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Roots and Routes

Monthly Newsletter of the
Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism



GRFDT

Global Research Forum on
Diaspora and Transnationalism



**Roots and Routes disseminates latest information on
research and policy development in Diaspora and transnationalism**

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Editor's Message

Greetings to the readers! GRFDT has completed three fruitful years. Our academic engagements and contributions have been modest with the help of meagre resource. However, GRFDT has made its international presence and has a reach across the board. Meanwhile, we have launched GRFDT monthly Research Monograph Series and have brought out four papers already. The editorial team member's support and cooperation has been encouraging to take a plunge in future.



As usual, this edition of 'Roots and Routes' of GRFDT has interesting features to offer for the migration and Diaspora research scholars. The interview of the Indian –American nuclear scientist turned entrepreneur Dr. Jagdish Saluja reflects the success story of the first generation Indian migrants abroad. The post independent India, a critical phase of nation building, had witnessed the migration of large number of Indian skilled professionals to the developed countries. It is popularly known as 'brain drain' phase in the migration literature. The phase was crucial as it was not able to utilise the talents which were the products of the newly created scientific and research institutions. Dr. Saluja's story represents the thousands of skilled professionals who had left India in the post independent phase and settled abroad. His story represents the aspirations of many in the diaspora who have a longing towards motherland and willing to contribute whatever possible means and ways for its growth and development. In the interaction, he has poured his heart out about the life in Diaspora and his odyssey in the host land. Followed by, the opinion essay titled 'A Tale of Two Giant Diasporas: How Chinese Diaspora outperformed their Indian counterparts?' by Dr. Sadananda Sahoo is thought provoking and provides comparative insights. He delves upon the Chinese and Indian Diaspora engagements with their respective homelands. He argues that the Chinese Diaspora outperformed than the Indian Diaspora by providing empirical evidences.

The book entitled 'Migration in a Globalized World: New Research Issues and Prospects' has been reviewed by Ashwin kumar. He analyses the nitty-gritty of the book in a systematic manner. The 'update' section combines the call for papers, scholarship and job opportunity which has much more to offer for readers. Last but not the least, there is an announcement about the forthcoming seminar of GRFDT by Dr. S.K. Akcapar on 'Turkish Diaspora' which is to be scheduled on 23rd May, 2015. You are most welcome to grace the event and take part in the discussion followed by talk. GRFDT invites scholarly contribution from the young and senior scholars alike for the working research paper series.

Much more to come in the next issue.

Have a fruitful reading!!!!

Dr. Mahalingam M

Guest Editor

India must have Policy that streamlines the needs of the Diaspora to help the country's needs: Jagdish Saluja

With all the talk of the reduction of Red Tape under the Modi Government, the new opportunities will be many in the areas of environment, energy, defense, health care and infrastructure development. I wish I was young again, says Indian American nuclear Scientist and Entrepreneur **Dr. Jagdish Saluja** in an interview with **Dr. M. Mahalingam** of GRFDT.



M. Mahalingam (MM): Could you tell us about your family and yourself until you had left for the US in the year 1955?

Jagdish Saluja (JS): My dad, Kirpa Ram Saluja moved to Bombay (Matunga) in April- May of 1940 to work for the Dalmia's to inspect the tents for the War effort. Dad was concerned all the time about the progression of the war in Europe, the advance of the Japanese in to Burma and almost to the borders of India. Because of safety concerns he sent the family back to the village (Abdoolapur- now part of Pakistan). This uprooting affected our schooling. After the war things were tense again because of concerns as to what would happen after India received its Independence in 1947

We returned to Bombay (this time to Thana) after the end of the war in 1945. One of my brothers was still in Lahore (DAV College) and 2nd one stayed with the Uncle in Abdoolapur. I with three younger brothers & two sisters were in Thana with Mom. In Thana I joined St. John the Baptist School until graduation in 1951, after which I went to St Xavier College in Bombay, majoring in physics and mathematics. I graduated with a B.Sc in physics and maths in 1955.

MM: You were born in 1934 in the village called Abdoolapur, Jhelum, Pakistan. But you grew up in India. Do you face any ambivalence in terms of your Diasporic loyalty?

JS: In the village of Abdoolapur (total population approx. 100), we were the only Hindu family and had lived harmoniously since 1886. My grandfather owned about 80% of the land by 1947 and it was tough for him to move to India, leaving everything he had built. The decision was forced upon him by, my dad and uncle who worked for the Bharat Bank in Delhi at that time

As far as my loyalty goes, I was born an Indian, I grew up as an Indian in Bombay. I changed my citizenship to American, in 1968 when I started working on the US Space Program. This required secret clearance.

MM: What is your point of view on the partition of India in 1947? Was it a political ploy or not?

JS: The partition was the result of Jinnah wanting to satisfy his ego; he was not a religious man. The concept of Pakistan was a result of a Masters Thesis by one of the Muslim scholars, I believe in Oxford. This concept was presented to Jinnah then but he ignored it at that time. It is unfortunate that it happened. The people of Pakistan and the surrounding countries are paying a price for it today.

MM: After obtaining your Ph.D, you came back to India in search of a job in the Indian nuclear establishments, but, you did not get a call from them. At that time, your family friend Dr. Zakir Husain advised you to return back. Why did he suggest you so? What happened there after?

JS: I met the then President at Rashtrapati Bhavan. After talking to him about my background he essentially said that perhaps India was not ready to take advantage of my services at the present time and that I should go back.

Since it was already 6 months since I had gotten my PhD, I was getting rusty and started planning my trip back. I talked to Prof Ram in Cincinnati, Ohio and Prof Ziya Akcasu at the University of Michigan. Ram sent me my plane ticket to come back & Ziya Akcasu sent me \$1500 for my trip expenses for the way. Within a month after arrival, I was working for Westinghouse Electric in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on the Nuclear Rocket Engine Program.

MM: What prompted you to write a biography that is in the making? How did you get the inspiration to write a book on your life journey?

JS: Prof R K. Jain of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) undertook a Study of The Saluja Family Tree back in 1990. The study was completed in 1992 and the report prepared and circulated amongst the Saluja Family members. No one provided any comments, including me as I was too busy in my business related activities. After my retirement from Business in 2007, I revisited the Family Tree report. In reviewing the report, I discovered several errors and omissions. I had some difficulty in locating some family members in the original report. I therefore decided to update the report. The result was the book, "**Migration of Indians across continents spanning generations (A case History of the Saluja Family)**". This book was published in 2010 and is available from Amazon. Com. A year later my younger son Samir, suggested that I write my Biography detailing my vast experiences in the last 70 years and thus this book.

MM: You have globe trotted very often for various reasons. Could you share your global experience as a 'transnational' Indian –American immigrant?

JS: After my MSE in Nuclear Engineering in 1959 from the University of Michigan, I went to work for the Argonne National Laboratory (ANL), one of the original laboratories of the US Atomic Energy Commission. I was assigned to work on the Instrumentation & Control of the Juggernaut Reactor (250KW research reactor). Juggernaut Reactor was supposed to be the next step up from the 10KW research reactor built in Feb 1957. The 10KW was the forerunner of the original Chicago Pile-1 (CP-1), which was the world's first artificial nuclear reactor. **The first artificial, self-sustaining, nuclear chain reaction was initiated within CP-1, on December 2, 1942.**

At Argonne I met many nuclear scientists from around the world; Japan, Korea, Taiwan, India, Turkey, Pakistan, France, Spain, Italy, and U.K. At the University of Michigan I had made friends with students from Philippines, Indonesia and many other countries including the Soviet Union. Therefore my first trip around the world in 1961 was to visit many of my friends whom I had met at Argonne or from the University of Michigan. They all spoke English; so language was not a barrier. They showed me around the cities.

MM: As a settled Indian origin American, What kind of relationship (cultural, economic and political) do you try to maintain with India?

JS: Since I have a couple of brothers and two sisters in India and my wife's family has relations in Delhi and Punjab, I keep on visiting India almost every year. My children visit India for site seeing every 3 to 4 years with their children.

In my business, I tried to develop some small Power Projects in Goa and elsewhere but of no avail. Doing business in India for a small American Company is almost impossible.

MM: Are you an 'Indian American' or 'American Indian'? Which phrase you would prefer to use? Why is that so?

JS: Indian American is the right phrase. American Indians are the original inhabitants of the U.S; The Red Indians.

MM: Are you a member of any of the Indian Diasporic associations in the US?

JS: No

MM: As a parent of an Indian American, What are the issues or dilemma of second and third generation Indian youth in the US?

JS: I did not have an issues living with American Families, in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Downers Grove, Illinois, and Gainesville, Florida. My children likewise did not encounter any problems either. . My younger son however did encounter some problems after 9/11 because of his name as one of the terrorist, had a similar name. He had been stopped by the policetwice and I told him to ignore it because of their ignorance. Both my boys went to University of Michigan. The older

one; Sunil also went to Oxford, U.K, University of Pennsylvania, Harvard, and MIT. He is; Director of a Neonetology Group in Seattle, Washington and the younger one works for Microsoft in Seattle.

MM: What cultural changes have your family undergone? What were the challenges of your family for integration in the host land?

JS: They blended themselves very well and consider themselves as American citizens, which they are.

