

ARUDRA VENKATA BURRA

CURRICULUM VITAE

ADDRESS

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
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India

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WORK EXPERIENCE

December 2012-present **Indian Institute of Technology Delhi**
Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

July-December 2012 **Centre for the Study of Developing Societies**
Visiting Associate Fellow

July 2010-June 2012 **School of Law, University of California-Los Angeles**
Postdoctoral Fellow, Program in Law and Philosophy

EDUCATION

January 2011 **Princeton University**, Princeton, NJ
PhD (Philosophy)

May 2007 **Yale Law School**, New Haven, CT
JD

May 2000 **Brandeis University**, Waltham, MA
BA, *summa cum laude*
Concentrations in Philosophy, Mathematics (High Honors),
and Computer Science (Honors)

ACADEMIC HONOURS

- Princeton University**
- 2009 Graduate Fellow, Fellowship of the Woodrow Wilson Society
2008 Graduate Prize Fellow, University Center for Human Values
- Brandeis University**
- 2000 Arnold Shapiro prize in Mathematics
Philosophy Faculty prize
Award for excellence in Computer Science
- 1999 *Phi Beta Kappa*
University Scholar
- 1996-99 Wien International Scholarship

OTHER AWARDS

- 2019 Anil Divan Visiting Scholar, School of Law, Governance and Citizenship, Ambedkar University-Delhi
2016 Teaching Excellence Award, IIT Delhi
2013 Abdulaziz Alsagar Young Faculty Incentive Fellowship, IIT Delhi
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RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Areas of specialization: moral philosophy, political philosophy, philosophy of law
Areas of competence: philosophy of science, logic (introductory to intermediate)

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

- 2019 “Civil Liberties in the Early Constitution: the *CrossRoads* and *Organiser* cases”
In Satvinder Juss, ed., *Human Rights in India* (London: Routledge).
- 2017 “Freedom of Speech in the Early Constitution: A Study of the Constitution (First Amendment) Bill, 1951”
In Udit Bhatia, ed., *Deliberations on Democracy: The Indian Constituent Assembly Debates* (London: Routledge).

- 2016 “Another Look at the Revisionist Challenge to Liberty”
Jerusalem Review of Legal Studies 14:1 (December 2016)
- “What is “Colonial” About Colonial Laws?”
American University International Law Review, 31(2), 137-69.
- 2010 “The Indian Civil Service and the Nationalist Movement: Neutrality,
Politics, and Continuity”
Journal of Commonwealth and Comparative Politics, 48:4, 404-32.
- 2006 “The Folk Concepts of Intention and Intentional Action: A Cross-
cultural Study” (with Joshua Knobe)
Journal of Culture and Cognition, 6, 113-132.
- “Experimental Philosophy and Folk Concepts: Methodological
Considerations” (with Joshua Knobe)
Journal of Culture and Cognition, 6, 331-342.
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POPULAR ARTICLES

- 2017 “Freedom of Speech and Constitutional Nostalgia”
Seminar 697, September 2017, 50-55.
- “If Left, Right and Centre could talk to each other in a civil tone
earlier, what is the problem now?”
Scroll.in, May 2017.
- 2016 “Memo to Amit Shah: BJP icon SP Mookerjee would not have ap-
preciated curbs on free speech”
Scroll.in, November 2016.
- “What self-styled nationalists could learn from the Hindu Right’s own
past record on free speech”
Scroll.in, January 2016
- 2015 “Was Godse more patriotic than Gandhi?”
Scroll.in, November 2015
- 2010 “The Cobwebs of Imperial Rule”
Seminar 615, November 2010, 79-83.
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REVIEWS

- 2020 *Sixteen Stormy Days: The Story of the First Amendment to the Constitution of India* by Tripurdaman Singh
 India Today March 23, 2020
- 2019 *Sedition in Liberal Democracies* by Anushka Singh
 Socio-Legal Review 15(1), 66-74
- 2018 *The Republic of Rhetoric* by Abhinav Chandrachud
 The Wire, May 2018
- 2017 *Anger and Forgiveness: Resentment, Generosity, Justice* by Martha Nussbaum
 The Wire, April 2017
- 2015 *Offend, Shock, or Disturb: Free Speech under the Indian Constitution*
 by Gautam Bhatia
 Scroll.in, December 2015
- 2012 *Soldaten: On Fighting, Killing and Dying* by Sonke Neitzel and Harald Welzer
 Indian Express, November 2012
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ACTIVITIES

