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

Centre for Legal Innovation and Digital Society (CLINDS)

Centre for Legal Innovation and Digital Society

Annual Activities Report

2024 - 25

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The Centre for Legal Innovation and Digital Society (CLINDS) at CUHK LAW

The Centre for Legal Innovation and Digital Society 法律創新與數碼社會研究中心 (CLINDS) promotes cutting-edge research in law and technology at CUHK LAW.

Formerly known as the CUHK LAW Centre for Financial Regulation and Economic Development (CFRED), founded by Professor David Donald in 2010 to support research in various areas of law affecting commerce and business, the centre underwent a strategic shift towards research projects centered around law and technology in 2017. In 2022, CFRED was re-organized and re-named as CLINDS to accurately reflect the centre's new focus, aligning with CUHK LAW's strength in law and technology.

Mission

It is the mission of CLINDS to

- provide institutional support for first-class research in the areas of law and technology;
- foster collaborative and interdisciplinary research projects within CUHK LAW and with external parties;
- facilitate research with high impact beyond academia;
- develop policy proposals for consideration by government bodies in Hong Kong and abroad;
- be recognized as the leading centre of excellence in the area of law and technology in Asia;
- be dedicated to teaching excellence across the University by promoting interdisciplinary approaches to course design and materials, as well as teaching-related collaboration with other Faculties;
- serve as a premier local, regional and international forum of inter-institutional collaborations in the law and technology;
- contribute to the betterment of society through knowledge transfer activities, including media engagement and collaboration with law firms, business entities, international organizations and non-governmental entities.

Internal Organisation

Executive Director

Professor Jyh-An Lee is a Professor and the founding Executive Director of the Centre for Legal Innovation and Digital Society (CLINDS) at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) Faculty of Law. He has coached the New Ventures Legal Team (NVLT), a clinical support group collaborating with CUHK's Pre-Incubation Centre for startup companies since 2015. Previously, he served as the LLB Programme Director and Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies at CUHK Faculty of Law from 2019 to 2021 and the Executive Director of the Centre for Financial Regulation and Economic Development (CFRED) from 2021 to 2022.

Professor Lee has been featured on ABC News, BBC News, Bloomberg News, Financial Times, Fortune, and South China Morning Post as an expert on intellectual property and internet law. His works have been cited by the US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, the UK High Court of Justice, the US Patent and Trademark Office, the US Copyright Office, the US International Trade Commission, and the WTO dispute-settlement panel.

Members

Professor Anatole Boute, Professor and Outstanding Fellow of the Faculty of Law

Prof. Bryan H. Druzin, Associate Professor

Professor Stuart Hargreaves, Associate Professor

Professor Robin Huang, Professor

Professor Sandra Marco Colino, Associate Professor

Professor Michelle Miao, Associate Professor

Professor Eliza Mik, Assistant Professor

Mr. Paul Schmidt, Professional Consultant

Mr. Ernest Southworth, Professional Consultant

Professor Dicky Tsang, Associate Professor

Professor Normann Witzleb, Associate Professor

Professor Lutz-Christian Wolff, Wei Lun Professor of Law

Professor Chao Xi, Dean, Faculty of Law and Outstanding Fellow of the Faculty of Law

Steering Committee

Professor 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.

Professor Chao Xi (Chairman)

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.

Professor Jyh-An Lee

Executive Director, CLINDS and Professor, CUHK LAW (see bio above).

Professor Kevin Cheng

Kevin Cheng is an Associate Professor and he currently serves as Assistant Dean (Research) in the Faculty of Law. He was awarded a PhD in criminology from the University of Hong Kong. Prior to his doctoral studies, he completed his Juris Doctor (JD) and Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL) here at the Faculty of Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Before that, he obtained his Honours Bachelor of Arts (with distinction) from the University of Toronto where he majored in criminology and political science. His research interests are primarily in the fields of criminology, criminal justice and socio-legal studies with a strong emphasis on empirical work in Hong Kong. He has written on topics including, guilty pleas, prisoner re-entry, procedural justice and

legitimacy, and public attitudes towards crime and criminal justice policies. His work appears in leading criminology and interdisciplinary journals including, the *British Journal of Criminology, Punishment & Society*, *Social & Legal Studies*, *Law & Social Inquiry*, *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*, and the *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*. Dr. Cheng has received funding from the General Research Fund (GRF), Research Grants Council for his research on guilty pleas and cracked trials and his research on the sliding scale of sentence discounts for guilty pleas.

Professor Steven Gallagher

Steven Gallagher is a Professional Consultant, Professor in Practice of Law (by courtesy), and Associate Dean (Academic & Student Affairs). Steven has taught various aspects of property law in England and Hong Kong. In 2013, Steven introduced the course, Principles of Art, Antiquities, Cultural Heritage and the Law to the LLM programme at CUHK LAW. In 2023, Steven introduced the course, Principles of Digital Technology and Law to the Juris Doctor programme. His academic work includes 10 books, and more than 100 academic articles and other pieces on topics associated with property. For Hong Kong's professional sector, Steven has contributed chapters and volumes for various professional works including Atkin's Court Forms Hong Kong and Halsbury's Laws of Hong Kong. He has also presented over 300 professional and academic seminars and conference papers. Steven's research interests include the law affecting art, antiquities and cultural heritage, Chinese custom and law, legal history, property law, law and technology, and innovative ways to teach law. The latter includes using superhero films for problem based learning, flipped classrooms and digital learning initiatives promoting asynchronous and distance learning. Steven has been widely quoted in newspapers and television reports regarding legal issues involving property law, digital technology and law, and art, cultural heritage and law. In 2023, Steven published the textbook, "*Digital Technology and Law*". He is not a technologist.

Professor Dan Hunter

Dan Hunter is the Executive Dean of the Dickson Poon School of Law at King's College London. He was previously the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Law at Queensland University of Technology and the Founding Dean of Swinburne Law School in Australia.

He is an international expert in internet and intellectual property law, AI & law, and legal tech and legal innovation. He holds a PhD from Cambridge on the cognitive science of legal reasoning, as well as computer science and law degrees from Monash University, and an LLM by research from the University of Melbourne.

He regularly publishes on the intersection of computers and law. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law, the creator of the Future Law Podcast and the founder of four startups: in edtech (Quitch), legaltech (Settle Easy), and regulatory technology (Fourth Line and Gracenote).

Professor Bryan Mercurio

Bryan Mercurio is the Simon F.S. Li Professor of Law at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). Professor Mercurio specialises in international economic law (IEL), with particular expertise in the intersection between trade law and intellectual property rights, free trade agreements, trade in services, dispute settlement and increasingly international investment law. Professor Mercurio served as Associate Dean (Research) for the Faculty from 2010-14 and again from 2017-19.

