

Roots and Routes



Monthly Newsletter of the Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism

Vol. 2, No. 2, February 2013



Dr Gurram Srinivas



Prof Partha S. Ghosh, during the discussion



Prof. Supriya Singh

Roots and Routes disseminates the latest information on research and policy developments in Diaspora and transnationalism

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Editor's Message



Dear All,

One of the major challenges in the academic communities has been to disseminate ideas and research outcomes to diverse readers in an interesting configuration. Designing reader friendly format for these diverse interests is the need of the time in order to engage variety of stakeholders in the process of discussion as well as policy making. Since last few years, though International migration as well as Diasporas has been a dominant global phenomenon, there has not been much coverage in the popular Medias as expected. It is certainly beneficial to have various platforms where the researchers, policy experts, grassroots activist and other stakeholders can meaningfully relate and engage. *Roots and Routes* is a modest attempt in this direction. However, all this surely depend upon our reader's active participation and contribution.

The present issue contains monthly GRFDT event on the topic "From Remittances to Migrant Money: Two-way flows between Australia and India" by Prof. Supriya Singh. She talked about how the migrant money has been on rise among the Indian and Chinese due to economic rise of their middle classes.

There is an interesting interview with Dr. Pedro J. Oiarzabal who talks about how the diasporic "homes" are today constructed in the 'virtual world of internet'. He accounts the experience of Basque diaspora who have discovered their community only through social network.

Mr. Ashook Ramsaran's article on "Diaspora Heritage" argues how heritage helps in building enduring bond between diaspora and home country. Taking the case of Indian diaspora, he emphasises the need for promotion of Indian heritage among the diasporas, especially among the second and third generations.

The issue also features reports, seminar and conference news, new books etc. Finally, we thank our readers for sharing all these valuable research findings, articles and other information for making this issue highly informative.

Sadananda Sahoo

From Remittances to Migrant Money *Two-way flows between Australia and India*

Perhaps since last two decades, remittances has been one of the most important areas of discussion in the context of development vis a vis international migration and diaspora. Remittances have been one of the major flows of money from abroad, often greater than the amount received in the foreign direct investment to the home countries. Countries who have a substantial number of diaspora such as China, India, Philippines, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam etc. gained from remittances. What is not known is, however, its reverse - the flow of money in the opposite direction. In this context, the talk on "From Remittances to Migrant Money: Two-way flows between Australia and India" by Prof. Supriya Singh, held on 24 February 2013 at CSSS II, JNU is quite significant. The event was chaired by Prof. Partha Ghosh, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Dr. Smita Tiwari formally welcomed the speaker and had given a short introduction about the her.

Prof. Singh mentioned that though there are a lot of debate on remittances by World Bank, IMF and many other national policy institutions, what is really revealing is that there is a huge flow of money in opposite direction i.e. migrant money. She observed that the "Indian migrants received or brought in 18 times as much from



Prof. Supriya Singh
RMIT University, Melbourne Australia

India to Australia in the first two years than they sent to India". Indian students constitute a significant number in Australia and most of the universities and educational institutions in Australia solely depend upon the financial supports from the students from abroad. She therefore emphasized that this alerts us to the need to move from the traditional study of the one way flow of remittances to the source country to the broader concept of migrant money which actually captures two-way money transfers regarding family remittances, migrant related trades and investments. According to her, Migrant money makes transparent the economic value of continuing ties to the country of origin while contributing to the country of



Dr. G Srinivas, Dr. Sadananda Sahoo, Prof. Partha Ghosh and Prof. Supriya Singh (from L-R)

destination too. Two-way flows of migrant money reflect the growing economic importance of the middle classes in China and India. Also, migrant money parallels changes in migration patterns from permanent settlement to mobility.

The speaker also observed that the nature and meaning of migration is changing over the time. There is a change in the nature of migration from "permanent settlement" to "mobility" in last few years. The international migrants are mainly from the middle class population from rural as well as urban areas who explore opportunities elsewhere. There is evidence that migrant people usually contribute to wherever they go and, hence, they must be facilitated rather than prohibited, she argued.

Prof. Singh's study is based on two qualitative studies and available quantitative data on two-way remittances, trade and investment. The first qualitative study was of 86 persons from the Indian diaspora in Australia from 2005 to 2010. The second study involved individual or group interviews with 51 persons from 13 transnational families in India and Australia between November 2011 and August 2012. Nine of them were matched samples in those family members who were interviewed in both the

countries. The study was based on the second Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Australia (LSIA) of 3,124 Primary Applicants who arrived in Australia between September 1999 and August 2000. The survey was managed by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) and provides the most valuable data on financial transfers relating to new migrants in their first two years. Prof. Singh also shared the difficulties in undertaking research in the area of remittances as well as migrant money as the data in both India and Australia are very less available. There is a need for more consolidation of data for providing better policy measures. Governments in these countries need to spend more on these areas as the migration is becoming one of the mainstays today.

The talk was followed by open discussions where participants asked range of questions related to multiculturalism, citizenship, demographic compositions etc. Issues were also raised related to the transnational families and their financial transactions and problems associated with the family care taking in the case of Punjab, Kerala and other states. The talk ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. M. Mahalingam.

NEW BOOKS

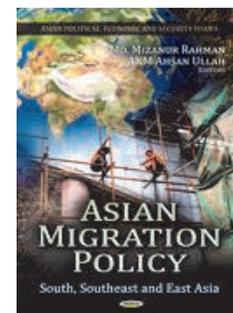
Asian Migration Policy: South, Southeast and East Asia

Editors: Md. Mizanur Rahman (National University of Singapore (NUS)) and AKM Ahsan Ullah (American University in Cairo, CMRS., Ne Cairo, Egypt)

Book Description:

This book includes chapters that investigate the development of international migration policy in major emigrant countries in Asia; and that in today's highly mobile world, migration has become an increasingly complex area of governance, inextricably interlinked with other key policy

areas including economic and social development, national security, human rights, public health regional stability and inter-country cooperation. Role of institutions in facilitating or de-facilitating migration, the potential impact of environmental degradation on population displacement are key contents of the book.



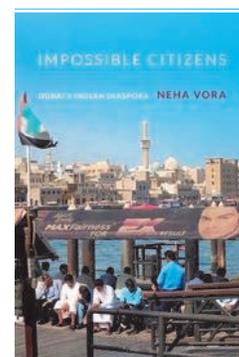
Impossible Citizens: Dubai's Indian Diaspora

Neha Vora, Duke University Press Books (March 18, 2013), Language: English
ISBN-10: 0822353938

Indian communities have existed in the Gulf emirate of Dubai for more than a century. Since the 1970s, workers from South Asia have flooded into the emirate, enabling Dubai's huge construction boom. They now comprise its largest noncitizen population. Though many migrant families are middle-class and second-, third-, or even fourth-generation residents, Indians cannot become legal citizens of the United Arab Emirates. Instead, they are all classified as temporary guest workers. In *Impossible Citizens*, Neha Vora draws on her ethnographic research in Dubai's Indian-dominated downtown to explore how Indi-

ans live suspended in a state of permanent temporariness.

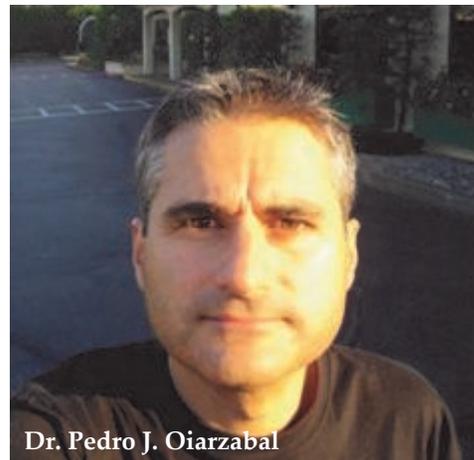
While their legal status defines them as perpetual outsiders, Indians are integral to the Emirati nation-state and its economy. At the same time, Indians—even those who have established thriving diasporic neighborhoods in the emirate—disavow any interest in formally belonging to Dubai and instead consider India their home.



Diasporas across the planet, from many different backgrounds, have constructed similar “homes” in the Internet

Migrant transnational networks between the country of origin and the country of residence constitute an increasingly important source of exchange of information and transfer of knowledge, says **Dr. Pedro J. Oiarzabal** in an interview with **Dr. Sadananda Sahoo**, Editor, Roots and Routes.

- **Dr. Oiarzabal as we all observe the world is increasingly and intensively networked since the 1990s for which one can for sure give credit to ICTs and rapid and long-distance transport facilities. This has enormous impact on the way we live and work. The experience of being in the diaspora is quite different these days as compared to 30-40 years back. How do you think the diaspora and network shaping the global society today?**



Dr. Pedro J. Oiarzabal

Maintaining instantaneous and reliable connectivity with those who remained back home would have been a dream come true for any pre-Information Society migrant. One can only wonder how different it would have been for many of the thousands of migrants and their descendants if they had had the possibility of connecting to the Internet and to any of the current social network sites. Having said that, diasporas across the planet, from many different backgrounds, have constructed similar “homes” in the Internet to promote their linguistic, cultural, economic, religious and political agendas. This, in turn, facilitates their communication strategies and their ability to disseminate information about themselves and their activities beyond their immediate communities, constructing, gradually, an interconnected global space.

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- **Please tell us something on Basque communities and how it evolved as diaspora in the recent years. Do they have any distinctive feature as compared to other diasporas?**

The Basque Country is a small region situated at the border between France and Spain. For hundreds of years, thousands and thousands of Basque people left their country in search of freedom, fortune and a better life, establishing dense and fluid transoceanic and cross-border networks. Nowadays, the centennial Basque diaspora had formed over 200 associations throughout 24 countries in America, Asia, Europe and Oceania, while securing a strong presence in cyberspace. For instance, over 130 diaspora associations have established formal groups on Facebook, which tell us about the increasingly significance of the Internet and the Web for migrant communities.

- **Research on diaspora has been proliferated in last one decade. A scholar like you has worked on variety of issues such as media, identity, network etc. May you suggest some areas which need to be focused in the research and policy domain?**

The way I see my own research and how it has developed for the last decade, I can say that there is a need for more comparative and interdisciplinary research, while developing new methodological perspectives to address the complex phenomenon of global migration. Indeed, this call for a better networking between scholars across borders as well as a closer collaboration between academics, policy makers and non-governmental organizations in relation to issues such as forced migration, humanitarian aid and returnees.

- **What happens when more people live in the diaspora than within the homeland? Some countries have been experiencing this same situation. What kind of political and economic impact the diaspora will have when they are majority as compared to the population at homeland?**

The Basque Country holds a total combined population of nearly 3 million people. However, its population abroad, with an institutional presence in over 20 countries, may well reach between 4.5 and 6 million people according to different estimates. As such, the issues of communication and contact—and the technologies that enable it—are of vast importance. This is also true for the establishing effective connections among co-diaspora communities and between them and the homeland.

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The creation and development of migrant transnational networks between the country of origin and the country of residence constitute an increasingly important source of exchange of information and transfer of knowledge, in the physical as well as in the digital world, which can be activated for the socio-economic and financial development and rescue of home countries, particularly in the so-called underdeveloped or emergent countries

well as in the digital world, which can be activated for the socio-economic and financial development and rescue of home countries, particularly in the so-called underdeveloped or emergent countries, for instance. In the Basque case, this has not fully taken place, yet.

- **What is your next project on diaspora research?**

At the moment, I am finalizing a manuscript that deals with the development of the Basque digital diaspora before the popularization of online social networks as a way to measure the implications of web technologies for a small but resilient diaspora such as the Basque. Also, I am initiating research on migrant associations in Spain and their integration in the so-called Information Society, while continuing collecting oral history interviews with Basque migrants and returnees in order to preserve and disseminate their collective memory.

- **Since you have been quite aware of the GRFDT activities, what are your suggestions for GRFDT?**

Academics, researchers and students of international migration, diaspora and transnationalism share common issues, concerns and challenges in their daily work. Despite the fact that we come from different disciplines and traditions, we all work on similar issues that transcend local boundaries constructing new transnational spaces. Here is where initiatives such as GRFDT can have a major impact. GRFDT can raise awareness of the different studies that many academics are currently undertaking while providing a valuable forum where they can connect with each other. In this regard, I wish you all the best.

- **Thank you Dr. Pedro J. Oiarzabal for providing valuable insights on the several interconnected issues on Diaspora and transnationalism.**

Pedro J. Oiarzabal is a PhD Researcher on Migration Studies at the Institute of Human Rights, University of Deusto (Bilbao, Spain). His work focuses on the social, cultural and political implications of information and communication technologies (ICTs) regarding migrant and diaspora communities, with special emphasis on the Basque people. He is also interested in public policy development regarding diasporans and returnees and the processes of historical memory among migrants. Among his latest publications are *Migration and the Internet: Social Networking and Diasporas* (JEMS, Vol. 38, No. 9, 2012; with U.-D. Reips) and *Diasporas in the New Media Age: Identity, Politics, and Community* (2010; with A. Alonso). Oiarzabal is currently working on a book on the Basque digital diaspora.

Heritage and Diaspora

Ashook Ramsaran, President of GOPIO International

Presented in the Plenary Session 2, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2013 (PBD2013) on 8th January, 2013



Photo above (l-r): Plenary Session 2 – “Heritage and Diaspora” at PBD2013 on 8th Jan, 2013 in Kochi, India:

Ashook Ramsaran, President of GOPIO International, USA; Gopinath Pillai, Ambassador-at-Large, Singapore; Shri Pavan K Varma, author and former Ambassador of India to Bhutan; Sir Anand Satyanand, former Governor General, New Zealand; Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Gov't of India; Baroness Sandeep Verma, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, U K; Dato Seri Dr S. Subramaniam, Minister of Human Resources, Malaysia; Ms Abike Dabiri Erewa, Chairperson of the Nigerian House of Representatives Committee; Shri Yanktesh Permal Reddy, Chairman of Reddy group of Companies.

Hon. Chairman Dr. Shashi Tharoor;
Sir Anand Satyanand; Hon. Dato Sumbramaniam; Baroness Sandip Verma; Ambassador Gopinath Pillai; Ambassador Varma; Hon. Min Kenny of Canada; Hon. Erewa of Nigeria; Other esteemed panelists.

Ladies and gentlemen:

Good afternoon. It seems that we have exploited the full duration of this plenary session with many worthy speakers and near to lunch time with the remaining audience being mostly PIOs and NRIs – in effect, we are educating ourselves and fewer others.

The theme of this plenary session is: Heritage & Diaspora

That is: Our heritage - the legacy of culture and civilization that binds people of Indian origin across various geographies. And, exploring the diverse elements of Indian heritage and values, including traditional knowledge, and their cultural relevance.

My presentation focuses on our heritage, our values and our cultural relevance in the Indian diaspora.

To begin with, I want to explore the make-up and nuances of our Indian diaspora.

I quote from the Indian High Level Commission Report of August 2000:

People of Indian Origin began to migrate overseas in significant numbers only in the 19th century driven by economic compulsions generated by colonialism. In a unique diverse pattern, Indians spread initially to countries of Africa, South East Asia, Fiji and the Caribbean – and the enormous demand for cheap labor after the abolition of slavery. In the second half of the 20th century, a steady flow of professionals to developed countries of the west and India's skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labor in West Asia and Gulf States.

Today there are over 28 million in the diaspora, from recent emigrants to several generations in the so-called older (legacy) diaspora, speaking many languages and residing in numerous countries. In addition, there is a significant number working on temporary visas in both skilled and unskilled jobs. The fact that there are 160 Indian high commissions and consulates confirms the widespread domiciles and increasing numbers of Indians outside of India.

This is indeed a unique phenomenon of migration where the culture, heritage and values bind and bond like an overwhelming dose of hereditary jewels, traits and attributes that reside within us whenever and wherever we go. Indian heritage is like a huge banyan tree, strong and vibrant, with many branches and extremely deep roots of shared values of Indianness that cannot be easily discarded or denied. Indian heritage is undeniably an invaluable source of inspiration and pride.

The fact that we are here at this diaspora event confirms its very existence even while we try to fathom the depths of heritage and how it sustains the diaspora.

Other than the Jewish Diaspora, our diaspora is unique that adds to our legacy, a priceless treasure envied by others, intrinsic in so many ways.

Indian heritage is the cornerstone of the diaspora, transcending time and place, surviving obstacles and severe situations, remoteness and influences. Despite speaking different languages, living in different and sometimes remote places, sustaining and improving our lives, we share heartfelt feelings of Indianness and the urge and yearning to connect and belong. Meanwhile, we have inherited and taken a lot from India and transformed our lives and the new countries of our birth or adoption.

The Indian diaspora is a continuing phenomenon and can be likened to "the export of people seeking better lives for themselves and their families" which we achieve, and subsequently we flourish after assimilation and adaptation with each succeeding generation, while adding to economic progress of our respective countries of domicile. Indian heritage, culture and values are the driving elements for sustenance, survival, achievement, pride and progress at all levels.

The older diaspora, which I refer to as the legacy diaspora, of the Caribbean, Africa, Mauritius and Oceania, have retained more of the Indian culture and heritage intact and in its original form for the many reasons associated with remoteness, harsh living conditions, sense of belonging and togetherness, sustenance and bonding – while some adaptation was necessary, such as with foods and clothing, some conversion to Christianity, and break down of the caste system. Later, some Indian music and songs witnessed a fusion combination such as "Caribbean Chutney".

It seems that wherever we Indians go, we take certain staples that sustain us:

· Mantra; Music; Massala; Memories; Mentoring; Marriage; the importance of Mataji; the value of Money ..and so on.

This identity of Indianness and preservation of culture are often cited by other ethnic groups and used as valuable lessons in consideration of their own expatriates. The Organization of American States and the Commonwealth Symposium in UK recently invited me as one knowledgeable in the Indian diaspora for discussions in El Salvador and Birmingham, UK for recommendations to harness the strength, expertise and assets of their respective groups of expatriates: Latin America; Jamaica; Nigeria and others.

From Durban to Detroit, we have strived to do better for ourselves and have contributed to the new country's progress in significant ways. We have put a woman in space; cell phones in the hands of working people; wiped out polio; excelled in tennis, cricket, chess; earned Nobel prizes for writing and economics, science and technology, etc.

However, we have a knack for reconciling our two (2) identities – our inherent Indianness and birth or newly adopted citizenship. We learn very easily to adapt and co-exist and progress in other countries with multi-ethnic societies far away from India.

Indian heritage is such a powerful asset in the diaspora that some other colonial powers marginalized persons of Indian origin curbing cultural observances and by making it difficult to maintain cultural traditions; despite such efforts, those Indians persevered and sought more to preserve and protect Indian by culture, heritage and values, and survived and remained vibrant.

Note that adherence to Indian heritage and cultural origin should not – and must not – diminish national loyalty. In fact, assimilation and adaptation are key attributes to progressive lives in other birth or newly adopted countries.

