



CENTRE ON PUBLIC LAW AND JURISPRUDENCE

invites you to a

Book Discussion

on

Courting the People: Public Interest Litigation in Post-Emergency India

with the author

Dr. Anuj Bhuwania

South Asian University

Discussants

Dr. Alexander Christoph Fischer, Associate Professor, Jindal Global Law School

Dr. Sarbani Sen, Associate Professor, Jindal Global Law School

Chair

Professor Pritam Baruah, Associate Professor, Jindal Global Law School

About the Author

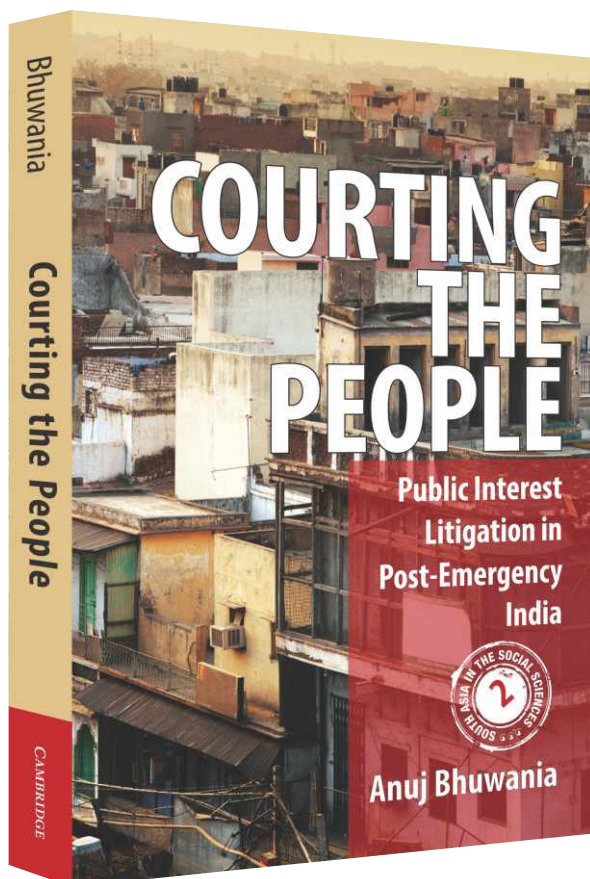
Anuj Bhuwania teaches at South Asian University, New Delhi. He studied law in National Law School of India University, Bangalore and School of Oriental and African Studies, London before doing his PhD in Anthropology at Columbia University in New York. He has earlier taught at Jindal Global Law School as well as held visiting positions at the Centre for Modern Indian Studies, University of Goettingen and the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance (CSLG) in Jawaharlal Nehru University. *Courting the People: Public Interest Litigation in Post-Emergency India*, published in December 2016 by Cambridge University Press, is his first book.

About the Book

"The Indian higher judiciary has acquired an increasingly important role in India's public discourse in the last few decades. The Supreme Court and the state High Courts have emerged as enormously powerful judicial institutions in the aftermath of the Internal Emergency of 1975-77. The principal means through which these judicial powers have been mobilized and enacted is the jurisdiction of Public Interest Litigation (PIL). This book studies the political role that PIL has come to play in contemporary India. It revisits the circumstances and manoeuvres that led to the rise of PIL and traces its political journey since then, arguing that the enormous powers that PIL confers upon the appellate judiciary stems from its populist character.

Based on empirical research, it shows how PIL grants the appellate courts enormous flexibility in procedure allowing them to manoeuvre themselves into positions of overweening authority. It focuses on the most intensive laboratory of PIL in recent times, the city of Delhi, and foregrounds the role that PIL has played in the radical reconfiguration of the city in the 21st century. While PIL cases are usually politically analysed solely in terms of their effects, whether beneficial or disastrous, this book locates the political challenges that PIL poses in its very process: arguing that its fundamentally protean nature stems from its mimicry of ideas of popular justice.

Courting the People examines PIL as part of a larger trend towards legal informalism in post-Emergency India. Casting a critical eye at these institutional reforms that aimed to adapt the colonial legal inheritance to 'Indian realities', this book looks at the challenges posed by self-consciously culturalist juridical innovations like PIL to ideas of fairness in adjudication as well as democratic politics."



Date: Thursday, 4 May 2017 | Time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Venue: T2, Conference Room, Third Floor, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat

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