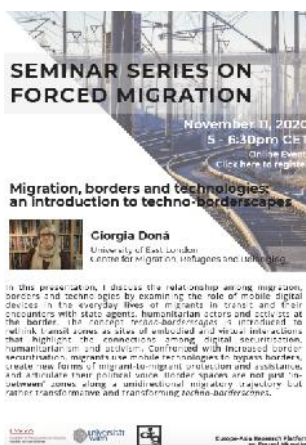


### Round table: Covid-19 Pandemic and the Spectral Presence of Migrant Workers and Refugees; June 24, 2020

Covid-19 Pandemic and the Spectral Presence of Migrant Workers and Refugees, a Round Table with Ranabir Samaddar, Alex Aleinikoff, Roger Zetter, and moderated by Ayşe Çağlar, focused on the changing landscapes unleashed by the ongoing pandemic and was held online. Based on the recently edited book by Professor Ranabir Samaddar, *Borders of an Epidemic: Covid-19 and Migrant Workers*, the speakers responded to Prof. Samaddar's book and discussed the emergence of bordering processes vis-à-vis refugees and migrant workers whose visibility and invisibility has become highlighted through the strengthening of inequalities in the domains of public health and in terms of politics of care. The lively discussion was also supplemented with questions from the audience present from around the globe. Hosted by IWM, the event also preceded the official and inaugural conference of the Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration.

### Symposium: Public Health & Migrant Workers; August 21, 2020

Symposium, held online, focused on the emerging questions and dilemmas of national healthcare policies through the economic and social divides in India. With a range of topics presented, researchers and their discussants focused on health-care infrastructure in India, the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and the crisis of public health-care, and the processes of inclusion and exclusion of migrant workers not only as part of a 'migrant crisis', but as indicative of a larger and collective crisis.

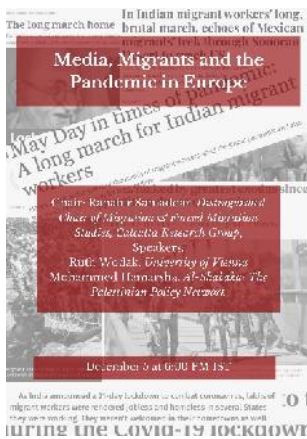


### Seminar Series on Forced Migration Inaugural Lecture; November 11, 2020

The Seminar Series on Forced Migration was launched in November 2020 and is hosted on a monthly basis at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology at University of Vienna. The inaugural lecture was given by Georgia Dona (University of East London), titled "Migration, borders and technoscapes: an introduction to techno-borderscapes", and moderated by Ayşe Çağlar. The discussion focused on the relationship between migration, borders, and technology with a focusing on transit zones and the role of various actors in the articulation and emergence of migrants' political voices and claims. The lecture included over 150 registrants and nearly 100 attendants and can be found on YouTube via the IWM platform here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PvWqX1pjaFc>

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Research & Orientation Workshop & Conference; November 16-21, 2020**

The daily panels of the conference focused on: 1) Pedagogy of Migration and Refugee Studies in the Postcolonial Context; 2) Pedagogy of Migration and Refugee Studies in the European Context; Covid-19 in South Asia: Perspectives on Migrant Labor, Society, and the State; New Perspectives of Protection of Refugees and Migrants in South West Asia; it incorporated a Face-to-face session with Migrant Solidarity Forum; and finalized the program with a discussion on Refugees and Migrants in the post Covid-19 world. Each of the panels were livestreamed through the CRG Facebook page.



**Workshop: The Epidemic, Migrants, and the Media; December 4-5, 2020**

The multi-day workshop included a variety of activities in the program, including panel discussions and presentations, as well as a book release by Shoib Daniyal, *Scroll.in, Delhi*. The discussions ranged from the media coverage and imagination of migrants during the pandemic; issues of caste, representation, and rights; and borders and statelessness in the aftermath and during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Workshop included guests from academia, journalism and media, as well as field experts. The concluding panel included a panel discussion on “Media, Migrants, and the Pandemic in Europe” on December 5 by Ruth Wodak from the IWM and University of Vienna and Mohammed Hamarsha from the Al-Shabaka: The Palestinian Policy Network in Paris. The recording is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jd0a67Pf8bU>

**Seminar Series on Forced Migration; December 16, 2020**

The second Seminar was given by Jennifer Hyndman, York University, Toronto, titled “Refugee Sponsorship: Will Civil Society Keep Stepping Up?”. The discussion focused on the shifting nature of refugee resettlement in Canada. It scrutinized the roles of the government and civil society, and other actors that facilitate the movement between public/state to private refugee sponsorship. The discussion continued with a variety of interesting and insightful questions and comments from the audience who joined from around the world and who included individuals outside of academia, such as aid workers, policy experts, and others. The event was recorded and can be found on the YouTube platform of IWM: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bo7130s68SE>



A panel discussion on  
**Innovative Methods of  
 Research in Migration &  
 Refugee Studies**

**Sandro Mezzadra; Giorgio Grappi;  
 Ayşe Çağlar**  
 Moderated by: Lydia Potts

**DECEMBER 21 | 4-5:30 PM IST**

ORGANISED BY THE  
**CALCUTTA RESEARCH GROUP**  
 IN COLLABORATION WITH  
 INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SCIENCES, VIENNA

This workshop is part of CRG's programme on Migration and Forced Migration studies supported by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Austrian Science Fund FWF, the Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna and other universities & institutions in India.

**Panel discussion: Innovative Methods of Research in Migration & Refugee Studies; December 21, 2020**

The public discussion focused on methods to studying migration and refugee studies. The three different guest scholars provided a brief presentation stemming from their own research and further developed approaches to migration and refugee studies relative to the ongoing conversations in the field. Along with questions from the moderator and the audience, the scholars had the chance to further engage with conceptualizations, dilemmas, and approaches to the field. The session was live streamed on Facebook.

