

Know your Experts



Kavita Krishnan

is a communist feminist activist, Secretary of AIPWA, Politburo member of the CPIML Liberation, and author of *Fearless Freedom* (Penguin Random House India 2020).

Prof. Jan Werner Mueller

Jan-Werner Müller studied at the Free University, Berlin, University College, London, St. Antony's College, Oxford, and Princeton University. He was a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, and a Fellow in Modern European Thought at the European Studies Centre, St. Antony's College. Since 2005 he has been teaching in the Politics Department, Princeton University.



Professor Müller is a co-founder of the European College of Liberal Arts (ECLA), Berlin, Germany's first private, English-speaking liberal arts college, for which he served as founding research director. He maintains a strong interest in international teaching and research initiatives centred on the liberal arts. He is the author of *Democracy Rules* (2021), *What is Populism?* (2016), and *Constitutional Patriotism* (2007).



Shahrukh Alam

leads Law at the National Law School of India and LSE, from where she graduated in 2001. She also has a degree in Sociology. She started to practice law at the Supreme Court of India in March 2015. In the interim, she tried many other things - traveller, writer, teacher. She also found a job at the Planning Commission and held it until the current dispensation thought fit to dispense with it. She came to law late and finds it impossible on most days. There are days, though, where she approves of her decision to practice. Shahrukh is interested in

constitutionalism and in criminal law, and its intersections with power and with discourse.

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Vikram Aditya Sahai

is a post graduate in political science from University of Delhi. They have previously worked as faculty at the Gender Studies Department, Ambedkar University, Delhi and as a consultant on a project to study non-normative sexuality and gender housed at the Advanced Centre for Women Studies, TISS, Bombay.

They are a researcher with the Centre for Law and Policy Research, Bengaluru. They live and love in Delhi.



Javed Ansari

has been a journalist for close to four decades. He has had the good fortune of working both in print as well as electronic media. He has spent over two decades with India Today, first with the magazine and later TV, interspersed with stints at the Hindu, DNA, and the Free Press Journal. Being a journalist has provided him a ringside view of events that have had an important bearing on the country and also helped him gain an insight into the way different organs of the government and media function.

Usha Ramanathan

works on the jurisprudence of law, poverty, and rights. She researches, writes, and speaks on issues that include the nature of law, Bhopal Gas Disaster, mass displacement, eminent domain, manual scavenging, civil liberties including the death penalty, beggary, criminal law, custodial institutions, the environment,



judicial process. She has written and debated extensively on issues of technology and the human conditions of freedom and liberty over the years. Her work draws heavily upon non-governmental experience in its encounters with the state, a six-year stint with a law journal (Supreme Court Cases) as reporter from the Supreme Court, and engaging with the state on matters of public policy.

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Mandeep Raikhy

is a dance practitioner with a particular interest in exploring the intersections between dance creation, performance, research, and pedagogy. He began studying jazz at 19 at the Danceworx, New Delhi, and his subsequent interest in contemporary dance took him to London where he completed a BA (Hons) in Dance Theatre at Laban. He toured with Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company, London

between 2005 and 2009. Mandeep has created several dance works, notably *Inhabited Geometry* (2010), *a male ant has straight antennae* (2013), and *Queen-size* (2016) and *Anatomy of Belief* (2019). These works have travelled across the country and internationally over the years including Kampnagel, South Bank Centre, and Singapore International Arts Festival. Between 2009-2019, Mandeep has been Managing Director at Gati Dance Forum, where he has worked to develop a supportive environment for contemporary dance in the country through projects as diverse as residencies, festivals, publications, and advocacy initiatives. He has been teaching as an assistant professor at the MA Performance Practice (Dance) at Ambedkar University, Delhi, since 2018. Mandeep is currently on a year-long road trip across India engaging with the question of the secular through conversations, choreographic collaborations and performative interventions in public spaces.

Dr. Papia Sengupta

has a doctorate in Political Theory and Indian Politics from the Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University where she now teaches. Dr. Sengupta has long experience in teaching and mentorship of students. She started her teaching career from Shyama Prasad Mukherji College and subsequently became a permanent faculty in Kirori Mal College at University of Delhi. Her research interests are in decolonization, institutional



mechanisms for minority accommodation, democratic rights, language-education and policies of multiculturalism and gender issues. Her first monograph titled "Language as Identity in Colonial India: Policies and Politics" was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2018 and her next two books titled *Linguistic Diversity and Politics* and *Sites of Inclusion in Higher Education in India* are forthcoming by Routledge, UK and Palgrave, Singapore, respectively. Apart from these books, Dr. Sengupta has published in reputed national and international journals including Economic and Political Weekly, Geoforum, International Journal on Diversity, Social Action and Droit et Cultures.

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Paramita Saha

is a performer, contemporary dancer, curator, and arts manager working out of Kolkata. Paramita was Repertory member, Co-Director of Sapphire Creations Dance Company, Kolkata for 24 years. As Co-Director of Artsforward for the last 10 years. Paramita works with artists and the creative community to build moving messages for social change. She is deeply engaged in the field of environment, audience development for the arts, nurturing and supporting creativity, capacity building and artistic ability in the youth, curating, and designing creative art projects. She runs At the Still

Point, India's only crowd-funded dance platform. She is an ArtThinkSouthAsia 2016 Fellow and a Global Fellow of International Society of Performing Arts 2018 and 2021. During Covid Times her Instagram initiative ArtAloneTogether developed into India's first and only am-pm, mixed arts online festival featuring artists across disciplines and borders. In July 2021 she founded a Continued Learning Program in Dance called Continew operating in both online and offline formats. In Aug 2021 she co-founded www.unmute.help, an online resource centre to safeguard the rights of performing artists.