Taylor & Francis
Online

Journal of Intercultural Studies ›
Volume 29, 2008 - Issue 1: Indian Diaspora in Transnational Contexts

1,861 Views | 30 CrossRef citations to date | 0 Altmetric

Original Articles

Home and Away: Diasporas, Developments and Displacements in a Globalising World

Dr Pablo Shiladitya Bose

Pages 111-131 | Published online: 30 Jun 2008

Cite this article https://doi.org/10.1080/07256860701759964

Sample our Social Sciences Journals
>> Sign in here to start your access to the latest two volumes for 14 days

Full Article | Figures & data | References | Citations | Metrics
Reprints & Permissions | Read this article | Share

Abstract

This paper examines the involvement of Indian diasporic communities in the dynamics of economic development and population displacement within the Indian subcontinent itself. I argue that the category of diaspora can help to critically interrogate and challenge traditional notions of development and displacement and in doing so help to illuminate the complexities of such processes in the light of globalisation and transnationalism. I examine the historical context of diasporas and their involvement in processes of development and consider questions of identity, place, home and connection between people and the nation-state. I also look at the specific case of Indian diasporas and the impact they have had on the financial and cultural development of India in the recent past. While much of the current research on the connections between development and diasporas worldwide has focused on remittances, this paper argues for a wider understanding of both “diasporic capital” –

including investments, property ownership and trade – and of “diasporic culture” – as demonstrated by globalised patterns of travel, tourism, communications, cultural production and the creation of living spaces with a self-consciously transnational aesthetic.

Keywords:

Citizenship | Economic Development | Ethics | Investment | Migration | Nationalism | Population Displacement | Remittances

Notes

1. While in this paper I have used the term diaspora synonymously with transnationalism, there is an ongoing debate regarding this conflation. Some have argued strongly that such usage is problematic and that the term diaspora should be dependent upon the shared experience of group expulsion and of community-in-exile as in the case of the Jewish or the African slave diaspora (Ong). Others suggest, however, that creating these exclusions are both morally problematic and analytically unhelpful and that diaspora describes experiences of hybridity and culture that are not necessarily predicated on primordial ties to either land or blood (Walsh; Gilroy; Hall). It is in this vein that I have adopted the use of diaspora, as a way of illustrating the contested, shifting and creative relationships between space, place and power.

2. Such statistics may help to explain the steady stream of Gujarati politicians making their way to the USA in recent years, as supplicants to wealthy expatriates, seeking funds for a variety of causes.

3. The second highest motivation is the prospect of higher returns on investment, followed by a stated familiarity with Indian economic conditions.

4. There has been support across the political spectrum and indeed during the 2004 elections, several overseas Indians ran as candidates for different parties, one of them winning a seat as a Congress MP from a rural district outside of Hyderabad while maintaining a corporate and immigration law practice in Manhattan (Yelaja). However,

it is the Hindu right that has been by far the most successful in encouraging such overseas political activism.

5. Indeed, one could argue that political battles in Indian states such as Gujarat were being waged as much in the Garden State as in Gandhinagar, if the number of Gujarati politicians from all parties making trips to New Jersey during the 2002 state elections or in the interest shown in the polls by overseas Gujaratis was any indication (Nanda and Bhatt).

Additional information

Notes on contributors

Pablo Shiladitya Bose

Pablo Shiladitya Bose is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography, University of Vermont. He is a past recipient of the IDRC Canadian Window on International Development Award for his doctoral research on global diasporas and Indian development

Related Research Data

International Migration and Sending Countries
Source: Unknown Repository
Hindutva in the West: mapping the antinomies of diaspora nationalism
Source: Ethnic and Racial Studies
Remittances
Source: Unknown Repository
Immigrant Incorporation and Sociocultural Transnationalism
Source: International Migration Review
Remittances : Transaction Costs, Determinants, And Informal Flows
Source: Unknown Repository
Indian Professional Workers in Singapore
Source: Unknown Repository
CYBERPUBLICS AND DIASPORA POLITICS AMONG TRANSNATIONAL CHINESE
Source: Interventions

Conclusion: Towards a new world - the origins and effects of transnational activities

Related research

People also read | Recommended articles | Cited by 30

The diasporic imaginary: Theorizing the Indian diaspora∗ >

Vijay Mishra
Textual Practice
Published online: 30 Jun 2008

Information for

- Authors
- R&D professionals
- Editors
- Librarians
- Societies

Open access

- Overview
- Open journals
- Open Select
- Dove Medical Press
- F1000Research

Opportunities

- Reprints and e-prints
- Advertising solutions
- Accelerated publication
- Corporate access solutions

Help and information

- Help and contact
- Newsroom
- All journals
- Books

Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources by email

Sign me up

Copyright © 2026 Informa UK Limited Privacy policy

Cookies Terms & conditions Accessibility

Registered in England & Wales No. 01072954
5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG