



**JOHN J. REILLY CENTER**  
SCIENCE · TECHNOLOGY · VALUES

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## 2012 Reilly Center Forum

The Reilly Center for Science, Technology, and Values announces the inaugural Reilly Center Forum, an inter- and multidisciplinary space in which scholars inside and outside of the Reilly Center and the Notre Dame communities can showcase their work in the legal, ethical, social, and policy implications of scientific research and learn about the research of others.

This presentation will last roughly 50 minutes including Q&A, after which participants will be encouraged to stay for food, drink, small group discussions, and networking.

## Shobita Parthasarathy, Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan



**“Building a Patent System in the Public Interest? Making Democracy, the Economy, and Morality in the United States and Europe”**

**Monday, January 23, 2012  
3-5pm  
210-4 McKenna Hall**

Across the globe, the patent system is under growing pressure. As it has grown tremendously beyond its eighteenth-century origins and encouraged the development of high-technology industries across the world, civil society groups claim that the system is against the public interest. They argue that the growing privatization of the public sphere stifles innovation, damages public health, hurts the environment, and increases economic inequality.

Dr. Parthasarathy will argue that solutions to these issues require developing a better understanding of the “co-production” of the patent system with economic, political, and social order. She will demonstrate how, as the patent system certifies inventions, it is also defining approaches to the economy, the state, democracy, morality, and the public interest and by comparing approaches in the US and Europe suggest ways of building a better patent system.

Shobita Parthasarathy is the author of numerous articles and a book, *Building Genetic Medicine: Breast Cancer, Technology, and the Comparative Politics of Health Care* (MIT Press, 2007). She is currently working on her second book, which compares the politics of patenting life forms and traditional knowledge in the United States and Europe. For more information, please see her website: <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~shobita/index>.

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