Public Lecture: Can courts bring social justice? Rights based welfare policy in a comparative perspective

By Professor Siri Gloppen

Date / Time:
August 2, 2013 - 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Venue:
Hotel Royal Orchid, Domlur, Bangalore, India 560073

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Abstract:
In light of diverse experiences around welfare rights over the last two decades, this talk asks: *What difference does it make that social policy is rights-based? Does it make courtrooms central sites of welfare policy- and if so, how do judges deal with these deeply political issues, and to what effect? And does it matter whether welfare rights are provided constitutional protection or just laid down in ordinary legislation?* By examining experiences from different parts of the world with regard to legal protection of welfare rights, the talk provides perspectives on the potential and limits of court based enforcement, as well as out-of-court rights-based strategies. Indian developments will be compared with experiences from Latin America, South Africa and Scandinavia.

A Note on the Speaker:

*Siri Gloppen* is Professor of Comparative Politics at the University of Bergen, Senior Researcher at the CMI, Director of the Bergen Center on Law and Social Transformation, and a research coordinator at the PluriCourts Center of Excellence, University of Oslo. Her main research focus is on the role of law and legal institutions in social and political transformation, spanning legal mobilization; enforcement of social rights; climate governance; constitution-making, judicial politics and transitional justice. She has directed a number of comparative research projects in these areas, resulting in a several books and articles including most recently *Juridification and Social Citizenship* (E.Elgar Forthcoming); *Litigating Health Rights: can courts bring more justice to health?* (Harvard 2011) and *Law and Power in Latin America and Africa* (Palgrave 2010).