

Annual Report



2020-2021

MAHANIRBAN CALCUTTA RESEARCH GROUP

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1. RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

1.1. Global Protection of Migrants & Refugees, in collaboration with Rosa Luxembourg Stiftung (2020-21)

The annual research of 2020 funded by Rosa Luxembourg Stiftung (RLS) was on the theme “Global Protection of Migrants and Refugees”. The broad research activities conducted with Rosa Luxembourg Stiftung are:

1. Annual Workshop and Conference on Global Protection of Migrants and Refugees
2. Living Archive: Covid-19 and Migrant Workers
3. Public Lecture
4. Public Dialogue
5. Publications: Refugee Watch & Occasional Papers

For details: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_Migration_2020/RLS_Migration_2020_Home.asp

1.1.1. Research work:

In 2020, three staff researchers-Rajat Roy, Rajat Kanti Sur and Utsa Sarmin; and three contracted researchers-Paula Banerjee, Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury and Shibashis Chatterjee were selected to do their research on the proposed theme. Both the contracted researchers and the staff researchers had presented their research findings at the Annual Research Workshop and Conference from 16th-20th November 2021. Four research papers by Paula Banerjee, Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, Rajat Roy and Rajat Kanti Sur were published in *Policies and Practices* No.117-120 and Shibashis Chatterjee’s paper was published in *Refugee Watch*, Issue 56.

For details on staff researchers:

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_Migration_2020/RLS_Migration_2020_Researchers.asp

In 2021 the research theme is titled as *Deep Dive: Global Protection of Refugees and Migrants*. A research planning workshop was conducted in January 2021 to decide the overall research agenda of the institute’s research projects under RLS. Forty-seven participants from Europe, USA, Canada, South Asia and South East Asia attended the meeting and seventeen of them participated online.

For details on the report of the meeting:

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_Migration_2021/RLS_Migration_2021_Programmes_2021.asp

New RLS researchers/research associates joined CRG between January and April 2021. Rajat Kanti Sur (Programme and Research Associate) will be working on *Election Campaigns as Performance: How Importantly the Issues of Migrants, Refugees and Displaced were Addressed in Three Assembly Elections in West Bengal 1977, 2011 and 2021*. Anand Upendran (Programme and Research Associate) has proposed to work on, *At Sea? The State of International Refugee Law*. Shatabdi Das (Researcher) has submitted her research proposal on *Development and Displacement in the Damodar Valley of India*.

For details of abstracts visit:

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_Migration_2021/Papers/Shatabdi%20Das_Abstract.pdf

1.1.2. Living Archive:

On 19 March 2020, CRG started compiling a [Living Archive on COVID 19 and Migrant Workers](#) using material from the media and other sources on Migrant workers in the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown. The newly added section on the website contains information, news reports, photos and videos covering the migrant workers crisis during the lockdown and is being regularly uploaded and updated.

CRG has decided to expand the idea of the 'Living Archive' this year. They will try to prepare a separate keyword optimize search for this archive and reorganize the archive properly and make it more useful for the researchers, activists, journalists and NGO persons. The institute attempted to expand the area of the living archives from COVID-19 to other aspects like electoral politics, civil society movements, new developments in citizenship etc. There was a brief discussion in the annual planning meeting in January. A half day workshop had been planned in 2021.

For details visit:

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_Migration_2021/RLS_Migration_2021_Living_Archives.as

1.2. Migration and Forced Migration Studies with particular focus on South Asia and its European-Asian Dimension, in collaboration with Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna (2019-2021)

The Research Platform on Forced Migration programme, supported by the Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna, (IWM) began in 2019 with an objective to link the European and the Global South experiences of migration and forced migration. The project seeks to promote collaborative studies into the uneven geographies of the global protection regime for the refugees and the migrants, especially at the particular intersection of neoliberal economies and postcolonial politics. It is hoped that a connected and cross-regional research and policy analysis of this nature, with its specific focus on South Asia, will enrich our understanding of the contemporary realities of the massive and mixed migration flows. The South-Asian segment of this Europe-Asia research platform is held at CRG under the Distinguished Chair in Migration and Forced Migration Studies and led by the Director. At present it is managed by one research associate, two research assistants and a separate administration-cum-accounts person. The project is scheduled to continue till December 2021.

The main research activities conducted with Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna are:

1. Research and Orientation Programme in Migration and Forced Migration Studies: Annual Workshop and Conference on Global Protection of Migrants and Refugees; Long 2020; Migrant in the Electoral Times,
2. A media Component including creative media output: Media Fellowship
3. A university component involving short term fellowships, exchange programmes, training in research methodology, and syllabus making exercise: Visiting Fellowship; Teachers Workshop and Migration Pedagogy
4. Public outreach through public lectures
5. Local dialogues, focusing on local, concrete issues of displacement,
6. Journal component involving the production of academic literatures

1.2.1. Research work:

Migration and Labour (2020, completed)

Five contract researchers-Anjuman Ara Begum, Francis Adaikalam, Jyothi Krishnan, Nasreen Chowdhory & Shamna Thacham Poyil, Sohini Sengupta; and two staff researchers-Kusumika Ghosh & Piya Srinivasan worked on this project. Anjuman Ara Begum and Kusumika Ghosh's research articles were published in *Refugee Watch*, Issue 56 and the rest were published as CRG's *Policies and Practices* No. 112-114.

For the topics and abstracts of the researchers, visit:

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/IWM_Migration/IWM_Migration_Researchers.asp

Migrants and Public Health (2020, completed)

A total number of four contract researchers worked on this research theme. Iman Mitra looked into *Public Health, Migrant Workers and a Global Pandemic: From a Social Crisis to a Crisis of the Social*; Ishita Dey worked on *Migrants in India's Health Infrastructure: Ethnography on India's Frontline Workers*; and Manish K. Jha and Mouleshri Vyas analysed *Migrant Workers in the COVID-19 Pandemic: Crisis of Work and Life*. The research papers were published in *Refugee Watch*: Issue 57.

For details visit: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/IWM_Migration/IWM_Migration_Researchers.asp#R2

Long 2020 (2021, ongoing):

In the annual planning meeting held on 26th-27th January 2021 in Kolkata, it was decided that 'Long 2020' will serve as an overarching theme for CRG's 2021 research programme in migration and forced migration and will try to rethink issues of epidemiological governance, jurisprudence, public health, restructuring of labour, and the idea of 'crisis' with a special focus on refugees and migrants and from a conjoined perspective of history and present experiences. Although the Long 2020 research segment initially started with nine contract researchers-Amit Prakash, Byasdeb Dasgupta, Iman Mitra, Kaustubh Mani Sengupta, Oishik Sircar, Paula Banerjee, Sabir Ahmed & Madhurilata Basu, Samata Biswas, Subhas Ranjan Chakrabarty; and one staff researcher-Priyankar Dey; two more contract researchers-Jyothi Krishnan, Ritu Menon have joined later. Research papers produced in this segment will be considered for a book publication under the editorship of Atig Ghosh (Visva Bharati University), Ritajyoti Bandyopadhyay (IISER, Mohali) and with editorial assistance from Madhurilata Basu.

