

**CRG's Research and Orientation Programme in Migration and Forced Migration Studies
(In collaboration with RLS, IWM, and Other Universities and Institutions in India)**

ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING

26-27 January 2021; Venue: Ras Manch, Swabhum, Kolkata 700054

DAY-1: 26 JANUARY 2021

In the inaugural session, Byasdeb Dasgupta, President, Calcutta Research Group, delivered the welcome address.

This was followed by an introduction to the planning meeting by Ranabir Samaddar, in which he gave a detailed description of the research activities of the CRG. He underscored the achievement of the CRG team in conducting many seminars, workshops and conferences, even as it had to work under trying condition and had to adapt to new and difficult modes of academic functioning forced upon the institution by the situation of a global pandemic. He pointed out that the publication line-up of the CRG for 2020 has been impressive as well.

The second session was on the six proposed themes for the *Sixth Winter Workshop and Conference* scheduled to be held from 15–20 November 2021. Manish K. Jha chaired the session and Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury introduced the six proposed themes of the Workshop. When the floor was opened for discussion, a number of participants present pointed out that a more gender oriented framework was needed for these themes and at least two members insisted that the issue of statelessness should be brought in more explicitly as part of the themes. It was also pointed out that the questions of economy needed to be made part of the deliberations while discussing the subject-formation of refugees and migrants. Likewise, the theme of labour migrants had to be explored further for the workshop.

However, it was agreed upon that, given the exigencies of the world in these times, one will have to move away from some of the earlier theoretical formulations—not to reject them but to reformulate new possibilities, even as we retain the insights gained from earlier formulations. Methodologically, the best way of doing this is to concentrate on historical experiences, for they are, in these embattled times, the likely sites of new theoretical inquiries, novel subject-formations.

The third session on *Annual Research Programme of 2021* was chaired by Sibaji Pratim Basu. K.M. Parivelan acted as the discussant and effectively summarized the deliberations in this session. A list of “Ten focal areas of research in 2021” had been pre-circulated among the attendees and during this session they were discussed threadbare. It was also pointed out that not all the ten themes will be taken up for research; the selection of research themes will be out of these ten themes. Some restructuring or rephrasing of the themes was suggested, but most crucially it was argued that the last research theme, i.e. “The Long 2020”, be treated as the overarching theme of the research in 2021. It was pointed out that in many senses, the year 2020 had compelled us to revisit many of our theories and rework many of our preconceived notions. As was pointed out, the year 2020 may be looked upon as *long* in two senses: first, in the historical sense of how, say, Giovanni Arrighi has looked at the twentieth century or Eric Hobsbawm at the nineteenth century. That is, in terms of the long unfolding of historical trends and experience that shape and drive a particular period of study. But what if history is not repeating itself, in the Deleuzian sense? That is each repetition is a new

beginning. The adjective *long* may be understood in this second sense too. Also the “long” may be in the sense of projecting an event into the future by way of looking into the past, a kind of exercise into “future anterior” – an event of the future past – a futuristic exercise though in the form of excavating the past. Probably, it is through a conjoint consideration of these two senses that a holistic research approach to ‘the long 2020’ should be framed. Again it was pointed out that statelessness should be one of major research themes.

DAY-2: 27 JANUARY 2021

The fourth session was on *teachers’ workshop and CRG’s media programme*. It was chaired by Atig Ghosh of Viswa-Bharati University with discussants Samata Biswas from The Sanskrit College and Rajat Kanti Sur from Calcutta Research Group. The deliberations were summarised by Kaustubh Mani Sengupta of Bankura University and Gopal Krishna of Toxic Watch, Patna. This session recapitulated the discussions in the previous teachers’ workshop in 2020 and in the last planning meeting for the online programme for teachers. The general consensus was that it would not be possible to come up with a full-fledged course for scholars on teaching migration studies in line with the University Grant Commission guidelines. CRG will, instead, come up with an online course for teachers. The proposal for this course highlights the need to strike a balance between innovation and practicality while formulating it. It also speaks about the importance of understanding the basic concepts in migration studies and other associated realities, such as the ideas of circulation of labour and commodities, the rural-urban divide, and return migration to name very few. The house made suggestions about including teachers from the plus-two school level as participants in such workshops and to devise ways to try and accommodate the UGC guidelines while formulating the syllabus and the structure of an online course. The idea of material incentives in the form of credited publications from this course was also suggested to attract newer participants and young scholars.

The second half of this session focussed on CRG’s media activities through 2020. After a short recapitulation of the activities, one of the suggestions for this year’s work around the need to revisit the Bangladesh refugee crisis during the Bangladesh Liberation War on the occasion of its fiftieth year, 2021 in the form of a study to find out about the lives in the refugee camps and deaths due to cholera and also violence caused by the factional fights. The aim of the study should also focus on understanding how the refugees went back to the new-born Bangladesh. Other proposals included the study of solidarity communities that emerged during the pandemic and the lockdown. Other suggestions included research on government level health workers who provided services during the lockdown and on an analysis of the available data on returnee migrants and their re-employment opportunities. One problem highlighted during this session was the highly self-censoring nature of print media. Suggestions here included the possibility of a media poll in 2021 with as many as 1000 journalists in two to three rounds. This poll can address the questions of the sudden disappearance of migrant workers from mainstream media and the opinions of the government on the apparent relief that has been extended to migrants.

The fifth session focussed on (a) *the translation work*, (b) *the task of publishing a Law Reader and (c) preparing audio-visual material for instruction*. The session was chaired by Nasreen Chowdhury of the University of Delhi. Rajat Kanti Sur and Samata Biswas took part in the discussion. The summarization was done by Anamika Priyadarshini of Centre for Catalysing Change, Patna. The topic of discussion was based on the two translations of CRG’s work, *Borders of an Epidemic* and *Burdens of an Epidemic* in Hindi and Bengali. The translated material has been to the publishers. The translation of the Bengali book will be published from Progressive Publishers, and the Hindi version

of the book will be published by Aakaar books. The articles of the law reader have got authors' permissions. Now the editors (Dr. Oishik Sircar and Dr Sara Dehm) have to obtain permissions from the respective journals and the manuscript will be submitted to Routledge by the end of February.

The second part of the discussion was on the audio visual material on instruction that CRG has produced. Apart from the uploaded theme lectures of the winter workshop, CRG has produced two documentary films in last two years: *Calcutta Migrant City* (2018) and the other being *Tale of a Migrant City* (2019). The problems highlighted regarding the making of the two films were time and budget constraints. The second film was screened and it was suggested by many that it should be included as a part of the online course for teachers which would be developed.

The sixth – the post lunch - session was on *CRG's programme of building a living archive, mapping exercise, other creative exercises such as the possibility of building a photo archive.* The session was chaired by Samata Biswas with discussant Shreya Ghosh of the Jawaharlal Nehru University. The CRG website hosts a living archive of news, opinions and analyses of the march of migrant workers across different parts of the country. It was pointed out that the main problem with the archive pertained to its dissemination. Suggestions were made to introduce a vernacular version of this archive to widen its reach. An annotated public catalogue can also be made with hyperlinks to give people more access. It was mentioned that regarding the mapping exercise, CRG has undertaken the task of mapping IDPs in India in the past, but the proposed new exercise will be using maps, geo-data, images and illustrations to plot migration flows. Concerns were raised regarding this proposal as it was thought that this could lead to the opening of a surveillance space making migrants more vulnerable, and hence the exercise should be carried out with extreme caution. The last part of this session focussed on the proposal of hosting a photo exhibition on different aspects of migration. Comments from the house added insights about the possibility of CRG commissioning photographs for an exhibition. Another suggestion that added value to this proposal was holding these exhibitions at relatively lesser-known and rather unconventional venues.

The seventh session – the final session - was on *possibilities of building larger collaboration with various institutions.* The session was conducted in a hybrid mode with CRG's partners and other invitees joining in from different parts of the world. It was chaired by Paula Banerjee and the deliberations were summarised by Anwesha Sengupta of the Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata. This session discussed the possible means of strengthening collaborations with CRG's partners and making new partnerships. The session highlighted the need to ensure greater participation in the Annual Winter Workshop of scholars and activists from various parts of Asia, ways to strengthen the Europe-Asia platform of migration and forced migration studies through joint publications in journals, other joint publications, and a mid-year orientation camp of young scholars and solidarity activists from Europe, South Asia and South-East Asia. There was also discussion on the need for greater participation in the IASFM though proposing panels in the IASFM conferences, ensuring collaboration with research institutions in Eurasian countries like Turkey, and planning joint research projects, and exchanging information. Participants in this session appreciated the initiative of CRG to reach out to other institution and make the programme a joint platform of several activities. They also promised to help CRG in its efforts to build a larger collaborative network.

