Section I: Experiencing Borders in South Asia

Chapter 1: Spaces of Refusal: Rethinking Sovereign Power and Resistance at the Border
Reece Jones

In chapter 1, Reece Jones investigates local actions that transgress, subvert, and ignore the imposition of sovereign authority at the borders of sovereign states. Drawing on interviews with borderland residents, it analyzes the ways that people interact with, talk about, and cross the border in their daily lives. The motives and consequences of these cross-border connections are not precisely captured by the literature on sovereign power and the state of exception, which identifies very little space for resistance, nor the literature on dominance–resistance in power relations, which understands most actions as political resistance in a broad milieu of power. In order to reconcile these conflicting views on resistance, this chapter proposes *spaces of refusal* to understand a range of activities that are not overt political resistance but nevertheless refuse to abide by the binary enframing of state territorial and identity categories

Keywords: India, Bangladesh, Borders, Resistance, Refusal, Identity

Chapter 2: Border Layers: Formal and Informal Markets along the India-Bangladesh Border
Edward Boyle and Mirza Zulfiqur Rahman

In chapter 2, Mirza Zulfiqur Rahman and Ted Boyle argue that the border between India and Bangladesh serves as a site for formal and informal structures of interaction and exchange, with various actors and processes complementing, contesting, and overlapping in their functions and priorities. While the respective national governments seek to encourage cross-border trade and promote economic corridors, these national policies find local reflection in the much-trumpeted establishment of border *haats*, official cross-border markets. A close examination of the political processes shaping the operation of this border policy reveals both India's desire to simplify its own edges and the multi-layered and contradictory manner in which this policy finds implementation at the border itself. Based upon fieldwork conducted in Meghalaya and Tripura, this chapter examines how the multi-layered infrastructure of border management and governance affects local community interactions and flows of goods, political processes, and cross-border connectivity.

Keywords: North-east India; Bangladesh; informal markets; border *haats*; border infrastructure

Chapter 3: Experiencing the Border: Lushai People and Transnational Space
Azizul Rasel

In chapter 3, Azizul Rasel investigates the neglected micro narrative of the Lushai *Adivasi* people, living in the borderlands of Bangladesh in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, by examining how they experience and deal with the new border in their everyday life. The chapter explores the broader impact of the postcolonial border on the Lushai. The border impacted the lives of Lushai in diverse ways— directly and indirectly— from psychological to political, from environmental to economic. The chapter examines how the Lushai negotiated the newly drawn border and continued their struggle to retain their identity. The chapter argues that the Lushai subvert the 'rigid' border in their everyday life and it demonstrates

that Lushai people living on the borderland of Bangladesh and Mizoram create a Lushai unity transcending national border amidst the increasing surveillance of the nation states.

Keywords: Lushai, Border, Transnational space, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Mizoram

Section II: Mobility in and Beyond South Asia

Chapter 4: Of Insiders, Outsiders, and Infiltrators: The Politics of Citizenship and Inclusion in Contemporary South Asia
Kavitha Rajagopalan

In chapter 4, Kavitha Rajagopalan argues that South Asia serves as a unique site of inquiry for understanding the complexities surrounding citizenship and belonging today. South Asia's already complex migration landscape is further complicated by rapid urbanization, political Islamophobia, and inadequate policies on migration and citizenship. Nowhere is this complexity thrown into sharper focus than the porous borderland where India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Nepal meet, where refugees and stateless persons from Nepal and Bhutan regularly join economic migrants from Bangladesh and newer refugee streams from Myanmar moving with relative freedom across unguarded swathes of terrain, into Indian tribal and urban ethnic Bengali communities that are targets of Islamophobic rhetoric and communal violence. Unresolved histories of shifting borders have led to decades-long territorial disputes and depatriated populations in this region, and most South Asian countries lack opportunities for long-term and permanent legal migration. This chapter explores emerging migration realities in the northeastern corner of South Asia as a case study in unauthorized migration in regions with limited-to-no migration management infrastructure. Ultimately, the chapter considers what citizenship and belonging mean in a global era.

Keywords: citizenship, refugees, Myanmar, Bhutan, India, globalization

Chapter 5: Renegotiating Boundaries: Exploring Lives of Undocumented Bangladeshi Women Workers in India
Ananya Chakraborty

In chapter 5, Ananya Chakraborty draws from case studies of undocumented Bangladeshi women who are engaged in various informal sector occupations in Maharashtra in order to highlight the multiple vulnerabilities and threats that they face not only due to their status as undocumented migrants, but also by their gender positioning in the informal labour market. Women in Bangladesh have long dealt with patriarchal institutions in all spheres of their lives. This coupled with stubborn levels of poverty, lack of adequate employment opportunities, and regressive migration policies for women have led to the proliferation of hidden and parallel pathways for migration. While Bangladeshi men mostly migrate to countries in the Middle East and South East Asia, India remains one of the predominant destinations for many undocumented Bangladeshi women. Using mixed methods approach, the chapter highlights the vulnerabilities and agency of Bangladeshi women in the face of extortive labour relations, weak gender positions, and socio-political vulnerabilities.

Keywords: Undocumented Migration, Maharashtra, Informal Sector, Gender, Labour

Chapter 6: 'The Immoral Traffic in Women': Regulating Indian Emigration to the Persian Gulf
Andrea Wright

In Chapter 6, Andrea Wright draws on ethnographic and archival research conducted in the United Arab Emirates and India to investigate how the Indian government developed and implemented emigration policies. The chapter is specifically concerned with how the idea of 'vulnerable subjects' is constructed in conjunction with trafficking. Bringing together contemporary and historic narratives on trafficking, the chapter examines how gender, sexuality, and religion influence contemporary laws. Andrea pays particular attention to how the British colonial administration used trafficking as a way to regulate both women's labour and their movement, and she contrasts this approach with the attitudes of Indian nationalists. In the postcolonial period, she draws on a case study concerning the illegal trafficking of women from the 1950s. Andrea argues that these policies unevenly impact working class women and, particularly, Muslim women. What emerges is the uneven distribution of state power as bureaucrats restrict emigration.

