

Acknowledgements

This book is the product of my time at the Tilburg Institute of Law, Technology and Society, Tilburg University, the Netherlands. Gratitude is due to a number of people during this time at Tilburg, including my wonderful colleagues at TILT, right from Vivian Carter and Simone van der Hoff to Femke Abousalama and Geertrui van Overwallen. But it is only appropriate that I begin with the patient and witty Han Somsen, who fostered a sense of strategy in the preparation and writing of this book. Finishing this book would not have been possible without the kind and patient guidance of many others as well – Corien Prins, Bert van Roermond, Bert-Jaap Koops and Hans Lindahl all chipped in at various points during my fruitful years at Tilburg. Roger Brownsword at Kings College London, Maria Lee at University College London, Peter Fitzpatrick at Birkbeck, University of London and Sitaram Kakarala from the National Law School of India, Bangalore were all thankfully there at key points in the conceptualization and writing of this book. The book benefited considerably from the interactions I had in various reading groups, such a vital factor in the intellectual and academic vibrancy of any institutional space. A sense of warmth, solidarity and gratitude often accompany my recollections of the sessions (and colleagues in them), be it the Philosophy of Law seminar series at the Department of Philosophy in Tilburg, the Birkbeck fortnightly doctoral student reading sessions with Peter Fitzpatrick, the reading groups at TILT and the LASSNet (Law and Social Sciences Network) sessions at New Delhi and Pune.

Talking about solidarity, friends and other fellow travellers in Delhi and Bangalore fostered a sensibility of working towards a just and humane society; a sense that I hope has guided the writing of this book. Elizabeth VS, Prashant Bhushan, Usha Ramanathan, Babu Mathew, V Muralidhar, Anita Abraham and all other friends from Bhagwan Nagar; Govind Naidu, Siddharth Narrain and all other friends at the Alternate Law Forum, Bangalore, were all thankfully there at key points of my life over the last fifteen years, providing me with a sense of community, and helping me with their support and criticisms. Presence of dear friends and wonderful colleagues like Nadezdha Purtova, Esha Shah, Charlotte van Ooijen, Jas Groenedijke, Floor Fleurke and Viswa Reddy made the lonely

path of a doctoral dissertation at Tilburg far less difficult than it could have been. Apart from these rewards of wonderful friendships, the encounter with Tilburg also blessed us with a beautiful name for our newborn, little Nadya. As important as anything else was the constant companionship and love of Shireen Mirza. We grew together with the writing of our respective doctoral theses – discussing, arguing, reading each other's drafts, criticizing and encouraging, and finding meaning in each other's lives; this itself makes me feel the journey of this book was worthwhile.

Last but not least, I am also very grateful for the insightful comments of the anonymous reviewers, as well as Victoria Litherland, Megan Ballantyne and Laura Mann at Elgar for their fantastic support and encouragement.