



## Call for Abstracts: Study Day

### **Feminist research on forced displacement in South Asia: Survival, labour, and the reproduction of life**

**Date:** 9 – 10 January 2025

**Location:** New Delhi, India

**Organizers:** Raksha Gopal, Luisa Lupo and Elisabeth Prügl (Geneva Graduate Institute)

**Submission Form:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkkS\\_vdgbukAJrebu-5AOgguw8z\\_F-yO82VqifE6KDQ5ct5w/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkkS_vdgbukAJrebu-5AOgguw8z_F-yO82VqifE6KDQ5ct5w/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Over the last three decades, there has been a global rise in the number of forcibly displaced persons in South Asia, accompanied by destruction and reconfiguration of modes of life. This is not only a direct result of violent conflicts and the securitization of migration by states, but also a consequence of decades of failed developmental policies, expulsions, and exploitation spurred by the interlocking predatory dynamics of the nation-state system and globalized neoliberal economy. We propose a study day to jump-start an interdisciplinary discussion on forced displacement, survival, and labour that centres on the experiences of women and marginalized persons in South Asia.

The concept of ‘survival’ – as a set of collaborative and potentially transformative practices – might provide a useful lens for thinking about these processes while recognizing that refugees and migrants are more than ‘bare lives’. Survival includes practices of social reproduction, that is, the reproduction of labour and of life itself. Embedded in the structures of the neoliberal economy, survival practices are gendered and racialized.

There are several efforts to develop scholarship on these issues, but scholars are currently working in relative isolation from each other within the boundaries of their disciplines. Social reproduction and economic violence play a marginal role in research on forced displacement and they are rarely put into conversation with matters of (in)security. Yet, feminist research in/from South Asia – a region with 3.9 million forcibly displaced and stateless people, particularly due to conflicts in Afghanistan and Myanmar – can significantly contribute to advancing this scholarship further.

The purpose of the study day will be to present research findings, develop a roadmap on how to strengthen research on forced displacement, link issues of social reproduction with migration, neoliberalism, and violent conflict, and think collaboratively about what a world would look like that brought forcibly displaced persons justice.

The study day is co-organized by Raksha Gopal, Luisa Lupo, and Elisabeth Prügl from the Geneva Graduate Institute, Switzerland, and is part of the project ‘[Gendering Survival from the Margins](#)’ funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation. It will provide an opportunity to the research team and the

invited researchers to present findings and receive feedback, engage in enriching discussions, and broaden our academic network. The role of the invited speakers will be to present their research and the issues they consider most pertinent to advancing feminist scholarship on forced displacement and survival both in terms of research gaps and methodologies. We invite submissions of abstracts for research papers, including works-in-progress, specifically based on South Asian contexts, which address themes including (but not limited to):

- Gendered and racialized dimensions of survival in displacement
- Intersectional and decolonial approaches to studying forced displacement
- Neoliberal policies and their impact on displaced women and marginalized groups
- Gendered aspects of labour and social reproduction in displaced communities
- Feminist theoretical approaches to understanding migration and displacement
- Participatory research methods with displaced communities
- Advocacy, community organising and policy-making for the rights of forcibly displaced persons

### **Submission Guidelines:**

- Send your submission using this google form:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkkS\\_vdgbukAJrebu-5AQgguw8z\\_F-yO82VqifE6KDQ5ct5w/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkkS_vdgbukAJrebu-5AQgguw8z_F-yO82VqifE6KDQ5ct5w/viewform?usp=sf_link)
- Abstract Length: 300 words (maximum)
- All abstracts must be in English.
- Deadline: 15 September 2024
- Please include the following information with your abstract submission:
  - Title of the paper
  - Author(s) name(s), affiliation, and contact information
  - A brief biography (up to 100 words)

### **Funding:**

Some funding is available to support travel and accommodation costs for selected participants. Please indicate in your submission form if you would like to be considered for funding support.

**For any queries, send us an email at [gendering.survival@graduateinstitute.ch](mailto:gendering.survival@graduateinstitute.ch)**