

Lisa Knight

Project Title: Migrant Ethics and Ethical Strangers: Bangladeshi Migrants in Nordic Countries

Abstract:

This study is prompted by recent reports of attacks on secularists, bloggers, foreigners, and minorities by assailants claiming a revivalist Islam in Bangladesh, a region with long roots in pluralistic practices and communities. In this multi-sited, person-centered study, I propose to research Bangladeshis who have left their home because of threats to their lives and are seeking refuge in Nordic countries. I focus especially on secularists who are doubly marginalized – by Islamic revivalism in Bangladesh, and abroad as Bangladeshi – in order to understand their claims of nationhood and belonging, and their perspectives on the role of religion in Bangladesh. My research interrogates intersections of everyday ethics, migration, secularism, and strategies of reception in host countries known for secularism and egalitarian principles.