Our heritage includes “blessings as well as yokes of burdens” – such as caste; centuries of traditions that contribute to social injustices; perceptions of differences among us while others (non-Indians) do not; inter-generational issues; “don’t worry”; not my fault; “I am not the concerned person”; there’s always an explanation; “no” is not necessarily the last word; restraint; flexibility and looking for another entrance; knowing everything; not helping the cutlery industry; clash of culture” difficulties; recycled leadership in politics, religious and social organizations; etc, etc.

Our diaspora is molded by culture, heritage and values while it also adds to and sometimes influences those traits in both subtle and visible ways: language, clothing, lifestyle, technology and social values.

With innovation, modern communications, advanced transportation and increased levels of mobility, as well as increased opportunities in management, professions, business and entrepreneurship in a growing India, there is re-migration (second journeys). There also some repatriation to India and other diaspora countries after retirement.

Especially among older (legacy) diaspora, there is the yearning to find one’s roots with research and regular trips by PIOs from Caribbean, South Africa and Mauritius to find’s family and “roots”. The “Tracing our Roots” was first discussed at a session I organized at PBD20005 in Mumbai because of the need. The Kolkata Memorial, a diaspora initiative that I worked closely with Government of India to dedicate, is as so symbolic as a beacon of acknowledgement of those who left India as indentured laborers from 1834-1920; the Gadar Centennial movement was also a diaspora initiative event and will be celebrated as such; Mahatma Gandhi’s return to India to fight for freedom is well known.

One must acknowledge and be grateful for the indisputable and invaluable role of civic, cultural, religious and advocacy organizations in preservation of inherent culture and values – such as GOPIO of which I am privileged to be the current president. These have helped promote assimilation with ease, generally peaceful co-existence among multi-ethnic societies. GOPIO is a global Indian diaspora advocacy organization addressing the concerns and interests of the global Indian community and was successful in its petition to the Government of India to establish the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs.

Indian heritage has undoubtedly influenced our lives and in time, we have also influenced the lives of others (non-Indians) in our midst. Visible examples include: Gadar

movement spawned and encouraged others in diaspora countries in their struggle for their independence; Gandhi as model of tolerance and perseverance for those seeking peace, civil rights and equality in USA, South Africa and other countries; celebration and general acceptance of Holi and Diwali by non-Indians.

Courage, reliance, determination, thrift and hard work, competitiveness, faith reverence and respect – hallmarks of Indianness derived from culture, heritage and values that are maintained, nurtured and remain with us beyond the shores of India. The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has provided a tremendous boost to the Indian diaspora with many programs, policies, plans and schemes to embrace and engagement to make it more connected and meaningful. “Embrace and Engage” – sounds like a love affair and that’s what it is !!

As a precaution: It behooves us to take all necessary steps to promote and preserve Indian culture, heritage and values among the younger generation in the diaspora with the influences of technology, mobility and inter-marriage -- lest the diaspora wanes in these attributes that are serving it well.

Living outside of India, we can teach a lot to others while we learn a lot as well. Living outside of India, we have improved and transformed our lives and the countries where we live.

The Indian diaspora is fortunate that nowadays there is freedom to migrate with many available countries which readily accept Indians and persons of Indian origin to settle and become citizens, to make progress at all levels, to bring their extended families, to continue religious and cultural observances, and to live in safety.

I will conclude by saying:

This is an important plenary session and I am hopeful that this leads to a bigger, more in-depth discourse that this topic truly deserves – the why, where, when, who, what, influences, shape and form of the past, present and future – and the effects in a rapidly changing, dynamic and changing diaspora.

Thank you.



