



ICSSR-ERC Sponsored
Three Day International Seminar on

VOICES IN TRANSIT: MIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP IN SOUTH ASIA

Organized by:
Departments of English and Political Science
Sarojini Naidu College for Women, Kolkata

July 10-12, 2024

www.sncwgs.ac.in



Call for Papers

An ICSSR-ERC sponsored three-day international seminar titled, *Voices in Transit: Migration and Citizenship in South Asia*, is being organised by the departments of English and Political Science, Sarojini Naidu College for Women, Kolkata from **July 10-12, 2024**. Abstracts are invited from academicians, scholars and other interested persons.

About the Seminar:

South Asia is a rich and complicated region where people, ideas, resources, and commodities are always in flux. It is characterised by multiple border regimes, colonial histories, contestations, conflicts, and complex development trajectories. For instance, after Partition of India, the ways in which two postcolonial states—Pakistan and India— ‘comprehended, intervened and “shaped” the colossal displacements of Partition’, led to the constant reassessment of the categories of citizen, state, nation and territory, paving the way for what Vazira Zamindar (Fazila-Yacoobali, 2007) would term as the “Long Partition”.

As a key region of migrant origin, transit, and destination, South Asia offers a varied and complex account of multiple mobilities that sometimes unfold simultaneously. From colonial to postcolonial times boundaries have been drawn and redrawn to demarcate the “legal” and the “illegal”. Despite having shared histories, culture etc. boundaries tend to disconnect in general and this is particularly true of South Asia. People have always been in motion, and migration is a continuous phenomenon which is influenced by a number of political, economic, and demographic variables.

Though migration as a phenomenon and the experiences associated with it can never be understood in simple black-and-white, however, there is no denying that the ongoing “othering” of migrants by individuals who identify as “natives” complicates the situation. Partha Sarathi Ghosh in *Migrants, Refugees and the Stateless in South Asia* (2016) observes that no other region in the world has experienced the level of interstate migration and refugee movements as South Asia has during the past 60 years. There have been roughly 50 million people associated in the process and it is difficult to categorize them.

Rethinking South Asia as a dynamic yet historically interrelated geographical and cultural development has been a recent focus of attention and in our attempts to unravel the complex concepts of migration and citizenship, adopting the gender lens would be important as women are major participants in migration and make up to 48.4 percent of international migrants worldwide (UNHCR, 2018).

Though it is widely held that migrants are essential to the economic development of nations and regions, what motivates people from the region to migrate, how do they organize their journeys and how are these migrants of differing hues “looked at” (perceived), their various issues “looked after” (cared or uncared) are questions that need probing? Further, how is migration and migrants represented in literature, films, news reports etc. is crucial in understanding the complex realities surrounding migration? Again, it would be necessary to examine as to how the contextual specificities that shape the realities of moving within (and also beyond) South Asia affect identity formation? Further, it would be pertinent to focus on political economy in order to understand why the citizenship question is expected to offer political dividend to those who propose it!



Keeping the above questions in mind, a few subthemes have been laid out.

Subthemes:

- 1) Boundaries, Borders and Belonging
- 2) Interrogating Citizenship 'as a club good'
- 3) Partition Stories and Shared Histories: Trauma and Recovery
- 4) Voices from the margin: Women, Gender-diverse persons and other minorities
- 5) Environment and Migration
- 6) Refugees and Migrants in Film, Literature, Art, and Media

Who can Apply:

Young researchers, academicians, professionals, activists, journalists and others. For participation, registration is mandatory. Only registered participants will be allowed to take part in the Seminar.

Guidelines for paper submission:

Willing participants from different fields are invited to contribute and make paper presentation on the seminar themes and are requested to submit their abstract along with short bio-notes. The abstract of paper shall be maximum 300 words, in MS Word 12-point, Font in Times New Roman or Garamond with 1.5 line spacing.

On being selected the participant would have to submit the full paper (around 5000 words and should be typed in MS Word 12-point, Font in Times New Roman or Garamond with 1.5 line spacing).

Send your abstracts, bio-notes, full papers and queries to seminar.voices.sncw@gmail.com

***Select papers would be published as Journal articles/ Book bearing ISBN no.**

Important Dates:

Last date for abstract submission: June 22, 2024

Intimation about selection of Abstracts: June 25, 2024

Last date for registration: July 8, 2024.

Last date for full paper submission: July 30, 2024

Registration:

Academicians/ Professionals/ Full-time teachers: Rs.1000 (Paper presenters – both online & offline)
|| Non-paper presenters: Rs 700 || Research scholars: Rs.500 (all categories) || Just attending for a day: Rs. 250.

Payee: **Sarojini Naidu College for Women** || Account No. **00390100001577** || Bank name: **Bank of Baroda** || Branch: **DumDum** || IFSC Code: **BARB0DUMDUM** (*5th character is zero)

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/pKUXBWWHE2YTHhEW7>

For any further query contact our convenors Dr. Jaydeep Rishi (drjrishi@sncwgs.ac.in) and Dr. Madhurilata Basu (basu.madhurilata@gmail.com).