MM: You went to the US as a student migrant, later you evolved to an economic immigrant and thereafter, a Diasporic entrepreneur. Could you explain in detail about your evolution? What are the prospects for Indian Diasporic entrepreneurs in the US at present?

JS: Consider the times I was growing up; the 40's. My Dad being an avid reader had already picked up a field of endeavor for me; I was going to be a Nuclear Engineer. He had decided on this in 1947- 1948 time frame. He had read about the Nuclear Chain Reaction in Chicago in Dec1942. My eldest brother was going to be a Civil Engineer, #2 would be a Business major, I am #3, #4 would be in Agriculture, #5 would be a Mechanical Engineer and #6 would be an Aeronautical Engineer. The girls would do Home Science. No body was allowed to question parents unlike these days. We all worked hard to satisfy his dreams. My Dad had a construction company; building roads, bridges, dams, railroad tracks from Calcutta to Siliguri in Assam. The old tracks passed through the part of India, which went into Pakistan.

During one of his trips to the US in 1975, my Dad accompanied me to a store to get a few things from there. I picked up only those but my Dad kept on adding more and more. It was the last week of the month and I had limited funds. I told my Dad that I had forgotten to bring my checkbook. He handed me his wallet and told me to take what I needed. He had only 50 and a100 dollar bills; so I took the 50dollar bill. He would not take the change back. At this point in time, I had 2 kids; one 7 year old, and the 2,nd 2 year old. I was 41 years old then. At this age my Dad with only High School education already had 8 children.

I asked my self a logical question; how would I be able to comfortably send my 2 kids through School & College in my new country. It is this reasoning that led me to think that I should, one day start my own company; perhaps some business sense may have rubbed off on me. I left Westinghouse Electric end of 1977 and formed my own company; Viking Systems International to concentrate on Safety of Nuclear Power Plants. The very same year there was a Nuclear Power Plant accident in Pennsylvania and the Nuclear Industry in the US has to this day not completely recovered from it.

Problems with the Nuclear Industry forced me to look at other areas of endeavor. I looked at Energy from Biomass, Solar Photovoltaics, and Biogas. I talked to the government regulators of Commercial Nuclear and Defense Nuclear to provide them expert reviews. The contracts from the above fields got me started. Too much reliance on Government work and foreign Joint Ventures, which never worked finally brought my company down and I closed shop in 2007. In the mean time my children got their education and I never repented my venture. I would never make a millionaire like my Dad.

Prospects for new entrepreneurs are plenty in today's climate; Health Care, Software and even in Nuclear internationally.

MM: Could you comment on the emerging role of Indian American community in the US?

JS: In the 50's there were very few Indians; in spite of this fact, in 1957 we had one Indian American from Yuba City, California to become the first US Congress man in Washington. Today we have 2 governors out of 50 in the US, several congress men from various States, Presidents of Universities, and Indian Americans at the helm of large corporations and many billionaire entrepreneurs. Also there are 2 Indian Americans in Professional Baseball, and 2 Indian Americans in the news media; ABC (Reena Ninan) & CBS (Vineeta Nair).

MM: Do you think that the Indian governments have capitalized upon the potentials of the Indian American community for India's growth and development so far?

JS: I would say no. There are a few Indian Entrepreneurs in the Software Business that have large operations in India. They have taken their money there and hired cheap labor to make it worthwhile for them. Too much red tape and

Corruption makes it prohibitive to develop business that they should be able to. For example I was asked to develop a 100MWe Power Plant in M.P by one of the Ministers there. He wanted 20% Equity in the Plant for providing Land, water and utility connections. I told him that 20% was very excessive, to which he said, 'we will raise the Electricity Rates". In my mind I thought, he wants to screw the public. I never got in touch with him again. I have more examples like this in Maharashtra, and Rajasthan.

MM: You have occupied very eminent positions as a nuclear scientist in the US. Did you play the role of a facilitator for enhancing India's nuclear capabilities at any point of time given your various positions?

JS: Back in 1989- 1990, Mr Suresh Katti, Chairman of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India had asked me if we could provide our Mobile Robot which our Company had developed to retrieve Heavy Water that was leaking out from their RAP's Plant in Rajasthan. I went to RAPS to find out more about their needs. On return to the US, we were able to ascertain that we could help them. Then we applied for a license to export our Robot to India; this was denied, as we could not ascertain that it would not be moved from there, as India had not signed the Non Proliferation Treaty. Several years earlier I had asked Dr. Iyengar that I was available to help out either personally or via my contacts. His answer was that they were self-sufficient and did not need help.

MM: As a Diasporic Indian, How do you see India-US relation in the next ten years?

