

*The Centre for Feminist Research at York University,  
Envisioning Global LGBT Human Rights, and  
Centre for Women's Studies in Education at OISE present:*

# **Sexuality and Queer Politics: The Indian Experience**

**A panel discussion with  
Gautam Bhan, Naisargi N. Dave and Nancy Nicol**

**Friday, October 7, 2011  
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.**

**Ontario Institute for Studies in Education  
252 Bloor Street West, Room 4-442**

**On July 2nd, 2009, the Delhi High Court read down Sec 377, India's anti-sodomy law, in what was hailed as a historic decision that was, as a reputed public intellectual put it, "about all of us."**

**Gautam Bhan** will reflect upon the understandings of sexuality as politics, and a queer politics in particular, that developed within the queer movement in India through the late 1990s and 2000s. Bhan is a queer rights activist and writer based in Delhi. He is the author of *Because I Have a Voice: Queer Politics in India*, and a member of Voices against Sec 377, a coalition of a dozen organizations that was one of the petitioners in the legal case.

**Naisargi N. Dave** will speak about early fault lines in the struggle against Sec 377, as well as queer theorizations of the relationship between law and society. She will examine queer activists' debates on two legal reform measures: a judicial effort to amend S.377; and a primarily legislative effort to make sexual assault laws gender neutral. Dave is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Toronto. Her work concerns emergent forms of politics and relationality in urban India.

**Nancy Nicol** will discuss "Envisioning Global LGBT Human Rights," an international research project that looks at resistance to laws introduced by British colonial rule criminalizing same-sex acts. Starting with Sec 377, these laws spread throughout the British Empire. Nicol is the Principal Investigator of the project, Associate Professor of Visual Arts at York University and a documentary filmmaker. Part of the project will be Nicol's documentary on the struggle against Sec 377.

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Questions? [envision@yorku.ca](mailto:envision@yorku.ca)**