

**Centre for Development Studies (CDS)  
Trivandrum, Kerala**

**in collaboration with  
Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development**

International Conference on

**Migrations, Mobility and Multiple Affiliations:  
Punjabis in a Transnational World**

25-26 February 2010 at  
Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID), Chandigarh

**Call for Papers**

Migrations from Indian Punjab have a comparatively long history, resulting in greater visibility for the community in a transnational world of exchange and circulation. The extent of Punjabi participation in migrations from India has been such that the inherent migratory proclivity attributed to the Punjabis has almost become a national folklore over years. However, far from a single and linear story, the migration from Punjab, starting from the colonial times and still continuing, has undergone significant transformation in terms of composition, destinations and dynamics. The migrations, along with the creation of a Punjabi diaspora, have transformed Punjabi society and economy in varied ways as much as they have added to the multicultural fabric of the respective transit and destination countries. The economic and social remittances of the diaspora play a complex yet vital role in Punjab. Previously, the homeland politics of the diaspora and emotional hurt felt about the developments back home resulted in the extension of economic and ideological support to separatist movements. Continuing affinities are now manifested in investments for family, religion, public institutions, recreation activities, philanthropy and rural infrastructure, which have been heralded as constructive. Indeed, there has been increasing realisation of the importance of diaspora as a strategic asset for the home country at the local, regional and national levels. However, it has often been pointed out that a considerable amount of diaspora spending in Punjab is concerned with social prestige, seemingly indifferent to the efforts of the state to channel diasporic resources into investments deemed to be more productive. The social practices and life course rituals among the diaspora continue to hold their ancestrality, but have new meanings attached. The long trajectory of migrations, with destinations and concerned social groups changing over time, has common-sensed a notion of mobility in Punjab. This has produced a powerful economy of emigration-related services, bolstered by a pervasive social compulsion to emigrate, including emigration through marriage. This conference will address the changing and multifaceted phenomenon of migrations from Punjab, with their complex social, economic, political and cultural ramifications.

Evidently, the issue of migrations from Punjab has already generated a considerable amount of academic interest. The two-day international conference on “Migrations,

Mobility and Multiple Affiliations: Punjabis in a Transnational World” seeks to take stock of the existing research and more importantly, bring together the most recent and ongoing studies on Punjabi migrations and diaspora. The conference also seeks to draw together academic research on diverse aspects of Punjabi migration in an attempt to think beyond the current state of art. The conference is conceived as the backdrop of an ongoing research project of CDS, namely ‘Transnationalisation, Migration and Transformation: Multi-Level Analysis of Migrant Transnationalism’ (TRANS-NET), and aims to collect a set of absorbing researches on Punjabi migration into an edited volume.

Sub-themes of the conference include, but are not limited to, the following:

- History of Punjabi migration, trends, patterns and dynamics
- Political economy of migrations, channels of emigration, licit and illicit
- Socio-economic roots and consequences of Punjabi migration
- Transnational economic flows, remittances and transformation
- Development, diaspora resources, philanthropy and rural transformation
- Multiple affinities, transnational practices and channels of homeland relations
- Class, caste, gender and sexuality
- Political negotiations, separatism and changing homeland politics
- Diaspora practices of religion and spirituality
- Transnational marriages, mobility and discontents
- Education, mobility and brain circulation
- Transnational Punjabi identities
- Translation of cultures in the host and home locations
- Intersecting memberships: covalence of local, regional and global

We invite senior and young scholars working on Punjabi migration to the conference and welcome scholars across a range of disciplines. Interested scholars may please send abstracts of their papers (to a maximum of 800 words) before 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009 to the coordinators of the conference. Selected scholars will have to submit the full paper by 15 January 2010. CDS will bear the expenses for travel and local hospitality of the selected participants.

**Coordinators:**

Prof. S. Irudaya Rajan ([rajan@cds.ac.in](mailto:rajan@cds.ac.in))

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**Important Dates:**

30 October 2009	Submission of abstracts
20 November 2009	Notification of selected papers
15 January 2010	Submission of final papers