

**DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT OF
MAHANIRBAN CALCUTTA RESEARCH GROUP
2016-2017**

The report is divided into nine sections :

- I. Projects {(A)Completed, (B) Ongoing and (C) New}
- II. Distinguished Chair – Report
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1. (A) Completed Project.

(a) Borders, Violence and Challenges to Identities (Flash Research Project)

CRG organised the 3rd Annual Research Workshop of Migration and Forced Migration Studies on the theme ***Borders, Violence and Challenges to Identities*** in Kolkata from 20-24 December 2016. The workshop was held in collaboration with Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (GHDS), Geneva, Switzerland. The other collaborators were Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and the Embassy of Finland, New Delhi. The report was sent to respective collaborators. Select papers from the conference have been published in *Refugee Watch*

1. (B) Ongoing Research Projects

(i) Cities, Rural Migrant and the Urban Poor- Issues of Violence and Social Justice–supported by Ford Foundation.

This project was held up due to some unavoidable circumstances. However the last leg of this project is scheduled to end in October 2017. Ritam Sengupta along with Dr. Anita Sengupta is organizing a signature event in the month of August (23rd-25th), 2017, the 6th Critical Studies Conference on the theme of ‘*Refugees, Migrants, Violence and the Transformation of Cities*’ in Kolkata. This is also the final event of the project –‘*Cities, Rural Migrants and the Urban Poor*’. Earlier last year, the CRG released a Report comprising of Research Briefs with Policy Implications entitled ‘**Cities, Rural Migrants and the Urban Poor: Issues of Violence and Social Justice**’ to the press at **Swabhumi- Sabhaghar-1**, Kolkata, on **30 July, 2016**. The report is in the process of being translated into Bengali and Hindi and currently is a comprehensive description of the results of our research relative to this project.

(ii) RLS Project on “A Social Mapping of Infrastructure, Logistics and India's Look East Policy” is continuing. Dr. Anita Sengupta, Senior Researcher is coordinating this programme under the supervision of Prof. Paula Banerjee, Director. Dr.Sengupta has been entrusted with the responsibility of preparing quarterly and annual reports for this project and is guiding the project staff accordingly so that the project can run smoothly. Several public lectures, research workshops, roundtables and consultation meetings have been organised under her guidance. She also wrote a segment of the project on *Connectivity as the New Asian Paradigm*. The segment made a

comprehensive assessment of India's logistic visions to the East and the West in the light of other competing logistic visions - the One Belt One Road but also the US strategy of Pivot of Asia and Russian Eurasian visions. It has been published as **Policies and Practices-79 *Logistical Spaces IV, The Asian Paradigm***. Five segments of the first year of the CRG-RLS project have been published as **Policies and Practices - 76, 77, 78 and 79**.

Ms. Priya Singh is coordinating the "*Popular Movements in Bihar and Bengal*" under the supervision of Prof. Ranabir Samaddar. This is another segment of the Rosa Luxembourg Stiftung and CRG project on "Social and Political Mapping of Popular Movements, Logistical Vision and Infrastructure of India." She was a part of the organisational team for the consultative meet convened on March 6, 2017 and presented an abstract on the "New Silk Roads". Under this segment she has been entrusted with the responsibilities of organizing seminars and workshops, running the google group on the same theme, keeping touch with all the researchers and regularly receiving updates about their progress, maintaining necessary contact with the South Asia office of RLS. Dr. Anwasha Sengupta was also worked under this project and took the responsibilities of organizing seminars, workshops and keeping touch with the researchers throughout 2016. Ms. Sucharita Sengupta is also attached to this project. She has completed an independent field trip to Nagaland on social governance and has contributed several papers.

I. (C) New Research Project

(a) *Experiences, Aspirations and Struggles: A Study of the New Middle Class in Two Indian Cities*

(a) CRG was approached by Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, to take a part in the ICSSR funded project on "*Experiences, Aspirations and Struggles: A Study of the New Middle Class in Four Indian Cities*". It was later decided by the Advisory Committee of the project to focus on two Indian cities– **Mumbai** and **Kolkata**. The aim of this study is to understand lived experiences of the middle class and describe these experiences through examination of identity, exclusion and the processes associated with consumerism and its purported shift to a new lifestyle. TISS will conduct research in Mumbai while CRG in Kolkata. CRG has also appointed a research scholar for this project. Dr.Somdatta Chakraborty is working under this project and in addition to looking into primary and secondary literature is conducting a series of interviews to add depth to the study.

(b) Data Centres

This is a collaborative project with Western Sydney University. Mr. Ritam Sengupta is attached to this project and working under the direct guidance of Prof. Ranabir Samaddar. The work continues in the wake of the attention devoted by CRG and University of Western Sydney to the problematic of logistics as a governing mode in contemporary capitalism. Logistics or the control and mobilization of productive forces via a series of technological implements and improvisations have been quite critical to the development of the global order of distribution of wealth and labour. Data centres today occupy a central mode of operation within the logistical order. Prof. Ranabir Samaddar, proposes to delve into two key aspects that might be crucial to studying data centres in the postcolonial context of India. The work on this project is continuing.

