



Azim Premji University Colloquium Series
presents a lecture on

The National Green Tribunal of India: Emerging Socio-Legal Perspectives

Speaker
Rita Brara

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics

Date: April 02, 2015 (Thursday)

Time: 2.00 to 3.30 pm

Venue: 10th Floor Auditorium, Pixel A, Azim Premji University

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About the Lecture

Abstract: In this lecture, I focus on three socio-legal perspectives that emerge from a perusal of environmental case law at the National Green Tribunal, India. First, I draw attention to modes of redressing violations outlined in environmental laws that lead to the forging of social relationships and bodies based on collective experiences of vulnerability vis-à-vis the environment. Framed as locally affected publics and NGOs, these bodies articulate and litigate their standpoints before the National Green Tribunal in their public interest. From a second angle, I note that emergent case law at the Tribunal shows increasing use of technoscientific data by local publics and advocates in the assertion of environmental claims and counter-claims. Science and knowledge for the local context are often triggered by considerations of vulnerability. This interface between science, society and the law is strengthened since the Tribunal has scientist members on board who play the dual role of scientists and judges. My third focus lights up the rising exercise of global environmental principles in the making of environmentally sound judgments and their occasional reorienting to accord with the national public interest.

About the Speaker

Dr. Rita Brara is an Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics. She has published, *Shifting Landscapes: The Making and Remaking of Village Commons in India* (2006: Oxford University Press). She researches in the areas of ecology, rural development, kinship and popular culture.