

READINGS, RIGHTS, AND AHIMSA

A COMPARATIVE EXPLORATION OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION



A PRESENTATION BY **S. SHANKAR**

**Thursday,
October 11
3-4:30p
KUY 410**

In his presentation **S. Shankar** attempts a comparative argument regarding freedom of expression in the United States and India. Freedom of expression has in these countries become newly, if differently, complicated. In the former, freedom of expression is often used to enable hate speech (consider the Proud Boys); and in the latter freedom of expression is routinely attacked in the name of narrow prejudice. In addition to law and philosophy, Shankar draws on notions of literature and academic culture. Working with the examples of Charles Murray's visit to Middlebury College in 2017 and the attacks on Tamil novelist Perumal Murugan in 2014, he endeavors to decolonize theory and open new lines of inquiry by bringing (perhaps surprisingly) the idea of ahimsa to bear on "freedom of expression."

S. Shankar is Professor and Chair of English. His most recent book is the novel *Ghost in the Tamarind* (2017). He was a Fulbright-Nehru Senior Fellow in 2017-2018. He is the recipient of the LLL Senior Excellence in Research Award, in acknowledgement of which this presentation is made.



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