

**A REPORT**  
on  
**IASFM 14**



**THE 14th CONFERENCE**  
of  
**THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF  
FORCED MIGRATION**  
(Kolkata, 6-9 January, 2013)

# A REPORT

**The 14th Conference**

**of**

**The International Association for the Study of**

**Forced Migration**



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# 1. The Theme

The nature and character of migration, particularly 'forced' migration, today is different from that in previous decades. But while this is not a new observation, it has not been acknowledged in such a manner, because of what underlined the refugee regime and what regulated the management and protection of refugees. This has been underscored by migratory patterns in much of the *colonial world* (read, Africa and Asia, for instance) as against the European context. The UN however, acknowledged this by noting in its 10 Point Plan of Action that migration is characterised by mixed movements. Even then, the underlying institutions that aimed at securing the rights of refugees in the last few decades did not change. Refugees continued to be those that fled political persecution leaving a large number of people who fled due to other factors outside the legal definition and thus protection regime. Second, internal displacement gained prominence as a category of rights bearing subjects but the role of UN institutions was curtailed or expanded depending on the state that produced the internally displaced. Thus, even though *forced* by circumstances, government policies or government inaction/impunity, internally displaced persons were not accorded the same kind of protection that refugees were. Thus it is not uncommon for internally displaced persons to call themselves refugees even while they are within the physical borders of the state.

IASFM 14 proposes to highlight the unique features of the new reality by focusing on the relevant experiences of strategies of protection of victims of forced migration, particularly in the post-colonial world

The conference will be divided into three broad themes:

1. Borders and Displacement
2. Geography and Economies of Displacement
3. Rights, Ethics, and Institutions

The conference programme will be divided into three business sessions comprising panels. Each day of the conference will have plenary and film screening sessions.

## 2. Abstract of Participants

### Abstracts for the Plenary Sessions

#### **Plenary Session: 1**

#### **Partition Experiences in South Asia: Memory, Literature, Media**

The partition of British India and the politics of border making was a violent chapter in the history of this region that killed thousands of people and displaced millions from their homes and hearths in the name of religion. Partition reshaped the cartography of South Asia: turned millions into minorities and more into refugees. The bitter memories of partition were invoked every time there was a communal riot or a pogrom in South Asia and shaped the national imaginations in this part of the world in more than one ways. The politics of remembering partition differed in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. If in the dominant nationalist narrative in India, partition stood for bitter separation, in Pakistan it was the moment of creation of the country. For Bangladesh, the Language Movement and the Liberation War had further complicated the picture. This panel addresses these issues. It also explores the way partition was reflected in the contemporary media and literature. How does the present day media tackle the complexities that arose from partition is also a subject of enquiry here.

#### **Plenary Session 2**

#### **Development, Conflict & Displacement**

The developing countries in the world have witnessed massive displacement of people in the name of development in recent years. The economically poor, the tribal population, the lower castes and the women have been the worst sufferers of the development induced displacement. But to consider them as hapless victims is to de-recognise their ways of negotiations with this mode of development – their ways of resisting it. This panel brings together the human rights activists and civil society activists who have, for long, campaigned for a more inclusive model of development in South Asia, participated in the peoples' movements and championed their rights. In this face to face session, the participants will share their experiences of being a part of such movements, their anxieties and hopes about the future of such movements and the lessons learnt from these struggles.

#### **Plenary Session 3**

#### **Gender, Conflict and Displacement: The Case of India's North East and Nepal**

The northeastern part of India comprising the seven states and Sikkim, which is still euphemistically called the *seven sisters*, has been a cauldron of unrest from the time of Indian independence. Critically located and sharing a border with Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Bhutan and China, this region portrays that processes of democratic state formation may not lead to social justice automatically. This is the theatre of the longest state vs. community conflict in South Asia and hence a region of rampant displacements. The region has witnessed an escalation of violence to an unprecedented scale in the decades between 1990 and 2010. With increasing state sponsored violence there was also a tremendous increase in sub-national militancy. The Northeast presents a situation of virtual civil strife and rapid demographic changes with concomitant increase in violence against the vulnerable sections, and large scale displacement of population, of whom a large number are women. This plenary discussion will address the issues of increasing conflict and displacement in Northeast and the role played by women's groups to arrest such violence and control forced migration.

Nepal too has witnessed a period of intense conflict that has had notable gender dimensions. Women were the worst victims of the armed struggle and their voices were least heard during the peace negotiation process. This plenary will address the issues of gender, conflict and displacement in the context of Nepal also.

**Plenary Session 4**  
**Rapporteur's Presentation**

**Abstracts for the Panel Sessions**

**P1. Borders, Boundaries and Belonging**

The expositions in this panel attempt to explore the complex issues of fluctuating borders and boundaries, the creation of flowing and multiple identities and differing notions of belonging in the Central Asian and West Asian space. The impact of the drawing and re-drawing of political boundaries and the creation of new ethnic borders upon the lives of the people at the margins-the borderland dwellers will be dealt by the panelists.. The case study of Ferghana Valley is dealt with by Anita Sengupta, in her essay, entitled Borders and Movements: People at the Margins. Suchandana Chatterjee's essay, Vignettes of the Homeland: Active and passive voices among the Kazakhs and Buryats, contends with the concept of homeland and diaspora, arising out of the settlement, resettlement and movement of the Kazakhs and the Buryats. In An Enclave Existence: Israel's Palestinians, Priya Singh looks into the implications of the Israeli state's "ethnicized" policies in constructing spaces for the Arabs in Israel.

**P2. Displacement and Migration on the Thailand-Burma Border: Key Themes and Issues**

The Thailand-Burma border has been the site of multiple forms of migration and displacement for over three decades. In addition to the roughly 150,000 individuals living in the nine refugee camps, it is estimated that nearly two million additional people from Burma live in Thailand, having left Burma due to widespread and systematic human rights violations, ongoing conflict and extreme poverty. Most of these individuals have entered the country without documentation and often find themselves working in unsafe conditions, underpaid, and at risk of trafficking and exploitation. This panel will address key issues relevant to migration and displacement in this context, including gender and sexuality, trafficking, physical and mental health, encampment and migration management.

**P3. Migration and Crisis**

Migration is often seen as part of a crisis: a consequence of crisis or a cause of crisis. This panel provides fresh perspectives on this routine association. The papers examine commonly reported examples of 'crisis-induced migration' and 'migration-induced crises', critically exploring how contemporary migration analysis and policy-making deploy the concept of crisis, and how (forced) migration connects with patterns of social change, transformation and crisis in places of origin and destination. In doing so, the panel also explores the roles that various forms and levels of governance play in producing, responding to, and sometimes re-producing these crises of migration. Three overarching questions with relevance to the idea of Lives in Transit are explored: What is the nature of the association between migration and crisis? Who responds and how? What do commonly reported 'crises of migration' reveal about wider politics and more general migration processes?

#### **P4. Communities in Exile: State, Migrants and Refugees in India**

The changing pattern of population movement and the dynamics of citizenship laws have had an impact on the abilities of states in South Asia to accommodate the varied interests of its diverse peoples. Citizenship rules are important markers that determine boundaries of inclusion and exclusion of individuals and groups, whereby identities of people are transformed because of their legal position within the state structure. Although statist citizenship laws tend to privilege nationality based membership, yet increasingly forced migration of communities challenge the predominant right-based notion of these laws. The panel will investigate communities in exile and interrogate claims and counter claims of displaced communities based on their location in exile and relation with state.

#### **P5. Unprotected and Unrecognized: The Ontological Insecurity of Migrants who are Denied Protection from Domestic Violence in their Home Countries and as “Failed Refugee Claimants” in Canada**

In this panel, the researchers will explore how “failed refugee claimants” in Canada, from Mexico and Central America, face a framework of ontological insecurity because of the combined lack of protection from gender violence in their home countries and unrecognized humanitarian claims in Canada. Over the last fifteen years, Canada has received a visible growth of women seeking refuge from Mexico and Central America due to domestic and political violence, and the failure of political and juridical institutions in their home countries to protect them. This swell of humanitarian arrivals, however, have been largely denied refugee status; with many perceived as economic migrants whose refugee claims are dismissed or denied as unwarranted.

This panel involves a narrative analysis of in-depth interviews with 25 women living with precarious immigration status in Toronto, Canada. Spanish speaking women from Mexico, Central America and Colombia were invited to take part in in-depth interviews and to participate in a peer-led solidarity group to develop mutual support and resistance to the social exclusion produced by their precarious status. The proposed analysis will examine how gendered violence produces both internal and transnational dislocation and what factors influence whether women’s claims (e.g. domestic violence) are considered “political” under Canadian guidelines for Women Refugee Claimants Fearing Gender-Related Persecution. Finally, the researchers will illustrate how migrant women practice substantive citizenship across different national contexts in their search for safety, rights and belonging, despite their precarious immigration status.

#### **P6. Of Borders and Borderlands: Narratives from South Asia**

The international borders that separate India and Pakistan and India and Bangladesh are products of a messy decolonization. The states, highly suspicious of each other, try to police these borders and the borderlands. But being arbitrary, people living in these areas have their own way to negotiate the state – accommodating it at times and resisting it on other occasions. This panel talks of the borders, borderlands and borderlanders in South Asia – the process of border making, narratives of border-crossings and the curious case of the enclave-dwellers.

#### **P7. Refugee, Border and Borderland: Reflections and Representations**

The trauma of being refugee, the violence of drawing borders, the cruelty of partition have found place in the third world literature. From Manto’s short stories to Jyotirmoyee Devi’s novel – the woes of partition and the voices of victims have perhaps been best captured in the fictions of the time. This panel studies these fictions, their narrative strategies and their politics of representations.

## **P8. Borders and Right to Escape**

The panel explores the role of individual agencies and identities in negotiating with the ideas of borders, borderlands and border crossings. Here, borders are not merely seen as territorial boundaries, but as ever shifting demarcating lines between inside/outside, self/other, citizens/denizens, security/insecurity, and purity/impurity. The panel consists of four papers. The first paper in this panel uses the concept of ‘right to escape’ to understand the agency of individuals in border crossings. The second paper looks into the specific case of Israel to understand how the material and mental borders are being negotiated and ‘trespassed’ and the role of imagined geographies of fear and the underlying demographic-cartographic anxieties in dictating these movements. The third paper studies the case of India and interrogates the concepts of border and borderland from a feminist point of view. The last paper studies the politics of space, the rights of crossing, the temerity of violating borders and sanctions through the reading of the memoir of a Palestinian poet Mourid Barghouti.

## **P9. The Forgotten Ones: The New Challenges for Colombian Forced Migration Policy**

Colombia is currently the country with the highest number of internally displaced persons in the world. Approximately one-tenth of its 45.5 million people have been violently expelled from their places of residence and condemned to roam the country in search of a new home. In response, the Colombian state has developed a complex set of policies to assist and protect the displaced; however, these policies have been based partly on the premise that the armed conflict is the cause of this involuntary exodus. As a result, only those who have been displaced by parties to the armed conflict are recognized as displaced, and only their needs and rights have been attended to. Foreign investment is increasingly placing its attention on countries with a huge amount of unexploited natural resources, as well as political processes towards the definition of a development model for the long-range. On the other hand, these countries are commonly exposed to different levels of violence and are multicultural scenarios on which it is possible to find plural identities which appear as colliding factors for the expansion of a uniform model of development.

## **P10. Other Histories of Partition: Lives In Transit**

The main objective of this panel would be to look beyond the experience of partitioning of the sub-continent of 1947 as a cartographic exercise. What is interesting and crucial in this debate is how “contested spaces” were recreated and reproduced in post-colonial South Asia as a result of the massive forced migration across 370,000 square miles of territory leading to the formation of two nation-states of India and Pakistan. Much of the contested spaces have to do with how people negotiated with the “borders” that forced them to migrate, as well as become subjects and agents of post-colonial statecraft. In this context it is important to understand that the post-colonial statecraft’s narrative of ‘care and protection’ towards “refugees” was embedded and continues to be influenced by the existing social structures of religion, caste and gender.

## **P11. Displaced Women: Studying the Doubly Marginalized**

The experiences of being forcefully displaced and becoming a refugee vary across the lines of gender. Being a woman in a conflict situation is very difficult: she is more vulnerable to sexual abuses and forced trafficking. As a refugee she is expected to rebuild the homes and resettle their families. This panel explores the experiences of displaced women from various parts of the world.

## **P12. Being a Minor and a Refugee: Some Reflections**

The experiences of being forcefully displaced and becoming a refugee vary across the lines of age. Being a child or a young man/ woman in a conflict situation is very difficult: she/he is more vulnerable to sexual abuses. Trafficking children and minors is a common phenomenon as they are recruited illegally as labourers in various industries and also they are often sexually exploited. They often have to deal with the psychological trauma of losing their families in the conflict, of witnessing extreme violence and of living in camps. This panel consists of papers that studies experiences of being a child/minor and a refugee.

## **P13. Return Migration to a Conflict or Post-Conflict Situation: Session 1**

*(This panel will be divided into two sessions)*

This series of three linked panels explores a broad range of aspects related to return migration to countries that are experiencing, or have recently experienced violent conflict. We understand return migration as both temporary and permanent return and are interested in all stages of the return process; from the stay/return decision-making process to post-return (re)integration.

Many migrants are considering return, whether it is to a localized 'home' or the country of origin. In most cases, return is a future option rather than an immediate plan. The idea and possibility of eventual return can nevertheless be an important aspect of migrants' lives in another country, even if the return never takes place. Experiences of marginalization can stimulate plans for return, whilst some suggest that planned return may lessen commitment to integration. The possibility of return can also be central to migrants' transnational relationships with people in their country of origin. For forced migrants' return may also be forced, through deportation/removal, or blocked by a lack of appropriate travel documents, resulting in 'forced immobility'.

As with the possibility of return, the reality of actual return can often be characterized as ambiguous. Possible comforts of being 'back home' are challenged by changes in both the country of return and the migrants themselves; making return a future-oriented project. Returnees face many challenges, exacerbated or mitigated by their own experiences of migration, the accuracy of pre-return information, aims, and the socioeconomic contexts to which they return. These challenges are intensified in conflict-affected countries.

## **P14. Interrogating Violence, Interrogating Displacement: A Gendered Perspective**

The papers in this panel complicate the notions of the violence that accompanies the forced migration/displacement by looking into it from a gendered perspective. What is it to be a woman and a man and a migrant/refugee? How do LGBTQ refugees cope with displacement and camp life – are they more vulnerable? The papers address these issues through various case studies.

## **P15. Branding the Migrant**

The figure of the non-citizen — and the imminent irruption of the Heimlich pleasures of the hearth that it represents — violently unsettles the homogeneous, secure self-image of the nation-state. Anxiety dictates that states try to map, monitor, mobilize, or exclude the non-citizen alien — that is, the refugees, the asylum seekers, the stateless persons, even the IDPs and other immigrants. To this end, the nation-states have resorted to manifold methods and manoeuvres. The three papers in this section track the various yet convergent, variant yet conjoint, modes in which states have grappled with the 'problem' of aliens and migrants.

## **P16. Of Citizenship and Politics of Exclusion: Some Case Studies**

The modern state fears uncontrolled human flows, refugees, migrants. It desperately seeks to know and map every individual who lives within the nation-space – who “belongs” and who does not. The papers in this panel are empirical studies on governmentality: how modern nation states categorize individuals, accepts/includes some as citizens, excludes others as infiltrators, aliens, refugees. The papers also study how the “aliens” and refugees deal with diverse governmental strategies and how these negotiations affect the identity politics.

## **P17. Conflict, Displacement and Rehabilitation: Narratives from South and South East Asia: Session I**

*(This panel will be divided into two sessions)*

The South Asian states and Southeast Asian country like Myanmar have seen protracted ethnic and religious conflicts resulting into continuous displacement of the minorities. The reasons and nature of these conflicts vary from place to place and they also changed over the years. But there are similarities as well. Many of these conflicts are direct or by-products of the messy decolonization of the British Empire, for instance. The papers in this panel study the conflicts and the patterns of displacement that these conflicts have produced. Also, the possible solutions to the refugee “problem” and migration issues are addressed in some of the papers.

## **P18. Return Migration to a Conflict or Post-Conflict Situation: Session II**

This panel is a part of panel 13

## **P19. Conflict, Displacement and Rehabilitation: Narratives from South and South East Asia: Session II**

This panel is a part of panel 17

## **P20. Refugee and Forced Migration Studies Online: Harnessing “the Cloud” for Knowledge Generation, Instruction, and Mobilization (Roundtable)**

With the advent of the Internet and the proliferation of websites and online instruments on refugee and forced migration studies the nature of research and information gathering, analysis, and dissemination, along with advocacy, have altered fundamentally in their range, depth and scope. This Roundtable seeks to review how the latest developments in communications technologies and the Internet and the proliferation of websites such as *CARFMS - Online Research and Teaching Tool and Practitioners Forum (ORTT & PF)* and the *Refugee Research Network (RRN)*, as examples, have contributed to the accessibility of information and knowledge and to the convergence of expertise amongst practitioners that has transformed the nature of research, teaching and policy-making in the field of refugee and forced migration studies. The amassing of concentrations of detailed information sources on the Internet or the cloud has created new modes and methods of research, information gathering, analysis, findings and knowledge dissemination, instruction, mobilization, policy-making and implementation. This Roundtable further seeks to explore and to engage participants in a dialogue on how online instruments can be combined and utilized for supporting research, instruction (whether traditional, blended, hybrid or online) and policy practice in the field of refugee and forced migration studies. The Roundtable will feature some of the principal collaborators on the *ORTT & PF* and *RRN* who will address some of these issues and will outline how they have utilized these new open source websites in their research and instruction in refugee and forced migration studies at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

## **P21. Politics of Protection, Issues of Internal Displacement**

Development projects, natural and manmade disasters and various conflicts displace a huge section of the population, worldwide. If local integration does not take place, it gives rise to protracted internal displacement. In the latter situation, people are stuck in an unending cycle and it is this category of people which need immediate attention. In today's world, there is a need for a rights-based approach to policies designed to address problems caused by displacement.

## **P22. Disasters and Displacement**

Environmental challenges and related displacements are some of the major concerns of contemporary development discourse. Forced migration due to resource crisis caused by climate change and environmental degradation is a serious impediment to attaining the basic normative goal of equity, participation and development. In this panel it is particularly intended to examine to what extent the issues of environmental challenges, resource crisis, climate change and resultant displacement are impairing social equality on the one hand, and to what extent existing social inequality, particularly in the relationship between developed and developing countries are causing the problems of resource crisis and displacement on the other. The basic objective of this panel is to contemplate the impacts of environmental challenges, resource crisis, climate change and subsequent displacement on the development of society.

## **P23. Mobilizing Knowledge Globally: Perspectives of the Refugee Research Network**

The global Refugee Research Network seeks to generate and mobilize knowledge among scholars, practitioners and policy makers to benefit people who have been forcibly displaced. Our goal is to build a network of networks which will promote connections throughout the field of refugee and forced migration studies by: facilitating interactions among the academic, practitioner and policy-making sectors; engaging new and established scholars from around the world in innovative online activities; and, creating spaces for the presentation and dissemination of the experiences and concerns of refugees themselves. This intensive animation of the field is intended to cultivate a multiplicity of new research groupings resulting in more dynamic and responsive research projects. Funded in Canada and supported by the Centre for Refugee Studies in Toronto, the RRN currently includes ten institutional research partners: Javeriana University Bogota; Institute for Studies in International Migration Washington; Center for Forced Migration Studies, Northwestern University Chicago; Refugee Law Institute London; Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford; Tehran University, Tehran; Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata; African Centre for Migration and Society, Johannesburg; and the Centre for Refugee Research, Sydney. The RRN has been functioning for four years and has recently completed a mid-term review and a paper on knowledge mobilization across the global South/North divide'. This panel will reflect on the successes, challenges and opportunities of establishing a global research network from the perspectives of the regional partners.

## **P24. Surviving in Another Country: Tactics and Strategies**

While leaving ones own land is a painful experience, the struggle to survive in a new land is a long drawn one. In many cases their experience is bitter as the refugees have to fight against stigmatization and other forms of violence against them. In many cases, like the Somalian refugees in India, the specific colour and their space of origin have generally debarred them from intermingling with the local population. Many governments have also conveyed their intention to engage refugee and immigrant communities under threat to "build resilience" against violent extremism through "community-based" solutions.

## **P25. Conflict, Displacement and Resettlement**

Conflicts have displaced many across time; however it is in the present time that the number of displaced has reached such a number. At the end of 2008, the number of people internally displaced by conflict, generalized violence or human rights violations across the world stood at 26 million. What becomes important are the coping methods people resort to, at times of stress and shocks, coupled with limited public infrastructure, depleting resources, constant threat to one's life etc. The choices made in such situations are generally circumstantial and involuntary, and done as a last resort because of limited employment options. Due importance should also be given as to how the migrant subjects articulate their rights and negotiate with their environment?

## **P26. On Spaces and Places: Some Reflections on Urban Refugees and Migration Laws: Session I**

*(This panel will be divided into two sessions)*

Cities are expanding as more and more people from the rural areas are settling there. Though migration to cities proves to be beneficial for the upper and the middle classes, the lower class finds it difficult to survive on a day to day basis. Migration to urban spaces is a unique phenomenon as it leads to unequal relationship of a different kind. It would be interesting to find how the urban migrants negotiate with different formal and informal structures of power on a day to day basis, in order to survive.

## **P27. Home-Making in Limbo: Domestic Practices and the Meaning of Home for Forced Migrants in Protracted Situations: Session I**

*(This panel will be divided into two sessions)*

This panel addresses the tension between the longing for home and desires for home-making, and the oft-noted 'permanence of temporariness' for refugees in protracted circumstances of displacement, both in refugee camps and urban environments in places where meaningful integration is not an option. Much of the work on 'protracted refugee situations' (PRS) as the 'new normal' has focused upon policy challenges, including protection, human rights, and humanitarian assistance, or on refugees' own livelihoods, 'coping strategies' and community development initiatives as they 'wait'. While policy assumptions behind repatriation as the ideal 'durable solution' have been challenged both by the circumstances of extended conflicts and by refugees who do not seek to return 'home', the meaning of home and practices of home-making are nevertheless ongoing, often with creative or surprising results. Tapping into the long theoretical engagement with home and the practices of home-making in diaspora studies, this panel contributes conceptual insights to the contemporary circumstances that define 'waiting' for encamped or urban forced migrants.

## **P28. . Climate-change Induced Displacement: Legal Policies and Implications**

Though a huge number of people get displaced due to sudden natural disasters, there are many who are displaced due to long drawn changes in nature. Many would argue that the environmental or climate 'refugees' or 'migrants' as a workable legal category, cannot be specifically identified because environmental factors are often indirect inducement of migration in a complex interplay with other causes. However, it is interesting to see how a region where transborder migration is already a sensitive issue, migrations due to climate change are going to be securitized.

## **P29. Forced Migration and Trafficking in Persons in the Contemporary World: The Variables of Gender, Man-Made Disaster and Economic Liberalization**

Forced migration and sex trafficking is one of the fastest growing areas of international criminal activity and one of increasing concern to the international community. According to the U.S. FBI, human trafficking, specifically women trafficking and sex slavery is estimated to generate a revenue of approximately 9.5 billion dollars annually, making human trafficking the second largest criminal industry in the world today. Women particularly trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation (within or across national and international borders) as well as for forced labour. Federal Bureau of Investigation estimated that around 12.3 million and 27 individuals are subjected to human trafficking and enslaved into bonded labor, sexual servitude, or involuntary servitude at any point in time.

This phenomenon presents an increasing global problem that involves sexual and human rights exploitation. Forced migration and trafficking in persons share many elements in common such as their vulnerability and their lack of protection and security. Today, it is a complex development issue. As the vast majority trafficking victims are the consequences of poverty, unemployment, cultural practices as well as natural disaster. Trafficking is a health problem, as trafficked women and children are most at risk from HIV infection. It is a gender problem, as unequal power relations reinforce women's secondary status in society. Lastly, it is a legal problem, as they are stripped of their human rights and lack any access to redress for the crimes committed against them.

Thus, considering the above, this panel will focus the nexus between forced migration and trafficking in persons taking into account the variables of age, gender and man-made disaster. Such an exploration and debate of all possible variables involved in forcing people to migrate or trafficking will aim at finding ways of improving the coordination of efforts at the regional, national and global levels against sex trafficking, as well as strengthening gender sensitive approaches in all anti-trafficking efforts.