**6. Discussions of publications**

1. The New Zealand India Research Institute hosted Professor Ranabir Samaddar (Distinguished Chair in Migration and Forced Migration Studies at Calcutta Research Group) to discuss his recently edited book, *Borders of an Epidemic: Covid-19 and Migrant Workers (2020)* with Professor Sekhar Bandyopadhyay (Director, NZIRI) and Associate Professor Douglas Hill (University of Otago) on June 24, 2020.
2. Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, organized a roundtable conference to discuss 'Borders of an Epidemic: COVID-19 and Migrant Workers' on June 24, 2020. The recording is accessible at <https://soundcloud.com/user-769802309/covid-19-pandemic-and-the-spectral-presence-of-migrant-workers-and-refugees>. The Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration at IWM is now connected to the Cities and Human Mobility Collaborative at the *Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility* at the *New School for Social Research* where Ayşe Çağlar is a core member and had given its inaugural lecture in October 2019. The director of the Zolberg Institute, Prof. Alex Aleinikoff, was a participant of the roundtable. Covid-19 restrictions allowing, Prof. Aleinikoff will come to IWM as a fellow for the month of May in 2021.
3. CRG hosted the first of its webinar series #bordersofanepidemic on June 12, 2020 to discuss the sudden visibility of migrant workers in India based on its publication, "Borders of an Epidemic: Covid-19 and Migrant Workers". The webinar has been recorded and uploaded on [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-YxDbkwVqw&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-YxDbkwVqw&feature=emb_logo) for public reference. A report on this webinar has been published on Refugee Watch Online – and can be accessed here: <https://refugeewatchonline.wordpress.com/2020/06/16/report-on-covid-19-public-health-and-the-sudden-visibility-of-migrant-workers/>
4. Centre for Global Migration Studies, University of Göttingen organized an online book discussion where Ranabir Samaddar and Ritajyoti Bandyopadhyay were invited to speak on CRG's latest book "Borders of an Epidemic: Covid-19 and Migrant Workers". The recording of the webinar can be accessed on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yWRHyOML1E&feature=youtu.be>

5. The LIDC Migration Leadership Team at School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London have published a blog extracted from the chapter “Introduction: Borders of an Epidemic” of the recently published book “Borders of an Epidemic: Covid-19 and Migrant Workers”, the former written and the latter edited by Professor Ranabir Samaddar and published by the Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (2020). It can be found on: <https://blogs.soas.ac.uk/lidc-mlt/2020/04/22/borders-of-an-epidemic-the-covid-19-war-and-migrant-workers-in-india/>

6. *The Wire* published an interview titled “At the Stroke of Midnight, Migrant Workers Became Aliens in a Double Sense” where Ranabir Samaddar speaks about the factors behind the migrants’ desperation to reach home and the dynamics of the visibility and invisibility of migrant labor on April 23, 2020. It can be accessed on <https://thewire.in/rights/interview-ranabir-samaddar-migrant-workers-invisible>

7. *Mainstream Weekly* published a review article titled “Migrant Workers in the Present Time of Chaos” authored by Arup Kumar Sen in its volume LVIII, no. 20, published on May 2, 2020. It can be accessed on <http://www.mainstreamweekly.net/article9357.html>

8. *India Resists* put up “Borders of an Epidemic: COVID-19 and Migrant Workers” on its website on April 30, 2020. It can be accessed on <https://indiaresists.com/borders-of-an-epidemic-the-covid-19-war-and-migrant-workers-in-india/>

9. *Countercurrents.org* published a review titled “COVID-19 and Migrant Workers: Review of Borders of an Epidemic” by T. Navin on April 29, 2020. It can be accessed on <https://countercurrents.org/2020/04/covid-19-and-migrant-workers-review-of-borders-of-an-epidemic/>

10. In IWM’s “Made in IWM” online section, Ayşe Çağlar wrote the commentary “The Multiple Tenses of a Postcolonial Age of Migration” on Ranabir Samaddar’s *The Postcolonial Age of Migration*. The commentary is also being republished in the journal of *Dialectical Anthropology*. It can be accessed here: <https://www.iwm.at/always-active/book-by-fellows/made-in-iwm-ranabir-samaddar-the-postcolonial-age-of-migration/>

## **7. Preparatory and Follow-up Programs**

CRG planned a one-day workshop on issues around the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the Darjeeling Hills in north Bengal. However, Covid-19 induced restrictions have required the workshop to be stalled until the situation improves. If possible, CRG will execute this workshop in 2021.

## **8. Advisory Committee Meeting**

An Advisory Committee Meeting for planning CRG’s work plan for the year was held on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 at Hotel Sojourn in Kolkata. The detailed minutes of the meeting with comments and suggestions are available [here](#). Since then, Prof. Ranabir Samaddar and Prof. Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhuri from CRG held four rounds of consultative meetings with the IWM on the progress of the project. Finally, a Planning cum Evaluation meeting was held on December 18, 2020 to discuss the

progress of the project as the year ends, assess the achievements and loopholes, and finally, to plan for the next year.

## **9. Participation in Workshops and Conferences**

Due to Covid-19, scheduled international and domestic workshops have been cancelled for 2020, and most organizers took them to various digital platforms like Zoom. CRG researchers and members have participated in talks and conferences convened by universities and institutions across the world. Additionally, IWM and CRG organized several workshops and conferences, both virtually and physically - the details of which are given in the relevant sections in this report.

## **10. Mid-term workshop: June 25–26, 2020**

The mid-term workshop, “Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration: Initiating a new research focus at the IWM, Vienna”, was moved to an online and hybrid platform and rescheduled from May 27-29 to June 25-26, 2020 with a slightly different format, emphasis, and participants. In addition to the papers presented by the IWM and CRG fellows and researchers, scholars and policy practitioners from the discipline and across institutions in Europe and Asia were invited as discussants such as Sedef Dearing from the ICDMP (International Centre for Migration Policy Development), Vienna. The workshop created a platform whereby scholars participating in the Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration would have an opportunity to meet and learn about each other’s work, simultaneously putting them and others present at the workshop in a productive dialogue surrounding a range of topics, including:

- (a) cities of different scale in Asia and Europe as faced with a growing humanitarian crisis as forced migrants live primarily in inhospitable urban environments;
- (b) increased racialization of migrants and refugees along with securitization in Europe and Asia;
- (c) protracted state of displacement with minimizing chances of safe return, and consequently increased statelessness;
- (d) proliferation of legal categories vis-à-vis forced migrants and access to health;
- (e) immigrant economy, migrant industry and the migrant and refugee labor in cities of different scale;
- (f) the contrast between the gendered nature of forced migration and a seemingly homogeneous global protection policy as evinced in the structure of camps, laboring profiles, family burden, access to resources, and personal freedom.

In conversation with CRG, the IWM-based research focus was slightly adjusted to include research on the proliferation of legal categories vis-à-vis forced migrants especially in relation to their current spatial location (and spaces of origin) and questions of access to researches, rights and health. In addition to the broader categories mentioned above, work presented by fellows focused additionally on



governmentality in refugee camps; interrogation and analysis of transnational refugee regimes, as well as EU labor regimes vis-à-vis migrants and non-migrants; environmental disasters and climate change. A research focus on temporary work arrangements (in agriculture, meat processing, but also in care economies) in Europe and in India, and the involvement of migrants and undocumented workers in these schemes is also included. In the first group of researchers' projects, there was a strong focus on Turkey, a "transit" EU border country of forced migrants from Asia to Europe. The presence of EU institutions in the proliferation of legal categories of refugee governance was particularly highlighted. The discussants provided additional perspectives from their own work and contributed to further advancing the research of fellows.

See the workshop program in the annex.