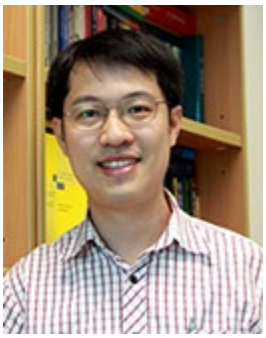
Professor Mercurio is co-author of one of the most widely used textbooks on WTO law (Hart Publishing, 2018, 3rd ed) and co-editor of the leading collection on bilateral and regional trade agreements (Cambridge University Press, 2nd ed, 2016). His most recent monographs respectively explore the international and domestic framework for pharmaceutical patent law and policy (Cambridge University Press, 2018) and policy considerations underlying and shaping government policies on cross-border data flows (Anthem Press, 2022). His next monograph will focus on the legality of capital controls under the various strands of IEL (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2023).

Professor Mercurio has recently been awarded Hong Kong Research Grants Council (RGC) Senior Research Fellowship in the amount of HK$7,798,380 for a five-year interdisciplinary project entitled, 'Access to Vaccines in a Post-COVID-19 World: Sustainable Legal and Policy Options'. He is only the second person in law to receive the fellowship. He also recently received a Hong Kong General Research Fund (GRF) grant in the amount of HK$1,069,050 for a three-year project entitled 'Engaging with China to Reform the World Trading System'. In 2021, Professor Mercurio received the Humanities and Social Sciences Prestigious Fellowship Scheme entitled 'Reshaping Global Trade: The Impact and Effects of the US-China Trade War'. He has also successfully completed a project funded by the Hong Kong Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office Public Policy Research Funding Scheme entitled, 'Regulating Cross-Border Data: A Public Policy Framework for Hong Kong', and GRF projects on capital controls and pharmaceutical law and policy, respectively.

Professor Mercurio is an active participant in a number of associations and networks, including the European Commission funded Jean Monnet Network in Trade and Investment in Services Associates (TIISA) and the ISDS Academic Forum. He was a member of the founding committee and served on the inaugural Executive Board of the Society of International Economic Law (SIEL), a founding member of the SIEL Intellectual Property Law Network, a founding member of the Asian International Economic Law Network and is a Member for Hong Kong in the Asian WTO Research Network. In 2010 he authored the case for the ELSA WTO Moot Court Competition and from 2013-2016 served as a member of the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development/World Economic Forum E15 Expert Working Group on Trade and Innovation.

Prior to relocating to Hong Kong, Professor Mercurio taught in the faculty of law at the University of New South Wales. He has held visiting positions at several institutions in Asia, Europe and North America and is currently a Senior Fellow at the Melbourne Law School. Prior to academia, Professor Mercurio worked both in government and private practice. He remains a frequent consultant and advisor to governments, industry associations and law firms on a wide range of trade and investment matters and has extensive experience in negotiating free trade agreements and in assisting governments with the technical aspects of drafting services schedules for market access commitments and reservations.

Professor Anthony Man-Cho So



Anthony Man-Cho So received his BSE degree in Computer Science from Princeton University with minors in Applied and Computational Mathematics, Engineering and Management Systems, and German Language and Culture. He then received his MSc degree in Computer Science and his PhD degree in Computer Science with a PhD minor in Mathematics from Stanford University. Dr. So joined The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) in 2007. He currently serves as Associate Dean of Student Affairs in the Faculty of Engineering and is Professor in the Department of Systems Engineering and Engineering Management. His recent research focuses on the interplay between optimization theory and various areas of algorithm design, such as computational geometry, machine learning, signal processing, and algorithmic game theory.

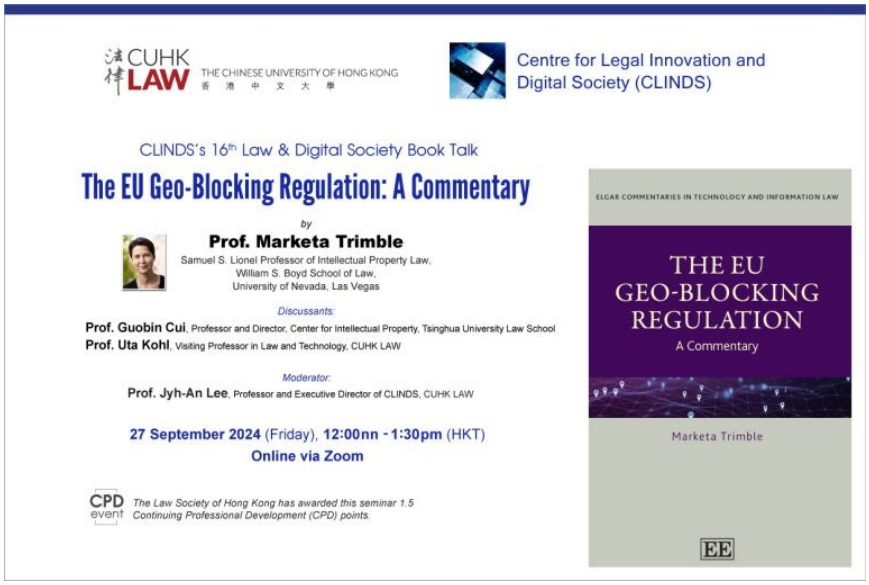
Dr. So currently serves on the editorial boards of *Journal of Global Optimization, Optimization Methods and Software*, and *SIAM Journal on Optimization*. He has also served on the editorial boards of *IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing* (2012-2016) and *Mathematics of Operations Research* (2012-2015). Dr. So has received a number of research and teaching awards, including the 2016-17 CUHK Research Excellence Award, the 2015 IEEE Signal Processing Society Signal Processing Magazine Best Paper Award, the 2014 IEEE Communications Society Asia-Pacific Outstanding Paper Award, the 2010 Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS) Optimization Society Optimization Prize for Young Researchers, and the 2010 CUHK Young Researcher Award, as well as the 2013 CUHK Vice-Chancellor's Exemplary Teaching Award, the 2011, 2013, 2015 CUHK Faculty of Engineering Dean's Exemplary Teaching Award, and the 2008 CUHK Faculty of Engineering Exemplary Teaching Award. He also co-authored with his student a paper that receives the Best Student Paper Award at the 19th IEEE International Workshop on Signal Processing Advances in Wireless Communications (SPAWC 2018).

