



Centre for Legal Theory
Faculty of Law

SINGAPORE SYMPOSIUM IN LEGAL THEORY

Paying attention to Patriarchy – ‘Patriarchal Forestalling’ and Systemic Injustice for Victims of Domestic Abuse in India

By Professor Shazia Choudhry
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5.00PM TO 7.00PM

LEE SHERIDAN CONFERENCE ROOM, LEVEL 1, EU TONG SEN BUILDING

NUS LAW (BUKIT TIMAH CAMPUS)

ABSTRACT

In recent years there has been a definitive shift towards theorising individual experiences of abuse and systemic considerations for victims as various manifestations of ‘coercive control’ and a focus on the appropriate legislative and policy response to new and emerging forms of violence against women, such as image based sexual abuse. I argue, that in doing so, not enough attention is being paid to the general account of patriarchy as an unjust social system, where, I argue, the real solution to eradicating violence against women can be found.

Using a recent empirical study of the effectiveness of domestic violence legislation and policy in three states in India (funded by the British Academy) I demonstrate how patriarchy operates as an unjust social system and how a combination of patriarchal practices within formal and informal justice mechanisms and wider familial and social networks combine to produce what I term the ‘patriarchal forestalling’ of justice for victims of domestic abuse. I conclude that it is only by recognising the systemic injustice in operation at this high level of description that we can consider how to meaningfully resist it in terms of actions and policies.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Shazia Choudhry is a Professor in the Faculty of Law and Hackney Fellow in Law at Wadham College. She was appointed Academic Fellow of the Inner Temple from 2014-2017 and is now an Associate Academic Fellow. She was elected as an Academic Bencher in 2020. Her research is focused on gender, human rights and violence against women and seeks to examine various dimensions of these areas from an interdisciplinary and feminist perspective. In doing so she employs doctrinal, theoretical and empirical methods. Her scholarship sits at the interface of criminal law, public law (particularly human rights law) and family law.

Participation is by invitation only.

For details, please write to clt@nus.edu.sg.