For details on the research themes of 'Long 2020' and the researchers profile visit:

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/IWM_Migration_2021/IWM_Migration_Research_2021.asp.

The Migrant in the Electoral Time: A Report on Bihar, West Bengal and Assam (2021, ongoing):

As part of its collaborative research on the diverse lifeworlds of the migrants and the refugees across the world, CRG conceived this project in February 2021 with an objective to study the migrants as subjects of politics. For this segment, under the guidance of Ranabir Samaddar, Distinguished Chair in Migration and Forced Migration Studies at CRG, researchers from Bihar collaborated with staff researchers from CRG to study three recent assembly elections in India, namely Bihar (2020), Assam (2021) and West Bengal (2021), and organized extensive field visits in the months from February to April in these three states. As an outcome of their research, three regional reports have been produced and later on discussed in an online workshop on 30 June 2021. The researchers are currently revising their reports (final draft to be submitted by the end of July) and preparing three publishable articles from their findings. The researchers responsible for this segment were Anamika Priyadarshini (Centre for Catalyzing Change) and Gopal Krishna (Toxic Watch and Patna High Court) for Bihar segment as contract

researchers and amongst the staff researchers participating in the study are Ankur Tamuli Phukan (CRG) for Assam segment, Priyanka Dey (CRG) and Rajat Kanti Sur (CRG) for West Bengal segment.

For the concept note, visit:

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/IWM_Migration_2021/IWM_Migration_Research_2021.asp.

Individual research projects (2021, ongoing):

For the current academic year 2021, two desk researchers try to look into multitude of citizen-refugee duality experiences in the politics of the local in the nation building process. Ankur Tamuli Phukan (Research and Programme Associate) is working on *'The Politics of the Local: The Contingencies of Citizenry in Assam: A Case Study'*, while Rituparna Datta (Research and Programme Assistant) has proposed to work on *'The Refugees of West Bengal in 1971'*.

For details of abstracts:

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/IWM_Migration_2021/IWM_Migration_Research_2021.asp.

1.2.2. Media Research and Short-term Media Grants:

In 2020, four media fellows were awarded grants under the CRG media fellowship program on 'Reporting the Migrants in the Time of an Epidemic' in June 2020. The fellows submitted their final reports on 15 October 2020. Amit Sengupta, Debasish Aich, Geetika Mishra, Swati Bhattacharya & Abhijnan Sarkar participated in the media study on migrant workers.

For details visit:

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/IWM_Migration/IWM_Migration_Researchers.asp#R2

A media workshop was held on *'The Epidemic, Migrants and the Media'* from 4th-5th December, 2020 at Swabhumi, Kolkata. The keynote lecture was delivered by AS Panneerselvan. Apart from presentations made by CRG media fellows, the panels included moderations by eminent journalist, academicians. The book *"Situating Social Media: Gender, Caste, Protest, Solidarity"* edited by Samata Biswas (The Sanskrit College and University, Kolkata & Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata) and Atig Ghosh (Visva-Bharati University, Shantiniketan & Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata) was launched during the workshop.

For details:

www.mcrg.ac.in/IWM_Migration/Epidemic,%20Migrants%20&%20the%20Media_%20A%20Workshop.pdf

CRG has signed a book-contract with Routledge to bring out the *Media on Migrants in the Time of an Epidemic: A Reader*, an outcome of last year's media programme. The book is edited by Bharat Bhushan and the publication is currently in the proof-reading stage.

For the academic year 2021, five new media fellows have been selected for short-term media grants for investigative studies on the theme *'What Happened to the Refugees and Migrants in the Covid Year of 2020'*—Aman (Siddhant) Gupta (Freelance journalist), *'Conditions of labourers in regions like Bundelkhand after Corona epidemic'*; Devika Singh Shekhawat (PhD Scholar, Ambedkar University, Delhi), *'Work health and labour: ASHA workers in tea plantations of Assam'*; Nivedita Manpoong (Nellie)

(Journalist, *Arunachal Times*), ‘*Arunachal Pradesh’s response to migrant workers during COVID-19 lockdown: a case study in Itanagar*’; Sukanta Sarkar (Journalist, *Ei Samay*), ‘*Migrant labours at the sinking islands in Sundarbans*’; Shuvankur Ghosh (Commissioned Photographer, Roli Books and Freelance Photojournalist), ‘*How migrant workers from the Sundarbans are reimagining their future at a time of uncertain work prospects during the pandemic*’. The fellows will be closely mentored by a group of eminent journalists and photographers of India.

For details, visit:

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/IWM_Migration_2021/IWM_Media_Researchs_2021.asp

1.2.3. CRG-IWM Visiting Fellows:

In 2020, four researchers from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka have been invited to visit CRG on a two-week fellowship. However, the prolonged shutdowns and international ban of travel due to the Covid-19 pandemic forced the institution to postpone their scheduled visit to 2021.

For full details of the researchers and their topics of research, visit:

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/IWM_Migration/IWM_Migration_Researchers.asp#R4.

1.2.4. Investigative field visits:

From 15 to 18 March 2021, Ranabir Samaddar and Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury visited Darjeeling and Siliguri in North Bengal to study the election milieu and the question of the migrants in electoral times. Another intention of this visit was to investigate the continuing relevance of the CAA-NRC in the hills and the debates around the question of citizenship. This visit complimented the investigations of the CRG desk researchers and contract researchers from Bihar, who have undertaken extensive field visits in Assam, Bihar and West Bengal for the Election Study during February-April 2021.

2. WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES & PUBLIC DIALOGUES

2.1. Fifth Annual Workshop and Conference on Global Protection of Migrant and Refugees, in collaboration with RLS & IWM, 16-21 November 2020, Kolkata

In 2020 CRG had successfully organised its Fifth Annual Research Workshop and Conference on Global Protection of Migrant and Refugees—jointly funded by Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (RLS) and Institute of Human Sciences Vienna (IWM)—in November 2020 from 16.11.2021-21.11.2021. The planning meeting for the workshop and conference was held in January 2020 (24.01.2021-25.01.2021). A Task force was formed under the convenorship of Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury. The sudden outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the initial planning and the last date for receiving applications was extended up to 31st May 2020. Keeping the pandemic situation in mind, the selection committee for the workshop decided to allow physical participation of candidates from India only. Twenty-five participants for the workshop were selected only from India, of whom four could not make it to Kolkata owing to COVID-19 infections and other health emergencies. International participants could not be invited to India because of travel restrictions but were brought on board through virtual sessions. CRG took the utmost care to conduct the workshop in a mixed (both physical and virtual) mode. The workshop was divided into six modules dedicated to specific sub-themes and coordinated/taught by seven experienced faculties from different universities and institutions in India. Besides that, a total number of thirty-nine researchers,

academics, activists and policy practitioners from all over the world took part in the one-day conference. All participants for the workshop and conference, module tutors and staff members of CRG were accommodated in ITC Royal Bengal after due testing and observing other safety protocols.