Ashook Ramsaran was born in Guyana, third generation of Indian indentured laborers who came to Guyana in 1853 and 1860 respectively. He is founder and president of Ramex, an electronics manufacturing company based in New York, USA. He is president of the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO International) and resides in New York USA with his family., Contact: Ramsaran@aol.com

We invite Students, Researchers and Faculty Members to submit Stories, Reviews, Articles, Working papers and other academic notes to the editor. It will provide the scholars a platform to connect with peer groups working on themes related to Diaspora and Transnationalism. Information related to seminar/conferences/events can be sent to the Editor at: editor@grfddt.com

Study emphasizes the need for changes in the local culture and supportive policies to facilitate benefits of skilled return migration and diaspora in India

Over the past two decades, the increase in international migratory flows from India, especially those of skilled people who leave for a variety of reasons, has resulted in a growing interest among policy makers and researchers. A number of countries from continental Europe, in particular Switzerland, Germany, France and the Netherlands, have joined the market in search of better talent from the Indian sub-continent. The highly skilled immigration from India to Europe is a recent phenomenon and little is known about the various effects on the home and host countries. Such an important phenomenon certainly needs more investigation as it has significant potential development impact on countries involved.

The recently concluded Round Table held on 4th February 2013 at Jawaharlal Nehru University discussed the relevance and implications of the research findings of the

(IDSK) and the International Migration and Diasporas Studies Project of the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), and it was funded by the Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS).

The Round Table gathered participants from various international institutions, including Ms. Tine Staermose, Director, ILO DWT South Asia & CO India; Prof. Mridula Mukherjee, Dean of the School of Social Sciences at JNU; Mr. Martin Strub, Minister Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Switzerland; Mr. Ullrich Meinecke, Counsellor on Social and Labour Affairs, Embassy of Germany; Mr. Nilim Baruah, Regional Migration Specialist, ILO ROAP Bangkok; Mr. Parthasarathi Banerjee, Director of NISTAD; Prof. Binod Khadria, Director of IMDS at JNU; Prof. Uttam Bhattacharya, IDSK; and Dr. Gabriela Tejada, Project Leader at CODEV-EPFL.



The major objective of the project was to advance knowledge on skilled return migration and its impact on development, and to explore strategies to leverage the potential of scientific diasporas. Taking the example of Indian skilled migration, the study offers an evidence-based analysis showing the determinants of the impact that both return and diaspora transnationalism

project on "Migration, Scientific Diasporas and Development: Impact of Skilled Return Migration on Development in India" in practical and policy terms before an audience including various stake holders involved in skilled migration and the migration and development nexus.

The project was implemented by the Cooperation and Development Center (CODEV) of the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), the International Migration Programme MIGRANT of the International Labour Office (ILO), the Institute of Development Studies Kolkata

have on home country development. The strength of this study lies in the fact that it is based on a double perspective (country of origin and countries of destination) and draws on data collected simultaneously in India (returnees) and in four European destination countries (diaspora). The research illustrates the development aspirations of skilled Indians in Europe and their transnational actions to encourage knowledge circulation with India.



Participants during the Round Table discussions

Prof. Uttam Bhattacharya from IDSK

The project team suggestions are given below:

For the Indian government are given below:

- Promoting a welcome culture for returnees and their good integration in the local environment providing good working conditions, better infrastructure and curbing bureaucratic dilly-dallying and red tape.
- Promoting overseas employment and education for skilled Indians and talented students and supporting incentives for their return to India.
- Reinforcing linkages with the diaspora and providing assistance for channelling financial remittances for other developmental activities apart from consumption.

For destination countries:

- Promoting stability and coherency in their migration policies (curbs on an open and shut policy)

- Ensuring equal treatment for migrant workers in local job markets.

For both home country and destination countries:

- Overcoming the dynamic of conflict of interest in transnational return migration.
- Encouraging benefits for both sides at the migration ends.
- Ensuring enabling environments for skills and knowledge transfers both from abroad and upon return.

For employers and migrants:

- Promoting a positive environment to produce desirable outputs with changes in work culture and recognition of the assets of returnees.
- Stimulating some of the values which are important to adapt in foreign environment.

It also shows the incidence overseas exposure has on their professional and social position after returning and the problems they face when transferring their specialized knowledge gained abroad.

