

Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology

SPEAKER SERIES

PhD Proposal Presentation

Beyond the Journey: The Process of Reintegration for Bangladeshi Female Migrant Worker Returnees

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Bangladeshi women are increasingly joining the ranks of labour migrants to the Middle East, seeking employment as domestic workers, cleaners, and caretakers to support their families economically back home. This doctoral research will explore the complexities of reintegration faced by these women upon their return to Bangladesh, focusing on how their migration and return experiences may influence their roles and status within households and communities. The research will entail ethnographic fieldwork and interviews with returnees in Dhaka and the Manikganj District of Bangladesh, as well as interviews with NGO and government officials who assist with reintegration. Existing research, although scant, suggests that despite their economic contributions, many returning women face social rejection and family exclusion due to patriarchal norms concerning women's honour and societal status. While some women may return home empowered and ready to challenge traditional gender roles, others may remain constrained by societal expectations, limited control over their earnings, and restricted autonomy within patriarchal family structures. Adopting a feminist political economy lens in anthropology and migration studies, this research will highlight and examine the intersections of cultural, social, and economic factors shaping return migration experiences, aiming to provide nuanced understandings that can inform policy and improve support mechanisms for female migrant workers in Bangladesh

Friday, May 16th, 2025

Rowe #1009, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

All Welcome!