

Annual Report 2023-2024



MAHANIRBAN CALCUTTA RESEARCH GROUP

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Research Programmes	3
3. Workshops, Conferences and Dialogues	8
4. Public Lectures, Webinars and Meetings	15
5. Distinguished Chair in Migration and Forced Migration Studies	17
6. Visits and Fellowships	22
7. Publications	23
8. Library, Website and Assets	27
9. Academic And Administrative Staff	28
10. Highlights of Members' Achievements	28
11. Roll of CRG Members	29

1. Introduction

The Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (CRG) since its inception in 1996-1997, has been working on issues of migrants, refugees, peace, security, rights, justice, and vulnerable populations in South Asia. It has worked as a forum of peace dialogues and experimented with different peace audit methods and used them in its peace research, peace studies, and peace campaigns. The theme of migration, justice, protection, rights, and peace has remained intrinsic to the work of CRG on border violence, partition calamities, communal carnages, protection and care of refugees and migrants including migrant labour, and the near total absence of basic rights of stateless population. In the year under consideration, 2023-2024, CRG continued to work on the themes of the government of the people and looked at governments as political structures in addition to labour in an expanding gig economy, the lives of women, discriminated groups, children, migrant labour as managed in the post-COVID-19 world, interrogating the possibilities of protection of the refugees and migrants in the Global South, interrelations of climate change and displacement, etc., in collaboration with Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung-South Asia (RLS), the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, Vrije University (VU), Amsterdam. CRG and Rabindra Bharati University (RBU) Kolkata, following the 2022 collaboration with the Erasmus Mundus Programme on European Master in Migration and Intercultural Relations (EMMIR) joined the initiative of teaching one semester on migration in Kolkata as part of the MA programme. As part of its media initiative, CRG continued to develop the South Asia Network for Communication, Displacement and Migration (SAN-CDM) in collaboration with Deutsche Welle (DW) Akademie, Federal Republic of Germany. The eighth edition of CRG's flagship programme, the Annual Research and Orientation Workshop was on the theme of "Global Protection of Refugees and Migrants" followed by a Conference on "War, Climate Disaster and Displacement: Call for New Protection Strategies." The programme played a pivotal role in voicing the experiences, and opinions of the Global South on the subject of refugee protection and migrant mobility and addressed new challenges that have emerged with time and technological progress along with complications in the concept of worldwide migration.

This report is a comprehensive account of previous year's programmes, events, publications, and other activities that the institute undertook in 2023-2024. The detailed report has accounts of CRG's collaborations with other institutes on research programmes and activities—by the institute, researchers, members and the Distinguished Chair. The report also has accounts of CRS's library and assets.

2. Research Programmes

2.1. Global Protection of Refugees and Migrants [April-December 2023 (Completed); and January-March 2024 (Ongoing)] in collaboration with Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung

In [2023-2024](#), the programme in collaboration with the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (RLS) was on the theme of "Global Protection of Refugees and Migrants." The programme developed on the foundations of previous CRG-RLS collaborations to encourage public activism related to issues of migration, forced migration, human rights, justice, dignity, and peace. The need to take a view from the South and a refugee and migrant-oriented approach to protection and to facilitate all other necessary measures based on non-securitising humanitarian assistance towards the protection of and justice for the victims of war, intervention, violence, minority repression, denial of women and children's rights and ecological calamity in the form of successive severe droughts in past decades was the focus of 2023 project keeping in view South Asia and the broader region of the Asian continent seeking to learn lessons and best practices which could then be advocated for implementation either in the region singularly or, even, globally.

In 2023-2024, the broad research activities can be divided into two parts: Programme and Research. Under the programme segment, the following events were organised: **Annual Workshop and Conference on Global Protection of Refugees and Migrants** (November 2023), **Follow-up Workshop** (July 2023), **Workshop on Routes and Ports of Migration** (December 2023).

The Research segment comprises research done by Staff Researchers and Contracted Researchers.

Staff Researchers:

Debashree Chakraborty (Researcher, CRG-RLS) worked on "[Literary Imagination of Climate Change and Climate Disasters: Fiction in the Subcontinent](#)." This paper looks into how Indian fiction

addresses the environment and climate crisis in India. The research has been published in *Policies and Practices No. 144* (December 2023). She has translated short fiction into English and the translations are due to be published in two separate anthologies in late 2024. She has published a book chapter titled “Protest in the Poems of Unish: A Study of Women’s Poetry from Barak Valley” in the anthology *Female Narratives of Protest: Literary and Cultural Representations* from South Asia by Routledge.

Rajat Kanti Sur (Researcher, CRG-RLS) worked on the theme of “[United We Stand: Role of Unionisation among the Gig Labours in India](#).” The article was published as *Policies and Practices No. 145* (December 2023). He taught Archival Methodology in a “Research Methods and Publication” workshop organised by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Kharagpur, on 4-10 December 2023. He wrote for “Subalterns, Histories, Subjects, Disciplines: Act II” (forthcoming) and participated in the international symposium from 5-8 March 2024 in New Delhi organised by the Max Weber Forum for South Asian Studies and El Colegio De Mexico organised the workshop. His contribution is on “Nautanki Theatre in North India.” The Handbook will be published by Routledge (London) in December 2024. His forthcoming publication includes a book chapter on “Interrogating Marginality and Contextualising Marginal Voices” in an edited volume by Anindita Ghoshal and Mrinmoy Pramanick (Primus Books, Delhi). Rajat writes regular columns on labour issues in a Bengali Periodical, *Prasongik-Oprasongik*. His columns on the History of Tramways Company and a book review of the second series of *Itihashe Hatekbori*, an initiative of IDSK, Kolkata, and Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung were published by Hindustan Times Bangla. Rajat is a member of several committees and organisations. He is an honorary member of the Vidyasagar Academy, Government of West Bengal, since August 2023. He is also a member of Nagarik Mancha, an independent Civil Rights Organisation in West Bengal. In 2024, Rajat Kanti Sur will work on the Emergence Idea of Security among Women Migrant Workers in Colonial Calcutta. He is also co-authoring a chapter on “Barbonita to Sex Workers: The “Dirty” History of Commercial Sex Life in Kolkata” with Paula Banerjee and Sangbida Lahiri for the forthcoming book on *City as the Southern Question* edited by Ranabir Samaddar [Distinguished Chair in Migration and Forced Migration Studies, CRG, Kolkata and Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR) Fellow], Sandro Mezzadra (Professor, University of Bologna, Bologna), and Enrica Morlicchio (Professor, University of Naples Federico II, Naples).

Contracted Researchers:

Shatabdi Das (Researcher, CRG), prepared a Policy Brief on “[Climate Disasters and Displacement: Role of Policies and Protection](#).”

Sohini Sengupta (Associate Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences-Mumbai) prepared a Policy Brief on “[Understanding Climate Mobilities for Policy Direction in the Global South](#).”

A discussion on the Policy Briefs was organised on 22 November 2023, during the Eighth Annual Conference.

Francis Adaikalam (Faculty, Loyola College, Chennai, and Member, CRG) wrote a paper on “Tamil Indenture Labour: Witnesses at Madras Port”.

Kaustubh Mani Sengupta (Assistant Professor, Shiv Nadar University, Noida) wrote a paper on “Calcutta Port Complex and the Story of Indentured Labour”

These two papers will be published in the edited book *Routes and Ports of Migration*.

For 2024, **Gopal Krishna** (Advocate, Patna High Court, and Member, CRG) and **Paula Banerjee** (IDRC Endowed Chair on Gender and Forced Displacement at the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, and Member, CRG) have been contracted to prepare Policy Briefs on Migrant Labours in the Unorganised Sector; **Shatabdi Das** is working on a compendium on mapping vulnerabilities in the context of mines, rivers, cities, floods (including droughts).

For the year [2024-25](#), an internal meeting was held on February 2024 to decide the agenda of research and programmes followed by a [researchers’ presentation workshop](#) on 13 March 2024.

The Handbook, [Postcolonial Compendium: Keywords in Forced Migration and Refugee Studies](#) published by Frontpage in 2023 is another endeavour of this programme. For details about the initiative, see: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_Migration_2023/RLS_Migration_2023_Keywords.asp.

2.2. Justice, Protection and Government of the People: A Two-Year Research and Orientation Programme on Protection and Democracy in a Post-Covid World (2023, Completed) and Refugees, Migrants and Urban Justice (2024, Ongoing) in collaboration with the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna

The three-year programme on [“Justice, Protection and Government of the People: A Two-Year Research and Orientation Programme on Protection and Democracy in a Post-COVID World \(2021–2023\)”](#) in collaboration with the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, was successfully completed in 2023. The research programme was conceptualised in the background of “government of the people” at a time when governing the population of a country no more remained only in the hands of the government but was dispersed as responsibilities among population groups, especially in a post-COVID world, it became important to not only look at governments as political structures but to bring in the perspective of management of states in a region through the assemblages of forums and conclaves.

In 2024, the research theme is [“Refugees, Migrants and Urban Justice \(2024\).”](#) The focus will be to look into the interlinked consequences of war, violence, border disputes, and ecological catastrophes and the necessity of protecting refugees and migrants. It is to situate these questions in the particular context of the cities of the South, which includes the European South as well as the resultant issue of urban justice as an intersectional theme of the urbanisation of the South.

CRG hosts the South Asian segment of the programme under the cluster of the Europe-Asia Research Platform and has organised research programme-related activities such as developing research papers, conducting investigative field studies, organisation of camps, workshops, webinars, book discussions, public lectures, conferences, facilitating visiting fellowships and media fellowships, conferring awards, publications, and reports. Rituparna Datta and Shatabdi Das are responsible for the overall management of the research activities. The programmes conducted as part of the CRG-IWM research programme for the said academic year include: **Educator Training Programme: Teachers Workshop** (2023); **Media Segment: Media Fellowship and Media Workshop** (2023 and 2024); **Visiting Fellowships: Exchange Programme for Young Scholars in South Asia and South East Asia** (2023 and 2024); **Dialogues with Caregivers** (2024); **Youth Meet** (2024); **Annual Research and Orientation Workshop and Conference** (2023 and 2024); **Public Lectures** (2023 and 2024).

The Research segment comprises research done by Staff Researchers and Contracted Researchers.

Staff Researchers:

Shatabdi Das [Researcher, CRG-IWM] in 2023 conducted research on the theme [“Kolkata and Mumbai: Climate Disaster Mitigation in Coastal Megacities of India”](#) as part of the IWM research programme “Justice, Protection, and Government of the People: A Two-Year Research and Orientation Programme on Protection and Democracy in a Post-COVID World (2021-2023)” and presented her work in the CRG Staff Researchers’ Workshop held in October 2023, published in *Policies and Practices No.155* (December 2023). She presented her research on [“Climate Disasters and Displacement in India: Role of Policies and Protection”](#) in the panel titled ‘Discussion on Policy Briefs on Climate Change’ in the Eighth Annual Conference on ‘War, Climate Disaster, and Displacement: Call for New Protection Strategies’ on 22 November 2023. The Policy Brief written by Shatabdi has been published as *Climate Disasters and Displacement in India: Role of Policies and Protection, Policy Brief* (CRG 2023). Shatabdi was Module Coordinator for [Module F1: Climate, Ecology and Displacement, in the Eighth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop on Global Protection of Refugees and Migrants](#) (16-20 November 2023), and is Module Coordinator for Module G1: Climate, Ecology and Displacement, in the Ninth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop on Global Protection of Refugees and Migrants (8-12 November 2024). In 2024, Shatabdi is conducting research on the [Ghost Towns of Bengal and The Making and Unmaking of Cities](#), as part of IWM research programme “Refugees, Migrants, and Urban Justice (2024),” and is also working on [a compendium of mapping exercises on vulnerabilities in the context of mines, rivers, cities, and floods \(including droughts\)](#), as part of the RLS research programme “Global Protection of Refugees and Migrants in 2024.” Shatabdi presented her research on “Migrant Workers, Displacement and Sustenance in the Bengal Coalfields” in the session titled ‘Cyclone, Other Disasters and Displacement’ in the workshop on Global Protection of Refugees and Climate-Induced Migrants organised by Calcutta Research Group in collaboration with Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU) and Migration and Asylum Project (MAP), on 21 February 2024. [She moderated the session ‘Cities and Storytelling’ in the Youth Meet on ‘Urban Caregiving and Protection:](#)

[Histories and Contemporary Practices](#)’, 28-30 March 2024, in Bolpur, Shantiniketan, and recited her poems published in the event brochure. Her research has been published as book chapters in edited volumes. “[Mapping Displacement in India: The Cases of Development and Climate Disasters](#),” was published as a book chapter in *Living with the Weather: Climate Change, Ecology and Displacement in South Asia*, edited by Piya Srinivasan (New Delhi: Yoda Press, 2024); “[On the Edge of Safety: Coal Mine Workers in Eastern India](#),” was published in *Pandemic and Precarity*, edited by Rituparna Datta (Kolkata: Sampark, 2023). She is also one of the contributing authors for *Postcolonial Compendium: Keywords in Forced Migration and Refugee Studies*, edited by Paula Banerjee, Nasreen Chowdhury and Priya Singh (Kolkata: Frontpage, 2023). She wrote widely on the themes of environment, climate issues, disasters, sustainability in cities, and coal mining sector, in different newsletters, literary magazines, and media platforms. Her article “[Coal Mining in India Has a Human Cost](#),” was published by *360info* (19 June 2023). In 2023-2024, she continued to be CRG’s Distinguished Chair’s Associate for Ranabir Samaddar. She is an honorary member of the Vidyasagar Academy, Government of West Bengal since August 2023.

Rituparna Datta (Researcher, CRG-IWM) in 2023 conducted research on “Death in Diaspora” with a focus on lives of indentured labourers in plantations overseas. This paper looks at ‘death’ as a method to reflect back on the conditions of colonial coolie labour regimes within the capitalist transformations of the overseas plantation economies of the Empire as mortality-morality-sickness were the common conditions accompanying not only during the transit of labour but a constant worry of the Empire in its attempts to sedentarise the population. Rituparna’s edited volume *Pandemic and Precarity* was published by Sampark in 2023, which is a compendium of primary investigative reports on the precarity of labour, the struggles of life, work and challenges in the wake of the pandemic. The book was released at the Eighth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop and Conference (17-22 November 2023) in Kolkata. In 2024, she will be working on the theme of writing an experiential [auto]biography of Calcutta between 1947-51.

Contracted Researchers:

Anita Sengupta (Director, Asia in Global Affairs, Kolkata, and Member, CRG) conducted research on “[Mitigation, Recovery, and Response: Democracy in Post-COVID Central Asia](#)” was included in *Issue 63 of Journal Refugee Watch*.

Paula Banerjee’s research on “[Is Protection Only a Legal Matter? Migrant Labour in South and South-East Asia](#)” was published as *Policies and Practices No. 151*.

Samir Kumar Das (Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, and Member, CRG) researched on “[Governing the Pandemic: Negotiating Democracy in Our Time](#).” This research paper was published as *Policies and Practices No. 150*.

Ishita Dey (Assistant Professor, South Asian University, New Delhi, and Member, CRG) prepared an investigative field report on the “[Journeys and Internal Migrant Workers: An Ethnographic Study of Railway Connectivity](#)” (published by CRG in 2023), documenting the travel experience of the migrant labourers from Bhagalpur to Mumbai on Lokmanya Tilak Express.

Honorary Researcher:

Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury (Honorary Director, CRG, 2022-2023 and Professor, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata) wrote a paper titled “[Platformed Precarity: A Tale of Two Cities in India](#),” published in *Policies and Practices No. 152*.

Shyamalendu Majumdar (Director, CRG, 2023 to present) wrote a journalistic piece on “[How a Cyclone Created a New Nation](#)” in the series Cities After Colonialism with *360info*. His research article on “Theatre and Pandemic in Bengal” was published in the book *Pandemic and Precarity* by Sampark in 2023. In 2024, he will be researching “[Calcutta and Birth of Theatre](#)” to find out the development and politics behind the Bengali theatre and the interlinkages with the simultaneous growth of Calcutta as a city and the emergence of different class relations through different theatrical performances, especially people at the margins in the Bengali society in general and in this city in particular.

In 2024, the major theme of research as conceptualised by Ranabir Samaddar is “[City as the Southern Question](#)” focusing on the cities of Calcutta, Bombay, Chittagong, Athens, Beirut, Naples, and Marseilles. The research will be compiled as an edited book volume. Inspired by Antonio Gramsci’s reflections on the

problem of the South, this volume seeks to place the problematic of today's urbanisation at the heart of the Southern question today.

2.3. European Master in Migration and Intercultural Relations (EMMIR) in collaboration with the University of Oldenburg, Germany, and Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata (2023-2024)

EMMIR is the first Afro-Asian-European Erasmus Mundus programme on migration run by a consortium of 9 partners in Europe, Asia, and Africa. CRG and Rabindra Bharati joined the consortium for the duration of 2022-2027. Paula Banerjee is the coordinator of the programme. Ranabir Samaddar has been a Member of the Advisory Board of the EMMIR programme, at the University of Oldenburg since 2022. There have been visits to the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand, and participation in the international conference on "Gender, Geopolitics, and Forced Migration," 4-5 March 2024, and meetings and discussions on EMMIR programme.

In 2022, CRG joined the 10th Edition of the programme for the period 2022-2024 session whereby a few selected MA students opted for the semester course offered by CRG-RBU on "[Care and Protection of the Migrants and Refugees in the Global South](#)" for their 3rd Semester in Kolkata. The [programme](#) was divided into two parts. In the first part, the students took physical classes in Kolkata, India. The course had 6 sub-modules – 1) Methods of Studying Population Flows, 2) Migrant Labour of the Global South, 3) Evolving Legal Discourse on Care and Protection and Regional Legal Mechanisms, 4) Environmental Challenges and Displacement in South Asia, 5) Gender, Race, Caste, and Other Faultline in Protection Strategies, and 6) Cities, Migrants, and Refugees. The second part was participation in the Eighth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop on "Global Protection of Refugees and Migrants" from 17-22 November 2023 in Kolkata and presenting research papers in the Workshop. Paula Banerjee and Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury were the Course Directors. The introductory lecture was delivered by Ranabir Samaddar on "Practical Ethics of Responsibility and Protection." Two field trips were included as part of the semester programme in Nadia Cooper's camp (post-1947 Partition refugee camp in West Bengal), and a tour focusing on the cultural practices of Kolkata during the festival of Durga Puja. The main deliverable of the students at CRG-RBU was a final paper on their respective topics. One draft presentation was made by the students at RBU on 6 November 2023, where two external experts—Achin Chakraborty and Byasdeb Dasgupta were present besides internal experts from CRG and RBU. These oral presentations and final papers were graded. The grades were submitted to Oldenburg University at the end of the semester. Students submitted their final papers to CRG-RBU on 26 November 2024. These final research papers were also part of the [EMMIR presentations in the November Workshop in 2023](#).

The preparations for designing the syllabus and course structure for the 11th Edition in 2024 are in progress. 10 students had opted for the CRG-RBU Focus Module, with 9 students to be joining the classes in Kolkata.

A conference on "[Migrant Asia: International Conference on Migrants in the Making of Asia](#)" has also been planned by EMMIR-CRG-RBU in collaboration with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Bangkok, Thailand in 2025.

Sucharita Sengupta is working as a consultant in this programme. She actively engaged with the programme coordinators in managing the course, preparing the syllabus, organising field trips as part of the semester in Kolkata. In December 2023, she reviewed four Master thesis proposals and joined the two-day proposal colloquium organised by Oldenburg University.

2.4. Justice, Security, and Vulnerable Populations of South Asia (The Fund for the Global Human Rights, 2023-2025, Ongoing)

The Research Programme on "[Justice, Security, and Vulnerable Populations of South Asia](#)" commenced in January 2024 in collaboration with The Fund for Global Human Rights. Ranabir Samaddar and Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury are programme coordinators and Sucharita Sengupta is the Research Associate working on the overall coordination of suggested activities scheduled under the research programme. The research programme is an extension of CRG's earlier work as well as ongoing work on the issues of security, justice, and protection in South Asia. The programme will focus on redefining, and broadening the concept of security and peace. The research programme is for two-year duration. The major suggested activities planned are: 1) publication of research papers, and policy briefs; 2) organising workshops, South Asian

conferences, public lectures, and webinars; 3) Policy and Peace Dialogues; 4) web-based archive of research resources on theme security, justice, peace on open-access, etc. A [one-day Consultative Meeting on Security, Justice, and Vulnerable Populations of South Asia](http://www.mcrgr.ac.in/Security_Studies/Security_Studies_Home.asp) was held on 6 April 2024 to discuss the proposed activities and their implementation in detail. For further details, see: http://www.mcrgr.ac.in/Security_Studies/Security_Studies_Home.asp

Sucharita Sengupta (Researcher, CRG-Fund for the Global Human Rights) in 2024 as part of the research programme will be working on the theme of “[Promises and Paradoxes of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Secure Migration](#).” She presented a paper on “[Care for Tourists or Refugees? Diary of a Traveler from Cox’s Bazar](#)” at the 2024 Youth Meet on “Urban Caregiving and Protection: Histories and Contemporary Practices” that was held from 28-30 March 2024 at Bolpur, West Bengal, and was part of panel presentations on “Pandemic and Precarity in Conversations.” She was also the facilitator for the panels on “Ethics and Aesthetics of Life: A Workshop” and “Memory, Media and Migration.” Her research on “[Rohingya refugee women survive on the edge](#)” was published in the special report article series “Rohingya refugees” by *360info* on 27 March 2024. She presented her research on Rohingya refugees in the special panel on “Policymaking for Stateless Person in Asia” at the Eighth Annual Conference on War, Climate Disaster, and Displacement: Call for New Protection Strategies (21-22 November 2023). She presented a paper on “[Living like a Phoenix: Rohingyas amidst the Covid crisis in Bangladesh Camps](#)” at an ICSSR Workshop on “[Ethnographies in the Post-Pandemic](#)” organised by the Institute of Development Studies Kolkata on 16-17 January 2024. Her upcoming publication includes a chapter from her PhD in the *South Asia Migration Report 2024: Remittances, Resilience and Rehabilitation*, edited by Irudaya Rajan and to be published by Routledge. Details can be read here: <https://www.routledge.com/South-Asia-Migration-Report-2024-Remittances-Resilience-and-Rehabilitation/Rajan/p/book/9781032860794>

2.5. Migration and Post-Migration Studies, Racism, Post-Colonialism (Hochschule Magdeburg-Stendal, University of Applied Sciences, Germany, 2023-2026, Ongoing)

A research cooperation was signed with the Department of Applied Human Sciences (AHS-h²) to look into the scientific field of migration and post-migration studies. The programme includes a postdoc opportunity for fellows from CRG to the University of Applied Sciences, Germany for the year 2024 or 2025 and one research visit/stay of ten days for an AHS-h² staff member at CRG in 2024 and active participation in the programmes organised by CRG preferably in the Annual Research and Orientation Workshop and Conference in 2024. A joint conference (hybrid) on the theme of race, class, and migration in the postcolonial order with a focus on children will be organised by CRG and AHS-h². The conference will aim to develop a common theoretical framework to bring together the research perspectives of the Global North and Global South. A publication will be planned from this programme now in its initial stages of planning.

2.6. Global Protection of Refugees and Climate-Induced Migrants [Vrije Universiteit (VU), Amsterdam, October 2023 to February 2024, Completed]

The programme grounded in the research and practice on the policy framework, legislation, and jurisprudence concerning, protection procedures to the mechanism of climate-induced migration recognition, aimed at developing comparative research focused on discourses in Forced Migration between three emerging key themes of equal interest for Indian and European scholars namely, refugees’ rights and protection, and the social impact of climate-induced displacement and migration. As part of the collaboration, a Workshop on “Global Protection of Refugees and Climate-Induced Migrants” was organised jointly by VU-CRG-Migration Asylum Project (MAP) on 20-21 February 2024. **Sucharita Sengupta** helped in the preparation of the one-and-a-half-day climate workshop on “Global Protection of Refugees and Climate-Induced Migration.”

2.7. South Asia Network for Communication, Displacement, and Migration (Deutsche Welle Akademie, May-December 2023, Completed)

CRG in collaboration with DW Akademie in 2022 conducted country-specific and regional consultations to understand and address emerging issues related to migration and refugee situations in South Asia. Following the recommendations developed in the consultative process, CRG created an interdisciplinary

network of stakeholders, affected persons, and scholars interested in migration and refugee issues, and an interdisciplinary network as the South Asia Network for Communication, Displacement and Migration (SAN-CDM) was launched in 2022. Taking cues from its earlier activities, SAN-CDM in 2023 the primary goal of the interdisciplinary network was to foster increased representation of refugees and migrants in the media. It offers a platform for stakeholders interested in contributing their ideas and addressing pressing issues, while also serving as a medium to make meaningful impacts through the influence of media. In recent times, South Asian countries and their neighbouring areas have experienced different types of conflicts, catastrophic climate disasters, economic collapse, and political breakdown, leading to heightened movements and displacements of refugees and migrants in an already interconnected, volatile, and complex region. **Debasree Sarkar** was the Media Officer at CRG coordinating the activities of SAN-CDM network. Debasree Sarkar participated in the Eighth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop on Global Protection of Refugees and Migrants in 2023 in Module A on “Shock Migration in the Wake of Crisis.” She presented her research paper titled “[Many Faces of the Migrants in the MCU: Collaboration, Resistance, and Militarisation of the Shapeshifting Skrulls in Secret Invasion](#)” and made a creative presentation on the “[Politics of Representation in Films: Documenting Displacement and Visualising the Vulnerable](#)” in the “Media and Displacement” Module of the Workshop (2023). Her creative presentation was later published in two-parts: [Part I](#) and [Part II](#) on *RefugeeWatchOnline* alongside her article on “[Films as Platforms of Solidarity, Resistance and New Modes of Assertion](#).”

2.8. War and the Left: A Global History [York University, Canada, and The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)]

War and the Left is a global research collective initiated by York University, Canada with the support of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Canada. The project has as partners, 8 research centres, 5 national archives, and 4 museums, making a total of 17 partners in 11 countries (Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Spain, France, Germany, Italy, South Africa, India, and Korea). The programme is conceptualised by Marcello Musto (Professor, York University, Canada). In India, Calcutta Research Group is the only organisation that will be joining this initiative. The discussions for collaboration are in progress. CRG proposes to study the conflicts around migration processes, forced migration and border conflict issues and analyse and examine the logic of war and possible ways of maintaining or returning to a state of peace. With the ongoing work of CRG in the field of migration and forced migration studies and the global network of scholars, activists, and journalists working on the theme of migration or directly involved with the migrants themselves, this programme will possibly lead to new directions of intellectual leadership and governance models.

2.9. Sundarbans Across Borders (EUNIC-Goethe Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Kolkata)

The Goethe Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Kolkata expressed interest in collaborating with CRG for their forthcoming EUNIC project on “Sundarbans Across the Borders” for 2024. The proposed project will be an artistic understanding of Sundarbans in the Bay of Bengal region that will bridge the borders that had rendered the region divided yet unilaterally seen as a resource frontier. CRG has shared the expression of interest for this initiative.

3. Workshops, Conferences and Dialogues

3.1. Annual Research and Orientation Workshop on Global Protection of Refugees and Migrants and Annual Conference on War, Climate Disaster and Displacement: Call for New Protection Strategies (CRG-RLS-IWM-IDRC, 17-22 November 2023)

The [Eighth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop and Conference, November 2023](#) played a pivotal role in extending CRG’s aspiration to voice the experiences, opinions, and discontents of the South in global discussions on the subject of protection of refugees and migrants, and the increased vulnerabilities. The event comprised a four-day workshop on “Global Protection of Refugees and Migrants” [17-20 November 2023, in collaboration with Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung and the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna] followed by a two-day conference on “War, Climate Disaster and Displacement: Call for New Protection Strategies” [21-22 November 2023, in collaboration with the Institute for Human Sciences

(IWM), Vienna, and International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada]. The Workshop and Conference were organised at Hotel The Monotel, in Kolkata.

Annual Research and Orientation Workshop on Global Protection of Refugees and Migrants (CRG-RLS-IWM, 17-20 November 2023)

The advertisement for the [Workshop](#) was published on 12 February 2023. An online Workshop planning meeting was held on 25 February 2023. In the Selection Committee Meeting held on 5 May 2023, a total of 25 participants were selected from across the globe out of a total of 74 applications. An online orientation meeting on 12 July 2023 introduced the workshop participants to the respective module themes allocated and the proceedings and structure of the online segment of the workshop as well as the module assignments designed for the course.

The Modules of this workshop were divided into two parts:

A. Core Modules

Module A: Shock Migration in the Wake of Crises Like War, Famine, Flood, other Natural Disasters, and Pandemic (visibility, scale, migrant networks, adaptability, policy response, and migrant's autonomy)

Coordinators- Nasreen Chowdhory (University of Delhi, New Delhi, and CRG) and Manish K. Jha (Tata Institute of Social Sciences-Mumbai, and CRG)

Module B: Legal Regimes and Policy Frameworks (international human rights law, international humanitarian law; global compact, refugee protection regime, and the limits of the Convention, and Global Compacts, regional conventions, national jurisprudence, etc.)

Coordinator: Sahana Basavapatna (Trial Courts, Bengaluru and Karnataka High Court, and CRG)

Module C: Statelessness

Coordinator: K. M. Parivelan (Tata Institute of Social Sciences-Mumbai, and CRG)

Module D: Gender, Race, Religion, and other Fault Lines in Protection Architecture

Coordinator: Paula Banerjee (AIT, Bangkok, and CRG)

Module E: Refugee and Migrant Labour, Precarious forms, and Globalisation

Coordinators: Arup Kumar Sen (CRG), and Iman Kumar Mitra (Shiv Nadar University, Noida, and CRG)

B. Secondary Module Options (participants chose any one from the options):

Module F1: Climate, Ecology, and Displacement

Coordinator: Shatabdi Das (CRG)

Or

Module F2: Ethics of Care and Protection

Coordinator: Samir Kumar Das (University of Calcutta, and CRG)

Or

Module F3: Media and Displacement

Coordinator: Samata Biswas (The Sanskrit College and University, and CRG)

Distant Segment (July-November 2023)

The classes for each module began on 19 July 2023 and went on till late October where Module Tutors discussed and reviewed the research of the participants.

Physical Session of the Eighth Annual Workshop in Kolkata (CRG-RLS-IWM, 17-20 November 2023, in Kolkata)

The physical segment of the Workshop began on 17 November 2023 in Kolkata with a brief inaugural session. Nadja Dorschner, Resident Representative, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung-South Asia, gave the inaugural remarks. Apart from module lectures and participants' presentations, the handbook of *Keywords in Forced Migration and Refugee Studies* was formally released by Nadja Dorschner followed by a discussion session on 17 November 2023. The Documentary Series made by CRG on 'Calcutta A Migrant City' was

screened on 17 December 2023 together with a discussion moderated by Iman Mitra. CRG's Travelling Photo Exhibition on the 1946 Calcutta Riots (artist: Dipanwita Saha and curator: Debasree Sarkar) was open for viewing on all days of the Workshop and Conference. Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury delivered a special lecture titled "Platformed Precarity: A Tale of Two Cities in India" on 18 November 2023, on his research on platform economy. 18 participants presented their research in the Workshop. Additionally, 7 students from the European Master Programme in Migration and Intercultural Relations (EMMIR) also participated and presented their research. Hari Sharma (Purak Asia, Nepal) was the Evaluator of the Workshop.

The **Workshop Field Trip** on "Port Walk" was organised on the last day of the workshop in collaboration with Know Your Neighbour. Sabir Ahamed, Research Coordinator of the Pratichi (India) Institute, and Member, CRG, facilitated the field trip in the port area. The main aim of the field trip was to guide the workshop and conference participants to the history of the oldest migration routes and the making of the migrant city of Calcutta.

Eighth Annual Conference on War, Climate Disaster, Displacement: Call for New Protection Strategies (CRG-IWM-IDRC, 21-22 November 2023, in Kolkata)

The [Eighth Annual Conference on War, Climate Disaster, and Displacement: Call for New Protection Strategies \(21-22 November 2023\)](#) was held at Hotel Monotel, Kolkata. The call for application was released in June 2023 and the last date of abstract submission was 20 July 2023. Applications were sought on the following thematic concerns: the matrix of migration, relief mechanisms, protection strategies, mobile geographies, disaster and gender roles, the visceral effects of disaster, war, narratives and media, climate and displacement in popular culture. A total of 64 applications were received. A Selection Committee Meeting was held on 2 August 2023 and a total of 28 abstracts were selected. Participants were informed from time to time regarding the modalities of the conference. Participants were selected from India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Poland. However, due to visa issues, one participant from Bangladesh could not travel to India and another participant presented online. The Polish participant too could not come as she suffered an injury. The final count of selected participants including the ones from Bangladesh and Nepal who presented their papers at the Conference was 19. Based on the abstracts that were selected, the parallel sessions were designed as—Wars and Aftermath; Health, Resources and Climate Change; Media, Identity, Conflict and the Challenges of Planning; Disasters and the Road to Relief; Camps and Protection; Long Migrations; Climate Change, Disasters and Relief. The Conference began with the introductory remarks by Shyamalendu Majumdar (Director of the Calcutta Research Group).

The Conference was introduced by Amit Prakash (Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and Member, CRG). In the introductory remarks, Prakash spoke about the importance of negotiating between the lines when it comes to talking about wars, climate disasters and displacement and trying to develop protection strategies. The keynote lecture titled "Governing the Displaced in Cities" was delivered by Ayse Caglar (Professor, University of Vienna and IWM, Vienna). There were 3 special panels out of which 2 panels had presentations by the Contracted Researchers from IWM and RLS respectively. The panel on "Policy Making for Stateless People" was organised by CRG with the support and collaboration of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada. The book, *Pandemic and Precarity* edited by Rituparna Datta was released and discussed by Arup Kumar Sen during the Conference on 21 November 2023. Ioana Vrabiescu, from the Vrije Universiteit, Netherlands, gave the valedictory lecture titled, "Illiberalism, Migration and the Politics of De-development in Europe."

In 2024 the theme of the Ninth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop will be on the theme of Global Protection of Refugees and Migrants. The Workshop is scheduled for 8-12 November 2024. The Ninth Annual Conference is planned on the theme "City as the Southern Question" on 13-14 November 2024, in Kolkata.

3.2. Movements and Migrations: An Online Training Workshop on Reporting about Refugees and Migrants in South Asia (CRG-DW-SANCDM, 6-8 July 2023, Online)

A three-day online training workshop, organised by Calcutta Research Group in collaboration with DW Akademie under the aegis of the South Asia Network for Communication, Displacement and Migration (SAN-CDM) focused on creating well-researched news items with a focus on refugees and migrants in

South Asia. It familiarised the trainees with relevant data, protocols, frameworks, and nomenclature important to the field. The training identified hidden and obvious biases present in mainstream reporting and indicated ways to tackle them. A cohort of 10 participants from Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and India were selected from more than 50 applicants by external experts, based on their past work, and keeping in mind a desired cross-section from across South Asian countries. The selected participants completed the workshop with trainer Zobaer Ahamed. The workshop was facilitated by Debasree Sarkar on behalf of the Calcutta Research Group and SAN-CDM. Zobaer Ahamed, from Deutsche Welle was the trainer for the course. The course specifically focused on how words can be misunderstood while reporting migration and displacement, journalists' need to be conscious of the words they are using to describe a situation. How journalistic descriptions might lead to faultlines of normative hate, cautions while using images, the role of data from different sources, the authenticity of such data, and how they motivate certain images of displacement and refugee conditions. The purpose of this and previous training was to enhance the coverage of migrant and displacement-related news in South Asia. The following are some of the reports published by the participants of the training. Shambhu Kattel wrote on [अकर्मण्य अध्यागमन](#) published in the Annapurna Post, Nepal; Tabassum Baranagarwala published pieces on "[Waiting for a Voice Note from a Doctor In Gaza](#)" and "[In Rain-Swamped Himachal, Hotel and Home-Stay Owners Open Doors for Tourists, Aid Police in Rescue](#)" with the *Scroll*. However, the connections built through the training and the network are not limited to the publication of the articles. During the course of the year, Shambhu Kattel joined other panellists as part of the webinar "Shock Mobility" and also attended the second in-person conference held in Nepal in November 2023. Similarly, Salma Niazi, herself a journalist in exile, facilitated the participation of Gulalai Najeib in the webinar "Reporting at Risk" in December 2023. Similarly, Nirasha Piyawadini also spoke in the webinar "Reporting at Risk."

3.3. Development, Climate, Gender and New Geographies of Migration (CRG-RLS-Centre for Urban Economic Studies, University of Calcutta, 13 July 2023, in Kolkata)

A one-day Follow-up Workshop was in the form of a civil-society dialogue where former participants of RLS-CRG workshops, media programmes, and research programmes participated. The Workshop comprised four sessions with speakers from diverse fields of expertise. Shubha Srishti (Seventh Annual Workshop Participant, 2022), Banhi Sarkar (CRG-RLS Media Fellow, 2022), Gorky Chakraborty (RLS Contracted Researcher, 2022), Dipanjan Sinha (RLS Contracted Researcher, 2021), Priyanka Dey (Sixth Annual Workshop Participant, 2021) Debashree Chakraborty (Seventh Annual Workshop and Seventh Critical Studies Conference Participant, 2022) were the key participants of the programme. Joya Mitra (eminent writer and Sahitya Academy Award Winner in 2022), Pushyamitra (eminent journalist and former participant of the Bengal-Bihar Dialogue, 2021), Swati Bhattacharjee (Senior Editor, Ananda Bazar Patrika, Kolkata), Mohammed Reyaz (Aliah University and former participant of Bengal-Bihar Dialogue, 2021) were the other senior invited speakers. The news of the dialogue and the write-up by Joya Mitra was published in the Ananda Bazar Patrika, the Bengali daily. For detailed information, see: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/RLS_Migration_2023/FollowUp_2023_Report.pdf.

3.4. Media Workshop (CRG-IWM-Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan Kolkata-SAWM-DW-SAN-CDM, 28 July 2023, in Kolkata)

A Media Workshop was organised on the theme of "[Migrants and Roads: Reporting in the Wake of Disasters and Migration](#)" on 28 July 2023, at the Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Kolkata. The Workshop was organised in collaboration with the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, South Asian Women in Media (SAWM), DW Akademie and South Asia Network for Communication, Displacement and Migration (SAN-CDM) and the Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Kolkata. Incidences of climate-related disasters are on the rise and so are cases of migration and displacement that manifest in either shock displacement or gradual outmigration. In the case of the latter, people move out of their native places leaving behind their traditional occupations. Agrarian communities, fishing communities, riverine and coastal communities, people living in mountainous terrains, etc., are the worst affected in such cases. Reporting such cases becomes all the more difficult because of the chain of events that precede the process of displacement. The primary challenge while reporting climate change and climate-induced displacement is basically 'getting the message across' to the general public. This necessitates the need to engage in conversations about reporting climate change and related migration, was the main

focus of the Media Workshop. The workshop was divided into the following panels: Reporting on the Complex Life of Migrant Labour; New Migrants, New Refugees in South Asia; Climate Calamities: Reporting on Displacements due to Climate Disasters; New Routes, New Techniques: South Asian Scenario; and Gendered Vulnerabilities. The inaugural lecture on “Reporting in the Wake of Disasters and Migration” was delivered by Patricia Mukhim (Editor, The Shillong Times and Member, SAWM). The hybrid session of the Conference was joined by Lachlan Guselli, Shahira Hamid, and Ria Ernunsari from 360info, and focused on the role of the field in reporting migrants and disasters, with sharing and discussion on field reporting experiences in the wake of disasters. CRG’s media fellows presented their research reports in the Workshop.