Forced by the circumstances CRG developed a structure combining physical, virtual and hybrid mode that became a key to the success of the workshop and conference.

Workshop Modules:

Module A: Global protection of migrants and refugees with emphasis on protection in the time of the pandemic.

Coordinator: Nasreen Chowdhory

Module B: Migrants and the epidemic: gender, race and other vulnerabilities.

Coordinator: Samata Biswas

Module C: Neoliberalism, migrant labour and the burden of the epidemic

Coordinator: Arup kumar sen & Iman Mitra

Module D: Statelessness with the emphasis on de facto statelessness and the rightlessness of sections of populations

Coordinator: Parivelan K.M.

Module E: Legal regimes of protection and the time of the pandemic

Coordinator: Oishik Sircar

Module F: Ethics of care, public health and the migrants and the refugees

Coordinator: Paula Banerjee

Public Sessions of the Conference and Workshop:

17.11.2021: *Pedagogy of Migration and Refugee Studies in Postcolonial Context*, moderated by Shalini Randeria, Graduate Institute, Geneva & Rector, Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna. Panellists: Samata Biswas, Nasreen Chowdhory, Paula Banerjee.

Video Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oi2u3FEHL_s

18.11.2020: *Pedagogy of Migration and Refugee Studies in the European Context*, moderated by Samir Kumar Das, University of Calcutta & Honorary Director, CRG. Panellists: Ayse Caglar, Laura Hammond, Charles Heller.

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQMBcyFAbWY&t=4s>

19.11.2020: *A Special Virtual and Public Session on Covid-19 in South Asia: Perspectives on Migrant Labour Society and State*, moderated by Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhry, Rabindra Bharati University and Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata. Panellists: Meghna Guhathakurta, Reza Hussaini, Jeevan Thiagarajah, Hari Sharma, Saqib Jafferey.

Video Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57Xya_ATNNO

20.11.2020: *A Special Virtual and Public Session on New Perspectives of Protection of Refugees and Migrants in Southeast Asia*, moderated by Paula Banerjee, University of Calcutta & Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata. Panellists: Naitiyana Thanawattho, Malini Ramalo, TBC.

Video Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HjT-Pbp-C_w

21.11.2020: *Migrants, Refugees and the Issues of Statelessness in South Asia*, moderated by Manish K. Jha, TISS, Mumbai & Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata. Panellists: Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, Paula Banerjee, Shibasis Chatterjee.

Video Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7tq_vROKSR0&t=3s

21.11.2021: *Refugees and Migrants in the Post Covid-19 World*, chaired by Ranabir Samaddar, Distinguished Chair, Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata. Panellists: Luiza Bialasiewicz, Alessandro Monsutti, Alex Aleinikoff.

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45AokJBe1bA&t=51s>

For further details on the workshop and session abstracts visit:

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_Migration_2020/Report_Winter_Workshop_2020.pdf

2.2. Sixth Annual Research & Orientation Workshop & Conference on Global Protection of Refugees & Migrants, in collaboration with RLS & IWM, 15-20 November 2021, Kolkata

The Sixth Annual Research & Orientation Workshop & Conference will be held in Kolkata from 15th-20th November at Hyatt Regency, Kolkata. The preparations for this year's event began at the Annual Planning Meeting held on 26th-27th January 2021 in Kolkata. Eventually a Task-Force was formed under Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury on March 2021 with leading academicians as module coordinators. The task force has been conducting meeting every month since March to finalize the modules and module tutors and other relevant decisions. Priyanka Dey and Shatabdi Das are helping him to conduct meetings and coordinating with module tutors etc.

Call for application was published in March. The third wave of pandemic forced the institution to extend the application deadline to 31 May 2021. Subsequently a Selection Committee was formed with Paula Banerjee, Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury (internal members), Rajesh Kharat and Maidul Islam (external members) to select participants from the pool of applicants. 28 candidates were invited to participate in the workshop in November. At present, the registration of the invited participants is going on.

Workshop Modules:

Module A: Protection and Punishment (Race, Caste, and Policing)

Coordinator: Nasreen Chowdhory

Module B: Migrant Workers and the Refugee: Complicated Terrains of Welfare and Asymmetric Social Protection

Coordinators: Manish K. Jha and Mouleshri Vyas

Module C: Refugees and Migrants as Subjects of Economics, Politics, and Gender Division

Coordinators: Ranabir Samaddar and Arup Sen

Module D: Forced Migration, Law and Critical Jurisprudence

Coordinator: Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury

Module E: Derogation of Rights of Refugees and Migrants, and Situations of Statelessness

Coordinator: K. M. Parivelan

Module F: Protection, Ethics and Practices of Care and Solidarity

Coordinator: Samir Kumar Das

2.3. Two Day Teachers' Workshop on *Research Methodology and Syllabus Making in Migration and Forced Migration Studies*, 21-22 December 2020, Kolkata.

The workshop, held at Swabhumi, Kolkata, was preceded by a pre-workshop roundtable on 20 December 2020 where speakers from Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan took stock of the available courses in migration studies in different colleges and universities in South Asia and discussed their different disciplinary locations, curricula, and scopes and constraints. Supported by IWM, Vienna, the purpose of the Workshop on 21st-22nd December was to frame a syllabus for a two-month online refresher course for teachers on refugee and migration studies. More than thirty panellists and resource persons took part in the eight sessions for two consecutive days.

For details, visit:

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/IWM_Migration/Teachers'%20workshop-schedule%2021%2022%20Dec%2020.pdf

Public Sessions of the Workshop:

20.11.2020: *Teaching Migration in South Asia*. Moderated by Paula Banerjee (University of Calcutta & Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata). Panellists: Noor Sanauddin (University of Peshawar, Pakistan), Amena Mohsin (University of Dhaka, Bangladesh), Indralal De Silva (University of Colombo & RCSS, Sri Lanka), Mujib Ahmed Azizi (Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit, Afghanistan), Anita Ghimire (Nepal Institute of Social and Environmental Research, Nepal) Arjun Kharel (Social Sciences Baha, Nepal).

Video Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/MahanirbanCalcuttaResearchGroup/videos/1676613705855241>

21.11.2021: *Innovative Methods of Research*. Moderated by Lydia Potts (University of Oldeburg, Germany); discussant was Saima Farhad (University of Kashmir, Srinagar). Panellists: Sandro Mezzadra (University of Bologna, Italy), Giorgio Grappi (University of Bologna, Italy) Ayse Caglar (University of Vienna and Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna).

Video Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/MahanirbanCalcuttaResearchGroup/videos/200507438398169>.

22.11.2020: *Impossibility of Politics-Itinerant Situation In Arts and Politics*. Moderated by Atig Ghosh (Visva Bharati University and Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata); Discussant: Subarna Mandal (Sanskrit College and University, Kolkata). Introductory Note was delivered by Ranabir Samaddar (Distinguished Chair Migration and forced Migration Studies, Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata). Panellists: Subhoranjan Dasgupta (IDSK, Kolkata), Oishik Sircar (Jindal Global University, Sonipat), Brett Nielsen (Western Sydney University, Australia).

Video Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/MahanirbanCalcuttaResearchGroup/videos/703144177053788>.