The study shows that skilled Indians face several obstacles within the local system once they return to India, and concludes that significant changes in the local work culture and structures together with supportive institutional policies and enabling environments are necessary to facilitate the transfer of the specialized knowledge and

technical expertise skilled migrants accumulate overseas and to create an impact.

A Final Round Table to further discuss the policy relevance and implications of the research findings will take place on 1 March 2013, at ILO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The policy report resulting from the project will be presented at this event.

-A Report by Dr Gabriela Tejada, Project Leader, CODEV-EPFL, Switzerland

Multiple Citizenships and Slippery Statecraft

A talk on "Multiple citizenships and slippery statecraft" by Dr. Margaret Walton-Roberts was organized by the School of Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary Studies, Indira Gandhi National Open University on 14 February 2013. Participants included both students and faculty members of SOITS and other schools. The talk was chaired by Dr. Nandini Sinha Kapur, Director in-charge of the School. The speaker provided a conceptual background of the evolution of citizenship over time. She mentioned that modern notions of liberal citizenship as a bundle of rights, responsibilities, and legal statuses are based on bounded membership in a territorial state. She observed that the emerging forms citizenship are much more complex, in which states use the idea of multiple citizenships in different and contradictory ways.

Dr. Walton-Robert spoke about the citizenship in India and how Indian government responding in introducing new forms of citizenship as a governing strategy with often-contradictory results. In doing so, it reveals insights into how the citizenship-contract and the tensions between the rights and responsibilities of states and citizens are being renegotiated by states through a form of slippery statecraft, a process by which states use citizenship to open membership to some "desirable" populations, while simultaneously employing securitization to "shed" certain other populations.



Dr. Margaret Walton-Roberts
Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario

She particularly highlighted the issue of dual citizenship, People of Indian Origin Card (PIO Card), Overseas Citizenship of India Card (OCI Card) etc. These citizenships exclude certain countries while include some other on the ground of security issues. These facilities are often provided to people who as a result of successful lobbying and negotiation rather than basing on any rational measures. The talk ended with discussions towards the end where issues related to gender, family, regional issues came into.

Seminar/Conferences/Call for Papers

Diversity and Homogeneity The Politics of Nation, Class, and Gender in Drama, Theatre, Film and Media

University of Lodz, Poland

Last date for abstract submission: 1st 2013.

Email: lodzoct2013@gmail.com

<http://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/node/50321>

CBAAC Colloquium 2013

Towards a New Pan-Africanism: Developing Anthropology, Archaeology, History and Philosophy in the Service of Africa and the Diaspora

The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Kingston Jamaica

October 30- November 3, 2013

Last date for abstract submission: 9th April, 2013

<http://www.cbaac77.com/>

Exploring the Portuguese Diaspora in InterDISCIPLINARY and Comparative Perspectives: An International Conference July 25-27)

Anderson University, Brock University, Univ of Lisbon, UMass Amherst

<http://ocs.sfu.ca/pds/index.php/pdaip/2013>

July 25-27, 2013, Indianapolis, Indiana

<http://ocs.sfu.ca/pds/index.php/pdaip/2013>

Diaspora in Middle Eastern Literatures

MLA (Modern Language Association) 2014 Convention, Chicago

Last date for abstract submission: 15 March 2013

Contact Email: eda.dedebas@gmail.com

Bearing Across: Translating Literary Narratives of Migration, 16-17 September 2013

Erasmus University College of Brussels, Belgium

Contact Email:

philippe.humble@vub.ac.be; arvissepp@vub.ac.be

abstract deadline: 13 March 2013

Strangers in New Homelands Conference 2013

17th to 18th October 2013

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Deadline for abstracts/proposals: 31st May 2013

Website: <http://www.strangersconference.com>

Note: The list of information about Conferences/Seminars/Call for Papers in this newsletter are compiled from the web-sources and researchers are requested to contact the organizers and cross check the details before sending the abstract/paper and most importantly before registering.