3.5. Media Training Programme (CRG-DW-SAN-CDM, 29 July 2023, in Kolkata)

The Media Training Workshop themed “[Reporting Migration: Values, Structures, Linkages](#)” was organised in congruence with Calcutta Research Group’s (CRG) previous endeavours on media studies and practices. The South Asia Network of Communication, Displacement and Migration (SAN-CDM) and CRG jointly organised the Media Training Workshop on 29 July 2023, in Kolkata, with the support of DW Akademie. The programme was divided into 3 sessions. For the first session, the trainer was Subir Bhaumik (Senior Journalist and Member, CRG), and for the second session, Debashish Chakrabarti (Professor and Dean, School of Communication, G.D. Goenka University, Sohna) in his brief presentation, discussed the ethics of writing a journalistic report with a focus on migration, the types of migration, the tools to report migration, and so on. In the last session, chaired by Paula Banerjee and Bharat Bhushan (Associate Editor, 360info, and South Asia Editor, and Member, CRG) interacted with the participants and gave insightful comments on proposed reporting. The sessions touched upon several aspects such as joining the larger dots; facts and going beyond the biases of reporting, humanitarian approach; challenging hatred; thorough fact checking; identification of types of migration; refugee flow or internal displacement (and the possible spillovers) or phased migration (conflict-induced or economy or environment-induced migration); linkages of migration to economy and the politics of host societies; understanding the structures of reporting migration; usefulness of networks and tools for reporting migration; and objectivity in reporting migration.

3.6. “Decolonisation in the 21st Century” (CRG-National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, 10-15 August 2023, in Taipei City, Taiwan)

The Association for Cultural Studies in collaboration with Calcutta Research Group, International Centre for Cultural Studies, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taiwan, Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University, Australia, International Master’s Programme in Inter-Asia Cultural Studies, and Department of Cultural Studies, Lingnan University, Hong Kong, organised the conference on [Decolonisation in the 21st Century](#) at National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Hsinchu, Taiwan, from 10 to 15 August 2023. Ranabir Samaddar as the keynote speaker delivered a lecture on “[Practical Ethics of Responsibility and Protection](#).” Paula Banerjee spoke on “Conundrum of Trafficking and Statelessness in India,” Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury discussed “On the Edge of Law in the Platform Economy: A Tale of Two Cities in India,” in the panel on [Marginalised Populations, Stateless Persons and Migrant Labourers](#). A joint presentation was done by Paula Banerjee and Samata Biswas on “Migrants and the Epidemic: Gender, Race and Other Vulnerabilities,” in the same panel. The documentary films produced by CRG, Calcutta: A Migrant City (I, II, III) were also screened at the Conference.

3.7. Teaching Local Histories and Geographies of Climate-Induced Migration (CRG-IWM, 25-26 August 2023, in Kolkata)

In 2023, CRG organised [a two-day teachers’ workshop on 25-26 August 2023](#) with a focus on the dissemination of syllabus on teaching migration studies and the methods of [Teaching Local Histories and Geographies of Climate-Induced Migration](#), through the approaches of community involvement, alternate resources, ethics, and the role of environmental education in building perceptions on climate-induced migration. The aim was to bring together learnings on teaching local anthropology on climate through the approach of ‘field school’, discussing the challenges of teaching climate, displacement and the role of disaster policies, looking through the lens of narratives in literature, festivals and folklore in stressing on the significance of environmental awareness and education on conservation of heritage and natural resources. The workshop deliberations centred on the understanding of the influences of local histories and

geographies on migration, while the discourse foregrounded the integral attributes of ethics in migration studies and the invaluable contribution of alternative resources in vernacular medium and translation/transliteration, new vocabulary on geographies of mobility, perceptions in climate-induced slow onset of landscape transformations, sudden migration and tools such as excursions, training with stakeholders, community approaches to teaching migration studies for young learners along with the objectives of developing curriculum frameworks for micro-regions. Franz Graf (CRG-IWM Visiting Fellow, 2023, Faculty, University of Vienna, and Fellows Programme Coordinator at IWM), gave the inaugural keynote lecture on “Teaching Local Anthropology on Climate: An Example of Field Schools in the LTSEER Region Neusiedler See-Seewinkel.” There was a special session on the book launch of *Labour Train* authored by Manjira Saha, translated by Purna Banerjee, and published by Frontpage (2023). The book was translated with the assistance and collaboration of IWM; the volume *Mahamari Ki Sarbadein* was also released in this session of the Teachers’ Workshop. The valedictory lecture was delivered by Sanjay Barbora on “High Ground: Reflections on Colonialism, Conflicts, and Environmental Justice in Northeast India.”

3.8. Connecting the Dots: Debating Displacement in South Asia (CRG-DW Akademie-SAN-CDM-Nepal Institute of Peace, 3-6 November 2023, in Lalitpur, Nepal)

The four-day Conference was a platform to link the local, national, and regional movements, as well as the relationships between violence, catastrophes, silent migrations, and their media coverage. Furthermore, the aim was to explore concepts of regularity and irregularity in migration practices, safe and unsafe routes, and the dynamics of agency and trafficking while also delving into the risks local journalists face, including potential entanglement in ethnic and sectarian politics, and whether they are at greater risk compared to their national or international counterparts. The conference had 56 representatives from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Afghanistan (online participation). Thus, by utilising various interactive formats, the conference brought together experts, individuals affected by migration, and the broader community to engage in lively discussion. The central theme of “Connecting the Dots: Debating Displacement in South Asia” revolved around the representation of refugees in the media and strategies for its improvement, all while connecting the dots, as suggested by the title itself, of different variables impacting/facilitating the media coverages regarding displacement in South Asia. The different panel discussions of the conference were: 1) Climate Vulnerabilities and South Asian Displacements: Movement, Resilience and Return; 2) The Rohingya in South Asia; 3) Discussion about the network SAN-CDM; 4) Media in Exile; 5) Leaving/Living: Outmigration in South Asia; 6) Gender and Migration in Focus; 7) A Longue Durée view of Migration. A Field Visit to Jawalakhel Tibetan Settlement and Handicrafts Centre was also organised as part of the programme.

3.9. Routes and Ports of Migration: A Workshop (CRG-RLS, 12 December 2023, in Kolkata)

The one-day workshop was designed as a preparatory exercise for developing a framework for a popular book on the theme of “Routes and Ports of Migration.” The keynote lecture was delivered by Ranabir Samaddar. He said the conceptual framework to understanding mechanisms of a space like that of ports can be done through the Foucauldian conception of ‘Heterotopia’ as ports manifest multifarious images like voyages, exchange of culture and knowledge, crimes, gangs, sex trafficking, diseases, warehouses, urban planning and so on. The workshop had three panels: 1) Migration and Ports in Eastern India: The History of Indenture; 2) Migration and Ports in the West and South; 3) Ports and Forced Migration: Perspectives from Below through Social Impact Assessment Prism.

The idea of a popular book on “Routes and Ports of Migration” was to trace the development and the functionality of ports as points of migration in the Indian subcontinent. Apart from the two contracted researchers, Francis Adaikalam and Kaustubh Mani Sengupta’s research on “Calcutta Port Complex and the Story of Indentured Labour” this volume looks at the port as the transit space in the migratory route that operated with a complex structure of mobility and eventually became an important point of not only movement of goods but of Indians becoming part of the global flow of labourers eventually creating the Indian diaspora. Apart from the chapters by the two contracted researchers, it includes works of Debarati Bagchi (Senior Researcher, Max Weber Forum for South Asian Studies, New Delhi) and Shebeen Mehaboob (Research Fellow, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam and Journalist, Madhyamam Daily,

Kozikode). The book contains four essays on Sylheti Lascars, Mappila Lascars, Kolkata Port, and Chennai Port.

3.10. Global Protection of Refugees and Climate-Induced Migrants (CRG-VU-MAP, 20-21 February 2024, in Kolkata)

A one and half-day workshop on “Global Protection of Refugees and Climate-Induced Migrants” was organised by CRG in collaboration with Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU) and Migration and Asylum Project (MAP) on 20-21 February 2024, at *Hotel the Sojourn*, in Kolkata. The inaugural lecture was delivered by Arupjyoti Saikia, Professor of History, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati on “Where Rain Becomes History: How the Monsoon Carved Assam’s Destiny” followed by the book release of *Living with the Weather: Climate Change, Ecology and Displacement in Southern Asia* (New Delhi: Yoda Press, 2024). The themes of the workshop were Disaster, Displacement and Law; Cyclone, Other Disasters and Displacement; roundtable discussion on Climate Disaster in the North East. CRG Podcasts by Utsa Sarmin on “Climate Disaster, Displacement, and the State” and the documentary film by Sukanta Sarkar (Special Correspondent, Frontier, and CRG Media Fellow 2021) titled “Walking in a Sinking Island in the Sundarbans” were also part of the programme. The valedictory lecture was delivered by Sajal Nag (Distinguished Professor in History, Royal Global University, Guwahati) on “Flowers of Evil: Bamboo Flowers, Rat Famine and Making of an Ecological Disaster in Northeast India.”

3.11. Dialogue with Caregivers (CRG-Krishna Trust-IWM, 15 March 2024, in Kolkata)

CRG in collaboration with the Krishna Trust and supported by IWM annually holds the [Dialogue](#) with the objective of recognition for the contribution and active participation of caregivers and grassroots activists in bringing forth welfare through the introduction of pioneering practices in urban, social and economic development, and fostering not only opportunities of educational growth, but also restructuring healthcare provisions, especially working through health crises. The annual programme for the Eleventh Krishna Memorial Awards for Women Educationists, Students and Caregivers in 2024, and the Eleventh Krishna Memorial Lecture 2024, were held on 15 March 2024, in Kolkata. The venue was Hotel The Sojourn. The programme opened with a brief introduction to the Krishna Trust. Anwesha Sengupta (Assistant Professor, IDSK), and Debarati Bagchi spoke on the series “Chotoder Jonno Banglaye Itihas Lekha,” and the translation of the work in English and Assamese and the need for a popular approach to history. Sabir Ahamed presented the Eleventh Krishna Memorial Awards to Nabanita Bag and Manisha Dolui, students at Bali Dhanamani Model High School, Balideep, Sundarban. The headmaster of the school, Sahadeb Mondol, received the award on behalf of the students, and shared the struggles of everyday life of students in the Sundarban. Sabir Ahamed also presented the second award to Beauty Chatterjee (Social Activist, Maya Foundation, West Bengal) for the relentless efforts and inspiring work in helping with mid-day meal supply in 38 schools, out of which in 11 schools, Maya Foundation leads in running the school kitchens. Dr. Meenakshi Gangopadhyay, eminent health activist and Secretary of Bengal Social Service League, delivered the Eleventh Krishna Memorial Lecture on “Health of Women, Particularly Girl Children.”

3.12. Youth Meet on Urban Caregiving and Protection: Histories and Contemporary Practices (CRG-IWM, 28-30 March 2024, in Bolpur)

The [Youth Meet](#) in 2024 focused on questions of future urbanity within the model of urban caregiving, and protection, and finding the historical linkages to contemporary caregiving practices. To seek how urbanity becomes both a method and the recourse to the understanding and provision of protection and care; how proactively smart cities function today within their autonomy of protection and balance social justice for migrants, invisible citizens, without negatively impacting the climatic conditions of the future, were some of the sub-themes that the programme explored. Urbanity as a part of placemaking practices or a transitory recourse of flux for further urban sprawl where the present recedes into the gerontology of the past and the new consumes the peri-urban and its consequential rural were also topics of discussion. 11 applicants were selected from a pool of 63 applications received, in addition to invited speakers and one among the CRG-IWM Visiting Fellows for 2024 participated in this Youth Meet. The major themes of conversations revolved around pandemic and precarity, faultlines in urban caregiving, role of agency in creating urban spaces, reflections on ethics and aesthetics of urban life, migration and memory in media, changing lives and urban ecosystems in transition, representation of care, marginality, protection and the dimensions of

urbanity in storytelling, and chronicles of urban justice. This year the Youth Meet was designed as a camp in an attempt to bring activists and young scholars together to initiate discourses that would transcend urban borders and bindings and help bring youth activists and social leaders to the foreground to disperse the barriers that divide society, belonging, in building bridges of solidarity, preservation of rights and unity. A special lecture on “Faultlines in Urban Caregiving” was delivered by Samir Kumar Das. The conversation on “[Chronicles and Urban Justice](#)” in the valedictory panel of the session was published by CRG. A report of the creative session “[Ethics and Aesthetics of Life: A Workshop](#)” was published on *RefugeeWatchOnline*.

