

# SINGAPORE SYMPOSIUM IN LEGAL THEORY

## “The Pardon Paradox”

BY Associate Professor Adam Perry  
*University of Oxford, Faculty of Law*

01 APRIL 2019, MONDAY

5.00PM – 7.00PM (TEA RECEPTION STARTS AT 4.45PM)

NUS LAW (BUKIT TIMAH CAMPUS)

EU TONG SEN BUILDING, LEVEL 1, LEE SHERIDAN CONFERENCE ROOM

### ABSTRACT

The power to pardon is one of the most common constitutional powers, yet it seems to conflict with some of the most basic principles of constitutionalism. Contrary to the principle of the separation of powers, a pardon power gives to a branch of government other than the judiciary a role in determining punishments in particular cases. Contrary to the rule of law, a pardon power is neither controlled by nor ruled by law. Hence the pardon paradox: pardon powers are everywhere yet seem to belong nowhere. Here I resolve the pardon paradox. I explain why there should be pardon powers, why the power should not be given to judges, and why the power should be (almost) free of legal constraints.

### ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Adam Perry is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law and Garrick Tutor and Fellow at Brasenose College. He holds a BA in economics from the University of Winnipeg, an LLB from the University of Victoria, and BCL, MPhil, and DPhil degrees from the University of Oxford. He was a law clerk at the British Columbia Court of Appeal, and has held academic positions at the European University Institute, the University of Aberdeen, and Queen Mary University of London. He joined the Faculty of Law at Oxford in 2015.

### Participation is by Invitation Only

Registration commences at 4.45pm and light refreshments will be served.

For more information, please contact Ms Atikah Shaftee at [atikah.shaftee@nus.edu.sg](mailto:atikah.shaftee@nus.edu.sg)