

***Mobilizing for the Right to Work:  
The Politics of India's National Rural  
Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA)***

BY

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**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2016 ♦ 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. at CASI**  
3600 Market Street, Suite 560 (5<sup>th</sup> floor) ♦ Philadelphia, PA 19104



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**About the Lecture:**

February 2016 marks a decade since India's National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (NREGA) came into force. Politics has infused almost every aspect of NREGA – its design, the process by which the Act has been implemented, and efforts over the years to reform its rules and procedures. The intensely political nature of NREGA has continued from the Manmohan Singh government (2004-14), which introduced NREGA, to the current government of Narendra Modi, which has overseen its execution over the past two years. A careful analysis of NREGA's political dimensions – as expressed at the local, state, and national levels – yields important insights concerning the nature of the Indian state, the significance of the country's rights-based approach to promoting human development, and the difficulties inherent in tracking the effects of policy change on such complex phenomena as political clientelism and democratic decentralization.

**About CASI**

Founded in 1992, the Center for the Advanced Study of India (CASI) at Penn is the first research institution in the U.S. 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.

