CUHK LAW
THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
香 港 中 文 大 學

Centre for Comparative and Transnational Law

Centre for Comparative and Transnational Law

Annual Activities Report

2024-25

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The Centre for Comparative and Transnational Law (CCTL) at CUHK LAW

The Centre for Comparative and Transnational Law 比較法與跨國法研究中心 (CCTL) began operation in April 2020 to encourage, and provide institutional support to, comparative and transnational law research at CUHK LAW. Now, CCTL has established itself as one of the world's leading convenors of legal seminars, conferences, and workshops, and a hub of collaborative, cutting-edge research.

Mission

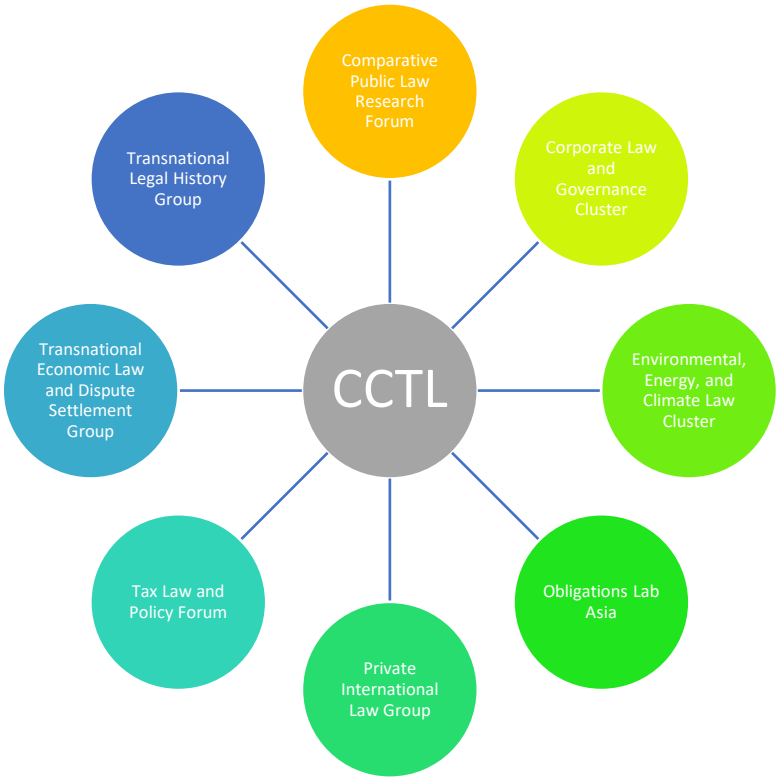
CCTL aims to

- conduct cutting-edge and innovative research in the areas of comparative and transnational law;
- foster collaborative research projects within CUHK LAW and with external parties;
- create high impact through research in academia and non-academic circles;
- develop policy proposals for consideration of government bodies in Hong Kong and beyond;
- be recognised as the leading centre of excellence in the areas of comparative and transnational law in Asia;
- contribute to excellence in teaching across the University by promoting interdisciplinary approaches to course design and materials, as well as teaching-related collaboration with other Faculties;
- contribute to the betterment of society locally, regionally and internationally through knowledge transfer activities, including media engagement and consultation with international and non-governmental organisations.

CCTL reaches a broader audience through a strong presence on social media platforms such as Facebook and LinkedIn. Video recordings of its events are available on the Faculty's website and YouTube channel. The Centre's online presence has also brought it greater visibility and increased engagement among scholars and with the audience via ZOOM. Thanks to its large number of seminars, book talks, and conferences, CCTL has been able to offer high-quality online content free of charge, reaching demographic groups (including students and scholars in the Global South) who would not have been able to access this content otherwise.

Organisation

CCTL is organized into eight research clusters that pursue innovative and impactful comparative research across several fields including comparative public law, private international law, transnational economic law, legal history, environmental law, corporate law and governance, the law of obligations, and tax law and policy.



Each cluster is chaired by a CUHK LAW faculty member and includes other CUHK LAW faculty members, postdoctoral scholars, postgraduate students, and affiliated scholars from other CUHK faculties and other universities.

Internal Organisation

Executive Director

Professor Anatole Boute, PhD in Law (2011, University of Groningen), is a Professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, specializing in the fields of energy, environmental and investment law. His research focuses on the legal aspects of the transition of energy systems towards sustainability, with a special interest for energy market reforms in emerging economies.

Anatole Boute graduated in Political Sciences (2003) and Law (2004) from the University of Leuven and holds an advanced master (LLM) in Energy and Environmental Law (2005) from the same university. In 2005, he was called to the Brussels bar where he practiced until 2009 with the Energy Law team of Janson Baugniet. He advised on and was involved in litigation concerning the promotion of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, greenhouse gas emissions trading, the liberalization of energy markets and nuclear energy.

In January 2011, he defended his PhD on the modernization of the Russian electricity production sector at the University of Groningen under the supervision of Professor Martha Roggenkamp. Based on the results of this research, he advised the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (World Investment Report 2010), the International Energy Agency (2014 In-Depth Review of the Russian Energy Sector) and the Energy Charter Secretariat (Power Sector Reform in Central Asia). Between 2011 and 2016, he was legal advisor to the International Finance Corporation Russia Renewable Energy Program (The World Bank).

He is the author of *Russian Electricity and Energy Investment Law* (Leiden/Boston: Brill Nijhoff, 2015) and of articles in several internationally peer reviewed journals, including the *Fordham International Law Journal*, *ICSID Review*, *Common Market Law Review*, *Transnational Environmental Law*, *Journal of Environmental Law*, *European Law Review*, *Europe-Asia Studies, Energy Policy*. In 2009, he received the Willoughby Prize for his articles published in the *Journal of Energy & Natural Resources Law*. His research output is partly available at http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/cf_dev/AbsByAuth.cfm?per_id=878060 and https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=I8YWV8gAAAAJ&hl=fr.

Anatole Boute is the founder of the LLM program in Energy and Environmental Law and is in charge of the program's coordination.

Anatole Boute is the Principal Investigator of "Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading in China: Insights from the EU's Experience" funded by the General Research Fund of Hong Kong (GRF 2016) and of "China's Shaping of the Eurasian Energy Market: Protecting Chinese Outbound Investments Along the Belt and Road" (GRF 2018). He co-organized the conference on "The Regulation of Energy Investments along the Belt and Road" (2017, CUHK-KAS-ECS).

Deputy Director

Professor James Si Zeng is an Associate Professor of law and Deputy Executive Director of the Centre for Comparative and Transnational Law (CCTL) at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He works on corporate law, financial regulation, and law and economics. His scholarship has appeared or will appear in leading student-edited law reviews such as the *University of Pennsylvania Journal of International Law, Columbia Journal of Asian Law, Review of Banking and Financial Law*, as well as peer-review journals such as the *European Business Organizational Law Review, Peking University Law Journal* (中外法学), and *Hong Kong Law Journal*. His doctoral dissertation, State Ownership as a Substitute for Costly Regulation, was supported by the Oscar M. Reubhausen Fund at Yale Law School. He is also conducting research on Chinese corporate law supported by the Early Career Scheme of the Research Grant Council of Hong Kong, China. Professor Zeng graduated from Yale Law School with an LL.M and a JSD. degree. Prior to that Professor Zeng graduated from Peking University (LL.B., BA in Economics, Mphil in Law). He passed the National Judicial Examination of China and is admitted to the New York State Bar.

Staff

Ms. Bonnie Leung is Project Co-ordinator at the Faculty of Law of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. She provides administrative support to the Faculty's two research centres, the Centre for Comparative and Transnational Law (CCTL) and the Centre for Legal Innovation and Digital Society (CLINDS).

CCTL Research Clusters

Comparative Public Law Research Forum

Echoing the global vision of the Faculty, the Comparative Public Law Research Forum at CUHK LAW engages with global scholarship on comparative public law.

The aims of the Forum are threefold: knowledge, theory, and practice. The Forum aims to generate substantive knowledge about comparative public law; to engage in debates on important comparative public law issues and theories; and to provide a reference resource on public law and constitutional issues for government, law-makers, judges and other practitioners.

The Forum will pursue these aims through the following activities: research, teaching, consultancy, and academic exchange and collaboration.

Members

- Prof. Asif Hameed (Cluster Chair)
- Prof. Stuart Hargreaves
- Prof. Ryan Mitchell
- Prof. Michael Ramsden
- Prof. Christopher Roberts

Corporate Law and Governance Cluster

The cluster group's central area of speciality lies in comparative corporate law and governance. Members have carried out notable research in the area that addresses issues of global and regional significance, such as corporate takeovers, corporate charters, corporate veil piercing, corporate ownership, corporate boards, securities enforcement actions, and shareholder voting. The standing of members in the field is recognised by their publications in leading peer-reviewed international journals. One member has recently secured a book contract from the Cambridge University Press to co-edit the Handbook on Comparative Shareholder Engagement and Voting, a major comparative undertaking involving 19 jurisdictions. Members have also engaged in generating impact by way of giving media interviews and contributing op-eds. Members of the cluster group have had established links with non-academic beneficiaries of their research. These include regulatory/statutory bodies, courts and NGOs in Hong Kong and mainland China, such as Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong, China Securities Regulatory Commission, Asset Management Association of China, and China Securities Investor Services Center.

Members

- Prof. Chao Xi (Cluster Chair)
- Prof. Dicky Tsang
- Prof. James Zeng
- Dr. Ning Cao
- Dr. Sirui Han

Environmental, Energy and Climate Law Cluster

This Cluster aims to promote research and collaboration on environmental, energy and climate law. It organises events on a regular basis in collaboration with various academic and non-academic partners in the region and beyond. It also engages students enrolled in CUHK's Energy and Environmental Law LLM, and PhD researchers.

Members

- Prof. Agnes Chong (Cluster Chair)
- Prof. Anatole Boute
- Prof. Jae Woon Lee
- Prof. Benoit Mayer
- Prof. Hao Zhang
- Prof. Yuhong Zhao

Affiliated Scholars

- Ms. Zhen Chen, Founding partner, Sunshine Law Firm (PRC), Vice President, Energy Law Institute, China Law Society Deputy Director, Renewable Energy Professional Committee, China Energy Research Society
- Prof. Kaj Hobér, Professor, Department of Law, University of Uppsala
- Prof. John Paterson, Chair in Law, School of Law, University of Aberdeen
- Prof. Yuan Xu, Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Resource Management, CUHK

Obligations Lab Asia

The Obligations Lab Asia aims to challenge conventional wisdom regarding the law of obligations with the ultimate goal of developing new lines of thinking so as to stimulate and re-invigorate related debates. It does so by engaging in innovative comparative research regarding different aspects of the law of obligations. It concentrates on the core private law areas of the law of obligations, i.e., contract law, tort law and the law of unjust enrichment, but also explores the relationships with other areas such as property law and equity and trusts as well as with public law

themes. Special attention is given to the practical impact of doctrinal questions as well as the impact of new technologies.