V. Public Lectures, Seminars, and Publications

V (a) Public Lecture

Ranabir Samaddar, *Distinguished Chair in Migration and Forced Migration Studies*, CRG, "*Ecological Marginality and Floating Populations*", 20 December 2016

Nimmi Kurian, *Associate Professor, Centre for Policy Research*, "The Periphery as Hub? Competing Constructions of Borders in India's Act East Policy", 16 November 2016

Bivas Chaudhuri, *Department of Statistics, All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health*, "Use of Official Statistics in the Social Science Research - Issues and Concerns", 03 November 2016

Sumanta Banerjee, *Independent Researcher*, "The Core and Contours of Popular Movements in India in the near Future", 20 September 2016

Sravani Biswas, *Syracus University*, "Independence Not Yet: East Pakistan and the Cyclone of 1970", 16 August 2016

C. Raja Mohan, *Director, Carnegie India*, "Reconnecting the Subcontinent: India and the New Silk Roads", 24 June 2016

József Böröcz, *Professor of Sociology, Rutgers University*, "Materialist Background to the 2015: Refugee Crisis of Europe", 17 June 2016

Memorial Lecture:

The Fifth Jaynta Das Gupta Memorial Lecture was organized in collaboration with the Pakistan India People's Forum for Peace and Democracy (PIPPFD, West Bengal Chapter) in collaboration with Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung on 4 May 2016 in the Vivekananda Hall, Yuva Kendra, Moulali, Kolkata. **Lawrence Liang** (Legal Researcher and Co-founder, Alternative Law Forum) delivered a lecture on '**Bright Lights and Shadows: Histories and Politics of Labour and Law in the Indian film Industry**'. The lecture was preceded by reading and discussion of Somnath Lahiri's story "**Hartal**" and followed by screening of Sergei Eisenstein's film '**Strike**'.

Krishna Trust

Like previous years, Krishna Trust organised its fourth programme on 22 February 2017 in collaboration with CRG. The programme was held in Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata. This year Ms. Sujeda Khatun was awarded for her work in the field of education among the backward children and Ms. Prajna Paramita Mandal working for child rights and gender equality. **Prof.(Dr.) Abhijit Chaudhury**, Professor & Head, Department of Hepatology, School of Digestive and Liver Disease, Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research, delivered the Memorial Lecture. The programme was followed by a discussion on Calcutta release of "**India: Social Development Report 2016– Disability Rights Perspectives**" (co-edited by Kalpana Kannabiran & Asha Hans, OUP: 2016). Discussants were Dr. Asha Hans, Founder Director, School of Women's Studies, Utkal University; **Kalpana Kannabiran**, Director, Council for Social Development, Hyderabad; & **Nandini Ghosh**, Assistant Professor, Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata.

IV. (b) Publications :

'**Birth of a Stateless Community: Rohingyas in India**' is in the press now. Will be published soon by Routledge.

Policies and Practices

- 83 : The Importance of Being Siliguri, or the Lack Thereof Border- Effect and the "Untimely" City in North Bengal
- 82 : People, Politics & Protests – III: Marxian Literary Debates and Discourses
- 81 : People, Politics & Protests – II : Bengal and Bihar
- 80 : People Politics and Protests – I : Calcutta and West Bengal
- 79 : Logistical Spaces IV: The Asia Paradigm
- 78 :Logistical Spaces III : Hubs, Connectivity and Transit
- 77 : Logistical Spaces II : Mobilities and Spaces (2016)
- 76 : Logistical Spaces I : Logistics and Social Governance (2016)
- 75 : Classes, People, and Populism (2016)

Refugee Watch:

Refugee Watch No. 47 (June 2016)

Refugee Watch No. 48 (December 2016)

VI. Library, Website, and other Assets:

Library: The Library and resource centre of the Calcutta Research Group (CRG) has a vast knowledge of resources which includes books, documents, journals, manuscripts, research papers, working papers, thesis, census reports, audio, video and data CDs. The Library contains 2897 books and 230 CDs including audio, video, data and Lecture CDs relating to law, gender studies, forced migration, food, environment, Urbanization, justice, autonomy, displacement, literary works, minority rights, media, advocacy material, child right, human rights, Northeast migration, and look east policy. The CRG has an exclusive collection of newspaper clippings on northeast India and archival materials on forced migration. CRG is a regular subscriber of e-journals like JSTOR, Project Muse and Economic and Political Weekly (EPW). Now the CRG library is digital library where various research scholars, students, faculty members of colleges, universities, research institutes and NGOs can get the online catalog and number of various e-source materials which are collected and gifted from our researcher. Approximately 420 register users can access CRG digital library. In CRG Library have some notable CDs. Those are on Educational Material on Sustaining Rights, Burma Human Rights Yearbook 2006, 2008, World Investment Report 2005, World Refugee Survey 2003, Brookings materials on IDP, UN Human Rights System 1999, 2000, 2002, Nepal Human Rights Year Book 2004, Ensuring Food Secure Future, Right to Land, and Report on Human Trafficking etc

Website: The website of the Calcutta Research Group (www.mcrgh.ac.in) is a significant and informative site. It has a collection of information, resources and publications which helped researcher, teachers, media peoples, scholars, and human right activators. It is designed for presenting papers, abstracts, relevant documents, online registrations, notifications, and links while organizing conferences, dialogues, workshops and seminar of the different upcoming programme and as well as past programme. It is significant for online distance education system. It has e-source centre with basic and advance search engine by which register researcher, teachers, media peoples, scholars, and human right activators can get the relevant documents, books, links etc. It has a special blog section which is called "Refugee Watch Online". It is updated by providing information from Samata Biswas, Anwesha Sengupta, and Sucharita Sengupta. Samaresh Guchhait looks after the designing, developing, and regular updating of the website according to the programme organized by CRG with the help of research & programme associates. He also works as system administrator to maintain the windows 2003 server, mailing system, and provides technical support. Sucharita Sengupta and Samaresh Guchhait are managing the library and archival resource center.