Overview of Activities

This report covers the period from **1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025**. In the third year of operation, CLINDS has organised a wide range of activities including:

- Seminars and Book Talks
- Conferences

Seminars and Book Talks



CLINDS's 16th Law & Digital Society Book Talk – 'The EU Geo-Blocking Regulation: A Commentary' by Prof. Marketa Trimble (Online), 27 September 2024

This Commentary provides a detailed, article-by-article analysis of the 2018 EU Geo-Blocking Regulation. The Regulation affects customers in the European Union and businesses both inside and outside the European Union if the businesses serve or seek to serve customers in the European Union. All of the Regulation provisions concerning geo-blocking and other forms of customer discrimination are explained, including the provisions on non-discriminatory access to online interfaces, goods and services, and means of payment. Introductory chapters discuss the history, technology, uses, legality, and circumvention of geo-blocking, and detail the legislative history that led to the adoption of the Regulation. The Commentary also explores the relationship between geo-blocking and various areas of law, particularly copyright law and competition law, and it reviews the implementation and enforcement of the Regulation.

The book contains:

– A detailed, article-by-article analysis of the 2018 EU Geo-Blocking Regulation

– A history of the legislative process of the Geo-Blocking Regulation, including a discussion of the most contentious points in the process

– An overview of the history and development of the EU Digital Single Market project, which led to the adoption of the Geo-Blocking Regulation

– A summary of the first review of the Geo-Blocking Regulation by the European Commission and notes on the implementation and enforcement of the Regulation

– A detailed account of the history, technology, uses, legality, and circumvention of geo-blocking

– An analysis of the relationship between geo-blocking and several areas of law, particularly competition law and copyright law

About the Speaker:

Marketa Trimble is the Samuel S. Lionel Professor of Intellectual Property Law at the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She specializes in international intellectual property law and publishes extensively on issues at the intersection of conflict of laws/private international law and intellectual property law, particularly patent law and copyright law. She has authored numerous works on these subjects, including *Global Patents: Limits of Transnational Enforcement* (Oxford University Press, 2012), and is the co-author of a leading international intellectual property law casebook, *International Intellectual Property Law* (with Professor Paul Goldstein, Foundation Press, 6th ed. 2023). She has also authored works in the area of cyberlaw, particularly relating to the legal issues of geoblocking and the circumvention of geoblocking, including *The EU Geo-blocking Regulation: A Commentary* (Edward Elgar, 2024). She has presented at conferences in the United States and abroad, and teaches regularly in the Munich Intellectual Property Law Center, an academic center of the Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition. She is a member of the American Law Institute, the International Academy of Comparative Law, the American Society of Comparative Law, and other academic and professional organizations.

Discussants:

CUI Guobin is Professor as well as Director of the Center for Intellectual Property at Tsinghua University Law School. He was the Associate Dean for International Affairs and Academics (2016.7-2019.6). Professor Cui earned his Ph.D. in law, LL.M., and B.Sc. in Chemistry from Peking University, and his second LL.M. from Yale Law School.

His scholarly interests include intellectual property, antitrust, property, and law and economics theory. He teaches Intellectual Property Law, Patent Law, Advanced Topics on IP, IP Licensing, and Chinese Civil Law. He has published more than 30 law review articles and two popular casebooks, "*Patent Law: Cases and Materials*" (1st edition in 2012, 2nd edition in 2015) and "*Copyright Law: Cases and Materials*" (2014, Peking University Press).

Before he joined Tsinghua in 2002, he had practiced law in Beijing and Shanghai. In 2008, he worked as an intern for Judge Rader at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. He was a visiting scholar at the George Washington University Law School in 2008, the University of Chicago Law School in July 2012, the University of Washington Law School in May 2013, and the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in February 2018. In August 2020/2021, he was visiting associate professor/visiting professor at National University of Singapore (NUS) School of Law, teaching a course on Chinese Intellectual Property Law.

He also serves as adjunct researcher, the Center for Judicial Protection of Intellectual Property, the Supreme People's Court of China; legal advisor, Beijing High People's Court; specialist juror, Beijing Intellectual Property Court（2016-2020; and legal advisor, the People's Court of Haidian District of Beijing.

Uta Kohl is a Professor of Commercial Law at the University of Southampton with research interests in the governance of the internet and technology as well as transnational corporations. She graduated from the University of Tasmania with a BA/LLB (First Class) and received a PhD in Law from the University of Canberra (2003).

Uta Kohl is the author of the monograph *Jurisdiction and the Internet* (CUP, 2007, ppb 2010) and the textbook *Information Technology Law* (5th ed, 2016, Routledge, with D. Rowland, A. Charlesworth). In 2013, Google Inc invited her to do further research on internet jurisdiction, which led to the symposium National Law versus the Global Internet – Re-Negotiating Westphalia? (2014) and the edited collection *The Net and the Nation State* (CUP, 2017). More recently, she has branched out into other online governance questions, like predictive analytics (see edited collection *Data-Driven Personalisation in Markets, Politics and Law*, CUP, 2021, with J. Eisler) and comparative privacy and hate speech regulation (see the funded Leverhulme project 'Modern

Technologies, Privacy Law and the Dead'). She also acted as the Human Rights Trustee on the Board of Trustees of the Internet Watch Foundation (2014-2020).

Uta Kohl has held various visiting positions, most recently as a visiting scholar at MIT (2023) in a collaborative project with Prof Nazli Choucri on corporate sovereignty on the internet.

CLINDS's 26th LegalTech Seminar – 'The New UNCITRAL Model Law on Automated Contracting – Significance & Evaluation' by Dr. Eliza Mik (Online), 3 October 2024

In July, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law ("UNCITRAL") adopted the Model Law on Automated Contracting ("MLAC"). The MLAC provides a legal framework for the use of automated systems in international contracts, including through the deployment of artificial intelligence techniques and "smart contracts", as well as in machine-to-machine transactions. It is intended to complement and supplement existing laws on electronic transactions, particularly those based on other UNCITRAL electronic commerce texts, which have been enacted in more than one hundred jurisdictions. The MLAC is the first legislative text to result from exploratory work conducted by UNCITRAL on legal issues related to the digital economy and digital trade. The instrument not only confirms the ability to conduct business by fully automated means, without any human involvement or review, but also recognizes that contractual terms might take the form of computer code and refer to external data sources that provide dynamic information. Crucially, it addresses important aspects of attributing actions of computer systems to the users of

such systems and attempts to address the risk of unexpected actions carried out by automated systems. The seminar is one of the first events devoted to this new, important instrument.

It addresses the following questions:

– What are the main provisions of the MLAC? What is their purpose? Will they solve existing challenges or create new areas of uncertainty?

– If implemented, how would the MLAC affect the existing legal framework governing the contracting process in Hong Kong and in common law jurisdictions in general?

– How does the MLAC relate to UNCITRAL's flagship instrument, the Model Law on E-Commerce, which formed the foundation for the Electronic Transactions Ordinance (Cap. 553)?

– Should the MLAC be implemented locally?

