

Redefining Rape: What matters in India today?

Vortrag von Prof. Samita Sen
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In December 2012, a young paramedic student was raped and killed on a bus in Delhi. This was followed by mass demonstrations, not only in the capital, but in cities and towns across India. For the first time, a serious and engaged public debate on the issue of sexual violence and violence against women began. Fuelled by anger and large mobilization of people, the government appointed the Justice Verma Committee, which worked at record speed to produce an extraordinarily sensitive document, recommending wide-ranging changes in law and the administrative machinery. The recommended legal changes were considerably watered down, however, in the Criminal Amendment Act that followed in April 2013.

In her talk, Samita Sen will discuss several issues that arise in the aftermath of these events. This includes the long legacy of Indian feminists' attempts at drafting new legislation on sexual violence, the implications of the perceived increase in incidences of rape in Delhi, the question of how and why some issues concerning rape get displaced onto other categories, as well as possible roles that men can play in the war against rape.

Professor Samita Sen is the Director of the School of Women's Studies at Jadavpur University in Calcutta. Her research focuses on gender and labour. This includes projects on marriage, domestic workers and domestic violence, as well as on gender budgeting, women in governance and women's land rights. Her monograph on women's employment in the jute industry in colonial Bengal was published in 1999. Her recent publications include a jointly edited volume on marriage and sexualities (*Intimate Others*, 2010) and a reader on women's studies (*Mapping the Field*, 2011). Sen is a member of the Calcutta-based voluntary women's association Sachetana since 1983.

Wann: Mittwoch, 26. Juni 2013, 18:00 Uhr

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