Assets:

This year CRG purchased one Tally Software for use. The Inter-com Machine (EPABX) purchased last year is working smoothly. For further information CRG's Asset Register may be checked. It is updated regularly.

VII. Office Staff

Research and Project Staff: During the period under report Dr. Somdatta Chakraborty and Mr. Ritam Sengupta joined CRG in February 2017 as Research and Programme Associates. Dr. Somdatta Chakraborty is working on the *Experiences, Aspirations and Struggles: A Study of the New*

Middle Class in Two Indian Cities project while Ritam Sengupta is working in the Data Centre and Ford Foundation Project. Dr. Anwesha Sengupta left CRG and joined IDSK, but she maintains her attachment with the RLS project. Ms. Priya Singh joined CRG during this period and working in the RLS project along with other project staff. Ms. Sucharita Sengupta continues her work sincerely and efficiently. Dr. Anita Sengupta, Senior Researcher, is conducting the RLS project under overall supervision of the Director. During the period under report three scholars ((Mr. Tommasa Manfredini, Ms. Baya Yantran and Mr. Mahanam Bhattacharjee Mithun) were attached to CRG for a short period under internships for their respective research work.

Administrative and Finance Staff: Like previous year, the services of Ratan Chakraborty, M. Chatterji, Dr. Samaresh Guchhait and Asok Kumar Giri were retained. The part-time service of R. K. Mahato as typist was also retained.

Last year Ms. Ananya Chatterjee accepted the membership of CRG.

VIII. The present roll of members stands as follows:

1. Sabir Ahamed
2. Krishna Bandyopadhyaya
3. Paula Banerjee
4. Nirmalya Banerjee
5. Sibaji Pratim Basu
6. Sahna Basavapatna
7. Anjuman Ara Begum
8. Subir Bhaumik
9. Bharat Bhushan
10. Pradip Kumar Bose
11. Sudeep Basu
12. Samata Biswas
13. Sanjay Barbora
14. Suthirtha Bedajna
15. Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury
16. Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty
17. Sanjay Chaturvedi
18. Nasreen Chowdhory
19. KhesheliChishi
20. Anup Shekhar Chakraborty
21. Ananya Chakraborty
22. Samir Kumar Das
23. Byasdeb Dasgupta
24. Sumona DasGupta
25. Milan Datta
26. IshitaDey
27. Jishnu DasGupta
28. Ruchira Goswami
29. Pallav Kumar Goswami
30. Atig Ghosh,
31. Asha Hans
32. Manish K. Jha
33. Kalpana Kannabiran
34. Rajesh Kharat

35. Madhuresh Kumar
36. Pushpendra Kumar
37. Shyamalendu Majumdar
38. Manabi Majumdar
39. Ritu Menon
40. Bishnu Mohaparta
41. Dulali Nag
42. Amit Prakash
43. K. M. Parivelan
44. Amrita Patel
45. V. Ramaswamy
46. Kumar Rana
47. Rajat Roy
48. Prasanta Ray
49. Sanam Roohi
50. Uttam Kumar Ray
51. Roshan P Rai
52. Ranabir Samaddar (invited)
53. Mandira Sen
54. Arup Kumar Sen
55. Samita Sen
56. Simpreet Singh
57. Anjoo Sharan Upadhyaya
58. Mouleshri Vyas

IX. Detailed Research Activity Report of Individual Researchers

Professor Paula Banerjee, *Director*

Current Positions:

Director, Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata
 Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Calcutta,
 Director , Institute of Foreign Policy, Calcutta University
 Governing Body Member, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata
 Governing Body Member, North East Hill University, Shillong
 Governing Body Member, Central University of Rajasthan, Ajmer
 Governing Body Member, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata
 Governing Body Member, Central University of Karnataka, Gulbarga
 Court Member, North Bengal University, Siliguri
 Executive Member of International Editorial Board, Journal of Refugee Studies, Oxford
 University
 UGC – Member of Standing Committees on Journals
 Editor – Refugee Watch, CRG
 Member of International Association for Study of Forced Migration
 Chair-person of the Steering Committee (UPE II, Focus Area II) Calcutta University

Visiting Professor -

Visiting Professor in the University of Oldenburg , Germany, November-December 2016
 Visiting Professor - at the Institut fur die Wissenschaftenvom Menschen, Vienna, Austria in
 January 2017.

Current Project :

Refugees in Popular Movements in West Bengal

Paper presented in other International Seminars and Workshops :

Rohingyas Refugee Women panel in IASFM 16, Poznan, Poland July 2016
Trafficking and Asian Connectivity – Asian Connectivity Seminar, 5, Seoul, April 2016
Port and Crime CRG and Western Sydney University, Kolkata, 2016.

Papers Published :

People Politics and Protests – Calcutta and West Bengal, 1950 -1960s : - PP No. 80
“Criminalising the Trafficked” EPW, Nov. 5, 2016
Peace via Social Justice and/or Security with Roger McGinty, Clusters of Governance and Peace: A Comparison of EU and Indian Theoretical and Policy Approaches. Ed. J. Peter Burgess et. Al, (Manchester University Press, Manchester 2016)
Women Peace and Security - The Context of Northeast India, in Asha Hans and Swarna Rajagopalan edited “Openings for Peace: UNSCR 1325, Women and Security in India” (Sage Publications, New Delhi 2016)

Professor Ranabir Samaddar , *Distinguished Chair In Migration and Forced Migration Studies* Report on Academic Activities (2016-17)

1. Under the Chair two conferences were organised: (a) in Shimla at the IAS in collaboration with the Binghamton University and the IAS, Shimla, on “Migration and Citizenship(s)”, 30 May-1 June 2016; (b) in Kolkata at the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS) in collaboration with the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, the Indian Council of Social Science Research (Eastern Region), Embassy of Finland, New Delhi, and MAKAIAS on “Borders, Violence, and Challenges to Identities”, 20-23 December 2016
2. Select papers from the two conferences will be published in *Refugee Watch*.
3. Ranabir Samaddar gave the annual public lecture by the Chair on “Ecological Marginality and Floating Populations”, 20 December 2016.
4. In the year under review he coordinated the CRG programmes on logistical worlds and data centres, which still continue, and the Ford Foundation supported programme on cities and migrants with the help of Iman Mitra, Anita Sengupta and Ritam Sengupta. He edited with the help of Iman Mitra the special section in *Economic and Political Weekly* (LI (26-27), 25 June 2016), which carried a selection of CRG research papers under the cities and the migrants research project. A detailed report came out on the research and other activities including publications under the project. It was titled as “Cities, Rural Migrants, and Urban Poor: Research Briefs and Policy Implications” (http://www.mcrq.ac.in/Rural_Migrants/Final_Research_Briefs.pdf). He also advised and helped other research and dialogue programmes of CRG.
5. The two associates of the Chair, Snehashish Mitra and Sucharita Sengupta, worked together in organising the programmes and activities held under the Chair. They authored one paper each in the period under review. They prepared the Chair’s page as part of the CRG website. The page - http://www.mcrq.ac.in/Chair_Professor/Distinguished_Chair.asp - has all the required items of information. Their papers have been published under CRG research Paper series. Details are mentioned separately in this report under their names. Sucharita Sengupta took the extra responsibility of organising the archive of papers related to themes of migration in the Northeast and other themes related to the research carried in collaboration with the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung.
6. The Chair also -
 - (a) Delivered a public lecture on “Towards a Postcolonial Theory of the Political Subject”, at Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS), Paris, 17 January 2017 (<http://savoirs.ens.fr/expose.php?id=2912>);

- (b) Delivered another lecture titled “Why Should We Return to the Histories of Immigration in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century?” at Patna University, jointly organized by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Patna and the Department of History, Patna University, 23 August 2016; the text of the lecture is being translated in Hindi;
- (c) Acted as the evaluator of the Masters Theses for the best award in the European Masters Programme on Forced Migration, 2016;
- (d) Co-directed the workshop on “Logistics of Asia-Led Globalization: Infrastructure, Software, Labour” in Inter-Asian Connections Conference, Seoul, 27-30 April 2016;
- (e) Advised as the CRG Chair in preparing an orientation programme in migration and forced migration studies, TISS, Patna.
7. He was also the Visiting Professor for a month (January 2017) at the Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen, Vienna, Austria, where he worked on the theme of “The Labouring Subject of Refugee Economy”.
8. As part of online popularisation of CRG’s research he gave interviews, lectures, and wrote short popular pieces published online –
- (i) “The Need to Work”, Syntalk, 3 September 2016 - <https://soundcloud.com/syntalk/tntw-the-need-to-work-syntalk>
 - (ii) “Labour as the Vanishing Mediator in Logistics and Infrastructure”, Roundtable on Mapping Infrastructure and Logistics, 31 August 2016 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5PHKKOSEQQ>
 - (iii) “Good Refugee Policy Needs Social Justice, Empathy”, Catch News, 20 June 2016 - <http://www.catchnews.com/india-news/good-refugee-policy-needs-social-justice-empathy-ranabir-samaddar-1466422213.html>
 - (iv) “Populist Governemnts and Postcolonial Politics”, 19 May 2016 - <http://thewire.in/2016/05/19/populist-govts-with-strong-leaders-like-mamata-are-here-to-stay-says-political-scientist-ranabir-samaddar-37302/>
9. In the period under review, he published –
- (Books)
- i. *A Postcolonial Enquiry into Europe’s Debt and Migration Crisis* (Singapore: Springer, 2016)
 - ii. *The Crisis of 1974: The Railway Strike and the Rank and File* (Delhi: Primus, 2016)
 - iii. *Ideas and Frameworks of Governing India* (London and New York: Routledge, 2016)
 - iv. *Neo-liberal Strategies of Governing India* (London and New York: 2016)
 - v. (Co-edited) *Accumulation in Post-Colonial Capitalism* (Singapore: Springer, 2016)
 - vi. (Co-edited), *Cultures of Governance and Peace – A Comparison of EU and Indian Theoretical and Policy Approaches* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2016)(Papers)
 - vii. “The Logistical City”, *IIC Quarterly*, Special Issue on “The Contemporary Urban Conundrum”, Winter 2016-Spring 2017;
 - viii. “Power and Responsibility at the margins: The Case of India in the Global Refugee Regime”, *Refuge*, Volume 33, No 1, 2017;
 - ix. “Une critique postcoloniale de l’accumulation contemporaine du capital” (French translation of “A Postcolonial Critique of capital Accumulation Today”, *Actuel Marx*, 61, 2017;
 - x. (Co-authored), “Autonomy in India: Tactical and Strategic Considerations on the New Wave of Workers’ Struggles”, *Viewpoint*, January 2017 - <https://viewpointmag.com/2017/01/23/autonomy-in-india-tactical-and-strategic-considerations-on-the-new-wave-of-workers-struggles/>
 - xi. (Co-authored) “Logistical Spaces I: Logistics and Social Governance”, CRG Research Paper Series, *Policies and Practices*, 76, December 2016, Kolkata;
 - xii. (Co-authored) “Caste and the Frontiers of Accumulation” in ImanMitra, R. Samaddar, and SamitaSen (eds.), *Accumulation in Post-Colonial Capitalism* (Singapore: Springer, 2016);