22.11.2020: *Global Lives and World Literature*. Moderated by Kaustubh Mani Sengupta (Bankura University, Bankura); Discussant: Babita Verma (Laxmibai College, University of Delhi, Delhi). Panellists: Imran Ayata (Germany) Mohammed Shafeeq (Manipal Centre for Humanities, Manipal).

Video Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/MahanirbanCalcuttaResearchGroup/videos/481279686169142>

22.11.2020: *Refugee Literature(s), Histories, Identities*. Moderated by Shalini Randeria (Rector, Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna); Discussant: Tista Das (Bankura University, Bankura). Panellists: Allahayari (University of Melbourne Australia), Anwasha Sengupta (IDSK, Kolkata).

Video Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/MahanirbanCalcuttaResearchGroup/videos/1104952019941114>

2.4. Other workshops and symposiums

- a. Mid-term Workshop in hybrid mode: *Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration: Initiating a new research focus* at the IWM, Vienna, 25-26 June 2020.

For details:

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/IWM_Migration/Program%20Forced%20Migration%20Workshop%20Jun%2025%20and%2026.pdf

- b. “*Migration: Dimensions and Perspectives*”, in collaboration with Netaji Satabarshiki Mahavidyalaya.. Webinar by Shyamalendu Majumdar (Associate Professor, Dept. of Political Science, Sivanath Sastri College; Secretary, CRG) and Samata Biswas (Assistant Professor, Dept. of English, The Sanskrit College and University; Treasurer, CRG) on 15 June, 2020.

- c. A One Day Virtual International Workshop on *Forced Migration: Humanity at the Crossroads* (in collaboration with Sivanath Sastri College and IWM, Vienna) 09 July 2020.

For video recordings of the sessions:

<https://youtu.be/h8ZE3CsLKmg>

https://youtu.be/BkaNNi_eZug

For report:

<https://refugeewatchonline.wordpress.com/2020/08/20/a-long-road-with-no-turning-back-one-day-international-teachers-workshop-on-forced-migration-humanity-at-the-crossroads/>

- d. A Virtual Research Symposium on Public Health and Migrant Workers, 21 August 2020 (in collaboration with IWM, Vienna).

For report:

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/IWM_Migration/Public_Health_Symposium_Report.pdf

- e. A Virtual Workshop for University Faculty Members on Research Methodology and Syllabus Making (in collaboration with University of Delhi & IWM, Vienna), 15-16 September 2020.

For details:

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/IWM_Migration/National%20Webinar%20Political%20Science-%20DBC%20.pdf

- f. Pandemic Migration and the Politics of Life: A Two Day International Virtual Workshop for University Faculty Members on Research Methodology and Syllabus Making (in collaboration with Vidyasagar University & IWM, Vienna), 24-25 September 2020. For full report:

http://www.mcrq.ac.in/IWM_Migration/Teacher's_Workshop_VU_Report_2020.pdf

2.5. Public Dialogues

In 2020 CRG-RLS initiated a dialogue on the crisis of the migrant workers during the pandemic along with several individual experts, activists and civil rights organisations working on the issues of migrant workers. A forum was established to express solidarity with the millions of migrant workers. The forum met several times last year and tried to draft a resolution. A virtual dialogue with the members of the forum was organised during the November workshop and conference.

For Details visit: http://www.mcrq.ac.in/RLS_Migration_2020/Report_Winter_Workshop_2020.pdf

In 2021 CRG-IWM has decided to hold 'One Dialogue on Migration and Conflict' titled as *Bihar-West Bengal inter-regional dialogue* in September. For this, preliminary planning and preparations have been done by the Desk and CRG's collaborators from Bihar. The institution is currently at the stage of finalizing collaborating institution at Bihar, exact dates and venue, format of the dialogue, potential resource persons and participants etc. A final budget will soon be drafted. The concept note of the dialogue can be accessed on:

http://www.mcrq.ac.in/IWM_Migration_2021/IWM_Migration_Events_2021.asp

3. PUBLIC LECTURES & WEBINARS

a. "Public Health Crisis and Sudden Visibility of Migrant Workers"

Webinar by Ranabir Samaddar (Distinguished Chair, Migration and Forced Migration Studies, CRG) and Samita Sen (Vere Harmsworth Professor of Imperial and Naval History, University of Cambridge; member, CRG), on 12 June, 2020. Prof. Samaddar investigated how the COVID-19 pandemic exploded as a veritable crisis for migrant workers in India and pointed to the urgency of including migrants in the social-health framework. Prof. Sen examined the reverse migration which the nation witnessed in horror and the alterations to be made if life, labour and health must truly converge. The webinar was organised with the support of Rosa Luxembourg Stiftung and Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna.

For a full video recording:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-YxDbkwVqw&feature=emb_logo

For report:

<https://refugeewatchonline.wordpress.com/2020/06/16/report-on-covid-19-public-health-andthe-sudden-visibility-of-migrant-workers/>

&

http://www.mcrq.ac.in/RLS_Migration_2020/RLS_Migration_2020_PublicLectures.asp.

b. *“Covid-19 Pandemic and the Spectral Presence of Migrant Workers and Refugees,*

A Roundtable discussion on 24 June 2020. The webinar was organised with the support of Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna.

For the report visit: <https://refugeewatchonline.wordpress.com/2020/10/12/report-on-covid-19-in-south-asia-regional-perspectives-on-vulnerabilities-and-dispossession/>

c. *“Redrawn Borders, Redefined Lives”*

Webinar by Sandro Mezzadra (Associate Professor, University of Bologna) and Paula Banerjee (Professor, University of Calcutta; member, CRG), on 8 July, 2020. In contending that the present pandemic has far-reaching consequences for the structures and subjective experiences of domination and exploitation, Dr. Mezzadra attempted to incorporate the pandemic and its aftermath in his continuing study of global logistics. Prof. Banerjee challenged the idea that the erection of national and state borders is an effective solution to the pandemic and asked why lockdowns inevitably meant the denial of access to resources for those already vulnerable.

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fzIDVbmoHY>

d. *“Research Symposium: Public Health & Migrant Workers”*, 21 August 2020. The webinar was organised with the support of Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna.

http://www.mcrq.ac.in/IWM_Migration/Public_Health_Symposium_Report.pdf

e. *“COVID 19 and Migrant Labour: Laws, Policies, Practices”*

Webinar by Kalpana Kannabiran (member, CRG) and Bharat Bhushan (eminent journalist; member, CRG), on 30 July, 2020. Prof. Kannabiran lamented that the suffering encountered by migrant workers during the pandemic was the consequence of the state’s abdication of its legal and ethical obligations. Mr. Bhushan enumerated several lacunae and deficiencies in the ability of the legal and policy framework to protect migrant workers. The webinar was organised with the support of Rosa Luxembourg Stiftung.

f. *“COVID 19 in South Asia: Regional Perspectives on Vulnerabilities and Disposessions”*

Webinar by Amena Mohsin (Professor, Dept. of International Relations, University of Dhaka), Hari Sharma (Executive Director, Alliance for Social Dialogue/Social Science Baha, Kathmandu), Jeevan Thiagarajah (Chairman, Center for Humanitarian Affairs, Colombo), Reza Hussaini (Research Fellow, Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organisation, Afghanistan) and Saqib Jafarey (Professor of Economics, City, University of London), on 24 August, 2020. The speakers encapsulated the experiences of their respective countries during the pandemic and the social, political and developmental questions which those experiences raise. The webinar was organised with the support of Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna.