Members

- Prof. Normann Witzleb (Cluster Chair)
- Mr. Elliot Fung
- Prof. Steven Gallagher
- Mr. Alan Gibb
- Prof. Stephen Hall
- Mr. Arthur Lee
- Prof. Siyi Lin
- Prof. Eliza Mik
- Prof. Peter Rhodes
- Prof. Lutz-Christian Wolff

Private International Law Group

With the ever-increasing international traffic, communication and trades, there is no time in history private international law has played a more important role. Private international law is particularly important for Hong Kong given its role as the hub of cross-border transactions and legal disputes. It is the mission of our cluster to promote the understanding of private international law for both academics and practitioners. This is not limited to the private international law of Hong Kong, but also other private international law systems. The interactive nature of our discipline calls for a comparative approach. The key initiative of our cluster is the Cross-Border Legal Issue Dialogue Seminar Series. This seminar series invites leading practitioners and academics to speak on a regular basis on topics on cross-border legal matters, particularly those relevant to private international law, and provides opportunities for interactive dialogue.

Members

- Prof. Dicky Tsang (Cluster Chair)
- Mr. Alan Gibb
- Prof. Jyh-An Lee
- Prof. Lutz-Christian Wolff

Affiliated Scholar

- Prof. Du Tao, Professor, East China University of Political Science and Law

Tax Law and Policy Forum

The Tax Law and Policy Forum hosts talks and seminars on regional and international tax law issues. It aims to promote research and provide opportunities for the discussion of tax policy questions, international tax reforms, and transnational tax challenges.

Members

- Prof. Noam Noked (Cluster Chair)
- Prof. Jingyi Wang
- Dr. Ian Lee
- Prof. Eliza Mik
- Prof. James Zeng

Transnational Economic Law and Dispute Settlement Group

The Transnational Economic Law and Dispute Settlement (TELDS) group focuses on transnational economic law, including international trade and investment law, international taxation, aviation law, and transnational dispute settlement. Members research in areas that address issues of global and regional significance, such as the crisis of multilateralism, trade and investment issues related to the Belt and Road Initiative, investment arbitration and mediation, cross-border data regulation, double taxation issues, investment in the energy sector, aviation sector, and the transnational governance of state capitalism.

TELDS' members have a strong track record of securing internal and external competitive grants from a variety of academic and non-academic granting bodies, publications in leading peer-reviewed international journals and well-received books. Members continuously engage in and impact public discourse through media appearances and the publication of policy-focused opinion pieces. TELDS' members collaborate with academic and non-academic entities that include international, and regional agencies such as the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) and think tanks such as the Heinrich Foundation, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) and Cato Institute.

Members

- Prof. Yueming Yan (Cluster Chair)
- Prof. Anatole Boute
- Prof. Shixue Hu
- Prof. Jae Woon Lee
- Prof. Jyh-An Lee

- Prof. Bryan Mercurio
- Prof. Noam Noked
- Prof. Jingyi Wang

Transnational Legal History Group

The Transnational Legal History Group at CUHK LAW is geared towards producing innovative work exploring under-studied areas of global legal history. The group is organised around three thematics: Asian Legal History, Comparative Approaches to International Law, and the History of Empire. The group aims to provide a forum for the discussion and dissemination of scholarship, to explore new opportunities for inter-faculty collaboration, and to develop channels and networks through which the insights generated by scholarship may be connected to, and help to shape, contemporary practices on the global level.

Members

- Prof. Christopher Roberts (Cluster Chair)
- Prof. Steven Gallagher
- Prof. Gregory Gordon
- Prof. Shixue Hu
- Prof. Chin Leng Lim
- Prof. Michelle Miao
- Prof. Ryan Mitchell
- Prof. Lutz-Christian Wolff

Affiliated Scholars

- Prof. Ngoc Son Bui, Professor of Asian Laws, Faculty of Law, University of Oxford
- Prof. Norman P. Ho, Professor of Law, Peking University School of Transnational Law
- Prof. Stuart McManus, Assistant Professor, Department of History, CUHK
- Prof. James Morton, Assistant Professor, Department of History, CUHK
- Dr. Christopher C. Munn, HKIHSS Fellow, Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences, The University of Hong Kong
- Prof. Leilah Vevaina, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, CUHK

Clusters' Chairpersons

Prof. Asif Hameed

Dr. Asif Hameed is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Asif's interests lie in constitutional law, political theory and international law. He took his Law degrees at Oxford and worked at four successive UK universities: Oxford, Cambridge, Southampton and Royal Holloway, University of London. Asif is currently investigating whether high-stakes political questions can be addressed impartially and, if so, how far they should be. He looks forward to reflecting on these issues in Asia and in Hong Kong, which has a particularly rich concentration of academics thinking about the relations between democratic and meritocratic forms of government.

Prof. Chao Xi

Chao XI serves as the Dean and Professor at the Faculty of Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He joined CUHK in 2007 after earning his PhD from the University of London. He has held several leadership positions within the Faculty of Law at CUHK, including Interim Dean, Associate Dean (Research), and Head of the Graduate Division of Law. Professor Xi is internationally recognised for his research and scholarship in Chinese law, corporate law and governance, securities regulation, financial regulation, and empirical legal studies. He has secured numerous competitive research grants, including several prestigious fundings from the Research Grants Council of Hong Kong. In recognition of his deep commitment to teaching excellence, Professor Xi has received the esteemed CUHK Vice-Chancellor's Exemplary Teaching Award in 2010, 2017, and 2022. Professor Xi is dedicated to public service and has contributed to significant legal reform initiatives. He has served in various roles, including as a member of the Department of Justice's Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Task Force. His expertise has been valued by law firms, multinational enterprises, and government agencies.

Prof. Agnes Chong

Dr. Agnes Chong is an Assistant Professor at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Faculty of Law. Dr. Chong's research interests include international law, watercourses law, environmental law and human rights law. Dr. Chong gained her PhD in International Law (pass with no revisions) from the University of Hong Kong, Faculty of Law. Her doctoral thesis, "The Non-Hierarchical Norms of No-Harm and Equitable Utilisation in International Watercourses Law," was nominated for the Li Ka-Shing Prize 2018, a university-wide recognition for research excellence. Dr. Chong was an assistant professor at the University of Hong Kong and a visiting scholar at the University of Cambridge. Dr. Chong has an LLM in Human Rights Law from the University of Hong Kong, an MSc in Development Studies from the London School of Economics and BA in Chinese and Management Studies from the University of Leeds. She also spent two years studying in China at Tianjin Normal University and the Johns Hopkins University–Nanjing University, Center for Chinese and American Studies. Dr. Chong is admitted as a solicitor of the High Court of Hong Kong. She has broad professional experience in law and policy in Asia, having worked in leading international law firms Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, O'Melveny & Myers and Cleary Gottlieb Steen and Hamilton in Hong Kong, and in international organisations working with the United Nations and the World Bank's International Finance Corporation in Thailand and China. Dr. Chong has been accredited by The Hong Kong Chartered Governance Institute for ESG Reporting. Dr. Chong is an editorial board member of the *Asia-Pacific Journal on Human Rights and the Law*, and Chair of the CUHK Law, Centre for Comparative and Transnational Law, Environmental, Energy and Climate Law Cluster. Dr. Chong is a member of the World Bank Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development, Water Law Working Group. Dr. Chong is also an Affiliate of the International Water Law Academy and a Thought Leader for Harvard Business Publishing.

Prof. Normann Witzleb

Normann Witzleb joined CUHK Law in 2021. He was previously an Associate Professor and Associate Dean (International and Engagement) in the Faculty of Law of Monash University Australia. His research focus is on privacy and data protection law, the law of torts and remedies, as well as comparative law. His recent book publications include *Tort Law and Practice in Hong Kong, 4th edn* (Sweet & Maxwell, 2025), with K Bokhary & N Srivastava (eds); *Contract Law in Changing Times: Asian Perspectives on Pacta Sunt Servanda* (Routledge, 2023), edited; *Big Data, Political Campaigning and the Law: Democracy and Privacy in the Age of Micro-Targeting* (Routledge, 2020), with M Paterson & J

Richardson (eds) and *Remedies: Commentary and Materials, 7th ed* (Thomson Reuters, 2020), with E Bant, S Degeling & K Barker. Some of his recent research is available from SSRN and ResearchGate. Prof. Witzleb maintains an adjunct position at Monash Law, where he teaches an LLM course on Privacy and Surveillance in the age of AI. He is admitted to practice in the Australian Capital Territory, a barrister of the High Court of Australia and a fully qualified German lawyer. In 2019 and 2020, he consulted with the Australian Attorney-General's Department and the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner on law reform projects in privacy and information law.

Prof. Dicky Tsang

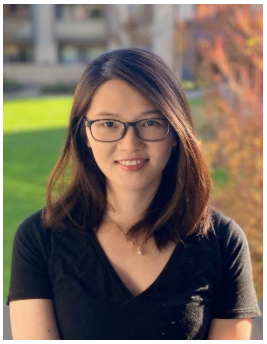
Dr. Dicky Tsang is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. His main research areas are private international law and company law. His work has appeared in a number of leading international journals, including the *Virginia Journal of International Law*, the *Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law* and multiple articles in the *Journal of Private International Law*. His works have been cited by the US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, the Supreme Court of Missouri, and the European Union (in a WTO dispute-settlement case). Prior to joining academia, he practised as a corporate finance lawyer at Linklaters and Shearman & Sterling, working in their New York, London, Hong Kong, Beijing and Shanghai offices. He is admitted to practice in the state of New York, England & Wales and Hong Kong. Dr. Tsang was awarded his LL.B. and PCLL at the University of Hong Kong. He also holds degrees from Georgetown University (S.J.D.), Columbia University (LL.M., J.D.) and University College London (LL.M.).

Prof. Noam Noked

Noam Noked is an Associate Professor of Law at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, specializing in tax law and policy. He currently serves as the director of the Faculty of Law's Ph.D. and M.Phil. programs. His work has been published in reputable law journals, including the *Yale Journal of International Law*, *Harvard Business Law Review*, *Virginia Journal of International Law*, *UC Irvine Law Review*, *Journal of International Economic Law*, and the *American Journal of Comparative Law*. His research has been cited by various international organizations, such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, European Commission, and the United Nations Development Programme. His forthcoming book, *The Global War on Offshore Tax Evasion* (under contract with Cambridge University Press), explores significant developments in

the international efforts to curb offshore tax evasion. Prof. Noked holds a Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D.) degree from Harvard Law School, where he was a fellow at the Program on Corporate Governance and a co-editor of the Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation. He was also awarded the Terence M. Considine Fellowship and the John M. Olin Prize for best paper in law and economics. Additionally, he holds undergraduate degrees in law and accounting from Tel Aviv University. Before entering academia, he clerked for Justice Eliezer Rivlin of the Supreme Court of Israel, worked at the Israeli Ministry of Finance, and practiced law as a U.S. tax lawyer. Prof. Noked actively engages with the professional community as the honorary secretary of the Joint Liaison Committee on Taxation, which facilitates dialogue between tax practitioners and the Hong Kong government. He is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Hong Kong branch of the International Fiscal Association.

Prof. Yueming Yan



Dr. Yueming Yan is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK Law). Currently, she serves as an Editorial Board Member of the *Journal of International Economic Law (JIEL)*, a Co-Chair of the American Society of International Law (ASIL) Asia-Pacific Interest Group and a Senior Fellow at The University of Melbourne, Law School. Her research and teaching areas cover international trade law, international investment arbitration and policy, dispute resolution, sustainable development, China's laws, comparative law, and empirical legal studies. Yueming has published in leading peer-reviewed journals such as the *Journal of International Economic Law*, *Journal of International Dispute Settlement*, *ICSID Review – Foreign Investment Law Journal*, *Melbourne Journal of International Law, Asian Journal of WTO & International Health Law and Policy*, and the *Asia Pacific Law Review*. Her works also appear in the *University of Pennsylvania Journal of International Law, Proceedings of the ASIL Annual Meeting*, and the *Kluwer Arbitration Blog*. Her PhD dissertation – *Improving international investment law's treatment of (anti-) corruption: Towards a more balanced approach* – was granted the Award on International Investment Arbitration Law in memory of Piero Bernardini (2022). Before joining CUHK LAW in December 2022, Yueming served as a Visiting Assistant Professor (January–December 2022) and a Global PhD Fellow (June–December 2021) at the Yong Pung How School of Law, Singapore Management University, and the Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy. She has engaged in many training programs for government officials globally, focusing on managing international investment treaty commitments and exploring innovative mechanisms for multi-party dispute resolution.