Law and Social Sciences Research Network (LASSNet)

www.lassnet.org

LASSNet is a network of scholars, lawyers, and activists engaged in research and teaching on legal issues in South Asia. I designed and managed the websites for the first and second LASSNet conferences, held in Delhi in January 2009 and in Pune in December 2010. I was also a member of the steering committee for the second LASSNet Conference. (September 2008-present).

Right to Food Campaign

www.righttofoodindia.org

The “Right to Food Campaign” is an informal network of organisations and individuals committed to the realization of the right to food in India. The campaign played an important role (among others) in the enactment, design, and monitoring of India’s

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National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the largest social security program in the world. I was involved in a variety of campaign activities, and managed its website from 2005-8. (April 2001-September 2008).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

IIT Delhi

Selected graduate courses

- Fall 2018 **HSL 754 The Philosophy of Plato**
Seminar course on the philosophy of Plato, with a focus on his ethical and political works
- Spring 2014 **HUL 841 Philosophy of Science**
Seminar on Thomas Kuhn's *Structure of Scientific Revolutions*

Selected undergraduate courses

- Fall 2018 **HUL 360 Special Topics in Philosophy** (upper-level)
Seminar course on criminal justice, with a focus on the philosophy of punishment
- Spring 2018 **HUL 258 Social and Political Philosophy** (introductory)
Lecture course on selected topics in social and political philosophy
- Spring 2014 **HUL 256 Critical Thinking** (introductory)
Lecture course on selected philosophical topics: the philosophy of artificial intelligence and the problem of free will
- Fall 2013 **HUL 253 Moral Literacy and Moral Choices** (introductory)
Lecture course in moral philosophy with a focus on freedom of speech
- Spring 2013 **HUL 281 Mind, Machines, and Language** (introductory)
Lecture course on the philosophy of mind and artificial intelligence

UCLA

- Spring 2012 **PHILOS 246 Ethical Theory** (graduate)
Graduate seminar entitled 'Exceptions and Explanations in Ethics (and Elsewhere)'

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- Fall 2011 **LAW M217/PHILOS 166 Introduction to Legal Philosophy** (introductory)
Introductory lecture course for undergraduate students and law students
- Spring 2011 **LAW M524/PHILOS 257B Philosophical Issues in Contract Law** (upper-level)
Seminar course for law students and graduate students in philosophy
- Guest lectures
- Spring 2019 **Constitutionalism** (graduate)
Five lectures on Indian constitutional history delivered at the School of Law, Citizenship and Governance, Ambedkar University Delhi
- Fall 2013 **LG 601 Research Methods** (graduate)
Five lectures on the philosophy of social science delivered at the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University
- Summer 2013 **Coercion** (graduate)
Two graduate seminars on coercion delivered at the Centre for Law and Cosmopolitan Values, University of Antwerp
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VISITING POSITIONS

- Jan-May 2019 Anil Divan Visiting Scholar, School of Law, Governance and Citizenship, Ambedkar University Delhi
- February 2018 Campus Visitor, College of Arts and Social Sciences, Australian National University
- April 2015 Visiting Scholar, UCLA Law and Philosophy program
- June 2013 Visiting Fellow, Centre for Law and Cosmopolitan Values, University of Antwerp
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PRESENTATIONS

