

**LASS INAUGURAL CONFERENCE 2009**  
**INTRODUCING OUR PARTICIPANTS**

**A Suneetha** is Coordinator and Fellow, Anveshi Research Centre for Women's Studies, Hyderabad.

**Aditya Sarkar** is currently finishing a Ph.D. dissertation on the regulation of labour in late-nineteenth century Bombay at SOAS, London. I was an undergraduate (History Honours) at Delhi University, and did an M.A. and M.Phil. in Modern Indian History from the Centre for Historical Studies, JNU.

**Ahilan Kadirgamar** is an activist with the Sri Lanka Democracy Forum. He has written about the international dimension of the conflict and peace process in Sri Lanka and worked on human rights concerns related to the conflict. His current interests include the political economy of state-society relations and attempts at constitutional reform in Sri Lanka.

**Aisha Gill** is Senior Lecturer in Criminology at Roehampton University. Gill's main area of research is health and criminal justice responses to violence against Black and minority ethnic women in the United Kingdom. Gill has also served on numerous expert government groups on so-called "honor" killings and forced marriages and contributed to the re-drafting of the Forced Marriage Civil Protection Act (2007) with Newham Asian Women's Project. She has published a number of recent articles exploring how victims of forced marriage and "honour" crimes experience the civil and criminal justice systems in the UK. Email: *a.gill@roehampton.ac.uk*

**Alex Fischer** teaches public law and comparative constitutional law at the School of Law, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. He was a Visiting Fellow (2004/2005) at the Centre for Law and Governance, JNU, New Delhi and taught at the South Asia Institute of the University of Heidelberg before shifting to London. Research interests: Constitutional and Comparative Constitutional Law, Constitutional Theory, Federalism, Law and Courts, Law and Politics, Laws of South Asia

**Alok Gupta** is a human rights lawyer and activist practicing in Bombay.

**Anand Chakravarti** is a sociologist based in Delhi.

**Aniruddhan Vasudevan** is an activist working with the Shakti Center, an organization working with queer issues in Chennai.

**Anita Abraham** is a Lawyer, New Delhi. Anita had worked with *Nyayagrah*, Ahmedabad in 2006.

**Anuj Bhuwania** is a doctoral candidate in anthropology at Columbia University.

**Anupama Rao** is an anthropologist and historian of colonial and postcolonial South Asia. Her intellectual interests span: the anthropology of violence; comparative colonialism; feminist theory and the history of gender; human rights; law, nationalism, and political theory. She is the author of *The Caste Question: Dalits and Politics in Modern India* (University of California Press, forthcoming) ; “Death of a Kotwal: Injury and the Politics of Recognition,” *Subaltern Studies XII*, co-editor (with Steven Pierce) and contributing author of *Discipline and the Other Body* (Duke University Press, 2006), and editor of *Gender and Caste: Contemporary Issues in Indian Feminism* (Kali for Women, 2003).

**Anupama Roy** is a Senior Fellow at the Centre for Women’s Development Studies (CWDS), New Delhi. She was earlier a lecturer in the Department of Political Science at Panjab University, Chandigarh and Sir Ratan Tata (Post Doctoral) Fellow at the Institute of Economic Growth, University Enclave, Delhi. She received the Nehru Centenary British Fellowship for research at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London from April 1990 to March 1991. She has a Masters degree in Political Science from Allahabad University, M.Phil from Delhi University, and PhD from State University of New York, Binghamton, USA. Her research has focussed on debates on citizenship, particularly issues of gender and citizenship. She is the author of the book *Gendered Citizenship: Historical and Conceptual Explorations* (Orient Longman, Delhi, 2005) and co-editor of *Poverty, Gender and Migration* (Sage, 2006). Her research articles have appeared in various journals including *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, *Economic and Political Weekly*, *Indian Social Science Review*, and *Contemporary India*. She is currently working on contemporary debates on citizenship in India and on a study of the Election Commission of India.

**Anusha Hariharan** is an alumna of Stella Maris College, Chennai with an undergraduate degree in Sociology. She has worked for *Citizen’s Consumer and Civic Action Group, Chennai* as a research assistant and *Jagori – Women’s training, documentation and Resource Center, Delhi* as a part of the violence intervention unit.

