

# DIOTIMA CHATTORAJ

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## BIOGRAPHY

**Diotima Chattoraj**, a PhD (with distinction magna-cum-laude) from the Department of International Development Studies (IEE), Ruhr-University, Bochum, Germany, is a social scientist with over 7 years of research experience in the field of migration and development studies. She received funding from DAAD, Stipendien der Wilhelm und Günter Esser Stiftung and IEE to pursue her PhD research. At University Brunei Darussalam (UBD), she was involved in several Research Projects, namely, Skill-Mobility in Asia, Rohingyas, Gender and different kinds of Migration and Security issues. These projects are funded by the University of Brunei.

Her areas of research interests include Asia, Sociology of migration, theories of migration, refugee, trafficking, globalization, Climate change, Development, Gender Studies, Security issues, international relations, and boundary-making. She has published a number of articles (which are Scopus Indexed) and book reviews in international refereed journals respectively. In addition, her book titled, 'Diasporic Search for 'Home': Displaced Sri Lankan Tamils', based on her PhD thesis, is also in Press with Springer (Singapore). Besides, she has also been working as a peer reviewer for a number of international refereed journals like South Asia Research, Comparative Migration Studies and few more. She has also been external Examiners for a couple of Master's Thesis. She has presented her works in international conferences as invited speakers.

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## EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Degree	PhD	Date of Graduation-April 2016
Institute	Institute of Development Research and Development Policy (IEE), Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany.	
Domain	Development Studies (Sociology)	
Marks/Grade	Magna-cum-Laude	
Funding agencies	DAAD, Stipendien der Wilhelm und Günter Esser Stiftung and IEE.	
Supervisor(s)	Prof. Dr. Eva Gerharz and Prof. Dr. Dieter Haller.	
Thesis Topic	<i>Ambivalent Attachments: Shifting notions of Home among Displaced Sri Lankan Tamils</i> : This dissertation argues that most of the Sri Lankan Tamil displaced persons feel intense attachment to their home through memories, emotions and material and immaterial properties which is mostly dependent on priorities and time.	

Degree	<i>Master of Arts</i>	Date of Graduation- <i>January 2011</i>
Institute	Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata - India	
Domain	Political Science	
Class	Second	
Subjects	Modern political theory, Modern political thought, Indian political thought, International relations, Comparative politics, Indian politics, India and her neighbors	

Degree	<i>Bachelor of Arts</i>	Date of Graduation- <i>July 2008</i>
College	Lady Brabourne College under Calcutta University, Kolkata - India	
Major	Political Science (Honors)	
Minor	Sociology, Economics	
Class	Second	
Subject	Political Theory, Comparative Politics and Comparative Government, Government and Politics in India, International Relations, Western Political Thought, Indian Political Thought and Movement, Political Sociology, Public Administration.	

## EXPERIENCES

<i>Researcher</i>	<i>FASS, University of Brunei Darussalam</i>	<i>January 2020- August 2020</i>
Project	<i>Gender Analysis of Transnational Migration: Local-Global interactions</i>	
Funding	University of Brunei Darussalam.	
Duties performed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct literature search and review</li> <li>• Edit Research documents</li> <li>• Transcribe interviews</li> <li>• Assist Prof. Ahsan in his teaching.</li> <li>• Short travel as and when necessary</li> </ul>	
Principal Investigators	Prof. Dr. Ahsan Ullah	

<i>Researcher</i>	<i>FASS, University of Brunei Darussalam</i>	<i>Sept.2018- July 2019</i>
Project	<i>Skill Mobility from ASEAN countries: A Cost Benefit Analysis</i> The project argues that sending countries lose skill which cannot be offset or justified by the remittance inflow.	
Funding	University of Brunei Darussalam.	
Duties performed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct literature search and review</li> <li>• Edit Research documents</li> <li>• Transcribe interviews</li> <li>• Assist Prof. Ahsan in his teaching.</li> <li>• Short travel as and when necessary</li> </ul>	

Principal Investigators Prof. Dr. Ahsan Ullah and Dr. Siti Mazidah Haji Mohammed

<i>Internee</i>	<i>OfERR, Chennai- India</i>	<i>April 2013-May 2013</i>
Responsibilities	As an Intern in OfERR, I got the chance to explore my PhD research topic in the refugee camps of Tamil Nadu, talking to the refugees, spending time with them and observing them. It was a real working experience for me.	

