



# Organisation for Diaspora Studies

**Volume. 2, Number. 1,**

**January- March 2010**

## ***Editor's Note***

This issue of Newsletter has a wide range of coverage i.e international news, conference and calls for paper, books...etc. which diaspora scholars will find useful.

Organization for Diaspora Initiatives (ODI) has conducted several panel discussions, round tables engaging policy experts, academics, civil right activists and third generation diaspora to create a meaningful dialogue to harness the mutual benefits.

All the events had overwhelming participation of the diaspora scholars across various institutes and regions and from variety field of expertise. This newsletter has a brief coverage of those events.

## **ODI Newsletter**

**January – March 2010 Vol. 2, No. 1**

Institutional News International Diasporas Indian Diaspora Seminar/Conferences Call for Paper Book News Organization for Diaspora Initiatives

(ODI) is working to understand the status and role of diasporic communities across the globe both in domestic and international context. It maps the emerging roles, networks and operations of different diasporic communities as a resource in the international civil society space as well as in the host and the home countries. ODI specifically focuses on Indian Diaspora as the main thrust of research.

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## Institutional News

### Round Table

#### “Reassessing the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas”

A Round Table was organized by the Organization for Diaspora Initiatives, New Delhi on 10 January 2010 on the theme “Evaluation of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas”. Delegates that constitute academicians, politician, administrators, students as well as activists from various countries such as Malaysia, France, and Netherlands delved on the issue. Prof. Ajay Dubey, president of ODI and senior professor of JNU, Delhi introduced the theme where he raised many issues such as how PBD is relevant today and its stake holders over the years are expanding. They include a large civil society, Diaspora organizations, Government, Informal Groups of Diaspora, Nation States, Academia have been gaining more engagement in the theme than ever before. He mentioned about the road map that the PBD followed till today. What are the strong points and weak points of the progressive involvements with the diaspora/ Does Indian diaspora policy is the extension of Indian interest?



From Left to Right: Mr. Daniel, Ambassador J.C. Sharma, Prof. Ajay Dubey

Shri J.C. Sharma, one of the key architects of the High Level Committee on Indian Diaspora and also a distinguished scholar on diaspora was the main speaker of the session. He mention that the main points which require critical analysis are below:

1. How PBD is evolved since 2001 to 2010.
2. How it has achieved its goals and what are its short comings.
3. The way forward

He also raised some concern that whether PBD should be an annual event at all? The present Ministry is thinking of organizing this event in once in two years. How do they intend to make Pravasi Bharatiya as two-year event? Based on his experience in two PBD which he attended, he mentioned that the destination and the structure of the programme were already handed over to the government by the earlier government. He mentioned that the NDA Government had organized the first PBD in Delhi and the fourth PBD was in Hyderabad which he attended. he lauded the initiatives taken by the FICCI which was the key organizer of the event.

The first problem with the PBD is that it is USA centric. Indian Diaspora in USA is rich and everyone wanted to leverage these. He mentioned that the idea of PBD came when he was consul general of Chicago. The 9<sup>th</sup> January as the date for PBD was finally selected because of the importance it has due to the date on which Mahatma Gandhi had returned from South Africa. It was finalized after consensus.

Importance was given to each region. Over the years also PBD was organized in different regions as diaspora is represented from each region.



Minister from Malaysia who represented his Ministry in the PBD mentioned that “I am neither an NRI nor a PIO. My roots are from Srilanka (Jaffana). My wife is from Kerala thus he is indirectly connected to Indian diaspora. He mentioned that the organization of PBD was political. He represents the Indian component of (Malaysian Congress). He mentioned that the real purpose of PBD is to attract investment.

He mentioned that Diaspora is more than just attracting rich and philanthropy, skills and knowledge. There are also other issues such as political and social problems in the Diaspora such as the Fiji crisis. The external ministry must have intervened in the process. The issue of Srilankan Tamils must have been figured in the diaspora. He questioned the governments ignorance on the above issues “should it be so constrained that we cannot talk about Tamil issues in Sri Lanka?”. He emphasized that diaspora should be more than just business.