The eighth session was the closing session. Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury chaired the session. He highlighted the key points emerging out of the deliberations of two days and brought out the main focus of the academic programme of the institution for the year 2021 aptly coined in the phrase, "long 2020". The vote of thanks was offered by Rajat Kanti Sur, a CRG research associate.

Annexure-I

Session Notes on the Annual Planning meeting for the Research and Orientation Programme in Migration and Forced Migration 2021 26-27 January 2021, Ras-Manch, Swabhumi, Kolkata

(Introductory notes to the sessions formed the bases of the discussion. They are appended at the end of the report. These notes are to be read along with the report.)

Session I: Introductory session

1. On behalf of CRG, I take this opportunity to place on record - our unstinted appreciation of the work done by the Desk and its members individually. Likewise, CRG's appreciation is for our office colleagues, and finally, CRG's senior members who volunteered to take burdens of the programme in various ways.

- a) It was not easy as CRG, without any notice, had to close down in March. We had to take into account, immediately, the emerging new situation - institute changes in programme design, mode of work, method of reaching out, but above all engaging with urgency in conceptual exercise to adjust our ideas to the fast-developing scenario.
- b) The situation was made particularly difficult as all four desk members were new to CRG as full-time members of the academic staff - two had joined in early March and the rest two could join only months later owing to the lockdown. It speaks of the adaptability and enthusiasm of our young colleagues that they rose to the situation, the challenges of a completely new environment, the pressing demands of academic work, and CRG's rigorous schedule. If CRG has earned a name for itself as a creative organisation working in the frontier areas of select themes, a great measure of this is due to them.
- c) The initiative to prepare and publish two online reports on migrant workers in the time of the pandemic ('Borders of an Epidemic' and 'Burdens of an Epidemic') was a great mark of our adaptability. These two reports circulated and were discussed widely. They set the tone for our subsequent work on the 'Long 2020' on which CRG will work next year, in earnest.
- d) Likewise, the creation of a 'Living Archive on Covid-19 and Migrant Workers' was noteworthy. The work on the said archive has to be continued. All contributed to the building of the archive with index, classification of the archived material in different categories like visual, news reports, etc.
- e) Through the year-long work, CRG was able to establish contacts with new scholars and media activists, who will add to CRG's human resources in the coming year(s).
- f) However, all these would not have been possible without able, and more importantly collective leadership. CRG members came forward, attended meetings - uninterrupted and at odd hours, checked manuscripts, contributed to collective reports without losing time, formed working groups, helped the desk staff, and responded to persistent demands from the leadership.
- g) The webinar committee, the task force for the winter workshop, the media working group, and the working group for the teachers' workshop, and the team to produce a documentary in the Corona condition, were some of the examples of the resolve shown by CRG. Equally important was the patience and discipline of the CRG staff. Again it was not easy to open the

office in June, put in place health safety protocols, observe them, and continue the work, and finally hold the winter workshop through a mix of the physical setting, virtual mode and mixed-mode. The experiences of the webinar series were useful, and the webinar committee helped in holding the workshop. CRG took particular care in putting a health safety system in place for the programmes. Unfortunately, four of our colleagues fell ill and we are happy that they have recovered. We wish them a complete recovery. Welcome to them as they are back among us.

- h) Finally, the library functioned and served our programmes well with our new colleague in charge.

2. But while we can justifiably take satisfaction at our success, and rejoice, few minuses too emerged. We hope this meeting will discuss them. These are noted below:

- a) We were not rigorous with some of the necessary follow up tasks. At times we were not sufficiently and intellectually engaged with the emerging tasks. One instance of this was the lack of a plan to make use of the 'Living Archive' which we built up through the year.
- b) Our publication programme is in a mess. The absence of a publications committee cost us. Also, our delay in the scheduled delivery of papers was partly responsible. There was also inadequate information among the winter workshop participants and other researchers about our publications programme.
- c) The website updating was unable to meet the demands of time.
- d) Remedial measures were not taken to avoid the predictable logjam in December (reports, publications, etc. all to be prepared in one month), which was severe last year.
- e) Finally, there were few lapses in observing safety rules leading to depletion of staff strength during our programmes. CRG observed, by and large, these norms. They need to be maintained with strictness as the pandemic is not over, and there is always a chance of the second wave of infection.

3. However, the plus easily outweighs the minus. At the same time, we have to be alert to our deficiencies and ensure that we improve our work in 2021.

