A Search for Home Environmental displacement, Work, and Women at the frontier of Kolkata

How do the women in a slum neighbourhood experience displacement/relocation one after the other, and struggle to find their home and livelihoods? This paper explores the complex processes of urban restructuring and the politics of place at the frontier of Kolkata, an Indian metropolitan City. Drawing on the ethnographic life-stories (collected from fieldwork in 2018) of domestic helps who have been displaced owing to various environmental causes from the Sundarbans, and are located though being dislocated and re-located repeatedly in slum neighbourhoods beside the Eastern Metropolitan Bypass, it explains the ways in which they do succeed in obtaining some opportunities to live and work, despite being vulnerable to dismissal. The paper tries to explore the way in which these domestic help/kajer meye deal with the domesticity strategically both at home and workplace, and make a living, and thereby shaping the pattern of state/gender politics at the margin of Kolkata.