About the Speaker:

Dr. Eliza Mik teaches Legal Technologies, E-Commerce Law and Contract Law at the Faculty of Law, Chinese University of Hong Kong. Her research interests focus on the legal aspects of transaction automation, with special focus on smart contracts and the integration of Artificial Intelligence into commercial workstreams. Before joining academia, she worked in-house for a number of software and telecommunications companies in Australia, Poland, Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates, advising on technology procurement, software licensing and e-commerce regulation. Eliza has also assisted the World Bank and the Monetary Authority of Singapore. At present, she is a member of the UNCITRAL Expert Group for the Digital Economy, a member of the Inclusive Global Legal Innovation Platform on ODR (Hong Kong), a Research Associate at the Tilburg Institute for Law, Society and Technology and an Affiliate Researcher with the Centre for AI and Digital Ethics at the University of Melbourne.

CLINDS's 27th LegalTech Seminar – 'Challenges (& Rewards) in the Cultivation & Management of Chinese-English Patents in the Age of Big Data' by Prof. Ka Yin Benjamin Tsou (Online), 1 November 2024

Patents have provided a legal framework to protect intellectual property rights. There are also traded commodities. In recent years, patents originating from China have seen phenomenal growth along with bilingual patent processing, which includes translation between Chinese and other languages with heightened expectations on quality. As part of AI, Machine Translation (MT) is also evolving rapidly. It is now used for many translation tasks, including preliminary patent translation, which, like other high-value documents, requires human post-editing to ensure top final quality. With the arrival of Generative-AI, *fluency* of MT output has significantly improved. However, *fidelity* or *accuracy* in translation remains a problem, especially with scientific and technological terminology and between Chinese and English. Thus, an important problem is to provide tools to help the post-editor to (1) evaluate the quality of the MT and (2) to improve final accuracy. In this presentation, we compare the accuracy of MT results between some top MT suppliers and ChatGPT based on expert human evaluation as well as some objective metrics, including one based on terminological usage among a specially cultivated corpus of 300,000 comparable Chinese-English patents. We shall explore some major challenges facing any system to optimize the output of the final quality assurance process through AI-mediated post-editing.

About the Speaker**:**

Dr. Tsou is a graduate of Harvard University and University of California Berkeley. He specializes in computational linguistics, including Natural Language Processing and Machine Translation. He led two projects under the Hong Kong Judiciary to produce bilingual court judgements after 1997 and subsequently worked on bilingual patent processing. His research group helped to organize the Chinese-English Patent Machine Translation Competition (Tokyo, 2009). His current work at Chilin (HK) Ltd, which he founded, is supported by the Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Commission. It focuses on AI and Machine Translation Post-Editing and draws on a massive database of bilingual patents, specially cultivated since 2007 (https://chilin.hk/patta/) and another Chinese news media text corpus (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LIVAC_Synchronous_Corpus). He is also the Emeritus Professor of Language Sciences at the City University of Hong Kong as well as an Adjunct Professor at HKUST, and the Founding President of the Asian Federation of Natural Language Processing. Among his many publications is: *香港法律語言常見拉丁詞彙 Common Latin Terms in Hong Kong Legal Language* (2021), City University of Hong Kong Press.

CLINDS's 17th Law & Digital Society Book Talk – 'Facial Recognition Technologies – Challenges, Recent Approaches and The Ways Forward' (Online), 15 November 2024

The use of Facial recognition technologies has proliferated both in public and private sectors in countries around the world. While their proponents highlight the ability of these technologies to improve service delivery and ensure safety, the critics point to significant risks they create to privacy, non-discrimination and other fundamental rights. This presentation will introduce the

Cambridge Handbook of Facial Recognition in the Modern State where 34 contributors from 5 world regions (Europe, US, Asia Pacific, North America and Latin America) discuss the legal and ethical challenges that these technologies raise, whether the existing legal frameworks in different countries are fit for purpose in addressing these challenges and what are the most recent and possible future efforts to regulate – and tame – these controversial tools.

About the Speakers:

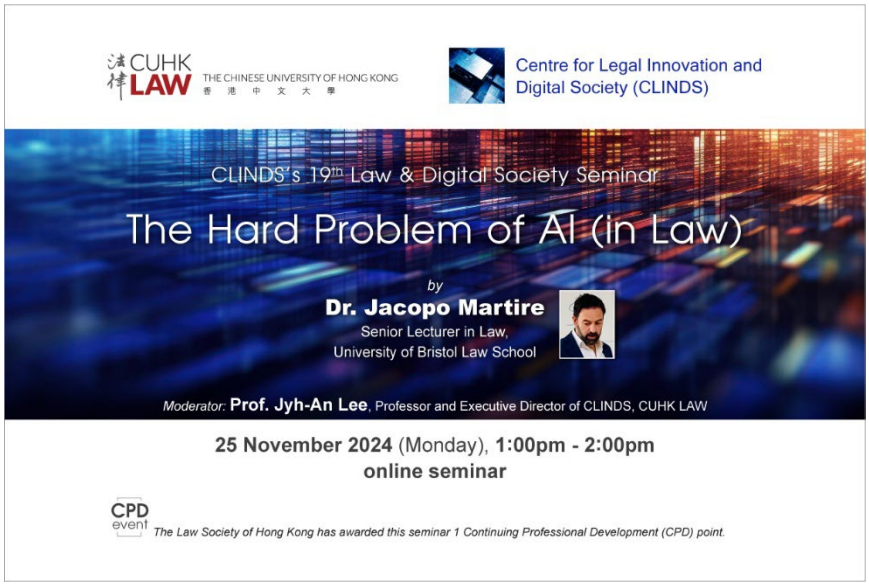
Prof. Rita Matulionyte is an Associate Professor at Macquarie University Law School (Australia) and an international expert in intellectual property and technology law, with her most recent research focusing on legal and governance issues surrounding Artificial Intelligence technologies. Rita has over 60 research papers published by leading international publishers and she has been invited to present her research in conferences in Europe, Asia, Latin America and Australia. She is a recipient of Women in AI Award 2023 APAC, in AI in Law category, and has co-authored commissioned reports for the European Patent Office, the governments of Australia, South Korea and Lithuania. Rita is serving as an expert at the Australia Government's Copyright and AI Reference Group (CAIRG), an expert at the International Standards Organization/Standards Australia IT-043 Committee on Artificial Intelligence, is an Executive Member of Macquarie University Ethics and Agency Research Centre, and is an active member of the Australian Alliance for AI in Healthcare, Safety and Ethics Working Group.