### **11. Refugee Watch and Refugee Watch Online**

Two issues of *Refugee Watch* (issue no. 55 and 56) have been published in 2020, and the 55<sup>th</sup> issue can be found [here](#). The 56<sup>th</sup> issue is to be released at the time of this report's submission. In the Planning and Evaluation Meeting held on December 18, it was decided that 2021's first issue of *Refugee Watch* will have works of both European & Asian researchers from the CRG-IWM project. In this connection, it was also discussed that a volume will be published with European and South Asian Researchers on a select focus theme.

*Refugee Watch Online* is in the process of receiving its third cohort of interns and continues to produce short commentaries, reviews, reports and opinion pieces. Among the most recent are *Covid-19 situation beyond the city space: combating the various humanitarian crises prompted by the pandemic*, *The Partition of Bengal and Its Silent Aftermath: An Interview with Rituparna Roy* and *Review of I Am the People: Reflections on Popular Sovereignty Today (2020) by Partha Chatterjee*; and reports on workshops and webinars conducted: <https://refugeewatchonline.wordpress.com/>

A composite website for *Refugee Watch* and *Refugee Watch Online* is on the verge of completion, along with separate archives dedicated to both: <http://refugeewatch.org.in/Default.aspx>

### **12. Teachers' Workshop**

While we had initially planned for the Teachers' Workshop to be held in January 2021, we successfully conducted a two-day workshop on "Research Methodology and Syllabus Making in Migration and Forced Migration Studies", on December 21-22, 2020, in Kolkata as part of CRG's research and orientation program in migration and forced migration studies. The workshop was preceded by a pre-workshop roundtable on December 20, 2020, with speakers from Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. The roundtable took stock of how migration and forced migration studies are taught in Colleges and Universities in South Asia – different disciplinary locations, curricula, and scopes and constraints. It also deliberated on the importance of teaching migration – the politics of pedagogy, the



lived realities of this region in flux, the scope and prospects of research, as well as institutional limitations.

The workshop involved teachers in social sciences and arts and literature. In that spirit, it was devoted to two themes: (a) frontier areas in migration teaching (thus themes like generation and uses of data, role of archives, new modes of research, etc.), and (b) refugees and migrants and the registers of arts and literature (thus themes like itinerant figures in literature; photograph and the refugee; global literature and global lives; migrant, literature, and the colonial time; etc.). The purpose of the workshop was to frame a syllabus for a two-month online refresher course for teachers on refugee and migration studies.

There were five public virtual sessions at the workshop:

1. Pre-conference roundtable on "Teaching Migration in South Asia", December 20, 7 pm IST.
2. "Innovative Methods in Research", December 21, 4 pm IST, with IWM's Ayşe Çağlar as one of the panelists.
3. "The Impossibility of Politics –Itinerant Situations in Arts and Literature", December 22, 9.30 am IST.
4. "Global Lives and World Literature: Can Migrant and Refugee Literature be National?" December 22, 11.30 am IST.
5. "Refugee Literature(s), Histories, Identities", December 22, 4.00 pm IST.

The above sessions can be accessed [here](#).

### 13. Preparation of Audio-visual Material for Education

For this segment of the IWM project, CRG has produced a short film, Calcutta: A Migrant City (Part 2) that is a continuation of Calcutta: a Migrant City (Part 1) , filmed in 2019. The pandemic-induced lockdown compelled CRG to halt the shooting of the film in March 2020, which was subsequently resumed. The first version was screened at CRG's Fifth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop & Conference in November. The final version was screened at CRG's workshop on 'The Epidemic, Migrants and the Media' in December. This is also being screened at our other workshops and conferences and being shared with university faculty to be screened in their classes.



Some stills from the shooting of Calcutta: A Migrant City II

#### **14. Website and Digital Resources**

The official CRG website hosted at <http://www.mcrgr.ac.in/> serves as a ready reckoner for all its activities. In 2020, it assumed even more importance given all interactions started shifting online across the world. All of CRG's events and research endeavours are available on the website, and final papers have been uploaded on a password protected segment. The website has also been substantially redesigned with a [separate page for the CRG-IWM project](#). All relevant activities can be found there.

CRG's subscription of J-Stor, Project Muse and Economic and Political Weekly has been renewed. It will subscribe to similar academic platforms as and when suitable. On March 19, CRG started compiling a [Living Archive on COVID 19 and Migrant Workers](#) using material from the media and other sources on migrant workers in the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown. The newly added section on the website contains information, news reports, photos and videos covering the migrant workers' crisis during the lockdown and is being regularly uploaded and updated. The digital resource is taking help from CRG's presence in social media. It has also compiled an [index](#) for the same.

CRG already has a huge digital archive of material (including primary material) on ten select themes. It is available for registered library and archive users. Its focus is on material related to issues such as those of migration and forced migration, autonomy, popular movements, labor including transit labor, and urban studies. Moreover, a list of similar holding platforms (such as ADB, World Bank reports, etc., which are less costly or allow free subscription) will be prepared soon, and CRG will subscribe to them as far as possible. Select old journal holdings have been added to the digitized resource. The library section of the website has the relevant information –[http://www.mcrgr.ac.in/log\\_library.htm](http://www.mcrgr.ac.in/log_library.htm). Also, CRG and Refugee Watch Online regularly publicize their activities on Facebook and Twitter. In addition, the videos are available on its [YouTube channel](#).

IWM launched the Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration project webpage to include publications, recordings of selected events, showcase and promote events, calls for applications, and other upcoming and past activities. The page also routes the visitors to the IWM YouTube Channel where the lectures from the Seminar Series on Forced Migration are displayed. Finally, through the promotion of the Seminar Series, we are able to establish and grow a mailing list through which we can further promote the Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration activities, publications, and other events, further creating visibility and connecting with academic and other institutions working on these subjects in different corners of the world.

#### **15. Translation Program in Regional Languages**

CRG has undertaken the translation of its research publications “Borders of an Epidemic” and “Burdens of an Epidemic” in two regional languages, Bengali, the state language, and Hindi, the national language. The above documents are being translated and edited in a Bengali volume by CRG research associate, Rajat Roy, and the volume is titled “Mahamarir Nana Simanay: Covid-19 AaboheParijayi Sramik”

("Borders of an Epidemic: Perspectives on Covid-19 and Migrant Workers"). There were some pandemic-related delays, including him contracting Covid-19, which will affect the final timeline of manuscript delivery. CRG has also entered into a contract with Progressive Publishers, Kolkata, an old publisher in Kolkata's famed College Street, popularly known for publishing university textbooks and reference books. The edited volume shall be published by April 2021.

The Hindi translation of "Borders of an Epidemic" has been undertaken by Ashok Jha and the policy brief "Burdens of an Epidemic" has been translated by Pranav Jha. The editors of the books are Anamika Priyadarshani and Gopal Krishna who were commissioned for editing and translation by CRG. Through them, CRG has entered into a contract with Aakar Books, a reputed scholarly publishing concern specializing in social science books in both Hindi and English. They will publish the book by April 15, 2021.

