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MNUU MUMBAI

MAHARASHTRA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, MUMBAI

LAW HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL
SCIENCES COLLECTIVE

organizes

Symposium 2025

3rd Edition | 11th and 12th October

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ABOUT THE LHSS COLLECTIVE

The LHSS Blog of MNLU Mumbai, initiated in January 2022 metamorphosed into The LHSS Collective after 11 months of its inception as the founding vision of the blog stirred us to expand our operations, outreach and team. The LHSS Blog was formed due to an observable lack of platforms in the global south which were dedicated to studying the intersection between Law and Social Sciences. Hence, MNLU Mumbai approved the creation of such a platform. The faculty in charge for the blog is Dr. Upamanyu Sengupta. Apart from functioning as a regular blog, LHSS successfully consolidated and curated the relevant literature produced in monthly roundups, apart from creating content like editorials, podcasts and such other forms, while actively commissioning and soliciting content from well-known personalities in this field among other things. The collective today delivers on all goals of the blog apart from a renewed approach to collaborating with like-minded sister organizations.

ABOUT MNLU, MUMBAI

Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai, established under the Maharashtra National Law University Act 2014 on 20th March 2014, is one of the premier National Law Universities in India. The Act envisaged to establish a National Law University in Maharashtra to impart advanced legal education and promote society-oriented research in legal studies for the advancement of societal life of the people in the country.

Hon'ble Justice B.R. Gavai, Chief Justice of India is the Chancellor of the University and Hon'ble Justice Alok Aradhe, Chief Justice of Bombay High Court is the pro-chancellor of the University, who not only guide but also inspire the institution with their novel ideas and rich experience in the field of law. Prof. (Dr.) Dilip Ukey, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of the University provides exemplary leadership to the institution in achieving its mandates. The prime goal of the University is to disseminate advanced legal knowledge and processes of law amongst the students and impart in them the skills of advocacy, legal services, law reforms and make them aware and capable to utilize these instruments for social transformation and development.

ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

The LHSS Symposium is a two-day virtual event that brings together scholars, students, and legal professionals to explore the dynamic interplay between law and social sciences. Building on the success of the first two editions, this edition of the competition, being held on 11th - 12th October 2025, aims to foster a deeper understanding of crises faced by law. This symposium would also feature some of the most prominent voices in the field over the two days.

ABOUT PAST EDITIONS

The LHSS Symposium held over the last two years acted as a platform for scholars, academicians, and students to delve into the intricate intersections of law and social sciences. Speakers from diverse backgrounds shared their insights, fostering enriching discussions and providing a multifaceted perspective on the subject. Distinguished speakers, in the past has included Dr. Linda Steele from the University of Technology, Sydney; Dr. Dilip K. Das from EFL University, Hyderabad; Samyak Ghosh from Krea University; Adv. Disha Wadekar from the Supreme Court of India; Dr. Aravinda Bhat from Manipal Academy of Higher Education; and Prof. Kishu Daswani from Government Law College, Mumbai.

The symposium, organized by the Collective, aimed to facilitate a deeper understanding of the interface between law and the broader spectrum of social sciences with themes such as Law as Punishment and Digital Humanities and Law. Attendees were encouraged to submit abstracts that could evolve into reflective or research papers, thus contributing to the ongoing discourse in the field.

The annual symposium has served as a tentative first step towards establishing a cross-institutional platform for dialogue, with the intention of nurturing ongoing conversations and collaborations in this interdisciplinary domain. Through thoughtful deliberations and the sharing of diverse perspectives, the symposium facilitated a deeper appreciation of the complexities inherent in the intersection of law and social sciences.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR ABSTRACT

We are open to abstracts that might develop into either reflective or research papers. While this call is open to all academicians, scholars and students, we are also keen to hear and learn from first hand accounts of current candidates and past graduates of the five year B.A., LL.B. programme in India. Since this symposium is a tentative first step towards a cross-institutional platform for dialogue, we encourage only those who would be able to devote time and meaningfully engage with their peers throughout the sessions to apply.

We are pleased to invite abstracts (of up to 250 words) for the symposium, exploring the intersection of law with various disciplines and enhance the discourse around the vital nature of interdisciplinary studies.

Please submit the abstracts [here](#) before 16 September 2025.

REGISTRATION

The registration fee for selected presenters is INR 500/-. Detailed registration and payment form will be shared with participants selected for the paper presentation.

Important Dates

Deadline for submission of abstracts	16 September 2025
Decision on abstracts	20 September 2025
Paper presentation	11 - 12 October 2025

Concept Note: Fragmented Identities and Factional Fault Lines- Notes on Citizenship and Deportation

Identity and 'otherness' have historically been fault lines for conflict and violence. Today, these fault lines have caved in, firmly entrenching themselves as battlegrounds across democracies as contemporary immigration and citizenship policies indicate an alignment in exclusionary practices. As globalisation and technological advancement reshaped the way States and their citizens interact with each other, the last few decades have borne witness to significant transformations in how States manage migration. The rise of the Global South has resulted in Asian, African and South American States mimicking the West's weaponisation of citizenship. These developments are often justified through the language of security and development, but a closer look reveals the disproportionate harm to the marginalised.

Despite the formal adoption of liberal democratic frameworks in much of the Global South post-1990s, the categories of citizenship and belonging remain highly contested and fragile. Citizenship is perceived as a stable legal identity, but its susceptibility to populist nationalism, surveillance technologies, and the securitisation of borders has shaken its very edifice. In this context, deportation and detention are not mere tools of population regulation, but mechanisms of exclusion and political erasure.

Legal frameworks have been made to respond to broader policy shifts. India's proposed Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025, expands the state's power to detain and deport with minimal procedural safeguards. Assam's detention centres reflect a broader phenomenon visible across the Global South, from South Africa's Lindela Repatriation Centre to Libya's holding camps, where non-citizens are rendered rightless and invisible, suspended outside the law. In the Global South, internal migration has also become increasingly politicised. The rise in parochialism is best reflected in son-of-the-soil movements in Indian states that demand preferential treatment for locals, often at the expense of linguistic and religious minorities.

Concept Note: Fragmented Identities and Factional Fault Lines- Notes on Citizenship and Deportation

The condition of Statelessness has come to gain a glaring spotlight in postcolonial governance. It thus becomes a generational cycle, reinforcing structures of caste, race, and colonial inheritance rather than resolving them. Throughout these developments, a common pattern emerges, characterised by the recasting of citizenship as a privilege rather than a right. With countries like India, Kenya, South Africa, and Colombia replicating Global North enforcement models, it now becomes imperative to assess how power operates in the postcolonial world. It is therefore essential to critically engage with the notion of citizenship and deportation as instruments of exclusion and control in the postcolonial Global South.

Given this background, we invite papers that reflect on the following themes:

1. Biometrics and surveillance as a tool of tracing citizenship
2. Marginalised identities, citizenship and the politics of exclusion
3. Citizenship and identity in the Global South, as compared to the Global North
4. Arbitrariness and abuse in detention centres
5. Identities and parochialism in India in the context of linguistic and son of the soil regionalism
6. Statelessness and refugee identities in a globalised world
7. Media portrayals of 'desirable' and 'undesirable' migrants

Patron

Prof. (Dr.) Dilip Ukey

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor,
Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai

FACULTY IN-CHARGE

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GET IN TOUCH

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