



INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL STUDIES GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Fall 2019 Faculty Speaker Series

To 'Leave' or to 'Move': Experiences of Citizenship along the Border of Bangladesh and India

by

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(No recording or videotaping permitted)

Almost 55,000 people lived in the de facto stateless spaces known as enclaves along the border of Bangladesh and India until 2015. Enclaves were pieces of one state inside another where residents lacked access to basic rights, such as health, education, and legal protection. These territorial oddities were exchanged in 2015, and the residents were given an option to choose their state of citizenship. While most of them decided to 'leave' their home state and opted for a change in their formal citizenship status, a few of them decided to 'move' to their home state. Drawing on the experiences of the former enclave residents, I contend that 'acts of belonging' played a significant role in their choice of citizenship while the host state turned them into 'showcase citizens' by taking unforeseen measures.



Md Azmeary Ferdoush, Ph.D. is currently a Lecturer in Geography and Environment at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. He serves as a Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh and has authored several articles in top-tier journals. In 2018, he co-edited *Borders and Mobility in South Asian and Beyond* that was published from Amsterdam University Press. His research focuses on borders, state, (non)citizenship, and nationalism. Dr. Ferdoush's future project will investigate the role of borders in transforming and transnationalizing state spaces in the Arctic.

October 16, 2019

Wednesday, 12 – 1.15 pm

Burns Hall, Room 2118, East-West Center