

Title of paper/presentation: “Pluralisms in law: International refugee law and India’s refugee policy”

Abstract: This presentation questions whether recognising a plurality of legal orders within the international refugee protection regime can open avenues for reform, with the ultimate objective of rendering the system more effective at accomplishing its goals. This paper takes as its focus the case of India, a country that is frequently host to refugees, although it is not a party to any international refugee law and does not have a national law dedicated to the situation of refugees. In responding to this question, the presentation will survey current international refugee law and India’s domestic legal landscape pertaining to refugees. After raising some of the criticisms and challenges in the current international legal regime, including objections raised by India, the presentation will delve into notions of legal pluralism and constitutional pluralism. The author will attempt to evaluate whether these conceptualisations of international law can offer different insights into the legal regimes that would be useful in achieving greater success in refugee protection.