**Aparna Balachandran** is an Associate Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Culture and Society in Bangalore. She recently completed her Phd at the

Department of History at Columbia University -- her work looks at the relationship between urban space, outcaste labor and religious identity in early colonial Madras. Her research interests include the histories of labor, pre-colonial legal regimes and early colonial law in South Asia.

**Arudra Burra** is a PhD candidate in Philosophy at Princeton University, and has a JD from the Yale Law School. His philosophical interests are in moral and political philosophy: his dissertation is on the relationship between exploitation, coercion, and consent. Though the dissertation touches on a number of legal themes, Arudra's main area of interest vis-a-vis the law is in South Asian legal history. He is also a long-time volunteer for the Right to Food Campaign, and currently manages its website *www.righttofoodindia.org*.

**Arun K. Thiruvengadam**, is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore. He obtained his formal legal education from the National Law School, Bangalore (B.A., LL.B (Hons.), 1995; LL.M, 2001) and New York University School of Law (LL.M, 2002, J.S.D., 2007). After completing his undergraduate education in 1995, he served as a law clerk to Chief Justice A.M. Ahmadi at the Supreme Court of India for eighteen months. Between 1997 and 1999, he practiced in the fields of administrative, constitutional and commercial law before the High Court of Delhi and the Supreme Court of India. He has been a Research and Teaching Fellow at the National Law School (1999-2001), as well as at the Global Public Service Law Project at NYU School of Law (2003-05). The areas in which he has research and teaching interests are: comparative constitutional theory and practice; Constitutional and administrative law in India; law and development; and legal education. In recent years, he has presented academic papers at conferences/seminars at the following venues: the Faculty of Law, McGill University; the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London; and at the Faculties of law at the Universities of Indonesia, Hong Kong, Toronto and Kyushu. In 2007, he undertook stints as Visiting Professor twice, and taught intensive courses on constitutional theory and Indian constitutionalism at the National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata and at the Faculty of Law, University of Toronto.

**Arvind Narrain** is a founder member of the Alternative Law Forum in India, a collective of young lawyers who work on a critical practice of law. He works on issues pertaining to human rights and also with specific reference to the human rights of those who are discriminated against on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation. He has also been active in the ICC - India campaign on issues of mass crimes and ensuring accountability for the same.

**Ashwini Sukthankar** is Director, International Commission for Labor Rights, New York.

**Ashwini Tambe** is Assistant Professor, Women and Gender Studies Institute and Dept of History, University of Toronto. Her research focuses on colonial South Asia, transnational gender and sexuality studies, and global political economy. Her upcoming book, "Codes of Misconduct: The Regulation of Prostitution in Colonial Bombay" (2009 U Minnesota Press) traces the history of the transnational sex trade in Bombay city. It focuses on the relationship between forms of prostitution, discourses of law making and law enforcement practices. She has co-edited a volume on transnational approaches to subaltern mobility in the Indian Ocean, titled "The Limits of British Colonial Control in South Asia: Spaces of Disorder in the Indian Ocean" (Routledge, 2008). Her articles have appeared in journals such as Feminist Studies, Gender and Society, and the International Feminist Journal of Politics. Her current research focuses on the changing legal age standards defining girlhood in twentieth century India.

**Balakrishnan Rajgopal** is Associate Professor of Law and Development and Director of the Program on Human Rights and Justice at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has been a member of the Executive Council and Executive Committee of the American Society of International Law, and is currently on the Asia Advisory Board of Human Rights Watch, the International Advisory Committee of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights and the International Rights Advocates. He has been a Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars in Washington, DC, the Madras Institute of Development Studies and the Jawaharlal Nehru University in India, a Visiting Professor at the UN University for Peace, University of Melbourne Law School and the Washington College of Law, the American University. His terminal degree is an interdisciplinary doctorate in law (SJD) from Harvard Law School and he also holds a first law degree from India. He served for many years with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Cambodia, and has consulted with UN agencies, international organizations and leading NGOs on human rights and international legal issues. He has published numerous scholarly articles in leading law journals including the Harvard, Columbia, Boston University, Connecticut and Leiden journals of international law, other law journals such as William and Mary Law Review. He is the author of International Law from Below: Development, Social Movements and Third World Resistance (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003; Foundation Press, South Asia, 2005; Colombia, Spanish, 2005; 2nd edition forthcoming in 2008), and Reshaping Justice: International Law and the Third World (Routledge, 2008). He is currently completing a book manuscript on legalization of socio-economic rights in the Global South. He has also published widely in the media including the Boston Globe, the Hindu, Washington Post and

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**B S Chimni** is the Chairperson, Centre for International Legal Studies, School of International Studies, JNU

**Bikram Jeet Batra** is a lawyer and researcher particularly interested in criminal justice and human rights. At present he is a New India Foundation Fellow working on a monograph on Capital Punishment in 20<sup>th</sup> Century India.

**Bimol Akoijam** is Associate Professor, Centre for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences 2, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

**Binyamin Blum** is a doctoral candidate at Stanford Law School. His research examines the transplantation of the English common law in the Middle East during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Binyamin's previous research has focused on judicial independence and the separation of powers, examining questions such as the historical origins of the United States' President's power to pardon and the ways in which temporary judicial appointments in Israel affect the decision making of untenured judges. His work has also addressed the ways in which comparative law is used by courts to express their self perception and define their identity. Binyamin has served as a teaching assistant of Evidence, Administrative and Criminal law. Before coming to Stanford, Binyamin clerked for the Honorable Justice Ayala Procaccia of the Israeli Supreme Court and served as a prosecutor at the Jerusalem District Attorney's Office. He obtained his B.A. and LL.B. (summa cum laude) from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and has recently been awarded the Stanford Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship.

**Brenna Bhandar** Lecturer, University of Kent Law School. Prior to the PhD Brenna practiced law briefly in Canada. Her research interests lie in the areas of indigenous rights, post-colonial and critical legal theories, theories of recognition, and property law. Her current research is in the area of biotechnological forms of property and processes of propertisation.

**Catalina Smulovitz** is a sociologist and political scientist based in Buenos Aires Argentina. A graduate from The Pennsylvania State University she is currently Director of the Political Science Department at Universidad Torcuato Di Tella Smulovitz has written about human rights and civil military relations in Latin American, uses and access to legal systems and on citizenship and accountability in Latin America. In 2008 she won the Simon Guggenheim Fellowship to carry on a research on inequality in the protection of rights among Argentinian provinces.

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**Donatella Alessandrini** is a lecturer at Kent Law School. She obtained her PhD at Birkbeck Law School where her doctoral project focused on the development approaches of the international trading regime. Her research interests are in the areas of trade theories and practices, development studies, neo-liberalism, and social movements. Her current research explores the relationship between the regulation of agricultural biotechnology, neo-liberal policies and development discourses.

**Dwijen Rangnekar** is a Research Council's UK Academic Fellow at Warwick University with a joint appointment at the School of Law and the Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation. His research currently focuses on the unbalanced globalization and politics of IPRs, the interface between innovation and appropriation with a particular emphasis on plant breeding and biotechnology, and the protection of cultural products (through geographical indications) with a particular attention to issues of exclusion and arbitrating quality. He is conducting research on Geographical Indications through a case study of Feni – an alcoholic distillate from Goa – under an Economic and Social Research Council grant where issues of rule-making and exclusion are central themes ([www.warwick.ac.uk/go/feni](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/feni)). He is also working on a manuscript on plant breeders' rights that looks at the law and politics of globalising a particular architecture of law.

**Evelina Dagnino** has a Ph.D. in Political Science from Stanford University, USA, and is a Full Professor of Political Science at the University of Campinas, S. Paulo, Brazil. She has been Visiting Professor at the Universities of Yale, USA, and Göteborg, Sweden. She has several books and

articles published in several countries, on democracy and citizenship, the relations between culture and politics, social movements, civil society and participation. She is presently engaged in two projects: on “Comparing Scales of Citizenship: Between Social and Legal representations” sponsored by the École des Hautes Études des Sciences Sociales and the Maison de Sciences de l’Homme in Paris; and on “Civic Driven Change”, sponsored by the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, Netherlands.

