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Her Visiting Report

First of all, I would like to thank the Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (CRG) for accepting me as a short-term junior research fellow in the organization. My tasks involved helping the preparation of the report of the Fourth Winter Course on Forced Migration, but mainly concentrating on increasing my understanding of migration issues and movements, especially in the city of Kolkata. Meeting, working and discussing with academics who were activists also, was of great use to my own research on migration issues. I was guided by Prof. Ranabir Samaddar and Dr. Paula Banerjee during my internship. Prof. Samaddar's excellent knowledge of the city, not to mention philosophy, theory, and ethics, greatly enhanced my understanding and offered me a chance to gain valuable information and understanding. Also, Dr. Banerjee's interest in the gender dimensions of migration and her vast experience in empirical knowledge of the issues of forced migration, and in field work will help me a long way in my own future research.

The opportunity to be part of the research group enabled me to establish valuable contacts with various researchers, and be familiar with relevant literature, which will be of great help to me in the future. I was particularly impressed with the CRG library, it combined with the references and articles that Prof. Samaddar kindly provided me with, and the bibliographic list I gained will contribute to my work for many years to come. Although the internship did not directly address my Ph.D. studies, it offered - especially when combined with the knowledge gained from participation in the Fourth Winter Course on Forced Migration - such insight into the theme that would have not been possible to achieve otherwise.

As mentioned above, my tasks were two-fold. The preparation of the report on the Fourth Winter Course involved writing a short chapter on participants' evaluations. Mostly, however, my internship was dedicated to exploring and thus trying to understand the "city of migrants". I was able, with the assistance of Prof. Samaddar, Dr. Ramaswamy and Prof. Siddiqui, to discuss the dimensions of migration in Kolkata, and go to the right places to meet migrant workers. The places that I thus visited included Dakshineswar, Alam Bazar, Kasipur Road, Narkeldanga Main Road, Tangra, Howrah, Garden Reach Road and Barabazar. During these "field days" I was able to see the dailyness of life in railway workshop areas, jute mill areas, "Chinatown", port and dock areas. The variety of these regions was great, and I am quite sure that I gained from visiting and meeting these workers and dwellers not only professionally, but also personally.

After my return to Finland, my Ph.D. research continues, but now it is guided with the experience with CRG, and the activists and academics that form the organization. CRG was a wonderful host to me during my visit, hospitable to the extent that I would have never expected. I truly hope that the contacts established would not end but continue, and that future collaboration and association with the Group would be possible.