- 2020 “Constitutionalism before the Constitution: Civil Liberties and the Rule of Law, 1946-50”
Annual Conference of the Law and Society Association, Denver, Colorado, May 2020 (video-conference)
- “Fairness, Convention, and the Morality of Misrepresentation in Business and Professional Contexts”
Zicklin Centre for Normative Business Ethics, Wharton Business School, University of Pennsylvania, February 2020 (video-conference)
- “Fairness, Convention, and the Morality of Misrepresentation in Business and Professional Contexts”
Department of Philosophy, Ashoka University, Sonapat, Haryana, January 2020
- 2019 “Constitutionalism before the Constitution: Nationalism, Civil Liberties, and the Rule of Law, 1946-50”
Conference on “Rethinking Political Realities,” Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities, October 2019
- “Constitutionalism before the Constitution: Nationalism, Civil Liberties, and the Rule of Law, 1946-50”
School of Policy and Governance, Azim Premji University, August 2019
- “Popular but not Sovereign: Nationalism, Electoral Politics, and the Government of India Act, 1935”
Conference on *Popular Sovereignty, Majority Rule, and Electoral Politics*, Institute for Human Sciences (Vienna), June 2019
- “Constitutionalism before the Constitution: Nationalism, Civil Liberties, and the Rule of Law, 1946-50”
School of Law, Governance and Citizenship, Ambedkar University Delhi, April 2019
- 2018 “Deception and the structure of moral reasoning”
Epistemology and Philosophy of Science Workshop, School of Arts and Sciences, Azim Premji University, June 2018
- Comment on *Sedition in Liberal Democracies* by Anushka Singh
Panel discussion at School of Law, Governance and Citizenship, Ambedkar University Delhi, February 2018

- “Sacred Presents and Profane Pasts: Civil Liberties and the Indian Constitution”
Conference on *The Present of the Day*, Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi, January 2018
- 2017
- Comments on *The Ethics of Wilfrid Sellars* by Dr. Jeremy Koons
Faculty Research Workshop, Center for International and Regional Studies, Georgetown University, Qatar, November 2017
- “The Significance of Consent: Against the Metaphor of Transformation”
Conference on *Consent: Its Nature and Normative Relevance*, Centre for Advanced Study in Bioethics at the University of Münster (Germany), June 2017
- “The Significance of Consent: Against the Metaphor of Transformation”
Centre for Public Law and Jurisprudence, Jindal Global Law School, May 2017
- “Civil Liberties in the early constitution”
IIT Delhi-University of Michigan South Asian Studies Workshop, Delhi, February 2017
- 2016
- “Freedom of Speech in the Early Constitution: A Study of the Constitution (First Amendment) Bill, 1951”
Jindal University Centre for Law and Humanities, September 2016
- “An overview of *The Morality of Freedom*”
Symposium on 30 Years to the Publication of Joseph Raz’s The Morality of Freedom, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, May 2016
- “The Significance of Consent”
Symposium on 30 Years to the Publication of Joseph Raz’s The Morality of Freedom, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, May 2016
- “Democracy and Distrust in the Early Constitution”
Workshop on “Midnight’s Institutions,” Yale University, April 2016
- “Civil Liberties and Political Ideology: The Early Constitutional History of Freedom of Speech”
“Act of Media” Workshop on Law, Media and Technology, Sarai-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, January 2016

- 2015 “Civil Liberties and Political Ideology, 1949-51”
Ashoka University, October 2015
- “Civil Liberties and Political Ideology, 1949-51”
44th Annual South Asia Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison,
October 2015
- “What is “Colonial” about Colonial Law?”
Manipal University Centre for Philosophy and Humanities, September 2015
- “In Search of the Colonial”
Annual Conference of the Law and Society Association, Seattle,
May 2015
- “In Search of the Colonial”
Delhi Legal Philosophy Forum, Jindal Global Law School, May 2015
- “Boxing-match cases”
Workshop on *The Analytic Just War: Engaging India in an International Conversation*, Centre for Public Law and Jurisprudence,
Jindal Global Law School, February 2015
- 2014 “Coercion and Moral Explanation”
Conference on *Philosophy in the Public Sphere*, Centre for Public Law and Jurisprudence, Jindal Global Law School, November 2014
- “Nationalism, Democracy, and Civil Liberties: 1946-51”
Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, November 2014
- “Cooperation and Collaboration: The case of the Indian Civil Service”
Conference on *Motilal Nehru and his Times*, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, January 2014
- 2013 “Coercion and Moral Explanation”
Department of Philosophy, Delhi University, November 2013
- “Coercion and Moral Explanation”
Centre for Philosophical Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, September 2013