Yueming obtained her PhD in Law from McGill University in 2021, a Master of Law from Xiamen University in 2016, and a Bachelor of Law from Zhongnan University of Economics and Law in 2014. She is a native Mandarin speaker, fluent in English, and conversational in French.

Prof. Christopher Roberts

Professor Roberts is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Professor Roberts' research focuses on the evolution of public order legality, human and workers' rights, labor coercion and the nature of the state in the British Empire and on the international level, with a particular focus on the First World War and the interwar period. Professor Roberts is the Chair of the Transnational Legal History Group within the Law Faculty's Centre for Comparative and Transnational Law. He is the former Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies and current Deputy Director of the LLM Programme in charge of the LLM in Legal History. He is also an Associate Research Fellow with the Institute for Commonwealth Studies, part of the University of London's School of Advanced Study, and a member of the Editorial Board of *Constitutional Studies*. In addition to his academic work, Professor Roberts has worked as an expert legal consultant addressing issues such as constitutional and legal reform, the rule of law and human rights with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and mandate holders such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Fédération International pour les Droits Humains, the International Refugee Assistance Project, the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, Transparency Maldives and others.

Steering Committee

Prof. Lutz-Christian Wolff (Chairman until September 2024)

After having served as Dean of the Faculty of Law from October 2019 to September 2024 and as Dean of the CUHK Graduate School from September 2014 to August 2019, Professor Wolff is currently on sabbatical leave. Professor Wolff was a founding member of the Faculty of Law (then: School of Law). He has served amongst others as Associate Dean (Faculty Development) (9/2008 to 7/2010), as Director of the Master of Laws Programmes in International Economic Law, Common Law and Chinese Business Law (9/2008 to 7/2011) and as Associate Dean (Graduate Studies) & Head of Graduate Division of Law (8/2010 to 8/2014). Professor Wolff specializes in International and Chinese Business Law, Comparative Law, and Private International

Law. He has studied, worked and conducted research in a number of jurisdictions, including mainland China, Taiwan, and the USA. He is admitted to practice in England & Wales and in Germany. He is frequently invited to work as consultant with multi-national companies and law firms on investment projects in the Greater China region.

Prof. Chao Xi (Chairman)
Dean and Professor, CUHK LAW (see bio above)

Prof. Anatole Boute
Professor, CUHK LAW (see bio above)

Prof. James Zeng
Associate Professor, CUHK LAW (see bio above)

Prof. Sandra Marco Colino
Associate Professor, CUHK LAW

Sandra Marco Colino is an Associate Professor. She specialises in competition law, merger control, the digital economy, technology law, EU law, telecommunications, and law & economics. She joined the Faculty in 2010 and is the Deputy Programme Director of the Master of Laws (LLM) in International Economic Law. She currently serves as Non-Governmental Advisor (NGA) to the International Competition Network, and sits on the Academic Board of the law firm Dictum and on the Scientific Committee of the European University Institute's Centre for a Digital Society. She previously directed the Centre for Financial Regulation and Economic Development (CFRED), and the Summer Schools on EU Competition Law at the College of Europe in Bruges (Belgium). Prior to moving to Hong Kong, she was a Lecturer at the University of Glasgow (UK). Prof. Marco Colino holds a PhD from the European University Institute in Florence (Italy) and an LLM from the University Carlos III of Madrid (Spain). A qualified lawyer in Spain and a member of the Madrid Bar, she has worked as stagiaire at the European Commission (Belgium) and has trained in various Madrid law firms. She has been a Visiting Scholar at the University of Wisconsin – Madison (USA), the University of California – Berkeley (USA), the University of Melbourne (Australia), the University of Birmingham (UK) and the University of Glasgow. She is a member of the Academic Society for Competition Law (ASCOLA), a Fellow of the Transatlantic Technology Law Forum of Stanford University (USA), and an Associate Researcher at the Royal University Institute for European Studies in Madrid. In 2010 she founded the Communications Policy and Regulation Scholars Forum (CPRSF). She is the Hong Kong news correspondent to the

European Competition Law Review, and an analyst for Agenda Pública. Her award-winning research has been extensively published in leading peer-reviewed journals and US law reviews. She is the author of various books, including the textbook *Competition Law of the EU and UK* (Oxford University Press), now in its 8th edition, and the monograph *Vertical Agreements and Competition Law* (Hart). She is the Principal Investigator of three major research projects funded by Hong Kong's Research Grants Council, and a member of two EU-funded Jean Monnet research networks. She was a founding member and the Deputy Director of the European Union Academic Programme in Hong Kong, a collaboration between four of the city's leading universities co-funded by the European Union. Prof. Marco Colino's honours and recognitions include the Young Researcher Award (CUHK, 2021), the Award for High-Impact in Legal Scholarship (CUHK, 2020), the Academic Excellence Award (Global Competition Review, 2020), the Antitrust Writing Award (Concurrences, 2018), the award for best paper and presentation (Georgetown University's Center for German and European Studies, 2004), and the Teaching Excellence Award (CUHK, 2017).

Prof. Jaclyn Neo

Associate Professor at National University of Singapore and Director, Centre for Asian Legal Studies

A graduate of NUS Faculty of Law and Yale Law School, Jaclyn is scholar of comparative constitutional law as well as law and religion in Asia. She also has an emerging research interest in access to justice issues in Singapore. Jaclyn is a recipient of multiple academic scholarships from NUS, including the NUS Overseas-Graduate Scholarship. During her time at Yale Law School, where she completed her Master of Laws and her Doctor of the Science of Law (JSD), Jaclyn co-founded the JSD program's now flagship Annual Doctoral Scholarship Conference and the Yale Law School's Debating Law and Religion series. Jaclyn is a principal investigator and co-principal investigator of multiple competitive research grants from the Ministry of Education, the Singapore Judicial College, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin-NUS Joint Project, and the NUS Law-Melbourne Law School Research Partnership. She has received awards for her scholarship. Her article on domestic incorporation of international human rights law in a dualist state won the Asian Yearbook of International Law's DILA International Law Prize. In 2017, in recognition of her research on religious freedom in Southeast Asia, she was awarded the SHAPE-SEA Research Award. Jaclyn has published in leading journals in her field, including the *International Journal of Constitutional Law (I-CON)*, the *Oxford Journal of Law and Religion*, and the *Asian Journal of Comparative Law*. She is editor/co-editor of multiple volumes, including the *Constitutional Interpretation in Singapore: Theory and*

Practice (Routledge, 2017), *Pluralist Constitutions in Southeast Asia* (Hart, 2019), *Regulating Religion in Asia: Norms, Modes, and Challenges* (CUP 2019), *Constitutional Change in Singapore: Reforming the Singapore Elected Presidency* (Routledge, 2019), and *Religious Offences in Common Law Asia: Colonial Legacies, Constitutional Rights and Contemporary Practice* (Hart, 2020). She has also served as guest editor for the *Singapore Academy of Law Journal*, *Journal of Law, Religion, and State*, *Journal of Comparative Law, Journal of International and Comparative Law*, and the *Asian Journal of Law and Society*. Her work has been cited by the courts in Singapore and by the Supreme Court of India. Her co-authored monograph on Litigants in Person in Singapore will be published by Singapore Academy of Law Publishing in 2021. Jaclyn currently sits on the editorial board of the *Asian Journal of Comparative Law*, the *International Journal of Constitutional Law Blog (ICONnect)*, the *Journal of Law and Religion*, *Revista de Investigações Constitucionais* (Journal of Constitutional Research), and *Suprema – Revista de Estudos Constitucionais* (International Board). She is a contributing editor to *Jotwell, the Journal of Things We Like (Lots)*. Jaclyn has held visiting positions at the Cluster of Excellence 'The Formation of Normative Orders' at Frankfurt University, University of Münster, University of Trento, Melbourne Law School (as a Kathleen Fitzpatrick Visiting Fellow with the ARC Laureate Project in Comparative Constitutional Law), the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, as well as the Princeton School of Public Policy and International Affairs. Jaclyn has been invited to serve on multiple international committees including the program committee of the Law and Religion Section of the Association for American Law Schools (AALS) and the Organizing Committee, Younger Scholars Forum, International Academy of Comparative Law (IACL) (2016-2018). She is an elected Council Member of the International Society for Public Law (ICON-S), and is founding co-chair of the Singapore chapter of ICON-S. She sits on the inaugural International Advisory Board of the University of Otago's Centre for Law and Society and will be a Steering Committee Member of the Chinese University of Hong Kong's Centre for Comparative and Transnational Law (CCTL). Jaclyn was appointed Director of the Centre for Asian Legal Studies in January 2020 and serves on the Advisory Board of the NUS Victim Care Unit. She maintains a strong connection to the legal profession and sits on the Singapore Academy of Law's Law Reform Committee and the Executive Committee of the ASEAN Law Association (Singapore). In February 2020, she was appointed Professorial Fellow to the Singapore Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC) Academy.

Professor Michael Martinek holds the chair for Civil and Commercial Law, Business Organisation Law, Comparative Law and Private International Law of University of Saarland in Saarbruecken, Germany, since 1986. He is also director of the Institute of European Law. He was born on October 5, 1950 near Duesseldorf where he went to school until 1969, specialising in ancient languages (Latin, Greek, Hebrew). Thereafter he underwent a practical apprenticeship in his father's transport and shipping business which lasted two years, one of which he spent abroad (London, Birmingham, Paris, Milan). From 1971 to 1976, he studied law and philosophy in Berlin, London and Hamburg and passed the first state examination in law (1976). After two years of practical experience as lawyer in different positions he passed the second state examination in Hamburg (1979). He wrote a doctoral thesis in law (Dr.iur., Berlin 1978) and one in political sciences (Dr.rer.publ., Speyer 1981). He was awarded the degree "Master of Comparative Jurisprudence" by New York University in 1982 after one year of studies in the USA. Thereafter he was an assistant to Professor Dieter Reuter at the universities of Tuebingen and Kiel. Having achieved the professorial qualification (venia legendi) in 1986, he was a docent at the University of Muenster/Westfalia, before he was appointed professor for life at Saarland University in Saarbruecken.