Keywords: Trafficking, Gender, Muslim, British colonialism, Indian nationalism, Persian Gulf

Chapter 7 The Journey to Europe: A Young Afghan's Experience on the Migrant Route
James Weir and Rohullah Amin

In chapter 7, James Weir and Rohullah Amin tell Akbar's story, a young Afghan man who left Kabul during the summer of 2015 to escape war and poverty. Three months later, after a torturous journey that includes abuse both by smugglers and authorities, Akbar arrives in Frankfurt, emotionally, physically and financially broken. The authors frame a harrowing, first-person account of Akbar's journey across Western Asia and Central Europe: first, recounting his parents' refugee experiences during the Soviet-Afghan War; later, describing the circumstances that convinced his family to support Akbar's journey; and finally, explaining his family's thoughts about Akbar's future in Germany. The chapter concludes speculating about the political ramifications of the forced repatriation of potentially tens of thousands of Afghans from Europe. This story of one young man and his family history helps to humanize the confusing and often impersonal accounts of the global migration crisis, and provides necessary historical context for grasping the contemporary Afghan refugee crisis.

Keywords: Refugee, Afghanistan, migration crises, human smuggler, Germany, oral history

Chapter 8 Hardening Regional Borders: Changes in Mobility from South Asia to the European Union
Marta Zorko

In Chapter 8, Marta Zorko provides an overview of how European Union states on the migrant route deal with migrants from South Asia. The militarization, securitization, and hardening of borders in Europe influenced all types of migration and changed the perception of migrants from different regions of the world. The return of physical barriers and border

controls created new geopolitical patterns of movement. The chapter analyzes how and to which extent these processes have affected migrations in Europe and migrations from South Asia to Europe. The aim is to show changes in both quantitative and qualitative way, by analyzing the trends and presenting an overview of migration patterns, problems, and challenges from the perspective of migrant rights, chances, and possibilities.

Keywords : the geopolitics of migration, European migration crisis, securitization of borders, migration patterns

Section III: Representations of Borders and Mobility in Diaspora

Chapter 9: The Borders of Integration: Paperwork between Bangladesh and Belgium
Malini Sur and Masja van Meeteren

In Chapter 9, Malini Sur and Masja van Meeteren draw on the experience of Bangladeshi men in Belgium to argue that integration should be conceptualised not as the outcome of ideal type national models of citizenship and integration, but as the product of the intersection of migrant aspirations and strategies with regulatory frameworks. They argue that a comprehensive engagement with identity thefts and new forms of paperwork that straddles South Asia and Europe offers insights into what *integration* entails, and how it materialises through everyday practices and dilemmas. The struggles for paper documents and processes that establish paper identities and civic participation which are foundational to integration provokes us to rethink what such processes and policies entail. In other words, integration is also about the *struggle to integrate*. Such struggles include troubled border-crossings and anxious arrivals, and moral claim making, civic participation, and collective protests in a re-settled context. They suggest that everyday aspirations and prolonged disappointments of people in resettled contexts are foundational to comprehending what integration implies. The processes and dilemmas that enable and disable people to integrate in Europe rely on what they call 'paperwork'.

Keywords: Citizenship, belonging, undocumented migration, civic participation, deservingness.

Chapter 10: Disordering History and Collective Memory in Gunvantrai Acharya's
Dariyalal
Riddhi Shah

In chapter 10, Riddhi Shah argues that despite hundreds of years of movement between East Africa and India through the Indian Ocean, histories of slavery are conspicuous by their absence in Indian and Gujarati collective memories. This lack of awareness and discussion on slavery in India has increased the danger of ignoring the presence and plight of the Siddi communities of India, whose African heritage still shapes their position in Indian society. Within this prevailing apathetic climate, Gunvantrai Poptabhai Acharya's novel Dariyalal centred on Ramjibha, a Gujarati slave trader turned abolitionist assumes a double-sided significance. The chapter follows Ramjibha's journey in the book, Acharya's fictive novel challenges mainstream Indian history that has forgotten or deliberately omitted recording and narrating unsettling encounters and relationships. It helps us confront the erasure of non-European communities who played a role in abolishing slavery. Concurrently, Dariyalal is also a discursive tool for negotiating Gujarati identity that is tied to slave trade. In the end,

the novel upsets a Eurocentric history only to replace it with a Gujarati Hindu-centric version of slave trade in the Indian Ocean, illustrating the lingering impact of migration and diaspora in the region.

Chapter 11: Fragmented Lives: Locating Home in the Poems of Sudesh Mishra
Tana Trivedi

In Chapter 11, Tana Trivedi focuses on the work of Sudesh Mishra, a contemporary Fijian-Indian-Australian poet who addresses the idea of fragmented diasporic identities of Indo-Fijians, and the ability to locate a 'home' amidst borders of history, memories, and intergenerational remembrance. There is an attempt at understanding the nature of memories that sustain the ethnic borders that still exist in Fiji, thereby giving rise to racial and ethnic tensions. The borders in Fiji, far from being geographical in nature, are mostly historical and psychological and the history of colonization and indenture constantly reiterate the presence of borders that cannot be dissolved or reconsidered. In times of globalization and multiple border crossings, the study of Indo-Fijian diaspora offers dislocated sites of contestation to the homogenizing forces of globalization. And it is precisely these sites of dislocation and instability, that create possibilities of redefining a home for a diasporic community, a home that travels and traverses time and space to become more inclusive and comprehensive.