Session 2: Note on the Winter Workshop and Conference, 16 - 21 November 2020

Organizing last year's winter workshop and conference was both a challenge and an opportunity. It was a challenge largely because the pandemic made our physical presence at the office and meetings irregular and in the early period of the lockdown, impossible. It made planning and readjusting our plans according to constantly changing situations exceptionally difficult. We also had colleagues who were infected with the virus and were off from office work for a considerable period of time. This delayed our preparations as much as forced us to operate within a series of hitherto unexperienced constraints.

Fortunately thanks to our robust team effort, we were able to overcome the constraints and difficulties - now with the benefit of hindsight, can we say with reasonable degree of success. Notwithstanding the pandemic, 19 participants attended the workshop while there were as many as 7 resource persons. In all 39 participants attended the conference. The new reality of the pandemic in a sense compelled us to reorient the module themes and conference panels in a much more self-reflexive manner. Newer themes like public health, practices of solidarity with migrants and

refugees, migrant labour as precarious labour, statelessness, etc., emerged as subjects of critical engagement. For, we found ourselves utterly unable to continue with the same tools and paradigms, frameworks and policies. If I am to sum up in brief the points for discussion today, may I submit that such reorientations were felt necessary in three major directions -

1. Do the global pandemic and the concomitant responses in terms of protection of the migrants from the municipal, national, and global multilateral agencies reinforce the already existing inequalities along race, class, ethnic and gender lines and/or introduce newer intersectionalities? In a sense, this year's programme was an exercise in mapping the social impact of the pandemic on the migrants.
2. Is there greater scope for more critical reflection on the mainstream political organizations in the context of this crisis? One thread that emerged from the discussion is that the mainstream political institutions abandoned their scrutinizing role and were found toothless in face of various steps that had failed in their tasks of protecting the migrants. How did the crisis take away from them their role as the critical monitoring agency of protection? This also brought to our attention two interrelated trends: First, the crisis set off a new phase of legal activism and a number of jurists and legal activists felt it necessary to take a fresh look at various laws. Secondly, we also noticed that the pandemic triggered the formation of a number of solidarity initiatives across the country and elsewhere. We had a separate session with the Migrants' Solidarity Network. It is important to refocus our attention on these organizations and initiatives beyond the domain of conventional political and for that matter, civil society organizations.
3. There was also the sense that the crisis had given the powerful and powers that be the opportunity of eroding from within various institutions with high pitched propaganda and rhetoric. The decay of the institutions of protection of refugees and migrants was one of the central themes of our discussion. Is there any way to redefine populism while making it more sensitive to protection?

If the global crisis of pandemic compelled us to reorient our catalogue of themes, it also gave us the opportunity of improvising newer ways of communication and research. Many of our sessions were held online in order to accommodate our predominantly overseas resource persons, friends and well-wishers. There was greater emphasis on visual medium and various interactive modes that allowed discussions, audio visual presentations, e-interactions and so forth.

You will kindly notice that the suggested topics of the six modules of this year's workshop have been partially changed. The purpose of this reorientation is twofold: (i) the topics of last year were in place for three years; and there was a need to engage with the overriding theme of protection from new angles and bring in other issues not dealt or dealt inadequately in previous years; and (ii) the need to engage with the new reality of the pandemic under the overarching concern of protecting the migrants and refugee. With these two aims in mind we have suggested the following six topics:

- a. Protection and punishment: race, caste, migration, and policing; (this will include issues of screening, deportation, detention, and protection; global situation and specific situations; exclusion and differential inclusion; Court rulings)
- b. Access to public provision and distribution of food, public health, and education for refugees and migrant workers including undocumented migrant workers

- c. Refugees and migrants as political subjects - the phenomenon of solidarities, and alliance building
- d. Ethics of care and protection (as ideology and an ensemble of practices)
- e. Migration, law, and critical jurisprudence, in which legal anthropology will be an important component
- f. Envisioning protection in the light of the experiences of 2020

We know we will have to walk many more miles in order to effectively respond to the continuously unfolding scenario. We are open to your suggestions and advice.