## **16. Media Segment**

The Advisory Committee Meeting for the media segment in January 2020 had proposed a handbook for media persons as ready reckoner, supplemented by references to specific and relevant laws and conventions. This would supplement a series of workshops for journalists and lectures on migration and forced migration narratives, the historical and political significance of discourses and reporting on migrants, a photo exhibition and lecture on life in camps and the media representation of images; the bias in migrant reporting and the impact of social media representation of migration on migrant research, among other themes.

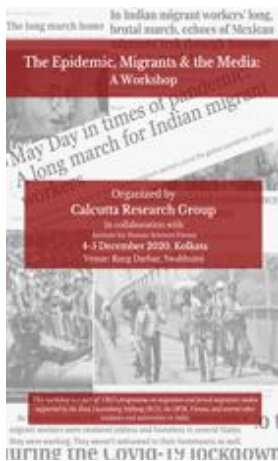
After the Covid-19 crisis began, there were a few alterations made to the program. An internal media committee was constituted, along with four senior journalists as external advisers, to administer three components of the media segment: disbursing a short-term media fellowship to four media fellows, organizing a workshop in December on issues arising from the media representation of migrants during the nationwide lockdown; and contracting one media person to curate a media reader on migrant workers as a ready reckoner for reporters and editors alike.

**A. Media grant.** Four media fellows were awarded grants under the CRG media fellowship program on "Reporting the Migrants in the Time of an Epidemic" on June 20, 2020: Amit Sengupta. 'Forced Migration and Dalits: A Case Study of Delhi, Noida and Western Uttar Pradesh' ([access the report here](#)); Geetika Mishra. 'Inspecting the Breach of Laws and Poor Policy Implementation for the Indian Migrants' ([access the report here](#)); Swati Bhattacharjee and Abhijnan Sarkar. 'A House for Rashida: Where do Migrant Workers of Kolkata Live, and How?' ([access the report here](#)); Debashis Aich 'Pandemic Induced Return of the Migrant Workers: Response of the State Government (WB) ([access the report here](#)).

They were required to submit investigative reports of around 4000-5000 words by September 15, 2020. Due to problems of access in conducting interviews with their respondents due to the pandemic, the fellows requested a deadline extension to October 15, 2020. On September 15,

CRG received their brief 2500-word reports on their work. Their final reports were received on October 15.

B. Another outcome of the media segment was the publication of the first draft of CRG's **Media Reader**, compiled and edited by eminent journalist Bharat Bhushan. Copyright permission was sought from 19 news organizations and media houses for the reproduction of the articles curated by Mr Bhushan. The reader was released at the media workshop and was circulated internally among the workshop participants.



C. **Media Workshop:** CRG's workshop on the theme of "The Epidemic, Migrants and the Media" sought to bring seasoned journalists together with young reporters to explore the role of the media in reporting the migrant crisis. The first workshop planning meeting was held on April 3, 2020 and Rajat Roy's concept note of July 10, 2020, outlined the framework and intent of the program. There were many subsequent virtual planning meetings among the CRG media committee and eminent journalists who lent their critical expertise to planning the workshop. Media practitioners and researchers were invited to apply for the workshop by September 30, 2020.

The media workshop was organized at Swabhumi, Kolkata, on December 4-5, 2020. Due to Covid-related restrictions, it was a closed-door affair with a total of 24 participants and resource persons. The workshop was an intensive and discussion-heavy affair with deliberations on a range of themes. The participating journalists from across the country provided a rich, nuanced tapestry of perspectives on reporting the migrant crisis, from their experiences in covering the migrant workers' long march home from different states, discussing the various manifestations of borders that emerged during this march, assessing the different roles played by the media to mobilize migrants' narratives, the impact of images on the representation of migrants, the depiction of migrants as rights-bearing, agentive subjects in the media, and the narratives of resistance that emerged in the media during the pandemic.

The keynote address by A.S. Panneerselvan of *The Hindu* and *Panos South Asia* was a comprehensive lecture on the decline of the media, followed by a discussion on CRG's previous media readers, setting the stage for the release of the "Media on Migrants in the Time of an Epidemic: A Reader" edited by Bharat Bhushan. There was also the formal book release of "Situating Social Media: Gender, Caste, Protest, Solidarity" edited by CRG members Samata Biswas and Atig Ghosh and the screening of CRG's documentary film "Calcutta: A Migrant City – II".

Day Two saw interesting and interactive sessions on borders and statelessness, the media and the state, images, migrants and the media, and the presentation of the media grantees' reports. The presentations ranged from reportage, news analysis, engagement with visual and social media to literary representations of the migrant crisis. There was a strong audio-visual component to the sessions with the screening of a Bhojpuri song on the migrants' march home, video recordings of migrant workers'

experiences after the lockdown, and a photo montage of migrant workers in Delhi. The closing session provided a valuable European perspective on the refugee and migrant crisis during the virtual panel discussion with Prof. Ruth Wodak (IWM fellow from February to September 2020) and Palestinian journalist Mohammed Hamarsha speaking about media, migrants and the pandemic in Europe (please access it [here](#)). The workshop provided keen insights on the media's role in covering life and livelihood issues faced by migrant workers during the lockdown, highlighting state apathy and the lacuna in labor laws, the currency of images and ethics of representation during the migrant crisis, leading to the sensitization of journalists on the various dimensions of the crisis.

The full report for the workshop can be found [here](#).

### **17. Library and Archive Building**

The CRG library houses a small but highly niche collection of photographs, documents, research papers, audio visual resources, and books on human rights, peace, justice and post-colonial democracy. It also encompasses the Resource Centre on Forced Migration Studies, which receives information from different organizations on human issues with a focus on South Asia.

Due to the pandemic, the CRG library was not open for public use. This, however, allowed the librarian to focus on acquiring new human resources for serving the library. This year saw the acquisition of the Social Sciences division of Project Muse to help researchers and CRG members. A reshuffling of the physical contents of the library took place to bring coherence to the arrangement of books for easy access. A new operating system was acquired to ease work procedures and allow better functionality. KOHA library software is now functional in the library computer systems, with a LINUX operating database. With this, library housekeeping for CRG moves a step forward regarding interoperability of shareable information, import and export of bibliographic data, and legitimate cataloguing.

This year, CRG has done significant work on living archives in relation to Covid-19. To that end, the librarian has worked to create an index of important news articles covering migrants and their crises during this period, marking an important addition to CRG's archives. HTML files comprising niched information on peace, justice, human rights, gender, and social responsibility, have been made in such a way that they can be accessed without internet connectivity. The year also saw the acquisition of new titles to the library, books on issues such as refugee tales from different parts of the country, livelihoods, migration literature, vagrancy laws, and cultural labor. The acquisition of these works adds to the already rich collection that the library houses, ensuring that current and future scholars will not be in want for material to supplement their research interests. Book purchase requirements could be only met partially.

