

## **Paper by Ali Murtaza**

From May 22-23, Leiden University hosted an international workshop on “Caste and Diplomacy”. Though central to social life in the Subcontinent, the influence of caste on the foreign policy of the states in the region has so far received little attention. The workshop, therefore, is an important milestone in the evolution of a new disciplinary concern. Most of the presentations concerned some aspect of Indian foreign policy. Using a caste lens, the participants challenged many well-entrenched assumptions about Indian foreign policy and re-examined the legacy of some of its hallowed practitioners.

My paper explores the role of caste dynamics on the migration of Pakistani Hindus to India. It shows how caste-based discriminations and vulnerabilities propel the migration of Pakistani Hindus to India and how they force ‘lower’ caste migrants to live under adverse and exploitative conditions in India. The paper highlights the caste driven visa and migration regimes in India and Pakistan and argues that Pakistan’s attempts to staunch the migration of its Hindu citizens are also tied to caste politics.

Side events and a flexible format of the workshop provided ample opportunities to discuss the paper with other participants and get their feedback. The papers, subject to peer-review, will be published in a special issue of the Hague Journal of Diplomacy.