Overview of Activities

This report covers the period from **1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025**. CCTL organized 26 events including:

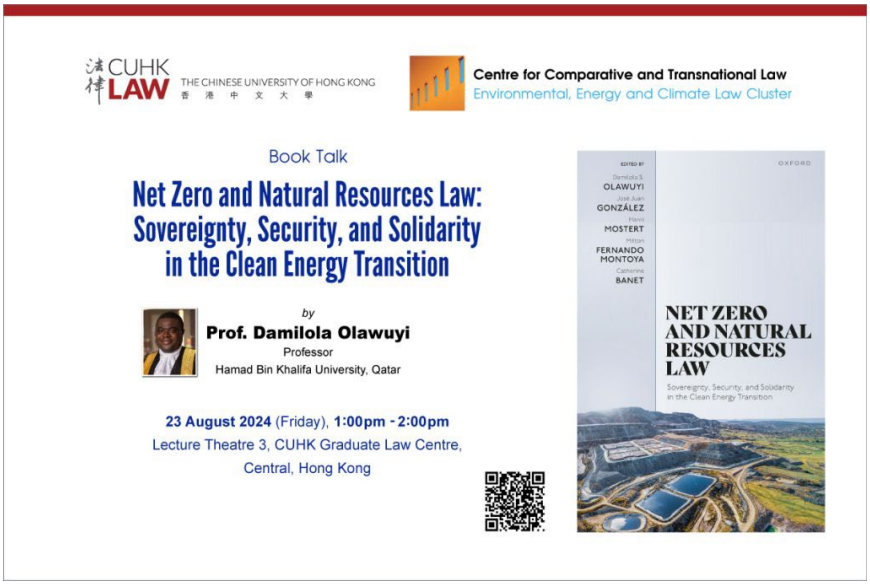
- Book Talks
- Seminars
- Conferences

The events were conducted in different forms (face-to-face, online, and hybrid). Most events were recorded, and many of them are available on the CUHK LAW YouTube Channel and on the Faculty website.

During the past year, CCTL has established several collaborations and organized high-impact events that have involved local and foreign public officials, judges, lawyers, and diplomats.

Book Talks

CCTL Environmental, Energy and Climate Law Cluster Book Talk – 'Net Zero and Natural Resources Law: Sovereignty, Security, and Solidarity in the Clean Energy Transition' by Prof. Damilola Olawuyi, 23 August 2024



This session provides an opportunity to showcase the latest book from the Academic Advisory Group of the Section on Energy, Environment, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure Law to students, faculty, and practitioners.

The book delivers a detailed and authoritative examination of natural resources law and policy in the context of achieving net zero emissions. In reaction to the climate crisis, numerous countries, corporations, and other entities globally have committed to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2060 or earlier. Although the urgency of a clean energy transition is apparent, poorly designed transition programs can lead to complex environmental, social, and governance challenges, such as legal liabilities and prolonged disputes. Additionally, the increasing demand for minerals essential for clean energy technologies introduces critical issues, including how to manage the exploration and development of these minerals without worsening resource conflicts, resource nationalism, human rights abuses, protectionism, energy insecurity, social exclusion, and inequality, particularly in regions prone to conflict and high risk.

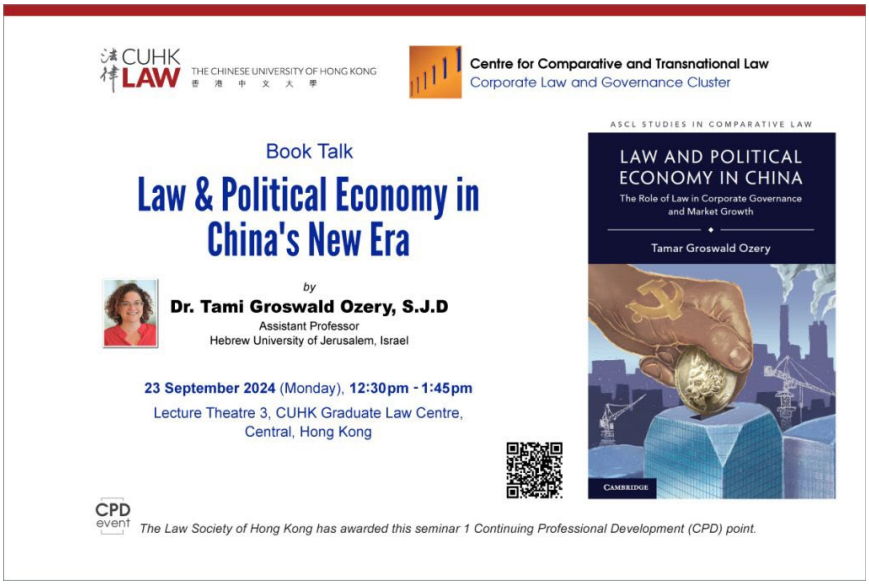
These challenges emphasize the importance of developing net zero-aligned natural resource contracts, legislation, and investment agreements to facilitate a fair and inclusive energy transition.

This session will feature insights from the book's expert contributors, discussing innovative approaches in legal drafting, contract negotiation, and policymaking to address the complex questions of resource sovereignty, security, and solidarity during the net zero transition.

About the Speaker:

Damilola S. Olawuyi, SAN is a Professor at the Hamad Bin Khalifa University.

CCTL Corporate Law and Governance Cluster Book Talk – 'Law & Political Economy in China's New Era' by Dr. Tami Groswald Ozery, S.J.D, 23 September 2024



The talk will discuss the role of formal law in governing markets during China's "Legalized Politicization Era" (2010–present), the current era of market development in China. In this present era, the authorities over governing markets are being reconfigured to handle the consequences of prior era state capitalism. Such reconfiguration of market governance is achieved through the mobilization of legal institutions in two main directions: intensifying the presence of the regulatory state in the market, and shifting substantial market governance powers directly to the CCP.

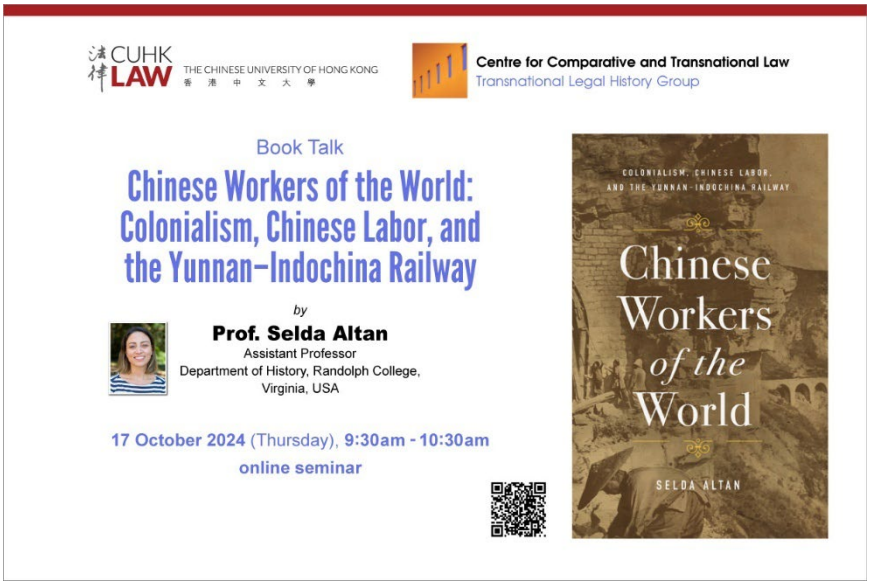
The talk is based on the book: *Law & Political Economy in China: The Role of Law in Corporate Governance & Market Growth,* Cambridge University Press (2023). The book analyzes four decades of market development in China [1978-2021], discussing the role of law as an internal party-state instrument for allocating political-economic power. A substantial part of the book is

dedicated to observing how relations of political-economic power are legally configured through the (re)construction of corporate laws and legal institutions.

About the Speaker:

Tami Groswald Ozery is an Assistant Professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.

CCTL Transnational Legal History Group Book Talk – 'Chinese Workers of the World: Colonialism, Chinese Labor, and the Yunnan–Indochina Railway' by Prof. Selda Altan (Online), 17 October 2024



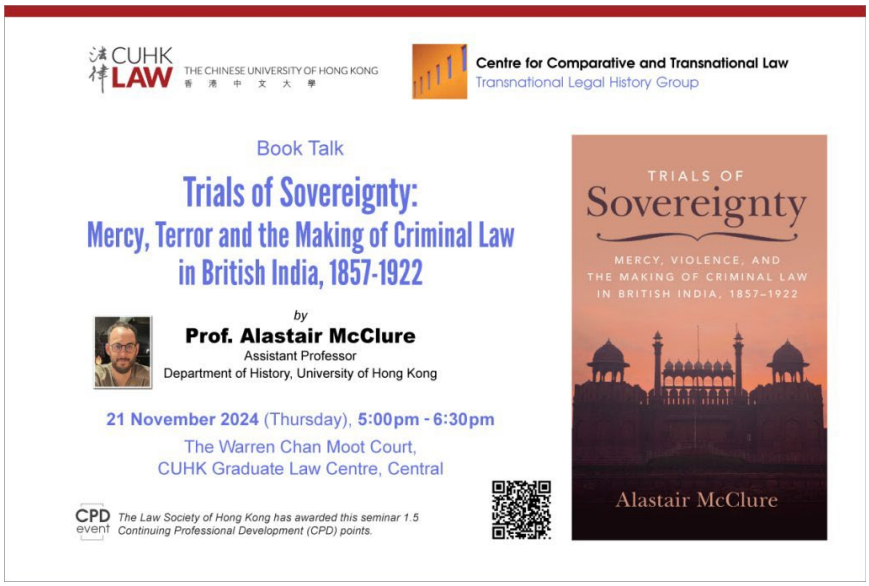
This talk explores the construction of the French railway between China and Vietnam from 1898 to 1910 as an episode in the rise of a global working class in China. By drawing on Chinese, French, and English sources, the discussion reveals how inter-colonial competition for cheap labor and the expansion of overseas work opportunities in the 19th century fueled domestic activism among Chinese workers. These developments set the stage for labor to emerge as a radical force in Chinese politics.

About the Speaker:

Selda Altan is Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Randolph College, Virginia. Her fields of specialization encompass modern Chinese and Asian history, labor history, and comparative approaches to empires and colonialism in Asia and the Middle East. Her first book,

Chinese Workers of the World: Colonialism, Chinese Labor, and the Yunnan–Indochina Railway (Stanford University Press, 2024), analyzes labor conflicts during the construction of the Yunnan railway (1898–1910) in the larger context of twentieth-century French colonialism and capitalist development in China. Currently, she is working on her second book project, which explores Chinese Industrial Cooperatives and the role of women in China's resistance against Japanese occupation during World War II.

CCTL Transnational Legal History Group Book Talk – 'Trials of Sovereignty: Mercy, Terror and the Making of Criminal Law in British India, 1857-1922' by Prof. Alastair McClure, 21 November 2024



Trials of Sovereignty offers the first legal history of mercy and discretion in nineteenth and twentieth-century India. Through a study of large-scale amnesties, the prerogative powers of pardon, executive commutation, and judicial sentencing practices, Alastair McClure argues that discretion represented a vital facet of colonial rule. In a bloody penal order, officials and judges consistently offered reduced sentences and pardons for select subjects, encouraging others to approach state institutions and confer the colonial state with greater legitimacy. Mercy was always a contested expression of sovereign power that risked exposing colonial weakness. This vulnerability was gradually recognized by colonial subjects who deployed a range of legal and political strategies to interrogate state power and question the lofty promises of British colonial justice. By the early twentieth century, the decision to break the law and reject imperial overtures of mercy had developed into a crucial expression of anticolonial politics.
About the Speaker:

Prof. Alastair McClure is a legal historian of modern South Asia and the British Empire with research interests that focus largely on the history of criminal law and state violence. His most recent publications have included studies of courtroom archives, corporal punishment, capital punishment, and censorship. This research has been supported by grants from the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the British Academy, and the University Grants Council, Hong Kong. Before joining the University of Hong Kong, he completed postdoctoral fellowships at McGill University and the University of Chicago. Between September to December of 2023, he was an ICAS:MP research fellow based in New Delhi. He also acts as the co-convenor of the Asian Legal History Seminar Series, hosted by the Department of History and the Faculty of Law, and is an associate editor for *Law and History Review*.