- xiii. "Classes, People, and Populism", CRG Research Paper Series, Policies and Practices, 75, September 2016, Kolkata; translated in Bengali, "Shreni, Janashadharan, o Janapriyatabad", Anushtup, Volume 51 (4), 2017;
- xiv. "Labour's Spectral Presence in Supply Chains", Research Journal Social Sciences, 24 (1-2), 2016, Panjab University, Chandigarh;
- xv. "Migrant and the Neo liberal City", Economic and Political Weekly, LI (26-27), 25 June 2016;
- xvi. "West Bengal Elections: The Verdict of Politics", Economic and Political Weekly, LI (24), 11 June 2016;
- xvii. "Forced Migration Situations as Exceptions in History?", International Journal of Migration and Border Studies, Volume 2, No 2, 2016;
- xviii. "Education, Inequality, and Neo liberalism" in Avinash Kumar Singh (ed.), Education and Empowerment in India (London and New York: Routledge, 2016)

Anita Sengupta, *Senior Researcher and Programme Coordinator*

From April to December 2016 co-ordinated the first year of the CRG-RLS project A Social Mapping of Infrastructure, Logistics and India's Look East Policy. This included co-ordination of the project, preparation of quarterly and annual reports, organization of consultation meetings, round table, research workshops and public lectures for the project, documentation of relevant documents and coordination of google group logisticsandinrastructure@googlegroups.com. Also wrote a segment of the project on *Connectivity as the New Asian Paradigm*. The segment made a comprehensive assessment of India's logistic visions to the East and the West in the light of other competing logistic visions, the One Belt One Road but also the US strategy of Pivot of Asia and Russian Eurasian visions. It questioned whether a logistical vision on India's East can be realized to any appreciable extent without a complementary design on India's west and northwest. It has been published as **Policies and Practices 79 *Logistical Spaces IV, The Asian Paradigm***.

Edited all five segments of the first year of the CRG-RLS project which have been published as **Policies and Practices 76, 77, 78 and 79**.

Continued with co-ordination of the second phase of the project on A Social Mapping of Infrastructure Logistics and India's Look East Policy from January 2017.

Organized Consultative meeting on 7 March 2017

Began research on the second phase of the project on *Interwoven Realities: The Interface of Geopolitics and Geo-economics in Asia*

Lectures

- *Logistical Spaces as the New Region*, in a seminar on **Regionalism in International Relations** Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University, on 14-15 March 2017.
- *Reimagining Locations: Diasporas in South and Central Asia*, in a seminar on **South Asia: Past Present and Future**, Department of History, Presidency University, 15 February 2017.
- *Logistical Spaces in Eurasia*, at a seminar on **Exploring Eurasia: Traditions and Prospects**, organized by the Women's Christian College, Kolkata 11 November 2016.
- *The Importance of Absence*, at a seminar on **The 'New Indian Migrants' and 'Indentured Diaspora': Emerging Opportunity for Indian Foreign Policy**, organized by Centre for Studies in International Relations and Development, Kolkata, 3-4 November 2016.
- *The Migrant as a Political Object*, at a seminar on **Migration and Citizenships**, May 30-1 June, 2016, Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla.
- Lecture on "Regions, Regional Organizations and Central Asia" in a one day workshop on **Central Asia: Past and Present** at the West Bengal State University, Barasat on 12 April 2016.

