

Deadly Holy Waters?

Pollution, Legislation, and Infant Mortality Along the Rivers of India

BY

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3600 Market Street, Suite 560 (5th floor) ♦ Philadelphia, PA 19104**



SHAREEN JOSHI is an Assistant Professor at Georgetown University's Edmund Walsh School of Foreign Service. Her research focuses on poverty alleviation and demographic change in the developing world. She is particularly interested in the evaluation of development policies using a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods. Her recent papers explore the effects of maternal and child health programs on the well-being of families in Bangladesh and the impact of self-help group participation on the lives of women in rural Rajasthan. She is also interested in issues of caste and gender, and how these affect the success of poverty alleviation programs in India. She has a BA from Reed College and a Ph.D. in Economics from Yale University.

About the Lecture:

India's rivers are heavily polluted. The Ganges—one of the most polluted—runs through the city of Kanpur and receives large amounts of toxic waste from the city's domestic and industrial sectors. The tannery industry, in particular, unleashes highly toxic pollutants into the river. Examining the impact of a 1987 landmark piece of environmental legislation in this city (*M. C. Mehta v Union of India*), Dr. Joshi will explore the mortality burden and mechanisms of impact of this ruling in the Kanpur district, as well as districts downstream.

About CASI

Founded in 1992, the Center for the Advanced Study of India (CASI) at Penn is the first research institution in the U.S. dedicated to the study of contemporary India. The Center's key goals are to nurture a new generation of scholars across disciplines and to provide a forum for dialogue among the academic, business, and foreign policy communities.