4. Public Lectures, Webinars and Meetings

Public Lectures

4.1. Distinguished Chair’s Lecture Series: Texts from the Void: Machiavelli’s The Prince and Lenin’s What is to be Done? (CRG-IWM, 18 September 2023, Hybrid Mode)

The [lecture](#) was delivered by Ranabir Samaddar on 18 September 2023 and the session was moderated by Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury. What connects the two texts separated from each other by nearly four hundred years—Niccolo Machiavelli’s *The Prince* (1513) and Vladimir Ilyich Lenin’s *What is to be Done?* (1902), was the pivotal theme of the lecture. The first is a compendium of formulations on what a Prince ought to be, the pitfalls on the path of his success, how to rule, how the Prince should relate to his subjects, and what is necessary to mobilise the people to the unity and glory of a principedom. The second written in the Russian revolutionary age discusses how to build a revolutionary party, how to unite an ideology and a class and how a political party can become a tribune of the people. The contexts are different, situations vastly dissimilar. Yet, there is a strange connection between the two. Both carry the enigmatic quality of being timeless while being entirely focused on the problems of the time. Both resonate with concerns that share similar grounds. Both evoke themes that play upon the great question of contingency and uncertainty. They seem to carry no lineage, as if, they came out of void. The discussion was live-streamed on [Facebook](#) and has been published as [CRG Chair Lecture](#).

4.2. Collective Interventions and Visual Self-Representations of Migration: Kino Video Collective from Lesbos Island (CRG, 22 January 2024, in Kolkata)

CRG organised a film screening session in the CRG office premises by award-winning documentary filmmaker Nagehan Uskan [Board Member at OFF University (university without borders) and teaches filmmaking in exile at the Department of Gender and Media Studies for the South Asian Regional IAAW-Humboldt University of Berlin] on 22 January 2024. The session was chaired by Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury. The first film screened was *Natives of the New World* (Kino Mosaik, Lesbos 2018, 13’) which was followed by *Khalas* (Kino Wish, Lesbos, 2020, 6,30’), and *Me Too* (Kino Lesbos LGBTQ+ Refugee Solidarity, 2021, 28’). All the films explore the collective story about borders, repression, solidarity, and resistance. *Natives of the New World* is a collective work of a group of migrant filmmakers documenting their daily lives on Lesbos with their mobile phones. *Khalas* was made together with the women collective Wish, Afghan feminists in Lesbos. The film was made while Moria camp was still active. The overarching patriarchy suggests women be silent from their childhood, and in the camp, the authorities want them silent because they are refugees. *Me Too* received special mention award at Divergenti Film Festival Bologna, Italy (December 2022). In this film Lesbos LGBTQI+ Refugee Solidarity members talk about the difficulties of LGBTQI+ migrants in Lesbos by changing roles between interviewers, interviewees, camera operators, sound technicians, translators and editors. The film documented the difficulty of being queer in the country of origin, the migration routes, the detention camp, the future that can bring potential freedom and the strength to be connected as a family and create a community of solidarity as a form of resistance in troubled situations.

4.3. Between Involvement and Disengagement: The Dilemma of the Social Scientist (CRG, 12 February 2024, in Kolkata)

The public lectures by Arundhati Virmani (Faculty, School of Advanced Studies in Social Sciences, EHESS, Marseilles) and Jean Boutier (Directeur d’études, Professor Emeritus, EHESS, Marseilles) were held at CRG Office on 12 February 2024. The lectures were on the moral engagement and subjectivity of a social scientist

in a research field. Amongst the different types of responsibility, penal, civil, moral and social, the last is inseparable from the social scientists' craft. It is this that renders their position at the crossroads of academia and public space particularly complex. In this age the social scientist has an unquestioned status of expert, and paradoxically has become the target of both intolerant political regimes and people who "have had enough of experts". How do social scientists steer a path through an intellectual grasp of a problem, which gives them the authority to speak to a larger audience, and an active participation in the civic space to contribute to social change, moving beyond the different typologies of intellectuals, from advisor to the prince, to the organic intellectual (Gramsci). The talks explored the different paths available to social scientists in a democratic framework.

4.4. Gramsci's The Southern Question (CRG-IWM, 11 March 2024, Hybrid Mode)

The lecture by Ranabir Samaddar held on 11 March 2024 was based on Antonio Gramsci's unfinished pamphlet, "Some Aspects of the Southern Question." He began the discussion by resurfacing the idea of the Global South in recent politics. The recent conflicts between Russia and Ukraine, Israel and Palestine have been viewed as one of the clear divisions between the North and the South. Therefore, the pamphlet has been considered one of the most contextualised during this time. According to Samaddar, in the popular perception the communist thinking about the idea of the South emerged with Gramsci's writing on the Southern Question, ignoring more significant global ideas about communism. The text also analysed the idea of marginality through political lenses and tried to make a bridge between marginal groups. The lecture was centred on the contribution of Gramsci's Southern Question to the International Communist movement and was live streamed on CRG's Facebook.

4.5. Health of Women, Particularly Girl Children (CRG-Krishna Trust-IWM, 15 March 2024, in Kolkata)

Dr. Meenakshi Gangopadhyay, eminent health activist and Secretary of Bengal Social Service League, delivered the Eleventh Krishna Memorial Lecture on "Health of Women, Particularly Girl Children." Her discussion veered around women's right to health, access to affordable healthcare practices, especially health problems of adolescent girls, the lack of clarity in sex education, reproductive practices resulting in teenage pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases and the challenges that remain in front of the government and the civil society to address such issues. The lecture will be published jointly by CRG and Krishna Trust.

Webinars

4.6. Taking Stock: Refugee and Migration Situations in South Asia (CRG-DW Akademie-SAN-CDM, 30 August 2023)

Five speakers spoke in this roundtable [discussion](#): Iqbal Khattak (Journalist, Media Development Expert, and Head of Freedom Network from Pakistan), Shafqat Munir (Political and Security Analyst from Bangladesh), Shambhu Kattel (Journalist from Anapa Media Group of Nepal), Greeshma Kuthar (Independent Journalist from India), and M.C. Rasmin (Centre for Media and Information Legacy, Sri Lanka). The discussion included incidents leading to displacement and migration in South Asia and the various issues faced by the displaced persons. The discussion was largely focused on the role played by traditional and non-traditional media in portraying these crises, and was moderated by Bharat Bhushan.

4.7. Shock Mobility: Displacement from South Asia (CRG-DW-SAN-CDM, 11 December 2023)

Five speakers participated in this roundtable [discussion](#): Babloo Loitongbam (Human Rights Alert), Jayanta Roy Chowdhury (Senior Journalist and Member, CRG), Som Niroula (Nepal Institute of Peace), MBM Fairouz (Vedivelli), and Zia Ur Rehman (Senior Journalist). The discussion featured multiple instances of forced displacements in South Asia and the role played by media in covering these issues. The narratives circulated by the media, impact of obstacles like internet shutdowns and biases in affecting the reportage of the conflicts were the focal points around which the discussion centred. The moderator for the discussion was Bharat Bhushan. The report was published on [RefugeeWatchOnline](#) and livestreamed on [CRG YouTube Channel](#).

4.8. Reporting at Risk: Conflict, Risk and Disaster Journalism Today (CRG-DW-SAN-CDM, 29 December 2023]

The [discussion](#) was organised for journalists and editors to discuss the various faultlines and risks journalists constantly negotiate along ethnic ties, physical harm, and perceived national interests to do their jobs. The speakers were: Patricia Mukhim, Bashana Abeyawardane (Exiled Journalist and Member of Journalists for Democracy, Sri Lanka), Gulalai Najib (Editor of Afghan Times, a woman led web portal), Swati Bhattacharjee, Nirasha Piyawadini (Independent Journalist, Sri Lanka, working for UN Women Asia Pacific), and Syeda Aireen Jaman (President of Forum for Freedom of Expression, Bangladesh). The moderator of the session was Bharat Bhushan and the discussion largely steered around the ways in which journalists deliberate and act in times of conflicts, that “defines public opinion.” A brief report was published on [RefugeeWatchOnline](#).

Meetings

4.9. A meeting with Diane E. Davis (Charles Dyer Norton Professor of Regional Planning and Urbanism, Harvard University and CIFAR Fellow of a five-year programme on “Humanity's Urban Future”) was organised at CRG on 29 December 2023 with Ranabir Samaddar, currently also a CIFAR Fellow and other colleagues and senior members of CRG to discuss and deliberate upon relevant themes related to the research programme.

4.10. On behalf of CRG and as Honorary Members of the Academic Committee of the Vidyasagar Academy Kolkata, Shatabdi Das and Rajat Kanti Sur participated in the Conference on Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar at the Vidyasagar Academy Kolkata on 26 September 2023.

5. Distinguished Chair in Migration and Forced Migration Studies

Professor Ranabir Samaddar has been the Distinguished Chair in Migration and Forced Migration Studies since 2015. In the year under consideration, the Chair piloted CRG's research programmes and assisted in its orientation activities. He has conceptualised a number of events, research programmes and publication volumes that have brought together the work of academicians, young scholars, pioneers, leaders, activists, community volunteers, grassroot workers, caregivers, media persons from varied social backdrops, voicing their experiences, work and initiating discourses on care, protection, justice and peace, especially for people vulnerable to conflicts, disasters, displacement and shock migration. His work on the critiques and alternatives to capitalism, has been published by Routledge in 2023 as the book volume *Alternative Futures and the Present: Postcolonial Possibilities*. His efforts in bringing together scholars from different parts of the globe to share their experiences and studies on defining as well as emerging terms focus on delineating and outlining concepts in migration and forced migration studies, culminated in the handbook *Postcolonial Compendium: Keywords in Forced Migration and Refugee Studies* (edited by Paula Banerjee, Nasreen Chowdhury and Priya Singh, published by Frontpage in 2023) compiling brief explications of key terms used in the multidisciplinary field of refugee and forced migration studies. Ranabir Samaddar has been instrumental in conceptualising book volumes such as *Pandemic and Precarity* (edited by Rituparna Datta, published in 2023) and *Living with the Weather: Climate Change, Ecology, and Displacement in South Asia* (edited by Piya Srinivasan, published in 2024) that brought together primary field investigative reports from the phases of the Covid-19 pandemic and pressing questions on social, economic, political and spatial dimensions of climate disasters and displacement. Ranabir Samaddar has also been instrumental in envisaging the theme and connections that culminated into the edited book volume *Long 2020: Reflections of Epidemiological Times* (edited by Subhas Rajan Chakraborty, Paula Banerjee and Kaustubh Mani Sengupta, published by Springer in 2024). He is currently working on Southern urbanism and his endeavours will bring together urban theorists, urban geographers and anthropologists working on an edited volume on Gramsci's take on the city as the southern question to be published as the edited volume “City as the Southern Question.”

Among other projects in 2023, Ranabir Samaddar has worked on the text provisionally titled, “Biopolitics from Below: Conjuncture, Crisis, and Politics of the Lower Classes”, to be published by the CEU Press, as well as on [‘Acts of Interpretation’](#). He wrote an article for the *IWMpost* on populism and rewriting the

grammar of democracy, based on a postcolonial analysis of the claims of representative democracy, published in the [IWMpost Issue 132 \(2023\)](#). He participated in the IWM-CRG workshop on “Keywords in Refugee and Migration Studies” on 12-13 October 2023 and presented notes in the session. As part of the Fellows’ Colloquium at the IWM, Ranabir Samaddar presented his research on “Crisis, Conjuncture, and Biopolitics from Below” on 16 October 2023. The presentation took place as a discussion with Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury and Ayse Caglar. There was also discussion on a proposed volume on “The Politics and Poetics of Keywords in Refugee and Migration Studies.” Ranabir Samaddar has also been conducting research on “Borders and Crossing Borders” to be published in the Oxford Handbook on Cosmopolitanism. He participated in a workshop in Bonn (23-24 October 2023) convened by the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS) on “Equitable Research Cooperation between the Global South and North—From affirmations to practice” and presented his research on refugee and migration studies; he also presented on “Biopolitics from Below” at the German Institute of Development and Sustainability, Bonn, on 25 October 2023.

In 2023, the CRG Distinguished Chair spent a tenured research residency for the research programme “Necessary Utopias” at the Institute of Advanced Studies, at Aix Marseilles Université, France (February-July 2023), and also held the EHESS/Iméra Chair in Transregional Studies. His research programme was “Biopolitics from Below, A New Model of Power, and a Different Politics of Life (Politics, social theory)”. He is also Fellow with CIFAR in Humanity’s Urban Future Programme (2023-2028). The lectures, interviews, discussions and paper presentations of the Distinguished Chair in conferences, workshops, courses, organised by universities and research institutes are enlisted on the [Distinguished Chair’s page](#) in the CRG website, under the programmes and activities section. The publications of the Chair since 2015 can be found in the [publications section](#) of the webpage. The [audio-visual repository](#) in the webpage has a collection of the Chair’s lectures, keynote speeches, interviews, panel discussions at sessions of conferences as well as online programmes of several research institutes and universities.

The Distinguished Chair’s visits, fellowships, memberships at various institutes and universities, publications, interviews, lectures, commentaries in panel discussions and consultative meetings, and participation in workshops and conferences are enlisted in the following section.

