

## **LRE Guest Professor Shakuntala Rao's activities – Fall 2018**

*Professor at the Department of Communication Studies, State University of New York, Plattsburgh, USA. Guest Professor at Stockholm University's Department of Media Studies - Hosted by the Leading Research Environment in Global Media Studies and Politics of Mediated Communication*

### **Public Lecture (September 26 2018)**

*Organized by the Leading Research Environment in Global Media Studies and Politics of Mediated Communication, Dept. of Media, Stockholm University*

**When:** Wednesday, September 26, 2018, 15:00 to 17:00

**Where:** JMK-Salen

(followed by a reception)

### **No Country for (Women) Journalists: Lives of Women Covering Politics and Sexual Violence in Indian Media**

The privatization and liberalization policies adopted by the Indian state beginning in 1991 have dramatically changed the country's media landscape. India now boasts the second-largest media market in the world. It has approximately 82,000 daily newspapers published in 16 different languages and 800 television channels including 400 dedicated news networks, making it home to the world's most competitive news arena, catering to a huge Indian audience and a large South Asian diaspora. The expansion of news media has given many opportunities for women to enter the profession. The "macho newsroom" culture, prevalent in the 1980s, has changed into one where more women are hired at entry-level positions. Such demographic changes in the workforce, however, have not been without serious societal, cultural and political implications for women journalists. In this talk, I will speak to the daily lives of both rural and urban women journalists and the kind of challenges they face. I will specifically speak to the life of my colleague, Gauri Lankesh, who was assassinated on September 7, 2017, by a group of Hindu fundamentalists. Such assassinations, now on the rise, will be discussed within the larger context of the rise of religious nationalism, populism, and anti-news media sentiments.

### **Higher Seminar (September 20, 2018)**

**When:** Thursday, September 20, 2018, 10:00 to 12:00

**Where:** Bangsalen

### **Integrating Amartya Sen's Capabilities Approach to Media and Journalism Studies**

The capabilities approach, developed by Harvard University professor and Noble laureate, Amartya Sen, has been well known among economists. However, little of his work has made it into media and journalism studies. The capabilities approach focuses directly on the quality

of life that individuals are actually able to achieve in a given society. For Sen, quality of life has to be analyzed in terms of the core concepts of “functionings” and “capability” (as opposed to say a nation’s GDP, unemployment rate, or even inflation). Functionings are states of “being and doing,” such as being well-nourished and having adequate food, clothing, shelter, and access to education and health care. Thus, a person’s capability represents the effective freedom of an individual to *choose* between different functioning combinations—between different kinds of lives - that she or he has reason to value. Capabilities approach is based on the interconnections between people’s basic economic freedoms, such as living a life without hunger, disease, and deprivations, on the one hand, and political freedoms, such as freedom of the press, democracy, and political participation, on the other hand. In this presentation, I will speak of my ongoing theoretical and empirical work on how to integrate Sen’s capabilities approach to media ethics theory (in the form of an ancient Indian philosophical approach of *Nyaya*, and one that Sen uses) and examples of empirical work on how to integrate capabilities to journalism curriculum and pedagogy.

### Lectures for JMK students

Date	Course (type/level)	In charge fo the course	Theme/Content
Thursday, September 27 14:00-17:00 Sal 2	MK7032 Metodologi II	Kristina Widetsted <a href="mailto:kristina.widestedt@ims.su.se">kristina.widestedt@ims.su.se</a>	Rhetorical Analysis
Wednesday, September 26, 15:00-17:00 JMK-salen	MK7037 Introduction to Global Media Studies	Kristina Riegert <a href="mailto:kristina.riegert@ims.su.se">kristina.riegert@ims.su.se</a>	Gender and journalism (also offered as a public lecture, pls see above)

### About Shakuntala Rao

[Shakuntala Rao](#) is Professor at the Department of Communication Studies, State University of New York, Plattsburgh, USA. She received her Ph.D. from University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA. Her teaching and research interests are in global media, journalism practices, media ethics, and popular culture. Shakuntala has published extensively and influentially in a number of communication and interdisciplinary journals and book chapters. She is the editor of three books including the most recent one titled, “Media Ethics and Justice in the Age of Globalization” published by Palgrave/McMillan. Shakuntala has been a Senior Fulbright scholar to India, a visiting fellow at the School of Communication and Journalism/Brookings Institute at Tsinghua University (Beijing), a fellow at the Stellenbosch Institute of Advanced Studies at Stellenbosch University (South Africa), and recipient of the State University New York Chancellor’s award for excellence in scholarship.