## OTHER ACADEMIC SERVICES

<i>Peer-Reviewer</i>	<i>April 2018-present</i>	
International Journals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• South Asia Research Journal (SAR)</li><li>• Mobilities</li><li>• Springer</li><li>• Asian Journal of Comparative Politics</li><li>• Geografia</li><li>• Comparative Migration Studies</li> <li>• Journal of Maritime Studies and National Integration</li></ul>	

<i>Examiner</i>	<i>The Catholic University of Eastern Africa</i>	<i>August 2019</i>
Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Detailed examination report for a Master thesis.</li><li>• Examined and graded all the parts of the thesis.</li></ul>	

## VOLUNTARY EXPERIENCES

<i>Youth member</i>	<i>Singapore Red Cross Society</i>	<i>November 2017-Present</i>
Responsibilities	I volunteer in a number of programmes organized by Red Cross Youth like distributing food items to disadvantaged Singapore families.	

<i>GLO Affiliate</i>	<i>Global Labor Organization (GLO), Germany</i>	<i>January 2018- present</i>
Responsibilities	As a GLO Affiliate, I am responsible to expand networks with those who are interested to join GLO and getting in touch with them on a regular basis.	

<i>Fund-raiser</i>	<i>UNWOMEN- Singapore</i>	<i>September 2017</i>
Responsibilities	I volunteered as a Table Concierge with the UNWOMEN in their SNOW Gala event which took place in Singapore in September 2017.	

<i>Congressional Action Team Member</i>	<i>UNICEF, Washington D.C.</i>	<i>April 2017-December 2017</i>
Responsibilities	Volunteered to protect the rights of the world's most vulnerable children. Contacted the Senator of VA and other Congressmen, organized workshops and events to raise awareness.	

<i>Social Confidant</i>	<i>COSMOS, Kolkata- India</i>	<i>May 2011-December 2011</i>
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Responsibilities                      Worked as a ‘Social Confidant’ in its “Street Children Project” to meet the different behavioral, educational, legal and social needs of the children working and living on the streets through various activities.

## SCHOLASTIC HONORS

- DAAD Fellow: October-December 2010, for the program, “A New Passage to India”, as a study visit in Bielefeld University, Germany.
- DAAD Fellow: January-March 2012, for the program, “A New Passage to India”, as a visiting researcher in Bielefeld University, Germany.
- Invited Speaker at the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual International Seminar on Maritime conflict and National Integration in the Indo-Pacific Region organized by the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Diponegoro, Indonesia on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018.
- Invited Keynote Speaker at the 2nd International conference on Southeast Asian Maritime World in the Age of Motion (ICONSEAMO): Exploring the Root of Multicultural Society in Southeast Asia organized by the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Diponegoro, Indonesia on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018.
- Right Livelihood Junior Scientist: September 2012 in Bonn, Germany, funded by DAAD.