**Flavia Agnes** is a women’s rights advocate, activist and researcher. A pioneer of the women’s movement, she has worked consistently on issues of gender and law reforms. As co-founder of MAJLIS, a legal and cultural resource centre, her primary engagement has been to provide quality legal services to women and children. She has played an important role in bringing women's rights to the forefront within the legal system and in contextualizing issues of gender and identity. A prolific writer, she has provided incisive analysis of many social trends and legal reforms including domestic violence, minority law reforms, secularism and human rights. Significant among her many publications is her autobiographical book *‘My Story Our Story ... Of Rebuilding Broken Lives’* which has been translated into several languages. Other publications included *‘Law & Gender Inequality – The Politics of Personal Laws in India’* and an Omnibus, *‘Women and Law’* (co-edit) both published by Oxford University Press. She is one of the proponents of legal pluralism. Within the premise of ‘reforms from within’ she has played an important role in reforming the Christian Personal Laws as well as advancing the rights of Muslim women. Her more recent engagement has been with issues of democracy, secularism and identity politics. Her organisation, *Majlis* has worked consistently in countering the rising wave of Hindu fundamentalism in the country. After the communal carnage in Gujarat, India in 2002, she initiated a legal advocacy program for sexually violated women in relief camps and subsequently has brought out a publication titled, “Of Lofty Claims and Muffled Voices” (2002).

**Gail Pearson** is Professor of Business Law at the University of Sydney. Her latest book, *Financial Services Law and Compliance in Australia*, Cambridge University Press 2008, will be published shortly. She is currently researching Mackenzie Chalmers, late nineteenth century codifier of commercial laws. Professor Pearson is a Fellow of the Jawaharlal Nehru University Institute of Advanced Studies.

**Gautam Navlakha** is editorial consultant, EPW and has written extensively on democratic rights issues.

**Gopal Guru** is a professor of political science at CPS in Jawaharlal Nehru

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**Graham Dutfield** is Professor of International Governance at the University of Leeds, United Kingdom. He has written and edited several books on intellectual property, genetic resources, traditional knowledge and the life science industries. The most recent is *Global Intellectual Property Law* with Uma Suthersanen. His next book will be a second edition of *Intellectual Property Rights and the Life Science Industries* to be published in May 2009.

**Hans Dembowski** has a PhD in sociology from Bielefeld University. His thesis dealt with urban development and the judiciary in Calcutta. Currently, he is the editor of *D+C Development and Cooperation* ([www.inwent.org/d+c](http://www.inwent.org/d+c)) and the German twin publication *E+Z Entwicklung und Zusammenarbeit*. Law and governance matters are still of core interest to him, though his focus is no longer exclusively on South Asia. Before joining *D+C* in late 2003, he worked for the economics desks of a national daily in Germany (*Frankfurter Rundschau*) and *Radio Deutsche Welle*. He is the author of "Taking the State to Court – Public Interest Litigation and the Public Sphere in Metropolitan India" ([www.asienhaus.de/taking-state-to-court](http://www.asienhaus.de/taking-state-to-court)). The original version was published by OUP in 2001, but distribution was soon discontinued because of contempt-of-court proceedings before the Calcutta High Court. The case is still pending, he was never officially notified of the matter.

**Hester Betlem** has been working broadly within the field of South Asian Studies for approximately 10 years. Currently, she is completing her Fieldwork towards a PhD in Social Cultural Anthropology from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, USA. Her work focuses on ritual and social transformations among modern Devadasi women in the wake of the 1988 Andhra Pradesh Devadasi (Prohibition of Dedication) Act. Her field site is located in Rural, Coastal Andhra Pradesh. Her current interests include law, citizenship and belief.

**Indira Jaising** is a senior advocate practicing at the Supreme Court of India. She is the founder secretary of the Lawyers Collective, an organisation of lawyers engaged in social change through law. She edits the monthly magazine, *The Lawyers*, dealing with law and social justice. Indira has argued several cases of public importance such as *Olga Tells*, for the rights of the homeless, *Mary Roy's case*, for equal inheritance rights for Syrian Christian women, *Geeta Hariharan's case* for equal guardianship rights for women, *Rupen Deol Bajaj's case* protesting sexual harassment *Ashok Thakur*, arguing for affirmative action and reservation of higher learning for backward classes. She has represented the victims of the Bhopal disaster to just compensation. She has argued cases against the setting up of 5 star hotels in the coast line of Goa, to protect the environment. Indira has been awarded the Padma Shri in 2005.

