Monday, 9/28/15 (2-4 p.m. – Dodd Center Room 162)
Mr. Rajyabardhan Sharma (former Indian Police Service)
“Policy Reforms and Challenges Related to Human Trafficking in Bihar: Role of Police”

Co-sponsored by India Studies; Human Rights Institute Economic & Social Rights Program/ESRG; Unfree Labor in the Americas Study Group
(Coffee and Tea provided)

This talk will focus on Sharma’s role as the Additional Director General of Police (Crime Investigation Dept.) in Bihar, India, where he was responsible and led new policy initiatives in the area of human trafficking and child labor. The initiatives hinged on understanding the challenges that the police force face in tackling these issues and involved sensitization of police, cash rewards and collaboration with NGOs. In particular, Sharma’s experiences as the ADG will highlight the story and perspective of the police force – their challenges, trials and tribulations.

Thursday, 12/10/15 (12:30-2 p.m. Dodd 162)
Nita Rudra (Georgetown University, Dept. of Government)
“Poor Democracies in a Conundrum: International Trade and Government Revenues in Developing Countries” (paper co-authored by Nita Rudra and Ida Bastiaens)
Light lunch provided

Co-sponsored by India Studies; Human Rights Institute Economic & Social Rights Program/ESRG

ABSTRACT: Governments of developing countries need revenue to meet their substantial spending, development, and poverty reduction goals. How has globalization affected their ability to raise such revenues? In this analysis, we contribute to the globalization and taxation debate by focusing on the fiscal impacts of declining international trade tax revenue in poor nations. We hypothesize that regime type is a major determinant of revenue raising capacity after liberalization policies have been adopted. As international trade taxes decline- once the primary form of government revenue generation in developing economies- policymakers in poor democracies find it more challenging than their authoritarian counterparts to replace the revenue loss via domestic tax reform. India represents a paradigmatic example of our hypothesis. The unfortunate consequence is that the failure to recover declining trade tax revenue in democracies is then associated with a reduction in spending on public goods.
Thursday, 3/10/16 (4-6p.m. Dodd Center, Konover)
Manu Bhagavan, (Professor of History, Hunter College)
Title TBA

Co-sponsored with the United Nations Association of Connecticut and the Citizens for Global Solutions, Mansfield Chapter

Professor Bhagavan is a specialist on modern India, focusing on the twentieth-century late-colonial and post-colonial periods, with particular interests in human rights, (inter)nationalism, and questions of sovereignty. His most recent book is the critically acclaimed The Peacemakers / India and the Quest for One World. Set against the backdrop of World War II, Indian independence and decolonization, and the Cold War, this first-of-its-kind international history is based on seven years of research in twenty archives on three continents. It tells the story of India’s quest to build consensus around the framework of “human rights,” to bridge the divisions between East and West, between capitalist and communist, and to create “one world” free of empire, poverty, exploitation, and war.

Thursday, 4/7/16 (3:30-5:00 p.m. Dodd Center, Konover
Ashutosh Varshney, “Battles Half Won: India’s Improbable Democracy,”
Annual Radha Devi Joshi Lecture

Ashutosh Varshney is Sol Goldman Professor of International Studies and the Social Sciences at Brown University, where he also directs the Brown-India Initiative. His books include Ethnic Conflict and Civic Life: Hindus and Muslims in India; Democracy, Development and the Countryside: Urban-Rural Struggles in India; India in the Era of Economic Reforms; Midnight's Diaspora; Collective Violence in Indonesia; and Battles Half Won: India's Improbable Democracy (Copies will be available at the lecture). His academic articles have appeared in the leading journals of political science and development. His honors include the Guggenheim, Carnegie, Luebbert and Lerner awards. He is a contributing editor for Indian Express, and his guest columns have appeared in many other newspapers, including the Financial Times. He served on the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's Task Force on Millennium Development Goals, and has also served as adviser to the World Bank and United Nations Development Program (UNDP).