

A Story of Censorship: How the Right to Take Offense is Shrinking Free Speech in India

BY

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ANURADHA RAMAN is a Senior Associate Editor with the Political Bureau of *Outlook* magazine, New Delhi. She has written several articles on the media and the social sector with special emphasis on education and caste in India. She has also assisted in a study paper on Mapping Digitization in India in 2012 by the Open Society Foundations, which maps changes affecting the democratic service delivery of news on political, economic, and social affairs.

About the Lecture:

What does it mean to take offense to a book, music, work of art, film, or a play? As more and more people in India take offense to created works of art, the demand for banning them has increased. How does censorship or bans work in India? Who censors? And on whose behalf is a work censored? Does a work once censored remain banned forever? In this presentation, Anuradha Raman will look at the different groups or communities who take offense to a work of art and examine what this means for free speech, a constitutional right guaranteed to every individual. She will also examine those whose works are banned. Using traditional reportage, interviews, and the Right to Information Act, she will attempt to throw light on the process of censorship, examining the linkages between the state, the court, the offended parties, and the individual's right to free speech.

LECTURE TIME: 12 noon to 1:30 p.m.

VENUE: CASI – 3600 Market Street, Suite 560 (5th floor) Philadelphia, PA 19104-2653

About CASI

Founded in 1992, the Center for the Advanced Study of India (CASI) at the University of Pennsylvania is the first research institution in the United States dedicated to the study of contemporary India. The Center's key goals are to nurture a new generation of scholars across disciplines and to provide a forum for dialogue among the academic, business, and foreign policy communities.