The primary objectives of this panel are - to understand the extent, dimensions, causes and consequences of trafficking in the contemporary world; to explore the ambiguities of the forced migration-trafficking nexus; to create a model for integrating a gender sensitive and human rights approach in all forced migration and trafficking issues and develop an action plan for implementation

## **P30. The Migration Ramifications of Humanitarian Crises**

This panel focuses on humanitarian crises that oblige millions of people to migrate for short and long periods of time. Such crises include extreme natural hazards; slower onset environmental degradation, such as drought and desertification; manmade environmental disasters, such as nuclear and industrial accidents; communal violence, civil strife and political instability that do not rise to the level of armed conflict but render communities unsafe; and global pandemics that cause high levels of mortality and morbidity and pose risks for the spread of disease. They lead directly and indirectly to many different forms of displacement, including internal and cross border movement of nationals and migrant workers. They occur within and across land borders, through sea-borne departures that often involve overcrowded and unseaworthy vessels, and at the instigation of human smugglers and traffickers. Only a fraction of these crisis migrants are protected by existing international, regional or national law.

The focus of the panel is to develop a conceptual framework for addressing movements of people who do not fit within the existing policy and legal instruments that were designed for victims of persecution and armed conflict. At present, legal, policy and organizational frameworks at the

national, regional and international levels are inadequate in addressing crisis migrants from the broader set of causes listed above, whether they are displaced internally or internationally, temporarily or permanently, and gradually or in emergency situations.

The panel will offer perspectives on mechanisms to fill three principal gaps: 1) identifying the rights of persons displaced by acute and slow-onset crises; 2) determining the responsibilities of national governments towards these displaced populations; and 3) setting out the role and obligation of the international community in responding to these situations.

**P31. On Spaces and Places: Some Reflections on Urban Refugees and Migration Laws: Session II**

This panel is a part of panel 26

**P32. Return Migration to Conflict or Post-Conflict Situation: Case Studies from Burundi and Rwanda: Session II**

This panel is a part of panel 13

**P33. Home-making in Limbo: Domestic Practices and the Meaning of Home for Forced Migrants in Protracted Situation: Session II**

This panel is a part of panel 27

**P34. People's Response to Development Induced Displacement**

The question of 'development' is explored in this panel with a special emphasis on the way it has created displacement in the post colonial world. This challenges the notion that displacement is exceptional to development. It also challenges the notion that, since states are sovereign, if they chose to treat displacement as collateral damage for higher gains then citizens have to accept that. This panel is all about people's initiatives in India and how they handle displacement.

The panel would comprise three papers covering an array of theoretical and empirical issues pertaining to development and displacement that have shaped much of the popular and discursive politics in the post colonial world. The papers have used archival material, ethnographic research and all kinds of primary and secondary resources including books, journals, papers, surveys, newspapers and census etc.

**P35. Development, Displacement and Rehabilitation: Some Reflections**

Large development projects in different parts of the world have rendered many homeless. Mega dams, thermal power plants, mining and industrial projects take away from many their right over land, forests or other resources that they had known belonged to them. The literature on protection of the internally displaced focuses more on displacements caused by armed conflict and environmental disasters more than on development-induced displacements. Land acquisition, compensation and resettlement are crucial issues concerning development projects, which require appropriate resettlement and rehabilitation policy and implementation mechanisms. What makes things worse is lack of national policies to address the issues of development displacees.

### **P36. Border Demarcation and Refugees**

As we know, the formation of nation-states is a refugee generating process. The construction of borders from both a practical and a symbolic perspective, gives rise to the concept of 'us' and 'them'. Thus, while borders include some, they exclude many. Due to cartographic exercise, many people are pushed to the margins and their rights get heavily curbed. This panel will talk of certain cases where boundary formation has affected the lives of many.

### **P37. Managing Refugees, Looking for Solutions: Understanding the Strategies of Protection: Session I**

*(This panel will be divided into two sessions)*

Borders, nowadays, are being over securitised. States intercept migrants at sea and they are pushed back. The States adopt double standards, while dealing with the refugees and the IDPs. The States and various humanitarian organizations must take the help of different technological innovations that are at their disposal, to improve the living conditions of the people in displacement. There is also the need for flexible laws to help one of the most vulnerable sections of the world.

### **P38. Refugees, Asylum-seekers and Everyday Lives**

The papers in this panel talk about the lives of refugees and asylum seekers in United Kingdom. Their everyday experiences, negotiation with the government and their perceptions of the refugee policies and immigration policies are the prime focus of this panel. The labour migration to United Kingdom and their right to work are the two issues that feature in this panel.

### **P39. Methodologies and the Production of Knowledge in Forced Migration Contexts**

In situations of forced migration, understanding and responding to the experiences of displaced populations, migrants and refugees, depends on access to and analysis of data and documentation. However, research and the production of knowledge in such contexts pose particular methodological and epistemological challenges. For example, how do researchers address incomplete and contested data/statistics? How can new forms of technology assist in fact finding and capacity building? How do we know what we know (norms of reliability and credibility)? How can we draw on the strengths of different disciplinary methodologies? What are the opportunities and challenges of migration research within contexts of north-south global politics and/or research 'partnerships'?

### **P40. Accountability and Access to Justice for Persons Affected by Human Trafficking: Session I**

*(This panel will be divided into two sessions)*

The issue of trafficking in human beings is complex and controversial. The introduction of the international anti-trafficking framework in the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* ('CTOC') in late 2000, and the Protocols which supplement it, including the *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children* (the 'Trafficking Protocol') has led to a number of discourses. These include: transnational organised crime, the rights of migrant workers, and women's and children's rights. Despite the high global 'take up' rate for the *Trafficking Protocol*, it has not had the intended impact of removing 'impunity' for traffickers. It has led sometimes to anti-immigration responses and the 'victims' of trafficking remain largely invisible.

This Panel focuses on trafficked persons and in particular on the obligation to protect and assist victims of trafficking, 'with respect for their human rights', and the institutions which have developed

for this purpose. The hypothesis is that a stronger focus on trafficked persons will lead to better protection outcomes and less 'impunity' for traffickers. This Panel examines why widespread implementation of anti-trafficking measures in different countries and regions has not led to better outcomes for trafficked persons. In particular it will consider the following clusters of issues:

- Trafficking in human beings is popularly conceived as a 'clandestine' and unmeasurable issue. What are the sources of problems in data collection? Where are the voices of trafficked persons?
- What are the institutional challenges to implementing effective anti-trafficking measures and protection for trafficked persons?
- Do/should the anti-trafficking framework and measures provide adequate protection to all categories of persons exploited in the migration process? What are the problems in access to justice for these categories of trafficked persons? It will consider the effect of age, gender and nationality on redress for exploitation and breach of labour standards.

#### **P41. Armed Conflict and Forced Migration: State Fragility and Institutional Challenges**

The presentations in the panel attempt to understand the complex relationship between state fragility, violent conflict and forced migration. Although the causes of forced migration are a complex mixture of political factors, such as gross violations of human rights, as well as economic and environmental aspects, armed conflicts have always been a major cause of the involuntary displacement of people. This is especially true given the changes in nature of modern wars, and how these increasingly affect civilians rather than mostly combatants. Top of the list of countries that produced the largest number of refugees and asylum seekers as well as internally displaced are those experiencing long-standing conflicts, such as former Palestine, Afghanistan, Sudan and Myanmar. In the past decade, state fragility has become an increasingly popular concept for both policymakers and researchers working on issues related to international development, humanitarian relief and global conflict. When talking about a reduced capacity of the State, different terms are being used such as 'failed state, state's experiencing severe stress' and so on. In failed states, the collapse of central authority is complete and there is complete attrition of state apparatus. On the other hand 'fragile states' are those whose 'authority/legitimacy' is being contested intensely. As a consequence the conflicts that emerge tend to be resolved often through violent means. Often these conflicts tend to overlap with 'ethnic identities', which tend to generate narratives of exploitation and grievances. Such process makes the conflict intractable and sustains the fragility of the state. All this has human consequences in terms of loss of human lives and forced migration.

The proposed panel seeks to examine such forced migration in India's neighbourhood. The research papers in the panel seek to plot the fragility of the state apparatus in some of the states, the cause of such fragility and its attendant impact in the form of forced migration. The panel will also seek to map the consequences of such forced migration at the institutional, societal and personal levels by taking a few case studies such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh (CHT) and Myanmar.

#### **P42. Exploring Immigration Policies and Understanding the Politics of Detention: Some Reflections**

The debate on forced migration begun in the academic journals (Barbara Harrell-Bond (1988), *The Sociology of Involuntary Migration: An Introduction*, *Current Sociology*) in the late 80s. The concern was to distinguish between voluntary and involuntary migration placing an emphasis on refugees as the par excellence example of dispossessed populations and 'forced migrants'. Other literatures became integrated in the analysis of refugee predicaments so that internally displaced populations, development induced displacees and more recently de facto stateless people are included in the varieties of forced migrants. Different disciplines have sharpened their methodological tools by

providing analyses on the predicament of the displaced (e.g. political science, international relations, social anthropology, sociology, demography, psychology, geography, law.).

This roundtable aims at bringing together different curricula as they are implemented on a global setting. The aim is to compare institutional experiences and educational practices with a view to systematising our collective experiences. The roundtable discussion explores how theories and concepts in refugee and forced migration studies shape research-driven curriculum development in postgraduate programmes, undergraduate courses and workshops/trainings. What are the key texts in the field? Are there shared theories/concepts? Through the examination of research-driven curriculum development, we aim to identify a shared body of knowledge that defines the 'field', and to learn from comparative experiences on how local contexts lead to distinctive contributions.

#### **P43. Managing Refugees, Looking for Solutions: Understanding the Strategies of Protection: Session II**

This panel is a part of panel 37

#### **P44. The Promise of Protection: New Directions in International Refugee Law**

This five-person academic panel is convened by the Refugee Law Initiative (RLI) at the School of Advanced Study, University of London. The RLI is an academic centre that leads and promotes cutting edge research on the international protection of refugees and displaced persons. The panel of RLI staff and doctoral affiliates is comprised entirely of young refugee law scholars working on novel aspects of these fields. The themes canvassed by their papers push the corpus of international refugee law in exciting new directions.

The papers focus upon the interaction between refugee law and other bodies of international law. Cantor examines the potential of the international human rights framework for securing the reparation of refugees. Sharpe explores substantive questions of equality in the refugee rights regime through recourse to human rights law. Ní Ghráinne examines novel implications of current UNHCR involvement with IDP situations for the development of international refugee law. Gauci discusses international refugee law as a panacea for overcoming some of the shortcomings in the separate legal framework for the protection of trafficked persons. Kathrani concludes by questioning the journey of the refugee across borders and their face-to-face contact with legal officials, from an existential perspective. The panel thus engages a diverse range of thought-provoking topics whilst maintaining a strong internal coherence around its central theme of the boundaries of legal protection.

#### **P45. Issues of Statelessness/Citizenship in South Asia: Some Case Studies**

Statelessness is the quality of being, in some way, without a state. In fact it means without a nationality, or at least without the protection that nationality should offer. Normally statelessness emerges from succession of states or territorial reorganizations. But it also emerges from persecution of minorities and state's majoritarian bias, which lead the states at time to expel citizens or inhabitants. This condition reinforced by the protracted refusal of the involved states to take them back creates a condition, which may lead at times to loss of their nationality and citizenship. Much of the problem of statelessness that exists in South Asia has its origins in the way the region was decolonized and partitioned and the international borders were reorganized.

Against this backdrop the panel will focus on three different cases of statelessness in India: Chakmas of Arunachal Pradesh, Chinese in Kolkata and the Gorkhas. How certain groups and communities are rendered stateless? While successor states in South Asia remain far from being ethnically homogeneous, are minorities living within them more vulnerable to statelessness than others? Does

protracted refugeehood eventually result in statelessness? Is the distinction between refugeehood and statelessness increasingly wearing thin? Is the existing legal regime adequate in dealing with the problem of statelessness? Do the policymakers need to think beyond legal terms? These are few questions that the panel will bring to the surface.

#### **P46. Bringing ‘Forced’ Back into Forced Migration Studies: Ethics, Responsibilities and Analytical Consequences**

The analytical difficulties of separating between forced and voluntary migration is well established knowledge. Most migration flows are composed of a multitude of different categories of migrants. Notions like ‘mixed migration’ are now increasingly used to capture this complexity. In this context, it may make sense to link our theoretical and practical understanding of forced migrants to other types of migrants (DeWind in Hathaway 2007). However, involuntary, conflict-induced migrants move under particular circumstances and with particular motivations and experiences. By definition they are victims of fundamental human rights abuses and may be exposed to a different set of vulnerabilities and protection needs than other migrants. In this panel we invite papers that place the meaning and continued importance of ‘forced’ in migration studies under scrutiny. Presentations should address theoretical, analytical or ethical dimensions of studying forced migration in the context of the contemporary complexity of migration flows.

By reflecting on theoretical and analytical opportunities and constraints as well as the ethical dimensions and responsibilities in research on forced migration, we aim to create a lively debate on how we should continue to conduct research on the role of conflict induced migration in the wider and more general context of migration flows.

#### **P47. Accountability and Access to Justice for Persons Affected by Human Trafficking: Session II**

This panel is a part of panel 40

#### **P48. Transitional Justice: Justice in Transition**

Justice is considered to be the constant and perpetual wish to render to everyone her/his due. It is perhaps quite elusive in terms of legal jurisprudence. But, this eternal eagerness to reach a cherished goal of a just world and the contested claims for justice by different groups of people sharing the same territorial, social, legal and political space, make the discourse on justice fairly thought-provoking. Meanwhile, the concept of transitional justice has gained considerable importance in the different branches of social sciences. The concept of transitional justice came to the fore in view of the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in South Africa as that country was groping for a just system after the collapse of its age-old apartheid regime. Later on, transitional justice gained further acceptance in view of the “new wave” of democratisation across the globe in the late 1980s and early 1990s when many other countries were going through another kind of transition from an authoritarian political system to some kind of a democratic one in the post-Soviet world. These developments brought the issue of transitional justice to the fore of the contemporary discourses on justice. It has interesting moral, religious and philosophical dimensions. This panel explores the concepts of transitional justice, the idea of developing transitional justice as a human right, relevance of the concepts in studying forced migration and formulating policies by nation states towards the IDPs and refugees.

#### **P49. Policy Discourses and New Legal Perspectives**

This panel attempts to understand, in the context of India, Nepal and Bangladesh, how new developments in managing internally displaced people and refugees stand up to scrutiny given the proliferation of laws in the international realm, suggesting that although countries increasingly believe refugees and IDPs have to be protected, a veritable gap exists in how this protection is translated into reality.

#### **P50. Interrogating Immigration and Rehabilitation Policies: Some Case Studies**

The papers in this panel reflect on the refugee policies of the Canadian Government, their links with the immigration policies and the politics behind it. To what extent and how the politico-economic needs of the Canadian government have influenced its approach towards the refugees and the immigrants is a vital question here. Similarly, the papers try to understand which refugee/refugee group gets protection from Canadian government, who does not and the reasons behind it.

#### **P51. The Trauma of Being Refugee: Some Reflections, Possible Solutions**

Being uprooted is a traumatic experience. A refugee loses her homeland, home, her own people and her own country. Living in a new country, huddled together with hundreds of unknown people in camps with very little amenities make their lives more difficult. Together with these very physical difficulties, there are burdens of memories. To rehabilitate a refugee therefore does not merely mean providing her a shelter, some food and clothes, but it also means comforting her psychologically, giving her the support to bear the trauma. The papers in this panel suggest possible ways to rehabilitate the refugees in a more humane way.

### 3. Programme at a Glance

Time Slots	Monday 7 January	Tuesday 8 January	Wednesday 9 January
09.30- 11.00 AM	Panel Session	Panel Session	Panel Session
11.00- 11.30 AM	Tea/Coffee Break		
11.30 – 01.00 PM	<b>Plenary Session</b>		
	<i>Partition Experiences in South Asia: Memory, Literature, Media</i>	<i>Development, Conflict &amp; Displacement</i>	<i>Conflict, Gender &amp; Displacement with special reference to India's North East and Nepal</i>
01.00- 02.00 PM	Lunch Break		
02.00- 03.30 PM	Panel Session	Panel Session	Panel Session
	Parallel Film Screening Sessions and Poster Exhibition		
03.30- 04.00 PM	Tea/Coffee Break		
04.00- 05.30 PM	Panel Session	Panel Session	Rappoteuers' Presentation Formal Vote of Thanks Programme ends at 04.30 PM
05.30 PM	Parallel Film Screening	Press Meet	
07.30 PM onwards			Farewell Dinner

**Note:** IASFM AGBM will be held on January 9, 2013 (Wednesday) at 4.30 pm (For Members Only)

# 4. Conference Programme

## DISCLAIMER

*This was the programme schedule for IASFM14 at the outset. However, over the conference days, a few panellists could not attend, chairpersons of certain panels had to be changed and some sessions were swapped or fell through. This schedule does not reflect these minimal changes.*

### Allotment of Rooms

Room A: Rang Darbar

Room B: Sabhaghar II

Room C: Pashchima

Room D: Sabhaghar I

Room E: Rangmanch

Room F: Rangmanch

Room G: Sabhaghar III (For Film Screening/ Photo Exhibition/ Press Meet)

Tea and Lunch during the Conference will be served in front of Room A (*Rang Darbar*)

We request our delegates to carry reception, lunch and dinner coupons

### Inaugural Programme

**Date:** January 6, 2013 (Sunday) || **Venue:** Room E (Rangmanch)

- 05.00-5.10 PM Welcome Address by **Ranabir Samaddar**, Director, CRG, Kolkata and Conference Host Representative, IASFM
- 05.10-05.20 PM Address by **Chris Dolan**, Director, Refugee Law Project, Makerere University, Kampala, and President, IASFM
- 05.20-05.30 PM Speech by Vivek Mehra, CEO, Sage Introducing CRG-Sage Lecture Series
- 05.30-06.10 PM Key note address on *Intimacy, Distance & Conditions of Being Refugees* by **Bishnu N. Mohapatra**, Visiting Senior Fellow, South Asian Studies Programme, National University of Singapore
- 06.10-06.40 PM Book Release:
- **Branding the Migrant** (Editor: Atig Ghosh, Published by Calcutta Research Group and FrontPage, Kolkata) by **Ashis Nandy**, Senior Honorary Fellow, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi
  - **Unstable Populations, Anxious States** (Editor: Paula Banerjee, Published by Calcutta Research Group and Stree Samya, Kolkata) by **Susan F. Martin**, Executive Director, Institute for the Study of

International Migration, Georgetown University, Washington.D.C., United States

- ***Special Issue of Refugee Watch*** (CRG journal on Forced Migration), by ***Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury***, Honorable Vice-Chancellor, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata

06.40- 07.00 PM Vote of Thanks by ***Paula Banerjee***, President, CRG, Vice-President, IASFM and Faculty, Department of South and South East Asian Studies, University of Calcutta

## **Plenary Sessions**

**Venue:** Room A (Rang Darbar) || **Time:** 11.30 AM-01.00 PM

### **January 7, 2013: Plenary Session I**

Theme: ***Partition Experiences in South Asia: Memory, Literature, Media***

Participants: ***Ritu Menon***, Eminent Writer & Women's Rights Activist, Women Unlimited, Delhi, India; ***Anisuzzaman***, Eminent Scholar & Professor Emeritus, Department of Bangla, Dhaka University, Dhaka, Bangladesh; ***Ibn Abdur Rehman***, Peace & Human Rights Activist, Director, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Lahore, Pakistan

Moderator: ***Ranabir Samaddar***, Director, Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata, India

### **January 8, 2013: Plenary Session II**

Theme: **Plenary Session: *Development, Conflict and Displacement***

Participants: ***Walter Fernandez***, Director, North Eastern Social Research Centre, Guwahati, India; ***Anuradha Talwar***, Eminent Social Activist, Paschim Banga Khet Majoor Samity, Kolkata India; ***Jehan Perera***, Director, National Peace Council, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Moderator: ***Susan F. Martin***, Institute for the Study of International Migration, Georgetown University, Washington. D.C., United States

### **January 9, 2013: Plenary Session III**

Theme: ***Conflict, Gender and Displacement with a special focus on India's North East and Nepal***

Participants: ***N. Vijaylakshmi Brara***, Associate Professor, Manipur Studies, Manipur University, Imphal, India; ***Rakhee Kalita***, Associate Professor, Department of English, Cotton College State University, Guwahati, India; ***Khesheli Chishi***, Former President, Naga Mothers' Association, Nagaland, India; ***Gina Sangkham***, Secretary General, Naga Peoples Movement for Human Rights, Kohima, India; ***Shiva Kumar Dhungana***, Nepal Institute of Peace, Kathmandu, Nepal

Moderator: ***Paula Banerjee***, , President, CRG, Vice-President, IASFM and Faculty, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India

***Venue and Timing for all Three Plenary Sessions will be Same***

## Film Screenings/Poster Exhibitions

**Venue:** Room G (Sabhaghar III)

January 7, 2013: *Marichjhanpi 1978-79* (In Bengali, with English Subtitle)

January 8, 2013: *Sthaniyo Sangbad* (In Bengali with English Subtitle) (Spring in the Colony)

January 9, 2013: *Amader Jomite Oder Nagari* (In Bengali with English Subtitle) (Their Town on our Land)

## Special Participants' Session on Films/Posters

**Venue:** Room G (Sabhaghar III) || **Date:** January 7, 2013 || **Time:** 04.00-05.30 PM

*This programme is subject to last minute changes*

## Panel Sessions

**January 7, 2013** (Monday)

09.30 – 11.00 AM: **Session I**

Session no.	Panel no.	Theme/Title of Panel	Panelists/Participants
7IA	1	<b><i>Borders, Boundaries and Belonging</i></b>	<b><i>Priya Singh</i></b> , MAKAIAS, Kolkata - “In An Enclave Existence: Israel's Palestinians” <b><i>Anita Sengupta</i></b> , MAKAIAS, Kolkata- “Borders and Movements: People at the Margins” <b><i>Suchandana Chatterjee</i></b> , MAKAIAS, Kolkata- “Dilemmas of Shared Spaces among the Kazakhs and the Buryats”  Chair: <b><i>Sreeradha Dutta</i></b> , Kolkata, MAKAIAS Discussant: <b><i>Diloram Karomat</i></b> , MAKAIAS
7IB	2	<b><i>Displacement and Migration on the Thailand-Burma Border: Key Themes and Issues</i></b>	<b><i>Sarah Meyer</i></b> , John Hopkins School of Public Health, Baltimore, United States- “A Mixed Methods Study on Labour and Sex Trafficking on Thailand-Burma Border” <b><i>Lanna Walsh</i></b> , Pact Myanmar, Yangon- “The Challenges To Improving The Situation of Migrant Workers In Thailand: Political, Cultural, and Economic Factors” <b><i>Yuri Gallar</i></b> , LGBT Refugee activist, Burma-Thailand <b><i>Catherine Lee</i></b> , Rutgers University, New Jersey, United States  Chair: <b><i>Lipi Ghosh</i></b> , DSSEAS, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India
7IC	3	<b><i>Migration and Crisis</i></b>	<b><i>Katy Long</i></b> , University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom - “Mass Influx, Refugee Situations And Border Closures” <b><i>Naohiko Omata</i></b> , University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom -

			<p>“The End of Liberian Refugee Crisis?: Sub-Regional Integration of Residual Refugees In West Africa”  <b>Rebecca Stern</b>, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden – “Regional Vs. Global: Consequences of Regionalizing Protection”  <b>Susan Rachel Banki</b>, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia- “Durable Solutions or Durable Problems? The Case of Competing Regimes”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Oliver Bakewell</b>, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom</p>
7ID	4	<b>Communities in Exile: State, Migrants and Refugees in India</b>	<p><b>Nasreen Chowdhory</b>, Delhi University, Delhi, India- “Refugee Camp Economies: A Note on Sri Lankan Tamils In India”  <b>Sudeep Basu</b>, GIDR, Ahmedabad, India- “Interrogating Cultural Rights/Duties of Refugees In Hostlands: Insights From The Tibetan Diaspora”  <b>Suha Priyadarshini Chakravorty</b>, Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata, India- “Of Mines and Beyond: Voices of the Displaced”  <b>Anindita Ghoshal</b>, Rishi Bankim Chandra College, Naihati, West Bengal, India- “Experiencing and Encountering Dissolution: "Displaced" Voices from Tripura”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Prasanta Ray</b>, Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata</p>
7IE	5	<b>Unprotected and Unrecognized: The Ontological Insecurity Of Migrants Who Are Denied Protection from Domestic Violence In Their Home Countries And As “Failed Refugee Claimants” In Canada</b>	<p><b>Rupaleem Bhuyan</b>, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada  <b>Bethany Osborne</b>, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada  <b>Janet Flores Juanico Cruz</b>, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada</p> <p>Chair: <b>Michele Millard</b>, York University, Toronto, Canada</p>
7IF	6	<b>Of Borders and Borderlands: Narratives from South Asia</b>	<p><b>Subhasri Ghosh</b>, , IDSK, Kolkata, India- “The Making of the West Bengal-East Pakistan Border: A Case Study of Nadia-Kushtia Sector, 1947-1971”, <b>Vanita Vaibhav Banjan</b>, SIES College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Mumbai, India- “Nationalizing against Naturalizing of Space: The Case of India-Bangladesh Border”  <b>Bani Gill</b>, University of Oldenburg, Oldenburg, Germany – “In the Name of Security: Violations at the Barmer border”  <b>Sanghita Datta</b>, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India- “Fighting for Rights in a Contested Space”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Benjamin Zachariah</b>, Presidency University, Kolkata</p>