## SKILLS

- Certification: *Introduction to Data Analysis Using Excel on Coursera. Certificate earned on June 16, 2017.*
- Computer proficiency: *Specialist in MS-OFFICE.*
- Multilingual: *English (fluent), Chinese (Basic level 1), Tamil (Basic), German (A1.2), Hindi (fluent), Bengali (native).*

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

- *Global Skill Deficiency: Perspectives of skill mobility in Southeast Asian countries:* Presented as an Invited Keynote Speaker at the 2nd International conference on Southeast Asian Maritime World in the Age of Motion (ICONSEAMO): Exploring the Root of Multicultural Society in Southeast Asia organized by the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Diponegoro, Indonesia on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018.
- *Asia Borders and Mobility: A case study of Rohingya Refugees:* Presented as an Invited speaker at the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual International Seminar on Maritime conflict and National Integration in the Indo-Pacific Region organized by the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Diponegoro, Indonesia on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018.
- *Unhoming vs Durable solution: the situation of the displaced Sri Lankan Tamils:* Presented at the 3rd PhD conference at the International Institute of Social Sciences (ISS) in The Hague (September 2014) funded by IEE, RUB.
- *Home and Belonging: Situation of Sri Lankan displaced Tamils in Sri Lanka and S.India:* Presented at CARFMS'14: Coherence and Incoherence in Migration Management and Integration: Policies, Practices and Perspectives in Montreal, Canada from 7-9<sup>th</sup> May 2014, funded by RUB Research School.

- *Sri Lankan Tamil IDPs and their different notions of Home*: Presented at RLC/ZEF International Fall Academy on “The Economies of the Commons: Reshaping Economic Education” on September 19-23, 2012, in Bonn, Germany funded by DAAD.

## **WORKSHOPS**

- Participated in Radio discussions on topics related to youth in politics in Kolkata in 2006.
- Interacted with the honorary Chinese consulate general of Kolkata, Mr. Mao Siwei on “Present Indo-China relationship” in 2009.
- Participated in “Centrum für internationale Migration und Entwicklung” (CIM), a joint operation of GIZ and the German Federal Employment Agency, workshop for Indian returning experts from November 9-11, 2012, in Heidelberg, Germany funded by CIM.
- Selected to attend MOAA’s workforce development program held in Washington D.C. in April-May 2017.
- Participated in the “Teaching Learning Process to Enhance Students Learning Opportunities” organized by Teaching and Learning Centre in UBD on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2019.

## **RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS:**

### **Book**

**Chattoraj, D.**, “Diasporic Search for 'Home': Displaced Sri Lankan Tamils”. (in Press with Springer Nature: Singapore).

### **Book Chapter**

Ullah, A. & **Chattoraj, D.**, “*Rohingya Children in Bangladesh: Questioning the past and Imagining the future*”. (accepted for Syed Muhd Khairudin Aljunied (ed.) *Routledge Handbook of Islam in Southeast Asia*).

### **Journal Articles**

1. AKM Ahsan Ullah, Mallik Akram Hossain and **Diotima Chattoraj** (2020), “Covid-19 and Rohingya Refugee camps in Bangladesh”, accepted by Intellectual Discourse (to be published in October 2020).
2. AKM Ahsan Ullah, Faraha Nawaz and **Diotima Chattoraj** (), “Locked up under lockdown The COVID-19 pandemic and the migrant population”, submitted to Social Sciences & Humanities Open.
3. **Chattoraj, D.** and Gerharz E. (2019), “Strangers at home: narratives of northern Muslim returnees in post-war Sri Lanka”, Sri Lanka Journal of Social Sciences, Vol. 42 (02), (113-126 pp).
4. AKM Ahsan Ullah, Siti Mazidah Haji Mohamad, Noor Hasharina Pg Hj Hasan & **Diotima Chattoraj**, (2020) “*Migration and Security: Implications for Minority Migrant Groups*”, India Quarterly, Vol. 76 (01).

