

TOWNS AND MIGRANTS:

EXPLORATIONS OF AN URBAN FUTURE

A Workshop to reflect upon the state of research on emerging non-metropolitan urbanity and urban activism in India and beyond

Calcutta Research Group in Association with the Ford Foundation,

Date: 26-27 December 2017

Venue: Sabhaghar-I, Swabhumi

(Address: 89C, Narkeldanga Main Road, Kadapara, Phool Bagan, Kankurgachi, Kolkata, West Bengal 700054, Kolkata)

Day 1: 26th December 2017

5.00–5.25 pm: Tea & Registration

5.25–5.30 pm: Welcome Address by Anita Sengupta, Director, Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group

5.30–7.00 pm: **Inaugural Session**

(Chair: Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, Rabindra Bharati University)

-- Ranabir Samaddar, Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group: *The Urban Turn*

-- Livio Boni, Université de Toulouse Jean Jaurès: *The Generic City: meta-political remarks on the future of the city at the time of absolute capitalism*

7.00–7.05 pm: Vote of Thanks (Ritam Sengupta, MCRG)

7.05 pm onwards: Reception

Day 2: 27 December 2017

10.00-10.30 am: Tea and Registration

10.30-01.00 am (Session I): Frontier Towns as the Edge of a complex Urbanity
(Chair: Pushpendra Kumar (TISS, Patna))

10.30-10.55 am: Lead note/paper by Mithilesh Kumar (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Patna) – *Raxaul as a Frontier Town at the Intersection of the New Silk Road*

10.55-11.50 am: Lead note/paper by Snehashish Mitra (National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore) – *Knowing the Frontier City: New Urbanization in Northeast India*

11.50-12.15 pm: Lead note/paper by Subir Bhaumik (Eminent Journalist) – *Agartala as a frontier town*

12.15-1.00 pm: Discussion: Pradip Phanjoubam (Eminent Journalist), Monirul Hussain (Gauhati University), Anita Sengupta (MCRG), and Priya Singh (MCRG)

01.00-02.00 pm: Lunch

02.00-03.30 pm (Session II): Small Towns: The Neglected Dimension of Indian Urbanisation (Chair: Atig Ghosh, Visva-Bharati University)

02.00-02.30 pm: Lead note/paper by Ritam Sengupta (MCRG) - *The Small Town in India: 'Subaltern Urbanisation' and beyond*

02.30-03.30 pm: Discussion: Manish Jha (TISS, Mumbai), Pushpendra Kumar (TISS, Patna), Iman Mitra (TISS, Patna) and Mahalaya Chatterji (University of Calcutta)

03.30-04.00 pm: Tea

04.00-06.00 pm (Session III): Urban Activism: City and the Changing Face of Revolt (Chair: Sibaji Pratim Basu, Vidyasagar University)

04.00-04.30 pm: Lead note/paper by Ishita Dey (Ambedkar University, New Delhi) - *Resilient cities and cities of resistance*

04.30-06.00 pm: Discussion: Kaustubh Mani Sengupta (Bankura University), Madhurilata Basu (Sarojini Naidu College for Women), Samata Biswas (Bethune College), Mouleshri Vyas (TISS, Mumbai), Nasreen Chowdhory (University of Delhi)

06.00-06.15 pm: Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks (Somdatta Chakraborty, MCRG)