7IG	7	<b>Refugee, Border, Borderland: Reflections and Representations</b>	<p><b>Nishi Pulugurtha</b>, Brahmananda Keshab Chandra College, Banhooghly, India –“Bastuhara, the Dispossessed”</p> <p><b>Simon Behrman</b>, University of London, London, United Kingdom- “The Trap of Romanticism: Three Novels of the Post-Colonial Refugee”</p> <p><b>Rukmini Sen</b>, Ambedkar University, Delhi, India- “Borders and Memories: Gendered Narratives of Dis-location from South Asia”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Sibaji Pratim Basu</b>, Sri Chaitanya College, Habra, West Bengal, India</p>
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11.00 – 11.30 AM: Tea

11.30 – 01.00 PM: Plenary Session I

01.00 – 02.00 PM: Lunch

02.00 – 03.30 PM: Session III

7IIA	8	<b>Borders and Right to Escape</b>	<p><b>Sandro Mezzadra</b>, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy – “Rights to Escape”</p> <p><b>Sanjay Chaturvedi</b>, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India- “Trespassing 'Borders': Geopolitics of Fear in Israel and the <i>Right to Escape</i>”</p> <p><b>Paula Banerjee</b>, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India- “Democracy, Women and Borders in India”</p> <p><b>Sumit Chakraborty</b>, Burdwan University, Kolkata, India- “Of Borders and Exiles: Reading <i>I Saw Ramalla</i>”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Hari S Vasudevan</b>, University of Calcutta, Kolkata (TBC)</p>
7IIB	9	<b>The Forgotten Ones : The New Challenges for Colombian Forced Migration Policy</b>	<p><b>Beatriz Eugenia Sanchez</b>, Universidad de los Andes, Bogota, Colombia- “Internal Forced Displacement: The price to be Paid for Development?”</p> <p><b>Marco Velasquez</b>, Javeriana University, Bogota, Colombia- “Foreign Investment and Forced Migration: Exploring New Patterns of Displacement Under Transnational Contexts”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Prasanta Ray</b>, Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata</p>
7IIC	10	<b>Other Histories of Partition: Lives in Transit</b>	<p><b>Anwesha Sengupta</b>, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India- “To Leave or Not to Leave: Patterns of Muslim Migration from West Bengal to East Pakistan (1947 -1950)”</p> <p><b>Ishita Dey</b>, Delhi School of Economics, New Delh, India- “Life in a Permanent Liability Home: Gendered experience of Partition”</p> <p><b>Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury</b>, Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata, India- “Politics of Rehabilitation after Partition: Lower Caste Refugees in West Bengal”</p> <p><b>Anjali Gera Roy &amp; Sarmishtha De Dutta</b>, IIT, Kharagpur, India – “Untamed Voices from the Unknown Margins: Partition Narratives from a Remote Region of West Bengal”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Ritu Menon</b>, Women Unlimited, Delhi, India</p>

7IID	11	<b><i>Displaced Women: Studying the Doubly Marginalized</i></b>	<p><b>Zobaida Nasreen</b>, Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom- “Forced Displacement and Women’s experiences in the Post-Accord context of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) of Bangladesh”</p> <p><b>Claudena Skran</b>, Lawrence University, Wisconsin, United States – “Experiences of Return and Reintegration for Refugee Women in Sierra Leone”</p> <p><b>Kaberi Das &amp; Ashutosh Bishnu Murti</b>, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India- “Crossing the Fence: A Study of Trans-border Migration of Women”</p> <p><b>Monica Nazziwa Kiwanuka</b>, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa – “Negotiating vulnerability to Domestic Violence: Immigrant Women’s Experiences And Coping Strategies in South Africa”</p> <p><b>Oluwaremilekun Oluwatoyin Oluwaniyi</b>, Redeemer's University, Redemption City, Nigeria- “Commodification of Sex and Women's Coping Mechanisms at ORU Refugee Camp, Nigeria”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Sumona Dasgupta</b>, PRIA, Delhi, India</p>
7IIE	12	<b><i>Being a Minor and a Refugee: Some Reflections</i></b>	<p><b>Olivia Lwabukuna</b>, University of Pretoria, South Africa – “Displaced and Migrant Minors and The Role of The Specific Southern Africa States”</p> <p><b>Hilde Liden</b>, Institute for Social Research, Oslo, Norway – “Crossing the Age Boundaries: Unaccompanied Minors Turning Eighteen”</p> <p><b>Katarzyna Grabska &amp; Martha Fanjoy</b>, IHEID, Geneva, Switzerland- “<i>And When I Become A Man</i>: Borders and Trans-Local Search of Masculinity Among Young Returnee Men to South Sudan”</p> <p><b>Anna Maria Pielin</b>, Glasgow Caledonian University, Glasgow, United Kingdom- “Effectively stateless- The Case of Children of Cambodia and India”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Samita Sen</b>, Jadavpur University, Kolkata</p>
7IIF	13	<b><i>Return Migration to a Conflict or Post-Conflict Situation Session I</i></b>	<p><b>Megan Bradley</b>, Brookings Institute, Washington.D.C., United States- “Jus Post Bellum and the Resolution of Displacement”</p> <p><b>Nassim Majidi</b>, Independent Researcher &amp; Consultant, Afghanistan- “Return and Reintegration: A Conflict of Interest in (Post-)Conflict Settings”</p> <p><b>Stephan Dünwald</b>, Lisbon University, Lisbon, Portugal- “Return to Kosovo: Assisted, but Not Voluntary”</p> <p><b>Marisa O Ensor</b>, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, United States- “Youth Culture and Refugee (Re)integration in Post-Conflict South Sudan”</p> <p><b>Tharma Sarvendra</b>, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway- “From Return to Re-Turn: Perspectives and Practices of Return Migration Among Tamils in Norway”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Ceri Oeppen</b>, University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom</p>
7IIG		<b><i>Film Screening</i></b>	<p><b>Marichjhanpi 1978-79</b> 61 mins Director: Tushar Bhattacharya</p>

03.30 – 04.00 PM: Tea  
 04.00 - 05.30 PM: Session IV

7IIIA	14	<b>Interrogating Violence, Interrogating Displacement: A Gendered Perspective</b>	<p><b>Astrid Escrig</b>, York University, Toronto, Canada- “Placing Protracted Forced Encampment at the Center: An Exploration of The Causes of Domestic Violence In The Acholi Sub-Region Of Northern Uganda”</p> <p><b>Danielle Bishop</b>, York University, Toronto, Canada- “Violence, Gender and Structures of Survival: The Role of Borderless Higher Education for Refugees in Dadaab, Kenya”</p> <p><b>Kimberly Veller</b>, York University, Toronto, Canada- “Sexual Violence and Urban Refugees: Surveying the Supports in Kampala, Uganda”</p> <p><b>Eda Hatice Farsakoglu</b>, Lund University, Lund, Sweden- “Rainbow Lives in Limbo: Re-thinking the Gendered and Sexualized Politics of Belonging in the case of Iranian LGBTQ Transit Refugees in Turkey”</p> <p><b>Megan Bradley</b>, Brookings Institute, Washington D.C.,United States- “Gender and IDP Livelihoods: Insights from the Philippines, Cote D’Ivoire and Azerbaijan”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Chris Dolan</b>, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda</p>
7IIIB	15	<b>Branding the Migrant</b>	<p><b>Atig Ghosh</b>, Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata, India- “Anxious Economy, Nervous State”</p> <p><b>Badri Narayan Tiwari</b>, Govind Ballabh Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad, India- “Photos and Colonial Governance of Migrants Identities in Suriname”</p> <p><b>Ranabir Samaddar</b>, Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata, India- “Figuring the Alien, Governing the Monstrous”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Pradip K. Bose</b>, MCRG, Kolkata, India</p>
7IIIC	16	<b>Of Citizenship and Politics of Exclusion: Some Case Studies</b>	<p><b>Levis Onegi</b>, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa- “Exploring emerging communities and xenophobic exclusion in South Africa: A New Dilemma For Global Migration And Protection?”</p> <p><b>Katy Long</b>, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom- “The Citizenship Market: Trading identity documents”</p> <p><b>Yukari Ando</b>, Osaka University, Osaka, Japan – “Nationality Act in Sudan and South Sudan: Citizenship Questions after the Independence of Republic of South Sudan”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Nasreen Chowdhory</b>, Delhi University, Delhi, India</p>
7IIID	17	<b>Conflict, Displacement and Rehabilitation: Narratives from South and South East Asia I</b>	<p><b>Chris Lewa</b>, Arakan Project, Thailand – “Understanding Root Causes to Sectarian Unrest In Rakhine State of Myanmar”</p> <p><b>Sivaprashanthi Thambaiah &amp; Neelakantan Dharmaretnam</b>, Independent Researcher &amp; Psycho-social Practitioner, Sri Lanka- “A Re- birth to <i>Self and Systems</i>”</p> <p><b>Sreeja Balarajan</b>, Resettlement Services, CCC, United States – “Challenges to the <i>Durable Solution</i>: Bhutanese Resettlement Process in the US”</p> <p><b>Amit Kumar Singh</b>, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Melbourne,</p>

			Thailand- “Insecure Legal Status of Refugees in Right to Freedom From Arbitrary Detention and Freedom of Movement: Case Studies of Pakistani Ahmedia Refugees in Thailand”  Chair: <b>Sudeep Basu</b> , GIDR, Ahmedabad, India
7IIIE	18	<b>Return Migration to a Conflict or Post-Conflict Situations</b>  <b>Session II</b>	<b>Katie Vasey</b> , Monash University, Melbourne, Australia –“Place-making, Return, and Well-Being: Iraqi Refugee Women in Australia” <b>Vanessa Iaria</b> , University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom – “Iraqi Refugees’ Return and Transnational Livelihoods in the Middle East/ Returning to a Housing Shortage: The Challenges and Marginalization of Iraq’s Returnees” <b>Ulrike Schultz</b> , University of Friedensau, Germany- “Process of Emplacement and Displacement: Returnees in the New Sudan”  Chair: <b>Vanessa Iaria</b> , University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom
7IIIF	19	<b>Conflict, Displacement and Rehabilitation: Narratives from South and South East Asia II</b>	<b>Swatahsiddha Sarkar</b> , University of North Bengal, Siliguri, India – “Migration of Nepalis in India: Issues of Citizenship & Justice” <b>Shreyashi Chettri</b> , Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India- “The <i>Double Homeland</i> Discourse and the Indian Nepali Community” <b>Jhuma Sen</b> , Lawyers Collective, India – “Conflict, Vigilantism and Migrating Lives: A Note from Khammam”  Chair: <b>Shiva Kumar Dhungana</b> , Nepal Institute of Peace (NIP), Katyhmandu, Nepal
7IIIG		<b>Film Session/Poster Session</b>	<b>Elsa Oliveira</b> , University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg- “ <i>I am here and this is my life, but it’s not all of me</i> : Insights into the lives of migrant women sex workers in inner-city Johannesburg” <b>Rohit Jain</b> , Freelance Human Rights Photographer – <i>People of Nowhere</i> (Audio-visual) <b>Anshuman Dasgupta</b> , Visva Bharati University, Shantiniketan, India - <i>Project Borderland : Alien-nation</i> – VIDEO

## January 8 (Tuesday)

09.30 – 11.00 AM: **Session I**

8IA	20	<b>Refugee and Forced Migration Studies</b> <b>Online: Harnessing “the Cloud” for Knowledge Generation, Instruction, and Mobilization</b>	<b>James C. Simeon</b> , Centre for Refugee Studies, York University, Toronto, Canada <b>Giorgia Dona</b> , School of Law and Social Sciences, University of East London, London, United Kingdom <b>Vibeke Andersson</b> , Global Refugee Studies, Aalborg University, Aalborg, Denmark <b>Nanette Neuwahl</b> , Faculty of Law, University of Montreal, Quebec, Canada <b>Idil Atak</b> , Centre for Human Rights and Liberal Pluralism, McGill University, Montreal, Canada <b>Heather Johnson</b> , School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy, Queen's University Belfast, United Kingdom
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8IB	21	<b>Politics of Protection, Issues of Internal Displacement</b>	<p><b>Ayse Betul Celik</b>, Sabanci University, Istanbul, Turkey–“Need for Reconciliation in Turkey’s Kurdish Internal Displacement Issue”</p> <p><b>Simon Addison</b>, University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom–“Who Counts? Some Notes on the Politics of IDP protection”</p> <p><b>Riva Jalipa</b>, Refugee Consortium of Kenya, Kenya – “Continuous Displacement”</p> <p><b>Cathrine Brun</b>, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway –“When housing is Not Enough. Interrogating Solutions to Protracted Displacement in The Borderlands of Georgia And Sri Lanka”</p> <p><b>Namrita Shirin Singh</b>, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, United States- “Reaching Connectedness: Proposing A Model of Local Integration And Care-Seeking Strategy—The Case of Protracted Internal Displacement in the Republic of Georgia”.</p> <p>Chair: <b>Nergis Canefe</b>, York University, Toronto, Canada</p>
8IC	22	<b>Disaster and Displacement</b>	<p><b>K M Pari Velan</b>, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India- “Policies of Disaster Management in India”</p> <p><b>Nirmal Mahato</b>, Independent Researcher, West Bengal, India- “Labour Trafficking in Purulia: An Ecological Context”</p> <p><b>Mithilesh Kumar</b>, University of Western Sydney, Sydney, Australia- “Governing Flood, Migration and Conflict in North Bihar”</p> <p><b>Madhulika Sahoo</b>, Independent consultant &amp; Researcher, Odisha, India – “Environmental Injustice to The Conservation &amp; Mining Induced Displaced People in Odisha”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Samir K. Das</b>, North Bengal University, Siliguri, India</p>
8ID	23	<b>Mobilizing Knowledge Globally: Perspectives of the Refugee Research Network</b>	<p><b>Susan McGrath</b>, Centre for Refugee Studies, York University, Toronto; <b>Susan Martin</b>, Georgetown University, Washington D.C., United States; <b>Roberto Vidal</b>, University in Bogota, Columbia; <b>Loren Landau</b>, African Center for Migration and Society, Wits University, Johannesburg, South Africa and <b>Galya Ruffer</b>, Northwestern University, Illinois, United States.</p>
8IE	24	<b>Surviving in Another Country: Tactics and Strategies</b>	<p><b>Stevan M. Weine</b>, University of Illinois at Chicago, United States- “Building Resilience to Violent Extremism in Resettled Refugee and Immigrant Communities”</p> <p><b>Nandini Ganguli</b>, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India- “Somali Refugees in India- Survival in an Environment of Mistrust”</p>

			<p><b>Charles Gomes</b>, Fundação Casa de Rui Barbosa, Brazil- “Haitians in Brazil: From Asylum Seekers to Migrants”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury</b>, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, India</p>
8IF	25	<p><b>Conflict, Displacement and Resettlement</b></p>	<p><b>Danesh Narendra Jayatilaka</b>, University of Colombo, Colombo, Sri Lanka –“Mobile Livelihoods Strategies And Sustainable Recovery: A Case Study From a Resettled Village in Post-Conflict Sri Lanka”</p> <p><b>Nicholas Van Hear</b>, COMPAS, Oxford, United Kingdom- “Spaces of Diaspora Engagement in Settings of Conflict and Displacement”</p> <p><b>Madhusmita Jena</b>, JNU, New Delhi – “Lives in Transit: A Study of the Tibetan and Sri Lankan Refugees in India”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Nasreen Chowdhory</b>, Delhi University, Delhi, India</p>
8IG	26	<p><b>On Spaces and Places: Some Reflections on Urban Refugees and Migration Laws I</b></p>	<p><b>Francesco Vecchio</b>, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia- “The Economies of Asylum In The Global City. Negotiating Borders And Refugee Agency In Spaces of Legal Exclusion”</p> <p><b>Dale Buscher</b>, Women's Refugee Commission, United States – “The Living Ain't Easy: UNHCR'S Revised Urban Refugee Policy and Implications for Refugee Livelihoods”</p> <p><b>Ranu Basu</b>, York University, Toronto, Canada- “Home-making and City Building for the ‘Common Good’: The Experience of Migrants in Scarborough”</p> <p><b>Luis Enrique Eguren</b>, University of Deusto, Spain “Forced Displacement: Contested Spaces, Spaces of Protection”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Manish Jha</b>, TISS, Mumbai</p>

11.00 – 11.30 AM: Tea

11.30 – 01.00 PM: Plenary Session II

01.00 – 02.00 PM: Lunch

02.00 – 03.30 PM: Session III

8IIA	27	<p><b>Home-making in Limbo: Domestic Practices and the Meaning of Home for Forced Migrants in Protracted Situations – I</b></p>	<p><b>Jasna Capo Zmegac</b>, Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research, Zagreb, Croatia- “In-between two homes: Yugoslav refugees' home-making twenty years after”</p> <p><b>Giorgia Dona</b>, University of East London, London, United Kingdom- “Lives 'in Transit': Patterns, responses and new 'home-making' practices”</p> <p><b>Catherine Brun</b>, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway- “Home in temporary dwellings: exploring the relationship between time, materiality and agency”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Anita Fabos</b>, Clark University, United States</p>
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8IIB	28	<b>Climate-change Induced Displacement : Legal Policies and Implications</b>	<p><b>Benoît Mayer</b>, National University of Singapore, Singapore- “The Unbearable Lightness of Environmental Migration Governance Projects”</p> <p><b>Alice Baillat</b>, Sciences Po Paris, Paris – “Security-Based Discourses on Climate-Induced Migration From Bangladesh to India: How Does It Perform the Policy Response to Manage Cross-Border Migration in the Context Of South Asia?”</p> <p><b>Ademola Oluborode Jegede</b>, Centre for Human Rights, South Africa – “Indigenous Peoples And Climate Induced Displacement in Africa: Implementing Obligations of States Under The Kampala Convention”</p> <p><b>Mathew Scott</b>, Lund University, Lund, Sweden - “Legal Protection of Climate Change Migrants in Europe: The Case For Strategic Litigation”</p> <p>Chair: <b>K M Pari Velan</b>, TISS, Mumbai</p>
8IIC	29	<b>Forced Migration and Trafficking in Persons in the Contemporary World: The Variables of Gender, Man-made Disaster and Economic Liberalization</b>	<p><b>Madan Biswal</b>, Sambalpur University, Sambalpur, India – “Impact of Seasonal Migration on Women: A study in Bargarh District of West Odisha, India”</p> <p><b>Sasha Poucki</b>, Rutgers University, New Jersey - “Alternative Approaches to the Study of Human Trafficking: Introducing the ‘emergency approach’ to explaining and analyzing human trafficking vis-à-vis natural and man-made disasters”</p> <p><b>Mehul Chauhan</b>, Xavier Institute of Development Action and Studies, Jabalpur, India- “Tribal Girls, Displacement and Trafficking Trauma; A Case Study from East India”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Sumona Dasgupta</b>, PRIA, Delhi, India</p>
8IID	30	<b>The Migration Ramifications of Humanitarian Crises</b>	<p><b>Sebastián Albuja</b>, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Switzerland- “Mexico: Displacement Caused by Criminal Violence”</p> <p><b>Khalid Koser</b>, Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Geneva, Switzerland- “Non-Citizens in Crisis: Libya”</p> <p><b>Alexander Betts</b>, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom- “Global Governance and the Regime Complex for Crisis Migration”</p> <p><b>Elzbieta Gozdziaik</b>, Georgetown University, Washington D.C., United States- “Human Trafficking in the Time of Crises”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Susan F. Martin</b>, Georgetown University, Washington D.C., United States</p>
8IIE	31	<b>On Spaces and Places: Some Reflections on Refugees and Migration Laws II</b>	<p><b>Piu Debanjan Chatterjee</b>, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India – “Exclusion of Lower Income Group From Urban Social Space – A Case of Navi Mumbai”</p> <p><b>Juan Amaya Castro</b>, Vrije Universiteit, Netherlands- “Migration Law &amp; the Territoriality of Capitalism”</p> <p><b>Jessica L. Anderson</b>, -“Urban Displacement and Organizational Change: A Typology of Protection Institutions in Urban South Africa”</p> <p><b>Cristina Churruca</b>, University of Deusto, Spain – “Forced Displacement: Contested Spaces, Spaces of Protection”</p>

			Chair: <b>Rajesh Tandon</b> , PRIA, Delhi, India (TBC)
8IIF	32	<b>Return Migration to Conflict or Post- Conflict Situation: Case Studies from Burundi and Rwanda</b>	<b>Theodore Mbazumutima</b> , Rema Ministries, Burundi- “Reintegration of Burundian Repatriates” <b>Sonja Fransen</b> , Maastricht University, Maastricht, Netherlands- “Return Migration and Social Cohesion in Burundi: The Mediating Role of Land Scarcity” <b>Reiko Shindo</b> , Aberystwyth University, Ceredigion, United Kingdom- “The Diaspora Return Programme in Post-Conflict Rwanda and Its Political Implications”  Chair: <b>Danesh Narendra Jayatilaka</b> , University of Colombo, Colombo, Sri Lanka
8IIG		<b>Film Screening</b>	<b>Shaniya Sambaad (2009) (Spring in the Colony)</b> 105 min Directors: Arjun Gourisaria, Moinak Biswas Writer: Moinak Biswas

03.30 – 04.00 PM: Tea

04.00 – 05.30 PM: Session III

8IIIA	33	<b>Home-making in Limbo: Domestic Practices and the Meaning of Home for Forced Migrants in Protracted Situations – II</b>	<b>Mateja Celestina</b> , University of Manchester, United Kingdom- “This Is The Future God Gave Us, But It Doesn't Mean We Need to Die Here”: Trajectories of Emplacement of Idps in Rural Colombia” <b>Micah Trapp</b> , George Washington University, Washington, United States- “From Refugee Mansions to Traveling Homes: How Transnational Constructions of Home Influence Migratory Decisions Among Liberian Refugees”  Chair: <b>Badri Narayan Tiwari</b> , Govind Ballabh Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad, India (TBC)
8IIIB	34	<b>People’s Response to Development Induced Displacement</b>	<b>Paula Banerjee</b> University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India- “The Development induced Displaced and their Protests” <b>Samir K. Das</b> North Bengal University, Siliguri, India- “Forced Migration and the Economy of Sovereign Gaze” <b>Manish Jha</b> , TISS, Mumbai, India- “Development, Displacement and Resistance”  Chair: <b>Walter Fernandez</b> , Director, North Eastern Social Research Centre, Guwahati, India
8IIIC	35	<b>Development, Displacement and Rehabilitation: Some Reflections</b>	<b>Mrutyanjaya Sahu</b> , Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi – “Development, Displacement and Resettlement in India: Policy and Practices” <b>Laurence Juma</b> , Rhodes University – “Protection Regimes for Communities Displaced by Development Projects: The Case of The Endorois Community of Northern Kenya Revisited” <b>Sheetal Agarwal</b> , University of Delhi, Delhi- “Women and Development-Induced Displacement: Saga of Marginalisation”  Chair: <b>Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury</b> , Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata, India

8IIID	36	<b>Border Demarcation and Refugees</b>	<p><b>Giulia El-Dardiry</b>, McGill University, Canada- “Guests Not Refugees: Hospitality Regimes in the Middle East”</p> <p><b>Faida N Abu Ghazaleh</b>, University of Manchester, United Kingdom- “Walls Have Ears and You Should Be Careful When You Are Talking, I Know a Wall that Started Talking... What?! The Graffiti Culture at the New Borders (Separation Wall) in Palestine”</p> <p><b>Bram Jansen</b>, Wageningen University, Netherlands – “Abyei - a new Cyprus in the making? Dilemmas of humanitarian programming in relation to border demarcation between Sudan and South Sudan”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Sudeep Basu</b>, GIDR, Ahmedabad, India</p>
8IIIE	37	<b>Managing Refugees, Looking for Solutions: Understanding the Strategies of Protection Session II</b>	<p><b>Marko Szilveszter Macskovich</b>, Osaka University, Osaka, Japan- “Technological Innovations in the Refugee Cycle”</p> <p><b>Rachel Suzanne Levitan</b>, Organization for Refugee, Asylum &amp; Migration (ORAM), “UNHCR Refugee Status Determination Reform: Pathway to Procedural Fairness and Refugee Rights?”</p> <p><b>Amoding Deborah Oluka</b>, American University of Cairo, Egypt- “Just a Piece of Coloured Paper? UNHCR ID Documentation under Refugee Protection in Egypt”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Sanjay Chaturvedi</b>, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India</p>
8IIIF	38	<b>Refugees, Asylum-seekers and Everyday Lives</b>	<p><b>Emily Elizabeth Arnold-Fernandez and Stewart Pollock</b>, “Asylum Access, United States – “To Have Work Is To Have Life: Refugees and the Right to Work”</p> <p><b>Ayar Ata</b>, London South Bank University, United Kingdom- “Kurdish Diaspora Integration Experience in London”</p> <p><b>Hannah Lewis</b>, University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom- “Forced Migration and Forced Labour: Experiences of Forced/ Unfree Labour among Refugees in the UK”</p> <p><b>Alice Bloch</b>, City University, London, United Kingdom- “Rejected Asylum Seekers Living as Irregular Migrants in England: Everyday Lives and Extraordinary Fears”</p> <p><b>John Harland Giammatteo</b>, City University, London, United Kingdom – “Narrating Detention: Asylum-seekers' Perceptions of Immigration Detention in the United Kingdom”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Soumya Pandey</b>, IGNOU, New Delhi</p>
8IIIG		<b>Meeting the Press</b>	

January 9, 2013 (Wednesday)

09.30 -11.00 AM: Session I

9IA	39	<b>Methodologies and the Production of Knowledge in Forced</b>	<p><b>Galya B. Ruffer</b>, Northwestern University, Illinois, United States- “Ushahidi, Frontline SMS and the Ethics of New Technologies in the Documentation of Refugee Rights and Protection”</p> <p><b>Priyanca Mathur Velath</b>, Institute for Human Development,</p>
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		<b>Migration Contexts</b>	<p>New Delhi, India and <b>Saba Hussein</b>, University of Warwick, United Kingdom- “Methodological Dilemmas of working with Undocumented Migrants: Migrants Spaces and the Politics of Silence and 'Invisibility'”</p> <p><b>Selma Porobic</b>, Sarajevo University, Bosnia-Herzegovina- “Data on Displacement ‘Produced’ By Refugees Who Scientifically Study Refugee Experiences: Establishment of The Study Centre For Refugee And IDP Issues In Countries With Recent History of Displacement.”</p> <p><b>Mulugeta Abai &amp; Ezat Mossallanejad</b>, Centre for Victims of Torture (CCVT), Toronto, Canada – “Methodological perspectives from the field: Experience of Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture (CCVT)”</p> <p><b>Nergis Canefe</b>, York University, Toronto, Canada- “Ethics, Responsibility and Limits of Engagement in Forced Migration Studies”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Curt Franzmann</b>, Heartland Alliance, Illinois, United States</p>
9IB	40	<b>Accountability and Access to Justice for Persons Affected by Human Trafficking - 1</b>	<p><b>Susan York Kneebone</b>, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia – “International Marriage Migration from Cambodia and Vietnam to South Korea and Taiwan”</p> <p><b>Lynne Awbery</b>, United Kingdom, “The Lived Experiences of A Child Trafficked into the UK, Seen Through his Artwork”</p> <p><b>Victoria Rietig</b>, Harvard University, United States- “Human Trafficking in Mexico: Institutional Challenges”</p> <p><b>Hoang Thi Tue Phuong</b>, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia- “Challenges to the Access to Justice for Trafficked Persons in Vietnam”</p> <p><b>Jackie Pollock</b>, Migration Action Program Foundation, Thailand- “Access to Justice in Cases of Labour Exploitation in Thailand: Migrant Workers or ‘Victims of Trafficking?’”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Uttam K. Das</b>, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh</p>
9IC	41	<b>Armed Conflict and Forced Migration: State Fragility and Institutional Challenges</b>	<p><b>Arpita Basu Roy</b>, MAKAIAS, Kolkata- “Conflict and displacement in ‘post-conflic’ Afghanistan”</p> <p><b>Mrinal Kanti Chakma</b>, MAKAIAS, Kolkata- “Forced Migration in CHT: Post Peace Accord Situations”</p> <p><b>Sanjay Pulipaka</b>, MAKAIAS, Kolkata- “Forced Migration in Myanmar”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Binod Kr. Mishra</b>, MAKAIAS, Kolkata</p>
9ID	42	<b>Theories, Epistemologies and Curricula: A Roundtable</b>	<p><b>Giorgia Dona</b>, School of Law and Social Sciences, University of East London, London, United Kingdom</p> <p><b>Eftihia Voutira</b>, University of Macedonia Thessaloniki, Macedonia, Greece</p> <p>Chair: TBC</p>

9IE	43	<b><i>Managing Refugees, Looking for Solutions: Understanding the Strategies of Protection Session II</i></b>	<p><b>Ralph Wilde</b>, University College London, London, United Kingdom- “Anti-migration Activities at Sea: Recent Human Rights Law Developments”</p> <p><b>David Danielson</b>, Refugee Law Project, Kampala, Uganda- “Control from the Top: An Upside Down Approach for Dealing With the Displaced”</p> <p><b>Yukari Ando</b>, Osaka University, Osaka, Japan- “Provisional Measures: Protection from Expulsion for Rejected-Asylum-Seekers”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury</b>, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, India</p>
9IF	44	<b><i>Refugee Law Initiative Panel: "The Promise of Protection: New Directions in International Refugee Law"</i></b>	<p><b>David James Cantor</b>, School of Advanced Study, University of London, London- “Reparations for Refugees: The Potential of International Human Rights Law”</p> <p><b>Brid Ní Ghráinne</b>, University of Oxford, Oxford- “The UNHCR's involvement with IDPs: Protection for the Purposes of the Refugee Convention?”</p> <p><b>James C. Simeon</b>, Centre for Refugee Studies, York University, , Toronto, Canada</p> <p>Chair: <b>Chris Dolan</b>, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda</p>
9IG	45	<b><i>Issues of Statelessness/ Citizenship in South Asia: Some Case Studies</i></b>	<p><b>Anasua Basu Roy Chaudhury</b>, Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata - “Nowhere People: Stateless Chakmas in Arunachal Pradesh”</p> <p><b>Ashok Nayak</b>, ActionAid, Kolkata- “Presentation on the Chhitmahals”</p> <p><b>Anup Sekhar Chakraborty</b>, St. Jopseph’s College, Darjeeling- “Brave Mercenaries to Becoming Honourable Citizens: Statelessness, Befuddled Public Sphere and the Gorkha”</p> <p><b>Abba Pullu</b>, “Stateless Chakmas: Displaced and Deprived”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Paula Banerjee</b>, University of Calcutta and Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata, India</p>

11.00 – 11.30 AM: Tea

01.30 -01.00 PM: Plenary Session III

01.00 – 02.00 PM: Lunch

02.00 – 03.30 PM: Session III

9IIA	46	<b><i>Bringing 'forced' Back into Forced Migration Studies. Ethics, Responsibilities and Analytical Consequences</i></b>	<p><b>Andrea Pacifico Pacheco</b>, State University of Paraiba, Paraiba, Brazil and <b>Érika Pires Ramos</b>, Brazilian Environmental Agency, Brazil- “Humanitarian Asylum for Forced Migrants: The Case of Haitians' Arrival in Brazil”</p> <p><b>Helia López Zorzosa</b>, Independent Researcher, United Kingdom- “Looking Back: The Gendered and Classed Experience of Chilean Forced Migration”</p> <p><b>Katarzyna Grabska</b>, IHEID, Geneva, Switzerland- “But I am a Refugee... Negotiating Bio-politics of (Forced) Migration Studies”</p> <p><b>Oliver Bakewell</b>, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom- “Can We Ask Why the Forced Migrant Decided to Move?”</p>
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			<p><b>Susan Kneebone</b>, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia- “Humanitarianism, the State and Protection of Forced Migrants”</p> <p><b>Cathrine Brun</b>, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway- “Re-conceptualizing Forced Migration: Including the Decision to Stay”</p> <p><b>Jason Miklian &amp; Kristian Hoelscher</b>, PRIO, Oslo, Norway- “Research Ethics in Conflict Situations &amp; Humanitarian Crisis”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Nicholas Van Hear</b>, COMPAS, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom</p>
9IIB	47	<p><b>Accountability and Access to Justice for Persons Affected by Human Trafficking - 2</b></p>	<p><b>Jennifer Burn</b>, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia- “Australia's Response to Forced Marriage Migration: the law isn't everything is it?”</p> <p><b>Julia Brown</b>, Australian Red Cross, Melbourne, Australia- “The importance of the voices of trafficked persons in trafficking research”</p> <p><b>Patricia Hynes</b>, University of Bedfordshire, United Kingdom- “Children, young people and trafficking in the UK: Statutory and non-statutory understandings”</p> <p><b>Julia Planitzer</b>, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, Vienna, Austria- “The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and its impact on strengthening a Human Rights-Based Approach to Trafficking in Human Beings”</p> <p><b>Monika Smit</b>, Legislation and Alien Affairs, Research and Documentation Centre (WODC), Netherlands- “Effects Unknown: Outcome of A Systematic Review on Evaluation Studies in the Field of Trafficking in Human Beings for Sexual Exploitation”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Priyanca Mathur Velath</b>, Programme Coordinator, IASFM</p>
9IIC	48	<p><b>Transitional Justice: Justice in Transition</b></p>	<p><b>Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury</b>, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, India- “Forced Migration and Justice in the Time of Transition”</p> <p><b>Arani Sanyal</b>, National Law School, Bangalore, India- “Transitional Justice as a Human Right?”</p> <p><b>Sibaji Pratim Basu</b>, Sri Chaitanya College, Habra, West Bengal, India</p> <p>Chair: <b>Nasreen Chowdhory</b>, Delhi University, Delhi, India</p>
9IID	49	<p><b>Policy Discourses and New Legal Perspectives</b></p>	<p><b>Sahana Basavapatna</b>, Independent Researcher &amp; Lawyer, Delhi, India- “Urban refugee policy 2009 - How has it fared in India?”</p> <p><b>Uttam K. Das</b>, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh- “Protecting Refugees without Law: A Case Study of the Rohingyas in Bangladesh”</p> <p><b>Shiva Dhungana</b>, Nepal Institute of Peace (NIP), Kathmandu, Nepal- “Nepal’s Rehabilitation &amp; Resettlement Policies: Where is the future of Uprooted Families?”</p> <p><b>Jennifer Eileen Byrne</b>, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, United States</p> <p>Chair: <b>Sanjay Chaturvedi</b>, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India</p>

9IIE	50	<b><i>Interrogating Immigration and Rehabilitation Policies : Some Case Studies</i></b>	<p><b>Petra Molnar Diop</b>, York University, Toronto, Canada- “The ‘Bogus’ Refugee: Discourses of Fraud in Bill C-31 and the Recent Rhetoric in Canadian Immigration Policy”</p> <p><b>Robert Batarseh</b>, York University, Toronto, Canada- “They're Vulnerable, Get them Out! An Examination of the Selection of Refugee Group's for Resettlement under the Canadian Refugee and Humanitarian Resettlement Program”</p> <p><b>James C. Simeon</b>, York University, Toronto, Canada- “The Application and Interpretation of International Humanitarian Law and International Criminal Law in the Exclusion of Those Refugee Claimants Who Have Committed War Crimes and/or Crimes Against Humanity in Canada”</p> <p><b>Amrita Hari</b>, York University, Toronto, Canada –“<i>Where are all the refugees gone?</i> A Novel Methodological Approach to Observe the Lives in Transit Of Refugee Claimants in The Greater Toronto Area”</p> <p><b>Bethany Osborne</b>, University of Toronto, Canada – Democracy/Theocracy: Women, Incarceration and Exile</p> <p>Chair: <b>Michele Millard</b>, York University, Toronto, Canada</p>
9IIF	51	<b><i>The Trauma of Being Refugee: Some Reflections, Possible Solutions</i></b>	<p><b>Senyonyi Wilson</b>, Social Scientist and a Gender and Development specialist, Uganda – “The Impact of Psychosocial Services for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Kampala”</p> <p><b>Joseph Ssenyonga</b>, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Mbarara, Uganda – “Mental health challenges of refugees resettled in Nakivale Refugee camp in Uganda”</p> <p><b>David Ongwech Onen</b>, Refugee Law Project, Kampala, Uganda – “Enabling Support Groups among Highly Traumatized Refugee”</p> <p><b>David Danielson</b>, Refugee Law Project, Kampala, Uganda- “Control from the Top: An Upside Down Approach for Dealing with the Displaced”</p> <p><b>Ezatollah Mossallanejad</b>, Centre for Victims of Torture (CCVT), Canada- “Reflections on the Trauma of Exile”</p> <p>Chair: <b>Prasanta Ray</b>, Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata</p>
9IIG		<b><i>Film Screening</i></b>	<p><b>Amader Jomite Oder Nagari</b> (<i>Their Town on our Land</i>) Duration: 40 Minutes <b>Director:</b> Pramod Gupta and Nilotpall Dutta, Kolkata</p>

03.30 -04.00 PM: **Tea**

04.00 – 04.15 PM: **Rapporteur’s Presentation** by **Atig Ghosh**, MCRG, Kolkata

Chair: **Chris Dolan**, Director, Refugee Law Project, Makerere University, Uganda and President, IASFM

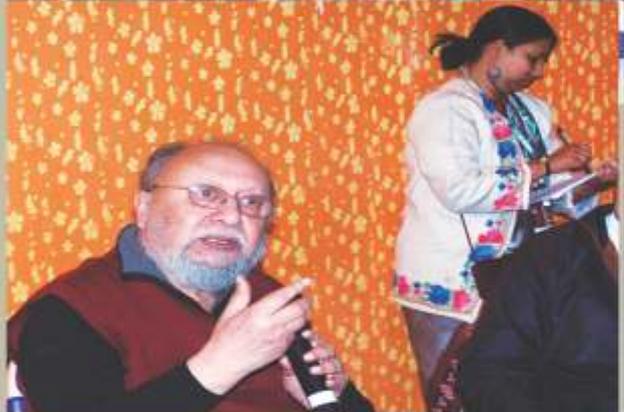
04.15 – 04.30 PM: Vote of Thanks

04.30 PM onward: **IASFM ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING**

(For Members Only)









## 5. List of Participants

- Abba Pulu*, IIPS Mumbai, India  
*Abbie Taylor*, Institute for the Study of International Migration Georgetown University, USA  
*Achan Mungleng*, Independent Researcher, New Delhi, India  
*Ademola Oluborode Jegede*, Centre for Human Rights, South Africa  
*Adrija Banerjee*, Department of South & South-East Asian Studies, University of Calcutta, India  
*Alice Baillat*, Sciences Po Paris, Paris  
*Alice Bloch*, City University, London, United Kingdom  
*Amit Kumar Singh*, Mahidol University, Thailand  
*Amoding Deborah Oluka*, American University of Cairo, Egypt  
*Amrita Hari*, York University, Canada  
*Amruta Paradkar*, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India  
*Ananya Bose*, Department of South & South-East Asian Studies, University of Calcutta, India  
*Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury*, Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata, India  
*Andrea Pacheco Pacifico*, State University of Paraiba, Brazil  
*Anindita Ghoshal*, Rishi Bankim Chandra College, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, India  
*Anirban Bhattacharya*, Department of South & South-East Asian Studies, University of Calcutta, India  
*Anisuzzaman*, Eminent Writer and Scholar of History, Bangladesh  
*Anita Fabos*, Clark University, United States  
*Anita Sengupta*, MAKAIAS, Kolkata, India  
*Anjali Gera Roy*, IIT Kharagpur, India  
*Anna Maria Prielin*, Glasgow Caledonian University, United Kingdom  
*Anshuman Dasgupta*, Visva Bharati University, West Bengal, India  
*Anup Shekhar Chakraborty*, St. Jopseph's College, Darjeeling, India  
*Anuradha Talwar*, Paschim Banga Khet Majoor Samity, Kolkata, India  
*Anwesha Sengupta*, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India  
*Arpita Basu Roy*, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute for Advanced Studies, Kolkata, India  
*Ashis Nandy*, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi, India  
*Ashok Kumar Giri*, Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata, India  
*Atig Ghosh*, Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata, India  
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*Ayşe Betül Çelik*, Sabanci University, Turkey  
*Badri Narayan Tiwari*, Govind Ballabh Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad, India  
*Bani Gill*, University of Oldenburg, Germany  
*Beatriz Eugenia Sanchez Mojica*, Universidad de los Andes, Bogota, Colombia  
*Benjamin Zachariah*, Presidency University, Kolkata, India  
*Benoit Mayer*, National University of Singapore, Singapore  
*Bethany Osborne*, University of Toronto, Canada  
*Binod Kr. Mishra*, MAKAIAS, Kolkata, India  
*Bishnu Mohapatra*, National University of Singapore, Singapore  
*Biswajit Roy*, Eminent journalist, The Telegraph, Kolkata, India  
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*Brid Ní Ghráinne*, University of Oxford, United Kingdom  
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**Dale Buscher**, Women's Refugee Commission, United States  
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**Elzbieta Gozdzia**, Georgetown University, United States  
**Emily Arnold-Fernandez**, Asylum Access, United States  
**Erika Pires Ramos**, Brazilian Environmental Agency, Brazil  
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**Gina Shangkham**, Naga Peoples Movement for Human Rights, India  
**Giorgia Dona**, School of Law and Social Sciences, University of East London, United Kingdom  
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**Hannah Lewis**, University of Leeds, United Kingdom  
**Hari S. Vasudevan**, University of Calcutta, Kolkata  
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**John Harland Giammatteo**, City University, London, United Kingdom  
**Joseph Ssenyonga**, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda  
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**Naohiko Omata**, University of Oxford, United Kingdom  
**Nasreen Chowdhory**, Delhi University, India  
**Nergis Canefe**, York University, Canada  
**Nicholas Van Hear**, COMPAS, United Kingdom  
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**Nilotpal Dutta**, social activist, Kolkata, India  
**Nirmal Mahato**, Independent researcher, West Bengal, India  
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**Prasanta Ray**, Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata, India  
**Priya Singh**, MAKAIAS, Kolkata, India  
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**Rukmini Sen**, Ambedkar University, Delhi, India  
**Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury**, Rabindra-Bharati University, India  
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**Shiva Kumar Dhungana**, Nepal Institute of Peace (NIP), Nepal  
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**Simon Addison**, University of Manchester, United Kingdom  
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**Sreeja Balarajan**, Resettlement Services, CCC, United States  
**Sreeradha Dutta**, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India  
**Stevan Weine**, University of Illinois at Chicago, United States  
**Stewart Pollock**, Asylum Access, United States  
**Subhasri Ghosh**, Independent Researcher, India  
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**Suha Priyadarshini Chakravorty**, Calcutta research Group, Kolkata, India  
**Sumit Chakraborty**, Burdwan University, Kolkata, India  
**Sumona Dasgupta**, PRIA, New Delhi, India  
**Susan Kneebone**, Monash University, Australia  
**Susan Martin**, Georgetown University, United States  
**Susan McGrath**, Centre for Refugee Studies, York University, Canada  
**Susan Rachel Banki**, University of Sydney, Australia  
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**Swapna Bhattacharya**, Department of South & South-east Asian Studies, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India  
**Swatahsiddha Sarkar**, University of North Bengal, India  
**Tahniyat Sidiqi**, ICRC, New Delhi, India  
**Tana Nawiya/Yuri Galler**, LGBT Refugee activist, Burma-Thailand  
**Tarja Saarela-Kaonga**, Embassy of Finland  
**Tushar Bhattacharya**, Film-maker, Kolkata, India  
**Ulrike Schultz**, University of Friedensau, Germany  
**Uttam Kumar Das**, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Bangladesh  
**Vanessa Iaria**, University of Sussex, United Kingdom  
**Vanita Vaibhav Banjan**, SIES College of Arts, Science and Commerce, India  
**Vibeke Andersson**, Global Refugee Studies, Aalborg University, Denmark  
**Vijaylakshmi Brara**, Manipur University, India  
**Vishnu Narendran**, MG University, Kerala, India  
**Walter Fernandez**, North Eastern Social Research Centre, India  
**Wang Yui Kelvin Ko**, Independent Researcher, Germany  
**Wendy Crompton**, Center for Applied Legal Studies, Georgetown University Law Center  
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**Zobaida Nasreen**, Durham University, United Kingdom

## 6. The Report

### The Rapporteurs' Team

Adrija Banerjee, Sahana Basavapatna, Madhurilata Basu, Sudeep Basu, Samata Biswas, Anup Sekhar Chakravorty, Himadri Chatterjee, Debraj Deb, Ishita Dey, Atig Ghosh, Mithilesh Kumar, Marko Szilveszter Macskovich, Beth Mercurio, Amruta Paradkar, Sanam Roohi, Nikhil Roshan & Anwesha Sengupta

The Calcutta Research Group hosted the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (henceforth, IASFM14) at Swabhum, Kolkata from 6-9 January, 2013. It was the first time that this international conference was held in South Asia. The rubric of the conference was: "Contested Spaces and Cartographic Challenges". It provided a platform where academics and activists from no less than 30 countries could come together to discuss and debate forced migration and suggest a way forward for a better future.

The importance of the theme of IASFM14: Contested Spaces and Cartographic Challenges: cannot be overemphasised. This is, more than any other time in history, an age of mixed and massive flows of human beings, across international borders and over national territories. People are being perpetually forced out of spaces they consider home. It is inarguable that the coerced movement of a person or persons away from their home or home region has assumed great proportions in our times. As Ranabir Samaddar persuasively puts it in *The Materiality of Politics, Vol I: Technologies of Rule*: "In the light of the daily skirmishes, and the massive conflagrations, which occur in the wake of the conflicts around immigrations into a settled society of a nation-state, and show that while political theorists were predicting that by and large large-scale violence was over, conquest was no more a feature of politics, and all it needed was to study the cultural chronicles of life to understand politics, immigration brings out the deep insecurity that a nation lives with and therefore gets busy with making laws, promulgating measures, and forging weapons to prevent an invading army of aliens." As a collateral consequence, border disputes too have assumed new forms and novel formats. Also, the new-age forced migration springs from heretofore unfamiliar circumstances. There is the world's first climate change conflict that besieges Darfur in Sudan. To take another example from Africa, one could talk of the racial riots in South Africa that pit the blacks against the blacks.

If we stay focussed on South Asia alone, still the examples are legion. Next door, in Malda and Murshidabad, floods and the vagaries of the mighty river regularly render thousands homeless. In the Sundarbans, 'superstorms' wipe out entire villages. Yet, government relief proves to be a leaky bucket at best, as numbers of the dead and displaced keep piling up ominously. *Force majeure* alone, however, does not drive these homeless hordes. Conflict at home and xenophobia against minorities hurl thousands into dislocation — multiply sometimes, as peoples are repeatedly displaced from one place to another across internal boundaries and external borders. Maoist insurgency in the fastnesses of central India, and brutal government action against it, has produced a state of war. People, caught between a rock and a hard place, continue to migrate in search of better lives. Xenophobia against the so-called Muslim 'outsiders' have caused massive displacement in eastern Assam, which according to some pundits is comparable in scale only to the exodus generated by the Partition of 1947. Here, old secessionist groups have curiously started claiming rights in the name of nation-states to expel Muslim peasantry from land, thus breaking down the commonsensical congruence between radicalism and anti-communal politics. Then there is state-sponsored development which dispossesses and forces people out of their lands and homes. Be it the reckless nuclear projects of Jaitapura or Koodankulam, the Sardar Sarovar Dam in the west or the Subansiri Lower Dam in the northeast, or the construction of the Rajarhat New

Township on the shoulder of Kolkata— people are pushed out of homes, their livelihoods destroyed, the ecology imperilled and immiseration aggravated.

IASFM14 provided the unique opportunity where various individuals from far-flung countries could come together to discuss and work through the tangles of newly-forged and baffling situations that produce relentless forced migration. It was an assembly of pro-refugee progressive individuals who represented the varied strands of this crisis. The conference turned out to be a fruitful exercise; the discussions it generated are likely, in near future, to open up new perspectives on the issue of forced migration.

The Conference began on January 6, with a welcome address by Ranabir Samaddar, Director, Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata and the address by Chris Dolan, Director Refugee Law Project, Makerere University, Kampala, and President, IASFM. This was followed by the keynote address entitled “Intimacy, Distance and Conditions of Being Refugees” by Bishnu N. Mohapatra, Visiting Senior Fellow, South Asian Studies Programme, National University of Singapore. The speakers, from various yet interconnected vantage points, deliberated upon the nature and character of migration, particularly ‘forced’ migration, today and how it is different from that in previous decades. The textures and tangles of lived world and legal domains, activism and theory were brought out and pondered upon in rich detail.

This was followed by a book release ceremony. *Branding the Migrant*, edited by Atig Ghosh and published by Calcutta Research Group and FrontPage, Kolkata, was released by Ashis Nandy, Senior Honorary Fellow, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi; *Unstable Populations, Anxious States*, edited by Paula Banerjee and published by Calcutta Research Group and Stree Samya, Kolkata, was released by Susan Martin, Executive Director, Institute for the Study of International Migration, Georgetown, Washington DC; and a special issue of *Refugee Watch* (the CRG Journal on Forced Migration) was released by Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, Vice-Chancellor, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata.

The conference, from the second day, was divided into three business sessions comprising panels. Each day of the conference had a plenary session and also film-screening sessions. The sessions were spread over seven venues at Swabhumi. Bringing together all the participants, the three intellectually-stimulating plenary sessions turned out to be huge successes. Regrettably, however, some of the panels in the business sessions fell through due to unavoidable exigencies. In the detailed session-by-session report that follows, these sessions have not been mentioned as part of editorial decision to avoid cluttering. It might also be that some very interesting papers have slipped our notice while compiling the voluminous notes on the sessions and regrettably therefore they have not found mention in the report. The responsibility for this and for all remaining errors is ours alone.

## **Plenary Sessions**

The IASFM14 conference comprised three plenary sessions spread across three days. Inasmuch as the various presentations in the sessions provided glimpses into events, processes and contexts, it also offered insights into “structures of feelings” surrounding traumatic events such as the partition, displacement and conflicts as well as the human spirit.

### **07.01.13**

#### **Partition Experiences in South Asia: Memory, Literature, Media**

Partition has evoked bitter memories for millions whose lives changed irrevocably. It reshaped the cartography of South Asia, turning millions into minorities and many more into refugees. The effects of the partition on groups living in the subcontinent have been as varied as the variegated politics of remembering partition. While partition stood for bitter separation in the dominant nationalist narrative in India, it was the moment of creation of the nation in case of Pakistan. For Bangladesh, the language movement and the Liberation War further complicated the picture. What is interesting

is how “contested spaces” were recreated and reproduced in post-colonial South Asia as a result of the massive forced migration. Much of the contested spaces have to do with how people negotiated with the “borders” that forced them to migrate and then return, as well as become subjects and agents of post-colonial statecraft. The presentations by the three speakers were short but illuminating. They spoke of shared memories of murder, mayhem, hope, loss, despair and redemption that the partition engendered. It emerged from discussions that these memories, and much of their narrativizing, continue to be shaped by the existing social structures of religion, caste, class and gender in the subcontinent.

Ibn Abdur Rehman, peace and human rights Activist, Director, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Lahore, Pakistan, in his eloquent rendition, recollecting stories from his childhood, spoke about the desperate albeit ambiguous choices of life-changing proportions made by families, head of households in the wake of communal riots across the subcontinent in the mid 40s of the last century. Particularly interesting was not so much the immediate atrocities committed by Hindus and Muslims upon each other but how partition made individual hostilities permanent. Singling out Sadat Hasan Manto’s voice in the wilderness, he harked upon the futility of the partition. Let people decide their own fate, since they still have compassion left— such was his passionate plea.

Anisuzzaman, Professor emeritus, Department of Bangla, Dhaka University, in a similar vein, brought out his personal memories of the partition. Recollecting his early days in Park Circus, Calcutta— days of the Pakistan movement, rumours of Sikhs and Hindus attacking Muslim colonies following the outbreak of communal riots in Calcutta, of the dilemma confronting families having to choose their nations and homes, of displacement and return— Anisuzzaman brought to relief the conjoining of the personal with collective memories and representations of the partition.

Ritu Menon, eminent writer and women’s rights activist, brought to prominence the role of family memory in the construction of the self and the nation. She stated that memory does not inhere in individuals or nations. It is civilizational and changeable. Nations cannot define its identity in a permanent way. Here personal narratives become a genre for the production of knowledge. She stressed upon the importance of rewriting feminist historiography which enabled the writing of social history. While underlining the ephemeral notion of the nation which remains the central motif of Qurratulain Hyder’s writings, Menon pointed to how Hyder through her novels decentres the masculine, patriarchal nation by introducing hybridity and flux. What kind of literature and literary renderings endure the project of nationhood is the moot question that perplexes.

## 08.01.13

### Development, Conflict and Displacement

Behind conflicts in most developing countries is the inexorable process of development. Mega dams, thermal power plants, mining and industrial projects take away from people their right over land, forest or other resources that they had always known to belong to them. The economically poor, tribal population, lower castes and women have been the worst sufferers of the development-induced displacement. However, it is equally necessary to recognize how these sections of our population find ways of negotiating with development interventions. This challenges the notion that displacement is exceptional to development. This panel brought together human rights activists and civil society activists to deliberate on the question of how citizens respond to the realities of development and displacement and also conflicts. The other concern was to factor in notions of justice, equity and rights in development thinking in post-colonial societies. How marginalization is part of the process of development and conflict; difficulties of finding just solutions; and the potential of extremism and terrorism, particularly when just solutions are out of sight— were the three recurring concerns articulated in the course of the discussions.

Walter Fernandez, Director, North Eastern Social Research Centre, Guwahati, India brought to light the deficiencies in the database of the varied types of displacees and the need to document them. The disparity between official figures and the figures from surveys conducted by civil-society

groups and research organizations is also revealing. Subalterns predominate in the category of IDPs; about 40 per cent of the IDPs are tribals and over 20 per cent are dalits, whereas the accurate data of the Other Backward Castes (OBCs) are still not known. Stressing that in actual practice Resettlement & Rehabilitation (R&R) in India has only meant Resettlement. Poverty, landlessness, child labour and marginalization have grown as a result and what we witness is the spread of Maoist insurgencies in deprived pockets in India.

Anuradha Talwar, eminent social activist, related her experiences of working with Paschim Banga Khet Mazdoor Samiti, an organization fighting for people's rights over land. Airing her concerns over the lack of a legitimate forum for people to express their views about development projects, the law she states provides no leeway for those who refuse to partake in the development process. The woeful lack of consultation at the level of Gram Sabhas further exacerbates the problem. The institution of the courts, while it provides a way to express dissent, ensures no tangible returns for the displacees.

Jehan Perera, Director, National Peace Council, Colombo, Sri Lanka spoke of how the war in Sri Lanka and the attendant displacement relegated the country back to the independence era where the predominant challenge was to create a united Sri Lanka in a majoritarian Sinhalese society. The solution to the post-LTTE Sri Lankan crisis is devolving power to the regions and having independent institutions. He observed that the present Sri Lankan government appears to take the accelerated development path in order to push ahead with reforms. These are ominous signs of history repeating itself in the form of growing centralization of power and acts of commemoration and memorialisation of various kinds in erstwhile LTTE-dominated regions in Sri Lanka.

### 09.01.13

#### **Conflict, Gender and Displacement (With a special focus on India's Northeast and Nepal)**

India's Northeast has been the centre of ethnic unrest from the time of Indian independence. This region portrays that processes of democratic state formation may not lead to social justice. This is the focus of the longest state-*versus*-community conflict in South Asia and, therefore, a region of widespread and multiple displacements. The region has witnessed an escalation of violence to an unprecedented scale in the decades between 1990 and 2010. With increasing state-sponsored violence there is also a tremendous increase in sub-national militancy and suppression of women. What is also revealing are the coping mechanisms people resort to, at times of shock and conflicts, given the limited public infrastructure, depleting resources and constant threat to one's life. Being a woman in a conflict situation is particularly challenging, as she is more vulnerable to sexual abuses and forced trafficking. As a refugee she is expected to rebuild homes, resettle and rehabilitate families and protect the young, old and the disabled. The discussions were pegged around the theme of how migrant subjects articulate their rights and negotiate with the conflict environment. The need to articulate a pan-Northeast-Indian identity while asserting the gendered nature of forced migration despite internal differences was expressed.

What came out through the presentations on the theme of conflict and displacement and the role of women's groups is how narratives of violence and protests have come to consume the collective consciousness and structures everyday life in Northeast India. Pointing to the discontentment surrounding war and conflict in the Northeast, Rakhee Kalita, Associate Professor, Department of English, Cotton College State University, Guwahati, India described the typical role played by women combatants in the region, their lives and misfortunes. She raised her concern about the fate of these women following the liquidation of their groups particularly in Assam? While male cadres get inducted into the mainstream, women disappear altogether. She revealed how some ex-women combatants have tried to cope with their predicament in a post-conflict situation. She pointed to the exemplary role played by these women in peace-building measures in the Northeast. She also raised the unfortunate issue that women are rarely represented in peace-building measures.

N Vijaylakshmi Brara, Associate Professor, Manipur Studies, Manipur University, Imphal, India pointed to ethnic markers as the paramount prism through which gender, class and individuals is understood in the Northeast. The way in which bodies, events and processes get instantly ethnicised is what fragments the body social. While self-determination is championed at the level of the community, yet these are forsaken leaving the society divided often leading to the collapse of the social order.

Khesheli Chisi, Former President, Naga Mother's association, Nagaland, and Gina Sangkham, Secretary General, Naga People's Movement for Human Rights, Kohima, emphasized on how conflicts in the Northeast have been between states and communities. The impact of these conflicts on women has been particularly devastating. The threat of violence as a result of the operation of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (Afspa) is a serious issue, since it has been instrumental in spreading different forms of violence upon women. In this context, women often begin to act as shields for the sake of their families with resultant vulnerabilities. The primary requirement is an awareness of the law.

Shiva Kumar Dhungana, Nepal Institute of Peace, Kathmandu spoke of how women constantly face threat of violence and are misled into human trafficking in Nepal. This is compounded by the fact that it is well-nigh impossible for these women to tell the world about their suffering. Repeated silencing of their voices and under-reporting of cases of intimidation and torture of women is widespread. Why, despite the presence of protocols to prevent and suppress trafficking in persons and measures to implement them, these have not led to better outcomes for trafficked persons? Such is the situation because implementation in itself is at low premium in Nepal. The institutional challenges to implementing effective anti-trafficking measures and protection for trafficked persons need to be further scrutinized. What is required, as Dhungana said, is capacity building and coordination of efforts at the regional, national and global levels against trafficking as well as strengthening gender-sensitive approaches to anti-trafficking efforts, so that women can participate in public affairs and stand up for their rights.

## **Room A**

**07.01.13**

### **Borders, Boundaries and Belonging**

The three papers, comprising this panel, focussed on three very different geographical regions; however, they sought to problematise the concept of belonging as experienced and articulated by various ethnic populations. Priya Singh laid out the existing scholarship coming from Israel's Palestinians, the historical changes in their political positions in negotiation with the Israeli state and in their dealings with other Palestinians in the occupied territories. She looked into the implications of the Israeli state's policies, into the symbolic realms of exclusion for the Arabs, as well as the educational discrimination. She also delineated the various demands put forward by these "present absentees", in claiming formal recognition as a national minority. Anita Sengupta dealt with the case of the Fergana Valley, shared between three nation-states— Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. She detailed the implications of cross-border movements for the communities in the valley and also the implications for the nation-states themselves. She picked up two specific events in 2005 and 2010 to read the significance of the realignment of borders on the people living at the margins and pointed at the relevance of ethnic myths and fears, of communitarian self-understandings, to fully appreciate the motivations behind cross-border migration and forced migration. Suchandana Chatterjee pushed the limits of the conventional understanding of homeland and homelessness to point at ethnic belonging as not the only binder of social relations, the meaning of home as an experiential space and the understanding of diaspora as trans-national community. Taking up the instances of the settlement, resettlement and movement of the Kazakhs and the Buryats, she tried to show the complex contestations over identities in shared Mongol, Turkic and Baikal places in Eurasia.

The discussant Diloram Karomat drew the panel's notice to existing economic and over-population problems in Fergana valley that, he opined, should also be brought into consideration when tackling issues of displacement. She termed the Buryats as an incomplete identity, pointing at the experiences of even more marginalised Chinese and Mongols in Russian territories. The Chair, Sreeradha Dutta, noted the new interest that the political scientists have shown in cross-border migration post-cold war. She also pointed at the economic dimension of the marginalisation of the Israeli Arabs, and the need to also be able to look at the experiences of the majority in instances of migration.

### **Borders and Right to Escape**

The Session 7, chaired by Historian Hari Vasudevan, threw light on the exercise of individual or collective agency in relation to state edicts stipulating borders, and within them, the rights of specific identity groups. The first speaker, Paula Banerjee, studied the position of Northeast India through a feminist perspective. Tracing the history of neglect and oppression of the region since the colonial times, Banerjee painted a backdrop against which the present-day situation of states like Nagaland could be seen as a historic continuum. Pointing to the role of draconian laws like the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act which lead to the brutal torture and disappearances of hundreds of men, she shed light on the increasingly vulnerable position of widows and mothers in the region. She described how women, who took to bootlegging or sex work as a desperate means of earning a living, were branded amoral, and how wild rumours started to fly about AIDS-affected women taking to the latter vocation as a tool of resistance. Banerjee alleged that attempts are being made to build a secure world upon the controlled sexuality of women. Sanjay Chaturvedi looked specifically at the various internal narratives shaping the discourse and state policies on borders. He combined his analysis with a look at Israel's stand on climate change which, in his opinion, is informed by the same fears and anxieties that shape its border security policies. It is a fear of displaced populations turning to terror, whether they are refugees of war or of climate change, he claimed. Anita Fabos explored the changing role of women's voices in popular culture. Through comments made by women and men on videos posted on YouTube of a private women's ceremony which is part of a larger set of Muslim wedding rituals in Sudan, Fabos accessed the subtle pushes and pulls in a socio-cultural debate about notions of privacy, traditional values and the position of Sudanese Arab Women. She also pointed to the way in which diasporic videos are redefining perceptions about ethnicity, authenticity, gender and Sudanese identity, and how they come to clash in the mediascape. The last speaker, Sumit Chakraborty studied the politics of space, the rights of crossing, the temerity of violating borders and sanctions through the reading of the memoir of a Palestinian poet Mourid Barghouti.

The Chair ended the session by reminding the audience of a tendency to look at refugees as imagined communities, while borders themselves were stark realities.

### **Interrogating Violence, Interrogating Displacement: A Gendered Perspective**

Danielle Bishop spoke about the concept of borderless higher education; about the need to assess local requirements with respect to pedagogy and curriculum. She followed the conceptualisation of the refugee camp as an exception: talking of Dadaab, Kenya, in terms of spatial incarceration and of structural, symbolic and normalized violence. She reproduced narratives from students to show the structure of the family and also of trafficking of women as a structure for survival. She raised questions about the existing humanitarian management structure, ending with a difficult question: will the implementation of a gender equitable project increase violence against women? Kimberley Veller analysed the organisational responses towards sexual violence in the great lakes region of Africa, interrogating the institutional literature circulated by RLP and African Centre for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (*ACTV*). She looked into the framing of sexual violence in the dominant discourses of our time: the terminology and the thrust, as violence against women perpetrated by men. What are the institutional difficulties in thinking of violence— sexual in

nature and hence, specifically gendered? How does it help the “victims” and/or “survivors” when framed as such? How does it work out within a refugee context and whether identifying men solely as perpetrators undermine the violence faced by male victims? Eda Hatice Farsakoglu presented her ethnographic research on cases of Iranian LGBTQ transit refugees in Turkey. She laid out the difficulties in the choices that the refugees are offered in terms of the identities that they can inhabit, owing to administrative regulation. Also, how do they deal with displacement within camp life: are they more vulnerable? What are the possibilities of alleviating their predicament and what is the radical imagination of politics and policy necessary to treat them in the most humane way possible? The final panellist, Megan Bradley attempted to present a comparative study of the relationship between gender and IDP livelihoods in the widely differing contexts of Philippines, Côte D’Ivoire and Azerbaijan. She pointed at the contentious negotiations that women in IDP livelihoods, often occupying better economic positions when compared with their earlier contexts, have to do on an everyday basis: negotiations that bear certain streaks of commonality even in widely differing geo-political contexts.

### **08.01.13**

#### **Climate Change-Induced Displacement: Legal Policies and Implications**

In this panel, Benoît Mayer attempted to problematise the understanding of climate refugees as a viable category within studies of displacement. He interrogated the existing guidelines of international law, and the ethical imperatives implicit in the models of distributive justice and corrective justice. He seemed to point at the pragmatic approach of western researchers being influenced by forced international migration that climate change might give rise to: a fear driven by a fear of the Other. While the concern ought to be the trapped populace, it is instead the possible movement that seems to drive the undermining of the genuine plights of climate change refugees. Anshuman Dasgupta presented a video project entitled ‘Project Borderland: Alien-Nation’, which documented a theatre workshop carried out by them with inhabitants of a Bangladeshi enclave in West Bengal. Through performative utterances, narratives of participants and videos of mapping practices as well as imaginative renderings of borders, he questioned the meaning of borders, maps and enclaves.

#### **Home-making in Limbo: Domestic Practices and Meaning of Home for Forced Migrants in Protracted Situations**

This session, chaired by Anita Fabos, began with a presentation by Jasna Capo Zmegac, mapping the migration experiences of the various ethnic groups that broke out in conflict with one another with the collapse of the former Yugoslavia. Focussing primarily on the experience of Croats returning from Serbia after the war, Zmegac compared their experience to that of Bosnians and Serbs similarly affected. Describing them as “strangers either way”, she shed light on their uniquely alienated position with respect to Croat compatriots who accept their Serbian brethren with hesitation, and the latter, in turn, experienced a migration on symbolic terms rather than ones out of necessity as is the case with Bosnians and Serbs. The next speaker, Giorgia Dona presented a conceptual paper about the new and creative ways of thinking about migration and the experience of forced migrants. Using Zygmunt Bauman’s ideas of “solid” and “liquid” modernity as a framework, she suggested that the human tendency of refugees to build a “homely” atmosphere even in a transit camp tent with family photographs, or feel connected with kin far away with a cell phone, poses a concept of home that subverts traditional definitions framed thus far by humanitarian organizations and international bodies which are rooted in the nation state. Catherine Brun complemented Dona’s suggestion with her fieldwork among migrants from Abkhazia in Georgia. She observed a tendency to improve living conditions and even to recreate lost homes among her subjects. The ideas of home-making seen through a feminist perspective enlist normative values such as safety, privacy and a capacity for

preservation, which are gradually recovered by migrant communities through the beautification of their camp plots and tending of gardens.

**09.01.13**

### **Methodologies and the Production of Knowledge in Forced Migration Contexts**

The session began with Galya B. Ruffer's study of new methods and ethics of data collection. Ruffer traced the evolution of new technologies, such as crisis-mapping, in the face of a debilitating lack of reliable data from conflict zones and demonstrated how twitter and facebook helped produce counter-narratives and provide evidence of harassment of women in the case of Egypt during the Arab Spring uprisings, or with the example of FrontlineSMS, a service that helped document women's experiences during the recent elections in DR Congo. Initiatives such as the latter, she claimed, came out of questions about who creates the data and how they influence refugee protection policies and decision-making. The next speaker Nergis Canefe called into question the political nature of the act of documenting suffering. She argued that the belief that facts speak on their own needs to be replaced by an ethos toward interpreting and contextualizing knowledge with keen awareness of history and a sense of place. The name and shame techniques hailed by western academics with a belief that things will change, she alleged, is a fable in the post-colonial context. She also cautioned against the crop of disaster tourism disguised as academic journalism, and argued instead for a politically engaged observer courageous enough to take an ideological and theoretical position on what she witnesses. Ezat Mossallanejad recounted his experiences from a decades-long career as a trauma and settlement counsellor and policy analyst. He cautioned against the mentality that encourages research for research's sake and reiterated the need for making it goal-oriented. His own advocacy work, Mossallanejad confessed, depended heavily on research.

Canefe suggested later in the session that it was important for scholars of migration studies to combine their work with performative practices such as theatre, music or fine arts to avoid becoming too rigidly invested in their disciplines.

### **Bringing 'Forced' back into Forced Migration Studies: Ethics, Responsibilities and Analytical Consequences**

The second and final panel of day was chaired by Nicholas Van Hear, who laid out the unstated rationale behind the panel: in the dominant paradigm of migration, being a mixture of force and choice, the specific features of forced migration get lost.

Cathrine Brun tried to problematise the notion of agency within the context of forced migration, where all too often the migrants are viewed as people acted upon, and not active agents. She argued for more nuanced understanding of the migrants' decision to stay instead of resorting to a narrative of victimhood. Andrea Pacifico Pacheco and Érika Pires Ramos interrogated the unique case of Haitian refugees in Brazil who form a new class of migrants. A lack of their own country's ability to be responsible for their well-being makes Brazil's humanitarian migration policies, specifically in the case of these refugees, singular in their assumed responsibility and their commitment to the protection of immigrants with constitutional rights, regardless of their status. Susan Kneebone in her paper viewed humanitarianism as a double-edged sword, often left at the discretion of the state itself. She adopted discourse analysis to critically examine the various definitions and usages of humanitarianism prevalent in the lexicon, in UNHCR guidelines as well as in the action of the state, the conception of the rescue programmes and the Kampala convention. She highlighted the conflict between the legal notion of state-based protection and the politics of protection, pushing for a more constructivist approach adopted by the African Union, where the responsibility of the state to protect the forced migrant is recognized.

## Room B

07.01.13

### Displacement & Migration on the Thailand Burma Border: Key Themes & Issues

Catherine Lee set the tone of the session by giving the background to the panel. She highlighted that the Thailand-Burma border has been the site of multiple forms of migration and displacement for over three decades. She further stated that this panel will address the key issues relevant to migration and displacement in this context, including gender and sexuality, trafficking, physical and mental health, encampment and migration management.

The first presentation in this session was by Lanna Walsh. She started with the Thailand migration profile. Her presentation highlighted how policies of the Thai Government for last 20 years have been piecemeal. At the same time, in 2003-04, the Thai Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Employment Cooperation with neighbouring countries to formally recruit workers. Also, anti-trafficking mechanisms were established as the National Operation Centre on Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking (NOCHT). Further, she discussed the gender aspect of migration and problems faced by women migrants in particular. She incorporated the five aspects of migrants' right to quality of life, such as right to social security, right to education, right to movement, right to property entitlement and right to life. While concluding, she talked about the obstacles in accessing justice due to lack of information, awareness of their rights and inability to speak the local (Thai) language. She ended her presentation with some policy recommendations. Following this, there was a presentation by Sarah Meyer. Her presentation covered the definition of trafficking which included process, means and goals. She further added that the question of coercion and consent is central while defining trafficking. She termed the link between migrancy and trafficking as "pervasive sense of fear". She highlighted that there is economic exploitation in the migration process as well as at workplace. While talking about the lack of legal status due to lack of documentation, vulnerability to threat of police raids and deportation, she phrased it as "coercion works across a spectrum". Her presentation ended with implications for policy and services. The third presentation in this panel was by Catherine Lee. Her presentation stressed on the aspect of psychosocial care of migrants. It included the Mental Health Assessment Project (MHAP) which was started in 2010 with three CBOs, one NGO and the Johns Hopkins University. She stated that the background/reasons for initiating the MHAP project. Four different phases of work were highlighted. One was qualitative phase to identify psychosocial issues of population; second was for validating the data; third was for training of Community Mental Health Workers (CMHWs); and last was the plan of action. Finally, she talked about the challenges experienced during conducting this study. The last presentation was by Yuri Gallar, a LGBT refugee activist. His presentation was based on narratives of the field stories. He talked about *Maela* Refugee Camp and about the experiences of the refugees in this camp. He emphasized that along with rampant physical and sexual violence, psychosocial violence is increasing too. He concluded his presentation with the initiatives they have taken to increase the involvement of LGBT in various activities.

### The Forgotten Ones: The New Challenges for Colombian Forced Migration Policy

Marco Velasquez made his presentation on "Foreign Investment-Induced Migration in Colombia: Patterns & Challenges for Regulation & Governance". His presentation was an attempt to explore the relation between foreign investment and forced migration in the Colombian context and whether this is challenged by government interventions. He highlighted three major areas in his presentation; one was about Colombian armed conflict, second was patterns concerning the relation between foreign investment and forced migration in Colombia and third was reflections on the regulatory and governance responses to the foreign investment-induced migration phenomenon. In explanations, he

mentioned that forced migration is associated with the dynamics of conflict. The second presentation was by Beatriz Sanchez on “Internal Forced Displacement: The Price to be paid for Development”. She highlighted that Colombia is currently the country with the highest number of IDPs in the world. As a response, the Colombian state has developed a complex set of policies to assist and protect the displaced; however, “these were blind to the development-induced displacement” and in most cases development-induced displacement was considered as “non-issue”, and therefore not important. Development projects regardless of their benefits often triggers unwanted migration processes on the communities in the said region. She gave instances of the bio-fuel oil palm plantations and the internal displacement of the Afro communities.

Important questions were raised pertaining to the dynamics of displacement and the differences in the Colombian laws; role played by politicians and political parties, and agencies and lobbies, and the local capitalists. Issues related to accountability of the state and also issues relating to rehabilitation and relocation and the dynamics within the same were raised.

