

*The Coalition of African Lesbians (CAL), Gay and Lesbian Memory in Action (GALA)  
and the Centre for Indian Studies in Africa (University of the Witwatersrand) invite you to*

# Emerging Powers, Sexuality & Human Rights: Trends & Developments in Brazil, India and South Africa

The BRICS economic block (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) continues to grow in strength and influence, but is frequently criticised for its lack of action on sexual rights and other social justice issues. But what is really happening in these countries?

This seminar will explore how sexual rights are being demanded, contested and articulated within three of these emerging powers. It will examine how the fight for sexual rights is being played out, as well as the major issues, trends and challenges for activists, policy-makers, governments and other key stakeholders. It also asks what the implications might be for advancing sexual rights at the regional and global levels, and how we might learn from and build on recent developments.

There will also be a presentation by Paul Amar (University of California) on links between sexual politics and militarism in the Global South.

*We hope you can join us for this thought-provoking discussion.*

## THE PANELISTS

The panel is made up of respected academics and activists, all of whom are deeply engaged with sexual politics and related issues. They are also friends and colleagues in solidarity with the many struggles we face on the African continent.

akshay khanna (India)

Laura Waisbich (Brazil)

Paul Amar (USA)

Sonia Correa (Brazil)

*A South African panelist will be announced closer to the seminar date.*

**DATE:** Friday 17 April 2015

**TIME:** 10.00 am to 1.00 pm

**VENUE:** CB8, Central Block, University of the Witwatersrand, Braamfontein

**RSVP:** [john.marnell@wits.ac.za](mailto:john.marnell@wits.ac.za) by 12.00 pm on Thursday 16 April

## ABOUT THE PANELISTS

### AKSHAY KHANNA, INDIA

akshay is a social anthropologist most interested in politics, activism, sexuality, law and gender. Until recently, akshay worked as a research fellow at the Institute of Development Studies, Brighton, where s/he was part of developing an intellectual, pedagogical and political project relating to 'unruly politics', focusing on the emergence of new languages, forms and modalities of politics, and experiments with direct and deliberative democracy. S/he continues to engage with this project both within and outside of the IDS and co-convenes a course that seeks to expand and deepen this thinking. S/he is also a theatre practitioner working on developing community theatre as a methodology for research. akshay has recently relocated to Delhi, where s/he is finalising the manuscript of her first full-length book, *Sexualness*.

### LAURA WAISBICH, BRAZIL

Laura is a political scientist and international relations analyst. Since 2011, Laura has been a researcher at the Brazilian Centre for Analysis and Planning (Cebrap), working on citizen participation, South-South development cooperation and open government. Besides her work as a researcher, Laura is also the foreign policy officer for Conectas Human Rights, a Brazilian NGO, where she develops research and policy activities around transparency, accountability and citizen participation in foreign policy-making, emerging democratic powers, responses to human rights crises, and knowledge for action.

### PAUL AMAR, USA

Paul is a political scientist and anthropologist with affiliate appointments in feminist studies, sociology, comparative literature, Middle East studies, and Latin American and Iberian studies. Before he began his academic career, he worked as a journalist in Cairo, a police reformer and sexuality rights activist in Rio de Janeiro, and as a conflict-resolution and economic development specialist at the United Nations. His books include: *Cairo Cosmopolitan* (2006), *New Racial Missions of Policing* (2010), *Global South to the Rescue* (2011), *Dispatches from the Arab Spring* (2013), *The Middle East and Brazil* (2014) and *The Security Archipelago: Human-Security States, Sexuality Politics and the End of Neoliberalism*, which was awarded the Charles Taylor Award for Best Book of the Year (2014) by the American Political Science Association.

### SONIA CORREA, BRAZIL

Sonia is co-chair of Sexuality Policy Watch, a global forum comprising researchers and activists engaged in the analyses of global trends in sexuality-related policy and politics. She is also a research associate at the Brazilian Interdisciplinary Association for AIDS, in Rio de Janeiro.