5.1. Memberships

- Fellow, Humanity’s Urban Future (HUF) Programme, Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), 2023-2028.
- IMéRA Chair in Transregional studies-EHESS (Ecole de Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociale/IMéRA Mediterranean Institute for Advanced Research) at the Aix-Marseille University, Marseille (2023–).
- Member, Advisory Board, European Master in Migration and Intercultural Relations [EMMIR] Programme, at the University of Oldenburg (2022–).
- Member, Editorial Committee, Inventory, on Mobility and Socio-Economic Change, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology (2021–).
- Member, Advisory Board, Human Migration Research, F1000 Research, Taylor and Francis Open Research Gateway (2021–23).
- Member, International Advisory Committee and Member of Jury of the ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius, Hamburg, for PhD Scholarship Programme in Beyond Borders (2020–23).
- Member, Advisory Board, and Fellow, Soft Authoritarianisms Research Group, University of Bremen (2019–23).
- Visiting Fellow and one of the Heads of Project for the Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration, Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna (2017–).

5.2. Visits and Fellowships at Various Institutes and Universities

- Resident Researcher and IMéRA Chair in Transregional Studies-EHESS (Ecole de Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociale/IMéRA (Mediterranean Institute for Advanced Research), also known as Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) of Aix-Marseille University, between February and July 2023, working on “Necessary Utopias” and “Biopolitics from Below”.

- Visited the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), Naples, between February and July 2023, as Fellow in the Humanity's Urban Future (HUF) programme.
- Visited the National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taiwan, as one of the Keynote Speakers in the ACS 2023 Summer School: The 21st Century Decolonisation Project (in collaboration with Calcutta Research Group), 10-14 August 2023. He delivered the Keynote Lecture on "Practical Ethics of Responsibility and Protection" on 10 August 2023.
- Ranabir Samaddar as one of the Heads of Project [for the Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration, Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna], and a Fellow, was at IWM in October 2023.
- Visited the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), Toronto, Canada, from 30 November to 3 December 2023, as Fellow in the Humanity's Urban Future (HUF) programme. He participated in the discussion on "The imaginaries of urban emergency-our shared urban future, or whose imaginary are we considering?"
- Visited the Arizona State University (Tempe Campus), USA, as one of the Keynote Speakers in the "Urban Asia and Asian Futures: An International Symposium," 6-9 February 2024. He delivered the Keynote Speech on "City as the Southern Question" on 7 February 2024.
- Visited Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand, and participated in the international conference on "Gender, Geopolitics and Forced Migration," 4-5 March 2024, and meetings and discussions on the European Master in Migration and Intercultural Relations (EMMIR) programme.
- Visited ZEIT-Stiftung Bucerius in Hamburg, as Commentator of the research papers of eight Fellows in the "Beyond Border" Conference, 3rd Students' Conference Interdisciplinary Exchange Colloquium for Scholars in Social Sciences and Humanities, Hamburg, from 17 to 19 April 2024.
- Visited CIFAR, Mexico, and participated in the meetings on "Infrastructural Assemblages and Urban Futures", 9-12 May 2024, as CIFAR Fellow in the Humanity's Urban Future (HUF) programme, in Mexico City, and was Commentator for the research presentations of panellists in the Session titled "Future-making 2: Peace and repair in a violent context" on 10 May 2024.

5.3. Publications

5.3.a. Books/Edited Volumes/Chapters

- Ranabir Samaddar. *Alternative Futures and the Present: Postcolonial Possibilities*. London and New York: Routledge, 2023.
- Ranabir Samaddar. "Introduction." In *Postcolonial Compendium: Keywords in Forced Migration and Refugee Studies*, edited by Paula Banerjee, Nasreen Chowdhury and Priya Singh. London, Newark and Kolkata: Frontpage, 2023.
- Ranabir Samaddar. "Towards a Postcolonial Theory of Crisis, Neoliberal Government, and Biopolitics from Below." In *Handbook on Governmentality, Research Handbooks in Political Thought*, edited by William Walters and Martina Tazzioli. Northampton, Mass: Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd., 2023.
- Ranabir Samaddar. [*Texts from the Void: The Prince and What is to be Done?*](#) CRG Chair Lecture. Kolkata: Calcutta Research Group, 2023.
- Ranabir Samaddar and Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury. [*Chronicles of Urban Justice: A Conversation*](#). Kolkata: Calcutta Research Group, 2024.
- Ayşe Çağlar, Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, and Ranabir Samaddar, eds. *Sites of Statelessness: Laws, Cities, Seas*. SUNY Press (forthcoming).
- Ranabir Samaddar. *Biopolitics from Below: Conjuncture, Crisis, and Politics of the Lower Classes*. CEU Press (forthcoming).
- Ranabir Samaddar. *Borders and Crossing Borders* (Revised entry). Oxford Handbook on Cosmopolitanism (forthcoming).

5.3.b. Journal Articles

- Ranabir Samaddar. "[Populism and Rewriting the Grammar of Democracy](#)." *IWMpost* No. 132, Art and Society (2023).

5.3.c. Online Articles

- Ranabir Samaddar. "[Why we should be talking about shock mobility?](#)" *360info*, Shock mobility. 19 June 2023.
- Ranabir Samaddar. "[Pratirodher Dharona](#)." *Anandabazar Patrika Online*. 19 January 2024.
- Ranabir Samaddar. "[Din Bodol, Lok Bodol](#)." *Anandabazar Patrika Online*. 1 May 2024.
- Ranabir Samaddar. "[West Bengal politics has to be dialogic even while remaining contentious](#)." *Hindustan Times*. 7 June 2024.

5.4. Interviews

- "[The Bottom-Up Biopolitics, a New Power Model and an Alternative Politics of Life](#)." A Conversation with Ranabir Samaddar, Resident Researcher and EHESS/IMéRA Chair in Transregional Studies, IMéRA (Mediterranean Institute for Advanced Research/Institute for Advanced Studies of Aix-Marseille University). 3 July 2023.

5.5. Lectures

- Opening Talk on "What Make Keywords in Refugee and Migration Studies?" Migrants, Refugees, States and Societies, The Association of the Friends of the Foundation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, Paris. 24 April 2023.
- Lecture. "Humanity's Urban Future Research Programme." Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), Naples. 10-11 June 2023.
- Inaugural Lecture on "Crisis, Conjuncture and Biopolitics from Below." Two-Day Workshop at IMéRA (Mediterranean Institute for Advanced Research/Institute for Advanced Studies), Aix Marseille University, in Marseille. 19-20 June 2023.
- Lecture on "[Keywords in Refugee and Migration Studies: Words in Motion across the World](#)." Antiracism Work in Migration Context (Professorship: Childhood and Migration at the Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences) and the programme Integrative Research on Democracy in Saxony-Anhalt, Institute for Democratic Culture of Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences. 23 June 2023.
- Keynote Lecture on "[Practical Ethics of Responsibility and Protection](#)" in the 2023 Association for Cultural Studies (ACS) Institute, Decolonisation in the 21st Century, at the International Centre for Cultural Studies, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taiwan. 10 August 2023.
- Lecture on "Texts from the Void: Machiavelli's The Prince and Lenin's What is to be Done?" Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata. 18 September 2023.
- Keynote Lecture on "City as the Southern Question" in the Urban Asia and Asian Futures: An International Symposium, 6-9 February 2024, at the Arizona State University (Tempe Campus), USA. 7 February 2024.
- Inaugural Address at the International Conference on "[Gender, Geopolitics and Forced Migration](#)," 4-5 March 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand. 4 March 2024.
- Lecture on "Antonio Gramsci's City as the Southern Question." Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata. 11 March 2024.
- Spoke on "[Chronicles of Urban Justice](#)," in conversation with Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, in the Youth Meet on Urban Caregiving and Protection: Histories and Contemporary Practices, 28-30 March 2024, Bolpur, Shantiniketan, India. 30 March 2024.
- Speaker in the Workshop "Across the Lines: Railways and Resistance in Modern India," 4-5 April 2024, organised by the University of Gottingen, Germany. 4 April 2024.

5.6. Panel Discussions/Consultative Meetings

- Discussant and Member of Jury of the ZEIT Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius, Hamburg, for PhD Scholarship Programme in "Beyond Borders." 13-15 April 2023.
- Discussant in "CRG Staff Researchers' Workshop," Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata. 13 March 2024.

- Moderator in the session “Agency in Creating Urban Spaces,” Youth Meet on Urban Caregiving and Protection: Histories and Contemporary Practices, 28-30 March 2024, Bolpur, Shantiniketan, India. 29 March 2024.
- Commentator in the Consultative Meeting on “Security, Justice and Vulnerable Populations of South Asia,” Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata. 6 April 2024.
- Commentator in the “Beyond Border” Conference, 3rd Students’ Conference Interdisciplinary Exchange Colloquium for Scholars in Social Sciences and Humanities, ZEIT Stiftung Bucerius, Hamburg. 17-19 April 2024.
- Commentator for the research presentations of panellists in the Session titled “Future-making 2: Peace and repair in a violent context,” in the programme Infrastructural Assemblages and Urban Futures, CIFAR, Mexico City. 10 May 2024.

5.7. Participation in Workshops and Conferences

- Speaker and organiser of a Two-Day Workshop on “Crisis, Conjuncture and Biopolitics from Below,” as Chair of Excellence in Migration and Forced Migration Studies, EHESS/Iméra Chair in Transregional Studies (2022-23), IMéRA [Mediterranean Institute for Advanced Research/Institute for Advanced Studies], Aix-Marseille University, Marseille. 19–20 June 2023.
- Participated in the Media Workshop on ‘[Migrants and Roads: Reporting in the Wake of Disasters and Migration](#)’, organised by Calcutta Research Group in collaboration with the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, Goethe Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Kolkata, South Asian Women in Media (SAWM), Deutsche Welle (DW) Akademie, and South Asia Network for Communication, Displacement and Migration (SAN-CDM), in Kolkata. 28 July 2023.
- 2023 Association for Cultural Studies (ACS) Institute, on “Decolonisation in the 21st Century,” at the International Centre for Cultural Studies, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taiwan. 10-15 August 2023.
- Chairperson in the Session on “[Resources and Ethics in Migration Studies](#),” in the Workshop on Teaching Local Histories and Geographies of Climate-induced Migration, 25-26 August 2023, organised by Calcutta Research Group in collaboration with the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, held in Kolkata. 26 August 2023.
- Participated in “CRG Staff Researchers’ Workshop (Online).” 11 October 2023.
- Opening Remarks in the Workshop “[Keywords in Refugee and Migration Studies](#),” at the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, in collaboration with CRG. 12-13 October 2023.
- Fellows’ Colloquium, IWM, Vienna, “[Crisis, Conjuncture, and Biopolitics from Below](#),” Ranabir Samaddar with Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury and Ayse Caglar. 16 October 2023.
- “[Equitable Research Cooperation between the Global South and North—From affirmations to Practice](#),” German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), Bonn. 23-25 October 2023.
- Chair and Discussant, Panel 3: “[Migration, Governance and Protection: Journeys through the Pandemic and Beyond](#),” in the Eighth Annual Conference on War, Climate Disaster, and Displacement: Call for New Protection Strategies, organised by Calcutta Research Group, in Kolkata. 21 November 2023.
- Participated in the film screening and discussion by documentary filmmaker Nagehan Uskan on “Collective interventions in Visual Self-representation of Migration: Kino video collective from Lesbos Island,” organised by Calcutta Research Group, in Kolkata. 22 January 2024.
- Chairperson of the Valedictory Session and delivered the concluding remarks in the Workshop on “Global Protection of Refugees and Climate-Induced Migrants,” 21-22 February 2024, organised by the Calcutta Research Group in collaboration with Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU) and Migration and Asylum Project (MAP), in Kolkata. 22 February 2024.
- Participated in the workshop on urban caregivers and urban social activists and the [Krishna Memorial Award programme](#), organised by the Calcutta Research Group in collaboration with Krishna Trust and the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, in Kolkata. 15 March 2024.
- Chaired the Session on “[Agency in Creating Urban Spaces](#),” in the Youth Meet on Urban Caregiving and Protection: Histories and Contemporary Practices, 28-30 March 2024, Bolpur, Shantiniketan, India. 29 March 2024.

5.8. Distinguished Chair's Associate

Shatabdi Das is the Distinguished Chair's Associate. She is [researcher](#) at the Calcutta Research Group (2021-present) and is currently working on the [Ghost Towns of Bengal](#), issues of urban development and environment, climate and displacement. She was a Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, in April 2022. She has a PhD in Geography from the University of Calcutta (awarded in 2020) and her doctoral thesis is on the environmental impacts of industrialisation and urbanisation in the Asansol-Durgapur Planning Area of India. She has taught Geography in the PG Section of Sarsuna College, Kolkata (2014-2017), and was previously a Junior Research Fellow at the Centre for Urban Economic Studies, University of Calcutta (2013-2014).

6. Visits and Fellowships

Since 2020 CRG in collaboration with the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, has invited early career researchers, professionals, social activists, and senior academicians working on migration and related issues as Visiting Fellows to Kolkata, in addition to participation in several CRG programmes as well as work on their ongoing research themes. The Fellowship period is generally for 10 days. In 2023, CRG collaborated with Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences (AHS-h²), Germany for an exchange of Post-Doctoral Fellows and researchers between the two organisations.

