

A two day teachers' workshop on

Research Methodology & Syllabus Making in Migration & Forced Migration Studies

ORGANISED BY THE

CALCUTTA RESEARCH GROUP

IN COLLABORATION WITH

INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SCIENCES, VIENNA

DECEMBER 21 & 22 | KOLKATA

This workshop is part of CRG's programme on Migration and Forced Migration studies supported by the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna & other universities & institutions in India

Research Methodology & Syllabus Making in Migration & Forced Migration Studies

The Calcutta Research Group is holding a two-day workshop on “Research Methodology and Syllabus Making in Migration and Forced Migration Studies”, on 21-22 December 2020 in Kolkata as part of its research and orientation programme in migration and forced migration studies. The workshop will be preceded by a pre-workshop roundtable on 20 December 2020 with speakers from Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. The roundtable will take 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--both. It will also deliberate 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 will involve teachers in social sciences and arts and literature. In that spirit, it will be 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 is to frame a syllabus for a 2 month online refresher course for teachers on refugee and migration studies. The workshop is supported by the Institute of Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, and the entire CRG programme in migration and forced migration studies is a result of the collaboration with the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, IWM, Vienna, and several universities in India.

7.00 -8.30 pm: **Teaching Migration in South Asia** (Public Session)

In this pre-workshop roundtable, we hope to achieve two goals. First, to take stock of how migration and forced migration studies are taught in Colleges and Universities in South Asia--different disciplinary locations, curricula, scopes and constraints. Second, to also think about the importance of teaching this--the politics of pedagogy, the lived reality of this region in flux, the scope and prospects of research, as well as institutional limitations.

Moderator: Paula Banerjee, *University of Calcutta & Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata*

Panellists:

- Noor Sanauddin, *University of Peshawar, Pakistan*
- Amena Mohsin, *University of Dhaka, Bangladesh*
- Indralal De Silva, *University of Colombo & RCSS, Sri Lanka*
- Mujib Ahmad Azizi, *Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit, Afghanistan*
- Anita Ghimire, *Nepal Institute of Social and Environmental Research, Nepal*
- Arjun Kharel, *Social Science Baha, Nepal*

Day One: 21 December 2020

Critical Methods in Migration and Forced Migration Studies

9:00–9:30 am: Registration & Welcome Note

9:00–9:15 am: Registration & Tea

9:15–9:30 am: Welcome note by Byasdeb Dasgupta, *University of Kalyani & President, Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata* and introductory comments by Nasreen Chowdhory, *University of Delhi, Delhi & Vice-President, Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata*

9:30–11:00 am: **Session 1: On Feminist Methods in Migration and Forced Migration Studies**

What is so feminist about studying women's forced migration? Recording women's history of displacement in itself may not be a feminist act, but is so when such an exercise is undertaken for feminist objectives. Feminist objectives presuppose gender as a central category of analysis; question what is recognised as "normal"; serve as a corrective to andro-centric notions by generating new knowledge; accept women's own interpretation of their identities and experiences. How can a feminist methodology be used in studies of forced migration?

Moderator and Introductory note: Paula Banerjee, *University of Calcutta and Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata*

Discussant: Gurmeet Kaur, *Punjab University, Chandigarh*

Panellists:

- Samata Biswas, *The Sanskrit College and University & Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata*
- Ruchira Goswamy, *National University of Juridical Sciences & Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata*

11:00–11:30 am: Tea Break

11:30 am–1:00 pm: **Session 2: Bringing Archive to Life and Living Archive**

Grand narratives were built from archives. With the questioning of the grand narratives came the questioning of their 'historical/ colonial/ governmental' sources. An archive was no longer a repository of dusty moulding documents. Rather, scholars such as Michael Sheringham thought of archives as clutter, anarchic, non-hierarchical disorder. In this newer configuration, a city could be an archive and so could a refugee camp. While the new archives could be chaotic did it still mark a process of compilation, preservation, and juxtaposition? Also, what does it mean to archive a life experience? What is a living archive? These are some of the questions that this session will respond to.

Moderator: Biswajit Mohanty, *Deshbandhu College, University of Delhi, Delhi & Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata*

Discussant: Ibrahim Wani, *University of Kashmir, Srinagar*

Panellists:

- Introductory note by Pradip K Bose, *Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata*
- Utsa Sarmin, *Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata* & Kusumika Ghosh, *Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata*
- V. Ramaswamy, *Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata*
- Rajat Kanti Sur, *Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata*

1:00-2:00 pm: Lunch

2:00-3:30 pm: **Session 3: Uses of Statistics for Critical Research on Migration and Forced Migration, Census, NSS, and Uses of Big Data**

Data centres are indicators of new modes of governance, which inhere some of the old modes of governance. Data management in India does not belong to purely private domains of data service providers and IT giants. Data governance draws from experiences of the postcolonial Indian state in dealing with the society, population groups, security needs, welfare needs, and territorial management. We can refer to the huge volume of data generated, processed, interfaced, retrieved in India in the context of public welfare and security programmes and institutions, such as NREGA, Aadhar, NSSO, climate-related information, insurance, SEBI, giant public centre banks (such as the State Bank of India), National Crime Records Bureau, and other bodies. What role can such data and big data play in addressing the issues and concerns of migrants, and in 'governing' them?

Moderator: Iman K Mitra, *Shiv Nadar University, Noida & Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata*

Discussant: Udai Kumar Shaw, *Banarhat Kartik Oraon Hindi Government College, North Bengal*

Introductory Note: Ned Rossiter, *Western Sydney University, Australia*

Panellists:

- Sabir Ahamed, *Pratichi Trust & Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata*
- Ritajyoti Bandyopadhyay, *Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Mohali*

3:30-4:00 pm: Tea Break

4:00–5:30 pm: **Session 4: Innovative Methods of Research** (Public Session)
Drawing from two discussions on pedagogy in the recently concluded Annual Workshop and Conference, this session looks into innovative methods of research in migration and forced migration studies. It explores border as a method, the ethics of militant research and the ethical imperative upon the researcher to undertake an activist position, the urban question as a question of migration and the importance of mapping exercises.

Moderator: Lydia Potts, *University of Oldenburg, Germany*

Discussant: Saima Farhad, *University of Kashmir, Srinagar*

Panellists:

- Sandro Mezzadra, *University of Bologna, Italy*
- Giorgio Grappi, *University of Bologna, Italy*
- Ayse Caglar, *University of Vienna & Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna*

Day Two: 22 December 2020

Refugees and Migrants and the Registers of Arts and Literature –
A Syllabus Making Exercise

9.15–9.30 am: Introductory comments on the draft syllabus by Samata Biswas,
The Sanskrit College and University & Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata

9:30–11:00 am: **Session 5: The Impossibility of Politics –Itinerant Situations in Arts and Literature** (Public Session)

During war, famine, riots, in the midst of massive population flows, political upheavals and coercive state apparatus, what happens to the itinerant? What happens to people on the fringes of societies, the criminal, the lunatic and the forgotten?

Moderator: Atig Ghosh, *Visvabharati University, Shantiniketan & Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata*

Discussant: Subarna Mondal, *The Sanskrit College and University, Kolkata*

Introductory note: Ranabir Samaddar, *Distinguished Chair on Migration and Forced Migration Studies, Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata*

Panellists:

- Subhoranjan Dasgupta on “Mother Courage and Her Children”, *Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata*
- Oishik Sircar on “Toba Tek Singh”, *Jindal Global University, Sonapat*
- Brett Neilson on photographs, *Western Sydney University, Australia*

11:00-11:30 am: Tea Break

11:30 am-1:00 pm: **Session 6: Global Lives and World Literature: Can Migrant and Refugee Literature be National?** (Public Session)

How do identities define the nationality of a literature? What politics of belonging shapes and moulds how we understand refugee and migrant literature, which identities are invoked and which suppressed in the conditions that produce world literature(s)?

Moderator: Kaustubh Mani Sengupta, *Bankura University, Bankura*

Discussant: Babita Verma, *Laxmibai College, University of Delhi, Delhi*

Panellists:

- Purna Banerjee, *Presidency University, Kolkata*
- Imran Ayata, *Germany*
- Mohamed Shafeeq, *Manipal Centre for Humanities, Manipal*

1:00-2:00 pm: Lunch

2:00-3:30 pm: **Session 7: Nineteenth Century as the Colonial Century of Migration**

The long nineteenth century did not merely see extraordinary colonial expansion—it also displaced the indigenous and forced the colonised into mobility—in search of livelihoods—to different corners of the globe. In texts written during the period as well as those seeking to reconstruct it a hundred years later, migration induced by colonialism finds centre stage.

Moderator: Indira Chakaraborty Bhattacharya, *St. Xavier's University, Kolkata*

Discussant: Francis Adaikalam, *Loyola College, Chennai*

Panellists:

- Samata Biswas on "Sea of Poppies", *The Sanskrit College and University & Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata*
- Samita Sen on "Kuli Kahini", *University of Cambridge, UK & Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata*

3:30-4:00 pm: Tea Break

4:00-5:30 pm: **Session 8: Refugee Literature(s), Histories, Identities** (Public Session)

How do historians resort to refugee literature in order to fill lacunae in historiography? What happens when the figure of the refugee litterateur is mediatised as refugee—where does the intersection of identity, community and politics reside in the creation of memoir, history, autobiography and fiction?

Moderator: Shalini Randeria, *Rector, Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna*

Discussant: Tista Das, *Bankura University, Bankura*

Panellists:

- Keyvan Allahyari, *University of Melbourne, Australia*
- Anwesha Sengupta, *Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata*

5:30–6:30 pm: Concluding Session

5:30–6:10: Summarising the two-day discussion by Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, *Rabindra Bharati University & Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata* and formation of a working group to initiate an online course for teachers.

6:10–6:20: Concluding remarks by Ranabir Samaddar, *Distinguished Chair on Migration and Forced Migration Studies, Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata*

6:20–6:30: Vote of Thanks by Kusumika Ghosh, *Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata*