### **Branding the Migrant**

The first paper by Atig Ghosh “Anxious Economy, Nervous State” highlighted issues of citizenship and the project of the welfare state to speak in terms of care, while in fact relentlessly trying to enforce securitization. The entire process of accounting, numbering, and enumerating— all enter into the frame of identifying and trapping the migrants and other categories of people, especially those categorized as labour migrants. The UID or Aadhaar card in India is an instance of this. This process of categorization and identification and branding have strongly relied on developments in technology and propelled by “experts” and people have been converted into “databases” useful to the state and detrimental to the people concerned. The second presentation by Badri Narayan Tiwari “Photos of colonial governance of migrant identities in Suriname” highlighted issues of the migrant labourers in Suriname and their complex history — categories constructed by the colonial regime and the acceptance of the same, for instance the issues of Kalkatiya, Bideshiya, Hindustani, Jahaji, Depotiya etc. The colonial regime/administration and the missionaries, it was argued, were two agencies which enabled the construction of these identities. Tiwari gave instances of the interplay of conning and administrative logic for constructing these identities. Letters written during the period and photographic evidences were used to substantiate the arguments in the paper. The paper highlighted the underlying “politics of representation” and the strong resistance to the same by the community branded as the “coolie”. The migrant tactics of invoking memory, recreating Indian villages and Indian culture and convenient reordering and styling of caste ordering in new territories were described. The third paper by Ranabir Samaddar “Figuring the Alien, Governing the Monstrous” elaborated the argument strongly linked with production of value in the Marxian sense and the associated creating of an environment which is extremely mobile. Instances were given of the SEZ, the Western Union and the Aadhaar as instruments of numbering and putting people into ordered spaces. These are, argued Samaddar, strategies of creating identities as much as documenting identities and people. The last man affected in the entire process was the least advantaged person. It was also proposed that identification is an important moment in contemporary times. The motto of ‘Right size, right shape’ and territorializing people into a statist regime are concerns that mark the project of branding people as migrants and citizens.

### **08.01.13**

#### **Politics of Protection, Issues of Internal Displacement**

Development projects, natural and manmade disasters and various conflicts displace a huge section of the population worldwide. If local integration does not take place, it gives rise to protracted internal displacement. In the latter situation, people are stuck in an unending cycle and it is this

category of people which need immediate attention. In today's world, there is a need for a rights-based approach to policies designed to address problems caused by displacement.

The first speaker *Ayşe Betül Çelik* presented a paper titled “Need for Reconciliation in Turkey's Kurdish Internal Displacement Issue”. The paper raised important issues relating to Kurdish displacement and addressed reconciliation in a durable manner in the extremely polarised social territory of the Turks and Kurds. *Çelik* mentioned NGO intervention in the truth and reconciliation committees, truth finding committees, and race for justice. The second paper by Simon Addison “Paradox of Identity of IDPs” highlighted the problems of treating IDPs as depoliticised categories. The paper critiqued the attempt to keep categories and terms relating to IDPs in depoliticised context. The third paper in the session by Riva Jalipa, titled “Continuous Displacement”, stressed the history of intervention in issues relating to IDPs in the colonial and post-colonial times in Kenya. The interventions in 2004, 2007 and 2009 and the recent Kenya IDP bill were discussed in detail. The paper highlighted issues relating to durable solutions, return, reintegration and settlement of affected communities. The fourth speaker Catherine Brun presented her paper titled “A House is not enough: Interrogating Solutions to Protracted Displacement in Georgia”. The paper highlighted issues related to the old IDPs of Georgia of the early 90s. While speaking about the durable housing solutions, she emphasised privatisation as a driver of local integration. The last paper was by Namrita Shirin Singh on “Reaching Connectedness: Proposing a Model of Local Integration and Care-Seeking Strategy— The Case of Protracted Internal Displacement in the Republic of Georgia”. Her presentation was based on case studies of the old IDP population. The paper highlighted the complex nature of host-IDP relations in Georgia.

### **People's Responses to Development Induced Displacement**

The first paper by Paula Banerjee titled “The Development-Induced Displaced and Their Protests” covered the preliminary observations on and magnitude of the problem and the protests by indigenous communities. In her presentation, she stated that development-induced and environment-induced displacements are going hand in hand. Her presentation included displacements due to dam projects and mining projects. Banerjee concluded her presentation stressing on the “feminisation of protests and victimisation of women” across all the examples elaborated in the presentation. The second paper was by Manish K. Jha on “Development, Displacement and Resistance in the Context of SEZs in Mumbai”. He stressed that in the SEZs of Mumbai organised jobs are minimised leading to economic crisis. Further, his presentation explained why SEZs are being considered as exceptional space. He termed SEZs as “sovereign mini-centres of power” and also explained them in the context of the “political subject”. He concluded his presentation explaining the continuum of the SEZ movements and struggles from chosen ignorance to planned persuasion to crafted coercion. The third paper was on “Protecting Climate-Change-Displaced Persons through Strategic Litigation” by Mathew Scott. It highlighted the potential application of Article 8 of *European Convention on Human Rights*. He started with a background, profile and statistics regarding climate-change displacement. He stressed that though there are provisions, they are dependent on state intervention. It further explained the extraterritorial scope of the convention. The last paper in this session was by Lawrence Juma on legal aspects of IDPs in the context of Kenya. The paper dealt with the issues of development, vulnerability, public interest, safe return and the new Kenya IDP Act.

Chair of the session, Walter Fernandez, in his concluding remarks, stressed on the important questions that were raised during the session: whether feminisation too has led to the instrumentalisation of women in the process increasing their vulnerability; whether there is a need to consider the divide between struggle and analytical framework while looking at SEZs in the context of globalisation; whether there was a complementarity between struggle and research and the so-called “intellectuals” and the “non-intellectuals”. He exhorted the audience to look for legal alternatives and critically consider the state as the distributor of accumulated wealth.

**09.01.13**

**Accountability and Access to Justice for Persons Affected by Human Trafficking**

This panel, organized by Susan Kneebone, discussed the challenges for individuals involved in human trafficking to obtain adequate legal remedies in their origin and destination countries. The speakers addressed social, legal, and political challenges to obtaining justice for trafficked individuals in Southeast Asia and East Asia (Vietnam, Taiwan, South Korea), North America (Mexico), and Europe (the UK and the Netherlands), as well as the anti-trafficking measures that have been initiated recently. Kneebone discussed the challenge of international marriages in South Korea and Taiwan and the efforts of origin countries (namely Cambodia and Vietnam) to limit female migrants' ability to enter into these marriages. Kneebone stressed that while these marriages appear to be examples of human trafficking, many are entered into voluntarily and there is inadequate data on the topic. Kneebone also presented work by Lynne Awbery detailing the experience of an African man who was trafficked into the UK as a domestic servant, and his challenges in navigating London after he was abandoned by his host family. Kneebone finally presented the work of Victoria Rietig, who conducted extensive fieldwork in Mexico on the inability of trafficked persons to obtain adequate justice, and the interaction between different political actors in Mexico that contribute to this institutional roadblock. Hoang Phuong discussed her work in Vietnam on the legal obstacles trafficked persons face, including criminal charges and persecution by the Vietnamese government despite their vulnerable condition. Lastly, Monica Smit presented results from an evaluation of a Dutch effort to combat the disappearance of unaccompanied minors in the Netherlands. This effort, which included instituting adequate mechanisms for guardianship, led to a decrease in the disappearance of unaccompanied minors from numerous Asian and African countries who may be exploited by traffickers operating in the Netherlands. The group discussed the five presentations in detail, including questions about the effectiveness of anti-trafficking measures and the ethical implications of studying vulnerable victims of trafficking.

**Room C**

**07.01.13**

**Migration and Crisis**

The panel identified migration as a process, which is often triggered by a crisis or which leads to a crisis. In order to check "migration induced crises", over-securitised borders have become the norm. Katy Long observed that what makes things worse for the migrants are the migration containment policies adopted by different governments. As a response to some perceived threat to stability and sovereignty, states might close borders. It was reiterated that the need is to have an ethical approach, which would lead to an equal sharing of responsibilities among all states. Using the UNHCR's invocation of a cessation clause in early 2012 as a backdrop, the plight of the Liberian refugees in Ghana was highlighted in Naohiko Omata's paper. The idea of so-called sub-regional integration or ECOWAS (Economic Community of Western African States) also came under the scanner. The author had dubbed it as a sub-regional containment strategy adopted by states to cope with the protracted nature of displacement in West Africa. Susan Rachel Banki in her paper argued that the situation is worse in the case of non-resettled population, as they lack protection or are not similarly protected like the resettled population. She further argued that the strategic use of resettlement, as adopted by UNHCR is not perfect, and it requires further research. While the postcolonial/post cold war era has given rise to a refugee regime, border closures give rise to conflict between political and humanitarian regimes. Rebecca Stern, talking about the refugee regime in Europe argued that the refugees or other vulnerable groups often face discrimination as EU gives primacy to refugees from non-EU region.

The panellists, while concluding, agreed that crises leave refugees in humanitarian ghettos. Other Histories of Partition: Lives in Transit

Cartographic exercises create a hierarchy among people hailing from the same geographical location. Such an exercise also gives rise to a minority within a given space. Being a minority and to be treated as a minority are two different things. The problem starts when the state adopts the latter course of action. Millions are rendered homeless and at times stateless as a result of which people in great numbers migrate to places that are perceived to be relatively safe. However, the important thing that has to be kept in mind is that lives in transit, at times, acquire some form of permanence. Postcolonial states' attempts at care and protection towards the refugees can be dubbed as continuity masqueraded as change, as the idea of "care" was an intrinsic part of the South Asian culture for ages. The question remains if the states' response/outlook toward refugees stems from the urge to "care" or to "do charity". Whatever might be the outlook, the important thing is that both have an ethical intonation.

The creation of boundaries gives birth to the "other". It is interesting to find the continuous process of negotiation taking place between the "other" and the mainstream. What becomes important in "partitioned times" is the experience of double marginalization of the minorities. Anwesha Sengupta's paper attempted to reflect as to how migration-experience was shaped. She used narratives to tell the stories of people who ruefully remembered their city, Kolkata, even when they had migrated to East Pakistan. It is a known fact that women are the "other" in every society. The old, the disabled also form a minority. Ishita Dey's paper brought to the fore how the state had volunteered as an able bodied person/man, to take the responsibility of women who lived in liability centres/camps. While a few can try to find the similarities of partition-experiences as witnessed by the two states of Punjab and West Bengal, Anasua Basu Roy Choudhury's paper started off by contradicting the above claim. She narrated the misery of the minority within a minority— the Namashudras. She also pointed out that rehabilitation policies favoured the high-caste Hindus over the low-caste Hindus, who were forced to live in the camps.

During the question-answer session, the class aspect of refugee-hood was debated. It was also debated if the transit camps become permanent homes for the refugees. A member of the audience pointed out that the political life led by refugees in camps or in transit was not focussed on.

### **Of Citizenship and Politics of Exclusion: Some Case Studies**

The questions of nationality and citizenship are directly related to the questions of inclusion and exclusion. Citizenship empowers a few, while it strips off a set of rights from another section. Modern nation-states are heavily dependent on the power-knowledge nexus. Governmentality as a tool/means to check the uncontrolled human flows, comprising refugees, migrants, displacees is becoming more and more important.

Both the speakers, Yukari Ando and Katy Long had chosen Africa to be their site of study. It was rightly pointed out that though many states of Africa have achieved democracy after a long-drawn struggle, violence is still a reality in many parts of the continent. Though borders are friendly to capital, information, goods, they come down heavily on one of the marginalized sections of the population— the refugees. While borders include some, they exclude many. It is through the acquiring of citizenship that movement within and between states is ensured. As states find numberless means to exclude people, identity (of inclusion/of exclusion) becomes important and it is identity which becomes saleable. In some cases, refugees obtain some legal documents that upgrades them from the category of non-members and bring them closer to the category of members. It might also happen that the non-citizens enjoy more privileges than the citizens. For instance, Kenyan citizens around Dadaab refugee camp (in Kenya) have refugee IDs. It is interesting as to how informal acquisition of identity documents gives way to misrepresentations as to who is a citizen or who is a refugee. UNHCR is torn between its duty towards the refugees and its duty to preserve itself. At times, money becomes a criterion for the attainment of "economic citizenship". Perhaps, in poor countries being a refugee becomes an occupation. Ando, while comparing the Sudan General

Election Act (2010) and Southern Sudan Referendum Act (2011), brought to the fore how, legal mechanisms at times include and at other times exclude a large part of the population. After all, with the concept of citizenship, the issues of territorialisation and de-territorialisation come into play.

**08.01.13**

### **Disaster and Displacement**

The panel tried to establish a direct link between climate change/environmental degradation and resource crisis. The postcolonial states of South Asia, with no exception have adopted the western model of development. One can claim that an alternative or customized model would have been ideal for the region, as the needs of the region are unique and multi-layered approaches should be adopted. However, the reality is that no country has come up with an alternative model.

It was rightly pointed out by all three panellists— KM Pari Velan, Mithilesh Kumar and Madhulika Sahu— that a universal set of policies can never work out in case of this region. All the international conventions and protocols on climate issues end up being tools to empower the West while limiting the “scope” of countries of the South to develop. It is an irony that big industries/business houses that are responsible for the maximum level of emission of green house gas, contribute huge amount of money to the South, hoping that they would opt for a green economy. In case of India, the welfarist model almost collapses when the state fails to protect the interests of the most vulnerable sections of the society. It is also true that sudden environmental disasters attract international funding and media attention, while the protracted displacement that takes place due to gradual changes in the environment, like change in the course of a river etc., are not given due importance. Extreme climate conditions disturb the “normal” course of life. Migration takes place to urban centres in search of livelihood. While the steps taken by the government remain insufficient, corruption ruins the state’s claim to do “distributive justice”. The very belief that the State will protect the interest of the vulnerable sections is flawed.

Mithilesh Kumar stated that the extent to which party politics has percolated seriously hinders the successful blossoming of local protest movements/pockets of resistance. Sanjay Chaturvedi in the audience noted that there is need to adopt/strive for a decentralized system that would be driven by the ethics of care. The issues of migration, he noted, is also linked to the issue of justice as urban areas thrive on the injustice perpetrated on the rural areas. Thus, there is a need to have changes from within as cosmetic changes do not last long.

### **Refugee and Forced Migration Studies Online: Harnessing “the Cloud” for Knowledge Generation, Instruction, and Mobilization**

Internet and the proliferation of websites and online instruments on refugee and forced migration studies have changed the nature of research and information gathering, analysis, and dissemination, along with advocacy, fundamentally altering their range, depth and scope. This Roundtable reviewed how the latest developments in communications technologies like Online Research and Teaching Tool and Practitioners Forum (ORTT&PF) as used by the Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS) and the Refugee Research Network (RRN), have contributed to the accessibility of information and knowledge on the one hand and the availability of expert opinion on the other. The participants— James C. Simeon, Giorgia Dona, Vibeke Andersson, Idil Atak, Heather Johnson, Morgan Poteet and Michele Millard— also discussed the usefulness of online resource sharing. Simeon remarked that visual aid is creating a new era of activism leading to the rise of “new political commons”. Millard elaborated on [knowledgemigration.net](http://knowledgemigration.net). She mentioned that the blog meant to encourage critical thinking on forced migration knowledge and practice. The roundtable brought to the fore the need to establish active partnerships and collaborations within and among researchers, teachers, activists, practitioners, government policymakers and advocates. In

November 2010, CARFMS launched its “user-friendly” website which provides the space for members to remain updated on developments.

**09.01.13**

### **Armed Conflict and Forced Migration: State Fragility and Institutional Challenges**

The right to return and the right to be rehabilitated face serious challenge when the state is fragile. As Arpita Basu Roy asserted, in case of Afghanistan, the longing for home is a misplaced urge or desire. Women in urban areas get more opportunities to be rehabilitated in other countries (through third-party resettlement); they do not want to go back as they discover freedom in the new land. Unfortunately, people in general and women in particular, residing in rural areas remained chained to parochial practices. To make things worse, the nexus of foreign aid and foreign military presence takes a toll on the fragile state. In East Pakistan, Mrinal Kanti Chakma pointed out, it was ironic that a nascent state of Bangladesh had discriminated against the minorities (especially, against the Chakmas), while it formed the minority/the marginalized section in the un-partitioned Pakistan. Though the very idea of care and hospitality was an integral part of the South Asian culture, the focus of the state has shifted towards the maintenance of order, which further complicates the refugee/IDP situation in the region.

### **Transitional Justice: Justice in Transition**

In this session, the panellists rightly pointed out that transitional justice in the context of India is directly related to the issue of displaced persons in general and internally displaced persons specifically. In the South Asian context, there is an overlapping. While there is partition-induced displacement, development-induced displacement is also a reality. Though the states of this region have made efforts to make things better for the partition refugees, the efforts were not enough. Further, Sabyasachi Basu Roy Chaudhury rightly pointed out that the “right to return” cannot be exercised in the South Asian context as the borders have been unmade and remade several times. He also mentioned how Bangladesh tried to seek justice for the nation, while holding war trials and trials against humanity during the liberation struggle. Further, the reality is that most of the South Asian states are partners of big corporate houses. So, what can be doubted is the extent to which the displacement caused by some of the “developing missions” (to indulge in a pun) of these big shots will be addressed. Though common people are hopeful about the judiciary, the fact remains that the judiciary is overburdened. Indeed, a very important point was raised by him when he said that justice, if not delivered, is the same as injustice. Sibaji Pratim Basu tried to link the issue of transitional justice with the phenomenon of truth commissions. “Truth-telling” is the most difficult yet, perhaps, the most necessary step to facilitate “reconciliation”, which lies at the heart of Transitional Justice. The concept of Reconciliation has a strong resemblance with Hegel’s concept of *Versöhnung*, found in *The Phenomenology of Spirit*, which connotes a process of transformation. Hegel’s dialectic can be described as a process of overcoming conflict, division, and alienation in an attempt to restore harmony, unity, and peace. Truth-telling, he held, can also be perceived as actually hindering the process of reconciliation, based on the belief that “digging up the past” and “reopening old wounds” stand in the way of overcoming past conflicts and differences. He discussed the Gujarat Riots of 2002 in this context, which, according to him, could have been an ideal case of Transitional Justice and long-term social reconciliation. However, what one sees is the case of a forced adjustment being reached between the wronged and the perpetrators in Gujarat.

## Room D

07.01.13

### Communities in Exile: State, Migrants and Refugees in India

The session began with the presentation by Nasreen Chowdhory, who sought to profile the Sri Lankan Tamils in India and understand why they have decided to stay back despite the conflict getting over in Sri Lanka. Chowdhory elaborated how Tamils navigate their position in the camps and construct the notion of home. The decision to return is a factor of gender, age, what is perceived to be a sustainable peace process and cessation of violence. Certain factors enable this return: the skills they have learned while staying in India, capital they have generated and saved and whether they can transform this into a livelihood. The possibility of re-entering the country is also dependent on whether they will be able to live on in Sri Lanka. Sudeep Basu's paper was titled "Interrogating Cultural Rights/Duties of Refugees in Hostlands: Insights from the Tibetan Diaspora". Defining "culture" in the context of refugees as a vehicle of self expression— a medium of expression to understand the refugee subjectivity— Basu argued that most cultural rights are difficult to catalogue; they can however be grasped by understanding the culture of exile. He attempted to define public space while bringing out the dilemmas faced by the Tibetans in the larger struggle for self-determination. The next speaker, Suha Priyadarshini Chakravorty, dealt with the impact of coal mining on the predominantly *adivasi* population in Dhanbad district of Jharkhand, the largest coal-producing state in India. Her paper explored the nature of displacement and the strategies of expansion of open cast mines, the *Bharat Coking Coal Limited* and the *Tata Iron and Steel Company*. Tracing the history of coal mining in Jharia, for instance, Chakravorty explored how these projects impact the local population. The last speaker of the session, Anindita Ghosal, focussed on the Hindu Bengali influx into Tripura, which came in three waves, and how Bengalis came to dominate the state. Historically, Tripura had been known to provide patronage to Bengalis of repute. Against this background, the paper looked at why the scenario changed in the late 1960s and why the indigenous population challenged this migration.

### Displaced Women: Studying the Doubly Marginalised

The focus of the panel was to bring out the nuances of gendered experiences of displaced women. Zobaida Nasreen's presentation on the construction of memory through women's narratives of displacement in Chittagong Hill Tract (CHT) was an assessment of the indigenous Chakma women's experience of forced displacement and how memory is preserved and passed on in the narratives of these displaced women in camps. Arguing against simplistic essentialisation of women as victim, her paper concentrated on the agency of women. Camps are places where the displaced women carry not only stories of victimhood but more positive narratives of joy and love. Claudena Skran spoke about her work which was extensively carried out for over five years and 140 camps across Sierra Leone. Through a beneficiary approach method, Skran was trying to understand what makes for sustainable return and reintegration in a post-conflict society. During the civil war, women had suffered twice, not only forced out of their homes but also facing abuse in camps where they took shelter. UNHCR's ambitious programme to empower women in camps and its assessment was at the heart of her evaluation to see how successfully these projects try to bring gender process to involve women in decision making. Skran concluded that sustainability should not be the sole basis of projects and such projects need ongoing support. The key point, however, is that experiences of exile, return and reintegration are profoundly influenced by considerations of gender. The third presentation was on the work done by Kaberi Das and Ashutosh Bishnu Murti and the presentation was made by Kaberi Das. Das took recourse to feminist perspectives to explain the gendered nature of migration from Bangladesh to Assam. She also focussed on the dual nature of female migrants' experiences. They are not just passive victims but migration can be empowering in ways as social norms and gender rules

are more relaxed. The last paper was presented by Monika Nazziwa Kiwanuka. Her research was an attempt to understand how vulnerabilities of women refugees are constructed by immigrant women and service providers in South Africa. Though the country has a comprehensive domestic violence prevention policy, yet owing to highly xenophobic tendencies and limited access to work, these women have to negotiate their own real and perceived vulnerabilities. There is a clear relationship between state and family which works together to create migrant women's vulnerability and these women work out short-term strategies to negotiate ways to work around such systemic biases against them.

### **Conflict, Displacement and Rehabilitation: Narratives from South and South East Asia-I**

The session started with Chris Lewa's presentation, which was on the sectarian violence in June and October 2012 in the Arakan state in Myanmar, the humanitarian consequences of displacement, its root causes and response to violence. The Muslims make up 30-40 per cent and include Rohingya, Kaman and others. Describing the situation of the camps, the devastation of entire villages and displacement of an estimated 110,000 people, Lewa explains how the government policy of denial of citizenship and the overt policy of segregation of Muslims has impacted the Rohingyas. The next paper, co-authored by Sivaprashanthi Thambaiiah and Neelakantan Dharmaretnam, was presented by Thambaiiah. She described it as an "exercise in self-reflection— to see, as Tamil minorities, what factors helped us go through recovery stages, consider if institutions have helped us positively and compare this with the projects we have been involved in ... taking into consideration the resilience factors". She argued that humanitarian assistance in post-war Sri Lanka needs to factor in the psychosocial needs and issues that helped people to build their resilience instead of building a beneficiary-oriented project. Sreeja Balarajan presented the dilemmas and challenges faced by Bhutanese refugees resettled from Nepal since 2008 and speculated that this resettlement would stop by 2016. An estimated 60,000 Bhutanese refugees are resettled in the US and another 75,000 in other European countries. The younger Bhutanese are considered to be a highly motivated, proactive and determined group. However, new dilemmas and increased suicides amongst the Bhutanese caused by language barriers, separation from families, and difficulty in maintaining cultural and religious traditions, have meant that focus needs to shift to mental health, an area that has not received its due attention. Amit Kumar Singh focussed on the Ahmadiyyas of Pakistan seeking asylum in Thailand. He examined the insecure legal status of Ahmadiyyas from the perspective of risks and actual instances of arbitrary arrests and detention. Singh argued that despite being a signatory to international human rights, Thailand continues to violate refugee rights.

**08.01.13**

### **Mobilising Knowledge Globally: Perspective of the Refugee Research Network**

Refugee Research Network (RRN) is an umbrella organisation that works to generate and mobilise knowledge among scholars and policymakers engaging with forcibly displaced populations. At the core of the panel discussion was an attempt to bring in perspectives of regional partners. Susan McGrath explained in some details the RRN network, its mission, the issues RNN tries to address, and the achievement and challenges faced by the network. She ended the session by asking the audience to ponder on whether the global north/south dichotomy was useful anymore. Or whether there are *global* refugee research issues. And what may be the role of IASFM in supporting global knowledge mobilisation and sharing. Susan Martin spoke next. She explained the role of her institute was to do policy-relevant research to build capacity of refugees. The institute works on all kind of forced migration, both traditional and more recent ones like climate-change-induced migration. Its major thrust area includes policy interventions and working towards integration of refugees in the host societies. Though the institute has a US focus, it has a global outreach. One area where the institute concentrates much of its efforts is training and education. Martin contended that some

major difficulties were the reality of collaboration and the interdisciplinarity of forced-migration study that do not go well with university structures. Added to it are the difficulties of getting funds from the government which is more interested in implementation rather than research. Roberto Vidal of the Latin American Network asserted that the biggest challenge was to connect diverse Latin American groups working on similar issues and involve them in global debates. Vidal argued that it was important for researchers in the South to have access to the wider global field of forced migration to examine the hypothesis of researchers worldwide and this was a contribution that networks like RRN could work to address. Loren Landau, the next speaker from African Centre for Migration and Society, South Africa, explained that because of financial and intellectual constraints, the focus of their work remains narrow and South Africa-centred. Landau also raised the issue of partnerships that networks set out to build: some of these remain unfulfilled while others have worked more substantively. He urged the audience to ponder on what is meant by the Global Knowledge that the panel had set out to discuss and such knowledge is generated for whom. Pointing out the power imbalance and North-South divide where the North sets the agenda for research and policy and the south is required to follow, he also asserted that the South is increasingly resorting to passive resistance. The last speaker, Gayla Ruffer, is one of the newest members of the RRN. Bringing together the fields of Refugee Studies and law, she explained that most of the work she has done was an attempt to bring sharper focus on legal advocacy for refugee rights. She argued that the best programmes are those that evolve organically and are built over time.

