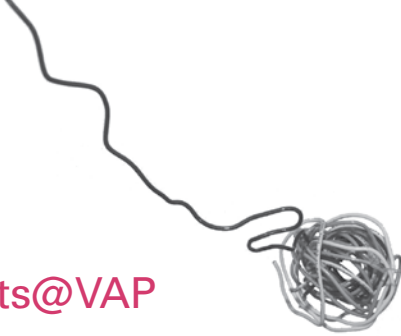


MIT Visual Arts Program

Zones of Emergency | Monday Nights@VAP



# Amar Kanwar Balakrishnan Rajagopal The Human Condition

Mon/May 5, 6–9pm

Still from THE LIGHTING TESTIMONIES  
Credit for image: Amar Kanwar, 2008

Massachusetts  
Institute of Technology  
**Visual Arts Program**  
Department of Architecture

New Location  
Stata Center 32-155

for information call  
617-253-5229  
web.mit.edu/vap  
www.zonesofemergency.net

**This event is co-sponsored  
by the MIT Program on  
Human Rights and Justice**

Free and open to the public.

This event is presented in conjunction with the following two courses 4.381/4.366: Intro to Online Participatory Media: Zones of Emergency - Networks, Tactics, Breakdown taught by Professor Amber Frid-Jimenez and 4.370/4.371 : Research as Artistic Practice: Module 1: Zones of Emergency: The FEMA Trailer Project taught by professors Ute Meta Bauer & Jae Rhim Lee.

**Amar Kanwar**, independent filmmaker, and **Balakrishnan Rajagopal**, Professor of Law and Development and Director of the Program on Human Rights and Justice at MIT will speak on the topic of *The Human Condition*. **Amar Kanwar** will present *The Little Museum* with reflections on the image that lies between sorrow and resistance. This exploration will include extracts from different film projects such as *Shrines 1991-2007*, which emerges from labor and indigenous people's resistance movements, *The Torn First Pages*, which emerges from the Burmese democracy movement and *The Lightning Testimonies*, which emerges from the search for language to understand the narratives of sexual violence in areas of conflict. **Balakrishnan Rajagopal** will talk about "normalizing emergency" in development and human rights terms, drawing on Agamben, but with a specific focus on the condition of Dalits in India.

**Amar Kanwar** is the recipient of the 1st Edvard Munch Award for Contemporary Art from Norway, an Honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts, Maine College of Art, USA, the MacArthur Fellowship in India, the Golden Gate Award (San Francisco International Film Festival); Golden Conch (Mumbai International Film Festival); The First Prize (Torino International Film Festival, Italy); Jury's Award (Film South Asia, Nepal), Grand Prix at EnviroFilm, Slovak Republic and the Golden Tree at the 1st National Environment and Wildlife Film Festival Vatavaran, Delhi. A retrospective of his films was held at the Dhaka International Short Film Festival in 2005. His films have been screened in small rural film festivals as well as international film festivals and museums like the Museum of Modern Art, New York and the National Museum in Oslo, Norway. He participated in Documenta 11 (2002) and Documenta 12 (2007), Kassel, Germany. Town. During the day, he co-runs the Pan African Market, a trade and cultural co-operative in Cape Town.

**Balakrishnan Rajagopal** is Associate Professor of Law and Development and Director of the

*Program on Human Rights and Justice at MIT. A previous member of the Executive Council and Executive Committee of the American Society of International Law, he is currently on the Asia Advisory Board of Human Rights Watch, the International Advisory Committee of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights and the International Rights Advocates. He served for many years with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Cambodia, and has consulted with UN agencies, international organizations and leading NGOs on human rights and international legal issues. He is the author of "International Law from Below: Development, Social Movements and Third World Resistance" (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003; Foundation Press, South Asia, 2005; Colombia, Spanish, 2005; 2nd edition forthcoming in 2008), and "Reshaping Justice: International Law and the Third World" (Routledge, co-editor, 2008). He is currently completing a book manuscript on legalization of socio-economic rights in the Global South. He has also published widely in law and other academic journals and in daily media including the Boston Globe, the Hindu, Washington Post and the Nation.*

#### Directions

The MIT Stata Center by architect Frank Gehry is on Vassar Street near the intersection with Main Street.

#### By Public Transportation

Take the Red Line to the Kendall/MIT Station. When you exit the T, walk Northwest, up Main Street (you will pass the MIT Coop and Legal Seafoods). The second intersection is Vassar St. and the Stata Center is on your left.

#### Thanks

Special thanks to Diane Davis, Professor of Political Sociology and Associate Dean of MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP) and Larry Vale, Head of DUSP. This lecture series has been made possible with a special grant by the Office of the Dean, School of Architecture and Planning.