

# Centre for Culture, Media & Governance

Jamia Millia Islamia

New Delhi



## SEX CRIMES REPORTING IN THE INDIAN PRESS BEFORE AND AFTER THE DELHI RAPE

### Daniel Drache

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### Abstract

The Delhi Rape is the most extensively covered rape case in recent Indian history. This report chronicles a media monitoring exercise of rape reporting between January 1, 2012 and August 31, 2012. The report also examines the three-month period after the Delhi Rape in an empirical analysis of four leading Indian English language publications with a combined circulation of 2,946,340: *The Hindu*, *India Today*, the *Indian Express*, and *Tehelka*. Sex crime reporting is best understood by identifying storylines. Monitoring the Delhi Rape, 5 storylines emerged: personal, public outcry, women's safety, police handling, and legislative. These storylines enabled us to probe the reporting of rape and sexual violence more deeply with respect to the context under which gender justice was addressed.

In the case of crime reporting, the news agenda is highly impacted by the amount of public attention, both locally and globally, an incident receives. The globalization of the Delhi bus rape intensified the press coverage and it created a large public space for debate and the venting of anger. Further still, the attention granted by other sources such as newswire, independent journalists, social media, and civil society organizations also brings fresh perspective to bear on gender justice. To this end, this report works to understand both how the press covers stories of rape and also asks whether the press provides a corridor to discuss gender justice.

### About the Speaker

Daniel Drache is Professor Emeritus and Senior Research Fellow Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies, York University. He has written and published extensively on globalization, new social media, North American integration and the iconography of dissent. He has been a visiting professor at JNU and Jamia Millia Islamia New Delhi, EUI Florence, CNRS Paris, and Massey College, University of Toronto among others. In 2007 he published *Defiant Publics* (Polity Press, 2007). His latest publication with Les Jacobs is entitled *New Policy Space in Hard Times: Trade and Human Rights*, forthcoming Cambridge UP 2014.

## Event Details

**Venue:** Network Governance Lab, CCMG

**Date:** Monday, 11 November, 2013

**Time:** 11:30 am