

The Report  
on  
***Forced Migration, Statelessness, and Issues of Citizenship in South Asia***  
jointly organised by  
Academy of International Studies, Jamia Milia Islamia,  
New Delhi  
&  
Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (CRG)

Venue: Academy of International Studies, Jamia Milia Islamia,  
22-23 March 2012  
(Thursday-Friday)

There were twenty-four participants from diverse backgrounds and various institutions. The workshop had three segments: theme lecture, special lecture and a roundtable discussion. The special lectures were delivered by Sanjay Chaturvedi, Panjab University, Chandigarh; Atig Ghosh, Ranabir Samaddar and Nilanjan Dutta. Chaturvedi talked about the politics of scientific discourse that has developed in the U.S.A., and the West broadly, regarding climate change and its effects on the Global South, with particular reference to Bangladesh. Ghosh talked about the social difficulties of everyday life in the chhitmahals (Indo-Bangladesh enclaves), the political tussle over the chhitmahal between India and Pakistan and after 1971 between India and Bangladesh and the issues of identity for the people living in these areas. Samaddar discussed the concepts of citizenship in the contemporary world. He argued that though traditionally the figure of the migrant is the 'other' that defines the 'core', i.e., the citizen, it is possible today to see migration and citizenship as a part of a continuum. In today's world, where mobility of labour is extremely high, the domain of citizenship practices is no longer an autonomous site. A migrant may also very well be part of this domain without having all the rights that a citizen enjoys. Samaddar stressed the need to study the practices first and then develop conceptual notions of citizenship and migration, instead of going the other way round, i.e., making an attempt to understand practices through theoretical frames. Dutta talked about the role of media in depicting the problems of forced migration. He argued that the media, both within India and elsewhere, is market-oriented. Therefore, they are reluctant to talk about the forced migration which necessarily leads to forced occupation which is detrimental to the development of market forces.

The theme lectures were delivered by Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury and Paula Banerjee. Basu Ray Chaudhury focused on the problems of internally displaced persons (IDPs). The issues regarding the definition of IDPs, difference between an IDP and a refugee, the reasons behind internal displacement, the vulnerability of these people, the legal regime regarding internal displacement and its loopholes were highlighted in the course of this lecture. He specially focused on the problem of internal displacement and the problems of the IDPs in India's northeast. He also touched on the problem of statelessness in South Asia. Banerjee emphasized the need to analyse forced migration through the lens of gender. Her paper demonstrated how the experiences of men and women vary in every stage of forced migration, like the conflict stage that pushes people out of their homes, the actual phase of migration and the rehabilitation phase. Though her paper particularly focused on the trauma of women in South Asia, she discussed the difficulties faced by the men who are forcefully uprooted. She concluded her lecture with a power-point presentation on 'Women and Dam in North East India'.

Two roundtable discussions were held. The first was on 'Politics of Protection in South Asia'. In this session, Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury, Sudeep Basu, GIDR, Ahmedabad and Mukesh Bagoria, Delhi College of Arts & Commerce participated. This session was moderated by Nasreen Chowdhury (D.U.). The next roundtable session, moderated by Sanjoy Hazarika, was on 'Resource Crisis, Environmental Displacement and Forced Migration'. The participants were Ishita Dey, Quaisar Alam, Kalindi College, Delhi and Sushree Panigrahi, Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies. In the valedictory session, Montserrat Feixas Vihe, Chief of Mission, UNHCR, New Delhi, and the Pro-Vice Chancellor of Jamia Milia Islamia, S.M. Rashid, were present. The workshop ended with a vote of thanks by Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury.