She has been currently nominated to be an expert on the CEDAW Committee by the Government of India. More details on the organization can be found on [www.lawyerscollective.org](http://www.lawyerscollective.org)

**Jaivir Singh** is Assistant Professor at the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

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**Jean Comaroff** is a Distinguished Professor of Anthropology at the University of Chicago, Director of the Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory, and an Honorary Professor at the University of Cape Town. Her current research is on crime, policing, post-colonial politics and state sovereignty, religious revitalization, and the commodification of identity. Her books, co-authored and co-edited with John Comaroff, include *Of Revelation and Revolution, Volumes I* (1991) and *II* (1997), *Ethnography and the Historical Imagination* (1992), *Modernity and its Malcontents: Ritual and Power in Africa* (1993), *Civil Society and the Political Imagination in Africa* (1999), *Millennial Capitalism and the Culture of Neoliberalism* (2000), *Law and Disorder in the Postcolony* (2006), and *Ethnicity, Inc.* (2009).

**Jennifer Beard** is a barrister as well as an academic. In addition to holding a senior lectureship at Melbourne University, Jennifer has been a visiting fellow at the University of British Columbia Law School in Canada where she taught a PhD Seminar on Legal Theory and Interdisciplinary Approaches to Law; a teacher of International Law, Trade and Development in the LLM Programme in the Department of International Law and Human Rights at the United Nations University for Peace in Costa Rica; and a visiting fellow at the University of Lund Law School in Sweden where she works in collaboration with Professor Gregor Noll on an analysis of the RHD processes of the UNHCR. Jennifer teaches property law, international law and international law and development at either a graduate or undergraduate level. Jennifer undertakes research and writing in the fields of international law, law and development and critical legal theory and ethics. She has published a book called *The Political Economy of Desire: International Law, Development and the Nation State* (Cavendish-Routledge 2007). She has two further books due to be published in 2008: one is a text co-edited with Dr Andrew Mitchell on Public International Law; the other is a critical text on Law and Development (co-authored with Sundhya Pahuja). At the Bar, Jennifer's practice areas include public law, statutory interpretation, policy formulation and public interest litigation (see <http://www.mcnaught.com.au>). Jennifer co-directs the Research

Programme on Law and Development at the Institute for International Law and the Humanities together with Sundhya Pahuja (see <http://iilah.unimelb.edu.au/go/about-iilah/index.cfm>). She has assisted in the funding, design and development of a blog for her research students on Law and Development at: <http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/LawAndDevelopmentBlog/> Jennifer's research students are all wonderful scholars in their own right and she invites you to view summaries of their research at <http://iilah.unimelb.edu.au/go/people/postgraduate-research-students/index.cfm>

**Jinee Lokaneeta** is an Assistant Professor in Political Science at Drew University, Madison, New Jersey. Her areas of interest include Political Theory (Postcolonial, Feminist and Marxist theory), Law and violence, Cultural Studies, Jurisprudence, and Civil Liberties. She teaches courses on Torture: Pain, Body and Truth; Civil Rights and Liberties; and Law, Politics and Society. She has previously published in journals such as *Studies in Law, Politics and Society* and in *Economic and Political Weekly*. She has also co edited a text book in Hindi for an undergraduate course on women and politics, *Feminist Politics: Struggles and Issues*. Delhi: Hindi Medium Directorate, 2001. She is currently working on a manuscript on Torture in Contemporary Liberal Democracies focusing on the United States and India.

**Julia Eckert** is Associate Professor at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany where she heads the research group 'Law against the State' which examines the juridification of protest and the globalisation of transnational legal norms. Her research interests are in legal anthropology, conflict theory, the anthropology of the modern state, and the anthropology of security. She is currently writing a book on the police in Bombay focusing on everyday conflicts over norms of justice, citizenship and authority. Among her publications on this research are "The Trimurti of the State" in: *Sociologus* 2005; "From Subject to Citizen: Legalism from Below and the Homogenisation of the Legal Sphere" in: *Journal of Legal Pluralism*, 2006. Her work on a Hindu-nationalist movement in India resulted in her book "The Charisma of Direct Action" (Oxford University Press, 2003). Other than India, she conducted research in Uzbekistan and Afghanistan. She was a researcher at the German Institute for international pedagogical research, Frankfurt am Main, and lecturer at the Humboldt University, Berlin and the Free University of Berlin from where she holds a PhD.