### **The Migration Ramifications of Humanitarian Crises**

Susan Martin gave an overview of the project on migration consequences of humanitarian crisis that was funded by the McArthur Foundation and completed in 2012. There were gaps, it was argued, in the legal framework insofar as the matter of addressing great movements of populations due to climate change was concerned. The project was developed to do a legal analysis of the gaps in the framework and the governance system. Sanjula Weerasinghe continued in the same vein, trying to understand the 'gaps' and come up with recommendation that would inform policies of protection. She tried to identify types of movements of peoples and define humanitarian crisis and protection. Humanitarian crisis, she averred, cannot be studied in isolation. A range of issues spread over the long and short term precipitate such crises. These include human rights violations, lack of attention to preventive measure, deficiencies in response to crisis, disinclination to assistance, and so on. It is with this in mind that one needs to conceptualize the crisis, think through what types of protection are needed, look at slower onset processes and the point at which they may tip to become humanitarian crisis. Abbie Taylor informed the audience that a review workshop was organized where legal experts and policymakers discussed these issues. It probed the complexity of assistance and protection. Five themes that were discussed included ascertainment of the tipping point of humanitarian crisis, changing protection needs, vulnerability and resilience, existing frameworks and their applicability. Patricia Fagen in her presentation stated that cities are now the loci of development. Then, why are they also at the core of humanitarian crises? This is because cities are full of crisis migrants and the cities that receive them— in fragile and institutionally weak countries— are themselves in deep crisis. The new migrants gather at the periphery of the cities and acquire jobs in the urban informal sector. However, the governments and humanitarian institutions tend to agree that crisis migrants should not be in the cities. City planners think that the new-age 'developed' city should be a 'clean' city, with the result that people are evicted. This is happening all the time, all over the world. In order to improve this situation, some recommendations were tabled. It was argued that planning should not be agricultural or urban planning; it should be national planning. Small towns should be given a bigger role in national development so that peripheral places get more benefits. There should be a clear focus on justice and human rights for the community as a whole.

### **Third Panel: Border Demarcation and Refugees**

The last session of the day commenced with Giulia El-Dardiry's presentation. She has worked among the refugees from Iraq in Amman, Jordan. Bringing out the nature of these mostly educated professionals who aspire for refugee status but cannot acquire it due to the political nature of the status of Palestinian refugees in Jordan, the discourse of protection then are drawn around "regimes of hospitality" and woven around the language of "brotherhood". These migrants have no legal rights but are allowed to stay, overstay and work illegally in Jordan. Exhorting the audience to see the migration between Iraq and Jordan historically, she argued such issues of illegality of refugee status and denial of refugee status of these migrants are caught in a grey zone which may not be debilitating for the migrants. The next speaker Bram Jansen told the story about the region of Abyei which is a small area that falls north of the river Nile but is claimed by both North and South Sudan. The UNHCR does not call those displaced and settled in the region refugees or IDPs but call them the people of Abyei. The conflict in this region includes those over borders, ethnicity, religion and recently oil. Here the humanitarian apparatus has become a part of the conflict. The question Jansen raised in his presentation was: does aid become a tool of governance in such a conflict-ridden area and is status quo maintained by aid?

### **09.01.13**

#### **Theories, Epistemologies and Curricula: A Round table**

Giorgia Dona introduced the session by noting that the theory working group came out of the previous IASFM conference. Anita Fabos added that the theoretical underpinnings of the field are important. She noted that as a teaching practitioner one needs to think of what people need to know in doing their jobs. Major contributions to forced migration studies come from law, geography, sociology, etc. Because it is an inter-disciplinary field, a wide variety of subjects are utilized conjointly. Many participants in the IASFM14 conference have talked about their own work (in diaspora studies, peace studies, nationalism and ethnicity, identity, cosmopolitanism, home and place, etc.) and it could be, Fabos contended, that we are looking at the dynamic edge area; development studies programme may have an area on forced migration studies. Ranabir Samaddar stated that he had not thought of theories of forced migration. However, he asserted that it is important to understand how one defines the field. Will it be enough to say it is a field of concepts? Could one think of forced migration studies as a field of strategies? The moment we look at the assemblages of strategies with interfaces, it seems that history is absent. This is because we still have not been able to see it as genealogy or historical development of a set of practices and maybe we should not be worried about theory but knowledge of the history of practices. History and genealogy are important, yet absent. The papers submitted at the conference are indicative of this gap, he contended. Another speaker pointed out that the problem with refugee studies is that we should not be studying people as a policy category. Categories should not be taken as given but should be challenged. Raising a question on definition, she noted that while "displacement" is a term that is often used, its meaning is assumed and never questioned. She argued that it could mean different things when viewed from different perspectives. To this Samaddar responded by stating that for him the important question is what does it mean for a forced migrant. In conclusion, Fabos summed up, noting that the discussion had not touched upon theory but focussed on categories. This is symptomatic of the history of the field. It has moved beyond the "Oxford" mode of looking at forced migration. The question that remained for her was how to include other perspectives?

#### **Policy Discourses and New Legal Perspectives**

The panel attempted to critically look at the existing laws in the international realm and the gaps that exist in their implementation. Sahana Basavapatna examined how India has fared in the Urban

Refugee Policy 2009. India's position has largely been *ad hoc*, though incremental changes in policy and law has developed over time. For example, right to life has been interpreted by the judiciary to include refugees as well. Pointing out that though there has been local integration of some refugees in Delhi, there is a politics of protection where informal profiling of Muslim refugees takes place. She illustrated this point through the example of Rohingyas in India who have now found some voice but are also subjected to scrutiny over concerns of national security. The example of Rohingyas was carried forward by Uttam K. Das in his presentation but in the context of Bangladesh. Explaining the waves of Rohingya migration to Bangladesh and their lives in camps, Das said that out of the 30,000 living in camps only 250 are recognised by UNHCR and around 200,000-500,000 Rohingyas are without legal status within Bangladesh as there is no national law on asylum of refugees. The Rohingyas have now been referred to as the future Palestinians and the way forward to locally address the issue is to have a national policy on refugee issues and the ratification of the 1951 convention. The next speaker, Shiva K. Dhungana, spoke about Nepal's rehabilitation and resettlement policies. There has been many large infrastructure-development projects that have displaced families whose land have been taken under "public interest". Forest dwellers are most badly hit by such acquisitions. Though land is acquired under the concept of eminent domain, there is no procedural aspect to systematically decide what compensation models should be like and arrangements, if ever made, to compensate are interim. Since there is political instability in Nepal, the issue of displaced people has been relegated to the backburner and their rights are sidelined or ignored. Efforts taken to address the issue are reactive rather than proactive. The last speaker was Jennifer Eileen Byrne who spoke on the national identity among Liberian refugees in Ghana. In Gamao district, which she visited in 2009, Byrne had set out to understand the notion of identity among refugees and the scope of local integration of these refugees. Her findings suggest that notions of ethno-cultural differences between Liberians and Ghanaians play out starkly. The Liberians have a fixed notion (fixed through "blood") of their identity which is tied to Liberian nationality. Language hindered civic integration of refugees and though Ghana is a democracy it did not provide many chances for upward mobility of such groups. She suggested that identity is a social construct and may change with context. In the case of Liberian refugees, their Liberian national identity took precedence over tribal or other ethno-cultural identities to forge stronger bonds among the Liberians in these refugee camps.

## Room E

### 07.01.13

#### **Unprotected and Unrecognised: The Ontological Insecurity of Migrants who are denied protection from Domestic Violence in their Home Countries and as "Failed Refugee Claimants" In Canada**

Bethany Osborne focussed on a study conducted on 25 women from Mexico, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Colombia, and Peru within the age group of 19-63 years who migrated to Canada with precarious migrant status. The precarious status of a migrant can arise from the following situations: non-status due to expired visa, sponsorship breakdown, waiting for refugee or humanitarian claim determination, temporary foreign worker, failed refugee claimant, failed refugee claimant with deportation order, families with mixed status, and so on. It is against this background that the research tried to address how women with precarious immigration status negotiate rights for themselves and their children when seeking services and support related to gender-based violence and to identify the ways in which immigration status shapes women's responses to gender-based violence. Most of the women during the interviews reported a broad range of violence, primarily domestic violence (physical, emotional, verbal and sexual abuse), political or community violence related to the state, gangs or drugs, and "social violence" in which they experienced a sense of loss of social position or status. These experiences of violence reveal the need for legal structures and

mechanisms and a gendered analysis of the changes in the refugee policy that has been introduced lately. A few things are crucial to note: violence plays a significant role in forcing women into migration, but migration itself can further increase women's exposure and vulnerability to violence; secondly, instability due to migration impacts family structures; thirdly, the everyday negotiation with the legal regime and family structures renders a double burden for securing basic rights for women with precarious status.

### **Being a Minor and a Refugee: Some Reflections**

Every phase of one's refugee-hood leads to a change in one's identity. The change is dependent on one's experiences, on the place and the time. The new places of refuge, as well as the "home" after return become places where national, ethnic and gender identities are being subject to transformation, construction and re-construction. Katarzyna Grabska and Martha Fanjoy in their paper highlighted these phenomena and in doing so, they explored and tried to grasp the experiences of South Sudanese men living in Canada and Kenya, and of men returning to South Sudan. The notion of masculinity and its adaptability fundamentally defines men's experiences of exile and return to home. Displacement can challenge norms, set values, behavioural patterns and expectations, prompting the individual to find as well as redefine his role as a man in his country of residence, in his new home. Integration into the new environment requires leaving back the concept of masculinity shaped in the country of origin. What is often expected is the acceptance or adaptation of a different set of gender norms set by the country of refuge. For returnees, the unawareness of values, concepts and not conforming to the community-based expectations can extensively impact the reintegration process for men. The idea of manhood which changes across space and time, at times, can create a gulf between his image of the "self" and the image of a "real man", on the one hand, and between him and the family or the community in the country of their origin, on the other. Practices of birth registrations can centrally impact not just the notion of identity but of citizenship and connected rights, benefits and services. The lack of a registered identity despite being born in the country of origin outlines the phenomenon of "effective statelessness", a sub-category of statelessness. Anna Maria Pielin's paper, while talking about the process of birth registration in Cambodia and India, indicated that the lack of birth registration severely impacts the access to basic services, including access to health facilities and educational opportunities. The generated invisibility to the state's eyes caused by the absence of an effective birth registration exposes children to the lack of a tailored protection mechanism and to significant livelihood risks. The awareness deficiency on the importance of birth registration and of aggregated statistical data, the unattended scrutiny requirements of registration procedures, and the shortage of political attention, point to crucially important factors in the shaping of causes of effective statelessness.

### **Return Migration to a Conflict or Post-conflict Situation-II**

The traditional concept of "return" after conflicts is being challenged and re-interpreted. Mobility patterns and identities of the displaced in repatriation schemes are important variables. Vanessa Iaria in her paper talked about the situations in Jordan and Syria where Iraqi refugees are perceived as non-permanent residents, as guests. However, accommodating them seems to be a problem in the context of the international refugee protection regime where ultimate return is a long-term durable solution. Even the regional trans-national mobility patterns and dynamics do not help them in any way. Home is not being understood here as only the country of origin any more, but rather appearing in fragmented portions and placing elements of it into the country of asylum as well, therewith expanding the "home boundaries." The trans-border connection to family, to livelihoods, and the sense of security gives "home" a new meaning in a trans-national dimension. Displacement also entails a narrowing impact on home and identity. Ulrike Schultz in his paper talked of the concept of home. He pointed out that the notion of identity based on ethnic belonging becomes challenged by the international perception of "return". Sudanese, originally from the South, have been living in

Khartoum for decades; yet following the CPA they are expected to return “home”, to the South, from their present “home” in Sudan. Identities and a sense of belonging built up over decades come into conflict within the ethnic dimension, and generate challenges of self-definition and of the understanding of home and belonging. The concept of “return” becomes disconnected from the idea of a “home” to be returned to. Coping mechanisms are constructed and reconstructed to compensate for the absence of connection.

### **08.01.13**

#### **Surviving in another Country: Tactics and Strategies**

In this session, there were three papers on Somali Refugees in India and the US. Stevan M. Weine discussed the kinds of vulnerabilities experienced by the Somali American Community and how recruiters use these vulnerabilities. This study identified the structural determinants that lead to risk factors for the community. The study argued for greater need to understand and examine the risk factors, particularly with the paradigm shift in the Barack Obama administration and its strong emphasis on community-based solutions. It emphasises the following risk factors among teenage boys and young men: youth’s unaccountable times and unobserved spaces, perceived social legitimacy of violent extremism and contact with recruiters or associates result in potential for violent extremism. The study pushes for resilience-strengthening capacities and protective resources against violent extremism. Nandini Ganguli, speaking of Somali refugees in India, identified institutionalised (general attitude of Indian government towards Somali “pirates”) and popular factors (like different physical attributes and non-conversance in local languages) as two ways by which Somali refugees in India experience mistrust. They are in residence in Delhi, Hyderabad, Aurangabad and Pune. In her study, Ganguli specifically discussed the experiences of Somali refugees in Hyderabad, which she called “institutionalised choice of place” because of sameness of religious background— Islam. She argued that experience of mistrust stems from the lack of stable policies of Indian government with regard to refugee care and this is further complicated in this case because of the diplomatic relationship between the Government of India and the host country and the refugees’ dependence on UNHCR for financial support. Ganguli argued that the Somali refugees were looking forward to third-country resettlement. In contrast, Rohit Jain’s photo-essay on Somali refugees in Delhi emphasised voluntary repatriation, as most of them wanted to go back to their home and homeland. He highlighted that considering most of the refugees do not have the right to work, they are forced to live off refugee care. He shared one of the instances when a refugee boy worked in a BPO unit for one month and then was forced to quit the job because he failed to submit his identity papers. Charles Gomes, speaking of Haitians in Brazil, highlighted the way in which the government in Brazil has bypassed the Cartagena Convention’s definition of a refugee. He argued that the Cartagena Convention, unlike the 1951 Convention and the 1960 Protocol, recognises all forms of human-rights violations to define a refugee. The broader scope of this convention increased the chances of a person who applied for refugee status. The Haitian refugees (who are primarily environmental refugees) are caught in a new legal status under the legal protection framework— whereby under the new “legal quota system”, the Foreign Affairs and Security Council would grant legal migrant visa for humanitarian reasons to the Haitian refugees. This would limit the scope that the Cartagena Convention advocates; for the legal quota system under the Council of Immigration will continue to decide under the new project of law.

#### **On Spaces and Places: Some Reflections on Refugees and Migration Laws-II**

Jessica L. Anderson in her presentation on protection institutions in urban South Africa critically looked at the existing literature: organisation theory, aid and protection, Mahoney and Thelen’s typology of institutional change where they do not account for an overarching international protection culture and they cannot explain micro-level change that occurs within highly decentralised

institutions with many different country offices. She argued that there is a need to adopt business-as-usual approaches, revise existing approaches and innovate at the micro-level which, leaving the organisational level intact, creates new adaptive context-relevant programming and highlights the effects of international protection culture on when and how agents cause change within institutions. The study emphasises the determinants of micro-level protection success and what kinds of agents are needed for adaptive and flexible protection practices. Piu Debanjan Chatterjee in her presentation on Navi Mumbai explored how formal planning has its own loopholes (steeped in ideas of informality as Navi Mumbai was planned to de-congest Mumbai) and advocated the right to housing and particularly effective ways of equitable distribution of land and housing. Christina Churruca and Enrique Eguren in their presentation argued that space is a key factor for understanding forced displacement. They made a strong case for a spatial turn in social issues. Space is socially produced by actors and is a mixture of physical spaces and actors. Displacement is about movement. Mechanisms to assist have to do with space (camps, shelters, borders, humanitarian corridors). They argued that the relation between space, protection and humanitarian relief is poorly understood and cites the case of the Guiding Principles of IDP which talks about temporal axis but there is no discussion and indication of the spatial axis. There is a need, they asseverated, for a “spatial turn” in the study of forced migration. Displacement is not about empty spaces but changing spaces, limits and borders.

### **Managing Refugees, Looking for Solutions: Understanding the Strategies of Protection-I**

Marko Szilveszter Macskovich was the only speaker present. He argued that there is a connection between innovation and refugee protection. This connection is developing within humanitarian organisations. To make a right choice there is a need to understand “technology”. He further discussed how one goes about classifying technology based on innovation. He stressed the need for guiding policy for the use of technology and the cultivation of an institutionalised culture of innovation.

#### **09.01.13**

### **Managing Refugees, Looking for Solutions: Understanding the Strategies of Protection II**

Yukari Ando in her presentation highlighted that interim measure is more proper in terms of human rights laws as it directly affects non-recovery damage to the person concerned. In order to prevent a risk to life or freedom, interim measures could be effectively applied and consequently the principle of non-*refoulement* is applied. She further discussed the difference between courts and committees (which have no legal binding power). While the ICJ Art 41 clearly stipulates provisional measures, the UN Convention against Torture is silent about “interim measures”. Treaty-based committee members believe that interim measures are very important means to protect human rights. Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture practise the protection from expulsion by using interim measures. Article 3 of the Convention against Torture prohibits parties from returning, extraditing or *refouling* any person to a state “where there are substantial grounds for believing that he would be in danger of being subjected to torture.” The Committee against Torture has held that this danger must be assessed not just for the initial receiving state, but also to states to which the person may be subsequently expelled, returned or extradited. Ralph Wilde in his presentation highlighted the extraterritorial measures European states have taken recourse to at high seas to prevent migrants from travelling into the borders. Citing the various cases of interception at high seas using extraterritorial measures by Italy and Australia, he argued the ways in which states have been using extraterritorial mechanisms. Does principle of non-*refoulement* apply in these cases under refugee law and international human rights? It has also to be noted that human rights law is still wedded to the notion of state and territory; that is, states as mutually exclusive territorially defined units. As such, state laws are regarded as better than the international legal avenues. It is only when national laws fail to safeguard rights that recourse is taken to international human rights.

## **Interrogating Immigration and Rehabilitation Policies: Some Case Studies**

Petra Molnar Diop pointed out that with the global tendency of shrinking asylum space, states are increasingly using the argument of “fake/bogus” refugees and “safe third countries” to erect barriers and employ restrictive refugee and immigration policies. This is being done with the aim to stop the “overflow” of asylum-seekers and institutionalise “selection mechanism” on the premise of the ruling political elite’s politico-economic interests. Robert Batarseh was of the opinion that in the name of state sovereignty, states like Canada are re-engineering refugee and immigration policies, arguing the need to control, ensure protection of national identity and provide security. Labelling a certain group of individuals as fake refugees excludes a substantive number of individuals from becoming eligible for refugee status like the Somali refugees. Amrita Hari in her paper pointed out that when base-line data is collected in a systematic and harmonised manner, they reflect state policies and practices with a reasonable accuracy. Yet attention should not only be directed at tendencies of status recognition and resettlement based on data collected on the state level, but on the interaction of individuals with state authorities, agencies, NGOs and host society. Bethany Osborne spoke of the need to have micro-level depictions and experiences which act as translations of experiences not just from the countries of asylum but also from the countries of origin. The experiences can be channelled through and take shape in a multitude of modalities. Art, for instance, may speak out as one of the universal languages overshadowing traditional language barriers. Pieces of art—portraying, say, imprisonment and exile— are not just serving as self-expressions and negotiations for finding peace, but also as reflection points, indicators and tapping points to make visible what asylum and resettlement means, what values it bears and how it provides a form of resistance against repression. Ultimately, they are reflections on host states’ refugee and immigration policies and practices, critically echoing performances of labelling, selection and screening.

### **Room F**

#### **07.01.13**

#### **Of Borders and Borderlands: Narratives from South Asia**

The panel discussed in archival and ethnographic detail the long process of partition and border making in terms of both the cartographic exercises preceding the 1947 partition of the Indian subcontinent and also the recent militarisation and administration of the borderland region. Subhashri Ghosh argued in her paper that the cartographic exercise of dividing Bengal was further complicated by its unstable geographical features. She constructed a detailed narrative of the contestations and negotiations concerning the point at which the Mathabhanga river enters Nadia district. This point was taken as the beginning for the boundary dividing Nadia into two halves which went to India and East Pakistan and the latter part came to be named Kushtia. In the process she remarked on the various demands made by respective governments that cited older maps to contest the location of the channel of the river in order to gain territory. The silting and shifting of the river channel thus became one of the many variables in an already complicated activity of border making. While the above paper tried to emphasise the complicated networks of relation that exist between political negotiations, natural geographical features and the process of cartographic representation, the next paper took up the question of ‘nature’ and ‘feature’ in terms of the “naturalisation” of the ‘border’ by the borderland populations in their everyday survival strategies. She also argued that this process runs counter to the tendency of the nation-state towards “nationalising” the borderlands. Continuing the thematic of “nationalisation”, the next paper by Bani Gill discussed the militarisation of the borderlands in the Barmer region of Rajasthan. The paper argued that the events that “loom large” in the imagination of the nation-state, events like the 2001 parliament attack or the “terrorist attack” in Mumbai, are experienced by the borderland population through heightened military

activity and violence. In recent times, she noted that the Indian state has taken the route of active deterrence through military exercises and intensified army and BSF presence at the border. These exercises, she argued act as disruptions in the lives of the borderland populations. The last paper of the session took up the problematic of political activity in borderland areas and she argued that the communities that populate the enclaves at the India-Bangladesh border engage in distinct and creative modes of politics in order to claim and defend rights and membership. Benjamin Zachariaiah summed up the thematic distribution of the papers within a conceptual matrix that he defined using five major terms; 'Nationality', 'State', 'Community', 'Citizenship', and 'Borders'. He remarked that the various ways of delineating the relations between each of these concepts generate various understandings of power relations and experiences of marginality.

### **Return Migration to a Conflict or Post-Conflict Situation-I**

In the second panel two presentations investigated the problems of both the normative and the practical policy dimensions of understanding and remedying conflict-induced displacement. The presentation by Megan Bradley focussed on identifying normative principles that could become the basis for sensitive and successful policies addressing conflict-induced displacement. She offered a theoretical possibility of grounding such normative consideration in the conceptual ground available in the theorisations of *Jus Post Bellum*. She argued that the conceptual categorisations available in this form of theorisation need contextual engagement if they are to provide policy directions in recent and emergent situations where the theoretical assumption construing sovereign nation-states as the only parties to war or conflict situations needs to be rethought and the ambit of the concept of 'Justice' needs to be widened to include a larger and more sensitive spectrum of post-conflict issues. She argued that along with the conception of 'honourable intentions', it is important that academic studies take a closer look at stretching the ambit of the concepts of 'restoration'/'reconstruction' and 'restitution' in a post-conflict situation. She also argued that long-term reconstruction exercises need to be planned in order to address questions of poverty, development and institutional structure and for these purposes a creative expansion of the ambit 'justice' is of great importance. The second paper of the session engaged critically with the discursive production of 'buzzwords' and 'buzz-phrases' that come to dominate policy imaginations and occlude the possibility of creative progress. She argued that the proliferation of such 'buzzwords' create vast generalisations that erase the defined provenance of the usage of such terms and they effectively come to mean less and less as their use multiplies in volume and frequency. She substantiated her arguments by drawing upon her case study of the 'return and reintegration' of Afghan refugees in a post-conflict situation. She argued that the word 'reintegration' had lost its material and social ramifications by being used as a popular gloss over a domestic immigration policy that favours 'return' over 'rehabilitation'. She concluded by remarking that the concept of 'reintegration has become an instrument of legitimising a domestic immigration policy as an 'international development programme'.

### **Conflict, Displacement and Rehabilitation: Narratives from South and South-East Asia-II**

This session brought together two papers on the problems faced by the Nepali community in India due to its double identity as citizen and migrant. Swatashiddha Sarkar argued that there are two distinct groups of Nepali-speaking people in India. The first and the older group, he remarked, consists of people defined as Nepali due to their ethnic or linguistic belonging while the second group is defined by its actual migration from the territory of the nation-state of Nepal. The host society's act of 'othering', Sarkar argued, creates an identity crisis for the first group of Nepali people and xenophobia concerning the second. He argued that the identity crisis is sharpened by the fact that Indian state is not able to protect the Nepali-speaking citizens of India from political violence and marginalisation. He also commented that the state identity regimes further complicate the situation and reproduces the problem infinitely. The above presentation was followed by a paper by Sreyashi Chettri who argued that the Nepali identity finds no place in the homogenised image of

‘Aryan’ India. She commented on the racial stereotyping and the reversal of cultural idioms that add to the burdens of the marginal community trying to create its space in the public sphere.

### **08.01.13**

#### **Conflict, Displacement and Resettlement**

The members of the panel reflected upon conflict-induced displacement from three distinct vantage points and methods in the course of the presentations. The first issue to come up for discussion was the question of distinctions that become necessary in understanding and studying ‘diaspora engagement’ and its functions in relation to conflict situations in the country of origin. Nicholas Van Hear argued that while it has become a widely acknowledged fact that the networks built and sustained through diaspora engagement can be extremely significant in escalating or containing situations of conflict in the country of origin, the task of carefully delineating various elements of that engagement remains incomplete. He argued in his presentation that the nature and outcomes of diaspora engagement is significantly determined by its ‘settings’, ‘sphere of connection’ under consideration in specific studies, ‘outcome of conflict’, and the nature of post-conflict society. In terms of the network of connections that the diasporic groups may build, the presenter argued, there can be three different levels or ‘spheres’ of connection in the shape of family/household, community/known community and ‘imagined community’. He argued that the first level of engagement remains the most commonly observed form of connection while the rest show sporadic though potentially significant activity. The next paper by Danesh Narendra Jayatilaka focussed on the post-conflict situation in terms of rehabilitation and resettlement. He presented an ethnographic study of a Tamil resettlement village in South Sri Lanka named Kathiravelli. He focussed on a series of occupational shifts that the villagers had gone through and its relation to the availability of aid and its duration and nature. He argued that the population of the village had begun taking up several subsidiary occupations in order to shore up their income packets. He related the occupational shift to the contingencies created by several natural disasters that affected the area and its agricultural output and argued that the situation was further exacerbated by the stoppage of aid at the conclusion of a planned length of time. The last paper of the session presented by Madhusmita Jena focussed on the treatment of refugees and the policies concerning their rehabilitation and relief in India. The study attempted a demonstration of the elements of inequality and differential treatments meted out to different groups of refugees seeking asylum in India.

#### **Refugees Asylum-Seekers and Everyday Lives**

The session brought together a multifaceted conversation on labour, law, belonging and agency. The paper by Emily Elizabeth focussed on laying ground for new research in order to produce strong arguments in favour of giving work rights to refugee populations. The next set of papers dealt with questions of undocumented migrants, forced labour and effects of detention. Hannah Lewis introduced the notion of ‘precarity’ in order to better conceptualise the relation between forced labour, forced migration and the global political economy. She described several modalities of control exercised upon migrant populations through restriction of movement, debt bondage, withholding of wages, retention of passports and threat of denunciation. She argued that these experiences of labour were not detached or particular. She gestured towards the possibility that these experiences make visible a larger generality in terms of a global political economy. Alice Bloch’s presentation investigated the production of another marginal migrant group constituted by a particular denial of law. Her presentation brought to the fore the unique situation of a registered migrant population that is constituted by the rejection of their appeal. She described the strategic silence and opacity that such populations tend to build around themselves in order to escape the state’s register and therefore avoid deportation. She argued that such a population chose to accept a severely truncated social life and economic capacity in order to forestall the possibility of return. This

presentation took us to a stage of logical antecedence to Lewis's argument as it looked with a greater specificity towards the production of a labour population that construes its economic exploitation as a modicum of freedom. Another interesting register was brought into the discussion by John Harland Giammatteo's presentation who attempted a critical engagement with Agamben's theorisation of the 'Camp' through a study of detention of migrants as a constitutive experience. He argued that the adoption of the 'camp' model proposed by Agamben precludes the possibility of understanding agency and coping mechanism in the post-detention phase.

### 09.01.13

#### **Refugee Law Initiative Panel: "The Promise of Protection: New Directions in International Refugee Law"**

David James Cantor discussed the problem of 'reparations' to the refugee individuals and argued that the responsibility for effective and 'satisfactory' reparations lay with the country of origin even after displacement. He distributed the material responsibility as also the claim for post-displacement reparations between the refugee individuals and the host country. He argued that specific and permanent reparations are necessary in cases of forced refugeehood in order to fulfil the responsibilities of the host country. However, he maintained that the neglected area of individual reparations needed immediate attention for lasting and complete rehabilitation of the displaced individuals. The paper took into consideration the nature of reparations that would be necessary to affect permanent rehabilitation and focussed specifically on benefits related to housing, land and property lost in the process of displacement. While discussing ICCPR Article 2(3), the presenter divided reparation benefits into two fields of 'pecuniary' and 'non-pecuniary' benefits covering both material and psychological damage. While arguing for this distribution of reparation benefits the presenter suggested criteria for measuring the effectiveness of the reparation strategy in terms of equivalence of 'compensation' and the 'satisfaction' of the refugee individual. As a concluding remark the presenter mentioned that the legal possibility remained that such post-displacement reparations would mean a cessation of the refugee status of the individual. In keeping with the focus on developing legal protection strategies, the second presenter, Bríd Ní Ghráinne underlined the problem of qualifying different kinds of protection agencies so as to clear up the legal conundrum concerning the status of the displaced individual and his or her right to optimum protection. She argued that state and non-state agencies of protection need to be differentiated on the basis of the permanence of protection offered and the capacity to maintain territorial integrity under permanent and enforceable legal system. Such criteria, she argued, would help distinguish between various kinds of relief and rehabilitation agencies and therefore disallow the possibility of state agencies avoiding the responsibility of reparations by citing protection extended to the displaced group or individual by non-state agencies. The last presenter, James C. Simeon directed the discussion to new grounds with his paper on the criteria for 'exclusion from refugee status' and its impact. He discussed the various principles in the 1951 convention, the general structure of international human rights law and international criminal law in order to tease out the various situations in which a person's appeal for refugee status may be rejected on valid legal grounds. He mentioned the three main principles of the 1951 convention which were crimes against peace, non-political crime and acts contrary to the principles of United Nations. He presented the statistical impact of the legal principle and mentioned that 54.6 per cent of the appeals to exclude were denied while 45.4 per cent were allowed. In relation to his presentation he was asked to clarify the legal aspect of protection to individuals who were involved in conflicts, including genocide as child soldiers. He argued that while such appeals to exclusion may be filed the possibility of exclusion were low due to the status of the individual as a legal minor at the time of conflict.

## The Trauma of Being Refugee: Some Reflections, Possible Solutions

David Ongwech Onen of the Refugee Law Project, Uganda, discussed how refugee regimes tend to focus on support to individual refugees and, in the process, disable relationships with the community as a whole. He discussed different challenges of maintaining support groups. He said that the process of flight destroys the social network and social relationships of the refugees. Onen went on to add that resettlement often poses a serious challenge as membership of a particular social group has been found to have an adverse effect on resettled individuals. Existing refugee resettlement system often puts refugees in a helpless situation. He said that the system leaves them amidst dependency, right when they start developing the need of psycho-social support. The support offered by Refugee Law Project (RLP) often faces shortcoming as its medical emergency support does not work out without the nutritional support. He said that the RLP started in 2009 and felt that it was not able to do as much as it intended to. So, the RLP started to help existing support groups. He discussed the issue of male rape victims and said that since it is taken as a taboo in Uganda, the victims have to be accommodated under the bigger umbrella of refugees. The process is found to develop problems since the victims tend to seek medical help only in the last stage and there is not much to do by then. He discussed the psycho-social change of victims of sexual violence and said that victims have come to recognise themselves as survivors over the years. The RLP provides social space to the refugees by focussing on their capabilities rather than being restricted to their trauma and plight which itself helps the latter to defeat stigma. Onen discussed problems of support groups: leadership crises, accessible assumption of power, conflict over resources, mutual suspicion and mistrust, risk of co-opting support groups, limited partners for referral groups, personal insecurity of refugees etc are some of the prime problems facing support groups. Onen ended by stating that support groups can never be the absolute solution to refugee problems. It is just a counter-balance by providing space for private and individual counselling.

David Danielson discussed the National IDP Policy of Uganda, 2004. A sizeable number of people were either affected or directly involved in internal conflict for 44 years since 1962. By 2004-2005, Uganda had 1.7 million camp people—the largest camped IDP population in Africa. Though policy was framed on conflict perspectives, natural disaster-induced displacement victims benefited as well. Focussing on the *Bududa* landslide in Uganda which happened much later, Danielson said that the IDP Policy had certain limitations. He argued that any IDP Policy should be limited to the capacity of the government. If the capacity did not exist, the government would be set up for failure. Neither should political will be greater than government capacity. Policy should make the government look good in public and establish it as better from the alternatives, failing which government is bound to lose control. Danielson, however, criticised the Government of Uganda in providing relief to *Bududa* landslide victims and said that the government made ample assurances but implemented much lesser which might have given impetus to the rebel groups.

Ezatollah Mossallanejad recounted his personal experiences, starting from clashes in Iran, his land of origin. He discussed the trauma of exile and stated that exile is a permanent feature of human history. He tried to explain the depth of exile saying that in certain parts of South Iran, the curse of being uprooted is considered to be the worst curse of all. He termed refugees as a stream of mass exodus of amorphous innocent faceless people. Refugee is somebody without a choice, he said, and added that when it comes to exile, it does not start with geographical dislocation; rather it starts with time. Mossallanejad said that he has been living out of his 'home' for last 40 years. During this tenure of exile, he has worked in several nations including France, Canada, India etc. After his protracted exile, Mossallanejad said, he now feels there is no necessity of borders to exist. He, however, says that the psychological perception of people still cling to geographical affinity and people often tend to relate an Iranian to Ayetollah Khomeini. He termed the twenty-first century as the Age of Refugees. Speaking about the positive sides of exile, he said that after living for 40 years, often as illegal migrant, the bare fact of still being alive is tantamount to saying that the existing regimes have failed. The presenter strongly advocated the choice of being a global citizen beside the choice of belonging to any nation. The paper argued that exile is a collective punishment and there is no

solution to exile. Speaking about the difficulty of spontaneous assimilation of refugees in the host community, Mossallanejad said that refugees tend to remember the detachment with the host and focus on nostalgia. He advocated the Right to Freedom of Movement in the planet and said that it should be recognised as a fundamental right.

## **Room G**

This room was the venue for the screening of a number of feature and documentary films on displacement and forced migration. It was also the venue where a panel discussion took place and a very important press conference was convened. The press conference, along with the panel discussions and the plenary sessions at other venues, generated impressive coverage in the national English-language and vernacular media, thereby adding a new dimension to the conference's grand success. The film sessions were attended by a great many participants who also had the opportunity to interact with the filmmakers at the conclusion of the screenings.

### **07.01.13**

## **Press Conference**

### **Partition and Borders: Efforts towards Friendly Relations in South Asia**

The impact of the Partition of British India in 1947, and also of the eventual birth of Bangladesh in 1971, has been so great that some commentators have argued that the postcolonial period be termed 'partitioned times'. The trauma and dislocation these Sunderings of South Asia caused numberless people cannot possibly be exhausted in any singular account, however comprehensive— a fact evident from the voluminous literature generated on the subject over the last many decades. Inexhaustible and indelible as the event, experience and afterlife of the Partition may be, most studies have not dealt with one, probably positive aspect of it: the possibility of dialogue between the newborn nation-states. It is inarguable that a common voice of concern— a voice that encourages dialogue between these nation-states— has remained alive, without it having to be disrespectful of respective national claims.

In the present times, when the issue of forced migration, and protecting and promoting human rights, has attained reinvigorated importance and emphasis, in national policymaking as well as local negotiations, it is only too appropriate that this voice of dialogue has achieved greater traction. Driven by unhappy circumstances— economic and environmental, conflict-induced and developmental— people are being forced out of what they consider home; in doing so they are often crossing international borders. Through the attempt to capture the dialogic history of the South Asian past and, perhaps, an alternative narrative of the present, one finds a meaningful way to engage with the worrisome issue of forced migration. The IASFM14 Conference provided the unique opportunity to bring together these complementary voices of common concern in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. At the press conference, the eminent scholar of Bengali literature from Bangladesh, Anisuzzaman, engaged in a productive dialogue with the renowned peace and human-rights activist from Pakistan, Ibn Abdur Rehman, to think through the issue of pervasive forced migration and to work towards building lasting peace and a milieu of cooperation in the subcontinent. Ranabir Samaddar, Director, Calcutta Research Group, moderated the session and contributed to the richness of the discussion. The road ahead, indeed, lies through complementarity and consensus-building rather than through contrariety and contradiction, as the eminent personalities emphasized. More than 20 media houses were present at the venue and the press conference generated impressive coverage.

08.01.13

### On Spaces and Places: Some Reflections on Urban Refugees and Migration Laws-I

Francesco Vecchio, the first speaker, spoke of his research based on the economic migrants of Hong Kong who work in the recycling business and dismantling of automobiles which are sold later. These migrants work in unhealthy environment and their work invites constant police vigilance. Though they are recipients of exploitative salary and legal exclusion, yet their contribution is impressive for the Hong Kong economy owing to their empowering skill towards the local residents in order to create and expand a strong network in the Chinese goods market. The second speaker, Dale Buscher, dealt with the urban refugees who have been struggling to survive at the basic level. The research had been carried out in six areas covering New Delhi, Cairo, Nairobi, Kampala, and Johannesburg. The selection had been made by UNHCR on the basis of intense poverty conditions present in these areas. The extensive qualitative research presents a picture of the high rate of vulnerability of these urban refugees. Moreover, the educated refugees are more prone to unemployment. But the findings also talk about the optimistic side as the urban refugees become resilient to the urban environment. They deploy diverse approaches and multiple income strategies. Thus it would be favourable to promote an enabling environment with proper attention to capacitate refugee-led organization. Various development strategies should be built with a clear understanding of the market barriers. Meeting the basic needs of livelihood and helping access the necessary requirements for income will aid these refugees to contribute to the urban economy. The last speaker of the session was Ranu Basu of York University, Canada and she spoke on “Home-making and city building for the ‘common good’: the experience of migrants in Scarborough”. The suburban political environment of Scarborough is located in Toronto where the population was nearly 600,000 during 2001-2006. It has a diverse range of language and religion. Media comments highlighted this place as boring which needs to change. Yet the qualitative and integrative research carried out by Basu presents before us a brighter side of the city. A unanimous reply was received after interviewing migrants living in Scarborough. According to them, the city is safe and the environment is comfortable giving its residents the freedom to share the space with others on a multicultural platform. The public space is fluid, diverse and not necessarily funded by the Canadian government but there are necessary changes to be made in the transit area. The migrant population feels included at the neighbourhood, though the ‘accent problem’ makes them feel excluded at the job front. Scarborough has a multifarious system where the Canadian Day is celebrated in a multicultural manner.

Among the films screened over the three days were Tushar Bhattacharya’s *Marichjhanpi 1978-79*, Moinak Biswas’s *Sthaniya Sangbad* (Spring in the Colony) and Pramod Gupta and Nilotpal Dutta’s *Amader Jomite Oder Nagari* (Their Town on Our Land). The three films focussed on the question of displacement and forced migration, precarious labour and development.

The Conference ended with the Annual General Meeting of the IASFM. Outgoing president of the IASFM, Chris Dolan, was lauded for having very successfully coordinated with the CRG in organising the conference. Later in the AGM, a new Executive Committee was elected by its members. Paula Banerjee was unanimously elected the President of the IASFM (she is also presently the President of the CRG) and Roberto Vidal, the Vice President. Nasreen Chowdhory was elected the Treasurer of the Association; Susan Kneebone, the Secretary; and Michele Millard, the Communication Officer. Galya Ruffer and Danesh Jayatilaka were put in charge of the Programme Affairs and Innovation and Elżbieta M. Goździak and Bram Jansen in charge of fundraising. Beatriz Sanchez was made the Programme Committee Chair.

To return to the main conference, in the final analysis, it can be said that IASFM14 highlighted the unique features of the new reality of forced migration by focussing on the relevant experiences of strategies of protection of victims, particularly in the postcolonial world. Deftly straddling the triadic thematic concern of borders and displacement, geography and economies of

displacement and rights, ethics and institutions, the conference seemed to underline the necessity of a more dialogic relationship. Also, it seemed that there was a need to minimise— if not do away altogether— the hold of security-related thinking, provisions, and practices in matters of recognising and protecting the rights of the victims of forced migration. Institutions have their vested interests, their domains. To try to reduce them is the need of the hour. To do so one will have to begin with working out and formulating the consequences of the theoretical recognition that population flows are massive and mixed. The reality of these mixed and massive flows questions old polarities. They need to be recognised in their variety, plurality, and amorphous nature— and this will be possible only when we have a more federal way of looking at things, not from an institutional-pyramidal point of view from the top, but from the point of understanding how it works on the ground. We shall then be able to challenge the customary distinction between refugee studies and forced migration studies, and episodic violence and structural violence in terms of protection policies and institutions. We shall be able to ask, if constructing a hierarchy of victims is the appropriate way to frame protection policy. This is possible only when we consider forced migration studies not as an isolated discipline or a subject, defined by some strange esoteric rules, but as a field marked by lines of power and flight paths of various subjectivities. To work with that awareness, the conference suggested, we require not only a sense of rights and responsibilities, but some sort of political awareness of the way in which the migrant appears in our civilised societies as *abnormal*. Interrogating the production of abnormality in the figure of the migrant could become one of the principal research concerns. All these seem additionally relevant when we recognise the contemporary age as one of the return of primitive accumulation when footloose labour becomes the ubiquitous figure of abnormality in the society of the settled and the propertied. Precariousness marks and mars the present.

# **7. Media Montage**

### Change in textbooks needed for better

How does one reconcile with the past, especially if the country is a part of the three countries, Pakistan and Bangladesh? Asia still remains scarred by bloody memory of partition. Trauma and disorientation of millions of people? Social scientists and activists alike find it an insurmountable task. Prof. S. K. Ghosh, a leading intellectual of Bangladesh and Ibn Abdur Rehman, Director, Human Rights Commission, Pakistan, feel that unless radical reforms are taken up to change the present day school text books of these three countries and a more elaborate and comprehensive text of the partition history is included in the school syllabus, the future citizens of these countries would continue to be ignorant about their shared past and learn to hate the "others", their neighbours.

On the occasion of the 14th conference of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM), jointly organised by Calcutta Research Group (CRG), a city based NGO working on displaced persons in South Asia, and the Calcutta Research Group (CRG), a city based NGO working on displaced persons in South Asia, was held in Kolkata on Tuesday.

# The Bengal Post

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## ating displacement

4th conference of IASFM, organised in Kolkata, addressed critical issues of forced migration around the world

by Pratim Basu, On 01-15-2013



The first was the first week of the New Year saw the beginning of two big conferences in Kolkata. The first was a government-sponsored, largely attended but 'poorly managed' Indian Science Congress. The second one was an government-sponsored, largely attended but 'poorly managed' International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM), jointly organised by Calcutta Research Group (CRG), a city based NGO working on displaced persons in South Asia, and the Calcutta Research Group (CRG), a city based NGO working on displaced persons in South Asia, was held in Kolkata on Tuesday.

# 'Govt's land policy counter-productive'

## Activist Anuradha Talwar Feels Non-Intervention Of State Will Help Corporates

Kolkata: The list of intellectuals, who had expected the change of guard in Bengal would usher in a historic Paribartan in the state but were getting disillusioned in light of the acquisition in Loba, that the government policy was "counter-productive".

Talwar, from "one of the leading intellectuals of the state", said that the government's policy of acquiring land for corporates was "counter-productive". She said that the government's policy of acquiring land for corporates was "counter-productive". She said that the government's policy of acquiring land for corporates was "counter-productive".



People in Singur and Nandigram are getting disillusioned. Their expectations have not been fulfilled. They are suffering from a sense of failure.

From "one extreme" of the Left, Talwar said that the government's policy of acquiring land for corporates, the TMC government has moved to the "other extreme" of following a hands-off policy.

People who are refusing to sell land at prices not acceptable to them were being branded anti-development. Land mafias will take advantage of the situation.

### hindustantimes

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 HT Correspondent, Hindustan Times  
 Kolkata, December 29, 2012  
 Email to Author  
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 Last Updated: 13:49 IST(29/12/2012)

## Land policy may help reduce number of displaced in state

The state government's stance of no forceful land acquisition could help reduce the number of persons displaced every year because of developmental activities, researchers claimed on Friday in Kolkata. Nearly 20-25 lakh people have been displaced in Bengal between 1951 and 2008 a recent pan-India research by Walter Fernandez, a Guwahati based researcher, has pointed out. In India the number is around 6 crore during the same period.

"The state government's present standpoint that there would be no forceful land acquisition could reduce the number of persons displaced every year because of development purposes," said Ranabir Samaddar, director of Calcutta Research Group, a city based NGO working on displaced persons in South Asia countries.

He said that in West Bengal maximum number of people is displaced by natural calamities and for developmental purposes. Conflicts and border disputes come next. "But this number (20-25 lakhs) is minus the refugees who were evicted because of the partition. If that number is considered the number of displaced persons in West Bengal would shoot up to nearly 75 lakh," Samaddar said.

He, however, said the number of displaced persons in West Bengal is much less compared to some states in central India such as Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand and Orissa where several lakhs are being displaced because of mining. In a bid to discuss the problems and burning issues of displaced persons and refugees across the world more than 250 delegates from India and at least 30 countries including Afghanistan, Rwanda, Australia and the US would be gathering in Kolkata between February 6-9.

The four-day conference of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration would be deliberating on the issue. This is for the first time that this international conference is being held in South Asia," he said.

"We need to mend things which have caused the Partition of Forced Migration organised by children," Mr. Rehman observed.

"Driven by unhappily circumstances — economic, political and social — the governments of the two countries are being forced out of what they consider home. In doing so, they are behind bars till death. These are thousands of people," he said.

"The issue that the governments of the two countries should be dialoguing about is the only way to build a South Asian subcontinent. Governments and international organisations should inform the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SARFARAZ) representatives of the problems of migration in South Asia, Prof. S. K. Ghosh said. The South Asian countries share the same borders. The problem of labour in Bangladesh is also on their borders.

**Forced Bengal migration**  
 KOLKATA, 05 DEC: Some 20 lakh people have been displaced in Bengal between 1951 and 2008 a recent pan-India research by Walter Fernandez, a Guwahati based researcher, has pointed out. In India the number is around 6 crore during the same period.

It has been observed that in Bengal, since 1951, more than one lakh people have been displaced every year because of developmental activities, researchers claimed on Friday in Kolkata. Nearly 20-25 lakh people have been displaced in Bengal between 1951 and 2008 a recent pan-India research by Walter Fernandez, a Guwahati based researcher, has pointed out. In India the number is around 6 crore during the same period.

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## 8. Collaborating Institutions



ActionAid



Peace Research Institute Oslo



University of Calcutta



Maulana Abul Kalam Azad  
Institute of Asian Studies



Indian Council of Social Science Research



Sage Publications



Institute for the Study of International  
Migration, Georgetown University



Refugee Research Network



Society for Participatory Research for India



Women in Security, Conflict Management  
and Peace

OXFORD  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Oxford University Press



Makerere University



## 9. Conference Team

**Ranabir Samaddar**, MCRG, Kolkata  
**Paula Banerjee**, MCRG, Kolkata  
**Sibaji Pratim Basu**, MCRG, Kolkata  
**Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury**, MCRG, Kolkata  
**Atig Ghosh**, MCRG, Kolkata  
**Suha Priyadarshini Chakravorty**, MCRG, Kolkata  
**Anwasha Sengupta**, MCRG, Kolkata  
**Madhurilata Basu**, MCRG, Kolkata  
**Samaresh Guchhait**, MCRG, Kolkata  
**Ratan Chakraborty**, MCRG, Kolkata  
**Manjari Chatterji**, MCRG, Kolkata  
**Ishita Dey**, Delhi University, New Delhi  
**Sahana Basavapatna**, Legal Consultant, New Delhi  
**Chris Dolan**, IASFM, Kampala  
**Nasreen Chowdhory**, IASFM, New Delhi  
**Priyanca Mathur Velath**, IASFM, Bangalore  
**Michele Millard**, IASFM, Toronto  
**Sreeradha Dutta**, MAKAIAS, Kolkata  
**Lipi Ghosh**, University of Calcutta, Kolkata  
**Rajat Roy**, Journalist, Kolkata





Mahanirban  
Calcutta Research Group



This was the first time that the conference was hosted in South Asia.

<http://www.iasfmconference.org>

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