



## CENTRE FOR CULTURE, MEDIA & GOVERNANCE

Jamia Millia Islamia  
New Delhi

CCMG INVITES YOU TO A LECTURE ON

### Social Media Regulation and Challenges for Free Speech Law

By

**SUKUMAR MURALIDHARAN**

#### About the Lecture

This talk would discuss the many challenges and ambiguities of free speech today on search and social media platforms, such as Google and Facebook. It would bring into view the many recent developments on the issue in India, including the Supreme Court order to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, to come up with so-called “intermediary guidelines” for these platforms by mid January, which the platforms claim would be an infringement of free speech. Similar contests, unfolding in other contexts such as the U.S., would also be highlighted, especially in relation to the unprecedented data profiling undertaken by tech platforms, which not only raises the issue of privacy protection, but perhaps of a more consequential and troubling possibility that algorithmic news selection could lead to self-perpetuating filter-bubbles. The rationale of free speech protection as advanced by its most able advocates, such as John Stuart Mill, was that only the free collision of ideas could ensure human progress. Without being actively engaged with opposing ideas, Mill feared, humanity would settle into the “deep slumber of a decided opinion”. The key challenge for free speech in today’s internet-driven media ecosystem is to ensure that the “deep slumber” of settled opinion does not become a reality.

#### About the Speaker

**Sukumar Muralidharan** is Associate Professor and Associate Dean (Research) at the School of Journalism, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat. He has worked over three decades in the print media, covering areas such as science and technology, politics and international affairs. He has been associated with press freedom campaign and advocacy work in India and elsewhere as South Asia programme manager for the International Federation of Journalists. In 2016, he completed a two-year fellowship with the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla. He is the author most recently, of *Freedom, Civility, Commerce: Contemporary Media and the Public* (December 2018).

**Venue:** CCMG Video Conference Hall  
**Date:** Tuesday 05 November, 2019  
**Time:** 2:00 pm

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