Publications

- Anita Sengupta, *Symbols and the Image of the State in Eurasia*, New Delhi, Heidelberg, New York, Dordrecht, London: Springer 2016. <http://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-981-10-2392-7>
- Priya Singh, Anita Sengupta and Suchandana Chatterjee (eds) *Protest and the State in Eurasia and West Asia*, New Delhi, Knowledge World 2016.
- “The Politics of Exclusion: Rhetoric, Symbolism and Gezi Park”, in Priya Singh, Anita Sengupta and Suchandana Chatterjee (eds) *Protest and the State in Eurasia and West Asia*, New Delhi, Knowledge World 2016.
- “Turkey, Syria and the Islamic State”, *ORF Issue Brief*, Issue Brief No 136, March 2016.
- “India and SCO” *Raisina Debates*, ORF 22 June 2016, <http://www.orfonline.org/expert-speaks/india-and-the-sco>
- “Turkey: Night of Discontent”, *Raisina Debates*, 16 July 2016 <http://www.orfonline.org/expert-speaks/night-of-discontent>
- “The Invisible Migrants in Central Asia”, *Migration Policy Practice*, Vol VI No 3, June-September 2016, <https://publications.iom.int/books/migration-policy-practice-vol-vi-number-3-june-september-2016>.
- “With President Critically Ill, Uzbekistan now at Crossroads”, *Raisina Debates* 31 August 2016 <http://www.orfonline.org/expert-speaks/with-president-critically-ill-uzbekistan-now-at-crossroads>
- “The nation Brand in Kazakhstan: Image Building in Times of Crisis”, *LAAPS Perspective*, Vol 1, Issue 1, August 2016.
- “Will New Presidents of Uzbekistan, US Impact Bilateral Relations?”, *Raisina Debates* 7 December 2016, <http://www.orfonline.org/expert-speaks/will-new-presidents-of-uzbekistan-us-impact-bilateral-relations/>
- “Logistical Spaces IV: The Asian Paradigm”, **Policies and Practices-79**, December 2016, <http://www.mcrg.ac.in/PP79.pdf>
- “The New Silk Roads and Indian Alternatives”, *Morung Express*, 11 January 2017, <http://morungexpress.com/new-silk-roads-indian-alternatives/>
- “Connectivity and Regional Development”, in Ulugbeck Khasanov (ed) *Collection of Research Papers on Regional Peace and Security*, University of World Economy and Diplomacy Contemporary Conflicts and Regional Security Study Laboratory, Tashkent 2017.

Priya Singh, *Research and Programme Associate*

1. Coordinating the Popular “Movements in Bihar and Bengal” segment of the Rosa Luxembourg Stiftung and Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group project on “Social and Political Mapping of Popular Movements, Logistical Vision and Infrastructure of India.” As the coordinator of the same, was part of the organisational team for the consultative meet convened on March 6, 2017. Presented an abstract on the “New Silk Roads” at the consultative meet on March 7, 2017 of the segment on “A Social Mapping of Infrastructure, logistics and India’s Look East Policy,” of the same project.
2. Edited essays for the *Refugee Watch*, the MCRG journal and contributed a chapter in the same, entitled “Politics and Policy: Syrian Refugees and the European Union.”
3. Presented a paper entitled, “A Subcontinental Connect: Revisiting the Grand Trunk Road” at Presidency University on February 15, 2017 at the International Conference on “South Asia: Past, Present and Future.”

Other Publications:

4. "Indians in Saudi Arabia: Reinforcing the Cultural Connect," in *The Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Diplomatist*, January, 2017
5. "A Global Britain in the Brexit World," in *The Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Diplomatist*, February, 2017

Anwesha Sengupta, *Research and Programme Associate* (Period: April 1, 2016 – 30 December, 2016)

Research: I was a part of the RLS sponsored research project on 'Popular Movements in Bengal and Bihar'. As a part of this project I focused on the Tram Movement (1953) and the Teachers' Movement (1954) that took place in Calcutta under the leadership of the left parties.

Seminar/Workshops/Conferences: I present my research on the tram and teachers' movements in Calcutta Research Group, Jadavpur University (19-20 September), Bankura University (10-11 November, 2016). Apart from that, I presented various chapters of my PhD dissertation in the following seminars/conferences/workshops: a) title of the paper: '*Unthreading Partition: The Politics of Jute Sharing between Two Bengals, 1947-1952*', British Association for South Asian Studies Conference 2016, held at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge University between 6 and 8 April, 2016; b) title of the paper: '*Refugees as Productive Citizens: Rehabilitation of East Bengali Hindus in Andaman and Dandakaranya*', in International Conference on *Migration and Citizenship (s)*, Indian Institute for Advance Studies, Shimla, *May 30 – June 1, 2016*; c) public lecture at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Patna (26 November, 2016). Title: "*They must have to go therefore, elsewhere*": *Mapping the Many Displacements of Bengali Hindu Refugees from East Pakistan, 1947 to 1960s*.

Publications: a) "Tram Movement and Teachers' Movement in Calcutta" in *People, Politics and Protest I: Calcutta and West Bengal, 1950s – 1960s*, CRG Series on Policies and Practices, No – 80, Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (CRG), December 2016. (ISSN2348-0297)

b) "*They must have to go therefore, elsewhere*": *Mapping the Many Displacements of Bengali Hindu Refugees from East Pakistan, 1947 to 1960s*. Public Argument 2, Occasional Paper. TISS Patna, January 2017.