A student from USA mentioned that PBD is important platform for sharing ideas and it provides space for networking. But unfortunately there is no formal place to engage ideas in the PBD. He mentioned that the PBD should organize workshop type events to develop a comprehensive understanding. He complained that “social issues are not properly addressed in the PBD”. He observed that the second generation diaspora are interested more on social issues. They have new perspective to

engage in more meaningful way. He mentioned that they are greatly interested in the social issues such as inequality, diaspora culture and human rights. He mentioned that the PBD will be successful if the above issues are addressed in meaningful manner.

Constantino Xavier mentioned that the government is not doing much with regards to regional diaspora. Raising the issue of Goan diaspora, he mentioned that regional diasporas are part of the concern of the larger diaspora policy.

Minister from Malaysia mentioned that the format of the conference does not facilitate discussion. He mentioned that there is a need for smaller sessions. There should be provision (funding facilities) for NGOs and social groups interested in the issues as many of them cannot fund themselves. Many issues that are important such as welfare of the migrant workers. He mentioned that Indian migrants are most oppressed groups in comparison to other migrant group in Malaysia but for that relevant group must come to the platform and discuss instead of people who are not concerned.

Answering to the Minister from Malaysia Shri J.C. Sharma mentioned that there are some issues which are sensitive. The principle of diplomacy is that government should not be seen as interfering in the matter of other country. When the organization is Government it has to work within the broader framework of the foreign policy.

Shri J.C. Sharma also mentioned that social issues such as gender were figured from second Pravasi onwards. Unfortunately the logo of PBD has changed now. The logo now has a nuclear symbol. He lamented that “it is quite unfortunate to place Mahatma Gandhi picture next to atom”. Shri Sharma also mentioned that there is a gradual absence of media coverage of pravasi

event in recent years. The editorial column in many national news papers had nothing this time (2010). Many of the media opinion that the Government is just wasting money as it just involves businessman who anyway can afford their own event. PBD is more of a marriage mela where the rich NRIs are the beneficiaries (not even PIOs).

Prof. Vijay Laxmi observed that the Government made PBD as a cultural and nationalistic event rather than civic engagement with the social issues. PBD must take into social issues to sustain its relevance.

The student from USA mentioned that Indian diaspora youths would like to involve in development issues. They may not be patriotic but many of them are concerned about social issues. He lamented that there is not much happening in the PBD to create a platform for meaningful engagement with the diaspora youths.

Daniel emphasized that there is a need for structured monologue in the PBD. Research on how PBD can do better is required. He mentioned that all countries have their own mission. It is also important to have at least a five day academic conference to discuss on substantive issues, which can be done through special group discussion.

Ambassador Paramjit Singh Sahay mentioned that PBD is only celebrating the success story and problems are not addressed. Media is not celebrating PBD in recent times rather it is dissenting. To make the PBD fruitful, he suggested having more “working sessions” to focus on relevant issues. PBD is perceived largely as Government show. He said many in the diaspora may not feel to join hand with the Government as it has been seen in the area of philanthropy.

Helen from Germany mentioned that the PBD had very little participation from organizations such as associations, NGOs etc. Many participants were rather individuals who are rich businessmen. She concluded that business plays a crucial role in the PBD as their representation was stronger in the event.

Prof. Ajay Dubey focused on two major issues: 1) Voting Rights (If diaspora wants to vote, they need to come to India), 2) What India can do for diaspora is not mentioned; rather what diaspora can do for India was emphasized. Prof. Dubey said that PBD is not consolidating as there is clear cut focus or perspective in its activities. He emphasized that it is the time to network globally for economic development.