Session 3: Note on CRG's research agenda in 2020

It is important to note at the outset that CRG's annual research agenda took a dramatic turn in 2020 in the wake of the pandemic, the lockdown and the migrant crisis throughout South Asia. This has in a sense stood in good stead for CRG in this turbulent time and had laid the foundation to move ahead creatively and in its annual research programme. From the beginning, this research agenda and research findings are tied with the workshop and conference. We need to further develop synergy between our orientation activities (through the workshop and other means) and our research particularly in view of the lessons of the pandemic. In this perspective, we suggest the following themes as CRG's annual research agenda. It is not necessary or possible that all these themes can be taken up. Some will be taken up, some may be themes of lectures and symposium, and some may be taken up in the following year/s:

- a) Precarious Conditions and the legality/Illegality and visibility/invisibility divide of migrants and refugees with special reference to refugee and migrant labour
- b) Unequal Care, unequal protection, and unequal rights
- c) Lawless oceans and seas: fishermen, migrants, and boat peoples
- d) Care during the pandemic: cooperation, solidarity, and justice
- e) Pandemic, economic restructuring, and migrant labour
- f) Public health, education, and migrants and refugees
- g) Cities, migrants, citizens, and aliens; sanctuary cities
- h) Covid-19 jurisprudence
- i) Bangladesh refugee crisis in 1971
- j) The long 2020

- "The Long 2020": In many senses the year 2020 has compelled us to revisit our theories, concepts and policies. It is important that we take stock of this. Also the impact of 2020 requires to be seen in the long term. Therefore the idea of "long 2020" will inform both the workshop and the conference and CRG's specific research agenda;
- The research programme will be held in collaboration with RLS, IWM, and several other partners, and CRG will not only learn from their research programmes, but also will aim towards realising the possibility of joint research articles, comparative studies, and joint publication. The spread of research themes and papers is not a load but an asset.

Session 4: Media Programme and Teachers' Online Workshop

Review of Teacher's Online Workshop 2020

After a series of collaborative online workshops with different institutions (Netaji Satabarshiki Mahavidyalaya, Sivanath Sastri College, Deshbandhu College and Delhi University, Vidyasagar University) CRG hosted a two-day Teachers' Workshop on Research Methodology and Syllabus Making, on 21 and 22 December 2020, at Swabhumi, Kolkata. This was preceded by a pre-workshop roundtable on 'Teaching Migration in South Asia', with university teachers and researchers from Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Pakistan reflecting upon the situation of migration studies in their countries, as well as the lack of existing academic engagement. The first day of the workshop had four sessions on feminist research methodology, creating and researching the archives, use of statistical methods in research and innovative methods of research (such as border as method, militant mode of research, the city as a research node). While titled research methodology, the sessions explored different methods that could be used to understand questions of livelihood, nation making, space-making and reaction and interpretation of data related to migrants, especially migrant workers--across diverse conditions.

The second day's sessions were titled 'Registers of Migrants and Refugees in Literature and the Arts' saw engaged discussions about itinerant situations in politics, global lives and world literature, the nineteenth century as the colonial century of migration, and subaltern identities in refugee narratives. With multiple hybrid and public sessions, the day ended with a short meeting on a proposed online course on migration and refugee studies, for teachers. Participants gave their opinions about issues and concerns that need to be addressed in the course, as well as technicalities.

Review of the media programme, 2020

1. Four selected media short term fellows worked on the various aspects of the lives of migrant workers in the backdrop of the ongoing pandemic. The fellows submitted their papers duly and after discussing these at the workshop the papers are now in the process of being published in CRG's journal Policies and Practises (PP).
2. Despite severe constraints imposed on all owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing lock down, the Media Workshop was held with participants (both journalists and scholars) coming from Kolkata and other parts of the country.
3. A Media Reader, on the topic of Migrant Workers in the time of Pandemic, was prepared with detailed, insightful and informative pieces grouped in six sections. The draft copy was released during the media workshop for limited circulation. Dr. Bharat Bhusan, the Editor of the Media Reader, is preparing the Book Proposal.
4. It was felt that more attention should be given to small community-based news channels/portals etc. that are working at subterraneous level.

Proposed media related activities in 2021

This year more stress would be given to the media fellowship programme. It would be followed up with a two-day Media Workshop and a photo exhibition.

1. Following are some research themes proposed for the media fellows:
 - a. This year is the 50th anniversary of the Bangladesh Liberation war. During the war, around 10 million people were forced to migrate and seek temporary shelter in India. A study could

be taken up to find out the life in the refugee camps, the deaths due to cholera and other enteric diseases, deaths due to violence caused by the factional fights and perpetrated by other elements, also, how the refugees went back after the war to newly born Bangladesh within a short spell of time.

- b. The forced (?) rehabilitation of the Rohingya refugees, from Cox's Bazar to the Bhashan Island in Bay of Bengal, has raised several questions on the role of the State and the international humanitarian agencies. One of the focuses of the media activities for 2021 should be on these aspects.
- c. The pandemic gave rise to several solidarity initiatives taking care of migrant workers. Apart from civil society organisations, local clubs, municipal councillors, small groups of people (private or government employees) played a vital role. A study could be conducted on the later developments of how these small organisations linked up with one another and spread their areas of work.
- d. Besides doctors/nurses engaged in hospitals (run by both government and private players), there are other health workers, who worked at the block and Gram Panchayat or local municipality level, who were the frontline workers in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic with limited resources. Like in the case of ASHA workers, they faced the brunt of the epidemic most. This could be investigated.
- e. The role of the social media during the pandemic was important. It has been noticed that the migrant workers also made use of the social media in a big way to connect with various civil society organisations/political leaders of their home areas/ relatives and friends seeking help and obtaining that. A thorough study of the social media to map out the areas covered and methods opted for creating connectivity between the migrant workers and the would-be benefactors could be taken up.
- f. The migrant workers' return to home was not smooth. In many cases they were barred from returning to their village homes, lest they infect the villagers. How the migrants were received by the villagers/ their family members, and how the society (including the political parties) perceived that phenomena through the optics of the media, are to be looked into.
- g. An analysis of the available data on the returnee migrant workers and their reemployment will be necessary. The Supreme Court had asked the Governments to start registering the migrant workers as per the Inter State Migrant Workers Regulatory. Act (1979). Also, the government (both the central and the state) are to ensure that the migrant workers are given alternative jobs at home state, and if they do return to their workplace, then adequate monitoring be introduced to give them protection in terms of housing, proper wages etc. One needs to check out if that is happening at all or not.

2. A two-day Media Workshop on the subject of Migrant Workers and the Media will be organised in November 2021.

3. A photo-exhibition can be held on some of the key themes of the subjects under study should be held. The curator can be a reputed and experienced professional photojournalist. While the photographers will retain the copyrights, CRG would like to have a digitised copy of the selected photographs for the CRG archive.

Suggestion: It is proposed to form a Committee as in the previous year to do the detail planning and look after the day-to-day progress of the work under the Media Programme.

Session 5: Report on Translations, Law Reader, and reporting on the audio-video materials for instruction

Report of Bengali Translation/publication

1. Translation work of Borders of an Epidemic (inclusive of Burdens of an Epidemic) into Bengali has been completed.
2. Now, editing is going on for each paper included in that book. Half of the editing job is over. For want of laptop loaded with Bengali font (in January,'21) the editing has been delayed a bit. Now, it is hoped that the editing will be over by 15 February,'21.
3. An agreement has been concluded with Progressive Publishers for bringing out the book
4. Already part of the MS has been delivered to the publisher.
5. The printing and publication of the book will be done before 15 April, 2021.

Report on the Hindi Translation and publication

1. CRG has taken the initiative to translate and publish its two most important publications in 2020 (Borders of an Epidemic and Burdens of an Epidemic) also in Hindi. The initiative was taken in August 2020. Anamika Priyadarshini and Gopal Krishna are editors of the Hindi translation of the book. They are writing a joint editorial for the book. There would be 15 chapters.
2. The finalization of the contracts with the translators of the book ('Borders of an Epidemic' was translated by Ashok Jha and Burdens of an Epidemic was translated by Pranav K Jha) happened in the month of September 2021 and October 2021.
3. The translators submitted their manuscripts to the editors of the Hindi volume and CRG by the end of November 2021.
4. The editors had conversations with several Hindi publishers and K.K. Saxena, owner and proprietor of Aakar Books (Mayur Vihar, New Delhi-110091, website: <https://www.aakarbooks.com/>) has ready to publish the book. The contract was signed on 17 th December 2020. The MSS of the book has been delivered to the editors in the first week of January.
5. The publisher has promised to publish the book by the end of April 2021.

Report on the Publication of Law Reader

1. CRG has also planned to publish a Law Reader this year. Oishik Sircar from the Jindal Global Law School and Sara Dehm from the University of Technology Sydney edited the reader. The proposed title of the reader is 'Refugee, Law and Politics: A Southern Reader'.
2. The Law Reader will have five sections:
 - a. The ideas of a refugee
 - b. The politics of presentation and determination
 - c. Jurisdictional orders and borders
 - d. Zones of detention
 - e. The images of performances of displacement.
3. 22 scholars and experts on refugee law (apart from the editors) from South & Central Asia, Europe and USA have contributed their articles to the reader.