For report visit: <https://refugeewatchonline.wordpress.com/2020/10/12/report-on-covid-19-in-south-asia-regional-perspectives-on-vulnerabilities-and-dispossession/>

g. *“The Dalit: In Search of a Homeland”*

Virtual public lecture by N. Sukumar (Dept. of Political Science, University of Delhi), on 18 September, 2020. Prof. Sukumar argued that the ability of India’s vulnerable communities to enjoy the benefits of citizenship or to even survive is being threatened by the apathy of the ruling class, an “uncivil society”, and the COVID-19 pandemic. He urged that our society must play an interventionist role between the state and the people to bring forth a social transformation by eradicating the implicit feudal order of the society, and by providing all citizens with social, political, economic and legal justice. The webinar was organised with the support of Rosa Luxembourg Stiftung.

For report: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_Migration_2020/RLS_Migration_2020_PublicLectures.asp

h. *“Migrants and Social Policy”*

Webinar by Ranabir Samaddar, Arun Kumar (CEO, APNALAYA) and Shewli Kumar, (Associate Professor, School of Social Work, TISS), on 23 September, 2020. The webinar, organised jointly by the School of Social Work (TISS) and CRG, emphasised that the travails of the migrant workers in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic reflected the structural inequalities of Indian society. In examining the absence of social protection for migrants working in India’s large informal economy, the discussion attempted to point out what could have been done better.

i. *“The Slow Poisoning of NREGA: How a Rural Lifeline can be Stifled by a Technocratic Government”*

Eighth Jayanta Dasgupta Memorial Lecture by Rajendran Narayanan (Azim Premji University), on October 9, 2020. The lecture urged that the NREGA should be revived from its present decline resulting from extreme centralization, over-dependence on technocratic means and the clever use of software codes to violate legal safeguards and democratic values.

For Report visit: <https://refugeewatchonline.wordpress.com/2020/10/22/report-on-the-slow-poisoning-of-nrega-how-a-rural-lifeline-can-be-stifled-by-a-technocratic-government/>

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FwxHllcDKvA>

j. *“A Virtual Seminar on Migration, Borders and Technologies-An Introduction to Techno-Borderscapes”*

Seminar Series on Forced Migration Inaugural Lecture: Giorgia Dona (University of East London), 11 November 2020. The webinar was organised with the support of Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna.

k. *“Media, Migrants and the Pandemic in Europe”*, 5 December 2020.

Lecture delivered at ‘*The Epidemic, Migrants and the Media: A Workshop*’, 4th-5th December, 2020, Rang Darbar, Swabhumi, Kolkata. Webinar chaired by Ranabir Samaddar. Panellists: Ruth Wodak, University of Vienna, Mohammed Hamarsha, *Al-Shabaka*, *The Palestinian Policy Network*, Paris. The webinar was organised with the support of Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna.

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jd0a67Pf8bU&t=2s>.

l. *“Refugee Sponsorship: Will Civil Society Keep Stepping Up?”*

Seminar Series on Forced Migration Second Lecture: Jennifer Hyndman (York University, Toronto), 16 December 2020. The webinar was organised with the support of Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna.

m. *“Women Surviving COVID In Africa”*

Moderator: Nasreen Chowdhory (Delhi University, India); Speakers: Renu Modi (University of Mumbai, India) Amina Hersi (Oxfam International, Kenya), 29 December 2020.

Video Link: <https://www.facebook.com/MahanirbanCalcuttaResearchGroup/videos/1597830597087880>

n. *“The Eighth Krishna Memorial Lecture”*

The Eighth Krishna Memorial Lecture was delivered by Mohammed Mohinuddin (Chief of UNICEF, West Bengal Circle), on 21 March, 2021. Sabir Ahmed (Senior Researcher, Pratichi (India) Trust; member, CRG) gave a presentation on the condition of block-level health workers (ASHA workers) during the pandemic. The eighth Krishna Memorial Award for Women Educationists, Students and Caregivers was conferred on Tania Das (Bhoruka Public Welfare Trust), Jinat Rehena Islam (educationist, Murshidabad), Shantilata Todu (social activist working for women, Murshidabad), and Ashina Gramin Library (Falta, South 24 Parganas). The awards were presented by Arup Sen (educationist and economist; senior member, CRG). The programme, jointly organised by the Krishna Trust and CRG, was held at Rang Darbar, Swabhumi, Kolkata.

Video Link: <https://www.facebook.com/MahanirbanCalcuttaResearchGroup/videos/526977375343661>

o. *“Borders and Mobility”*

Virtual public lecture by Ranabir Samaddar, on 3 April, 2021. The lecture discussed the contradictory implications of borders—as spaces of both union and separation—and the emerging issues and conflicts related to border regulations, immigration controls, surveillance, confinement, circulation and movement. The webinar was organised with the support of Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna.

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/d521zQJyDms>.

4. REPORT ON THE DISTINGUISHED CHAIR (2020-21)

The five-year term (2015-2020) of the Distinguished Chair of CRG ended in December 2020. The Governing Body after due deliberation and an evaluation committee report offered the Chair to Professor Samaddar for another two years. His new term began in January 2021.

4.1. Distinguished Chairs Page:

The Chair’s page on CRG website (http://www.mcr.ac.in/Distinguished_Chair_CO.asp) has information on Chair’s activities in the last five years. The page as indicated in last year’s report needs redesigning. The Chair has now a Chair Associate who is also a Research and Programme Associate of CRG, Dr. Shatabdi Das. Now with a dedicated Chair Associate CRG can think of extending Chair’s collaborative activities with other institutions, and implementing the mandate of the Chair (http://www.mcr.ac.in/Distinguished_Chair.asp) in a better manner. On completion of the five-year term the Chair expresses thanks for the full and unstinted support of all the members of the CRG staff and Governing Body members, and other members, in particular the past and present Directors and the team of advisers, Paula Banerjee, Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, and Manish Kumar Jha. Thanks, are also to the funding institutions which enabled the activities of the Chair.

4.2. Pilot Projects:

In the year under consideration, the Chair piloted CRG's research programmes, and assisted in its orientation activities. He also completed his three yearlong work on populism—the work is now being considered for publication.