5. AKM Ahsan Ullah, Siti Mazidah Haji Mohamad, Noor Hasharina Pg Hj Hasan & **Diotima Chatterraj** (2019), “*Global Skill Deficiency: Perspectives of skill mobility in Southeast Asian countries*”. Asian Education and Development Studies, Vol. 8 (4), (416-432 pp).
6. **Chatterraj, D. (2020)**, “*Emergence of a new Identity through Migration: A comparative case study of Sri Lankan Tamil women in Sri Lanka and Singapore*”. Nusantara: International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, Vol. 01- No. 01 (26-46 pp).
7. **Chatterraj, D.** and Gerharz E. (2019), “*Difficult Return: Muslims’ Ambivalent Attachments to Jaffna in Post-Conflict Sri Lanka*”, Working Paper No.46 Institute of Asian Studies, Gadong: Universiti Brunei Darussalam.
8. **Chatterraj, D.** (2019), “*Narratives of Sri Lankan Displaced Tamils Living in Welfare Centers in Jaffna, Sri Lanka*”. International Journal of Maritime Studies and National Integration, 2(2), (67-74pp).
9. Ullah, A. & **Chatterraj, D.**, (2018) “*Roots of discrimination against Rohingya minorities: Society, Ethnicity and International Relations*”. Intellectual Discourse, 26(2), (541–565pp).
10. **Chatterraj, D.** (2018), “*Experiences of Sri Lankan Tamils Displaced to Colombo: Three Narratives*”, eTropic 17(1) (137-148pp).

### Thesis

**Chatterraj, D.** (2017). “*Ambivalent Attachments: Shifting Notions of Home among Displaced Sri Lankan Tamils*”, PhD dissertation (available online at RUB Bibliothek).

### Popular Forum

1. **Chatterraj, D.** (2018), “*Redefining home: Experiences of the Jaffna Displaced*”, Groundviews published on April 28, 2018.

Available at: <http://groundviews.org/2018/04/28/redefining-home-experiences-of-the-displaced-in-colombo/>

### Book Reviews

1. Chatterraj, D. (2020). ‘*Book Review: The Migration Myth in Policy and Practice: Dreams, Development and Despair*’ by AKM Ahsan Ullah and Md. Shahidul Haque. Migration Letters, 17 (3) (473-475pp).
2. Chatterraj, D. (2019). ‘*Book Review: Indonesia: Twenty Years of Democracy* by Jamie Davidson,’ Studies of Transition States and Societies, 11 (1) (81-83pp).
3. Chatterraj, D. (2019). ‘*Book Review: Human Security and Migration in Europe’s Southern Borders* by Susana Ferreira,’ Migration Letters, 16 (2) (345-346pp).
4. Chatterraj, D. (2019). ‘*Book Review: Bangladeshi Migration to Singapore: A Process-oriented Approach* by Md Mizanur Rahman’ Sojourn, 34(2).

5. Chatteraj, D. (2018). 'Book Review: *Borders and Mobility in South Asia and Beyond* by Reece Jones and Md. Azmeary Ferdoush (Eds.).' *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, 49 (4) (686-689pp).
6. Chatteraj, D. (2018). 'Book Review: *Ananda Bhattacharyya, Remembering Komagata Maru. Official Reports and Contemporary Accounts*', *South Asia Research*, 38 (3\_suppl), 96S-98S.
7. Chatteraj, D. (2017). 'Book Review: *Yogeswary Vijayapalan, Endless Inequality: The Rights of Plantation Tamils in Sri Lanka.*' *South Asia Research*, 37(1) (111–113pp).
8. Chatteraj, D. (2015). 'Book Review: *Sharika Thiranagama, In My Mother's House: Civil War in Sri Lanka.*' *South Asia Research*, 35(1), (136-138pp).

## **REFEREES:**

1. **Prof. Dr. Ahsan Ullah**-- Associate Professor at Faculty of Social Sciences in University Brunei Darussalam.  
  
Email: [ahsan.ullah@ubd.edu.bn](mailto:ahsan.ullah@ubd.edu.bn)
2. **Prof. Dr. Eva Gerharz**- Professor at the department of Sociology in Fulda University of Applied Sciences  
  
Email: [eva.gerharz@sk.hs-fulda.de](mailto:eva.gerharz@sk.hs-fulda.de)
3. **Prof. Dr. Werner Menski**- Emeritus Professor at South Asian Laws in SOAS, University of London  
  
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