JS: With all the talk of the reduction of Red Tape under the Modi Government, the new opportunities will be many in the areas of; Environment, Energy, Defense, Health Care and Infrastructure development. I wish I was young again.

MM: Have you obtained dual citizenship scheme offered by the Indian government? What is your point of view on dual citizenship scheme?

JS: If the scheme exists, I am not aware of it. I am a US Citizen and carry a PIO Card. I am for the scheme if it is offered, but I am too old for it. My children were born & brought up here and will not see any point in it for them.

MM: What do you think about the Indo-nuclear agreement? Is the agreement boon or bane to India? Please give an elaborate answer.

JS: I am all for the Agreement. I wish it had happened long ago. Countries such as; Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Spain, Italy, France, U.K, Switzerland, etc, all of them signed long ago. Indian Nuclear Program is older than the one in Spain, Italy, Taiwan, Korea,& Japan. Look where they are in this business today. The Nuclear Chain Reaction was demonstrated in 1942 and President Dwight Eisenhower started his Atoms for Peace Program in 1957. Many countries took advantage of it by sending their scientists for training at the Argonne National Laboratory, including India. Other countries took advantage and developed their Programs but India decided to go it alone; hence, they are where they are.

MM: As a nuclear scientist, how would you assess the Indian nuclear capabilities, establishments and research at present?

JS: Most of my work has been with Pressure Water Reactors- The Westinghouse type. The Boiling Water Reactors (BWR's) were developed at Argonne National Laboratory and later promoted by General Electric. I was present at the meeting when DrHomiBhabba, came to the Laboratory to get a briefing on the BWR Technology and then visit the first plant in Morris, Illinois. He opted for the BWR Technology for their first Nuclear Plants. All subsequent Power Plants were, Heavy Water Plants because of their need for Plutonium for their bomb effort. They then proceeded to develop The Thorium Cycle as India had abundance of Thorium. I have not kept up with their Research Capabilities in the last 15 years.

In the US, the Nuclear Sector is Private; in India it is in the hands of the Government. All hiring and firing is constrained; not so in the US. When I came to India in 1966 after my Phd, I applied at Trombay without going through my Dad's influence. I had to return back.

I am sure the Indian Nuclear scientists are very capable; do they know everything? No, only God knows everything. Over confidence can be harmful. In the US, they get consultants from wherever they can to solve the problem at hand. This is not necessarily true in India. In the US, there are many Universities offering Nuclear Curriculum, In India at least

there was only one in 1967; IIT- Kanpur.

MM: As a Diasporic Indian, in your view, could you comment on the perception of India as a rising power?

JS: In a Democratic Society that we have, and with Corruption rooted in every sector of the economy and non-functional Legal system, it may take more than two terms of Modi's Government to move things in the right direction. In China they can catch them and they are soon history. We are not China.

MM: In your view, what is the important contribution of Indian Diaspora to India so far?

JS: I have not been following their activities, other than a few Software Companies that I know who are active there

MM: As a diasporic Indian, what are your expectations from the government of India? Do you think that the Indian government needs to move forward in terms of its policy towards Diaspora?

JS: Definitely, yes; India must have Policy that streamlines the needs of the Diaspora to help the country's needs. Otherwise it will discourage people. One of my friends from Ireland has made about 20 trips to India and has now given up.

Global Update

Summer Term 2014-15: Teaching Assistant Positions

Emergency Sessional Lecturer Positions

DTS405H1F1 Advanced Topics in Diaspora (Human Trafficking and Contemporary Slavery)

Teaching Assistantships

Emergency Posting CENTRE FOR DIASPORA AND TRANSNATIONAL STUDIES Posted on April 16, 2015 Summer Session: 2014-2015 Applications due April 23, 2015 Course Number and Title Course Enrolment (est.) Number of Positions (est.)

Size of Appointment (hours) Dates of Appointments Qualifications Duties DTS200Y1 Introduction to Diaspora and Transnational Studies (St. George campus)

<http://www.cdts.utoronto.ca/>

Posting Date: April 28, 2015 CENTRE FOR DIASPORA AND TRANSNATIONAL STUDIES Faculty of Arts and Science University of Toronto Emergency

Sessional Lecturer Position

Summer Term 2015 (May) Course Number and Title: DTS405H1F1 – Advanced Topics in Diaspora and Transnational Studies (Human Trafficking and Contemporary Slavery) This course is offered at St. George campus. Course Description: This is a summer intensive course that aims to introduce students to the concepts and various forms of human trafficking and to provide a comprehensive overview of current responses in legislation, policy and practice at a global level, including measures taken to protect the rights of trafficked persons. It includes legal texts of relevant domestic trafficking laws and international conventions and addresses this problem in a multidisciplinary fashion as it relates to migration, economics, human rights, politics, and security.

Call for Paper: International Conference

INDIAN LANGUAGES IN DIASPORAS: STRATEGIES OF RETENTION AND MODES OF TRANSMISSION

All interested participants are requested to send an abstract, in English or in French, **before 30 April 2015**.

The conference focuses on the languages of origin (LO) of the Indian diaspora societies, immigrated during the historical period of indenture that is from 1834 to 1920, known as the historical or old diaspora. They are settled in the following countries and areas: Malaysia, Singapore, Myanmar, Mauritius, Reunion, Seychelles, South Africa, Fiji, Guyana, Suriname, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Trinidad and Tobago. They belong to the two main linguistic groups of the sub-continent: The Indo-Aryan

group: Hindi (Awadhi & Bhojpuri), Urdu, Marathi, Gujarati, Sindhi, Punjabi and Konkani; and the Dravidian group: Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam.

The focus of the present Conference lies on two related aspects of the Indian language diasporic situation as part of the process of identity construction:

1. Strategies of language retention
2. Modes of language transmission

Conference Website: <http://ildconference2015.cgpli.org/>

A Tale of Two giant Diasporas

How did the Chinese Diaspora outperform their Indian Counterparts?

Sadananda Sahoo

Diasporas are a defining phenomena in the globalised world today. They are the people who live outside their home country but have socio-cultural and emotional roots in back in the home country. Various political-economic, historical and environmental forces attract or compel people to leave the country of their origin which subsequently forms the diaspora. In the global population, diasporas are roughly 230 million in count.

Indian economy is very often compared with that of China's. In fact lots of economic comparison can be fruitful if we take the diaspora contribution in to account. Chinese and Indian diaspora are two giant diasporas in the world, combined together the population in both the diaspora roughly ranges from 80 million to 90 million. Some estimate by the Director of Overseas Chinese Affairs Office, the State Council, China mentioned that the number of Chinese in the diaspora is 60 million in 2013. Various estimates including the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs on Indian diaspora also mentioned that the number of Indian diaspora is ranging from 25-30 millions. The number of these two diaspora can cross one billion within next few years for reason that there are growing demands for labour in global job markets especially in many European and USA countries. In addition to this, the advancement in technology and transport facilities further boosts to the human movement across the globe. The number in the Indian diaspora can grow faster than the Chinese diaspora in the coming two decades as the Chinese population getting aging and Indian population is getting younger.

The making of diaspora

Chinese and Indians have been migrating internationally for centuries and both inherit old civilisations. In the pre-colonial era, both Chinese and Indians migrated to many other countries as explorer, business men, traveller. Most of the old diasporas have assimilated in the host societies through intermarriages as the population was very small and there was no frequent contact with the home country. The Chinese Burma, Thailand, Indonesia and the Indians in Indonesia, Burma are also example of assimilation. However, it is the colonial regime under the European power which made drastic demographic change by importing large number of labour from these two countries after the abolition of slavery. Subsequently, the free flow of migration continued as professional and labour in 70s and 90s. The mass migration and their settlement provided more scope for preservation of cultural and so-

cial traits. The two diasporas are very much linked to their home countries despite ideological, ethnic and identity contradictions some occasions.

Spread out across the globe, these two giant Asian diasporas redefined the demographic, social, cultural, political and economic profiles of many countries in the world today. They constitute majority of population in quite a few countries such as in Guyana, Surinam, and Mauritius. Sometimes, the population of Indian diaspora is more than 50 percent in countries such as Trinidad and Tobago. Similarly the Chinese diaspora are a sizable number i.e approximately 33 million in neighbouring Asian countries such as Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Laos, Myanmar etc. Both these diasporas have impacted on the home countries. Two diasporas provide wonderful insights on how the diaspora engages with homeland over the time and how to draw lessons that will help the countries to play a greater role in the globalised world.

Chinese and Indians have been migrating internationally for centuries and both inherit old civilisations. In the pre-colonial era, both Chinese and Indians migrated to many other countries as explorers, business men, and travellers.

Investment and Enterprise

There is no doubt that Chinese diaspora are more enterprising and have a long history of entrepreneurial culture. Old diasporas in the case of China are mostly spread across neighbouring countries in Southeast Asia. Whereas the old Indian diasporas in the same region are culturally active but economically not so active with the home country. The old Chinese diaspora economically vibrant and is one of the leading investor in China. Besides, they also play a great role in promoting the China's economic interest in those regions. China has experienced one of the most remarkable investment booms over the past 3 decades and has become a model for many emerging countries. Foreign direct investment increased from US\$600 million in 1983 to \$40 billion in 2000, \$117.6 billion in 2013. Chinese diaspora is the leading investor i.e 70% of China's recent foreign investment has been provided by diaspora members according to some estimate. Similarly the outward investment by China was tremendously facilitated by their diaspora. Thanks to China's successful strategies in engaging their own diaspora who

are geographically close to the country. India's engagement with her neighbouring countries and diaspora is not very business friendly; most of issues are rather related to social and ethnic problems. Even the effort in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is not very successful in engaging the countries and people in a cooperative manner. Most of the enterprising communities in the region have lost their network (including diasporic network) over the period.

Barring few enterprising communities such as Sindhis, Gujaratis, Chettiars, the large scale enterprise culture among Indian diaspora has emerged since last 30 years especially in USA, UK and partly in Gulf countries. Diaspora investment in India is still not encouraging. The overall Foreign Direct investment to India is about USD 24.29 billion in 2013-14 as against USD 22.42 billion in 2012-13. The diasporic investment is very negligible. It is a big question on why India has failed to attract FDI in general and diaspora investment in particular? Barring few areas such as software, healthcare, the Indian diaspora investment and entrepreneurial activities are very less in India. Though India has been the largest receiver of remittances in the world which is about 71 billion US dollar in 2013 as compared to China's 66 billion US dollar according to World, yet most of these remittances are not investment purposes.

Brain Chain

In recent years we find the policies related to the human and financial capital gaining serious attention. Diasporas are no more considered as brain drain rather they are a transnational network of knowledge pools which can be mobilised for mutual economic, social, cultural and political gains. Efforts are being made from both China and India to harness the diaspora knowledge through philanthropic networks, institutional collaboration, alumni associations, regional associations. Both diasporas are gaining momentum in this areas in recent times. The diasporas are forthcoming where there is mutual gain rather than

one-sided. Chinese diaspora scores high in creating brain chain among diasporas than that of India's. Thanks to China's open policy, tax regime and policy support to diaspora Chinese as venture capitalist who also complemented in providing global platforms to native Chinese entrepreneurs.

Complex Engagement

The actual process of engaging diaspora in the development process is an important policy challenge for the home countries. As policies are outcomes of complex interplay of local and global conditions, including the lobby groups, socio-economic and political conditions of the country, level of development of the home and host countries, technological progress and institutional development such as financial, educational, social etc., diaspora policies differs from countries to countries and time to time. The development engagement is always mediated through social and cultural identities of the diaspora, which are not only very diverse but are also spaces for social, political and ideological contestation. Developing countries face different challenges in the emerging scenario as compared to the developed countries. India and Chinese diaspora will provide insights on how two countries dealt with their own diaspora. The salience of soft skills and knowledge in the new knowledge economy has also been leveraged by developing countries that have a sizable diaspora population. A meaningful diasporic engagement with their respective home countries vis a vis host countries can change the future of entire Asian region to a great extent.

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Forthcoming GRFDT Seminar Series

Turkish Diaspora by Dr. S.K. Akcapar on 23 May 2015 (Saturday)

Dr. Sebnem Koser Akcapar is presently a visiting professor at Visiting Associate Professor Department of Sociology Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Sociology. As a Social and Cultural Anthropologist has worked on wide range of areas such as diaspora, skill migration, Islam, migrant work and social capital etc.

Audebert, Cedric & Dorai, Mohamed Kamel (eds.) (2010); Migration in a Globalized World: New Research Issues and Prospects (IMISCOE Research), Amsterdam University Press; pp. 211

Migration in today's globalized world is an extremely contemporaneous issue which has the attention of academics and policy makers all over the world. It is a matter of great concern to the socio-political and economic landscape of a country, and as such it is vital that a holistic view of the various aspects of international migration, particularly in the light of ever opening of national barriers, emerges. It is towards this goal that this book ostensibly moves towards. Edited by the International Migration Research and Cohesion in Europe (IMISCOE) Research network, this book tries to classify various issues related to international migration through contributions by scholars in the field which give a stylized account of the increasing scope of international migration as well as a critique of the various methodological approaches that engage in it.

The scope of the book is put forward in the introduction given by the editors, Audebert and Dorai giving an insight into the various issues regarding new patterns of international migration and the ways in which they are being researched, laying a platform for the rest of the book. The book then makes a useful separation of the contributions into four broad sub-sections- namely international migration and the challenges of social cohesion, migration and transnational approaches, migration and development, and forced migration. The reader, thus, gains an insight into the scope of the book and its discussions.