4.3. Committee/Board Advisory Member:

In the year under consideration, he joined as member of:

- a. The Editorial Committee, Inventory, on Mobility and Socio-Economic Change, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology (2021)
- b. Faculty, Global Scholars Academy, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, and Institute of Global Law and Policy, Harvard Law School (2020-)
- c. International Advisory Committee of the ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius, Hamburg, for PhD Scholarships Programme on “Beyond Borders” (2020-2022); and
- d. Member, Permanent Fellow of the Research Programme on “Soft Authoritarianisms”, University of Bremen (2020-2022)

4.4. Publications:

Books

- a. *A Pandemic and the Politics of Life* (Delhi: Women Unlimited, 2021)
- b. *The Postcolonial Age of Migration* (London and New York: Routledge, 2020)

Published Papers

- (i) “Labour’s Burden of the Epidemic Covid-19 and Internal Migrant Workers: The Case of India”, *Migrant Worlds*, No 1, 2021
- (ii) (Guest edited) *The South Atlantic Quarterly* (Special Section on Citizenship Movements in India), Volume 120, No 1, January 2021; also published in that issue, “Revolution and Counter-Revolution in India”
- (iii) “Preface” to Kerstin Knopf and Detlev Quintern (eds.), *From Marx to Global Marxism: Eurocentrism, Resistance, Postcolonial Criticism* (Trier: Verlag Trier, 2020)
- (iv) “The Global Gaze of Care, Protection, and Power”, *Refuge*, Volume 36, No 1, 2020
- (v) “Migrant, City, and Changing Lives” in S. Irudaya Rajan and Sumeetha M. (eds.), *Handbook of Internal Migration in India* (New Delhi and London: Sage, 2020)

4.5. Interviews and lectures delivered in the year under consideration:

- (i) Interview: “Bengal Sees a Fight Between Baro Bhuiyan and the Hindu Right”, *Prathan Alo* (English), 22 January 2021 - <https://en.prothomalo.com/opinion/interview/bengal-sees-a-fight-between-baro-bhuiyan-and-the-hindu-right>
- (ii) Interview: “Time for the Left to Imagine Class and Populism”, *The Telegraph*, 5 January 2021 <https://www.telegraphindia.com/west-bengal/time-for-left-to-re-imagine-class-populism/cid/1802541> (reproduced in *Alternatives International*, 1 February 2021 - <https://www.alterinter.org/?Left-and-the-Populists>); also reproduced in *The Scroll* -

<https://scroll.in/article/984231/why-the-indian-communists-must-understand-left-wing-populism-plus-seven-more-weekend-reads>

- (iii) Lecture: “The Present Epidemiological Moment and Bio-politics from Below”, Mahesh Chandra Regmi Lecture 2020, Social Science Baha, Kathmandu, 7 December 2020 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P0htniJOfV4>
- (iv) Dialogue: “Borders, Logistics, and Unequal Lives”, Global Humanities Institute, Taipei, and the International Centre for Cultural Studies, Taiwan, 22 September 2020 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lW4sMeslNl5OqeFN3qjbh2j-wS6a5CmT/view?usp=sharing>
- (v) Lecture: “Epidemic, Migrant labour, and the Politics of Life”, IIC, New Delhi, 7 August 2020—<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lt-Mm30lYuc> and https://www.iicdelhi.in/webcasts/view_webcast/epidemic-migrant-labour-and-the-politics-of-life/
- (vi) Lecture: “Borders of an Epidemic”, New Zealand India Research Institute, 26 June 2020 - <https://vstream.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=741ac44f-6f5c-46f5-9180-abe400574a7b>
- (vii) Lecture: “Covid-19: Public Health and the Sudden Visibility of Migrant Workers”, Calcutta Research Group, 12 June 2020 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15ciFz4org>
- (viii) Interview: “The Government Must Mobilise People to Cope with the Public Health Crisis in this Covid Time” (in Bengali) – Anandabazar Patrika, 11 May 2020 - <https://www.anandabazar.com/editorial/coronavirus-political-scientist-ranabir-samaddar-says-state-should-focus-on-the-health-system-1.1148311>
- (ix) Lecture: “Borders of an Epidemic”, Centre for Global Migration Studies, Gottingen University, 30 April 2020 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yWRHyOML1E&feature=youtu.be>
- (x) Interview: “At the Stroke of Midnight, Migrant Workers became Aliens in a Double Sense”, *The Wire*, 23 April 2020 - <https://thewire.in/rights/interview-ranabir-samaddar-migrant-workers-invisible>

4.6. Lectures for the upcoming months are listed below:

- (i) Public Lecture: “Borders and Mobility”, *Calcutta Research Group*, 05 April 2021.
- (ii) Discussion: “Competitive Populism and Welfare”, *4th Pillar*, 9 April 2021.
- (iii) Interview podcast: “A Cultural Battle in Fought in Every Village in West Bengal”, with Sidharth Bhatia, *The Wire*, 20 April 2021.
- (iv) Dialogue: “A Conversation with Ranabir Samaddar on “Karl Marx and the Postcolonial Age”, *Shelter and Solidarity*, 8 May 2021.
- (v) Dialogue: Six Capsules on “Thinking in the Epicentre: Conversation between Ranabir Samaddar and Biao Xiang on Shock Mobility”, *Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology*, 15 May 2021.
- (vi) Lecture: “Everyday State”, *Young South Asia Scholars Meet, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva*, 3 June 2021.
- (vii) Lecture: “A Pandemic and the Politics of Life”, *Kerala Council of Historical Research*, 15 June 2021.

5. PUBLICATIONS

5.1. Journal:

CRG's flagship Journal publication *Refugee Watch: A South Asian Journal on Forced Migration* (ISSN: 2347-405X) has been in circulation since 1998 deals with the issues of migration and mobility at various cross purposes. Issues 55-56 edited by Paula Banerjee has been published between January 2020 to March 2021.

1. Issue 55: Contemporary Perspectives on Internal Displacements in South Asia (A Special Issue on SANDD) published in collaboration with RLS. It covered issues related to internal displacement in South Asia.
[RW55.pdf \(mcrq.ac.in\)](#)
2. Issue 56: Fallacy of Protection published in collaboration with IWM. It covers the structural failures in the governmental systems to provide adequate protection to the migrants.
[RW56.pdf \(mcrq.ac.in\)](#)

The consolidated website for *Refugee Watch* and *Refugee Watch Online* was launched in 2020 and is hosted at www.refugeewatch.org.in. It website will also act as the archive for all previous publications of *Refugee Watch*.

5.2. Online Journal: Refugee Watch Online:

CRG maintains an online co-publication of Refugee Watch Online (RWO) hosted at <https://refugeewatchonline.wordpress.com/> and presents brief news, reports, views, and comments while drawing political and social attention to the human rights of the forcibly displaced persons. The editorial team have Anwasha Sengupta, Debarati Bagchi, Ananya Chatterjee, Sucharita Sengupta and Samata Biswas. In 2020 the blog had around 10951 views. The blog has its social media handles Facebook: @refugeewatchonline, Twitter handle: @rwatchonline and Instagram profile @refugeewatchonline.

In 2020, three undergraduate students interned with RWO: Sukanya Bhattacharya, Arna Dirghangi and Annesha De. Each of them wrote a research article and reported on various CRG webinars and discussions, apart from creating the consolidated archive of Refugee Watch and Refugee Watch Online for the website www.refugeewatch.org.in.