- “The Significance of Consent”
International conference on *Law by Other Means*, Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, February 2013
- 2012
Comments on “Primordial forms, ordinary life and conflicts of knowledge in society” (Avinash Jha)
Faculty Retreat, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, December 2012
- “Civil Rights and Constitutional Debate, 1946-51”
National Conference on *Law, Ethics and Reason in a Comparative Perspective*, Jindal Global Law School, Sonapat, Haryana, India, November 2012
- “Coercion and Moral Explanation”
Jurisprudence Discussion Group, Oxford University, June 2012
- Comments on “Legal Obligation in a Global Context” (George Pavlakos)
Visiting Researcher Presentation, UCLA School of Law, May 2012
- “Coercion and Moral Explanation”
Northwestern Society for the Theory of Ethics and Politics (NUSTEP), May 2012
- 2011
“The Significance of Consent”
UCLA Legal Theory Workshop, November 2011
- “Coercion and Moral Explanation”
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi, August 2011
- 2010
“Institutional Continuity and Continuity of Personnel: the case of the Indian Civil Service”
Second Conference of the Law and Social Sciences Research Network (LASSNet), Foundation for Liberal Management and Education (FLAME), Pune, India, December 2010
- Discussant and co-coordinator of a panel on “Doing Legal Philosophy in India: Reflections on the Legacy of Chhatrapati Singh”
Second Conference of the Law and Social Sciences Research Network (LASSNet), Foundation for Liberal Management and Education (FLAME), Pune, India, December 2010

Comments on “The Metaethical Role of Evaluative Attitudes” (David Plunkett)

UCLA Legal Theory Workshop, November 2010

“Colonial Continuities and Constitutional Debate, 1946-51”

Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 2010

“The Significance of Consent”

LEGS Seminar, Program on Law and Public Affairs, Princeton University, April 2010

“Exploitation, Coercion, and Consent”

Fellowship of Woodrow Wilson Scholars, Princeton University, April 2010

“Deception and the Structure of Moral Principles”

Philosophy Colloquium, Georgetown University, February 2010

OUTREACH

2018 Judge, Justice YK Sabharwal Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition, National Law University, Delhi, October 2018

Lecture on “Towards an Integrative Politics: Notes from the History of Free Speech in India”

Ramjas College, March 2018

2016 Lecture on “The Tunisian Dialogue Quartet”

Reflections on the 2015 Nobel Prize Awards, IIT Delhi, February 2016

2015 Lecture on “Conflicts of Interest”

Conference on Judicial Ethics and Accountability, National Judicial Academy, Bhopal, November 2015

Lecture on “The Right to Die”

Samvad: Hindu College Philosophy Forum, November 2015

Participant in a panel discussion on “The Right to Die”

IIC-AIIMS Mental Health Series, India International Centre, September 2015

Participant in Episode #30 of the SynTalkr series, “The Argument Over Quarrel”
SynTalk, Mumbai, May 2015

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2020 Trustee, Supreme Court Observer
- 2019 Member, Rhodes Scholarship Preliminary Interview Committee (Humanities)
- 2018 Member, Board of Studies, School of Law Governance and Citizenship, Ambedkar University Delhi (Karampura Campus)
- External reviewer, Cambridge University Press
- Peer reviewer, *Indian Law Review*
- 2017 External consultant, Curriculum Review Committee, Department of Philosophy, Ashoka University
- 2014 Participant, Workshop on Media Law and Policy Curriculum Development, National Law University, Delhi, February 2014
- 2013 Special observer to Scientific Sessions I and II, ICMR ‘Mentor-Mentee’ National Workshop for Advancement of Physiological Sciences in India [ICAPS], All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi, December 2013
- Participant, Workshop on Course Design for Philosophy in Professional Institutions of India, Indian Council for Philosophical Research, Lucknow, India, February 2013