

ARUDRA VENKATA BURRA

CURRICULUM VITAE

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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)
Thesis: *Coercion, Deception, Consent: Essays in Moral Explanation*
Advisors: Gideon Rosen, Philip Pettit, K. Anthony Appiah

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	<i>Phi Beta Kappa</i> 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

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

2024	“Colonial Constitutionalism” Forthcoming in the <i>Cambridge Companion to the Constitution of India</i> (Cambridge University Press)
	“Institutional Imperfections, Arbitrariness, and the Death Penalty” Forthcoming in the <i>Cambridge Companion to the Death Penalty in India</i> (Cambridge University Press)
2023	“What is ‘Indian’ about Indian Political Thought?” In Jyotish Chandra Basak and Anureema Bhattacharyya, eds., <i>Essays on Ethics and Politics</i> (University of North Bengal Press)
2021	“Reading Rawls in India” <i>Sambhasan</i> 2:4 (Special issue on Rawlsian Engagements with Difference: Postcolonial Reflections), 23-53
2019	“Civil Liberties in the Early Constitution: the <i>CrossRoads</i> and <i>Organiser</i> 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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ESSAYS AND ACADEMIC REVIEWS

- 2024 “‘Decolonising’ the Law: The Wrong Answer to the Wrong Question”
Contribution to an online symposium on *Decolonisation and the Law* hosted by the Socio-Legal Review, Bengaluru
- 2021 “The Lamps in our House: Reflections on Postcolonial Pedagogy”
Contribution to the inaugural *Philosophy Forum*, Miami Institute for the Social Sciences
Constitutionalism without Sovereignty?
Comment on *Norms and Politics: Sir Benegal Narsing Rau in the Making of the Indian Constitution, 1935-50* by Arvind Elangovan, *Law and Other Things*

- 2020 Review of *Wrongs and Crimes* by Victor Tadros
 Law and Philosophy, 40:4, 455-462
- Review of *Art Attacks* by Malvika Maheshwari
 Contributions to Indian Sociology, 54:3, 466-69
- 2019 Review of *Sedition in Liberal Democracies* by Anushka Singh
 Socio-Legal Review 15(1), 66-74
- 2017 “Freedom of Speech and Constitutional Nostalgia”
 Seminar 697, September 2017, 50-55.
- 2010 “The Cobwebs of Imperial Rule”
 Seminar 615, November 2010, 79-83.
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POPULAR WRITING AND REVIEWS

- 2020 Review of *Sixteen Stormy Days: The Story of the First Amendment to the Constitution of India* by Tripurdaman Singh
 India Today March 23, 2020
- 2018 Review of *The Republic of Rhetoric* by Abhinav Chandrachud
 The Wire, May 2018
- “If Left, Right and Centre could talk to each other in a civil tone earlier, what is the problem now?”
 Scroll.in, May 2017.
- 2017 Review of *Anger and Forgiveness: Resentment, Generosity, Justice* by Martha Nussbaum
 The Wire, April 2017
- 2016 “Memo to Amit Shah: BJP icon SP Mookerjee would not have appreciated 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 Review of *Offend, Shock, or Disturb: Free Speech under the Indian Constitution* by Gautam Bhatia
 Scroll.in, December 2015
- “Was Godse more patriotic than Gandhi?”
 Scroll.in, November 2015
- 2012 Review of *Soldaten: On Fighting, Killing and Dying* by Sonke Neitzel
 and Harald Welzer
 Indian Express, November 2012
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

IIT Delhi

Selected PhD-level courses

- 2020-24 **HSL 751 Critical Readings in Philosophical Texts**
 Core philosophy PhD course: texts in question have included *A Theory of Justice* and *Political Liberalism* by John Rawls
- 2017-24 **HSL 754 The Philosophy of Plato**
 Seminar course on the philosophy of Plato, with a focus on his ethical and political works
- 2014-17 **HUL 841 Philosophy of Science**
 Seminar on various topics in epistemology and the philosophy of science

Selected undergraduate courses

- 2020-23 **HUL 256 Critical Thinking** (introductory)
 Lecture course on key notions in critical thinking, such as logic, argumentation, and evidence
- 2015-2020 **HUL 258 Social and Political Philosophy** (introductory)
 Lecture course on selected topics in social and political philosophy
- 2014-2020 **HUL 360 Special Topics in Philosophy** (upper-level)
 Seminar course on criminal justice, with a focus on the philosophy of punishment