6.1. Visiting Fellows (CRG-IWM)

In [2023 four fellows](#) from Austria, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Kyrgyzstan were nominated for CRG's Visiting Fellowship Programme in collaboration with the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, for a period of 10-day stay in Kolkata—1) **Sayed Rozana Rashid** (Professor, Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh), 2) **Gulzina Mamatalieвна Daniyarova** (Faculty of International Relations, Osh State University, Kyrgyzstan), 3) **Man Bahadur Karki** (Human Rights Officer, Nepal Human Rights Commission, Nepal), 4) **Franz Graf** (Faculty, Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Vienna, and Fellows Programme Coordinator, at IWM, Vienna, Austria). Due to certain consequential circumstances, Sayeda Rozana Rashid could not avail the Fellowship in Kolkata. Franz Graf delivered the Keynote Lecture on “Teaching Local Anthropology on Climate: An Example of Field Schools in the LTSE Region Neusiedler See-Seewinkel” at the Teacher's Workshop on Teaching Local Histories and Geographies of Climate-Induced Migration on 25 August 2023, in Kolkata. Man Bahadur Karki's fellowship research paper on “The Human Rights Challenges of Migrant Workers from the Karnali Region, Nepal in India's Informal Unskilled Sector” and Gulzina M. Daniyarova's research essay on “EAEU: Problems and Perspectives of Labour Migrants from Kyrgyzstan to Russia” has been published in [Issue 63 of Journal Refugee Watch \(December 2023\)](#).

Under its programme on “Justice, Protection, and Government of the People” in collaboration with the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, **Ishita Dey** went to Vienna as a Visiting Fellow to join the research platform “[The Challenge of Urban Futures](#)” hosted by University of Vienna, Austria, for the period 1 to 31 October 2023, and developed on the research project “How Does Precarious Labour Arrive in a City?” **Som Niroula** joined the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, as a Visiting Fellow from CRG in October 2023. He worked on “[The Practices Protection, Care and Treatment of Refugees in Nepal](#).” **Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury** and **Ranabir Samaddar** went to IWM (Vienna) during 1-31 October 2023. Their research themes were “[Sublimating Injustice in Neoliberal Times: Labour in India's Platform Economy](#)” and “[Crisis, Conjuncture, and Biopolitics from Below](#)” respectively.

In [2024 three Fellows](#) visited CRG. **Rahul Yaduka** (Doctoral Fellow, B.R. Ambedkar University, New Delhi) from India, **Ajit Acharya** (Secretary, Nepal Institute of Peace, Kathmandu) from Nepal, and **Asraf Islam** (Research Associate, BRAC) from Bangladesh have completed their tenures.

6.2. Media Fellowships [CRG-IWM]

In 2023 CRG in collaboration with the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, selected three Media Fellows. **Ritwika Mitra** (Independent Journalist), **Farhana Ahmed** (District Correspondent, The Assam Tribune), and **Riya Singh Rathore** (Editorial Manager, Social and Policy Research Institute, New Delhi).

Their papers have been published in [Policies and Practices No. 154](#). A part of Ritwika Mitra's work was also published with Missing Perspectives as "[Climate Refugees Scramble for Basic Rights in Indian Cities](#)." The Media Fellows presented their work in the Media Workshop on 28 July 2023 in Kolkata.

7. Publications

In 2023-2024, CRG published widely on the themes of pandemic, governance, climate change, disaster management, environment, migrants and migrants' journeys, populist politics, cities, refugees, protection policies, ports and routes of migration, etc. Additionally, a series of online research articles were published by CRG in collaboration with 360info.

7.1. Journal and Blog

7.1.a. Refugee Watch: A South Asian Journal on Forced Migration

This is a bi-annual peer-reviewed open-access journal from CRG. 2023 marked 25 years of the Journal. To commemorate this event, two special issues of the Journal were planned in 2023:

1. [Refugee Watch Issue 61 & 62: "Politics, Space, Memory: Identity Making in the Wake of Partition."](#) The joint issue 61 and 62 on the theme of Partition was guest edited by Samata Biswas.
2. [Refugee Watch Issue 63: "Migrant Asia."](#) The issue is guest edited by Sanam Roohi (International Fellow, KWI, Essen, and Member, CRG), Ishita Dey, Sahana Basavapatna and Samata Biswas.

7.1.b. RefugeeWatchOnline (RWO) Blog

The list of articles published this year are listed below:

1. Bharat Bhushan. "[Daily Wage Worker Suicides Unlikely to End Soon.](#)" *RefugeeWatchOnline*. 4 March 2023.
2. Mohamed Shafeeq Karinkurayil. "[A Lasting Laugh on the Last Word: A Review of Orhan Pamuk's Nights of Plague.](#)" *RefugeeWatchOnline*. 8 March 2023.
3. Sucharita Sengupta. "[In Between the Sea and fire: The Rohingya in Bangladesh.](#)" *RefugeeWatchOnline*. 1 March 2023.
4. "[India's Manipur: Thousands Flee Ethnic Violence but the Roots Run Deeper.](#)" *RefugeeWatchOnline*. 9 May 2023.
5. Bharat Bhushan. "[Bhutanese Refugees in Nepal: A Scandal that Rocks the Government.](#)" *RefugeeWatchOnline*. 2 June 2023.
6. Supratik Sinha. "[Titan Submersible and Greek Migrant Boat Disasters: Media Coverage Unmasks the Inequality of Lives.](#)" *RefugeeWatchOnline*. 12 September 2023.
7. Shebeen Mehaboob A.P. "[Problematic Portrayal of Migrant Workers in Malayalam Print Media: An Analytical Reading.](#)" *RefugeeWatchOnline*. 27 November 2023.
8. Debasree Sarkar. "[The Politics of Representation in Films: Documenting Displacement and Visualizing the Vulnerable \(Part I\).](#)" *RefugeeWatchOnline*. 4 December 2023.
9. Debasree Sarkar. "[The Politics of Representation in Films: Documenting Displacement and Visualizing the Vulnerable \(Part II\).](#)" *RefugeeWatchOnline*. 6 December 2023.
10. Kritika Katyayan. "[Climate Change and Rural Communities: The Case of Uttarkashi District.](#)" *RefugeeWatchOnline*. 18 December 2023.
11. Shreyasi Mondal. "[First History Lessons Episode II: Rivers, Tea, and War.](#)" *RefugeeWatchOnline*. 24 December 2023.
12. Supratik Sinha. "[Shock/Mobility: Displacement in South Asia: A Report.](#)" *RefugeeWatchOnline*. 29 December 2023.
13. Sreetapa Chakraborty. "[A 'Fiery' Conundrum and a 'New' Year 2024: The Rohingya in Bangladesh.](#)" *RefugeeWatchOnline*. 12 January 2024.
14. Sonu Tewari. "[Encounters and Efforts in Adversity: Narratives from the Sundarbans.](#)" *RefugeeWatchOnline*. 21 January 2024.
15. Charles Murata. "[Reflective Personal Encounter as a Zimbabwean Zama-zama in South Africa.](#)" *RefugeeWatchOnline*. 7 February 2024.

16. Anannya Das. “Taking Stock: Refugee and Migrant Situation in South Asia’-A Report.” *RefugeeWatchOnline*. 9 March 2024.
17. Debasree Sarkar. “Films as Platforms of Solidarity, Resistance and New Modes of Assertion.” *RefugeeWatchOnline*. 12 March 2024.

For details see: <https://refugeewatchonline.wordpress.com/>

7.2. Books

Published

1. Bharat Bhushan, ed. *Media, Migrants in the Time of Pandemic: A Reader*. New York: Routledge, 2023.
2. Rituparna Datta, ed. *Pandemic and Precarity*. Kolkata: Sampark, 2023.
3. Sangbida Lahiri. *Covidkale Bipannata o Sangbati*. Kolkata: Progressive, 2023.
4. Manjira Saha. *Labour Train*. Translated by Purna Banerjee. Kolkata: Frontpage, 2023.
5. Gopal Krishna, and Anamika Priyadarshini, eds. *Mahamari Ki Sarbadein*. Translated by Ashok Jha and Pranav Jha. New Delhi: Aakar Books, 2023.
6. Piya Srinivasan, ed. *Living with the Weather: Climate Change, Ecology and Displacement in South Asia*. New Delhi: Yoda Press, 2024.
7. Pradip Bose, ed. *Paschimbangety Udbastura: Pratisthanik Udyog o Parichitir Sanghat*. Translated by Prasit Das. Kolkata: Progressive Publishers, 2024.
8. Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty, Paula Banerjee, and Kaustubh Mani Sengupta, eds. *The Long 2020: Reflections of Epidemiological Times*. Springer, 2024.
9. Paula Banerjee, Nasreen Chowdhury, and Priya Singh, eds. *Postcolonial Compendium: Keywords in Forced Migration and Refugee Studies*. Kolkata: Frontpage, 2023.

Forthcoming

10. Paula Banerjee, ed. *On The Margins of Protection*. Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan.
11. Nasreen Chowdhury, ed. *New Frontiers in the Register of Migration and Refugee Studies*. Springer.
12. Ayşe Çağlar, Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, and Ranabir Samaddar, eds. *Sites of Statelessness: Laws, Cities, Seas*. SUNY Press.
13. Debashree Chakraborty, and Rajat Kanti Sur, eds. *Routes and Ports of Migration*. CRG.

7.3. Articles

14. Bharat Bhushan. “[Millions forced to move by war, famine and disaster](#).” *360info*, Shock mobility. 19 June 2023.
15. Debashree Chakraborty. “[Partition lives on in north-east Indian literature](#).” *360info*, Shock mobility. 19 June 2023.
16. Manish K. Jha. “[Migrant workers paid a huge price for COVID-19](#).” *360info*, Shock mobility. 19 June 2023.
17. Shatabdi Das. “[Coal Mining in India Has a Human Cost](#).” *360info*, Shock mobility. 19 June 2023.
18. Shyamalendu Majumdar. “[How a cyclone created a new nation](#).” *360info*, Shock mobility. 19 June 2023.
19. Sohini Sengupta. “[How droughts can leave people with nowhere to go](#).” *360info*, Shock mobility. 19 June 2023.
20. Som Niroula. “[The war is not over for Nepal’s displaced](#).” *360info*, Shock mobility. 19 June 2023.
21. Ranabir Samaddar. “[Why We Should Talk about Shock Mobility](#).” *360info*, Shock mobility. 19 June 2023.
22. Samata Biswas, “Chotoder Border.” *Prasangik-Oprasangik*, 21 June 2023.
23. Shyamalendu Majumdar, “Ajitesh Bandyopadhyay: Ek birol protibha.” *Prasangik-Oprasangik*, 21 July 2023.
24. Arup Sen, “Raghab Bhandyopadhyay: Ei sohorer kathak” *Prasangik-Oprasangik*, 21 July 2023.
25. Arup Sen. “Ek kothasilpir rajniti path.” *Prasangik-Oprasangik*, 25 September 2023.
26. Ranabir Samaddar, trans. Shyamalendu Majumdar, “Jadavpurer Abhijata Chatra Andolan” *Prasangik-Oprasangik*, 25 September 2023.
27. Paula Banerjee. “[Human Trafficking, Gender and Agency](#).” *IWMpost*, No. 132, Art and Society (2023).
28. Ranabir Samaddar. “[Populism and Rewriting the Grammar of Democracy](#).” *IWMpost*, No. 132, Art and Society (2023).

29. Ranabir Samaddar. "[Pratirodher dharona.](#)" *Anandabazar Patrika Online*. 19 January 2024.
30. Arup K. Sen, "[Rethinking the Covid Pandemic](#)" *Mainstream Weekly*, 20 January 2024.
31. Samir Das, "Nammahatya ebong amader Presidency College." *Prasangik-Oprasangik*, March 2024.
32. Samir Das, "Nodiparer akhyan." *Prasangik-Oprasangik*, March 2024.
33. Bharat Bhushan. "[Rohingya conundrum: Stateless, helpless and unwanted.](#)" *360info*, Rohingya refugees. 27 March 2024.
34. Nasreen Chowdhury. "[Why the Rohingya are being treated the way they are.](#)" *360info*, Rohingya refugees. 27 March 2024.
35. Paula Banerjee. "[Human beings are not illegal.](#)" *360info*, Rohingya refugees. 27 March 2024.
36. Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury. "[How can a state make people stateless?](#)" *360info*, Rohingya refugees. 27 March 2024.
37. Samata Biswas. "[The Rohingya return to the sea.](#)" *360info*, Rohingya refugees. 27 March 2024.
38. Sucharita Sengupta. "[Rohingya refugee women survive on the edge.](#)" *360info*, Rohingya refugees. 27 March 2024.
39. Samata Biswas, "[Indian labour marches into the line of fire](#)" *360info*, 29 April 2024.

7.4. CRG Chair Lecture Series

40. Ranabir Samaddar. "[Texts from the Void: Machiavelli's The Prince and What is to be Done.](#)" *CRG Chair Lecture* (December 2023).

7.5. Reports

41. Sunandan Basu. "[Humanity in the COVID-19 Era.](#)" Ninth Krishna Memorial Lecture 2022. Kolkata: Calcutta Research Group, 2023.
42. Ishita Dey. "[Journeys and Internal Migrant Workers: An Ethnographic Study of Railway Connectivity.](#)" Kolkata: Calcutta Research Group, 2023.
43. Abhay Shukla. "[Innovative Public Actions, New Politics of Health and Life Emerging from the Pandemic.](#)" Tenth Krishna Memorial Lecture 2023. Kolkata: Calcutta Research Group, 2024.
44. Ranabir Samaddar and Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, "[Chronicles of Urban Justice.](#)" Calcutta Research Group, 2024.
45. Meenakshi Gangopadhyay. "Health of Women Particularly Girl Children." Eleventh Krishna Memorial Lecture, 2024. Kolkata: Calcutta Research Group (forthcoming).
46. Kaveri and Imran Philip. "A Study of the Housing and Livelihood Issues of Migrant Labourers in Delhi and Kolkata: A Report." Edited by Arup Sen, Samata Biswas, and Debashree Chakraborty. Kolkata: Frontpage (forthcoming).

