



Web-Talk

“The Future of Migration: Issues and Challenges in Post Pandemic Societies”

(Organised by India Offices of Max Planck Gesellschaft and University of
Göttingen)

Wed. 29th March 2023

Time: 14:00-15:30h IST (10:30-12:00h CET)

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to an unprecedented global turmoil impacting the very fabrics of societies. With the onset of the pandemic and the ultimate shutting down of businesses, industries, academic institutions, religious and other public places, freedom of movement has been significantly restricted in public life leading to unimaginable uncertainties for the future. Such measures of restrictions on the free flow of human movement from local, national to the trans-national level is believed to limit the risk of infection. In other words, this pandemic is far more than a health crisis; it has further implicated economies, politics, ecology, human relationships, labour market, socio-religious practices, legal and educational systems. Due to the pandemic, several countries have also slowed down the processing of migration and assistance to asylum seekers while some countries have temporarily suspended labour migration. The travel restrictions have further implicated academic mobilities for many students both at national and transnational level. Moreover, fake news, misinformation and politicization of the pandemic have become so prevalent, leading to stigmatization and social isolation of migrants which may ultimately hinder the process of integration to their host destination. This pandemic has illustrated that the cause and effect of migration are interwoven and undergoing the process of fundamental change.

Even though we are still in the midst of the pandemic crisis, it is time to take stock of the lessons learnt from the past two years in order to prepare the future of migration once we have started to overcome the pandemic. Therefore, in this crucial juncture, it is important for scientists, researchers, legal and policy makers to not only understand and evaluate the current issues and challenges brought forth by the pandemic. It is an imperative task to develop future-oriented approaches to tackle the global crises and its implications on national and transnational migration. There is need to delve crisis of the pandemic into an opportunity for remedial action in order to reshape our world for future generations to come. This web talk to be organised by the India Offices of Max Planck Gesellschaft and University of Göttingen will thus try to explore the social impact and lesson learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic; to examine various academic approaches in addressing the future of migration in post-pandemic era so as to build a robust and healthy society. The outcome of this deliberation aimed at enriching the knowledge/literature on best practices and well-functioning of an Indo-German academic cooperation.

Topics which may be deliberated during the web-talk:

- How India and Germany respond to migration crisis in times of COVID-19 pandemic internally as well as on a global scale.
- Impact of the pandemic on migration drivers and characteristics.
- Are there any lesson learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic in order to reduce the risk of future crises? e.g. global and national response initiatives addressing labour market, gendered migration, climate change, social and economic inequality.



- Has there been any change in migration channels and public opinion towards migrants due to the pandemic? Forms of media representation of migration and whether it will have an impact on socio-cultural and adverse economic consequences in the future.
- The most urgent and momentous challenges encountered by scientists, researchers, legal and policy makers in order to probe the migration crisis in the light of geopolitical, ethical or identity approaches; whether there are remedial action and/or approaches in building a robust global society.
- How to address the entanglements between migration policy and work within the multiple forms of work and labor?
- How to address the entanglements between measures taken by the government on migration policy and the subsequent interventions into basic democratic rights. E.g. freedom of movement and its impact on the right to protest, freedom of religion and how far should public life be sacrificed to save actual lives.
- Aspects of government policies (India and Germany) to tackle the pandemic within the multiple folds of resistance – travel restrictions, public and religious gatherings, shut down of businesses, schools/universities, etc.

Program format/schedule:

- Keynote address (30 minutes followed by Q&A):
Prof. Steven Vertovac, Founding Director at the Max-Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, and Honorary Professor of Sociology and Ethnology at the University of Göttingen, Germany
- Panel Discussion
Moderator: Prof. Aparna Rayaprol, Professor and Former Head, Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad
Panellists:
 - **Prof. Sabine Hess**, Professor at the Institute for Cultural Anthropology/European Ethnology and Managing Director, Center for Global Migration Studies (CeMig) University of Göttingen
 - **Prof. Manish Jha**, Professor, School of Social Work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai
 - **Dr. Zeynep Yanasmayan**, Head of Migration Department, German Centre for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM)

Event Type – Web Talk

Online Platform: Registration Link: https://uni-goettingen.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Gwbgm6j2Rp-796ZBR3nOxA

- Panelist link will be sent to each speaker. This is a unique id for direct access to the webinar. Please do not share this link to others as it is unique to you. Speakers do not need to register for the Conference.

Target Audience: Academicians, researchers, students, human rights advocates, civil-society organization and policy makers.