Dr. Monika Zalnieriute is a Chief Researcher at the Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences. She has just completed Australian Research Council DECRA project "AI-Decision Making, Privacy and Discrimination Laws" (2021-2024) and returned to Lithuania from UNSW Sydney, where she has spent last 6 years. Monika's research on law and technology has been published widely by leading international journals, such as the *Modern Law Review* and *American Journal of International Law*. Her research has been drawn upon widely by scholars (800+ citations on Google Scholar; and 18000+ downloads on SSRN) and international organizations, such as the Council of Europe, World Bank, the European Parliament and WHO. Her work has been translated into Mandarin, Russian and German, and has also appeared in international media outlets, such as *BBC* and *The Guardian.* Monika is the co-editor of *Money Power and AI* (Cambridge University Press, 2023) and *The Cambridge Handbook of Facial Recognition in the Modern*

State (Cambridge University Press, 2024). She is a keen long-distance runner and has finished her first marathon last year.

Discussant:

Prof. Jyh-An Lee, Professor, CUHK LAW



CLINDS's 19th Law & Digital Society Seminar – 'The Hard Problem of AI (in Law)' by Dr. Jacopo Martire (Online), 25 November 2024

The use of AI in legal decision making – an incipient yet seemingly inevitable phenomenon – presents some problems. Some of them are of pure technical nature (e.g. the 'coding of progressively more sophisticated AI algorithms, their adaptability, their reliability, etc.). Others are more theoretical, involving social and political issues (questions of transparency, accountability, bias, ownership, etc.). Both sets of problems are challenging in their own ways, but they seem, at least in principle, susceptible to solutions compatible with the fundamental tenets of modern law. In this sense, they can be labelled as 'Easy Problems': even if they will be eventually unsolvable, at least their cognitive logic is clear to us. There is, however, another problem posed by AI that I propose to label as the 'Hard Problem' of AI, because it presents a more fundamental challenge for modern law. Simply stated, my claim is that if human dignity – which is as the core of our legal universe – is to be understood, as several authors do, as the capacity by individuals to advance claims about themselves, then AI is fundamentally undermining the legitimacy of those

claims. If AI can read, analyze, and predict reality better than any human can do, then AI knows better about humans too. It follows that when people's claims clash with AI determinations, it is AI, with its 'omniscience', that must have the upper hand. The realisation of the 'Hard Problem' brings us to question the limits of the applicability of AI to the legal field or, perhaps, to question the fundamental structures of modern law itself.

About the Speaker:

Dr. Martire's main area of research is in legal and political theory with a specific focus on a reconstruction of the fundamental ideological structures of modern law in the light of Michel Foucault's theories. Currently, Dr. Martire is also developing his research in three directions. First, he is exploring the question of the "Other" in its politico-philosophical declension, and in particular in relation to EU law. Second, he is examining the 'underbellly of law' by investigating the aporias and paradoxes of the modern legal discourse through the medium of cinema and literature. Third, he is analysing the interrelation between law and new forms of technoregulation, scrutinising how technological advancements (especially in the field of automation and algorithmic governance) challenge the classical legal model of 'command and control' and the legal-political assumptions linked to it.

CLINDS's 18th Law & Digital Society Seminar – 'Toxic Recommender Algorithms: How the Law Has Facilitated Them and Continues to Do So' by Prof. Uta Kohl (Online), 29 November 2024

In this presentation Prof. Kohl argued that the toxicity of the information environment is not the natural or inevitable result of Web2.0 and its characteristic user participation but has been promoted by social media platforms through their algorithmic design choices. As confirmed by a wealth of empirical evidence, toxicity is profitable. Whilst the EU Digital Services Act 2023 and the UK Online Safety Act 2024 recognise this and seek to intervene through so-called 'systems' duties, they leave intact the law that has facilitated the active mismanagement of the online sphere by platforms, i.e. the extraordinary immunities granted to them in the early 2000s by the Electronic Commerce Directive (following s.230 of the US Communications Decency Act 1996). These immunities have shielded, and continue to shield, platforms from liabilities under civil, administrative and criminal law not just for third party wrongdoing on their domains, but for their own wrongdoing – on the basis that they are no more than 'neutral' or 'passive' pipes through which the content is channelled.

About the Speaker:

Prof. Uta Kohl is a Professor of Commercial Law at the University of Southampton with research interests in the governance of the internet and technology as well as transnational corporations. She graduated from the University of Tasmania with a BA/LLB (First Class) and received a PhD in Law from the University of Canberra (2003).

Prof. Uta Kohl is the author of the monograph *Jurisdiction and the Internet* (CUP, 2007, ppb 2010) and the textbook *Information Technology Law* (5th ed, 2016, Routledge, with D. Rowland, A. Charlesworth). In 2013, Google Inc invited her to do further research on internet jurisdiction, which led to the symposium *National Law versus the Global Internet – Re-Negotiating Westphalia?* (2014) and the edited collection *The Net and the Nation State* (CUP, 2017). More recently, she has branched out into other online governance questions, like predictive analytics (see edited collection *Data-Driven Personalisation in Markets, Politics and Law*, CUP, 2021, with J. Eisler) and comparative privacy and hate speech regulation (see articles below and the funded Leverhulme project 'Modern Technologies, Privacy Law and the Dead'). She also acted as the Human Rights Trustee on the Board of Trustees of the Internet Watch Foundation (2014-2020).

Prof. Uta Kohl has held various visiting positions, most recently as a visiting scholar at MIT (2023) in a collaborative project with Prof Nazli Choucri on corporate sovereignty on the internet.

CLINDS's 10th Intellectual Property Law Seminar – 'Opportunities of the Digital Age: Law, Technology Commercialization, and Entrepreneurship' by Ir. Dr. H.L. Yiu (Online), 7 March 2025

This talk explores the intersection of law, technology, and entrepreneurship in the digital age, focusing on the challenges of technology commercialization and intellectual property (IP) protection. Key topics include the commercialization journey, startup management challenges, effective innovation commercialization, and support in IP protection, compliance, and contract negotiation in the digital era. The role of legal professionals in navigating these areas is also highlighted. The session provides insights for students to embrace entrepreneurial thinking in their legal or entrepreneurial careers.

About the Speaker:

Ir. Dr. HL Yiu, former Chief Corporate Development Officer at the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTP), has held senior leadership roles in overseeing incubation, technology clusters, manufacturing, and technology support infrastructures at HKSTP. In addition to his roles at HKSTP, he has run startups and held multiple positions in multinational technology corporations. Dr. Yiu spent over 15 years at Motorola Semiconductors and Freescale Semiconductors, where he served in various capacities from product development to business

operation, including General Manager for Asia, Networking, and Computing Group. He is the inventor of the DragonBall microprocessor, designed for smart handheld devices such as PDAs and smartphones, and holds eight patents. Dr. Yiu earned his Bachelor's and MSc in Electronic Engineering, as well as a DBA from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He also holds an EMBA, MSc in Finance, and JD from The Chinese University of Hong Kong, along with an LLM from the University of Hong Kong. He is a Fellow Member of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers.