CCTL Transnational Economic Law and Dispute Settlement Group Book Talk – 'Protecting the Rights of Local Communities and the Environment in the Implementation of Climate Projects' by Dr. Gonzalo Larrea (Online), 20 January 2025

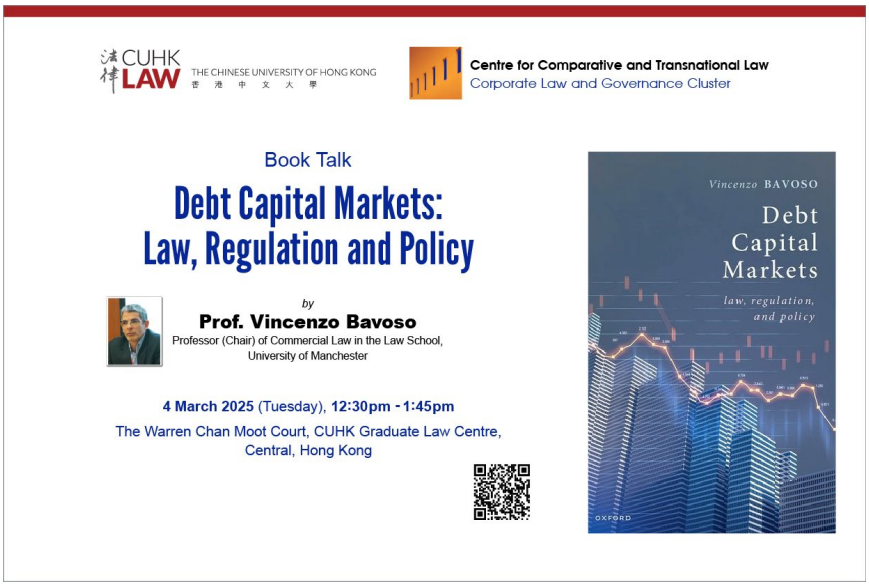
The success of climate mitigation and adaptation policies in developing countries largely depends on the availability of climate finance. However, these initiatives often result in adverse consequences for the environment and the rights of the very people they aim to support. While much attention is currently focused on climate finance in both academia and policymaking, the negative impacts of funded projects on local communities remain largely overlooked. Drawing from his book *Climate Funds and Sustainable Development. Who Pays in the End?*, Dr. Gonzalo Larrea will examine the root causes of the environmental and social impacts of global climate

funds and highlight the necessary reforms to ensure that those intended to benefit from these interventions are not the ones bearing the costs of climate finance.

About the Speaker:

Dr. Gonzalo Larrea is an Assistant Professor at the International and European Law Department of the Utrecht School of Law. He specializes in international and European law, sustainability law, regulatory law, and climate change. Prior to joining Utrecht University, Gonzalo obtained his PhD at the European University Institute, taught international, European, and environmental law at Pompeu Fabra University and the University of Barcelona, worked as a Research Assistant at King's College London, and served as an associate at a prominent European law firm.

CCTL Corporate Law and Governance Cluster Book Talk – 'Debt Capital Markets: Law, Regulation and Policy' by Prof. Vincenzo Bavoso, 4 March 2025



This monograph deals with the law and regulation of debt capital markets. It explores in particular the role that they have in fuelling episodes of crises and financial instability and the central argument laid out in this book is that instability in financial markets – culminated with the global financial crisis of 2008 and resurfacing with urgency since 2020 – is the result of a process of transformation that started in the 1980s. The analysis in this book charts the evolution of debt capital markets and their growth propelled by the undisputed belief in the validity of neoclassical economics, and attendant assumptions of efficient markets. This orthodoxy in turn informed the changes that shaped, between the 1980s and 1990s, the regulatory edifice of capital markets. This

book explains how this process of transformation and liberalisation led to debt capital markets - from bonds to more sophisticated forms of securitised credit- becoming uncontrolled engines of private debt creation, high levels of leverage, and inevitably, financial instability. Ultimately, this book contends that the regulatory reactions engineered after the global financial crisis of 2008 have not gone far enough in re-evaluating those underlying beliefs and assumptions, which in fact remain at the heart of current policies. As a result, debt capital markets remain the main locus of financial instability, as current episodes of turbulence indicate, and overall the financial system remains fragile and exposed to the most severe consequences of shocks.

About the Speaker:

Prof. Vincenzo Bavoso is a Professor (Chair) of Commercial Law in the Law School, University of Manchester, where he has previously been a lecturer and senior lecturer. Before returning to Manchester, he was a research associate in the Tipping Points project at Durham University. This was a multidisciplinary project funded by the Leverhulme Trust where he focused on the global financial crisis in the banking sector. Before then, he held academic appointments at Kingston University, London, and as teaching assistant at the University of Manchester, where he also completed his PhD. He held visiting appointments at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London; the China-EU School of Law, at the China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing; the National University of Singapore; the Chinese University of Hong Kong; the Singapore Management University. Prior to entering academia he was a legal practitioner, having qualified to the bar in Italy.

His research interests embrace two main strands. First, the broad field of financial regulation and in particular the regulation and practice of capital markets. Secondly, the intersection between corporate law and governance. He has published widely in the above areas. His work on securitisation and capital markets has been cited by the EU Parliament, the Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg (twice) and S&P Global Markets. His works on the EU Capital Markets Union and on the attendant Securitisation Regulation have informed policy-making exercises, among which, Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS), Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), European Capital Markets Institute (ECMI), Politico.

He is the director of two LLM courses at Manchester, one focused on the law and practice of securities markets, and another on the regulation of international finance.

At Manchester, Vincenzo has been the co-director of the Manchester Centre for Law and Business, PGR director, and is currently the LLM director. He is also co-editor in chief of *Law and Financial Markets Review*.

CCTL Book Talk – 'Advancing Investment Migration Scholarship' by Prof. Dimitry Kochenov, 20 March 2025

The past thirty years have seen a rapid rise around the world in legislation that enables people to acquire citizenship or residence rights in exchange for a donation or an investment. Prof. Kochenov will introduce the phenomenon of investment migration and position it vis-à-vis the key trends in the literature on this emerging field. In the process he demonstrates that investment migration frequently has nothing to do with immigration or change of residence; that the phenomenon is rooted in the global rights and duties assignment today, where blood-based passport apartheid is the main principle behind the inequitable self-preservation of the global aristocracy of 'super citizens', as well as the nature of the notion of national sovereignty coupled with the nationalist streetlight effect of the huge share of the commentaries, inter alia. The presentation will draw on two recent volumes Prof. Kochenov co-edited: *Citizenship and Residence Sales* (Cambridge, 2023, with Kristin Surak, London School of Economics) and *Investment Migration in Europe and the World* (Bloomsbury 2025, with Madeleine Sumption MBE, Oxford University and Martijn van den Brink, Leiden). The introductions of both books are available on SSRN, with the Cambridge book's introduction available here and the Bloomsbury book's introduction available here.

About the Speaker:

Prof. Kochenov leads Rule of Law research at CEU Democracy Institute (Budapest) and teaches at CEU Department of Legal Studies (Vienna) and LUISS Guido Carli (Rome). His core interests are global comparative citizenship and principles of EU constitutionalism. His most recent

monograph Citizenship (MIT 2019) has been translated into several languages and reviewed in NYRB. Among the numerous edited volumes he published or about to release are 5 books with Cambridge and 2 with Oxford University Press, as well as 3 Bloomsbury collections. Prof. Kochenov lectured at Princeton, Oxford, UNAM and Osaka Graduate School of Law and the College of Europe, inter many alia and was a Fellow at NYU, Chicago, Bad Homburg and Basel Institute of Global and European Affairs. Dimitry Vladimirovich consults governments and international organizations. And was involved in the constitutional restructuring of the Netherlands Antilles and the introduction of the Maltese citizenship by investment. He has served of as the founding chairman of the Investment Migration Council (Geneva).

CCTL Transnational Legal History Group Book Talk – 'Britain and the Intellectual Origins of the League of Nations, 1914–1919' by Prof. Sakiko Kaiga, 28 March 2025

In this account of the origins of the idea of the League of Nations, Sakiko Kaiga casts new light on the pro-League of Nations movement in Britain in the era of the First World War, revealing its unexpected consequences for the development of the first international organisation for peace. Combining international, social and intellectual history and international relations, she challenges two misunderstandings about the role of the movement: that their ideas about a league were utopian and that its peaceful ideal appealed to the war-weary public. Kaiga demonstrates how the original post-war plan consisted of both realistic and idealistic views of international relations, and shows how it evolved and changed in tandem with the war. She provides a comprehensive analysis of the unknown origins of the League of Nations and highlights the transformation of international

society and of ideas about war prevention in the early twentieth century, as well as some of the implications of that history for the present.

About the Speaker:

Prof. Sakiko Kaiga is an Associate Professor of History at the School of Integrated Arts and Sciences, Hiroshima University, Japan. As a historian of modern international relations, she specialises in ideas about security, democracy, liberal internationalism and international organisations. Her first monograph, *Britain and the Intellectual Origins of the League of Nations, 1914-19* (Cambridge University Press, 2021), won the Peace History Society's Scott Bills Memorial Prize in 2023. Currently, she is working on her second book project on the intellectual history of democracy and collective security in the League of Nations.

CCTL Transnational Economic Law and Dispute Settlement Group Book Talk – 'Third-Party Funding in Investment Arbitration: A New Player in the System' by Dr. Can Eken, 31 March 2025

The author's book is based on his PhD thesis at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. In the book, there are important empirical data on funders through interviews conducted with nearly thirty people working for third-party funders. It reveals a range of potential problems and lays out how funders are addressing them. The author created a guideline to eliminate procedural and ethical issues third-party funding (TPF) might raise. By doing so, it sheds new light on under-researched issues and offers essential guidance to help orient legal policy.

Overall, the book analyzes TPF in its entirety: Background information on TPF, the main procedural issues of TPF and case law on it, its ethical examination, and empirical research on TPF by reflecting the perspective of funders. Doctrinal analysis of TPF related issues in investment arbitration contributes to the current literature. Moreover, while procedural and ethical issues in TPF have consistently surfaced and been increasingly addressed by tribunals, they are not analyzed in academia thoroughly. Furthermore, TPF is barely approached through empirical analysis in literature. The scarcity of empirical data on TPF, especially in investment arbitration is well-known. The data this thesis provides helps to analyze procedural and ethical issues through the empirical method.

About the Speaker:

Dr. Can Eken is a tenured assistant professor at Durham Law School, Durham University. He is also the co-director of the Durham International Dispute Resolution Institute (DIDRI) and a fellow of the Advance HE (FHEA) in the United Kingdom (UK). His research and teaching centre on international dispute resolution, with a particular focus on international commercial arbitration. His research interests also include online dispute resolution, investment arbitration, third-party funding, and other alternative dispute resolution mechanisms such as negotiation and mediation.
Dr. Eken is a triple-qualified lawyer and a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb). He is qualified as an attorney in California and Türkiye, and as a solicitor in England and Wales. He is on the panel of arbitrators at the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA), the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Dubai International Arbitration Centre, Asian International Arbitration Centre, and several other international arbitration centres. Listed by LexisNexis as an arbitration expert, he has served as a counsel and consultant in major international commercial arbitration cases.