#### **IV. Resources (activities or resources indirectly contributing to the project and project partners)**

1. The Migrant Solidarity Forum convened by CRG with the participation of activists, policymakers, journalists, lawyers, NGO representatives, and round-table discussions that led to a very successful conference on some of the central issues regarding the displacement and forced return of migrant workers which reflects not only the failure of state policies and labor laws but also looks at the assertion and mobilization of solidarity among migrant workers;
2. Public outreach in terms of webinars, public lectures and publications where CRG engaged with universities and institutes across South Asia to garner different perspectives on the relation between the pandemic and forced migration;
3. Friday Lecture on "Economic Sense of the Populists" by Ranabir Samaddar on March 6, 2020;
4. Refugee Watch (issue no. 54) was scheduled for late 2019 but came out in early 2020, and was distributed as a resource among the participants of the November workshop.
5. Preparatory workshops on research methodology in collaboration with University of Delhi and Vidyasagar University (can be found on the [project page](#)) whose learnings led up to the December Teachers' Workshop on "[Research Methodology and Syllabus Making in Migration and Forced Migration Studies](#)" on December 21 and 22, 2020;
6. The Jayanta Dasgupta Memorial Lecture on "[The Slow Poisoning of NREGA: How a Rural Lifeline can be Stifled by a Technocratic Government](#)", 09 October 2020 (find the report [here](#))
7. CRG has also hosted public lectures in the webinar format on the following pertinent issues. All details on the lectures are available on CRG's [website](#) in the section on audio and video resources ([http://www.mcrg.ac.in/CRG\\_Audio\\_Video\\_Resources.asp](http://www.mcrg.ac.in/CRG_Audio_Video_Resources.asp))
  - The Dalit: In Search of a Homeland; September 18, 2020
  - Covid 19 and Migrant Labor: Laws, Policies, Practices; July 30, 2020
  - Redrawn Borders, Redefined Lives; July 08, 2020
  - Public Health Crisis and Borders of an Epidemic Sudden Visibility of Migrant Workers; June 12, 2020

#### **V. Insights from project evaluations: examples of good practice and experienced challenges**

Given the exceptional circumstances of this year and the daunting task of restructuring the program schedule in light of the pandemic, we have drawn many insights and good practices on how to work through unprecedented bottlenecks for organizing workshops, public lectures and conferences, while maintaining proper health and safety standards for CRG researchers, the office staff and the participants.

- a. After the onset of the pandemic, the CRG office's work schedule was changed to a work-from-home (WFH) basis from mid-April for almost two months. The office reopened from June 10 with physical attendance three days a week and WFH on the remaining weekdays till date. Both the library and the office were thoroughly fumigated and sanitized before joining. In the event that anyone contracted the COVID-19 virus in office, it remained closed for some days and only opened again following this fumigation and sanitization process.
- b. There was constant evaluation and stocktaking and several meetings were held for accommodating the various aspects of the IWM program, with review meetings after every public event. There was a big paradigm shift in planning, with many events being shifted to the virtual mode. A webinar committee was constituted to facilitate and review the smooth operations of virtual public lectures, workshops and webinars. These events were very interactive and one segment fed into another, initiating a lot of dialogue and covering significant ground on different aspects of forced migration and the pandemic. The deliberations of one such workshop in September (see project activities table, point 9) culminated in the Teachers' Workshop, which was held on December 21-22 with participation from faculty working on forced migration and displacement from South Asia and Europe.
- c. There was substantial synergy across different program segments. The most recent Refugee Watch issue is a Special Issue in collaboration with South Asia Network for Displacement and Development (SANDD), further enhancing CRG's networks in the South Asian region.
- d. Similarly, CRG's initiative to bring together individuals and institutions working on migrant issues during the pandemic, labor rights activists, policy experts, trade union members, journalists, lawyers and scholars together to constitute the Migrant Solidarity Forum, resulted in an exciting and important virtual plenary session at CRG's Fifth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop and Conference and the creation of a solidarity network that will be extended to the coming year.
- e. Working through the pandemic produced useful insights on new ways of thinking, organizing, and working creatively while also throwing up challenges at the same time. An important example of good practices during the pandemic was the efforts made to ensure that every safety protocol was in place while conducting CRG's three big workshops physically and with virtual and hybrid components under the IWM project: its Fifth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop and Conference on the Global Protection of Migrants and Refugees; the media workshop on the theme of 'The Epidemic, Migrants and the Media' and the Teachers Workshop on 'Research Methodology and Syllabus-Making in Migration and Forced Migration Studies'. An elaborate series of circulars were drafted for the workshop and conference – the largest of the workshops in terms of scale – to ensure compliance regarding these protocols at every step of conference planning and organization. This was accompanied by liaising with the management at each venue to ensure their cooperation in providing a risk-free environment for the events.
- f. Another important insight was the synergy between the CRG forced migration desk and the presenters at the events. A constant emphasis on observing protocols and interaction with participants to ensure their well-being and dealing immediately with any potential crisis situation enabled CRG to its workshops successfully at a time where very few other



organizations were doing so. At the fifth research workshop and conference, for instance, one of the participants complained of a persistent headache, which is also a Covid-19 symptom, and we took the hard decision to send her back home mid-session to ensure that a further crisis did not ensue. Also, the field trip to Kolkata's migrant quarters, which has been an integral element of CRG's workshop and conference, was first converted to a bus trip and had to be cancelled subsequently because of Covid-19 concerns. This constant process of negotiating and decision-making was a hurdle in facilitating smooth operations during the workshops. We sometimes also faced resistance while implementing certain health and safety protocols such as producing Covid-negative certificates and the insistence that masks be worn all the time. There were many dropouts from workshops due to Covid-19 fears or having contracted the virus itself.

- g. The contracted researchers from India covering different aspects of forced migration had to negotiate the lack of mobility and access to the field, which made fieldwork a sometimes impossible task. Similarly, with public libraries and archives closed due to the pandemic, accessing research material was very hard. However, our challenges have been a learning experience for us and we hope to put these learnings to good use in future.
- h. At the IWM, similar lockdown and safety protocols were in place, such as the previously mentioned remote fellowships.

## **VI. Risks (Internal and External)**

After the nationwide lockdown in March, CRG reopened its office premises on June 10 on an alternate day basis while observing safety protocols to the maximum extent possible. To mitigate the risks of commuting to and from the office, it arranged for pick up/drop facilities for all its employees. In spite of all the caution, three of CRG's staff got infected with Covid-19, prompting the rest to go into isolation and quarantine at different junctures of time.