This first part relating to migration and the challenges of social cohesion is perhaps the most interesting part of the book with an extremely relevant topic being discussed. While Pennix gives an insight into the evolution of migration policies and debates in Europe over the years and the challenges IMISCOE faces in building a comprehensive framework of analysis, Waldinger and Hanafi present opposite perspectives on a multicultural society brought on by immigration. Waldinger using data provided by the International Social Survey Programme (2003) module on National Identity, analyses to present the views on various topics relating to immigration and multiculturalism as viewed through the eyes of the native population, also presenting a case study of perhaps the two most famous immigrant receiving countries- France and the USA. By doing so, he also presents an impressive breakdown of

various issues as perceived by natives on either side of the socio-political spectrum. Waldinger's view is both countries convergent on reducing overall migration flows, but divergent on issues of retaining ethnic identities of the migrants, with majority respondents in the US for it and in France against it. Hanafi, on the other hand, treads on a very sensitive issue regarding the role of cultural hegemony and freedom of speech and the space in which the immigrant finds oneself in this debate. While Hanafi has used the example of the infamous Danish cartoon controversy in 2005, we have this very debate taking centre stage in the light of the recent terrorist attack on the Charlie Hebdo office in Paris earlier this year. This makes Hanafi's account and reflection all the more relevant in the current context.

The next sub-section deals with the use of transnational approaches to migration studies. This section consists of contributions by Faist, Monsutti and de Tapia and they argue on the pros and cons of using transnational approaches to migration studies. Faist argues for the transnational approaches ending the myopic, segregated view with which migration studies are generally seen by adding a more holistic, less territorialized, and hence, more dynamic view of the migration phenomenon, while Monsutti attempts to find a more robust approach than the one transnational studies provides. de Tapia reflects on the prevalence of various diasporas and their re-construction of community in their articulation of migration in their languages to gain a better understanding of migration studies from these societies, with which traditional research into transnationalism should catch up with.

The next two sub-sections deal with contributions on the mutual dependence of migration and development studies. Skeldon reviews the past twenty years of studies on this topic, particularly with regards to remittances, the use of diasporas in development and the issue of brain drain. He then looks forward into the importance of this view of taking migration and development and mutually reinforcing phenomena. This is a view concurred by Gonin who argues that immigrants as "frontier-runners" of development between their countries of origin and destination, building connections and intermediaries among various levels of multilateral development efforts. Gonin hopefully looks at various instances of migrants' role in "co-development" in the areas of origin in terms of remittance and transfers of "know how" as a major way forward in bridging the development gap between the two countries.

The last section deals with the issues of forced migration and the importance of refugee experiences in order to provide a perspective on how it affects the socio-political landscape of the area. Here, Agier tackles the important issue of forced migration and subsequent challenges of "statelessness" among refugees in the destination country, with a strong criticism of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and their handling of the situation. Citing examples from Afghanistan and Sudanese refugees in Egypt, almost goes as far as accusing the UNHCR of abandoning these refugees when they required support the most. A similar criticism is seen in Lassailly-Jacob's essay, which gives a case study based analysis of forced migration and return of asylum seekers to their homeland, from the African continent. She finds an overall difference between policies of international agencies like the UNHCR and the Organization of African Unity on the return of asylum seekers and the consequent problems it creates. A final chapter by the editors then neatly summarizes all the arguments presented in the book to round off the discussion.

While the book does an admirable job of presenting various topics of discussion in the realm of international migration studies, there is clearly much more that can be debated in this realm. For example- the prevalence of migration between developing countries is just as widespread as migration from developing to developed countries. Although the book addresses this issue in passing,

there is much that can be discussed in this context and how it intersects the various sub- topics that the book makes. The section on forced migration, a very important topic, could have done with a larger overview along with the two contributions already there. The look on transnationalism and the role it could play in migration studies in a globalized world has been discussed well and along with the section on social cohesion and its challenges provides some compelling insights. The main question, however, is that- does the book eventually justify the title and give us an insight in to problems on researching migration problems in an increasingly globalized world? The answer is both yes and no. One feels that the scope of the title being so big, the reader is unlikely to gain any concrete understanding of the subject and the book is also limited in its ability to convey the complexity of it. Having said that, though, what the book does achieve is to provide a starting point, if not a comprehensive view, into analyzing the various issues present in the study of international migration. This could be a valuable foundation for someone who would be interested in picking up on ones of the topics for further study. Perhaps with some more work from here, a more comprehensive compendium can be made.

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Review by Ashwin Kumar, Researcher on International Migration, Email: ashwin@subsmail.com

Forthcoming Books

Asian Migrations

Social and Geographical Mobilities in Southeast, East, and Northeast Asia

By Tony Fielding
Routledge – 2016 – 288 pages

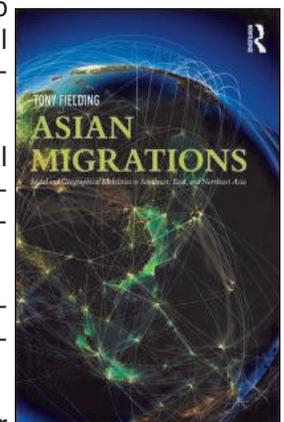
This textbook describes and explains the complex reality of contemporary internal and international migrations in East Asia. Taking an interdisciplinary approach; Tony Fielding combines theoretical debate and detailed empirical analysis to provide students with an understanding of the causes and consequences of the many types of contemporary migration flows in the region.

Key features of Asian Migrations:

- Comprehensive coverage of all forms of migration including labour migration, student migration, marriage migration, displacement and human trafficking
- Textboxes containing key concepts and theories
- More than 40 maps and diagrams

- Equal attention devoted to broad structures (e.g. political economy) and individual agency (e.g. migration behaviours)
- Emphasis on the conceptual and empirical connections between internal and international migrations
- Exploration of the policy implications of the trends and processes discussed

Written by an experienced scholar and teacher of migration studies, this is an essential text for courses on East Asian migrations and mobility and important reading for courses on international migration and Asian societies more generally.



MIGRATION AND WORKER FATALITIES ABROAD

Author- AKM Ahsan Ullah, Mallik Hossain, Kazi Maruful Islam
Publisher: Palgrave Pivot

In recent years, the alarming number of fatalities among migrant workers has stirred up much controversy. Most cases of migrant fatalities were reported from countries in the Middle East and South East Asia, and their deaths were the result of unhealthy food habits, poor access to health services, mental stress and dangerous working conditions. These fatalities are also due to flaws in the policies of the governments, of both origin and destination. This book investigates conditions, policies and impacts of fatalities. The authors argue that migrant workers are often powerless and unprotected by national laws, and unearth new truths about migrant workers and their increased significance as an economic and political player.

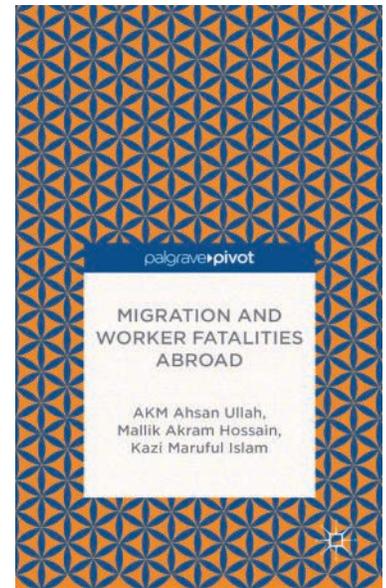
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TRANSNATIONAL AGENCY AND MIGRATION ACTORS, MOVEMENTS, AND SOCIAL SUPPORT

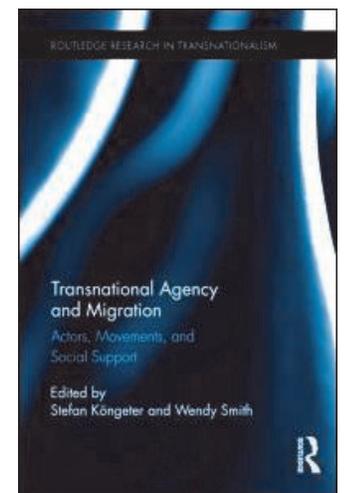
Edited by Stefan Köngeter, Wendy Smith
Routledge – 2015
Series: Routledge Research in Transnationalism

Migrants, both spatially and mentally, no longer settle in only one national territory but interact or move across borders regularly, profoundly challenging the nation-state and the image of society as a container. This volume explores the ways in which migrants, activists and professionals connect social worlds across national boundaries through a variety of social practices. The contributions from various disciplines - anthropology, economics, political and social sciences, educational studies and social work - illuminate the meaning of agency in situations where the capabilities of transnational actors are constrained by nation-states, their borders and social institutions. Based on a relational understanding of transnational agency which builds upon new insights and developments within transnational studies and network theory, this compilation of chapters presents transnational pro-

cesses and developments in and across various regions of the globe - in East Asia, the Americas, the EU, Southeast Asia, Africa and Australia, in the borderlands of Mexico and the US, in the transatlantic space of the 19th-century fin de siècle world - in order to demonstrate the importance of gaining, assisting and expanding agency in transnational contexts.

Stefan Köngeter is Professor for Social Pedagogy at the School of Education, University of Trier, Germany.

Wendy Smith is an anthropologist in the fields of Management, Religious and Asian Studies.



We invite Students, Researchers and Faculty Members to submit a small write up of their achievements and awards 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