## **Discussion**

### **Decentralization and the Marginalized: The Mauritian Experience**



## Round Table

### African Diaspora in India and Indian Diaspora in Africa: A Comparative Perspective



## Round Table

### Indian Diaspora in UK chief Speaker Ravinder Barn,

Professor of Social Policy and Social Work at  
Royal Holloway, University of London  
On 18, February, 2010

organised by Organisation for Diaspora  
Initiatives (ODI)



In her presentation, Ravinder Barn examined the way in which second generation Indian parents in the UK are experiencing the transmission of heritage languages to their offspring. She provided an authoritative account of the linguistic transmission

experiences of Indian parents living in a land where they continue to be perceived and marginalised as the 'other'. This round table talk explored in detail the perceptions of 'ordinary' Indian parents about the crucial but challenging aspect of being a parent in a diasporic context. She started by differentiating the Old Diaspora and the New Diaspora in UK. The Old Diaspora are those who migrated primarily in the 19<sup>th</sup> century for instance to Fiji, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Mauritius. The New Diaspora are those who migrated in the 20<sup>th</sup> century for instance to UK, USA and Canada, which includes people from three categories:

1. People who have moved to UK as a matter of choice- Gujaratis for business, Punjabis for business and Karnataka and Tamil Nadu as IT workers.
2. People who have moved to UK as a result of Brain Drain- doctors, nurses, social workers, engineers etc.
3. People who have moved to UK as a result of Multiple Migrations- Indian who have moved from Africa to UK.

Indians in UK constitute about a quarter of the minority. The Indian Diaspora in UK was described in detail by her giving proper account of the number of people present. Since the Second World War, Britain has become an increasingly heterogeneous society and home to 4.6 million people of minority ethnic origin that is of non-white background including predominantly South Asians, African Caribbean, African, Chinese and those of mixed percentage. In the contemporary British society, the Indian community is perceived to be the 'model minority' and is seen as hard working and successful. Children and young people of Indian origin are outstripping their minority ethnic and white peers in terms of educational



achievement. In public life also the visibility of the Indian has grown hugely from the days when white English actors 'browned-up' their faces to take up Asian character roles in movies and TV serials. The UK governments' efforts to facilitate the easy entry of Indians in the UK were also mentioned. UK Governments efforts played a very important role 1968 when the Idi Amin's Government expelled all Asians from Uganda. According to Dr. Barn, the factors leading to Indian Diaspora formation in Western societies are: 1. Academics 2. English language association and 3. Racial Discrimination



In a study of identity construction amongst South Asian adolescents in the west, it was found that many of them reported some verbal fluency in their heritage language, but highlighted the confinement of the language to the home setting only. Dr. Barn talked about her study into parenting in different ethnic groups in British society. The study comprised parents from a range of different ethnic groups including Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, African Caribbean, African and white. In this study there was an attempt to consider continuity and change for families. There was identification of the influence of time and location and the extent to which racial and cultural minorities retain and redefine cultural norms, maintain heritage languages and observe religious practices.

The result of the research findings showed that the majority of Sikh and Hindu parents, conversed with their children in English and heritage languages (82% and 78% respectively). About a fifth of the Hindu parents spoke to their child in English only, while one in ten of the Sikh parents reported the same. Also, a very small portion of both Hindu and Sikh parents reported speaking in their heritage language only. Since women and mothers are often perceived as the vehicle for the transmission of heritage and culture, it is pertinent to note a few key aspects. Indian mothers have high fluency in English language and speaking English both inside and outside their home had become the norm for many of them. Thus, a dual-language house-hold has become common place.

On the other hand, language spoken by the children to their parents was also analysed. This shows clearly that although parents report speaking to their children primarily in English and heritage languages, this is not reciprocated by the children. The majority of the Hindu (56%) and significant portion of Sikh (40%) children are reported to be speaking in English only. The sole use of the heritage language was found to be very minimal. Only 8% of the Sikh parents and 3% of the Hindu parents were speaking exclusively in their heritage language and no child was speaking exclusively in their heritage language.