**Kalpana Kannabiran** is Professor of Sociology at NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad, India and founder member of a women's collective, Asmita Resource Centre for Women where she coordinates research and legal outreach for women.

She was Chair of RC32 (Women in Society) of the International Sociological Association from 2002-2006 and General Secretary of the Indian Association for Women's Studies in 1998-2000. Her areas of specialisation are Sociology of Law, Jurisprudence and Gender Studies. She received the Rockefeller Humanist in Residence Fellowship at Hunter college, CUNY 1992-1993 and VKRV Rao Award for Social Science Research in the field Social Aspects of Law in 2003 from the Indian Council for Social Science Research and the Institute of Social and Economic Change. A contributor to the Economic and Political Weekly and The Hindu, she has co-authored a volume of essays, *De-Eroticizing Assault: Essays on Modesty, Honour and Power* (Stree, Calcutta, 2002), co-edited *Muvalur Ramamirthammal's Web of Deceit: Devadasi Reform in Colonial India* (Kali for Women, New Delhi, 2003), edited *The Violence of Normal Times: Essays on Women's Lived Realities* (Women Unlimited in association with Kali for Women, Delhi, 2005); co-edited *The Situated Politics of Belonging* (London: Sage, 2006). She is also a contributor to the Routledge International Encyclopaedia on Women and the History of Science, Philosophy and Culture in Indian Civilisation, Volume IX Part 3 (New Delhi: Sage, 2005). Most recently, she has co-edited, *Challenging the Rule(s) of Law: Essays on Colonialism, Criminology and Human Rights*, Sage, New Delhi, forthcoming 2008. Kalpana was a Member of the Expert Group on the Equal Opportunities Commission, Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India in 2007-2008.

**Kalyani Ramnath** is an undergraduate student at National Law School, Bangalore and she is, at this time, attempting to study the place of languages in the law and looking at contrasting legal interpretations in different settings – the courtroom and the classroom, for example.

**Kamala Sankaran** is a Reader at the Campus Law Centre, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi. She has been Research Professor at the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi, Visiting Scholar on a Fulbright Fellowship at the Georgetown University Law Centre, Washington DC and was earlier at the Faculty of Law, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. Her areas of research and writing include constitutional law, the informal economy, international labour standards, and women and the law. She has contributed two volumes to the Halsbury's Laws of India: *Employment Law (Unorganized Labour)* (LexisNexis Butterworths 2003) and *Industrial Law* (LexisNexis, 2006), and has co-edited *Towards Legal Literacy: An Introduction to Law in India* (Oxford University Press, 2008).

**Kaushik Sunder Rajan** is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, Irvine. He is the author of *Biocapital: The Constitution of Post-Genomic Life* (Duke, 2006). He is currently studying clinical trials and pharmaceutical development in the United States and India.

**Karine Bates** is Assistant Professor at the Department of Anthropology,

University of Montreal. After having completed a combined Undergraduate program in civil law and common law (B.C.L., LL.B.) at McGill University, in Montreal, Canada, she chose to pursue her studies in law and legal pluralism through the perspective of legal anthropology. In 2005, she obtained a Ph.D. in Arts (Anthropology) from McGill University. Her main research themes include legal anthropology, kinship anthropology, gender studies, South Asian cultures.

**KG Kannabiran** is a Senior Advocate based in Hyderabad and the National President of the People's Union for Civil Liberties. He has written extensively on questions of human rights; in courts across the country, he has defended political activists and people whose human rights have been violated both by the state and private actors and has been a leader of the movement for civil liberties in India over three decades. He is the author of *Wages of Impunity: Power, Justice and Human Rights*, New Delhi: Orient Longman, 2003.

**Kunal Parker** is the James A. Thomas Distinguished Professor of Law, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Cleveland State University. He holds a B.A. from Harvard College, a J.D. from Harvard Law School and a PhD (History) from Princeton University. He has written on British colonial legal history in India, the history of U.S. immigration and citizenship law, and is currently at work on a book on the relationships between historical consciousness and common law thought in the nineteenth century United States.

