

## The South Asian migrant women's access to mobility: A few case studies

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### ABSTRACT

My paper studies the South Asian diaspora women migrants in Germany, foregrounding one of the key conference themes, ie "youth migraCon". It looks into how the young South Asian community, that mostly comprise women living in Germany for educaConal and professional purposes, integrates within the German socio-cultural scene. Next to the United States , Germany hosts a large South Asian community. Urmila Goel in her study of the migraCon of South Asians to Germany notes, "the huge increase in numbers has been caused probably by the transformaCon of the German university system in the last decade [...] which introduced many English language courses".

In 2000, with the introducCon of the 'Green Card' programme<sup>1</sup> (granCng temporary work and residence permits to foreign professionals, parCcularly in the informaCon technology sector) by the German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, Germany witnessed a wave of immigrants from the Global South (especially, India). However, even with the right wing German naConalists' "fear of small numbers" (Appadurai, 2006) coupled with hosClity towards immigrants, the South Asian populaCon has doubled in Germany in recent Cmes and has given way to a space that is not only complex but extremely nuanced for the South Asian migrant women in relaCon to other factors like race and class. And the paper addresses this intersecCon.

This paper, a brief outline of my doctoral project on South Asian migrant women's access to mobility in Germany, refers to a few case studies that highlight their subjecCviCes, experiences in Germany; who perhaps are only "able to navigate their social mobility in part because of their ambiguous and marginal posiCon" (Baggulay, Hussain; 2016) as the colour of the skin "is a highly relevant power structure that negaCvely affects women with racialized brown skin colour[...]the way they are seen and treated in many public spaces" (Morán, 2022).

### CV

**Sanchali Sarkar** is a Doctoral Researcher at the Chair of CriCcal Development Studies at the University of Passau, Germany. Her project broadly focuses on the intersecCon of gender, migraCon and mobility, in the context of the South Asian diaspora in Germany. She had earlier worked on her pre-doctoral project on gender and mobility at Aarhus University, Denmark. She is currently co-eduCng a volume on urban spaces, that is slated for a year-end release from Brill.

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<sup>1</sup> The program ran from 2000–2004 and granted permits to nearly 18,000 foreign professionals.