To conclude, Dr Barn said that it would seem that second generation Indian parents place a great deal of emphasis upon the transmission of their heritage languages to their children. It was evident from the research findings that second-generation parents aim to transmit heritage languages to their offspring in the hope that

this will provide them with a secure foundation of their ethnicity. The task of language transference is a challenging but important one for Indian parents and children. The failure of the British education system to accord 'core' language status to Indian languages on a routine basis, combined with the politics of race, ethnicity and belonging make it especially difficult for second-generation Indian parents to raise bilingual children. In the end she said, what remains to be seen is that, whether the advent of transnationalism and the economic and political muscle of the rapidly growing Indian economy will alter the heritage linguistic domain of the Indian Diaspora.

## **Indian Diaspora in Francophone Territories**

**Panel Discussion under Café Des Savoirs  
Organized jointly by  
Organisation for Diaspora Initiatives (ODI) and  
French Embassy  
19 March 2010, JNU, New Delhi**

Organization for Diaspora Initiatives in collaboration with French Embassy, New Delhi organized a panel discussion under Café des Savoirs on the theme 'Indian Diaspora in Francophone Territories' on 19 March 2010 at School of International Studies (SIS), Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. The speakers for the panel discussion were

Prof. Ajay Dubey, President, ODI and Dr. Ingrid Therawath (Centre de Sciences Humaines, New Delhi). The discussion was chaired by Mrs. Dominique de Gaquet, Chargee de Mission Univesitaire, French Embassy.

At the outset Prof. Ajay Dubey, and Mrs. Dominique formally welcomed the participants to the panel discussion, and spoke in brief

about the relevance of the theme chosen for discussion.

Dr. Ingrid Therawath, outlined the perception, aspiration and anguish of Francophone Indian Diaspora both from the perspective of a diasporic Indian and social science researcher. Highlighting the specific nature of acculturation process under generic term assimilation, she emphasized upon the philosophy and ideas behind one culture and one people which French followed. She also brought out the differences and commonalities between Indian Diaspora in Metropolis and Indian Diaspora in French Overseas territories. She argued that the percentage of Indian Diaspora may seem small yet how important is the culture, social, political dimension of Francophone Indian Diaspora as a distinct Indian Diaspora community. Dr. Ingrid pointed out that France is increasingly realizing the importance of accepting and accommodating social ethnic identities, in order to prepare itself for a highly globalizing and competitive world. She stated that French secularism is different from Indian secularism. French government does not associate itself with religious formations. However it has done cultural and religious formations for Muslims in order to have interlocutor between French government and Muslim community. She stressed that Indian Diaspora could be a bridge between India and France and to use it as driver in Indo-French relations, France has to respect ethnic communities and utilize overseas ethnic communities for promoting bilateral relations.

Prof. Ajay Dubey pointed out the importance of Francophone Indian Diaspora in the overall global spread of Indian Diaspora. He brought in the contrast between Francophone Indian

Diaspora in around half a dozen African countries and sizeable Indian community in Caribbean, both Francophone and Anglophone territories. Further he compared and contrasted cultural, social, and political assimilation and integration of Indians in French territories in relation to other colonial countries. While outlining the U-turn in India's Diaspora policy he stressed on the eschewed importance given to green dollars and the tilt towards the Non Resident Indians. He argued that the 70 percent of Indian Diaspora which is spread in the third world countries do not get adequate and focused policy initiatives and support to rope them in. And in this neglected area of India's policy formulation the worst sufferers is Francophone Indian Diaspora. Asserting the point that the language barrier and cultural dilution as the main reason behind this, Prof. Dubey further noted that the lack of political, cultural and interest groups to prepare Indian Diaspora as a resource to link France with a rising market oriented, democratic and friendly country is no less responsible for this. He further advocated that the civil society, social and cultural groups of Indians need to become active as French citizens within the framework of French constitution and seize the opportunity unleashed by proactive Diaspora policy and the opportunity to use Diaspora identity as driver to promote Indo-French relations.