**Programme Details**

**Dates:** 22 - 23 March 2012

**Venue:** Academy of International Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

**22 march 2012**

<b>Session</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Speakers</b>
	9:00 - 9:30	Registration	
<b>Inaugural Session</b>	9.30-10.00	Inaugural Session	Welcome address by TCA Rangachari, Director, AIS  About CRG and the course by Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, President, CRG and Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata.  Vote of Thanks – Mujib Alam, AIS
<b>Session 1</b>	10.00 – 11.00	Special Lecture on “ Climate Change and displacement in South Asia”	Sanjay Chaturvedi, Director, Centre for the Study of Geo-Politics and Department of Political Science, Panjab University, Chandigarh.
	11:00 – 11.30	Tea Break	
<b>Session 2</b>	11:30 – 1.00	Theme lecture on “ Internal Displacement in South Asia- Major Flows”	Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury.
	1:00 – 2:00	Lunch Break	
<b>Session 3</b>	2.00- 3.30	<b>Participants Roundtable I</b> “Politics of Protection in South Asia”	<b>Participants:</b> Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury, CRG; Sudeep Basu, GIDR, Ahmedabad; Mukesh Bagoria, Delhi College of Arts and Commerce, DU  <b>Moderator:</b> Nasreen Chowdhory, Delhi University
	3.30-4.00	Tea Break	
<b>Session 4</b>	4.00-5.30	<b>Participants Round table II</b> “Resource Crisis, Environmental Displacement and Forced Migration,”	Ishita Dey, Member, CRG; Quaisar Alam, Kalindi College, DU; Sushree Panigrahi, Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies, Delhi  Moderator- Sanjoy Hazarika, CNES, JMI

23 march 2012

Session	Time	Activity	Resource Persons
<b>Session 1</b>	9:30 – 11:00	Theme lecture on “Gender Dimensions of Forced Migration”	Paula Banerjee, Secretary, CRG and University of Calcutta
	11.00 – 11.30	Tea Break	
<b>Session 2</b>	11:30 - 1:00	Special lecture on “Statelessness and Issues of citizenship in South Asia: A Case Study of Chitmahal”	Atig Ghosh, CRG
	1.00 -2:00	Lunch Break	
<b>Session 3</b>	2.00 – 3:00	Special Lecture on “ Migration and Problems of Citizenship”	Ranabir Samaddar, Director, CRG Chair – Ajay darshan Behra, AIS
	3.00 – 3.30	Tea Break	
<b>Session 4</b>	3.30 – 4.30	Special Lecture on “Media and Forced Migration”	Nilanjan Dutta, Journalist Chair: Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, CRG
<b>Valedictory Session</b>	4.30-5.30	Valedictory Session	Introductory Address – Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury Special Guest, Professor Syed Mohammad Rashid, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Jamia Milia Islamia Guest of Honour, Madam Montserrat Feixas Vihe, Chief of the Mission, UNHCR, New Delhi; Distribution of certificates Chair: (TBC) Vote of Thanks- Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury

\* This programme is tentative and subject to last minute changes.

## DETAILS OF SELECTED PARTICIPANTS

Workshop  
on  
'Forced Migration, Statelessness and Issues of Citizenship in South Asia'  
Dates: 22-23 March 2012      Venue: JMI, New Delhi

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Reading Material  
for the workshop  
on

***Forced Migration, Statelessness and Issues of Citizenship in South Asia***

**Web-based references from CRG publications**

**A. Selected articles from REFUGEE WATCH, a South Asian journal Published by CRG**

1. Aung Phyro and Tapan Bose, "[Refugee in South Asia: An Overview](#):", Issue: 1, January 1998,
2. Nayana Bose, "Mohajirs : The Refugees By Choice", Issue:14, 2001.
3. Atta ur Rehman Sheikh , "Development Induced Displacement in Pakistan", Issue 15; September 2001
4. Joe William, "Internally Displaced Persons in Sri Lanka", Issue: 15; September 2001
5. Rajesh S. Kharat, "Tibetan Refugees In India: Survival In Exile", Issue: 17; December 2002
6. Tapan Bose, " The Legal Scenario of Refugee Protection in South Asia", Issue: 9; March 2000
7. Ranabir Samaddar, "Power, Fear, Ethics", Issue: 14; June 2001
8. Anita Ghimire, "Rethinking *Women* in Forced Migration", Issue:37, June 2011.
9. Paula Banerjee, "Women and Forced Migration", Issue: 10, 2000.
10. Kate de Rivero, "War and Its Impact on Women in Sri Lanka", Issue: 10 & 11, 2000.
11. Jagat Achariya,, "Refugee Women of Bhutan", Issue: 10 & 11, 2000.
12. Syed Sikander Mehdi, "Chronicles of Suffering – Refugee Women of South Asia", Issue: 10 & 11, 2000.
13. Paula banerjee, "Dislocating the Women and Making the Nation", Issue: 14, 2001.
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15. [Asha Hans](#), "Gender, Camps and International Norms", Issue: 31, 2008.
16. Elizabeth Snyder, "Build Back Better – Hurricane Katrina in Socio-Gender Context", Issue: 31, 2008.
17. "The Tsunami and the UN Role in India", K. M. Parivelanl, Issue: 24. 2005.
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20. Muhammad Tajuddin, Biharis in Bangladesh Cessation, Liberation and the Problem of Statelessness, *Refugee Watch* Issue No. 4, December 1998.
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22. Aung Phyro and Tapan Bose, "Refugee Receiving Countries in South Asia: An Overview", *Refugee Watch*, [Issue: April 1998](#).
23. "Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees in India" - *A Correspondent*, [Issue: April 1998](#).