4. The manuscript has been finalised and the book proposal has gone to the publisher (Routledge).

IV. Audio-Visual material for instruction

Over the last two years, CRG has produced two films on the theme Calcutta: Migrant city. The first one, Calcutta Migrant City was made directed by Saibal Mitra, through voices over and images it gives an overview of the different kinds and waves of migration that have created the space of Calcutta. The film is in English. This has been screened once in an online teacher's workshop organised by Sivanath Sastri College and CRG, and once as part of the Annual Workshop and Conference on Migration and Forced Migration. It has garnered approximately 500 views on youtube, most of which came from the Teachers' Workshop.

In 2020, we produced 'Tale of a Migrant City' ('Ek Porijayi Sohorer Itikotha') in Bengali, with English subtitles. This was directed by Debolina. This 35 minutes long documentary addresses the growth and development of refugee colonies in South Calcutta. Traversing through the history of the partition of British India, communal violence, massive population flow, displacement and settlement/ resettlement--this film asks: who were the refugees? What caste/class groups did those settling in South Calcutta belong to? What was the land they settled on like? What was the politics and economics of this settlement? Who used to live in this land before the refugees came in? Where did they go? How is the refugee colony represented in literature and cinema? How did the refugee women eke out their own identity in the big city? What part did they play in refugee movements? And lastly - where does the refugee colony stand today vis a vis the neoliberal flows of capital? The first cut of the film was screened during the Media Workshop in December 2020, and the suggestions from this workshop were included in the final version which was then uploaded on youtube on 17th December 2020. This has garnered 1327 views on youtube, primarily because the Kolkata Partition Archive and the People's Film Collective shared the information on their Facebook profiles. A Facebook page called Indie Artzine has uploaded the film on their page, without crediting the makers.

In both the instances, we found that CRG has not made any attempt to disseminate the two films that were developed for educational purposes. The second film garnered some visibility because the people involved sent it out to interested parties on their individual capacities, to exceptionally rave reviews--but institutionally, even CRG members have not been intimated of the same. The series, Calcutta: A Migrant City hopes to change our notions of the relationships between cities and migrants--to consider cities as built by migration, not merely the destination of migration. The third one in this series is yet to be conceptualised, but work on it needs to begin immediately, as both the previous films suffered heavily from lack of time.

Session 6: Creative Endeavours

The CRG website (www.mcrg.ac.in) hosts a 'Living Archive' of news, opinions and analysis of the spectacular march of migrants workers across the heart of India - conceptualised and put together during their return, and growing as more and more photos, new coverage and analytical writings become available. The living archive is collated as the events unfold - its digital shape allowing people to access it across time and space - it contains a multiplicity of voices and perspectives, and resists the finality of archiving. CRG has undertaken the task of mapping the IDPs in India previously, but the proposed mapping exercise will be in keeping with the uncertain atlas (?) project - using maps, geo data, images and illustrations to plot migration creatively, and visually.

CRG has earlier hosted photo exhibitions on different aspects of migration. Throughout 2020 we have been witness to the impact of images--both media and annual research workshops can host mobile photo exhibitions - they could include photos of migrants, photos by migrants as well as specific objects associated with migration. Once the physical exhibition is over, it can be hosted virtually on Refugee Watch Online along with introductory notes. However, for this to become successful, someone has to be given independent charge of the project.

Session 7: Strengthening collaboration for the annual programme of CRG (Virtual Session)

It has been asserted that “[t]he relentless logic of the global knowledge economy and the realities of cross-border academic mobility also influence the direction of higher education generally and of the research university specifically.”¹ Thus, one of the most foundational realities of 21st Century globalization is the cross-border mobility of research and dissemination, both in terms of human capital and the exchange of ideas. If nothing else, the Covid-19 has taught us how to connect the globe. These international exchanges are meant to lead to the establishment of international collaborations and conclaves. Thus, international collaborations have become one of the hallmarks of good research programs and CRG well understands it. In this planning meeting, therefore, the session on future collaborations is of utmost importance. This session will be held in virtual mode so that all our partners and friends can join in. In this session we intend to discuss:

1. Ways of increasing collaboration with various institutions in our research and orientation programme. We want to ensure participation from Turkey (a crucial region in terms of refugee and migration studies), Southeast Asia, other countries of South Asia, and researchers, scholars, and public activists of Europe working on refugee and migration issues in Europe. This session aims to strengthen our programme of building a Europe-Asia research platform.
2. How can a young researcher’s conclave be held in India in summer with participations from all the key areas mentioned above? We intend for it to be a Euro-South Asian conclave.
3. There needs to be some discussions on joint publications for strengthening the India-Europe platform.
4. Ways of ensuring greater participation from countries outside South Asia in the November workshop and conference.
5. Strengthening of South-South collaborations. Bringing in other participants as institutions from regions such as Africa.

