

RESEARCH PROJECT

Project name: Lived Exclusions 'in becoming': A participatory ethno-videography of Afghan child and youth migrants in the urban margins of Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Description: Tajikistan, because of its geographical, cultural and linguistic proximity to Afghanistan, has historically been an important recipient of Afghan refugees in broader Central Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East. Tajikistani policies, however, have since the 2000s regularly prohibited Afghan migrants' access and lives to Tajikistan's main cities including the capital city of Dushanbe.

Pushed to the urban margins with limited access to water, land and labour, these restrictions to Afghan populations' mobility also preclude longer term socio-economic integration, limit children and young people's access to education and open new networks of informal and precarious labour.

This project, led by Dr Negar Behzadi, uses ethnographic and participatory video methods to raise questions at the intersection of migration and exclusion in these urban margins. It is particularly interested in one category of migrants too often considered, in accounts of migration, as secondary actors with limited agency: children and young people.

There is a particular focus on the following questions: How have Tajikistani exclusionary policies impacted the everyday lives of children and young Afghan migrants in this setting? How do visual narratives of children migrants in this setting can help us reflect on the place-based and embodied experiences of exclusion for children and young people 'in becoming'? What can these narratives tell us about the relationship between children and young people's lives and broader (geo)politics of exclusion?

Principle investigators: Dr Negar Behzadi

Aims: to understand how Tajikistani exclusionary policies impacted the everyday lives of children and young Afghan migrants in this setting.

Methods: this project uses ethnographic and participatory video methods to raise questions at the intersection of migration and exclusion in these urban margins.