**Lakshmi Arya** is an Associate Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore. She has recently submitted a doctoral dissertation on rape laws and trials in colonial times (British India and princely Mysore, 1860 – 1947) at the history department in Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Her research interests lie in the field of gender, state and the law.

**Lavanya Rajamani** is at Centre for Policy Research, Delhi.

**Lawrence Liang** is a researcher with the Alternative Law Forum, where he works on issues of Law and Culture, the politics of intellectual property. He is the author of *The Public is Watching: Sex, Laws and Videotape and A Guide to Open Content Licenses*. He is currently working on the idea of Cinematic justice in Hindi cinema.

**Malavika Kasturi** is a historian at the University of Toronto.

**Manas Ray** is a Fellow at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta. He has written on cultural and film theory, ethics, governmentality, the Indian diaspora, and post-partition Calcutta and has been published in collections like

Global Television: views from the periphery (OUP, London, 1998), Floating Lives: negotiating cultural identity through media (Rowman and Littlefield, New York, 2002), Media of the Diaspora (Routledge, New York, 2003), City Flicks (Seagull, Calcutta 2004), Partitioned Lives (Pearson Longman, Delhi, 2007) and Penguin Anthology of Writings on Calcutta (New Delhi, 2008). At present, he is working towards a monograph entitled, Theorizing the Illiberal: essays on sovereignty and (neo)liberal technologies of governance.

**Marc Galanter** is the John and Rylla Bosshard Professor of Law and South Asian Studies at the University of Wisconsin - Madison and LSE Centennial Professor at the London School of Economics and Political Science. <http://marcgalanter.net/>. This website provides access to his studies of lawyers, litigation, legal culture and other topics, as well as some biographical information and commentary on his work and its reception.

**Manoranjan Mohanty** is a Professor of Politic Science, currently at Institute of Chinese Studies at CSDS and Council for Social Development, India

**Martin Macwan** is an activist in *Nausarjan*, Gujarat.

**Manjira Dutta** is a filmmaker, based in Delhi.

**Martin Lau** is a Barrister at Essex Court Chambers in London and a Reader in Law at the Law Department of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, where he teaches courses on South Asian law, comparative constitutional law and modern Islamic law. He was Head of the SOAS Law Department from 2002 until 2005, Director of the Centre of Islamic and Middle Eastern Law from 1995 to 1998 and is the Chief Examiner for the subject Islamic Law of the External LLB of the University of London. In the past three years he has been fortunate to have held research appointments at the universities of Nagoya and Harvard as well as being involved in several research projects on South Asian law. His current position involves research on modern Afghan, Pakistani and Indian law. He has visited and worked in the South Asian region for the past 15 years, most recently in Afghanistan, where, from August 2007 until June 2008, he headed the European Commission "Justice Sector Reform Project" in Kabul. He edits, with Eugene Cotran, the Yearbook of Islamic and Middle Eastern Law and is the author of *The Role of Islam in the Legal System of Pakistan*, published by Brill in 2006.

**Mary John** is the director of the Centre for Women's Development Studies. She has recently published a Women's Studies Reader (published by Penguin India, 2008).

**Mayur Suresh** is a researcher at the Alternative Law Forum. He holds a BA LLB (Hons.) from the National Law School of India University, Bangalore (2004)

and LL.M from Columbia University School of Law (2006). He was previously employed by the Centre for the Study of Casteism, Communalism and the Law at the National Law School, Sarai/Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi, and the Indian Security Workers Organising Council. In 2003 he was given a student fellowship from Sarai/Centre for the Study of Developing Societies to study the emergence of video technology in India and the subsequent efforts at regulation of this media. His present work at the Alternative Law Forum are in the areas of sexuality, copyright, and judicial discourse around the idea of the emergency.

**Mekhala Krishnamurthy** has a BA in Social Studies from Harvard University (2002) and an MPhil in Social Anthropology from Cambridge University (2003). She is currently a doctoral candidate in Anthropology at University College London, where her dissertation research focuses on the social and political dynamics of corporate expansion and experimentation in agriculture and rural markets in India. Over the past few years, she has also worked extensively on public health systems.

