

**Report  
on  
Public Lecture 'Borders and Mobility', 05 April 2021**

Speaker: Ranabir Samaddar, Distinguished Chair in Migration and Forced Migration Studies, CRG

Moderator: Nasreen Chowdhory, Delhi University, Vice-president, CRG

The lecture commenced with the mention of the book 'The Postcolonial Age of Migration' and its conceptual context on migratory flows. In the first section of the lecture the concept of border and its contradictory implications as a cartographic enclosure of delimitation and the role of border forces, border check points were discussed. Borderland was highlighted as a frontier of contact and interaction between people from different walks of life, in various forms be it the rivers, mountains, valleys, seas across the globe.

The second part of the discussion elaborated on mobility and its various registers, bringing out the crucial role of borders as an indicator of governance of people's lives. It was stressed that mobility is the attribute that becomes prominent through migration and how the modern borders reflect the disciplining of masses. The importance of urban planning and the role of integrated border management were discussed with focus on the contradictions between the perception of border and regulatory zones.

The last section of the lecture dealt with the theme of 'borders, mobility and our histories' where Ranabir Samaddar spoke about the emerging issues and conflicts related to border regulations, immigration controls, surveillance, confinement, circulation, movement which are temporarily solved with the advent of modern political society, where citizenship, territoriality, borders, and sovereignty were combined on the template of the modern nation states. The discussion came to a close with emphasis on governmental reasoning, economic rationality and the attempts to secure perpetual peace through compacts among stable identities, that propagate the phrases, "to live dangerously", "think dangerously", because borders not only produce mobility, they often make people's knowledge and understanding of freedom inadequate.

A brief question-answer session followed at the end of the lecture. Stress was laid on whether the pandemic has created a paradigm shift in the perception of borders or not? It was mentioned that although there has been no paradigm shift in the concept of borders, since the imposition of lockdown, the idea of borders was reactivated and mobility became a much debated matter and has affected the response of government to migrants culminating into a crisis of employment, the threats of border, expulsion looming large.

There were 13 Panelists and 71 Participants attended the lecture.

The YouTube and Facebook links for the video of the lecture are given below:

YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d521zQJyDms&t=682s>

Facebook -

<https://www.facebook.com/MahanirbanCalcuttaResearchGroup/videos/773447756615579>