

# The Migration-Development Regime: How Class Shapes Indian Emigration

Friday, June 2, 2023 | 12:30PM - 2:00PM Pacific Time  
Will be held via Zoom (This Event May Be Recorded)



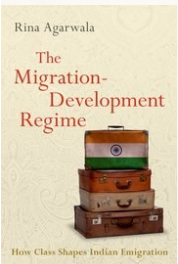
**Author: Rina Agarwala**

Rina Agarwala is Professor of Sociology at Johns Hopkins University. Agarwala publishes and lectures on international development, labor, migration, gender, social movements, and Indian politics. Agarwala is the author of *The Migration-Development Regime: How Class Shapes Indian Emigration* (Oxford University Press, 2022) and *Informal Labor, Formal Politics and Dignified Discontent in India* (Cambridge, 2013) and the co-editor of *Whatever Happened to Class? Reflections from South Asia* (Routledge, 2008 and 2016). She has also worked at the United Nations Development Program in China, the Self-Employed Women's Association in India, and Women's World Banking in New York.



**Discussant: Rohan Advani**

Rohan Advani is a PhD student in the Department of Sociology at UCLA. He studies political economy and business-state relations in the Middle East and Singapore.



How can we explain the causes and effects of global migration from the perspective of sending states and migrants themselves? *The Migration and Development Regime* introduces a novel analytical framework to help answer this question in India, the world's largest emigrant exporter and the world's largest remittance-receiving country. Drawing on an archival analysis of Indian government documents, a new data base of Indian migrants' transnational organizations, and unique interviews with poor and elite Indian emigrants, recruiters, and government officials, this book exposes the vital role the Indian state, as well as its poor and elite emigrants, have long played in forging and legitimizing class inequalities within India through their management of international emigration. Since the 1800s, the Indian state has differentially used poor and elite emigrants to accelerate domestic economic growth at the cost of class inequalities, while still retaining political legitimacy. At times, the Indian state has forbidden emigration, at other times it has promoted it. At times, Indian emigrants have brought substantial material inflows, at other times, they have brought new ideas to support new development agendas within India. But throughout, Indian emigration practices have deepened class inequalities by imposing different regulations, acquiring different benefits from different classes of emigrants, and making new class pacts—all while remaining invisible in political and academic discussions on Indian development. On the flip side, since the early 1900s, poor and elite emigrants have resisted and re-shaped Indian development in response to state migration practices.

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