**MI Jafir** is writer, critic and media professional in Sri Lanka

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**Niti Saxena represents AALI**, a feminist legal advocacy group, which has been working on the issues related to women in human right perspective, in Uttar Pradesh (India) – a State fraught between entrenched feudal-patriarchal system

and extremely poor developmental indicators. Over the past 10 years AALI has undertaken research, advocacy as well as direct response to violations of women's human rights, with a focus on their rights within the private sphere in partnership with other organizations. The organization has intervened in cases where women's right to sexual autonomy has been violated and supported them in upholding and exercising the same. AALI has undertaken a national initiative aimed at enabling a holistic response to the violations of the women's right to choice and decision making in sexual relationship (hetero or same sex) as well as to ensure ideological understanding of the issue. Along with the larger alliance emerging from this national initiative, AALI and other women human rights groups/individuals from different parts of India have been working to establish this issue on the human rights agenda. The upcoming alliance recognizes the identification of varied manifestations of violations as critical to building a holistic understanding of the lived experiences of women.

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**Prabha Kotiswaran** is Lecturer in Law at the School of Law, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London where she teaches Criminal Law, Law and Social Movements and Feminist Legal Theory. For the academic year 2008-2009, she has received an AHRC Research Leave award for the completion of two book manuscripts. The first manuscript re-evaluates feminist legal theorizing on sex work based on a study of the political economies and legal ethnographies of two Indian sex industries. The second is a reader on Sex Work for Women Unlimited as part of its series on Issues in Contemporary Indian Feminism. Dr. Kotiswaran received her B.A., LL.B. (Hons.) degree from the National Law School of India University, Bangalore, and has LL.M. and S.J.D. degrees from Harvard Law School.

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**Pratap Bhanu Mehta** was previously Visiting Professor of Government at Harvard University and Associate Professor of Government and of Social Studies at Harvard. He was also Professor of Philosophy and Law and Governance, JNU. He has published widely in reputed national and international journals in a variety of fields including, political philosophy, intellectual history, constitutional law, international politics, society and politics in India. His most recent book are "The Burdens of Democracy" and "Public Institutions in India:

Performance and Design". He has been a prolific contributor to public debates and his columns have regularly appeared in *The New Republic*, *Foreign Policy*, *The Hindu*, *Indian Express*, *Telegraph*, *Yale Global*, and numerous other papers. He has served as Editorial Consultant to the *Indian Express*. He is co-editor of *The Oxford Companion to Politics in India* (forthcoming), and serves on the editorial board of numerous journals. He has lectured widely in universities in the United States, Britain, New Zealand, Europe and Japan. Mehta's current research projects center around four themes. The first is understanding India's Great Transformation, the profound social, political and economic changes of the last two decades, and the trajectory they are likely to take in the future. This will result in a book. The second project looks at the role of law in Indian society. It will specifically focus on the justiciability of social and economic rights, and whether judicial intervention is a good means of achieving those objectives. This project will result in a series of papers. The third project - a collaborative project-related to the first two is on Globalization and the Indian State, that looks at the legitimacy challenges facing the Indian State in an era of globalization. The fourth project continues Mehta's long standing interest in philosophical ethics and explores what it means to lead an examined life. In addition Mehta will continue to perform the role of loyal opposition and engage the public and government through columns on topical issues.

**Pratiksha Baxi** is Assistant Professor at the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance. Dr. Baxi holds a doctoral degree in Sociology from Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi. Her doctoral work, an ethnographic study of rape trials in a court in Gujarat, brings together her interest in sociology of law, feminist theory and violence. She is also interested in approaching issues of violence against women from the divergent perspectives of medical jurisprudence, practices of policing and legal pluralism. Pratiksha is currently working towards the publication of her manuscript on the ethnography of rape trials. Her publications include 'Medicalisation of Consent and Falsity: The Figure of the *Habituated* Woman in the Indian Rape Law', *Women Unlimited*, 2005; *Habeas Corpus* in the Realm of Love: Litigating Marriages of Choice in India. *Australian Feminist Law Journal*, 2006; and 'Adjudicating the Riot: Communal Violence, Crowds and Public Tranquility' in *Domains*, 2007.

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