CCTL Transnational Legal History Group Book Talk – 'Citizen Marx: Republicanism and the Formation of Karl Marx's Social and Political Thought' by Dr. Bruno Leipold (Online), 2 April 2025

In Citizen Marx, Dr. Bruno Leipold argues that, contrary to certain interpretive commonplaces, Karl Marx's thinking was deeply informed by republicanism. Marx's relation to republicanism changed over the course of his life, but its complex influence on his thought cannot be reduced to wholesale adoption or rejection. Challenging common depictions of Marx that downplay or ignore his commitment to politics, democracy, and freedom, Leipold shows that Marx viewed democratic political institutions as crucial to overcoming the social unfreedom and domination of capitalism. One of Marx's principal political values, Leipold contends, was a republican conception of freedom, according to which one is unfree when subjected to arbitrary power.

About the Speaker:

Dr. Bruno Leipold is a political theorist and historian of political thought with a focus on the work of Karl Marx and the republican political tradition. He has previously been a fellow at The New Institute in Hamburg, the European University Institute in Florence, the Justitia Amplificata Centre for Advanced Studies at the Goethe University Frankfurt, the Free University of Berlin and the London School of Economics and Political Science. He will be an Assistant Professor at the London School of Economics and Political Science from September 2025.

CCTL Comparative Public Law Research Forum Book Talk – 'Combatting the Code: Regulating Automated Government Decision-Making in Comparative Context' by Prof. Yee-Fui Ng (Online), 11 June 2025

Across the world, governments are grappling with the regulatory burden of managing their citizens' daily lives. Driven by cost-cutting and efficiency goals, they have turned to artificial intelligence and automation to assist in high-volume decision-making. Yet the implementation of these technologies has caused significant harm and major scandals. Combatting the Code analyzes the judicial, political, managerial, and regulatory controls for automated government decision-making in three Western liberal democracies: the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia. Yee-Fui Ng develops a technological governance framework of ex ante and ex post controls within an interlinking network of horizontal and vertical accountability mechanisms, which aims to prevent future disasters and safeguard vulnerable individuals subject to automated technologies. Ng provides recommendations for regulators and policymakers seeking to design automated governance systems that will promote higher standards of accountability, transparency, and fairness.

About the Speaker:

Prof. Yee-Fui Ng is an Associate Professor at Monash University. Yee-Fui's research centres on strengthening political institutions and enhancing executive accountability. Her work has focussed on the regulation and accountability of actors and institutions in the shadows of government, such as ministerial advisers, lobby groups and government corporations, utilising empirical, doctrinal

and comparative methodologies. In 2023, Yee-Fui was the winner of the Monash University Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence by an Early Career Researcher. She was also awarded the Monash University Faculty of Law Dean's Award for Excellence in Research Engagement and Impact (2024).

CCTL Comparative Public Law Research Forum Book Talk – 'Judicial Behaviour on the UK Supreme Court: An Empirical Analysis' by Dr. Lewis Graham (Online), 25 June 2025

Dr. Lewis Graham will present and discuss findings from his new monograph, *Judicial Individuality on the UK Supreme Court*. He will attempt to answer three questions: (i) whether it is possible to observe and 'capture' judicial attitudes on the UK Supreme Court, and if so, what methods ought to be adopted to do this; (ii) whether the judges on the Court approach human rights law differently; (iii) whether (and why) the Court has become more conservative over time.

About the Speaker:

Dr. Lewis Graham's research focuses mainly on public and administrative law, including human rights law and the law of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). He is also interested in judicial behaviour and has published a number of empirical works on judicial decision-making in different contexts. He completed his PhD at the University of Cambridge and has spent the previous three years teaching at Wadham College, Oxford. His monograph, *Judicial Individuality on the UK Supreme Court*, has been published by Hart this year and two edited collections considering the jurisprudence of the UK Supreme Court will be published in due course.

Seminars

CCTL Tax Law and Policy Forum Joint Seminar – 'Global Minimum Taxation: A Strategic Approach for Developing Countries' by Dr. Leopoldo Parada, 10 September 2024

The world has seemingly embraced the altruistic idea of ensuring a minimum level of corporate income taxation worldwide, consolidating a "benefits for all" narrative by which both developed and developing countries apparently gain. However, this altruistic narrative proves to be quite unrealistic for many developing countries. As argued in this article, the perceived benefits of a global minimum corporate income tax in developing countries rest exclusively upon three unconvincing premises. These include the assumption that all corporate income tax incentives provided by developing countries are equally inefficient, the idea that all developing countries can seamlessly transition from corporate income tax competition to alternative forms of tax and non-tax competition, and most notably, the notion that supporting or opposing a global minimum corporate income tax could either boost or diminish tax revenue for developing countries. This article urges a departure from these premises and elaborates upon three strategic recommendations for developing countries, which include: first, viewing a global minimum corporate income tax as a concept divorced from the assumption of revenue gain or loss; second, using the global minimum corporate income tax as an opportunity to reassess their tax and non-tax incentives, encompassing alternative competitive strategies; and third, striving for simplicity and ease of administration in designing and implementing a minimum tax approach. In doing so, developing countries could perhaps find an opportunity to refine their general action plan to attract foreign direct investment

(FDI) more effectively while they still try to ride the wave of minimum global corporate income taxation that the world seems to be in.

This seminar is jointly co-organized by the CCTL Tax Law and Policy Forum and International Fiscal Association – HK Branch.

About the Speaker:

Dr. Leopoldo Parada, LLM, PhD, is a Reader (Associate Professor) in Tax Law at King's College London in the UK. Previously he was an Associate Professor in Tax Law and Director or the Centre for Business Law and Practice (CBLP) at the University of Leeds School of Law. In the past he also held academic positions in Italy, Germany, and the Netherlands. Dr Parada also works as an independent tax policy advisor for different national governments and international organisations around the world, and have participated in different legislative tax reforms worldwide, including most recently the introduction of interest limitation rules in Indonesia and the OECD Pillar 2 in Curaçao and Suriname. His research focuses primarily on the international implications of BEPS, the application of tax treaties, and the European and international tax implications of the digitalisation of the economy. Dr Parada is the author of several books and academic articles, and he is also a regular speaker in specialised conferences around the world, including also specialised media outlets both within and outside the UK. Most notably, his academic work has been cited by US Congressional Research Service and by the EU Advocate General in his opinion on the CJEU case C-342/20 related to investment funds in Finland. He has also collaborated with the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) in important investigations related to tax avoidance, including the recent "Pandora Papers" in 2021. In 2020, Dr Parada was recognised by the "TaxCOOP 35 Leaders of the Future in Taxation" (Canada) as one of the most promising tax policy experts worldwide.

CCTL Transnational Economic Law and Dispute Settlement Group Seminar – 'A Preview of Important Issues in the Amendments to the Arbitration Law of China' by Dr. Jingyuan (Joey) Zhou (Online), 13 September 2024

2024 marks the 30th anniversary of China's Arbitration Law with a major amendment to the Arbitration Law set to be reviewed by the Standing Committee of National People's Congress later this year. This presentation focuses on three key legal issues, inter alia, the arbitrability, ad hoc arbitration, and the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards. It will first provide a brief history of China's arbitration legislation and practice and highlight recent developments involving foreign-related arbitration. It then assesses how the amendment aligns with international arbitration practices and rules and other domestic laws, namely, the Civil Procedure Law. It will conclude by evaluating how the amendment enhances the credibility and influence of China's arbitration and contributes to the creation of a market-oriented, rules-based, internationalized business environment.

About the Speaker:

Jingyuan (Joey) Zhou is an Assistant Researcher at the School of Law, Chongqing University in Chongqing, China. She obtained her SJD and JD from the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law, after graduating from China University of Political Science and Law with BA in Law and LLM degrees. She has been researching in areas of international commercial arbitration, international trade law, international investment law, dispute resolution, and comparative intellectual property law. Her articles have appeared in the *World Trade Review*, *AJIL Unbound*,

Asian Journal of Comparative Law, and in the edited collections published by Oxford University Press. She is a Research Associate with the "China, Law and Development" Program, a member of the American Society of International Law, and a licensed attorney in the United States. She is also qualified to practice law in China. Before joining Chongqing University, she taught at the University of Arizona as a Professor of Practice.

CCTL Transnational Economic Law and Dispute Settlement Group Joint Seminar – 'UNIDROIT Principles and International Commercial Contracts: Implications for Hong Kong', 7 November 2024

In the dynamic landscape of today's global marketplace, the UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts serve as a pivotal framework for the drafting and interpretation of cross-border commercial agreements. These principles are designed to harmonize and streamline contractual processes among diverse legal systems, offering substantial benefits in scenarios where contracting parties originate from different countries with unique legal backgrounds.

This seminar will provide a comprehensive exploration of the key attributes of the UNIDROIT Principles, highlighting their crucial impact on international contract law. Special focus will be given to their potential integration into Hong Kong's contractual practices and dispute resolution mechanisms, assessing their role in facilitating smoother international transactions.

During the seminar, participants will also be introduced to the UNIDROIT Academy, along with details about internship and scholarship opportunities available at UNIDROIT.

This seminar is jointly co-organized by the CCTL Transnational Economic Law and Dispute Settlement Group and The International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT).

About the Speakers:

Prof. Anna Veneziano is the Deputy Secretary General of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT). She is a Professor of Comparative Law at the University of Teramo, Italy, where she was formerly the Director of the Department of Private Law. In the period of 2013-2017, she was tenured Professor of European Property Law at the University of Amsterdam (UvA).

Her education includes a Law Degree with honours from the University of Rome La Sapienza, an L.L.M degree from the Yale Law School funded by a Fulbright scholarship, and a PhD degree from the University of Florence (Italy).

Her main research and publication areas are on secured transactions as well as international, comparative, and European contract and sales law. Among her institutional activities before joining UNIDROIT she was a member of the Italian delegation with respect to the Cape Town Convention on International Interests on Mobile Equipment and its Aircraft Protocol as well as its Space Protocol. She was also a member of the Study Group on a European Civil Code and of the Compilation and Redaction Group on a Draft Common Frame of Reference on European Private Law (DCFR), and of the restricted Expert Group set up by the European Commission on a common European law on sales.

At UNIDROIT she was, inter alia, involved in the drafting of the UNIDROIT/FAQ/IFAD Legal Guide on Contract Farming, in the implementation of the Cape Town Convention Protocols and in the negotiations of the Mining, Agricultural and Construction Protocol. She represented UNIDROIT in the drafting of the Tripartite Guide on uniform contract law and was Co-Chair of the Steering Committee of the ELI-UNIDROIT European Rules of Civil Procedure project.

Mr. William Brydie-Watson is a Senior Legal Officer at the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), based in Rome. William specializes in international instruments related to access to credit and secured transactions law. He has primary responsibility for the development of the UNIDROIT Model Law on Factoring and the implementation of the

Cape Town Convention on International Interests in Mobile Assets and its Protocol on mining, agricultural and construction equipment (the 'MAC Protocol').

William is also Co-Director of the UNIDROIT Asian Transaction Law Centre, the manager of the UNIDROIT Scholarship, Internship and Research Programme and an advisor to the UNIDROIT Foundation. In 2024 William was also appointed to the Board of Directors of the International Law Institution, in Washington DC.

Previously, he was a Legal Officer in the Private International Law section of the Australian Commonwealth Attorny-General's Department and worked on the implementation of private international law treaties in Australia. William is a visiting lecturer at the Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, Hungary. Admitted to practice law by the Supreme Court of New South Wales, William has a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and a Master of Laws from the Austrian National University.