CLINDS's 20th Law & Digital Society Seminar – 'The Challenges of Operating a Digital Money Lending Business' by Mr. James Wong (Online), 24 March 2025

Although the Money Lenders Ordinance (which is the primary legislation that governs money lending activity) is drafted in a technology-agnostic manner, its concepts don't always translate well in the modern, digital space. Online financing / lending platforms face various challenges. For example, certain notes and memorandums have to be signed "personally by the borrower", which may be difficult to achieve in the online context. Said notes and memorandums also have to contain particulars regarding the amount of the principal of the loan and date of the making of the loan, both of which are difficult to account for in the context of revolving credit facilities. It's also not uncommon for online financing / lending platforms to provide ancillary services such as e-wallets, payment and virtual credit cards, which begs the question – can these services be

provided under a money lender's licence? Or are additional licenses/ authorizations required? All this, and more, will be discussed at the seminar.

About the Speaker:

James is a banking and finance lawyer. He focuses on financial services and fintech regulation, and financing.

James' practice areas cover securities, futures, asset management, funds, payment solutions, virtual assets, regulatory investigations, money lending, AML, data privacy and other financial regimes (stored value facilities, money service operators, trust and company service providers, dealers in precious metals and stones).

He represents several high-profile securities brokerage firms, fintech companies, insurance brokerage firms, fund houses, asset managers, money lenders and banks. He has extensive experience advising on creative business models and drafting standard form documentation.

James also advises multi-national financial institutions in their lending and asset financing transactions.

James was invited to comment on current Anti-money laundering landscape at the RTHK radio show "The Close".

James is a native English and Cantonese speaker and is also fluent in Mandarin.

CLINDS's 28th LegalTech Seminar – 'From DeepSeek to Perplexity – How Lawyers Can Leverage Breakthroughs in AI' by Prof. Eliza Mik (Online), 7 April 2025

Much has changed since the introduction of ChatGPT in November 2022. It is, in fact, difficult to keep up with the relentless stream of news regarding new AI-based tools. Each week we are informed of new developments, each of them (purportedly) groundbreaking and unprecedented – at least if we choose to believe the mainstream press and the marketing efforts of major software vendors. To recall, the introduction of DeepSeek's R1 model in the end of January sparked a major sell-off in NVIDIA stock and marked China's arrival on the international LLM arena. Maybe it is unnecessary to rely on big US-based software vendors after all; maybe large investments in hardware are not justified. Leaving aside questions of intellectual property and AI regulation, we must ask: which of the LLM-based products are of direct relevance to the practicing lawyer? Which can be useful in the performance of everyday tasks? Even the less technically-inclined lawyers face the prospect of being left behind unless they catch-up with developments in this field. Some LLM-based tools can, indeed, result in efficiency gains. Others are outright dangerous to use – unless their users exercise extreme caution and verify each generated output. Is it more efficient to expend resources to do things in a traditional manner or to deploy LLMs? As it turns out, everything depends on the task and the tool at hand. Legal research differs from legal reasoning and tools that are suitable for student papers may not be suitable in the performance of high-risk tasks. Lawyers must not only evaluate LLMs in light of potential efficiency gains but also heed privacy and confidentiality concerns.

The seminar addresses the following questions:

• What are the most important recent developments in AI that are directly relevant to practicing lawyers?
• What are the best AI-based tools that can be used in legal practice?
• What are the legal tasks amenable to automation?
• What is the significance of DeepSeek?
• Have LLMs become more "trustworthy" and reliable?

Lastly, the seminar will clarify some technical terms, such as "inference" or "context window," that are indispensable to understand the capabilities of the multitude of available LLM-based tools.

About the Speaker:

Dr. Eliza Mik has joined the CUHK Faculty of Law in January 2021. Before academia, she worked in-house for a number of software and telecommunications companies in Australia, Poland, Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates. She advised on software licensing, technology procurement and e-commerce regulation. Dating back to her PhD thesis, Eliza's interests have always centered on the private law aspects of e-commerce and on general problems of transaction automation, particularly with the use of technologies commonly referred to as Artificial Intelligence. Eliza is also one of the most cited authors on the topic of "smart contracts." In recent years, as part of a research grant, her academic explorations also include the use of large language models in the legal profession. At present, she is a member of the UNCITRAL Expert Group for the Digital Economy, a member of the Inclusive Global Legal Innovation Platform on ODR (iGLIP, Hong Kong), a Research Associate at the Tilburg Institute for Law, Society and Technology (TILT, Netherlands) and an Affiliate Researcher with the Centre for AI and Digital Ethics at the University of Melbourne (CAIDE, Australia).

CLINDS's 21st Law & Digital Society Book Launch – 'Web3 Governance Law and Policy', 15 May 2025

Amid the continuous evolution of internet technologies, numerous legal and policy controversies persist. Web3 introduces a host of new challenges for policymakers, courts, lawyers, and legal academics. While some of these challenges echo those experienced during the eras of Web1 and Web2, others are unprecedented in the history of the internet. Drawing on insights from the recently published book, "Web3 Governance: Law and Policy," legal experts will explore various issues associated with Web3. These include, but are not limited to, decentralized autonomous organizations (DAOs), NFTs, smart contracts, platform liability, transnational disputes, the tax treatment of crypto assets, and artificial intelligence.

About the Discussants:

Mr. Simon Hawkins, Partner, Latham & Watkins

Dr. Joseph Lee, Reader in Corporate and Financial Law, University of Manchester School of Law

Professor Eliza Mik, Assistant Professor, CUHK LAW

Professor Jingyi Wang, Assistant Professor, CUHK LAW

Professor Runhua Wang, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Macau

Professor Normann Witzleb, Associate Professor, CUHK LAW

Dr. Abubakri Yekini, Lecturer in Law, University of Manchester School of Law

Moderator: Professor Jyh-An Lee, Professor and Executive Director of CLINDS, CUHK LAW

CLINDS's 29th LegalTech Seminar – 'LawTech in Action: Leveraging AI and Blockchain to Empower Digital Arbitration and Mediation' by Mr. Albert Leung, 19 June 2025

As legal services continue to evolve in the digital era, emerging technologies are transforming the way disputes are resolved. In this session, Mr. Albert Leung – Acting Chief Executive Officer and Chief Technology Officer of eBRAM – will explore how AI and blockchain are enhancing online arbitration and mediation by making the process more efficient, accessible, and trustworthy. He will share real-world examples of how LawTech is being applied to help parties across borders resolve commercial disputes quickly and securely.