7.6. Policy Briefs

47. Shatabdi Das. "[Climate Disasters and Displacements in India: Role of Policies and Protection.](#)" Kolkata: Calcutta Research Group, 2023.
48. Sohini Sengupta. "[Climate-Mobilities and Policy Directions for the Global South.](#)" Kolkata: Calcutta Research Group, 2023.

7.7. Newsletters

SAN-CDM published two newsletters in [September](#) and [December](#) 2023 on media, migration, and displacement

7.8. Occasional Papers: Policies and Practices

CRG publishes a series of occasional research papers as *Policies and Practices* and is available on open access at: <http://www.mcrg.ac.in/pp.asp>. The list of papers published in this series in 2023-24 is listed below.

Issue No.	Title	Author/s	Project	Year
157	Death in Diaspora	Rituparna Datta	IWM	2023
156	Bhootlane Ki Katha: Habitation and Construction of Dignity, Health and Well-Being in Indentured Mobility 1830-1920	Rituparna Datta	IWM	2023
155	Kolkata and Mumbai: Climate Disaster Mitigation in Coastal Megacities of India	Shatabdi Das	IWM	2023
154	Media and Migration	Ritwika Mitra, Riya Singh Rathore, and Farhana Ahmed	IWM	2023
153	Teaching Local Anthropology on Climate Change: Ethnographic Field Schools at Lake Neusiedl, Austria	Franz Graf	IWM	2023
152	Platformed Precarity: A Tale of Two Cities in India	Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury	IWM	2023
151	Is Protection Only a Legal Matter? Migrant Labour in South and South-East Asia	Paula Banerjee	IWM	2023
150	Governing the Pandemic: Negotiating Democracy in Our Time	Samir Kumar Das	IWM	2023
149	The Intersections of Gender, Im/mobility, and Governance in Sundarbans Delta	Sonu Tiwari	RLS	2023
148	Access to justice for Women under Foreigner's Tribunal Act, 1946 in Assam	Nargis Chowdhury	RLS	2023
147	Can Recruitment be Fair? Possibilities and Paradoxes of Ethical Recruitment in Eastern Himalayas	Nirvan Pradhan	RLS	2023
146	Pawns for Profits - Analysing the Plight of Bangladeshi Female Migrant	Ahmad Ibrahim	RLS	2023
145	“United We Stand”: Role of Unionisations among the Gig Labours in India	Rajat Kanti Sur	RLS	2023
144	Literary Imagination of Climate Change and Climate Disasters	Debashree Chakraborty and Subhoranjan Dasgupta	RLS	2023

7.9. Media Reporting on Migration with 360info

CRG collaborated with 360info for a special report articles series on [Shock mobility](#) published in June 2023 and it reached a wide circulation exceeding 660K downloads and reads and rewiring of the article across

prominent media platforms like EastMojo, DailyHunt, CodeBlue, EcoBusiness/Economic Times, etc. In March 2024, CRG in collaboration with 360info commissioned the special report series on [Rohingya refugees](#). The series focused on the precarious lives of the Rohingya refugees, their stateless situation, the role of digital access in the life of the refugees, and the sea as an itinerant part of the Rohingya lives.

7.10. Travelling Photo Exhibitions and Film Shows

The photo essay by artist Dipanwita Saha on [Trail of Blood: Part I: The Calcutta Killings of 1946 and its Aftermath](#) and curated by Debasree Sarkar was showcased in the Eighth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop and Conference (November 2023, in Kolkata). The trilogy (film) on “Calcutta: A Migrant City” was also screened in November and at the “Decolonisation in the 21st Century” conference hosted by National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taiwan, in August 2023. Sukanta Sarkar’s documentary film on the Sundarbans “Walking in a Sinking Island in the Sundarbans” was screened at the workshop on “Global Protection of Refugees and Climate-Induced Migrants” on 21 February 2024, and in the Youth Meet on “Urban Caregiving and Protection: Histories and Contemporary Practices” on 29 March 2024 along with CRG-RLS Media Fellow 2022 Wahida Parvez’s documentary film “Struggle and Resilience of Momiron Nessa.”

Trilogy (Film): Calcutta: A Migrant City.

Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fpREEq7Ar-Y&t=5s>

Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5CnRwKd3p8&t=701s>

Part 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ok5H-f7cz4>

8. Library, Website, and Assets

8.1. Library

CRG library holds a significantly specialised 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, climate change, land, laws, women’s rights, borders, partition, gender, caste, religion, refugees, labour migrants, politics, and more. This Resource Centre is linked with the Refugee Research Network, which is responsible for gathering information from a number of institutions and networks. The library has digital access, allowing members access to academic material. In terms of numbers, the Library and Resource Centre has about 3623 books, 1424 documents, and 237 audio CDs, videos, and lectures. There are exclusive collections of newspaper clippings on North East India and archived materials on forced migration. The library also has a good collection of donated books. The library has subscribed to Integrated Library Management Software ‘KOHA’ from the Bengal Library Association since November 2021. Users can easily access the library book collection through KOHA [OPAC](#). Two reading lists have been compiled in HTML format, one for the CRG’s “2023: Fourth Teachers’ Workshop” and another for the 2023 Eighth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop, for workshop participants and module coordinators in digital format. The library subscribes to journals of repute such as Economic and Political Weekly and academic digital cohorts like Jstor, Project Muse. The current library advisory committee consists of Ranabir Samaddar, Samata Biswas (Convenor, Library Committee, CRG), K.K. Banerjee, and Lina Dey (Assistant Librarian and Information Manager, CRG). Raj Kumar Mahato is Library Assistant of CRG.

8.2. Website

The website of CRG is hosted at www.mcrg.ac.in. The website has been heuristically designed into seven segments: 1) research and programmes; 2) dialogues and conferences; 3) public lectures/seminar series; 4) researchers, board members and interns; 5) distinguished chair; 6) publications/reports; 7) library and resource centre. The programmes of CRG are updated regularly on the CRG website. The Living Archive is part of the CRG website on news and media clippings covering the Covid-19 pandemic. The website is updated and maintained by Samaresh Guchhait (Administrative and Accounts Officer, CRG) from the administrative department with the assistance of the staff researchers of CRG.

8.3. Assets

An asset register is maintained, regularly updated by the institution and is open for inspection. During this period a laptop (Dell) was purchased.

9. Academic and Administrative Staff

The tenure of the Honorary Director, Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury ended in September 2023. On 1 October 2023, Shyamalendu Majumdar joined as the Director of CRG. He heads all administrative and research work. Sucharita Sengupta joined as a Project Researcher in February 2024. Debasree Sarkar successfully completed her tenure after the completion of the research programme she had been working on. Shatabdi Das continued to be the Associate of the Distinguished Chair in Migration and Forced Migration Studies of CRG. Rajat Kanti Sur, Rituparna Datta, Shatabdi Das, Debashree Chakraborty, Lina Dey, R.K. Mahato, Ashok Kumar Giri (Office Assistant CRG), Partha Pratim Sarkar (Accountant, CRG), Samaresh Guchhait, and Subhashree Rout (Office Secretary) continued their service.

For details of the staff researchers, see: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/CRG_Researchers_RPA.asp and http://www.mcrg.ac.in/CRG_Researchers_RPAssitances.asp.

10. Highlights of Members' Achievements

Anjuman Ara Begum participated in the Third World Conference on Statelessness in Kuala Lumpur, in February 2024. She co-founded the [Statelessness and Dignified Citizenship Coalition](#) and is the recipient of Royal Global University research fellowship 2024-2025.

Anup Shekhar Chakraborty has published widely on themes of gender and sexuality studies, especially men's studies, people's history, indigeneity studies, and regional politics, in 2023-24. His co-edited books include: *Indigeneity, Development and Sustainability - Perspectives from Northeast India* (Springer Nature, 2023); *Queer and the Vernacular Languages in India: Studies in Contemporary Texts and Culture* (Routledge, 2023); *Death and Dying in Northeast India: Indigeneity and Afterlife* (Routledge, 2023). His research articles on ecomasculinity and neoliberal era (co-authored), Partition memories among the *Zo Hnabhlak* and the *Chakma* in the State of Mizoram, death practices in Khawhar Hla and Zo Christians, Zo Queer were published in edited volumes. He guest-edited special journal issues on "LGBTQ+ People in Situations of Forced Displacement" (Oxford Journal of Refugee Studies, Oxford: UK); "Politics and the people in India: modern and historical perspectives" (Humanities and Social Science Communication, Springer Nature, UK). He is the editorial board member of the journal *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications* and peer reviewer of the *Journal of Homosexuality* (Routledge), *Contemporary Voice of Dalit* (Sage), *Journal of Men's Studies* (Sage).

Priya Singh was awarded her Doctoral degree in 2024 and is currently working as a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Centre for Gender and Forced Displacement in the Gender and Development Studies programme, Department of Development and Sustainability, School of Environment, Resources and Development, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok. Her publications in edited volumes include: "Public Spaces and the Arab Uprisings: Sites of Contention," in Mujib Alam and Sujata Ashwarya (Edited) *Arab Spring and its Legacies* (Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge: 2024); "Language as a resource in India's decolonized cultural curriculum: A case study of the Santali language," (co-authored with Soma Ghosal) in Ann Lopez and Herveen Singh (Edited) *Decolonizing Educational Knowledge: International Perspectives and Contestations* (Cham, Switzerland: Springer Nature, 2024); "Humanitarianism, Development and Peace: A Southern Perspective" (co-authored with Paula Banerjee) in Silke Roth, Bandana Purkayastha and Tobias Denskus (Edited) *Handbook on Humanitarianism and Inequality* (Northampton: Massachusetts: Edward Elgar, February 2024). She co-edited with Anita Sengupta, *China in India's Neighbourhood: Shifting Regional Narratives* (London and New York: Routledge 2024) and *Post Colonial Compendium: Keywords in Forced Migration and Refugee Studies*, co-edited with Paula Banerjee and Nasreen Chowdhury (Kolkata: Frontpage 2023).

Sudeep Basu has been selected as member of the editorial board of Anthem Press, London, UK, in the Anthem Impact in Social History for South Asia.

V. Ramaswamy translated three books: *I See the Face*, a novel, by Shahidul Zahir (Harper Collins India, 2023); *The Earth Quakes: Late Anti-Stories*, by Subimal Misra (Harper Collins India, 2024); *The Sea*, a novel, by Swati Guha (Antonym, 2024).

11. Roll of CRG Members

Members would be delighted to know that Ritu Menon and Samita Sen are members of the CRG Advisory Board. Achin Chakraborty, Francis Adaikalam, Jayanta Roy Chowdhury, Priya Singh, and Sangbida Lahiri were invited to be members of the Society. They have accepted the invitations. CRG welcomes them to the Society. During this period Sucharita Sengupta resigned from the membership as she joined CRG as a Project Researcher.

The present roll of members stands as follows and will be subject to revision after the AGM to be held on 24 August 2024:

1. Achin Chakraborty
2. Amit Prakash
3. Ananya Chatterjee
4. Anamika Priyadarshini
5. Anjan Chakraborty
6. Anita Sengupta
7. Anjuman Ara Begum
8. Anup Shekhar Chakraborty
9. Arup Kumar Sen
10. Atig Ghosh
11. Bharat Bhushan
12. Bishnu Mohapatra
13. Byasdeb Dasgupta
14. Debasish Roy Chowdhury
15. Francis Adaikalam
16. Gopal Krishna
17. Iman Mitra
18. Ishita Dey
19. Jayanta Roy Chowdhury
20. Jishnu Dasgupta
21. K.M. Parivelan
22. Kalpana Kannabiran
23. Khesheli Chishi
24. Krishna Bandyopadhyay
25. Kumar Rana
26. Madhuresh Kumar
27. Madhurilata Basu
28. Mahalaya Chatterjee
29. Mandira Sen
30. Manish K. Jha
31. Manjuri Chatterji
32. Mouleshri Vyas
33. Nasreen Chowdhury
34. Nirmal Kumar Mahato
35. Nirmalya Banerjee
36. Paula Banerjee
37. Prasanta Ray
38. Priya Singh
39. Rajat Roy
40. Rajesh Kharat
41. Ranabir Samaddar (Invitee)

42. Ruchira Goswami
43. Sabir Ahamed
44. Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury
45. Sahana Basavapatna
46. Samata Biswas
47. Samir Kumar Das
48. Sanam Roohi
49. Sangbida Lahiri
50. Sanjay Barbora
51. Sanjay Chaturvedi
52. Santi Sarkar
53. Shyamalendu Majumdar
54. Sibaji Pratim Basu
55. Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty
56. Subir Bhaumik
57. Sudeep Basu
58. Sumona Dasgupta
59. Uttam Kumar Ray
60. V. Ramaswamy