CCTL Environmental, Energy and Climate Law Cluster Seminar – 'Harnessing Opportunities for Renewable Energy Growth in Southeast Asian Power Systems: A Market Design Assessment' by Mr. Ernst Kuneman, 8 November 2024

Southeast Asia is emerging as a global economic powerhouse, attracting record levels of foreign investment. With abundant renewable energy potential and growing investor interest, the region is well-positioned for a rapid expansion of solar and wind power. While some countries are already making strides, there is vast untapped potential for further growth across the region. A new report

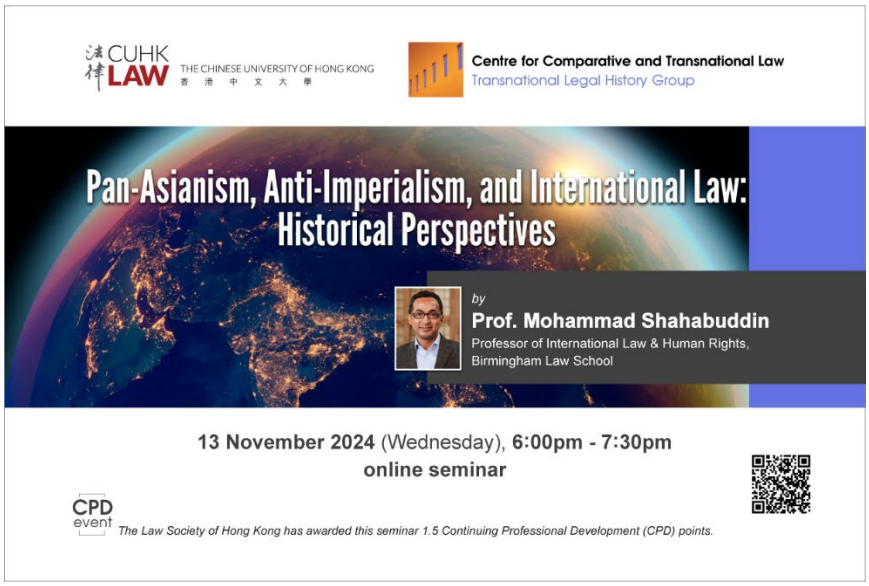
by Agora Energiewende, NewClimate Institute and the Energy Research Institute (Thailand) identifies key market and regulatory opportunities to accelerate solar and wind power deployment in ASEAN's leading economies – outlining strategies to enhance investment certainty in renewables, unlock system flexibility, and phaseout coal power in a system-friendly way. This event will unpack the report's findings and discuss how changes to existing market designs would enable countries to accelerate renewable energy growth.

About the Speaker:

Ernst works as a project manager on power system transformations in Southeast Asia. His work revolves around electricity market design, energy policy, and the integration of renewable energy sources. Based in Bangkok, Ernst collaborates with regional partners, government stakeholders, and industry to assess opportunities for market reform and expedite the shift towards renewables-based electricity systems.

Prior to joining Agora Energiewende in 2022, Ernst worked at adelphi and the International Carbon Action Partnership in Berlin. Before that, he was with the International Energy Agency in Paris and the Clingendael Institute in The Hague. Ernst graduated from the International Energy master's programme at Sciences Po (Paris), and he holds an M.Sc. in International Relations from the University of Amsterdam.

CCTL Transnational Legal History Group Seminar – 'Pan-Asianism, Anti-Imperialism, and International Law: Historical Perspectives' by Prof. Mohammad Shahabuddin (Online), 13 November 2024



Pan-Asianism as a concept is conventionally associated with Japan's imperialism during the Second World War. Pan-Asianism was not merely a language of hegemony, however, but rather had a more complex role to play in the early twentieth century. As an anti-imperial ideology, Pan-Asianism advanced a normative argument for the emancipation of Asia from Western imperialism and provided an alternative vision of civilization. As an anti-imperial strategy, Pan-Asianism offered Indian nationalist leaders in exile a necessary language to gain international support in favour of their nationalist movement. The ideological and strategic aspects of Pan-Asianism then affected and informed the development of contemporary international law with specific reference to the law of neutrality, the right to self-determination, racial equality, and the Monroe Doctrine. This lecture will shed light on this important yet ignored episode in the historical development of international law.

About the Speaker:

Professor Mohammad Shahabuddin teaches and researches in international law and human rights with special focus on the history and theory of international law, ethnicity and nationalism, and human rights. His teaching and research is informed by critical, postcolonial, and TWAIL (Third World Approaches to International Law) scholarship. He is the author of *Ethnicity and International Law: Histories, Politics and Practices* (Cambridge University Press,

2016) and *Minorities and the Making of Postcolonial States in International Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2021). The latter is part of the prestigious Cambridge Studies in International and Comparative Law series. He is also the editor of the *seminal volume Bangladesh and International Law* (Routledge, 2021) and an Editorial Board member of *the Asian Journal of International Law*. Shahab is a recipient of the Leverhulme Trust Research Fellowship (2018-2020) and the Japan Foundation Fellowship (2016). He was Deputy Head of Birmingham Law School (Staffing and Strategy) in 2020-2021.

CCTL Transnational Economic Law and Dispute Settlement Group Seminar – 'Strengthening Asia's Role in International Arbitration' (Online), 19 November 2024

This seminar investigates the rapid evolution of arbitration practices and legislation across Asia, focusing on Hong Kong, Singapore, and Korea—pivotal centers in international commercial and investment dispute resolution. We are privileged to welcome three distinguished experts to share their deep knowledge of their respective region's arbitration frameworks. The discussions will highlight the latest legal advancements and the increasing relevance of these jurisdictions within the international arbitration community. Additionally, the seminar will examine Asia's strategic role in relation to other global arbitration hubs, offering participants a rich comparative perspective. This engagement promises to deepen understanding of Asia's influential and expanding role in shaping global arbitration standards and practices.

About the Speakers:

Ms. Joanne (Jeong-Yeon) Bae is a senior associate in Bae, Kim and Lee LLC's International Arbitration and Litigation group. As a Korean qualified lawyer, she focuses on international dispute resolution, including international arbitration and cross-border litigation. Joanne has acted as counsel in various international arbitrations conducted under the auspices of the LCIA, ICC, VIAC, as well as in ad hoc cases under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules, which involved complex commercial disputes concerning, inter alia, intellectual property, insurance, post-M&A issues, and construction disputes. Joanne also regularly represents clients in related court proceedings.

Ms. Violet Huang specializes in general commercial litigation and international arbitration. She is a Singapore and PRC-qualified lawyer. Her career highlights include serving as a Justices' Law Clerk at the Supreme Court of Singapore and working in the international arbitration team of a prominent international law firm. She has a strong background in prosecuting financial crimes as a former Deputy Public Prosecutor at the Attorney-General's Chambers. She is also an accredited mediator with the Singapore International Mediation Institute. Currently, she teaches Constitutional Law and Administrative Law at the National University of Singapore.

Ms. Pem Chhoden Tshering is an international disputes lawyer qualified in New York and England & Wales, and practises in the areas of Public International Law and International Arbitration. Pem is part of the legal team representing Antigua & Barbuda in the Climate Change Advisory Opinion proceedings at the International Court of Justice and was part of the legal team representing the African Union in the Advisory Opinion on Climate Change proceedings before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. Pem has worked on commercial and investment treaty arbitrations spanning a wide range of industries, including pharmaceuticals, defense procurement, energy and natural resources, under the rules of the leading arbitral institutions globally. Pem has also assisted several international tribunals in inter-State cases, including territorial and maritime disputes, and in the first ever UNCLOS Conciliation between Timor Leste and Australia.

CCTL Transnational Economic Law and Dispute Settlement Group Joint Seminar – 'Evolving Practices in International Dispute Resolution: Perspectives from the 2024 SIDRA Survey Final Report and Beyond' (Online), 19 February 2025

Join us for an insightful one-hour online seminar as we delve into the findings of the *Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy ("SIDRA") International Dispute Resolution Survey: 2024 Final Report*, exploring the evolving landscape of international dispute resolution. This session will explore key trends in international arbitration and mediation and look into the major developments in the specialised areas of intellectual property and technology disputes.

This seminar is ideal for legal practitioners, dispute resolution professionals, academics, policymakers, and anyone keen to stay updated on the latest trends and practices in international dispute resolution.

This seminar is jointly co-organized by the CCTL Transnational Economic Law and the Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy ("SIDRA").

About the Speakers:

Ms. Angela Abala is the Research and Development Lead at the Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy ("SIDRA"), a platform for thought leadership in international dispute resolution theory, practice, and policy at the Yong Pung How School of Law ("YPHSL"), Singapore Management University. She is also an Adjunct Teaching Mentor at YPHSL. She is

one of the co-authors of the *SIDRA International Dispute Resolution Survey: 2022 and 2024 Final Reports.*

As an experienced dispute resolution trainer, Angela has worked with practitioners and government officials globally. Her research focuses on international dispute resolution, including commercial arbitration, mediation, and investor-state dispute settlement. Angela has published extensively in leading journals, addressing topics like investor-state mediation, third-party funding in mediation, and arbitrability and public policy issues in the Philippines. She has also been a speaker at arbitration and mediation events in Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand, and Indonesia. Angela is an accredited mediator at the Singapore International Mediation Institute. She also serves as an Assistant Editor for Southeast Asia at the *Kluwer Arbitration Blog*. She previously worked as an Associate Solicitor at the Philippine Office of the Solicitor General and as a Judicial Fellow for the Hon. Charles N. Brower.

Ms. Zhang Yuying is a Research Associate at the Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy. Her research areas focus on international dispute resolution, namely international commercial arbitration, mediation and investor-State dispute settlement.

She is part of the research team involved in a recent law reform project on the International Arbitration Act (IAA) commissioned by the Singapore Ministry of Law in light of the IAA's 30th anniversary.

She is one of the co-authors of the *SIDRA Survey 2024: Final Report*, a survey collating response from counsels around the world on their experience using dispute resolution mechanisms. Yuying has also published in reputable journals like the *Journal of International Arbitration*.

She has spoken at many events such as the 6th UNCITRAL Inter-sessional Meeting held in Singapore and other academic conferences, e.g. the 115th Society of International Scholars (Bristol) and the 31st ANZSIL (Melbourne). She is also an accredited Level 1 mediator with the Singapore International Mediation Institute. With her background in mediation, she has trained foreign lawyers and government officials in capacity-building workshops in countries such as Brunei, Vietnam and Samoa.

She teaches in the Yong Pung How School of Law (Singapore Management University) on mediation and arbitration in her capacity as an Adjunct Teaching Mentor as well.

CCTL Seminar – 'Poverty in Judgecraft: New Narratives through the Language of Equality' by Dr. Sarah Ganty, 25 February 2025

Millions worldwide face poverty daily. While its effects vary by society, poverty consistently marginalizes individuals, limiting their opportunities and access to societal benefits. Myths about poverty undergird and perpetuate socioeconomic exclusion, being the vehicles for cultural processes, such as stigmatization, racialization, and rationalization. These myths abound in law. They include the conception of poverty as solely concerned with the deprivation of basic material goods; equal opportunities and collective amnesia about the past; stigmatization of people in poverty as irresponsible and lazy; the categorization of aspects and elements of their poverty condition as criminal. This Article argues that judges, as (meta)narrators, have the power to challenge myths and develop new narratives about poverty, through the language of non-discrimination and equality. This could open the way to judicially redress certain troubling situations of misrecognition, social exclusion and inequality. Ultimately, as long as myths about poverty prevail in law any attempt to tackle the issue of socioeconomic exclusion is destined to fail. This article contributes to the law and sociology literature on poverty in judgecraft by addressing the research gap on narratives of poverty within judicial reasoning and practice.