The presentation of the speakers was followed by a lively discussion. Some of the important points/questions raised were as follows: the role of French government in promoting Muslim religious groups; the cultural and religious symbols at public schools and the way the French government dealt particularly with Sikh groups in the context of head gears; the

question whether Indians are discriminated particularly after 9/11 and the response being Indians having a good image and owing to less number don't matter much; and finally the issue of difficulties and reluctance on the part of French government in issuing Visa to Indian scholar for undertaking field work for doctoral research on the PIOs in Reunion'.

The Panel discussion concluded with the Chairs remarks and vote of thanks to the speakers and participants.

### **Panel Discussion on “Cultural Contributions of Indian Diaspora”**

A panel Discussion on “Cultural Contributions of Indian Diaspora” was organized by School of Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary Studies (SOITS), IGNOU in collaboration with Organization for Diaspora Initiatives (ODI), JNU, New Delhi on 18 March 2010 .



From left to right: Ambassador P.S. Sahai, Prof. Ajay Dubey, Ambassador J.C. Sharma, Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Prof. Ravindra K. Jain, Prof. Aparajita Biswas



The Panel was chaired by Prof. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice Chancellor, IGNOU. The participants include academicians, policy experts, journalists, research scholars from various universities and students. Distinguished panelists include Prof. Ravindra K. Jain, Distinguished Scholar, JNU, Ambassador Paramjit S. Sahai, Former High Commissioner to Malaysia & Ambassador to Sweden, Prof. Ajay Dubey, School of International Studies, JNU, Prof. Aparajita Biswas, University of Mumbai, Shri J.C. Sharma, Former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs & Member Secretary of the HLC on Indian Diaspora.

Dr. Nandini Sinha-Kapur, Director (I/C) SOITS gave the welcome address and highlighted the academic contributions of the distinguished panelists, Dr. Sadananda Sahoo, Faculty, SOITS introduced the topic and underscored the importance of the diaspora and its contribution to the global culture. Prof. Ravindra Jain moderated the session and discussed several issues such as multiculturalism, creative creolizations that the Indian diaspora is experiencing today. While Prof. Ajay Dubey highlighted the contribution of Indian diaspora in the francophone and Caribbean countries, Prof. Aparajita Biswas emphasized the diaspora's contribution in African countries especially referring to the popular culture. Ambassador Paramjit S Sahai emphasized that culture can play soft power and it can effectively be used in promoting global understanding. Ambassador J.C. Sharma highlighted the contribution that Indian diaspora made in the developed countries and also discussed how the linkages between India and its diaspora are further intensifying through Television and Bollywood. Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai pointed out how the importance of Indian diaspora is realized over the years. He emphasized that the globalization of the economy has intensified human mobility in a

massive scale not witnessed before. Today, a large proportion of global population is diaspora. He projected that there will be more migration from India towards many of the developed countries (including China) in near future as their population is aging and need for more emigrants to sustain their economy; hence diaspora will be more stronger in the future. The event was concluded with a vote of thank by Dr. Shubangi Vaidya, Faculty of SOITS.

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## **International Diaspora**

### **Dialogue with the Armenian Diaspora instead of committee of historians?**

Turkey is trying to substitute the non-formed format of the committee of historians for a dialogue with the Armenian Diaspora and discuss the Armenian Genocide issue, ARF Dashnaktsutyun member Vahan Hovhannisyan told reporters, commenting on Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu's statement over starting dialogue with the Diaspora.

"They cannot do it with Armenia, so, they have decided to try it with the Diaspora," he said.

Perhaps Turkey wants to evolve the dialogue with ARF, with the latter being a supporter of tough line, Vahan Hovhannisyan said.

"We are open for any dialogues and discussions, but the Armenian Genocide issue cannot be a subject to discussion for us," he said, adding that it's up to the Diaspora central committees to decide whether to hold talks with Turkey or not.