- a. The office had to be closed without prior notice several times, and was reopened only after thorough disinfection. There has been a continuous need to redesign all plans in 2020, with the looming uncertainties of a health emergency. There was no way to predict if it would be possible to hold any workshop or conference physically, hence it was imperative to have a plan of action in case the previous one could not be carried out.
- b. For CRG's flagship November workshop and conference, the Forced Migration Studies Desk had to plan simultaneously for a physical and a virtual event, in case the pandemic did not allow for a public gathering. Several sessions of the workshop and conference had to be made partially and completely virtual – participants had to drop out because they got infected with Covid-19 or had comorbidities that could be fatal had they been exposed to the virus. To minimize the risks, the Desk doubled the number of circulars to those who were coming to attend the workshop and conference, enforcing rules of non-sharing, distancing, regular monitoring, and testing at the slightest symptom. This made

communication cumbersome, but proved crucial in making a safe bubble for the participants for the week they were hosted by CRG.

- c. All international participation had to be shifted to the virtual medium, and sometimes sessions were conducted in a hybrid format of physical and virtual interaction. This came with its own limitations, placing restrictions on clear communication among the speakers and the audience, especially when the speaker was joining virtually.

The plan of expenditure that was developed in the beginning of the year had to be substantially shuffled with strict restrictions on travel and public gatherings. Due to the lockdown, Piya Srinivasan, the Research Associate on the CRG-IWM project could only join in July, leaving very little time for her to develop her own research paper as well as work on the programs. At the IWM, some publications and workshops as well as fellowships had to be postponed.

There were also several factors out of CRG's and the IWM's control and jurisdiction, like the continuously evolving nature of Austrian and Indian central and state governments' Covid-19 protocols. Even in a normal year, migration and forced migration is a difficult subject of research to get approved by the authorities. In 2020, CRG worked on the migrant workers' crises, formed a solidarity forum to bring together activists and other people carrying out interventions and participated fully in critically reviewing the state policies on migration in the time of a pandemic. All of these had to be done with greater prudence this year, given the heightened precarities. Also, there had to be constant revisions and cancellations of flight tickets that had been scheduled for the visiting fellows from South Asia owing to changing rules and each state imposing its own set of protocols. Sudden lockdowns were implemented in pockets of the city depending on the level of infection, and this meant revising staff attendance to allow those falling under 'red zones' to work from home.

The unforeseen fallouts of the pandemic made it difficult to predict the implementation of the very project. However, most of these risks could be circumvented with cooperation from partners and members of CRG.

## **VII. Summaries**

The Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration has inspired a substantial amount of research and engagement on the issues of rights, labor, public health and protection regimes in context of forced migration and displacement in Europe and South Asia. The Calcutta Research Group has been generating academic discussions on migration and postcolonialism in South Asia since its inception, and has been able to diversify into new fields of interest like Public Health and Migrant Labor in India because of its partnership with the IWM.

The CRG-IWM collaborative project aims at knowledge creation and capacity-building in relation to migration and forced migration in Asia, specifically South Asia and its European dimensions.

The pandemic pushed CRG researchers to look at the issue of migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and stateless people from a new perspective as this crisis exacerbated the everyday vulnerabilities of these population groups and what may be termed the “rightlessness” of a large section of society. This year, it also ventured into research on Public Health in relation to migration for the first time. CRG’s three big workshops – the November workshop and conference, the media workshop and teachers workshop – together with the mid-term workshop in June anchored at IWM, alongside numerous meetings, webinars, seminar series, and public lectures provided platforms for presenting scholarly research and discussions. Overall, IWM and CRG’s collective research output explores how debates on migration and statelessness in Asia and Europe intersect and can collectively provide a greater understanding of the faultlines of migration in the 21<sup>st</sup> century of postcolonial politics and global governance.

## **VIII. Annexures**

### **A. Researchers’ short biographies:**

1. The biographies of Contracted Researchers with the CRG-IWM project can be found [here](#).
2. The biographies of researchers on Public Health and Migrant Labor can be found [here](#).
3. The biographies of visiting researchers from South Asia can be found [here](#).
4. The biographies of fellows on Media and the Pandemic can be found [here](#).

### **B. Workshop and Conference Programs:**

1. [Public Health and Migrant Workers: A Symposium](#); August 21, 2020
2. [National Webinar on Migration & the Pandemic Problematique](#), in collaboration with University of Delhi; September 15 & 16, 2020
3. [Pandemic, Migration and the Politics of Life](#), in collaboration with Vidyasagar University; September 24 & 25, 2020
4. [5th Annual Research & Orientation Workshop & Conference on Global Protection of Migrants and Refugees](#); November 16 - 21, 2020
5. [Epidemic, Migrants and the Media](#); December 4 & 5, 2020
6. [Research Methodology and Syllabus Making in Migration and Forced Migration Studies](#); December 21 & 22, 2020
7. Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration; IWM Vienna; June 25-26, 2020

### **C. List of Policies and Practices**

This list has been finalized in December 2020 and the articles have been edited, proofread and sent for print.

- a. Title: Biometrics, Notion of Governmentality and Gender Relations in Rohingya Refugee Camps  
Authors: ShamnaThachamPoyil and Nasreen Chowdhory
- b. Title: Climate, Migration and Disaster-I  
Enframing and Digression: Pandemic, Drought and Migrant Accounts From Western India  
Author: Sohini Sengupta.
- c. Title: Climate, Migration and Disaster: -II  
Living with Floods: Coping with Livelihood Uncertainties in Post-Flood Kerala  
Author: Jyothi Krishnan
- d. Title: (In)visibility of Migrant Workers: Labor, life and Migration
  - i. Invisibility of Deceased International Labor Migrants: Politics of Recognition  
Author: Francis Adaikalam
  - ii. Migrant Workers and the Pandemic: A socio-legal enquiry into the Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act, 1979  
Author: Piya Srinivasan
- e. Title: Pandemic, Public Health and Migrant Workers – I
  - i. Public Health, Migrant Workers and a Global Pandemic: Towards a New Politics of Life  
Author: Iman Mitra
  - ii. Migrants in India’s Health Infrastructure: Ethnography on India’s Frontline Workers  
Author: Ishita Dey
- f. Title: Pandemic, Public Health and Migrant Workers – II
  - i. Pandemics, Public Health and Sanitation Workers in Mumbai: Crisis of Work and Life  
Authors: Mouleshri Vyas and Manish K. Jha.
- g. Title: Media on Migrants: Reports from the Field –I
  - i. Pandemic-induced Return of the Migrant Workers: Response of the State Government (WB)  
Author: DebashisAich.
- h. Title: Media on Migrants: Reports from the Field -II
  - i. Forced Migration and Dalits: A Case Study of Delhi, Noida And Western Uttar Pradesh  
Author: Amit Sengupta.
  - ii. A House for Rashida: Where do Migrant Workers of Kolkata Live and How?  
Authors: Abhijnan Sarkar and Swati Bhattacharjee.
  - iii. Inspecting the Breach of Laws and Poor Policy Implementation for Indian Migrants.  
Author: Geetika Mishra

## Website and Workshop Program Screenshots (December 2020)



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### A PANEL DISCUSSION ON TEACHING MIGRATION IN SOUTH ASIA

a panel discussion on  
**Teaching Migration in South Asia**

**Noor Sanouddin**, University of Peshawar, Pakistan.  
**Amena Mohain**, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.  
**Indralal De Silva**, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka  
**Mujib Ahmad Azizi**, Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit, Afghanistan  
**Arjun Kharel**, Social Science Baha, Nepal  
**Anita Ghimire**, Nepal Institute of Social and Environmental Research, Nepal  
Moderator: **Paula Banerjee**, Calcutta Research Group & University of Calcutta, Kolkata

**DECEMBER 20 | 7:00-8:30 PM**

ORGANISED BY THE  
**CALCUTTA RESEARCH GROUP**

<https://zoom.us/join/registr/f0lrcyqg7q5dX0jMwK00jCqC5M0ae2f6f>

The Present Epidemiological Moment...  
 Watch later | Share

Social Science Baha announces **The Mahesh Chandra Regmi Lecture 2020** by Ranabir Samaddar on *The Present Epidemiological Moment and Bio-Politics*

**CRG PUBLICATIONS ON COVID 19 AND MIGRANT WORKERS**

**Burdens of an Epidemic: A Policy Perspective on Covid-19 and Migrant Labour**

**BURDENS OF AN EPIDEMIC**  
 A POLICY PERSPECTIVE ON COVID-19 AND MIGRANT LABOUR

**Burdens of an Epidemic: A Policy Perspective on Covid-19 and Migrant Workers** comes out close on the heels of *Borders of an Epidemic*. *Borders of an Epidemic* was documentary in nature. *Burdens of an Epidemic* analyses the issue of migrant labour from several dimensions of the epidemic. The purpose of this

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## MAHANIRBAN CALCUTTA RESEARCH GROUP

MIGRATION AND FORCED MIGRATION STUDIES WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS ON SOUTH ASIA AND ITS EUROPEAN-ASIAN DIMENSION (2019-2021)

**Concept Note**

**Researchers & Experts**

**Events & Announcements**

**Public Lectures / Webinars / Audio Visual Materials**

**Reports**

**Publications**

**Disseminations / Resources / Important Links**

**Migration and Forced Migration Studies with Particular Focus on South Asia and its European-Asian Dimension (2019-2021)**

**Concept Note**

**Fifth Research and Orientation Programme in Migration and Forced Migration Studies, 2020**

**A. Background**

1. This project to be conducted by the *Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen (IWM)*, Vienna, aims at knowledge production on migration and forced migration in Asia (with focus on South Asia) as well as the European dimensions of the issues involved. While research and policy advocacy on the European component will be located at the IWM in Vienna, it will partner with the Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (CRG) to develop a full-fledged annual research and orientation programme to be undertaken primarily in South Asia and to be run by CRG in Kolkata. The collaboration between the two institutions will strengthen research and policy analysis at the IWM on issues of migration and forced migration. The programme will also enable IWM to build collaboration with relevant Asian, and particularly South Asian academics and institutions, towards setting up a joint research platform on innovative knowledge production on issues of migration and forced migration.
2. The envisaged series of research activities and workshops will enhance research capacity in South Asia in migration and forced migration studies, facilitate exchange of knowledge and policy expertise between Europe and Asia (in particular) South Asia, and bring together scholars from different disciplines and different regions as well as policy makers and practitioners working on the subject. Vienna is the headquarters of and an important node in several international organizations which play an important role in the global management and governance of policies on migrants and refugees as well as in knowledge production on them (such as the UN, UNHCR, the Human Rights Commission, and organisations such as the IOM and International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)). Besides IWM's network of scholars working on issues of migration and human rights, the Institute also has other scholars contributing to the in-house knowledge production on related issues. In CRG it has

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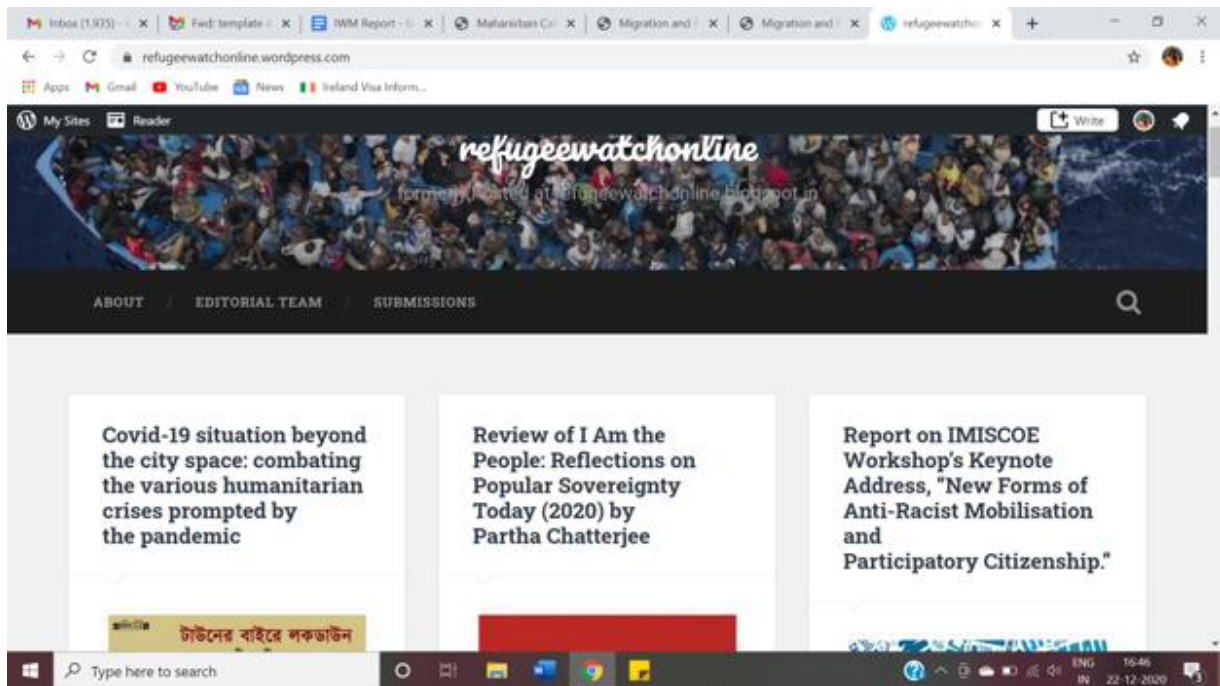
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[www.mcrg.ac.in](http://www.mcrg.ac.in)