About the Speaker:

Dr. Sarah Ganty is a J.S.D. candidate at Yale Law School, where she serves as President of the Yale Law School European Law Association. She is also a Postdoctoral Fellow at Université Catholique de Louvain in Louvain-la-Neuve and a research affiliate at the Central European

University Democracy Institute in Budapest. This academic year, Sarah is a visiting professor at Hong Kong University and a Research Visitor at the Bonavero Institute at Oxford University. Sarah Ganty's research focuses on immigration law, social justice, anti-discrimination law and citizenship law. Her first monograph dissects the concept of "migrants' integration" in EU law; her articles have appeared in numerous peer reviewed law journals including the *Human Rights Law Review*, *The Hague Journal of the Rule of Law*, *International Journal of Law in Context*, *European Journal of Risk Regulation*, *Maastricht Journal of European and Comparative Law*, as well as *Columbia Journal of European Law* and *Yale Journal of International Law Online*. She is currently working on the concept of merit in law and its role in determining how public, economic, and social goods ought to be shared or attributed. With strong background in EU law, she is active in the study of the European Union legal system too. She taught social justice, EU law and human rights law at CEU (Vienna) as well as the ULB and the Facultés Universitaires Saint-Louis in Brussels.

Discussant:

Prof. Jennifer Hendry, Professor, CUHK LAW

CCTL Tax Law and Policy Forum Joint Seminar – 'A Simplified Tax Regime for Taxing Cryptocurrencies' by Prof. Jingyi Wang, 27 February 2025

The cryptocurrencies that are an integrated part of the blockchains have led to the creation of enormous value and wealth that attract increasing attention from investors and governments. The

sophistication and anonymity of crypto-assets create significant challenges for tax administrations. The current tax rules and guidelines in relation to crypto-assets are either too broad or too complicated. This seminar proposes a simplified tax regime that would significantly reduce compliance and administration costs when taxing cryptocurrency. In this simplified tax regime for taxing cryptocurrencies, the first taxable event occurs at the moment when crypto-assets are converted to fiat currency or other real-world goods or services.

This seminar is jointly co-organized by the CCTL Tax Law and Policy Forum and International Fiscal Association – HK Branch.

About the Speaker:

Prof. Jingyi Wang is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). Jingyi's research interests include tax law, fiscal policy, corporate governance and social-legal studies. Her recent work examines tax law reform in China, the taxation of cryptocurrencies, Hong Kong tax policies and law enforcement in China. Her scholarly works have appeared or are forthcoming in prominent academic journals such as *Florida Tax Review*, *British Tax Review*, *Australia Tax Forum*, *Journal of Corporate Legal Studies*, *Journal of International Economic Law*, *Singapore Journal of Legal Studies*, *China Quarterly*, *British Journal of Criminology*, *Journal of Criminology*, *Hong Kong Law Journal* and *Asia Pacific Law Review*.

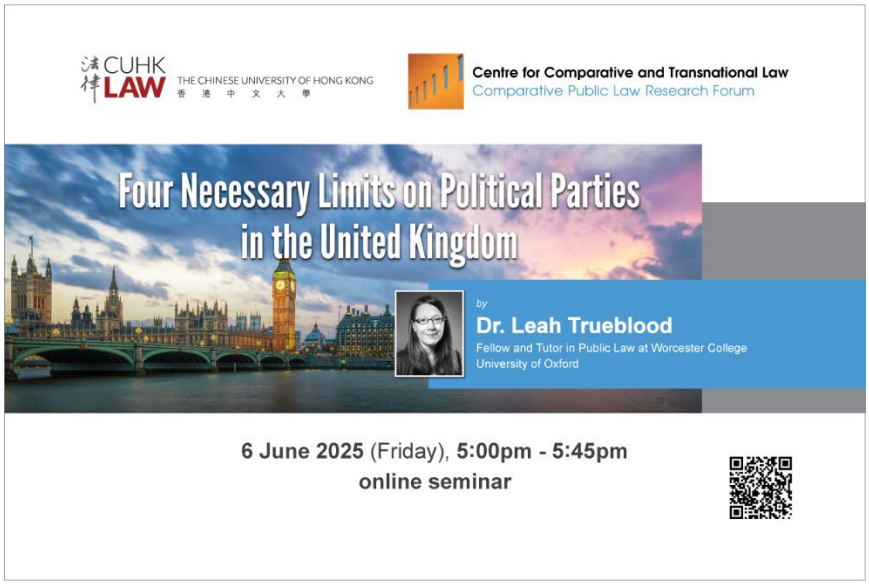
CCTL Transnational Economic Law and Dispute Settlement Group Seminar – 'Managing Integrity Risks in Global Development: An Overview of the World Bank Sanctions System' by Mr. Chang Liu, 18 March 2025

In the last fiscal year, the World Bank Group (WBG) committed $117.5 billion in global development funding through various instruments. Together with similar efforts by other multilateral development banks (MDBs), these fundings aim to address the intertwined challenges of poverty reduction, climate resilience, food security, energy access, and economic stability. How do the WBG and other MDBs manage integrity risks within such large-scale projects? This talk introduces the World Bank Sanctions System, a framework designed to safeguard accountability and combat fraud and corruption, as a model for MDB integrity risk management. The talk will also examine recent developments, trends, and hot issues concerning the World Bank Sanctions System.

About the Speaker:

Mr. Chang Liu serves as Counsel at the World Bank's Office of Suspension and Debarment (OSD), where he reviews sanctions cases to assess whether respondents' contract eligibility should be suspended. Before joining the World Bank, Mr. Liu practiced at leading international firms and clerked at the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. In private practice, he advised clients on white-collar defense, internal investigations, and complex cross-border commercial disputes. Mr. Liu holds a J.D., cum laude, from Harvard Law School.

CCTL Comparative Public Law Research Forum Seminar – 'Four Necessary Limits on Political Parties in the United Kingdom' by Dr. Leah Trueblood (Online), 6 June 2025



Political parties hold a privileged position in UK democracy. They are the only groups with the opportunity to form a government. Despite this capacity to inhabit the state, legal scrutiny of political parties in the UK has been limited. The rationale for this approach is compelling, there are risks of turning parties into sites of legal rather than political contestation. On the other hand, without legal scrutiny, there is a risk that if political checks break down, then public power will be monopolised by a single party. This paper offers four proposals to ensure that parties are not able to monopolise the use of public power. First, by increasing transparency by reforming data protection and freedom of information laws. Second, by clarifying in law the ways in which political parties are public bodies. Third, by expanding the powers of the Electoral Commission to ensure democratic contestation. Fourth, by strengthening campaign finance laws. The purpose of these legal checks is not to replace political contestation. The three limits instead create a backstop to ensure that the political mechanisms of the uncodified constitution can prevent the monopolisation of public power.

About the Speaker:

Dr. Leah Trueblood is a Fellow and Tutor in Public Law at Worcester College. She is also a recent British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow at the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights. She originally studied Philosophy at the University of Alberta on a TD Canada Trust National Scholarship. She

then undertook a Law degree at the LSE before coming to Oxford for her D.Phil. Her D.Phil was generously supported by the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation.

Conferences

4th Asian Legal History Conference, 25 - 26 July 2024

CUHK LAW members Prof. Christopher Roberts, Prof. Ryan Mitchell and Ms. Michelle Ong participated in the 4th Asian Legal History Conference held at Hue University Faculty of Law in Vietnam on 25 and 26 July 2024.

Supported by the CUHK LAW CCTL's Transnational Legal History Group and the University of Oxford Programme in Asian Laws, the conference was a great success, attracting more than 50 scholars from more than a dozen jurisdictions around the world, including Vietnam, Hong Kong, Macau, Mainland China, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany and New Zealand. Conference presentations addressed historical issues relating to legal transplantation, colonial and post-colonial legalities, comparative constitutional law, Asian approaches to international law, private law, criminal law, prisons, customary rights, labor law, marriage law and pre-modern legal orders, among other issues.

Prof. Christopher Roberts spoke at the introduction to the conference, moderated one of the opening panels, the keynote presentation at the end of the first day, and presented his work on forced labor on the second day of the conference. Prof. Ryan Mitchell delivered a keynote address on the state of the field of Chinese Legal History at the end of the first day of the conference. Ms. Michelle Ong, a Research Assistant at CUHK LAW, presented her work on the internationalization of maritime labor standards on the second day of the conference.

The Asian Legal History Conference series was created in 2021 by CUHK LAW Professors Ngoc Son Bui (now University of Oxford) and Christopher Roberts. Previous (1st– 3rd) conferences were hosted, organized, and supported by the Hue University Faculty of Law, Thammasat University Faculty of Law, the Centre for Asian Legal Studies at the National University of Singapore and CUHK LAW.

Conference on Rethinking Jurisdiction in Private International Law, 1 - 2 August 2024

On August 1-2 2025, the Private International Law Group organized a conference titled "Rethinking Jurisdiction in Private International Law" at CUHK. The event featured 26 presentations on various jurisdictional topics, including adjudicatory jurisdiction, prescriptive jurisdiction, indirect jurisdiction concerning the enforcement of foreign judgments, jurisdictional conflict, and reform on jurisdiction. Speakers included leading scholars and practitioners from over ten jurisdictions, such as Australia, England, France, Hong Kong SAR, Japan, Macau SAR, Mainland China, and Singapore. This conference was the first private international law conference in Hong Kong conducted in both English and Mandarin Chinese, with presentations in English on the first day and in Mandarin on the second day, facilitating discussions for participants in both languages. The conference was generously supported by Hitotsubashi University.

CCTL Obligations Lab Asia Conference – 'Protecting the Digital Consumer in Asia', 15 - 16 May 2025

The CCTL Obligations Lab Asia organised a hybrid conference on the theme of "Protecting the Digital Consumer in Asia" on 15 and 16 May 2025. Almost 100 delegates registered to joined online or in person and hear about cutting edge research from academic speakers working in Australia, Mainland China, Hong Kong SAR, Indonesia, Macau SAR, Singapore, Thailand, the UK, the USA and Vietnam.

The presentations explored how existing legal frameworks, particularly in private law, need to be reformed to address new challenges in safeguarding consumer rights and interests in the digital environment. Ms. Gilly Wong Fung-han, former Chief Executive of the Consumer Council, Hong Kong SAR, delivered a keynote address to reflect on her tenure under the title of: "Navigating a 12-Year Digital Shift in Hong Kong: Are Consumers Well Protected?".

The conference provided opportunities for speakers and audiences to engage in mutually beneficial dialogue on issues of consumer protection in the digital environment, including its comparative dimensions. The first day was devoted to a PhD roundtable, in which emerging researchers provided insights into a range of innovative research projects, whereas on the second day established researchers shared their insights on novel consumer protection issues. A particular focus of the conference was the extent to which artificial intelligence created new legal and

regulatory challenges in fields as diverse as crypto currencies, telemedicine, mental health chatbots, contract automation, consumer data, dating services, and more.

Selected papers from the conference will be published in a special issue of the *Asian Journal of Law and Society (CUP)*.

Publications

For full list of publications by CCTL members, see here: https://www.law.cuhk.edu.hk/app/research-excellence/