

**Hunter College Human Rights Program  
Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute  
September 10, 2014 at 1:15 pm**



**ROOSEVELT  
HOUSE**  
PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE  
AT HUNTER COLLEGE

**The Right to Food in the United States:  
Contemporary Issues and Historic Struggles**

**Hunter Student Dialogue & Lunch with  
Smita Narula**

**Visiting Research Scholar,  
The Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College**



Please join us as we introduce Smita Narula, who will share insights from her research and experience working on the right to food in the United States and around the world.

One in six Americans lives in a household that cannot afford adequate food. Of these 49 million individuals, nearly 17 million are children. Narula is co-author and director of a recent study on the subject, entitled [\*Nourishing Change: Fulfilling the Right to Food in the United States\*](#). The study calls for a rights-based approach to addressing the plight of millions of Americans living in poverty today, and is the first of its kind to squarely address widespread food insecurity in the United States in human rights terms.

Narula will meet with students to discuss the findings of the study, and will connect these contemporary issues to historic struggles for human rights in the United States. She will be in

residence at Roosevelt House throughout the academic year, and we are pleased to introduce her to the Hunter community at this event.

**Smita Narula** joins Roosevelt House for the Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 semesters, and will collaborate with Faculty Associate Rob Jenkins (Political Science) and others on projects focused on: ensuring the global right to food through equitable and sustainable food and land use policies; promoting rights-based responses to poverty and hunger in the United States; and developing strategies to address caste-based discrimination in South Asia. Narula has more than 17 years of experience as a human rights practitioner, academic, and expert advisor in the field of international human rights and development. From 2003 to 2014, she was Director of the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice and Professor of the International Human Rights Clinic at NYU School of Law. Between 2008 and 2014, she served as legal advisor to the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the right to food. And between 1997 and 2003 she served as India Researcher and Senior Researcher for South Asia at Human Rights Watch. In both her scholarship and her practice, Narula has focused on the rights to equality and non-discrimination; economic and social rights; and the impact of economic globalization and counter-terrorism policies on human rights. She has authored dozens of reports and academic articles on these subjects, and has helped formulate policy, legal, and community-led responses to these issues worldwide.

Lunch will be served – Seats are limited

Preference to those who RSVP to [shoro@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:shoro@hunter.cuny.edu)

[Note these upcoming Human Rights Program events:](#)

- ✓ Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm and all day Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>: “South Africa: Twenty Years After Apartheid,” a conference hosted by the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College.
- ✓ Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm: Human Rights Program Open House.
- ✓ Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:15 pm: “The Future of Human Rights Technology,” a panel discussion on human rights and technology.
- ✓ Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:15pm: Student Dialogue & Lunch with Stephen Mathias, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs.
- ✓ Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:15: Student Dialogue & Lunch with Dr. Kyungwha Kang, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, and former UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights.