

Research Output of 2008

Books

The Fleeing people of South Asia: Selections from Refugee Watch Edited by Sibaji Pratim Basu, Anthem Critical Studies: 2009.

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Research Papers

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Tales of Two Cities, Essays by Ishita Day, Sanam Roohi and Tiina Kanninen

The two research papers tell the tale of two cities— Kolkata and Helsinki from two very different themes. The first essay on the city Helsinki co-authored by Ishita Dey and Sanam Roohi concentrates on the labour conditions in Finland and situates it within the phenomena of expansion of borders of the European Union. Globalization as a process has brought up certain interesting questions regarding temporary work. The essay seeks to address these themes in relation to this class of labourers in EU in general and Finland in particular. Through a backdrop of international labour laws and the work life of Finland, moving on to an ethnographic case study of trade union and migrant workers the essay seeks to provide a comprehensive perspective on the theme of temporary workers.

The second essay is centered on the city of Kolkata. It seeks to construct the city as a relational space through the trajectory of compassion. The author Tiina Kanninen examines compassion as a technique for negotiating one's position within those power relations that relate to situations of care and responsibility. Through interactions with five particular organizations which she presents as the nodes of the relational Kolkata she seeks to study this emotional catalyst in the creation and operation of organized care as well as probing into possibilities of construction of more such spaces of compassion.

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Citizens, Non-Citizens, & The Stories of Camps, Essays by Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury and Ishita Dey

The two research papers included here discuss the lives, experiences, memories, processes and practices of refugees located in various camps including one of the largest transit camps in West-Bengal, known as Cooper's Camp. The papers examine, in different ways, the practices of the state and analyse the production of identities and subjectivities of the refugees and the ways they are institutionalized and differentiated from other subjects. As one paper mentions, the category of *refugee* emerges as the battlefield where specific identities and subjectivities are contested and forged in effective skirmishes of everyday life. The two studies on Cooper's Camp can be labeled as micro-histories, but the strategy of recovering refugee experience in this fashion has been deliberately employed, not simply to restore subjectivity but also to recapture the agency of the refugee constructed through memory and other forms of self-representation. Refugee camps in India have always been the sites of contestation in the creation of the state and both the studies illustrate this in various ways. The two studies show quite effectively how the state produces its subjects, and more importantly, how the state creates the figure of 'citizen' and the 'non-citizen'.
Essays by *Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury and Ishita Dey*

For details click on <http://www.mcrq.ac.in/pp21.pdf>

Refugee Watch

Issue No 33, June 2009

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On the margins of Citizenship: Principles of Care and Rights of the Residents of the Ranaghat Women's Home, Nadia District by Ishita Dey

Critical Climatic, Migration and Biopolitics: The Mexico-U.S. Border And Beyond by Arun G Mukhpadhayay

Internal Displacement in India: Status, Condition & Prospectus of Return by Monika Mandal

Immigration and Globalisation by Catherine Wihtol De Wenden

Franco- European Policy and Migration by Mirielle Fanon Mendes France

Iraq's Displaced : Where to Turn? by Roberta Cohen

Issue No 32, December 2008.

On Governing Unruly Population Flows by Ranabir Samaddar

HIV and the Displaced: Deconstructing Policy Implementation in Tsunami Camps in Tamil Nadu by Ratna Mathai- Luke

Gender, Camps and International Norms by Asha Hans

The criminalisation of asylum seekers in the UK by Elizabeth Williams

For details click on <http://www.mcrq.ac.in/ct.htm>