[www.refugeewatch.org.in](http://www.refugeewatch.org.in)



<https://refugeewatchonline.wordpress.com/>

Workshop, June 25-26, 2020, 3:00pm (CET)  
The workshop will be held on ZOOM.  
Informations on the Europe-Asia Research Platform: [www.iwm.at](http://www.iwm.at)



# Europe-Asia Research Platform: Forced Migration

## Initiating a new research focus at the IWM

■ Europe has been implicated in streams of contemporary migration, described as the continent's so-called migration crisis arising from the ongoing conflicts in West Asia and other parts of the Asian continent, as well as forced displacement from Africa. Issues around forced migration have also impacted the knowledge structures in social sciences, environmental sciences, area studies, and international relations. Against this background of an „epistemic crisis“ of knowledge, European universities and research centres are now beginning to engage with the „crisis“. Some have taken in scholars at risk, others have opened their doors to refugee students, and a few are already involved in critical migration studies. Yet lacking in this endeavour is the effort to situate this scholarship and debates globally and in relation to the dynamics in the Global South. More specifically, in relation to the Middle East, Asia, or Africa from where most of the migrants arrive in the wake of wars, natural disasters, ecological catastrophes, conflicts and economic decline. The recent COVID-19 pandemic sheds a new light on the contradictions and the fault lines in various interventions, consequences, and decisions by states to monitor and control the flows of migrants. Attention to global dynamics have attained a different urgency and visibility with the COVID-19 pandemic. An understanding of this interlocked situations in the two continents is at the heart of this proposed workshop. This workshop will use researchers' reports from India, Greece and Turkey as an entry point to address the fractured legal geographies producing and reproducing the uneven location of forced migrant labor in cities, in health access, in rights claims, and their entanglements with local, national but also international and supranational institutions.

The workshop will discuss the possibility of setting up a Europe-Asia research platform for the purpose of facilitating explorations, among others, of the various fault lines of race, religion, caste, sexuality, gender and class functioning in the global protection regime for refugees and migrants.

In this context, it will be important to investigate the dynamics of immigrant economies and migrant/refugee industries in Europe and see how contemporary protection mechanisms are entwined with neoliberal capitalism. As such, migrants and refugees are turned from subjects of protection to subjects of development and the cheap and informal labour of refugees and migrants are harnessed to fuel the growth of neoliberal capitalism. The workshop will also provide an opportunity to take stock of the challenges to the global protection system for refugees and migrants, in addition to the new UN-initiated two global compacts for protection of refugees and migrants. Some of the common themes relevant to the goal of joint research platform emerge from factors such as:

- 1) cities of different scale in Asia and Europe are all faced with a growing humanitarian crisis as forced migrants live primarily in inhospitable urban environments;
- 2) there is increased racialisation of migrants and refugees along with securitization, evident in both Europe and Asia;
- 3) increasingly protracted state of displacement, thus minimizing chances of safe return, and consequently increasing statelessness, and the need to examine the conventions on statelessness in this context;
- 4) proliferation of legal categories vis-a-vis forced migrants and access to health
- 5) immigrant economy, migrant industry and the migrant and refugee labour in cities of different scale, and;

6) the contrast between the gendered nature of forced migration and a seemingly homogeneous global protection policy as evinced in the structure of camps, labouring profiles, family burden, access to resources, and personal freedom. The initial workshop of the platform aims to initiate in-depth discussion among a selected group of scholars from Europe and Asia around these topics.

### ORGANIZED BY

IWM, in collaboration with Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group



Workshop, June 25-26, 2020, 3:00pm (CET)  
 The workshop will be held on ZOOM.  
 Informations on the Europe-Asia Research Platform: [www.iwm.at](http://www.iwm.at)



**THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 3:00–6:00PM (CET)**  
**ZOOM**

3:00–3:15  
**Introduction**

3:15–3:35  
**Report on EU Labour and Mobility Regimes of Temporary Work for EU and non-EU Labour Migrants**  
**Neda Deneva**  
 Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Sociology, Babes-Bolyai University  
 Discussant: **Associate Professor Arup Kumar Sen**, Serampore College

3:35–3:55  
**Invisibility of Deceased International Labour Migrants: Politics of Recognition**  
**Francis Adaikalam**  
 Assistant Professor, Loyola College  
 Discussant: **Professor Dona Giorgia**, University of East London

3:55–4:15  
**How Protected are the Refugees: A Comparative Study of the Contemporary States of Germany and India in the Light of the Geneva Convention, 1951**  
**Kusumika Ghosh**  
 Researcher, Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group  
 Discussant: **Sedef Dearing**, ICMPD

4:15–4:30 Break

4:30–4:50  
**Territorial Differentiation of the Refugee Protection in the Aegean Sea**  
**Müge Dalkran**  
 PhD candidate in Area Studies, Middle East Technical University  
 Discussant: **Professor Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury**, Rabindra Bharati University

4:50–5:10  
**Biometrics and the Notion of Governmentality in Rohingya Refugee Camps**  
**Nasreen Chowdhury**  
 Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi  
**Shamna Thacham Poyil**  
 PhD Candidate, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi  
 Discussant: **Professor Shahram Khosravi**, Stockholm University

5:10–5:30  
**Forced Migrants and Public Health**  
**Gonca Savaş Doğan**  
 Humanitarian Aid Specialist  
 Discussant: **Kumar Rana**, Praticchi Trust

5:30–6:00  
**General Discussion**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 3:00–6:00PM (CET)**  
**ZOOM**

3:00–3:15  
**Introduction**

3:15–3:35  
**Forced Displacement and Access to Labour Market: The Case of Gaziantep**  
**Doğus Simsek**  
 Teaching Fellow in Political Sociology, University College London  
 Discussant: Senior Lecturer, **Paolo Novak**, University of London

3:35–3:55  
**Forced Migrants, Gender, and Race in a Satellite City**  
**Meriç Çağlar**  
 PhD Candidate, Gender Studies Department, Central European University  
 Discussant: **Professor Paula Banerjee**, Sanskrit College

3:55–4:15  
**Climate Change, Drought and Migration in Maharashtra**  
**Sohini Sengupta**  
 Assistant Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences  
 Discussant: **Professor Manish Jha**, Tata Institute of Social Sciences

4:15–4:30 Break

4:30–4:50  
**Life After Floods: Hoping with Livelihood Uncertainties in post-Flood Kerala**  
**Jyothi Krishnan**  
 Independent researcher, Kerala  
 Discussant: **Rector Shalini Randeria**, IWM

4:50–5:10  
**Dealing with Illegal Immigrants in Assam**  
**Anjuman Ara Begum**  
 Human rights researcher and women rights activists, Guwahati  
 Discussant: **Professor Samir Kumar Das**, University of Calcutta

5:10–5:40  
**General Discussion**

5:40–6:00  
**Closing Remarks**