Administrative Responsibilities: a) I handled the desk of RLS for the CRG-RLS project on Popular Movements in Bengal and Bihar'. The responsibilities included organizing seminars and workshops, running the google group on the same theme, keeping touch with all the researchers and regularly receiving updates about their progress, maintaining necessary contact with the South Asia office of RLS, helping with budgeting.

b) I was the editorial assistant for *Refugee Watch* in 2016.c)

I helped in organizing the CRG workshop on 'Borders, Violence and Challenges to Identities'. (Kolkata, 20 December – 23 December, 2016)

Sucharita Sengupta, *Researcher*

Sucharita Sengupta, worked in organising the programmes and activities held under the Chair. She has done extensive field work for this project.

Papers Presented in Conferences: (April 2016- March 2017):

2017

- Presented a talk on '*Migrants from Bangladesh and Rohingyas in India*' in a National Seminar on Human Rights organized by the Department of Political Science, Vidyasagar University, West Bengal on 29 March 2017.

2016

- Presented a paper- '*Bangladeshis incarcerated in India*' in a UGC Sponsored National Seminar on 'Gender As Perspective: Reflection On Different Disciplines', organized by

Department of English, History, Political Science & Women's Studies, SivanathSastri College, Kolkata, on 19 December 2016.

- Presented a paper on *migration of Rohingya refugees* in a workshop On 'Border, Violence and Challenges to Identities' Organised by Calcutta Research Group in collaboration with Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva; Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS); Embassy of Finland, New Delhi & Indian Council for Social Science Research (Eastern Region), on 20-23 December 2016 at MAKAIAS, Kolkata.
- Presented a paper entitled '*Migrants, Citizens and the Look east Policy in Northeast India*' in 'Young Social Scientist Meet, 2016' organized by Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development (Research Institute of ICSSR, New Delhi, and Government of Assam, India) on 15-16 December 2016 in Guwahati, Assam.
- Presented a co-authored paper - *Refugee Politics in West Bengal during the 50s* in an 'International Seminar on Social Stratification and Political Transformation: Rethinking Indian Democracy', organized by Department of Political Science, Bankura University, West Bengal, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, on 10-11 November 2016.
- Presented a co-authored paper entitled '*Refugee Movement: Another Aspect of Popular Movements in West Bengal in the 1950s*' in a workshop organized by Calcutta Research Group and Women Studies Department, Jadavpur University, on 20 September 2016 at Jadavpur University, Kolkata.
- Presented a co-authored paper entitled '*Borders, Mobility and Migration: the North East India*, as part of a workshop organized by Calcutta Research Group with support from the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (RLS) from 30-31 August 2016 at Swabhumy, Kolkata.

Publications in the same period:

- Forthcoming in December 2017 - "Traculent Times: New Frontiers and Refugee Movement of the 50s in West Bengal" in *Socialist Perspective*, 43 (3-4), (ISSN 0970-8863).
- Sengupta, Sucharita (2017) "UdbastuAndolon: PanchasherUttalPashminbanga" (Refugee Movement during the turbulent 50s in West Bengal), Bengali Article, *Teen DasherGanaAndolon* (Popular Movement of three decades in West Bengal), *Anustup Journal*, Special Issue, 51 (4), (ISSN: 0974-2697).
- Sengupta, Sucharita (2017) "India's Silence on Rohingya Crisis", *Hardnews*, 22 February 2017, Delhi. <http://www.hardnewsmedia.com/2017/02/india%E2%80%99s-silence-rohingya-crisis> .
- Sengupta, Sucharita and Samir Purkayastha (2016) "Borders, Mobility and Migration: A Study on North East India", *Policies and Practices* (ISSN- 2348-0297), Calcutta Research Group, No.77. <http://www.mcrq.ac.in/PP77.pdf> .
- Sengupta, Sucharita and Paula Banerjee (2016) "Refugee Movement: Another Aspect of Popular Movements in West Bengal in the 1950s and 1960s", *Policies and Practices* (ISSN- 2348-0297), Calcutta Research Group, No.80, pp. 1-24. <http://www.mcrq.ac.in/PP80.pdf> .
- Sengupta, Sucharita (2016) "AkBhashomanJanogosthiRohingyara", Special Article (in Bengali), *Kalantar*(Special Volume), October, Kolkata.
- Sengupta, Sucharita. (2016) "The Fort of Freedom: A Study of 'Refugeehood' through the formation of 'Azadgarh Colony', *Refugee Watch Online*, <http://refugeewatchonline.blogspot.in/2016/09/the-fort-of-freedom-study-on.html>
- Sengupta, Sucharita (2016) "Rohingyas: The Newest 'Boat People' of Asia, *Refugee Watch Online*, <http://refugeewatchonline.blogspot.in/2016/04/rohingyas-newest-boat-people-of-india.html>

This apart, she has completed an independent field trip to Nagaland in May 2017 on social governance in the state. She has been in charge of organising *Friday Lectures* at CRG, has been part of the editorial board of *Refugee Watch Online* and has also been in charge of digitization of Primary research material of CRG during the said period.

Somdatta Chakraborty, *Research and Programme Associate*

Joined MCRG in the month of February 2017 as a Research and Program Associate in the project concerns the New Middle Class. It is an ICSSR project titled EXPERIENCES, ASPIRATIONS AND STRUGGLES: A STUDY OF NEW MIDDLE CLASS IN TWO INDIAN CITIES. It is carried out in collaboration with TISS, Mumbai. The aim of this study is to understand lived experiences of the middle class and describe these experiences through examination of identity, exclusion and the processes associated with consumerism and its purported shift to a new lifestyle. In the month of February, my employment as a Research Officer was duly sanctioned by Prof. Manish Jha, Dean, Tata Institute of Social Work after I sent in my joining report. I spent the month exploring various articles, Indian Today website, old issues of EPW for forming an idea about the topic. On 22nd February, I duly attended the Krishna Memorial Annual Lecture in Academy of Fine Arts. This year it was delivered by noted physician Dr. Abhijit Chaudhury.

