

Digital Junior Scholars Workshop  
Law and Transformation  
February 17-19 and February 24-26, 2021

Short Bios

## **Participants:**

### Varsha Aithala

Varsha Aithala is a Ph.D. candidate at the National Law School of India University, Bangalore. She was a research fellow and faculty at Azim Premji University, Bangalore, where she taught courses on ‘Philosophical Foundations of Private Law’ and ‘Legal System Reform’ in the LL.M. and MPG programmes. Her research interests span the areas of private law, legal system reform and the legal profession. She has more than ten years of extensive corporate practice experience in India and the United Kingdom, specialising in private investment transactions. She is dual qualified, as an advocate in India and solicitor in England and Wales. She obtained a master of corporate law degree from the University of Cambridge in 2017 and a B.A., LL.B. (Hons.) degree from Nalsar University of Law, Hyderabad in 2007.

### Jasoon Chelat

Jasoon Chelat is a PhD scholar at the National Law School of India University, Bengaluru (commenced in November, 2020). Her research interests are gendered areas of work, which include reproductive labour, intimate labour, or care work typically performed by women within the family. She is interested in the intersection of gender and labour, and the differences between formal and informal workers in their organizational strategies and engagement with the law. Her thesis is currently titled *Nothing for Us without Us: Women’s Reproductive Work and Informal Labour Solidarity*. It is centred around labour law as a regulatory framework for surrogacy in India, with a focus on solidarity formations in women’s reproductive work. Her thesis supervisor is Professor Sarasu Esther Thomas, who specializes in family law, gender and human rights.

### Ankita Gandhi

Ankita completed her undergraduate degree in Political Science (Hons) from Lady Shri Ram College for Women, University of Delhi, in the year 2014, where she won the Randhir Singh Award for Excellence in Political Theory. She graduated with an LL.B. degree from Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi, in 2017. She then pursued her LL.M. from the London School of Economics as a Marchant Foundation Scholar. She was also the recipient of the LSE Master’s Award for the year 2017–18. At the LSE, she opted for courses on Comparative Constitutional Law and Information Technology, Media and Communications Law.

Before joining Jindal Global Law School (JGLS), Ankita was practising as an Advocate in the High Court of Delhi. Her areas of interest include legal theory, constitutional law, gender justice, and data privacy with a specific focus on the confluence of the legal system with politics. Her research fits into her larger aim of understanding how the state is becoming more of a behemoth with the help of technological advancement and the implications it will have on civil rights. Her work also challenges the common sensical assumption that globalisation is weakening the traditional nation-state model.

At JGLS, Ankita is the Assistant Editor of India’s only SCOPUS-indexed law journal — the Jindal Global Law Review (JGLR) — where she works towards the publication of interdisciplinary manuscripts which seek to encourage critical legal scholarship in the Global South. She was also a Research Associate at JGLS’ Centre for Justice, Law and Society (formerly Centre for Health, Law, Ethics and Technology or CHLET) where she worked on advancing reproductive rights and

SOGIESC interests. As a tenured faculty member, she has taught Jurisprudence and Gender and Society in the past; she currently teaches Constitutional Law at the law school.

### Kanika Gauba

Kanika has her undergraduate and master's degrees in law at the National Law University, Delhi. She worked in the past at the Supreme Court of India, Tamil Nadu National Law University, and National Law University, Delhi. She presently teaches courses on constitutional history, and legal foundations of public policy at the Azim Premji University, Bangalore.

Kanika's recent work explores the impact of the partition on constitution-making in India. Her areas of interest in the broader field of law and the humanities include citizenship, the minority question, and the politics of memory, and in Indian political thought.

### Neeraj Grover

Neeraj Grover teaches at Azim Premji University where he offers courses on "Law and Development", and "Corporate Governance" in the LLM programme. His research interests include comparative private law, corporate governance, and law and development. Most recently, he has been working on the theories of corporations. Prior to his full-time academic involvement, Neeraj was a practicing commercial lawyer. He has advised clients on foreign direct investment, commercial arbitration, and M&A.

