

**Report**  
**Consultative Meeting on Keywords in Refugee and Migration Studies**

**CRG Office**

**29.06.2022, 2 pm**

The first Keywords and Keytexts meeting held on 29 June 2022 for a volume on Migration was a brainstorming session to chalk out the trajectory of the work in question – a compendium of keywords from the Southern/Postcolonial Perspective. Paula Banerjee introduced the theme and scope of the project. The key note for the same was read by Priya Singh.

Since migration is a lived reality in South Asia, it has been decided that the work should reflect the contestations of South Asian Migration by focusing on words/experiences like ‘girmitiyas’, ‘shramik special’, etc., that are typical of the region. Ranabir Samaddar, Manish K. Jha discussed about how several terms got introduced to the world from South Asia in terms of Public Health, etc. Ranabir Samaddar pointed out the challenges of identifying and categorising words and suggested that the idea is to explain the word and not the concept.

Two sets of presentations were made. The presentations covered a wide spectrum of ideas ranging from protection mechanism, camps, borders and mobility, labour migration, environment and culture. Samata Biswas, Rajat Kanti Sur, Debashree Chakraborty, Shatabdi Das, Nasreen Chowdhory and Sucharita Sengupta presented brief notes on the topics mentioned above and also suggested a few keywords.

Several key decisions were taken which includes the formation of an **Editorial Advisory Board** with Paula Banerjee, Priya Singh, Manish K. Jha, Nasreen Chowdhory and Samata Biswas.

Rajat Kanti Sur and Debashree Chakraborty would be the Editorial Advisory Board Assistants for the project.

Binayak Mallick has been assigned with the work of referencing.

It has been suggested that there would be **one** meeting per month which could be held online. Thereafter, the final meeting for the same would be held in November before the submission of the final volume.

A timeline for the project has been suggested by Paula Banerjee. It has been decided that Priya Singh would mail the contributors within the next 7-10 days requesting them to submit the keywords by 15 July.

15 September has been decided as the date of submission of the keyword notes/definition.

The period of September-October should be kept for editing.

By October, the revisions would be carried out so that by October-end, a complete version could be released online.

Regarding the composition of the work, it has been decided to limit the number of words per definition to 300. However, a flexibility gradient has also been opined and in special cases, if need be, the number of words might go up to a maximum of 500. A brief note on the history of words – like the time around which the words entered the dominant discourse of migration – would help to have a nuanced understanding of the same.

The keywords would be arranged alphabetically to do away with the complexities of thematic arrangement.

The members present in the meeting would contribute 15-20 keywords and other experts from the field would be asked to contribute 5 key words each. The members could also suggest names of prospective contributors within 7 days.