About the Speaker**:**

With over 30 years in the technology and law sectors, Albert Leung is the Acting CEO of eBRAM. He leads the organization in designing cutting-edge platforms, including Online Dispute Resolution (ODR), Deal-Making, and Hong Kong Legal Cloud portals, leveraging AI, blockchain, and cloud technologies. Under his leadership, the ODR platform earned a Bronze Medal at the 2022 Invention Geneva Evaluation Days and obtained ISO27001:2022. He oversees eBRAM operation and formulates strategies, policies, and development plans to align with the company's

business goals as leading LawTech provider levering AI, Blockchain and Cloud Computing to support Deal-Making and Dispute Resolution community in Hong Kong.

As a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb), Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators (HKIArb), Chartered Engineer (CEng), and Chairman of the IET Hong Kong Management section, a corporate member of the British Computer Society, and the Hong Kong Computer Society. He has been appointed as judge for ICC Internation Mediation Competition (Hong Kong) and Vis East Moot Competition in the past and also appointed as arbitrator in an arbitration center in Hong Kong. Albert remains committed to advancing LawTech innovations and enhancing legal and dispute resolution technology efficiency. He holds LLM in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution, MBA, MSc in E-Commerce & Internet Computing, and BEng in Electronic Engineering degrees.

CLINDS's 11th Intellectual Property Law Seminar – 'Trade Secrets Protection and Public Health in the Context of the Emergence of Artificial Intelligence' by Dr. Ping Xiong (Online), 24 June 2025

This presentation argues that a reflexive legal approach to understanding trade secrets law and artificial intelligence law is a pragmatic response to the challenges posed to public health in the context of emergence of AI.

As AI continues to transform sectors including healthcare, its applications—ranging from diagnosis and clinical care to drug development, disease surveillance, outbreak response, and health systems management—are becoming increasingly central to public health strategies.

Transparency is critical to ensuring accountability and trust in public health, and it is also a widely endorsed ethical principle in AI governance. Achieving transparency in AI systems involves enhancing explainability and interpretability—such as through the disclosure of source code, data, model development processes, decision-making pathways, and thorough documentation prior to deployment.

This demand for transparency may conflict with trade secrets law, which protects confidential business information that holds economic value and is subject to reasonable measures to maintain its secrecy. In the AI domain, proprietary algorithms, training data, and development methods may all qualify as trade secrets. This tension between the public's need for transparency and the private sector's interest in maintaining secrecy underscores the complexity of governing AI in health-related applications.

The intersection of artificial intelligence (AI), trade secrets, and public health presents complex challenges that underscores the understanding of trade secrets protection and public health concern in the context of AI's emergence. To navigate this intersection, the presentation draws on the concept of reflexive law, which emphasises self-regulation, stakeholder participation, flexibility, and the creation of legal frameworks that enable industries to develop and enforce their own standards. Reflexive law avoids rigid mandates, instead encouraging adaptive, context-sensitive norms that evolve alongside technological and social developments. By applying this framework, the presentation explores how the legal system can support both trade secret protection and the public health imperative for transparency in AI, ultimately proposing a balanced, participatory, and adaptable regulatory approach.

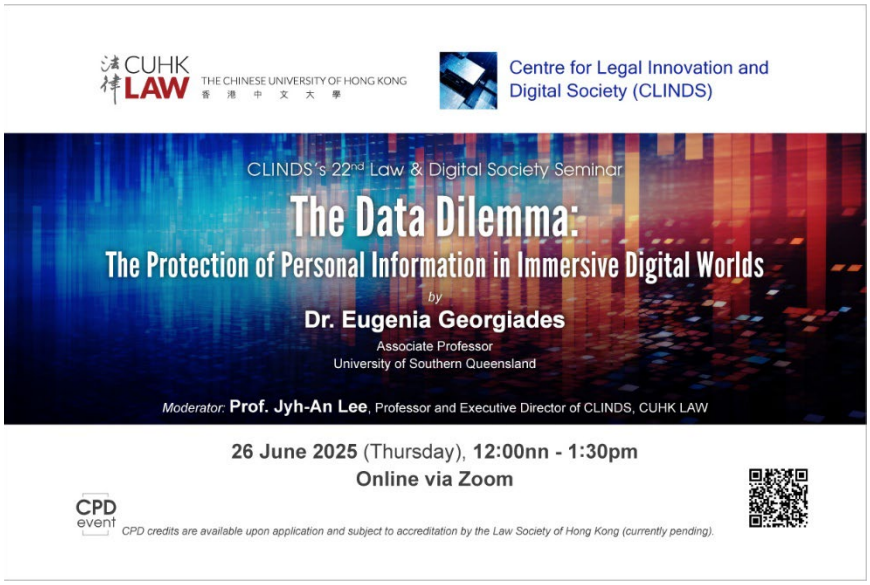
About the Speaker:

Dr. Ping Xiong is a Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of South Australia, which will transition to Adelaide University in 2026. Her primary research interests lie in international commercial law, with a particular emphasis on intellectual property policy within the context of

international trade. She explores the implications of these policies for free trade agreements and international human rights frameworks.

Before joining the University of South Australia, Dr. Xiong held an academic position at Victoria University of Wellington. Her research also includes comparative legal analysis, especially regarding the Chinese legal system and its intersection with international legal standards. This encompasses Chinese trade secrets law and the legal, trade, and investment challenges faced by Chinese enterprises operating abroad.

Dr. Xiong has published extensively, including a monograph, book chapters, and numerous peer-reviewed journal articles. She holds a PhD in Law from Victoria University of Wellington, an LLM from the China University of Political Science and Law, and a BA from Beijing Foreign Studies University.



CLINDS's 22nd Law & Digital Society Seminar – 'The Data Dilemma: The Protection of Personal Information in Immersive Digital Worlds' by Dr. Eugenia Georgiades (Online), 26 June 2025

As modelling and simulation environments such as the metaverse, video games, and digital twin platforms grow increasingly advanced, critical questions arise around how personal data is managed and protected. This presentation offers a critical analysis of the regulatory frameworks that govern personal information within these immersive spaces.

The speaker will explore the privacy risks inherent in platforms that collect, share, and store vast amounts of user data—often in ways that leave it exposed to misuse. Drawing upon a case study of a metaverse platform, and a comparative analysis of legal approaches in the United States and the European Union, this session will assess the effectiveness of current laws in addressing these challenges.

About the Speaker:

Dr. Eugenia Georgiades is a scholar in intellectual property and privacy law within the context of emerging digital technologies. Her work is interdisciplinary, drawing connections between technology, social media, intellectual property law, and data privacy, with a focus on the end user. She also explores privacy issues in novel environments such as the metaverse, virtual and mixed reality, and those arising from remote sensing technologies like satellite imagery. She is particularly focused on the protection of personal data such as image and voice rights.

Conferences

The 16th Intellectual Property Conference – 'Future of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Intangible Asset (IA)', 25-27 July 2024

The 16th Annual Intellectual Property Conference and the pre-conference workshop, jointly organized by the Center for Legal Innovation and Digital Society (CLINDS) at CUHK LAW, Asia Innovation and IP Society (AIIPS), International Intangible Assets Institute, and KINECT LAW, were successfully held at the CUHK Graduate Law Centre from 25th to 27th July 2024. With an impressive turnout of over 200 attendees, this event served as a focal point for in-depth discussions and insightful reflections on various intellectual property (IP) matters related to artificial intelligence (AI), data governance, business strategies, and life sciences.

Distinguished scientists from Hong Kong such as Professors Mai Har Sham (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President, CUHK), Dennis Lo (Direct of the Li Ka Shing Institute of Health Sciences, CUHK), and Wen Jung Li (Vice-President, City University of Hong Kong), presented their cutting-edge research and shed light on the legal challenges associated with these topics during the pre-conference workshop.

The two-day conference commenced with a keynote speech delivered by Professor Matthias Leistner from Ludwig Maximilian University (LMU) Munich, where he delved into the latest policy and legal debates surrounding AI and copyright. Esteemed scholars, practitioners, business leaders, and policymakers from Asia, Europe, and the United States also graced the event as speakers, sharing their expertise and insights.

The 5th Machine Lawyering Conference, 29 - 30 May 2025

The Centre for Legal Innovation and Digital Society (CLINDS) at CUHK LAW held the 5th Machine Lawyering Conference on 29-30 May 2025. Esteemed scholars and practitioners from 15 institutions in 12 jurisdictions presented 24 papers, featuring pressing issues surrounding international technological competition, decentralized autonomous organization, brain-computer interface, innovation and creativity enhanced by artificial intelligence (AI), AI-powered banking supervision, cryptocurrencies, AI-induced hallucinations, digital competition policy, and digital criminal justice. These 24 papers were selected from more than 70 submissions through anonymous peer review by the conference organizing committee, consisting of Professors Kevin Cheng, Sandra Marco Colino, Stuart Hargreaves, Robin Huang, Uta Kohl, Jyh-An Lee (chair),

Eliza Mik, Normann Witzleb. Other speakers and moderators from the Faculty included Professors Dicky Tsang, Jingyi Wang, Yueming Yan, Siyi Lin and Misters Paul Schmidt and Hans-Guenther Herrmann.

As part of the anonymous peer review process, the conference organizing committee selected three best submissions for the Best Paper Awards and three high-quality papers for Honorable Mentions from the pool of accepted papers.

Best Paper Award:

Prof. Kasim BALARABE – Professor and Associate Dean, Jindal Global Law School, *Neuro-Legal Interfaces: Exploring the Convergence of Neurotechnology, Artificial Intelligence, and the Law*

Prof. Lin William CONG – Rudd Family Professor of Management & Professor of Finance, Cornell University; Ms. Yu YAN, PhD Candidate in Finance, National University of Singapore; Prof. Roni, Michaely, Professor, The University of Hong Kong; Prof., Daniel, Rabetti, Assistant Professor, National University of Singapore, *Centralized Governance in Decentralized Organizations*

Prof. Joel SLAWOTSKY – Professor, Harry Radzyner Law School, Reichman University, *New Frontier Technologies, Competition Law, and National Security in the Era of Strategic Rivalry*

Honorable Mention:

Prof. Michael GOODYEAR – Acting Assistant Professor, New York University School of Law, *Artificial Infringement*

Mr. Sunny Xiyuan LI – PhD Candidate, CUHK LAW, *Privacy Protection of E-CNY in the Context of Cross-border*

Mr. Jiawei ZHANG – PhD Candidate, Technical University of Munich School of Social Sciences and Technology; Ms. Shuang Liu, Ph.D. Student at Carnegie Mellon University, School of Computer Science. MCIT, University of Pennsylvania; LL.M., U.C. Berkeley School of Law, *From Deepfake 1.0 to 2.0: How Deepfake Ruins Inter-Informational Competitive Order, and How Can We Rebuild It?*

Research Projects/ Publications

Visit the CLINDS webpage for full list of publications by CLINDS members.

Research Projects:

Web 3 Governance: Law and Policy

This project has benefited from the generous support of the CUHK-UoM Research Fund, established with the purpose of fostering and deepening collaborative research ties between scholars at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) and the University of Manchester (UoM). Leveraging this support, CLINDS partnered with the Department of Law, University of Manchester, to co-host two major conferences that brought together experts and thought leaders from both institutions:

"Digital Platform Security, Scalability, and Sustainability in Hong Kong" (January 2023)

"Web3 Governance: Law and Policy" in Manchester (July 2023)

These conferences served as vibrant forums for rigorous intellectual exchange, focusing on the critical issues of digital platform governance, technological innovation, and legal frameworks for emerging digital environments. Selected papers presented at these events—primarily contributed by distinguished colleagues from CUHK and UoM—have subsequently been curated into an edited volume titled Web3 Governance: Law and Policy, published by Routledge in January 2025. The volume is further distinguished by endorsement quotes from internationally renowned scholars, including Professors Roger Brownsword, Peter K. Yu, and Xin Dai.

This collaborative endeavor stands as a testament to our shared commitment to advancing the frontiers of research on Web3 governance and digital platform policy. It also underscores the truly global dimensions of contemporary discourse in this evolving field, reflecting the diverse academic perspectives and expertise brought together through the CUHK-UoM partnership.

Metaverse Law

CLINDS has collaborated with the Center for Metaverse and Computational Creativity at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology to delve into a myriad of legal and policy matters surrounding the metaverse through an interdisciplinary lens. This collaboration has

resulted in the publication of two high-quality journal papers between 2023 and 2025. The first paper, titled “Legal Implications of Self-presence in the Metaverse,” published in the *Media and Arts Law Review* of the University of Melbourne, delves into the intricate relationship between individuals and their avatars within computer-generated realms. By drawing upon the concept of digital equivalence, we illuminate the unprecedented evolution of the metaverse and explore the transformation of self-presence within this digital domain. The second publication “Interoperability of the Metaverse: A Digital Ecosystem Perspective Review,” featured in the *IEEE Engineering Management Review*, leverages Urs Gasser’s theory of digital interoperability to dissect the three layers of metaverse interoperability. This analysis sets a foundation for future investigations, establishing crucial benchmarks and contributing to the scholarly advancement of this intricate field. Through this collaboration, a harmonious blend of law and computer science expertise has produced pioneering interdisciplinary research outputs, firmly rooted in academic excellence.