The Centre for Legal Theory welcomes queries and opportunities for research project collaboration in any area of legal theory.

**Visiting Researchers & Scholars Programme**
Academics and PhD Scholars interested in visiting to conduct research for a period are welcome to contact the Centre or any member of the CLT group.

**Post-doctoral Fellowship**
The Faculty also offers annual Post-doctoral Fellowships administered by the Office of Vice Dean (Research).

**Doctoral Research Scholarships**
The Faculty boasts extraordinary breadth and depth of scholarship in Legal Theory, and is committed to cultivating the next generation of academics. Generous scholarships are available for the doctoral programme to cover tuition and basic living expenses in Singapore.

Details on the opportunities to come to NUS on the various schemes can be found at law.nus.edu.sg/ct/comingsoon.html

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**Future Projects**

**Normativity and Change at The intersection of Law and Religion**
(organised and funded by Centre for Asian Legal Studies)

Art JAMAL & Jaclyn NEO

Conference to be held at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore, 14 – 15 December 2015

In most eras and cultures, law and religion relate dialectically. Every major religious tradition strives to come to terms with law by striking a balance between the worldly and the spiritual, the structural and the mystical, the rational and the sacred. Every major legal tradition struggles to align its formal structures and processes with the beliefs and values of its people. Thus, while law and religion can be conceptualised as distinct spheres of human life, they do not exist independently but are constantly interacting with and influencing each other.

This project will engage emerging scholarship on the influence of religion on legal systems, both historically and currently, and vice versa. Regulation is our key focus. In simplest terms, we will consider how law regulates religion, and how religion responds to such regulations. The more complex question we ask is how the normativity becomes diversified and drives the regulatory dialectics between law and religion after the institutional development of the latter two.

**Contemporary Debates over Legal Rights**
(funded by the NUS Start-up Grant)

Mark McBride

The conference will take place at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore, 19 to 20 May 2016

Among others, the following questions will be addressed at the conference:

- What is the correct methodology for a philosophical theory of legal rights?
- Is the Hobbesian schema a secure foundation on which to build one’s theory of rights?
- Does either the interest theory or the will theory provide a correct theory of rights, or must these theories be transcended?

Additionally, doctrinal applications of the above will be considered.
The Centre for Legal Theory (CLT)

The Centre for Legal Theory (CLT) at NUS Law brings together colleagues in the Faculty of Law interested in a variety of theoretical approaches to law, including those informed by related disciplines. CLT exists to promote formal and informal exchanges on theoretical work by members of the Centre and other colleagues.

Among the research projects currently undertaken by CLT members, particular strengths can be noted in work relating to Authority, Civil Obligations, Constitutional Law, Comparative Law, Criminal Law, Criminal Justice, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Global/Transnational Law, International Law, Jurisprudence, General Legal Theory, Private Law, Religion, Rights, Social Theory, and Sociology of Law.

CLT organizes a number of events throughout the academic year, including the Singapore Symposium in Legal Theory. During 2014-15, CLT has held two international conferences, various seminars, and a number of roundtable discussions.

The Centre fosters connections with colleagues across NUS, and co-ordinates an informal network for those working in legal and political philosophy; it also seeks to promote international collaboration with colleagues elsewhere, through a variety of initiatives.

The Singapore Symposium in Legal Theory

The Singapore Symposium in Legal Theory is an initiative supported by the Faculty of Law to promote discussion of current research in the field of legal theory, broadly conceived. It consists of a formal programme of papers held in Semesters 2 each year, in which those working in legal theory from around the world join with colleagues at NUS to present work in progress and explore contemporary debates. Professor Joseph Raz inaugurated the formal programme in January 2014.

Research Projects

In Pursuit of Pluralist Jurisprudence
(funded by the Academic Research Fund from the Ministry of Education)
Nicole KOUUGHAN & Andrew HALPIN

The pursuit of pluralist jurisprudence – the theoretical and/or philosophical study of law beyond the state – has emerged as one of the key trends in contemporary legal theory. While some of the leading scholars of the philosophy of state law have turned their attention to analyses of international law, transnational law, customary or religious law, and other non-state legal phenomena, there has been no sustained attention to questions about the way in which that turn is taken, or the implications for the discipline of jurisprudence (or the theoretical branch of academic law).

Existing jurisprudential analyses of law beyond the state have focused upon substantive questions surrounding the institutional, normative and systemic character of non-state law, both on its own and in interaction with state law. That scholarship, however, has revealed a significant gap surrounding questions of jurisprudential methodology, purpose and scope. These are the broad themes the project addresses.

Philosophical foundations of Indigenous Law
(funded by the NUS Law-Melbourne Law Research Partnerships Grant)
Nicole KOUUGHAN

This scoping workshop brings together scholars working on theories of indigenous law, to explore the range of potential doctrinal, theoretical, and philosophical issues that are fundamental to understanding indigenous laws and indigenous-state legal intersections. These range from abstract issues of sovereignty, concepts of law, justice, governance and rights, to more specific doctrinal challenges in fields such as family law, property law, criminal law and environmental law, from procedural questions around dispute resolution, access, language and choice of law, to connections with other ‘pluralist’ legal orders including international, transnational, religious or customary law.

It explores and lays the foundations for a large-scale collaborative work in this emerging field, and considers the methodological challenges and guiding questions for a research agenda in philosophy of indigenous law.

Martin Loughlin’s Foundations of Public Law – a Critical Review
(funded by the Academic Research Fund from the Ministry of Education)
Mike DOWDLE

With reference to Martin Loughlin’s recent Foundations of Public Law (Oxford University Press, 2010), the project critically examines foundations from a variety of perspectives, including theoretical perspective (e.g., the theory of the state, constitutional theory), the theory of political jurisprudence, the perspectives of particular regimes (e.g., ‘global-southern’ experience, the legal transnationalisation, the (EU), and from critical perspectives (e.g., economic constitutionalism, the public-private divide, pluralism).

Foundations is an account of the foundation of the discipline of public law with a view to identifying its essential character. This book effectively refines the Anglophone discipline of public law, changing it from a court-centred doctrinal jurisprudence concerned with judicial review of state actions into what Loughlin refers to as a ‘political jurisprudence’ (a political ‘grammar’). The result is Anglophone legal world’s most ambitious attempt to affirmatively locate the place and role of politics in the national constitutional-legal order.