¹ Altbach, Philip G. “The Past, Present, and Future of the Research University” *The Road to Academic Excellence: The Making of World-Class Research Universities*. World Bank Publications, September 21, 2011.

Annexure-II

Participants (in physical and online sessions)

1. Ahmet İçduygu (MIREKOC , Istanbul and Department of International Relations and Sociology, Koç University, Istanbul)
2. Amit Praksah (Member CRG and Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)
3. Anamika Priyadarshini (Social activist and Researcher, Centre for Catalysing Change, Patna Patna)
4. Anwesh Sengupta (Institute of Development Studies Kolkata, Kolkata)
5. Arup K Sen (Member CRG and Serampore College, Hooghly)
6. Atig Ghosh (Member CRG Department of History, Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan)
7. Aysel Caglar (Institute for Human Sciences (IWM),Vienna and Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Vienna University, Vienna)
8. Bharat Bhushan (Member CRG and senior journalist)
9. Byasdeb Dasgupta (President CRG and Department of Economics, Kalyani University, Kalyani)
10. Coline Schupfer (Open Society and Justice Initiative, London)
11. Christina Clerk-Kazak (President, International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IAFSM) and Department of Public and International Affairs, Ottawa University, Ottawa)
12. Gopal Krishna (Researcher, social activist and editor, Toxic Watch and advocate, Patna High Court)
13. Guenther Rautz (Institute for Minority Rights, European Academy of Bolzano (EURAC), Italy)
14. Hari Sharma (Labour activist and member of Social Science Baha, Kathmandu and Alliance for Social Dialogues, Kathmandu)
15. Jakob Littmann (Resident Representative, RLS, South Asia Office, Delhi)
16. K.M. Parivelan (Member CRG and Centre for Statelessness and Refugee Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai)
17. Kaustubh Mani Sengupta (Department of History , Bankura University, Bankura)
18. Lydia Potts (Migration and Gender Studies and School of Linguistics and Cultural Studies, University of Oldenburg, Germany)
19. Madhurilata Basu (Member CRG and Department of Political Science, Dum Dum Motijheel College, Kolkata)
20. Manish K Jha (Member CRG and School of Social Work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai)
21. Meghna Guhathakurta (Research Initiatives Bangladesh, Dhaka)
22. Mike Paller (Open Society Foundations)
23. Nasreen Chowdhury (Member CRG and Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, Delhi)
24. Paolo Novak (Department of Development Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies, London)
25. Paula Banerjee (Member CRG and Department of South and South-East Asian Studies, University of Calcutta)
26. Pragya Khanna (RLS, Delhi.)
27. Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury (Member CRG and Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata)
28. Sabir Ahamed (Member CRG and Researcher, Pratichi India Trust, Kolkata)
29. Samata Biswas (Member CRG and Department of English, The Sanskrit College and University, Kolkata)
30. Samir Kumar Das (Honorary Director, CRG and Department of Political Science, University of Calcutta)

31. Samita Sen (Member, CRG and Vere Harmsworth Professor of Imperial and Naval History, University of Cambridge, Cambridge)
32. Shreya Ghosh (Member, Migrant Worker Solidarity Network and Research Scholar, JNU, New Delhi)
33. Shyamalendu Majumdar (Member CRG and Department of Political Science, Shibnath Shastri College, Kolkata)
34. Sibaji Pratim Basu (Member CRG and Department of Political Science and Rural Administration, Vidyasagar University, Medinipur)
35. Souad Ali Ossarin (Post-Doctoral Fellow, Koç University, Istanbul)
36. Subhas Ranjan Chakrabarty (Member CRG and Vice-President, The Asiatic Society, Kolkata)
37. Sucharita Sengupta (Member CRG and Research Scholar at the Graduate Institute, Geneva)
38. Rajat Kanti Sur (CRG staff member)
39. Samaresh Guchhait (CRG staff member)
40. Subhashree Raut (CRG staff member)
41. Partha Pratim Sarkar (CRG staff member)
42. Ashok Kumar Giri (CRG staff member)
43. Digangana Das (Intern at CRG and Graduate Student, Bhabanipur Education Society)
44. Ranabir Samaddar (CRG staff member)