ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This thesis has been conceptualised and moulded at the Centre for the Study of Culture and Society. I am primarily thankful to them for providing me with the intellectual environment and support for this thesis. In developing and nurturing my intellectual pursuits and capabilities, the Centre has far surpassed most institutions that I have been in; and the respect and encouragement that they have shown me has been much more than what I have received from my own family today.

I would like to thank my supervisor Dr. Sitharamam Kakarala for giving full freedom with this thesis and supporting me throughout its writing. I am particularly grateful to him for allowing me to conceptualise and organise a workshop on critical perspectives on law and religion where I received many useful comments on my work from Prof Imtiaz Ahmed and Prof Upendra Baxi.

I am highly indebted to Dr. Vivek Dhareshwar the second reader of this thesis. His course on Foucault made me rethink many questions that I had been asking about the nature of law. His constant challenges to me to think differently have been fruitful in bringing creativity and originality to my work. Much of this work has been inspired and influenced by the questions that he has raised and the work of SN Balagangadhara.

For comments, feedback and suggestions I would like to particularly thank the following faculty members past and present: Ashish Rajyadhyaksha, Dr. Tejaswini Niranjana, Dr. S.V. Srinivas, Dr. Mrinalini Sebastian, Dr. Milind Wakankar, Dr. Anup Dhar, and Dr. Lakshmi Arya.

For critical and constructive feedback, and various forms of assistance both material and moral, I would like to thank the following colleagues at the Centre past and present: Ashwin
Kumar, Rajeev Kumaramkandath, Sujith, Sana Das, Mathew John, Sushumna Kannan, Sufiya Pathan and Polly Hazarika.

Over the past two decades that I have known Dattathreya Subbanarasimha, I have always found his intellectual engagement characterised by a rigour and integrity that is hard to find. This has been reflected in his detailed feedback on various drafts of the thesis and his unparalleled generosity with time, ideas and resources. I would like to thank him for his time, inputs, and conversations over the years, and his words of encouragement whenever I’ve felt dissuaded and dejected over the progress of my work.

I would like to thank the Dalai Lama Foundation for providing me a grant that supported the initial archival work in this project. I would also like to thank the Charles Wallace Trust, UK (particularly its Chairperson Richard Alford) for providing me with a short term grant for archival research at the India Office Record Room, the British Library, London. I would like to thank the librarians and staff of the various libraries that I consulted: Maheshwari and Vijayalakshmi at the Centre’s library, Mr. Navalgund of the National Law School of India library, and the librarians and staff of the United Theological College, Bangalore. I would also like to thank the Sajjada Nashin of the Bababudangiri dargah and Firoze Khan for sharing various legal materials on the dargah with me.

This thesis is dedicated to my late grandmother Smt. Kanthimathi Ammal who helped raise me as a child and introduced me to the world of ideas. Without her, I would not have had the ability, skills or values to be an intellectual.