Speakers profile:

- **Prof. Steven Vertovec** is Founding Director of the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, and Honorary Professor of Ethnology and Sociology, University of Göttingen, Germany. Previously he was Professor of Transnational Anthropology at the University of Oxford and Director of the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS). His research interests surround international migration and transnationalism, social difference and diversity. Prof. Vertovec is author of five books including *Transnationalism* (Routledge, 2009) and *Super-diversity: Migration and Social Complexity* (Routledge, 2023), and editor or co-editor of thirty-six volumes including *Conceiving Cosmopolitanism* (Oxford University Press, 2003), *The Multiculturalism Backlash* (Routledge 2010), the *Routledge International Handbook of Diversity Studies* (Routledge, 2015), *Diversities Old and New* (Palgrave, 2015), and the *Oxford Handbook of Superdiversity* (Oxford University Press, 2023). Prof. Vertovec has acted as expert or consultant for numerous agencies, including the UK Home Office and Department for International Development, British Council, the European Commission, the G8, World Bank and UNESCO.
- **Dr. Aparna Rayaprol** is Professor at the Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad and was the Head of the Department from 2014-2017. She was Director of the Study in India Program from 2009-14. She is the author of *Negotiating Identities: Women in the Indian Diaspora*, New Delhi, Oxford University Press, 1997 and her areas of academic interest include gender studies, Indian diaspora, qualitative research methods and urban sociology. Earlier, she was an Associate Professor in Research Methodology at the Tata Institute for Social Sciences in Mumbai. She was a faculty member on the Semester at Sea Fall 2003 Voyage which went around the world teaching courses in sociology. Her PhD was from the University of Pittsburgh, USA. She was at Princeton University's Center for the Study of American Religion in 1998-99 for post-doctoral work. and has many research publications. She is a reviewer for manuscripts for Oxford University Press, Sage Publications and Orient Blackswan. She has served on the Indian Council of Social Science Research Committee, the Fulbright board and several educational institutions. She was with the Study in India Program (SIP) at the University of Hyderabad since its inception in 1998 and has been closely involved with the internationalization of the university. She is involved in several gender sensitisation initiatives in the media beyond the academic realm.
- **Prof. Sabine Hess:** Sabine Hess is professor at and the director of the Institute of Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology at the University of Göttingen. Since her PhD research on transnational migration of Slovakian women into domestic work in Germany, published as "Globalised Domestic Work: Au-Pair as a Migration Strategy for Eastern European Women" (VS-Verlag. Wiesbaden 2005), processes of transnationalization and Europeanization have been at the center of her research interests, with a focus on migration and border policies. She was the coordinator of and a researcher at the European research and film project "TRANSIT MIGRATION" founded by the Cultural Foundation of Germany from 2003 to 2005. Currently, she coordinates the interdisciplinary "Laboratory on Migration and Border Regime Studies" at the University of Göttingen, which provides space for regular discussions on theories and research in the respective fields for 15 PhD students and PostDocs. She is also the co-founder of the interdisciplinary European "Network for Critical Migration and Border Regime Research" (Kritnet) and a member of the German Council for Migration (Rat für Migration). Prof. Hess has published, co-authored, and co-edited widely in the fields of migration and border regime studies, anthropology of globalization, transnationalism, and policy, as well as Europeanization, gender studies, and anthropological methodologies.
- **Prof. Manish K. Jha** is a Professor at the School of Social Work at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. He has served as Dean, School of Social Work (2015-2018) and Chairperson, Centre for Community Organisation & Development Practice (2012-2015). He had served as a faculty in the Department of Social work, University of Delhi from 1999 to 2003.



In an academic career spanning over two decades of teaching and research on Social Policy, Social Action and Social Movement, Rural society and State, Community Organization and Development Practice, etc., Prof Jha has had the opportunity to engage with students, academicians, development professionals, leaders of the multilateral and non-profit organization across different parts of the country and abroad. He has extensive engagement with post-disaster relief and rehabilitation intervention. Prof. Jha has published books and edited volumes on Politics of Social Justice and Development and on Human Rights. He has published numerous articles on Migration, Popular Politics, Social Justice, Poverty and Urban space and Disaster and Development, etc. in peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes. He has authored several reports and research projects for Government agencies and Non-profit organizations. He has led several international and national collaborative research projects. He is a member of governing board of various universities, research organizations, and NGOs. His research interest includes social policy, structural social work, poverty, and social justice, migration; and middle classes in Indian cities.

- **Dr. Zeynep Yanasmayan** is the Head of Migration Department, German Centre for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM). She holds a PhD in Social Sciences from KU Leuven, Belgium. Before joining the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in 2017, she worked as a research fellow at various institutions, including Humboldt University in Berlin, European University Viadrina, and the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Göttingen. She has also taken part in several international projects and served as the Scientific Project Manager of the project 'Religious Diversity and Secular Models in Europe – Innovative Approaches to Law and Policy' (RELIGARE) at KU Leuven and of the project 'God and Caesar in Motion' at the European University Viadrina. In her research she investigates the interactive relationship between national policies of diversity and the sociological 'reality' on the ground. To that end, she often makes use of comparative and interdisciplinary research designs and combines documentary and policy analysis with qualitative research methods. Her research interests include Migration studies; politics, theories and practices of citizenship; governance of religious diversity; politics and religion; constitutional politics; majority-minority relations; law and society