**To access and download the above articles please visit our website [www.mcrg.ac.in](http://www.mcrg.ac.in)**

**B. Selected references from Policies and Practices (CRG publications)**

1. *People on the Move: How Governments Manage Moving Populations* (Policies and Practices 1) By Paula Banerjee, Samir Kumar Das and Madhuresh Kumar
2. *Flags and Rights* (Policies and Practices 11) By Ranabir Samaddar
3. *A Status Report on Displacement on Assam and Manipur* (Policies and Practices 12) By Monirul Hussain and Pradip Phanjoubam
4. *The Draft National Rehabilitation Policy (2006) and The Communal Violence Bill (2005)* By Walter Farnandes, Priyanca Mathur Velath, Madhuresh Kumar, Ishita Dey Sanam Roohi and Samir Kumar Das

5. Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury and Ishita Dey "Citizens, Non- citizens and the Camp Lives", *Policies and Practices* 21, 2009.
6. Amitesh Mukhopadhyay, Cyclone Aila and the Sundarbans : An Enquiry into the Disaster, Policies of Aid and Relief , *Policies and Practices* 26, <http://www.mcrg.ac.in/pp26.pdf>
7. Nirekha De Silva, "Protecting the Rights of the Tsunami Victims:The Sri Lanka Experience", *Policies and Practices* 28, 2010.

**\* To access and download the above articles please visit our website [www.mcrg.ac.in](http://www.mcrg.ac.in)**

### **C. Selected reference from the report published by CRG**

1. "A dialogue on Protection Strategies for People in Situations of Forced Migration", <http://www.mcrg.ac.in/UNHCRconference/home.html>
2. A report on *Voices of Internally Displaced Persons in South Asia*, CRG, Kolkata, 2006, <http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Voices.pdf>.
3. Walter Kaelin, "Climate Change Induced Displacement: A Challenge for International Law", *Distinguished Lecture series*, CRG, 2011.
4. Pascale McLean, *Incomplete Citizenship, Statelessness and Human Trafficking: A Preliminary Analysis of the Current Situation in West Bengal, India*, *Policies and Practices* 38. 2011.
5. Executive summary of the project entitled *State of Being stateless: A Case Study of Chakmas in Arunachal Pradesh*,

### **Additional material and relevant websites**

1. Convention and Protocol relating to the status of refugees, UNHCR, <http://www.unhcr.org/3b66c2aa10.html>
2. Indian National Disaster Management Act, 2005, [www.nidm.in](http://www.nidm.in)
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4. Walter Kälin, "[Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement – Annotations](#)", *Studies in Transnational Legal Policy*, No. 32, published by The American Society of International Law and The Brookings Institution Project on Internal Displacement, 2000, <http://www.asil.org/pdfs/stlp.pdf>
5. UNHCR Policy on Refugee Women, [http://www.safhr.org/refugee\\_watch10&11\\_92.htm](http://www.safhr.org/refugee_watch10&11_92.htm)
6. Select UNICEF Policy Recommendation on the Gender Dimensions of Internal Displacement, [http://www.safhr.org/refugee\\_watch10&11\\_92.htm](http://www.safhr.org/refugee_watch10&11_92.htm)
7. CEDAW: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/econvention.htm>
8. UNHCR Expert Meeting on *The Concept of Stateless Persons under International Law*, 2010, <http://www.unhcr.org/4cb2fe326.html>)
9. Willem van Schendel, "Stateless in South Asia: The Making of the India-Bangladesh Enclaves", *The Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 61, No. 1 (Feb., 2002), pp. 115-147. (pdf file attached)
10. *Special Protocol Concerning Statelessness*, *The American Journal of International Law*, Vol. 24, No. 3, Supplement: Official Documents (Jul., 1930), pp. 211-21.
11. Carol A. Batchelor, "Statelessness and the Problem of Resolving Citizenship Status", *the paper presented during UNHCR Conference on "People of Concern "*, 21 - 23 November. 1996. (pdf file attached)
12. 1954 Convention Relating to the status of Stateless Persons, <http://www.unhcr.org/3bbb25729.html>