### Thilo Herbert

Thilo Herbert is a researcher and PhD-Candidate at the Chair for Public Law and Comparative Law (Prof. Dann) at Humboldt University of Berlin. He studied law at Goethe University in Frankfurt, with a one-year stay abroad at SciencesPo and University of Nanterre in Paris. In Frankfurt, he worked as a student assistant at the Chair for Public Law with a focus on Social Security Law (Prof. Wallrabenstein) and at the Fritz Bauer Institute. In 2019, he completed his first state examination and thereupon worked as research assistant at a law firm until he started a position as a researcher at Prof. Dann's chair in April 2020. Since then, he has been pursuing his dissertation and taking on other assignments at the chair. His main tasks there include organising the review section for the VRÜ/WCL. His fields of interest lie in the areas of authoritarian constitutionalism, comparative constitutional law, and federalism.

### Ms. Vidya Ann Jacob

Ms. Vidya Ann Jacob is a PhD candidate at the National Law School of India University, Bangalore. Her research focuses on the best practices and legal mechanisms that can be undertaken by the government of India to mitigate and adapt to climate change to render climate justice.

Ms. Vidya Ann Jacob is an Assistant Professor at School of Law, CHRIST and has been associated with the law school for the past five years. She has completed her B.A.LL.B. from Bangalore University and LL.M from the Christ University. Her Research interests include Human Rights, Urban Development Law and Environmental Law. She has been a part of research projects funded by the Karnataka Government and National Law School of India University, Bengaluru. Ms. Jacob was a Doctoral Fulbright Kalam Climate Change Fellow for the academic year 2019-21 at Lewis and Clark Law School, Portland (Oregon).

During her free time, Ms. Jacob enjoys nature walks and bird watching.

### Kanika Jamwal

Kanika is an Assistant Lecturer at Jindal Global Law School, India. She has completed her Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Public International Law from the London School of Economics and Political Science, London. Her research interests include, domestic, international and transnational environmental law, climate change, and, traditional water systems.

### Claudia Kolarski

Claudia Kolarski studied law in Berlin until 2017, first at Free University, later at Humboldt University. Her focus always has been on human rights, public international law, and international criminal law. In the course of her studies, she tried to gain as much experience as possible abroad and, thus, worked as an intern (mainly in Human Rights) in South Africa a few times. Eventually, she worked for a NGOs in Eswatini. and guesses that her encounter with these countries was in the end the cause of her deep interest in the colonial history of the African continent. Her current research interests are in post-colonial and decolonial legal theory/TWAIL, and global order/IR. Since May 2020, she works at the Chair for Public and Comparative Law of Prof. Philipp Dann and dedicates her attention to research in these fields.

### Gwinyai Machona

Since July 2020, Gwinyai Machona is a researcher at the Chair for Public Law and Comparative Law at Humboldt University. Earlier that year he finished his First Legal State Examination in German Law. His PhD is concerned with colonial law and domestic administrative law, but he is also very interested in law and/of development and international/global administrative law as well as general public international law. Previously, he was a student assistant at the research group International Rule of Law – Rise or Decline in Berlin. Before his studies in Berlin, he studied law in London. In Gwinyai Machona's experience studying and engaging with people from other backgrounds in or from other countries has always been great for broadening the own horizon. He is very much looking forward to meeting everyone (this time online).

### Maitreyi Misra

Maitreyi graduated in Law from the Symbiosis Law School, Pune in 2010 and holds a Masters in Law from the New York University. She was an International Law and Human Rights Fellow as part of which she worked with the Association for Civil Rights in Tel Aviv, Israel. Her current area of work focuses on introducing a rights based approach to mental health in traditionally punitive systems like criminal processes, and heads the work on mental health at Project 39A, a research and litigation Centre at the National Law University Delhi. Before joining Project 39A in 2014, Maitreyi worked with Mr. Anand Grover, Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court of India and assisted him in his work as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health.

### Vikram Aditya Narayan

Vikram Aditya Narayan graduated from National NLIU, Bhopal in 2013. He then practiced in the Supreme Court for four years, where most of his experience has been in the area of public law. In 2017-2018 he pursued an LLM at University College London and was a visiting researcher at

Humboldt University, Berlin. He has previously taught seminar courses at NLS Bangalore and NLU Delhi. He is currently a PhD candidate at Humboldt University, Berlin. His research interests include constitutional theory, comparative constitutional law, jurisprudence, administrative law and media law.

