

Alexa Franczak

She received her Honours Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toronto in 2014. She is currently a B.C.L./L.L.B. candidate at the Faculty of Law, McGill University. Her internship was funded by the Hans and Tamar Oppenheimer Chair in Public International Law.

Note of Thanks

I greatly enjoyed my time at the CRG, especially the camaraderie and the endless support of all CRG staff. I am especially grateful to Dr. Banerjee and Dr. Samaddar for their interest in my work, and for their insight and advice. I was very fortunate to have this experience developing my ideas and learning in an enriching environment.

Involvement

During my time as an intern, I benefited from several public lectures and talks organized by the CRG. I attended Rama S. Melkote's talk, "Women in the Telangana Movements: Then and Now", S Akbar Zaidi's on "Has China Taken Over Pakistan?", and Kanak Mani Dixit on "Nepal: Gateway Into and Out of South Asia." I particularly enjoyed Manoranjan Byapari's talk on his life as a Bengali and Dalit refugee, and I am very thankful to Sucharita Sengupta for her translation skills.

Research

My research sought to examine the exclusion of women's interests and experiences from the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement Act, 2013 and the subsequent amendment ordinances and bills. While the experiences of women are not identical, there are well known issues impacting the status of women. This includes women's historical and ongoing exclusion from ownership rights, yet their increasing dependence on agricultural employment, in addition to the undervalued and underestimated nature of women's work. For these reasons, the manner in which the Act entitles individuals affected by land acquisition to the awards might disproportionately exclude women from the compensation, rehabilitation, and resettlement benefits. Additionally, the strong link between property retention and women's empowerment should not be ignored within the Act.