- 2013 **HUL 281 Mind, Machines, and Language** (introductory)
Lecture course on the philosophy of mind and artificial intelligence
- UCLA
- 2012 **PHILOS 246 Ethical Theory** (graduate)
Graduate seminar entitled ‘Exceptions and Explanations in Ethics (and Elsewhere)’
- 2011 **LAW M217/PHILOS 166 Introduction to Legal Philosophy** (introductory)
Introductory lecture course for undergraduate students and law students
- LAW M524/PHILOS 257B Philosophical Issues in Contract Law** (upper-level)
Seminar course for law students and graduate students in philosophy
- Guest lectures
- 2022 **Civil Liberties: an Introduction** (teachers)
Lecture for a refresher course on the topic “Law in Contemporary Times” organised by the Teaching Learning Center (TLC), Ramanujan College (virtual)
- 2019 **Constitutionalism** (graduate)
Five lectures on Indian constitutional history delivered at the School of Law, Citizenship and Governance, Ambedkar University Delhi
- 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
- Coercion** (graduate)
Two seminars on coercion delivered at the Centre for Law and Cosmopolitan Values, University of Antwerp

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Invited lectures and presentations

- 2023 “What is ‘Indian’ about Indian Democracy?”
 Indiana University (India Gateway) Academic Conversations: Democracy, September 2023 (virtual)
- “‘What is ‘Indian’ about Indian political thought?”
 ICPR Study Circle Lecture, University of North Bengal, May 2023 (virtual)
- “‘What is ‘Indian’ about Indian political thought?”
 Colloquium in Political and Legal Theory, Ashoka University, Sonapat, Haryana, April 2023
- 2022 “What is ‘Indian’ about Indian political thought?”
 Humanities Seminar Series, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru, September 2022
- 2021 “‘Vulgar Gandhianism’ and the Lure of the Indigenous”
 Symposium on Modern India(s): Thinking with Rajeev Bhargava, South Asia Center, University of Pennsylvania, October 2021 (virtual)
- “The Lamps in our House: Reflections on Postcolonial Pedagogy”
 Inaugural Philosophy Forum, Miami Institute for the Social Sciences, March 2021 (virtual)
- 2020 “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”
 School of Policy and Governance, Azim Premji University, August 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

- 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
- “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 “What is “Colonial” about Colonial Law?”
Manipal University Centre for Philosophy and Humanities, September 2015
- 2014 “Nationalism, Democracy, and Civil Liberties: 1946-51”
Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, November 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
- 2011 “The Significance of Consent”
UCLA Legal Theory Workshop, November 2011
- 2010 “Deception and the Structure of Moral Principles”
Philosophy Colloquium, Georgetown University, February 2010

Conference and workshop presentations

- 2022 “Colonial Constitutionalism and Legal Memory: The Fate of *Habeas Corpus* in Independent India”
Panel on “Rethinking Indian Constitutionalism,” Annual Conference of the Law and Society Association, Lisbon, Portugal, July 2022 (virtual)

- “Colonial Constitutionalism and Legal Memory: The Fate of *Habeas Corpus* in Independent India”
Conference on *Legal Histories of Empire*, Maynooth University School of Law and Criminology, Maynooth, Ireland, June 2022 (virtual)
- 2021 “Constitutionalism before the Constitution: Civil Liberties and the Rule of Law, 1946-50”
Panel on “Colonial Constitutionalism in South Asia: Beyond Nationalist Paradigms” Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, USA October 2021 (virtual)
- 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 (virtual)
- “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 (virtual)
- 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
- 2018 “Deception and the structure of moral reasoning”
Epistemology and Philosophy of Science Workshop, School of Arts and Sciences, Azim Premji University, June 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 “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

- 2015 “Civil Liberties and Political Ideology, 1949-51”
44th Annual South Asia Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison,
October 2015
- “In Search of the Colonial”
Annual Conference of the Law and Society Association, Seattle,
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 “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 “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 “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
- 2012 “Coercion and Moral Explanation”
Conference of the *Northwestern Society for the Theory of Ethics and Politics (NUSTEP)*, Northwestern University, May 2012

Comments

- 2022 *Citizenship Regimes, Law, and Belonging: The CAA and NRC* by Anupama Roy
Jawaharlal Nehru University, October 2022
- 2021 “From Preventive Detentions to “Missing Persons”: The Dailectic of Impunity and Legality in Pakistan
Comment on a paper by Dr. Moeen Cheema and Dr. Sadaf Aziz, for the Junior Faculty Forum for Law Teachers (JFFILT), February 2021 (virtual)

- 2018 *Sedition in Liberal Democracies* by Anushka Singh
Panel discussion at School of Law, Governance and Citizenship,
Ambedkar University Delhi, February 2018
- 2017 *The Ethics of Wilfrid Sellars* by Dr. Jeremy Koons
Faculty Research Workshop, Center for International and Regional
Studies, Georgetown University, Qatar, November 2017
- 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
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PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2020-present Trustee, Legal Observer Trust (Supreme Court Observer)
- 2018-present Member, Board of Studies, School of Law Governance and Citizen-
ship, Ambedkar University Delhi (Karampura Campus)
- 2017 External consultant, Curriculum Review Committee, Department of
Philosophy, Ashoka University
- 2018-present Peer reviewer, *American Political Science Review*, *Analysis*, *Indian*
Law Review, *Law and History Review*; external reviewer, Cambridge
University Press