On 3rd of March, I proofread a book review by Meghna Guha Thakurta and an article by Howard Adelman to be published in the Special Issue of the Refugee Watch on Syrian Refugees.

On 6th and 7th March, we had the Consultative Meeting for Calcutta Research Group-Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung Research Program on Popular Movements in Bihar and Bengal in Swabhum. There I met the PI and Co-PI of my project and had a fruitful discussion on the probable target group as it was clear that I would have to conduct a sizeable number of sample interviews in Kolkata. It was evident that while in Mumbai, around 10 researchers from TISS will be carrying out the interviews; in Kolkata I will have the sole responsibility for doing the ethnographic research. In the RLS conference, I did rapporteuring. I wrote an abstract on Prof. Dwaipayan Bhattacharya's comment on Atig Ghosh's paper titled "First Five Years of Left Front Rule in West Bengal". I also wrote a report on the 1st day's Roundtable discussion where the participants were Prof. Amit Prakash, Prof. Dwaipayan Bhattacharya and Dr. Mallarika Sinha Roy.

In the month of March I composed a short description of the MCRG official Journal Refugee Watch and sent it to Prof. Samita Sen and Prof. Sabyasachi Basu Roychoudhury, expressly requesting them to take measures to include the journal in the upcoming UGC list.

On 20th March 2017, I had to present my work plan in the CRG office in the presence of the office researchers and staff and other members of CRG. On 31st March, Prof. Manish Jha came down for a conference in Rabindra Bharati and I had an opportunity to discuss the finer details of how to execute the project. As per the requirement of ICSSR, I was asked to submit a monthly progress report along with transcripts of the interviews conducted.

The month ended with Samata, the editor of Refugee Watch online requesting me to write a piece on the Refugee Watch online which was duly published in early April.

Ritam Sengupta, *Research and Programme Associate*

My work at MCRG over the months of February (since I joined the institution as a Research and Programme Associate) and March, 2017 has been related primarily to the ongoing collaborative project run by the Western Sydney University and MCRG on the topic of 'Data Centres'. The

work continues in the wake of the attention devoted by MCRG and University of Western Sydney to the problematic of logistics as a governing mode in contemporary capitalism. Logistics or the control and mobilization of productive forces via a series of technological implements and improvisations have been quite critical to the development of the global order of distribution of wealth and labour. Data centres today occupy a central mode of operation within the logistical order. My project, supervised by Prof. Ranabir Samaddar, proposes to delve into two key aspects that might be crucial to studying data centres in the postcolonial context of India.

The proposal I developed over these two months and eventually presented in April at MCRG's Friday Lecture sessions looked at the question of how a nascent economy and polity that is premised on the massive accumulation of data via compilation over social media, over the 'Internet of Things' and now also by the government of India via initiatives like Aadhar and 'Digital India' comes to frame its legal constitution. I thus problematize the notion of privacy and seek to understand how this notion is negotiated within various laws of national or international provenance that in turn follow the data trail from the click of the consumer to the conduits of passage via platforms like Google, Facebook or Aadhar, onto the data centres that manage the storage and execute the interoperability of hordes of 'big data'. A central question I ask is how is the 'private' characteristic of data legalized as it is mediated by requirements of the ever-growing data market and the sovereignty and citizenship norms of the nation-state. In a second part of the proposal I seek to ethnographically understand the technologically and policy-wise emboldened 'State Data Centre' in West Bengal. I track the technological shifts that it has undergone since inception. Vis-à-vis this, I try to understand how these data centres create their own mandate of governmental functioning and the strands of bureaucracy and 'data-work' that gets entangled with these newer modes of functioning.

As research towards this project I have started collecting and reading a set of reports, legal documents and market analyses that have emerged as primary knowledge when studying 'data centres' in India. I have also consulted some eminent software professionals and educators who have provided me with further research lead. My work in this project has also involved translating a set of English keywords that have arisen from the research of MCRG and Western Sydney University in the field of logistics into Bengali.

Apart from this, I am also involved in the last leg of MCRG's research project – 'Cities, Rural Migrants and the Urban Poor' carried on in partnership with the Ford Foundation. Along with Dr. Anita Sengupta, I am organizing MCRG's signature event in the month of August (23rd-25th), 2017 that is the 6th Critical Studies Conference on the theme of 'Refugees, Migrants, Violence and the Transformation of Cities' here in Kolkata. This is also the finale event of the project – 'Cities, Rural Migrants and the Urban Poor'. Earlier last year, the MCRG released a Report comprising of Research Briefs with Policy Implications entitled 'Cities, Rural Migrants and the Urban Poor: Issues of Violence and Social Justice' to the press at Swabhumi- Sabhaghar-1, Kolkata, on 30 July, 2016. The report is in the process of being translated into Hindi and Bengali currently and is a comprehensive description of the results of our research relative to this.