



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD



NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL
OF INDIA UNIVERSITY

BENGALURU



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MELBOURNE

Call for Papers

“New Directions, New Voices in Family Law in India”

National Law School of India University (NLSIU)

Melbourne Law School (MLS)

Oxford University Faculty of Law

5-6 July 2019, Bangalore, India

A great deal of anticipation and anxiety surrounds family law in India in the present moment. For example, the recent Supreme Court of India decision in *Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India*, concerning Section 377, created the hopeful possibility of wide-ranging changes in Indian family law responsive to LGBT lives. This same opinion has also instigated worries about what sort of anti-LGBT arguments will be disseminated in response to these possibilities. Similarly, the discussion surrounding the Supreme Court’s recent decision in *Shayara Bano v. Union of India*, concerning triple *talaq*, signalled the Court’s commitment to enforcing constitutional guarantees about equal citizenship for women, while also suggesting that society-at-large remains uncomfortable with divorce in general.

The conference “New Directions, New Voices in Family Law in India” aims to explore emerging dimensions and tensions in discussions surrounding family law in India. While there is a great deal of continuity between historic and contemporary issues in family law in India, one significant goal of this conference is to explore and discuss *newer* family law developments, as well as *neglected* aspects of older (and continuing) family law issues. Another important goal of this conference is to encourage newer voices in the family law discussion—voices who can bring to the forefront neglected issues in and perspectives on family law issues in India, whether contemporary or historical.

While there are a wide variety of topics and perspectives relevant to the subject and theme of this conference, some suggested topics include:

- Legal recognition and norms surrounding LGBT families (e.g. marriage, divorce, inheritance)
- Legal recognition and regulation of non-biological kinship formations (e.g. *guru-chela* relations, adoption, friendship)
- Transnational families (e.g. families across regional borders and in the Indian diaspora)
- Non-state family law dispute adjudication (e.g. caste *panchayats*, *dar ul qazas*, church courts)
- Legal recognition and regulation of interreligious families
- Nationalist politics and family law (e.g. *dalit* families, triple *talaq* controversy, transnational family law statutes and movements)
- Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) and the law
- Intersectional approaches (e.g. transgender inheritance law; transnational, non-state family law dispute adjudication; philosophy of family law)

This conference is jointly sponsored and organized by the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Melbourne Law School (MLS), and the Oxford University Faculty of Law, and will take place on 5-6 July 2019, on the NLSIU campus in Bangalore, India. Panels of presenters will be organized around similarly themed individual paper submissions accepted for presentation.

Paper proposal submissions should take the form of a title and 500-word abstract of the paper to be individually delivered. Finalized papers for accepted papers are expected of presenters before the conference and details concerning this will be sent to accepted presenters; the possibility of publishing these papers in a peer-reviewed journal is currently being pursued. Accommodation in the NLSIU guesthouse will be provided to accepted paper presenters, and food and beverages will be provided across the duration of the conference. A limited number of travel stipends (to and from Bangalore) are also available for accepted paper presenters.

Further inquiries, as well as proposed papers (titles and 500-word abstracts), should be jointly submitted to Professor Sarasu Thomas (sarasu@nls.acl.in), Dr. Jeff Redding (jeff.redding@unimelb.edu.au), and Professor Rachel Taylor (rachel.taylor@law.ox.ac.uk) for consideration by 31 December 2018.