### Gabriel Noll

Gabriel Noll has been a researcher at the chair for public and comparative law at Humboldt University since end of 2019. His interest in comparative constitutional law matters was first sparked during his time as a student assistant with the Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law in Heidelberg, the southern German university town where he also did his law studies until 2017. Before embarking on this current journey into academia he finished his training as a German lawyer doing the infamous “Referendariat”. This practical traineeship did not only lead him into the role of a judge at a local tribunal, of a state attorney at the Berlin criminal court and of an officer of the Federal Foreign Office but also deeply into the enmeshments of German civil procedural and other highly specific law. Now, he is still in the process of zooming out of these limited and detailed doctrinal perspectives, finding out more and more where his actual interests in doing legal research lie.

### Shreya Rastogi

Shreya Rastogi is a Founding member of Project 39A, National Law University, Delhi. She heads the death penalty litigation and forensics teams at P39A. She was the Deputy Director and Assistant Author of the Death Penalty India Report, 2016. As part of her forensics work, she is currently leading a survey of forensic science laboratories in India to understand their challenges relating to administration and functioning. Her research interests include criminal justice, death penalty, forensics, and law on evidence. She graduated from National Law University, Delhi in 2013 and completed her masters in law from NYU School of Law in 2017.

### Jahnavi Sindhu

Jahnavi Sindhu began her PhD at Humboldt University in June 2020. Previously she clerked at the Supreme Court for two years and then practiced in Delhi for 1.5 years with a focus on constitutional litigation and has worked on cases such as Anuradha Bhasin, the challenge to the abrogation of the special status of Kashmir under Article 370 and the challenge to the Citizenship Amendment Act. She completed her LL.M. from Yale Law School in 2018 and graduated from NLSIU in 2015. Her research focuses on judicial review and separation of powers.

### Ira Chadha-Sridhar

Ira Chadha-Sridhar is a PhD Candidate at the Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge and a Cambridge International and King’s College Scholar. Her research interests lie at the intersection(s) of legal philosophy, political and moral philosophy, law and language, and feminist theory. She is also a lecturer (currently on leave) at O.P. Jindal Global University in India where she has previously lectured in Jurisprudence, the Interpretation of Statutes and Family Law.

## Neetika Vishwanath

Neetika Vishwanath heads the research on sentencing and torture at Project 39A, National Law University Delhi. In her prior role in a non-profit working on gender-based violence and for her master's thesis (in women's studies), she has undertaken an ethnographic study of rape trials in a lower court of India. In her professional experience of nearly seven years, she has worked and researched on criminal justice issues from the perspective of both the victims and the offenders. Her areas of interest within the criminal justice domain include the death penalty, sexual offences, sentencing & punishment. Her research interests lie at the intersection of law and society.

## **Organizers:**

### Tanja Herklotz

Tanja Herklotz is a postdoctoral researcher at the Chair for Public and Comparative Law at Humboldt-University of Berlin and the principal investigator of two Indo-European research projects on legal cultures and transformative constitutionalism that are funded by the DAAD. She has studied law at the Universities of Heidelberg, Bologna and Münster and holds an LLM degree from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. She has been a visiting researcher at the University of Warwick, the Center for the Study of Law and Society at Berkeley Law and the Centre of Law and Society at Cardiff University. Her research interests and areas of publication include comparative constitutional law with a particular focus on the Global South, law and gender, legal pluralism and religion-based law, and law and social movements. In her PhD project entitled 'Streets and Courtrooms: Feminist Legal Activism in India' (pursued at Humboldt-University of Berlin), she assessed the impact of the Indian women's rights movement on legislation and case law.

### Franziska Duda

Franziska Duda is a student assistant at the Chair for Public and Comparative Law at Humboldt-University of Berlin since 2020. As a student assistant she supports Tanja Herklotz in the DAAD financed research projects "Legal Cultures in India and Germany" and "Law and Transformation". She has completed her undergraduate studies with a specialization on Contemporary History and Theory of Law and is currently studying for her First Legal State Examination in German Law.

### Louisa Hattendorff

Louisa Hattendorff studies law at Humboldt-University of Berlin with a specialisation on Contemporary Legal History and the Theory of Law. She has been a student assistant at the Chair for Public and Comparative Law (Prof. Dann) for 1.5 years. In 2020, she has supported Tanja Herklotz in organising the first Young Scholar's Workshop as part of the project "Legal Cultures in India and Germany". Currently, she is studying for her First Legal State Examination.