5.3. Research Papers: Policies & Practices:

CRG publishes a series of research papers with the aim of disseminating important works and findings for discussion among scholars, researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and activists. The Occasional Papers published by CRG in 2020-2021 are listed here:

Sr.	Title	Authors	Project	Year	Link
120	Covid-19, Migrants and Media	Rajat Roy and Ritambhara Malaviya	RLS	2020	http://www.mcrg.ac.in/PP120.pdf
119	Culture, Migration and the Time of an Epidemic: The Nautanki Theatres/Bhojpuri Nautankis in the 1990s	Rajat Kanti Sur	RLS	2020	http://www.mcrg.ac.in/PP119.pdf
118	Media Discourses on the Bengal Bangladesh Border	Paula Banerjee	RLS	2020	http://www.mcrg.ac.in/PP118.pdf
117	Transition without Justice in the Postcolonial World: Protection Discourses for Refugees and Migrants in South Asia	Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury	RLS	2020	http://www.mcrg.ac.in/PP117.pdf
116	Media on Migrants: Report from the Field-II	Amit Sengupta, Abhijnan Sarkar & Swati Bhattacharjee, Geetika Mishra	IWM	2020	http://www.mcrg.ac.in/PP116.pdf
115	Media on Migrants: Report from the Field-I	Debashis Aich	IWM	2020	http://www.mcrg.ac.in/PP115.pdf
114	Biometrics, Notion of Governmentality and Gender Relations in Rohingya Refugee Camps	Shamna Thacham Poyil & Nasreen Chowdhory	IWM	2020	http://www.mcrg.ac.in/PP114.pdf
113	The Invisible Migrant Workers: In Life, In Death	Francis Adaikalam and Piya Srinivasan	IWM	2020	http://www.mcrg.ac.in/PP113.pdf
112	Two Writings on Climate, Disasters & Displacement`	Sohini Sengupta & Jyothi Krishnan	IWM	2020	http://www.mcrg.ac.in/PP112.pdf

5.4. Books:

- a. A Pandemic and the Politics of Life by Ranabir Samaddar, Women Unlimited, New Delhi, 2021.
- b. Draft copies of the law reader titled: *"Refugees: Laws, Politics, Aesthetics: A Southern Reader"*, edited by Oishik Sircar, Associate Professor, Jindal Global Law School, and Sara Dehm, Lecturer, University of Technology, Sydney have been printed for internal circulation in January 2021. Subsequently a book contract has been signed with Routledge titled, *The Refugee Law Reader: Southern Perspectives*, eds. by Oishik Sircar and Sara Dehm, Routledge (Forthcoming).
- c. *Epidemic, Migrants and the Media: A Reader*, ed. Bharat Bhushan, will be published in 2021 from Routledge. Draft copies of the book (*Media on Migrants in the Time of an Epidemic: A Reader*, edited by Bharat Bhushan was published for internal circulation early this year.
- d. *Borders of an Epidemic: COVID-19 and Migrant Workers'* and *'Burdens of an Epidemic: A Policy Perspective on Covid-19 and Migrant Workers'*, the two CRG publications will be soon published from Social Science Press (Indian edition) and International edition by Routledge. Paula Banerjee, Ranabir Samaddar and Ritajyoti Bandhopadhyay are the co-editors.
- e. *Situating Social Media: Gender, Caste, Protest, Solidarity*, eds. by Samata Biswas and Atig Ghosh, Women Unlimited, 2020

5.5 Audio-Visual Materials for Reading and Instructional Purposes:

CRG in collaboration with IWM has been producing audio-visual material for reading and instruction purposes.

CRG has produced a second documentary film in 2020 titled *'Tale of a Migrant City'* in the sequel *Calcutta Migrant City*. The film narrates the history of the development of squatters' colonies in West Bengal following the exodus of refugees from East Bengal for pedagogic exercises in migration and forced migration studies.

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5CnRwKd3p8>

6. LIBRARY, WEBSITE, ASSETS

6.1. Library:

The library of Calcutta Research Group holds a significantly specialized collection of print and audio resources on topics pertinent to areas of Social Science such as migration, forced migration, human rights, peace, justice, post-colonial democracy, migration studies, and more. This Resource Centre is linked with the Refugee Research Network, responsible for gathering information from a number of institutions and networks. The library has digital access, allowing members of several colleges, universities, research institutes and NGOs, along with research scholars, students and faculty access to academic material. Books and CDs, however, are available only as hard copies in the library.

In terms of numbers, the Library and Resource Centre has about 3070 books, 1383 documents and 237 audio CDs, video and lectures on topics such as law, migration, food, environment, urbanization, displacement, minority rights, advocacy, child rights, human rights, and migration from Northeast India, India's Look East policy, and more. There are exclusive collections of Newspaper clippings on

Northeast India, and archived materials on forced migration. The library also has a good collection of donated books on topics such as Modern India, human culture, the sociological imagination, Dalit literature, and more. The library has subscribed Koha from the Bengal Library Association since last November. It will gradually migrate its database to Koha. The library has purchased 200 new books last year. The librarian gradually started cataloguing those books to the new database (Koha). The Calcutta Research Group is a subscriber to journals of repute such as JSTOR and Economic and Political Weekly. The subscription of Project-Muse began from September last year.

The current library advisory committee consists of Samir Kumar Das, Purna Banerjee, Rajat Roy, Ankur Tamuli Phukan and Rajat Kanti Sur. They are responsible for determining the rules and modes of operation. A further committee consisting of student and members had been set up to take stock of library holdings and give suggestions for improvement of the library. It submitted its report under the leadership of Dr. Purna Banerjee in 2019. The Director has been working on its recommendations.

Nandini Dasgupta, the librarian joined last year left the job in March 2021 after the completion of her contract tenure with CRG. A new librarian, Binayak Mallick, has joined the office commencing July, 2021, and has taken over most functions of the library. He is preparing a list of necessities, such as books on classification and subject headings, which will further help in managing and giving a structure to existing and incoming library resources.

6.2. Website:

The website of Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group is hosted at mcrgh.ac.in. The website not only acts as the digital platform for showcasing the activities of the institute but also serves as the repository of the research and reference through its archiving of resources curated across various genres and is available on public domain except few restricted by either the copyright laws or are in the process of transmission into digital data. The website has been heuristically designed into seven segments-research & programmes, dialogues & conferences, public lectures and seminars researchers and board members, distinguished chair, publications & reports, and library and resource centre. The current projects Global Protection of Migrants and Refugees (2020) and Migration and Forced Migration Studies with Particular Focus on South Asia and its European-Asian Dimension (2019-2021) have been updated regularly. The programmes of CRG are updated regularly on its website. The Living Archive resources have increased manifolds and has been indexed on a temporal scale. A new secured portal is in the process of making for hosting the Sixth Annual research & orientation programme on Global Protection of Migrants and Refugees and the Teachers Online Course where the website itself would act as a communication platform for education between the participants and the resource persons. The website is updated and maintained by Samaresh Guchhait from the administrative unit of Calcutta Research Group with the support of the Programme and Research Associates. He will be aided by our new librarian and information officer Vinayak Mallick who has joined since 1st July 2021. With the increasing need to atune to the new normal in the ongoing pandemic induced due to Covid-19, the need has been felt to optimise our digital presence and hence discussions on recruitment of a webmaster on a contractual basis is in the offing.

