

ITP: **India 2012**

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Paper Title: Two Models of Censorship in Contemporary India: Film v. the Fine Arts

Abstract:

The presence of extra-legal attempts to censor creative works, while not officially sanctioned, are proving more effective and are, ironically, more pernicious than the legal governmental system of censorship already in place. In the case of film, the Cinematograph Act of 1952 codified an official censorship system. By contrast, censorship of the fine arts exists largely outside government legislation. Each of these very different models of censorship shapes the creative works in its respective medium, and this paper will attempt to unpack and evaluate the effects on artists, filmmakers, and Indian society. Finally, this paper will argue that extra-legal censorship is more burdensome to creative and artistic freedom than legally codified censorship because of its unpredictability and susceptibility to nefarious appropriation and manipulation.