### **PDP in Diaspora comments on Political Situation in Nigeria**

The Peoples Democratic Party in New York has responded to the leadership impasse and continued crises blamed on religion has lauded the maneuvers and maturity displayed by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan in reorganizing the structure of leadership especially with the dissolution of the Federal Executive Council.

This was contained in a press release signed by the chairman of the party in New York Chief Oluwafemi Sanyaolu, Chairman Global Campaign for Africa Democracy after a meeting with citizens of Nigeria in United States on the state of affairs of the nation and the way forward.

Chief Sanyaolu added that if the country is to sustain democracy, ample attention should be given to security of lives and properties, pointing out that, the recent recurrence of unnecessary killings in Jos has further painted the country in bad light, stressing that if Acting President Jonathan Goodluck is to fully take charge of the running of the nation, the redress that he has started should be taken seriously.

## **Indian Diaspora**

### **NRIs remit more money home after global crisis**

A Reserve Bank of India (RBI) study, conducted in November, shows that the Indian diaspora has remitted \$46.9 billion (Rs2.09 trillion today) during 2008-09, up from \$43.5 billion in 2007-08 and \$30.84 billion in 2006-07. Only around 4% of the funds were invested in "land/property/securities" in contrast with a July 2006 study, which found that 20-25% of remittances were invested in local assets.

The latest study, *Remittances from Overseas Indians: Modes of Transfer, Transaction Cost and Time Taken*, found that 61% of the remittances are utilized for "family maintenance"—to meet the requirements of food, education, health, among others, while an average of 20% of the funds received are deposited in bank accounts.

"Before the global crisis broke out, heavy amount of remittances used to get invested in equity markets and real estate here. I am sure when the sentiments improve, the share of investment will also go up," said Rupa Rege Nitsure, chief economist of Bank of Baroda.

According to the study, higher value remittances—that of Rs50,000 and above—

constitute 42% of the total with centres such as Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Delhi and Jaipur receiving more than 40% of their total remittances in individual lots of Rs1 lakh and above.

Remittances with an average size of less than Rs20,000 constitute 43% of the total.

“Frequent remittances of a lesser amount indicate that the remittance is used mostly for family maintenance. However, less frequent and high size of remittances may be directed towards the investment purposes rather than for the family maintenance needs,” the study said.

North America continues to be on top for remittances even as there has been a significant rise in private transfers from the Gulf, Europe and Africa.

North America’s share fell in 2008-09 to 38% from 44% owing to the economic downturn. West Asia accounts for an average of 27% of the total with major sources being the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. Kochi and Mumbai received more than 50% of their remittances from West Asia and Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chandigarh, Delhi, Hyderabad and Kolkata received more than 60% of their inward remittances from North America and Europe, reflecting the underlying migration pattern, the study said.

“Remittances are a good way of financing the deficit, but I look at this as potential loss of jobs,” said A.V. Rajwade, an independent foreign exchange consultant. That is because the higher deficit would have forced the government to increase productivity or depreciate the local currency further.

While 63% of transfers happen through SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) electronically, the instant transfer of money directly to bank accounts is gaining.

## **Dr. Sudhir M. Parikh honoured with Padma Shri award**

Indian American physician, philanthropist and publisher, Dr. Sudhir M. Parikh, received the 2010 Padma Shri award from President Pratibha Patil at a ceremony held in the ornate Ashoka Hall of the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, April 7. The New Jersey-based doctor is one of the six distinguished Indian Americans who made the 60th Republic Day honors list.

With this honor, Dr. Parikh now joins the ranks of most honored Indian Americans and the only one to receive all three much coveted awards: the Ellis Island Award, the highest honor conferred on U.S. immigrants for their lifetime of community service; the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, a special award given by the Government of India to select non-resident Indians for their individual accomplishments and contributions to India, and; the Padma Shri, which is awarded to distinguished Indians and people of Indian origin for their contribution in various spheres of activity including the arts, education, industry, literature, science, sports, social service and public life. The award will be presented by President Pratibha Patil at a ceremony in New Delhi in March.

“I’m deeply honored and humbled by the honor conferred on me by the President of India,” Dr. Parikh said in a statement, adding, “but I also recognize the responsibility of living up to this honor by redoubling my efforts to further U.S.-India relations, and making greater efforts at community service on both sides of the Atlantic.”

Dr. Parikh, who is a noted allergist and an acclaimed authority in the field of allergy, asthma and immunology, is also the chairman and publisher of New York-based Parikh Worldwide Media, Inc., which publishes three periodicals – “News India Times,” “Desi Talk” and “The Indian American.” (Please see the detailed resume attached.)

Apart from medical practice and publishing, Dr. Parikh is actively involved in a number of charitable causes in the U.S. and in India. He was recently in New Delhi to attend the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, where he was invited to speak about philanthropy as part of the PBD lecture series.

A particular focus of Dr. Parikh's community service has been to promote second generation of Indian Americans in the American political process with the view to ensuring strong U.S.-India relations for generations to come. To this end, Dr. Parikh is involved in a variety of institutions, some of which he has been a founding member, including the Indian American Republican Council and Indian American Forum for Political Education.

## **Conference**

### **Call for Paper**

#### **South African Migration to the UK: Exploring Dynamics, Identities and Prospects 22-23 April, 2010 at University of Loughborough**

This two-day seminar is being co-organised by Daniel Conway (Loughborough) and Charlotte Lemanski (UCL) with financial support from Centre for the Study of International Governance (CSIG) at Loughborough University. We are now inviting the submission of abstracts for papers to be presented at the seminar. Papers should address South African migration to the UK and might include issues such as: whiteness, diaspora, space and identity.

As this is a relatively under-researched area, this seminar is intended to serve as an initial space to share ideas and research findings,

develop a network of researchers and identify future research agendas.

Please send abstracts of 150-200 words accompanied by your title, name and institutional affiliation to Charlotte Lemanski (c.lemanski@ucl.ac.uk) by 1 December 2009.

#### **Jewish migration: voices of the Diaspora**

23 to 27 June 2010, Istanbul, Turkey

The subject of the Fourth International Conference on Jewish Italian Literature (ICOJIL) will be the various diasporas in the East and the West starting from an Italian perspective.

Organized by: Utrecht University  
Deadline for abstracts/proposals: 20 December 2009

#### **Website:**

<http://www.fabula.org/actualites/article34451.php>

**Contact name:** Monica Jansen

#### **3rd Global Conference: Diasporas - Exploring Critical Issues**

7 to 9 July 2010, Oxford, United Kingdom

This inter- and multi-disciplinary project seeks to explore the contemporary experience of Diasporas - communities who conceive of themselves as a national, ethnic, linguistic or other form of cultural and political construction of collective membership living outside of their "home lands." In particular, key issues to be addressed include: what are the defining characteristics of Diasporas and what distinguishes one from the other? What role do 'home' and 'host' cultures play in developing relationships between

communities in a global environment? How new is the concept of Diasporas; does it capture new global realities or designate old phenomena in a new way?

For further details about the conference please visit:

<http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/at-the-interface/diversity-recognition/diasporas/call-for-papers/>

### **Books**

Looking to reestablish his own Jewish identity, the author, a young Baltimore native who grew up alienated from his roots, makes up for lost time by embarking on a global trek that takes him to Jewish communities in Burma, Bosnia, Uganda, Iran, Cuba, Israel, and the American South.



The book highlights how isolated Jewish community preserves their culture "creating a culture of respect" with their neighbors, he concludes that "the greatest achievement of the Jewish people was not the long struggle for their own state but the richness of their Diaspora. The state of Israel was necessary, for the time being, as a haven."

## **Editorial Board**

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