6.3. Assets:

During this period two Dell laptops, two UPS and one computer were purchased. In addition to that one shoe rack, two geysers and one sanitizer machine were purchased. Details are available in the Asset Register. The register is maintained on regular basis and the updated register is open for inspection.

7. RESEARCH & ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF AND OTHER OFFICE MATTERS

7.1 Research and Administrative Staff

During the period under report, Prof Samir Kumar Das held the post of Honorary Director from June 2019 till the completion of his term on 31 May 2021; CRG thanks him for his able steering of the organisation through a pandemic and two lockdowns. CRG also takes the opportunity of expressing its gratitude to Prof Shyamalendu Majumdar for having officiated as the Director till Prof Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury took charge as the Honorary Director of CRG from July 2021. CRG welcomes Prof Basu Ray Chaudhury and hopes that under his stewardship CRG will reach new heights of collective research and camaraderie.

Rajat Roy's tenure as Research and Programme Associate under the RLS project came to an end in December 2020, however, he is associated with CRG's in its research work. Kusumika Ghosh, Utsa Sarmin and Piya Srinivasan left CRG on the completion of their projects. Rajat Kanti Sur continues his work sincerely and efficiently as Research & Programme Associate for the CRG- RLS project on *Deep Dive: Global Protection of Refugees and Migrants*. Shatabdi Das re-joined CRG as Researcher for the CRG-RLS project on *Deep Dive: Global Protection of Refugees and Migrants* in April 2021. She has obtained her PhD in October 2020. Anand Upendran joined in February as Research and Programme Associate for the same project. Ankur Tamuli Phukan joined as Research and Programme Associate under CRG-IWM project on *Migration and Forced Migration Studies with particular focus on South Asia and its European-Asian Dimension* in February 2021. Priyanka Dey joined in February as Research and Programme Assistant for the same project. Rituparna Datta joined as a researcher for the CRG-IWM project in March 2021. Shatabdi Das and Rituparna Datta are Associates of Distinguished Chair in Migration and Forced Migration Studies of CRG as well.

Details of the staff researchers are available at http://www.mcrg.ac.in/CRG_Researchers_RPA.asp and http://www.mcrg.ac.in/CRG_Researchers_RPAssitances.asp

During the period under report two research interns, Digangana Das and Farseen Ali P.V, were attached with CRG for a short period of time under the internship programme for their respective research.

For details of the interns visit:

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/CRG_Researchers_Intern.asp

Nandini Dasgupta, working as Assistant Librarian and Information left CRG after the completion of her contract in March. Binayak Mallick was selected and appointed as Library Assistant and Information Manager in June 2021.

Ratan Chakraborty was unable to continue his service at CRG owing to his personal reasons in October 2020. CRG honours his decision and thanks him for his long service. Partha Protim Sarkar was appointed as Accountant in August 2020. The services of Samaresh Guchhait, Subhashree Rout and Ashok Kumar Giri were retained. R. K. Mahato's contract was extended for three months as a part-time Librarian till October 2020. However, considering his long association with CRG, he was given a fresh contract in March 2021 for 10 months.

7.2 Other Office Matters:

7.2.1 Internal Complaints Committee:

The Internal Complaints Committee was reconstituted in November 2020 on the basis of a proposal of the Governing Body. The following persons are members of the Cell: Subhashree Rout (convener), Paula Banerjee and Uttam Kumar Ray with Debarati Bagchi as the external member

8. HIGHLIGHTS OF MEMBERS' ACHIEVEMENTS

Anjuman Ara Begum's main activity during the pandemic situation is responding to the covid crisis. As a part of the group, she has supported emergency relief, carried out research, documentation and wrote about education of women and girls during the pandemic.

Ananya Chatterjee's article titled, "Travails with Motherhood: An Autobiographic exploration of being a mother " was published in Social Trends in March 2020.

Nasreen Chowdhory's "Citizenship, Nationalism and Refugeehood of Rohingyas in Southern Asia co-edited with Biswajit Mohanty was published from Springer 2020 and "Gender, Identity and Migration in India" co-edited with **Paula Banerjee** was accepted for publication by Palgrave in 2020.

Paula Banerjee's edited volume "Margins of Protection" was accepted by Routledge in 2020.

Sanam Roohi started her Alexander von Humboldt fellowship in September 2020 at the Centre for Modern Indian studies.

V.Ramaswamy was invited in April 2020 to contribute a weekly column to the Munich newspaper, Sueddeutsche Zeitung, for their 'World in Fever' page on the pandemic. His translation of Subimal Misra's, *This Could Have Become Ramayan Chamar's Tale: Two Anti-Novels*, was published by Open Letter, USA, in July 2020 and translation of *The Runaway Boy*, the first volume of Manoranjan Byapari's trilogy of novels, *Chandal Jibon*, was published by Eka Books, in December 2020.

9. ROLL OF MEMBERS

CRG deeply mourns the loss of its eminent and founder member Prof Pradip Kumar Bose.

The present roll of members stands as follows. It will be subject to revision after the AGM to be held on 5 August 2021

1. Amit Prakash
2. Ananya Chatterjee
3. Anita Sengupta
4. Anjoo Sharan Upadhyaya
5. Anjuman Ara Begum
6. Anup Shekhar Chakraborty
7. Arup Kumar Sen
8. Asha Hans
9. Atig Ghosh
10. Bharat Bhushan
11. Bishnu Mohapatra
12. Byasdeb Dasgupta
13. Iman Mitra
14. Ishita Dey
15. Jishnu Dasgupta
16. K. M. Parivelan
17. Kalpana Kannabiran
18. Kshesheli Chishi
19. Krishna Bandyopadhyay
20. Kumar Rana
21. Madhuresh Kumar
22. Madhurilata Basu
23. Mahalaya Chatterjee
24. Manabi Majumdar
25. Mandira Sen
26. Manish K. Jha
27. Manjuri Chatterji
28. Mouleshri Vyas
29. Nasreen Chowdhory
30. Nirmal Kumar Mahato
31. Nirmalya Banerjee
32. Paula Banerjee
33. Prasanta Ray

34. Rajat Roy
35. Rajesh Kharat
36. Ranabir Samaddar (Invitee)
37. Ritu Menon
38. Ruchira Goswami
39. Sabir Ahamed
40. Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury
41. Sahana Basavapatna
42. Samata Biswas
43. Samir Kumar Das
44. Samita Sen
45. Sanam Roohi
46. Sanjay Barbora
47. Sanjay Chaturvedi
48. Shyamalendu Majumdar
49. Sibaji Pratim Basu
50. Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty
51. Subir Bhaumik
52. Sucharita Sengupta
53. Sudeep Basu
54. Sumona Dasgupta
55. Suthirtha Bedajna
56. Uttam Kumar Ray
57. V. Ramaswamy

Shyamalendu Majumdar
(Secretary)