

Lecture Series on Governance and Politics in South Asia Department of Political Science

Refugee and Migrant Labour as a Crucial Population Question of Our Time

by

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Refugees as economic actors and as an integral part of global capitalist development, especially since the late 20th century, has received scant recognition and attention in Western scholarship, which tends to focus on migrant absorption policies of particular states. The role of migrant labour policies in production, regulation, and control of labour problematizes the synchrony between domestic politico-economic strategies of migration management and international refugee protection norms. While governing people has become possible by turning population groups into administrative categories, yet the category of migrant, the footloose labour, or the forced migrant escapes these administrative categorisations. The refugee or the migrant has become the labouring subject of the capitalism of our time - a defining element of the organisation of populations under global capitalism today.



Dr. Ranabir Samaddar is the Distinguished Chair in Migration and Forced Migration Studies, Calcutta Research Group. His writings on the nation-state, migration, labour, and urbanisation have signalled a new turn in critical postcolonial thinking. *The Marginal Nation: Transborder Migration from Bangladesh to West Bengal* (Sage, 1999) proved to be a milestone in migration and forced migration studies. His co-authored work on new towns and new forms of accumulation, *Beyond Kolkata: Rajarhat and the Dystopia of Urban Imagination* (Routledge, 2014), takes forward urban studies in the context of post-colonial capitalism. *Karl Marx and the Postcolonial Age* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2017) is his latest work, which discusses the relevance of Marx in the global age of postcolonialism and neoliberalism.

Date: Monday, June 11, 2018

Time: 16:00-18:00

Venue: SAI 317

All are cordially invited!

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