



Department of Humanities and Social Sciences Special Lecture
Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati

Environmental Jurisprudence and Inequality in India

Prof. K. Sivaramakrishnan

Date: Thursday, 24 November 2016

Time: 6 pm

Venue: Mini Auditorium

Over the last thirty years through the occasional writ petition, but more often through the growing body of public interest litigation in India, something that might be thought of as environmental jurisprudence has emerged. Much of this consolidation of judicial wisdom and refinement of adjudication in environmental disputes has occurred in the Supreme Court of India, increasingly through the work of its Green Bench. But it has also happened in the public interest jurisdiction of select High Courts and, since 2010, also in the National Green Tribunal. This lecture will take the emerging concepts of environmental jurisprudence of the last thirty years and evaluate them in the light of both recent Supreme Court judgements and proceedings from the last five years, and also the longer history of public policy, social scientific analysis, and arguments over questions of inequality in India. Thereby this lecture will also reflect on the opportunities for research at the intersection of legal studies, social anthropology, and environmental history.

About the Speaker

Kalyanakrishnan (Shivi) Sivaramakrishnan (PhD Yale, 1996) is Dinakar Singh Professor of India and South Asian Studies, Professor of Anthropology, Professor of Forestry & Environmental Studies, Co-Director of the Program in Agrarian Studies, and Co-PI on the Carnegie Corporation Grant for Inter-Asia Connections at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. Professor Sivaramakrishnan's research interests span environmental history, political anthropology, cultural geography, development studies, and science studies. He is the author or co-editor of several books, including *Modern Forests* (Stanford, 1999 & 2002), *Agrarian Environments* (Duke, 2000), *Regional Modernities* (Stanford, 2003), *Ecological Nationalisms* (University of Washington Press, 2006), *The State in India After Liberalization* (Routledge, 2010), *India's Environmental History* (Permanent Black, 2011 & 2012), *Ecologies of Urbanism in India* (Hong Kong University Press, 2013), and *Shifting Ground: People, Animals, and Mobility in India* (Oxford, 2014). His articles have been published in *American Anthropologist*, *American Ethnologist*, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, *Development and Change*, *Environment and History*, *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, *Journal of Asian Studies*, *Journal of Historical Sociology*, *Journal of Peasant Studies*, *Social Anthropology*, *Modern Asian Studies*, as well as other journals and edited collections. Professor Sivaramakrishnan is currently working on several projects including comparative writing on urban nature and ecology in India and other parts of Asia; and continuing research on law, civil society, and the formation of environmental and legal public spheres in India.