

SINGAPORE SYMPOSIUM IN LEGAL THEORY

THE LEGALITY OF WAR

BY Professor Scott J. Shapiro

Charles F. Southmayd Professor of Law and Professor of Philosophy at Yale Law School

13 FEBRUARY 2015, FRIDAY

4.00PM – 6.00PM (TEA RECEPTION STARTS AT 3.30PM)

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

FACULTY OF LAW, NUS (BUKIT TIMAH CAMPUS)

ABSTRACT

Critics of international law frequently cite the Kellogg-Briand Pact of 1928 as clear evidence of its folly. That the Great Powers attempted to rid the world of war by means of a piece of paper is taken as a sign of the naive idealism that has discredited international law for so many. I take issue with this skeptical view by arguing that the Kellogg-Briand pact inaugurated a revolution in our thinking about war. The treaty has, in fact, been so successful that we no longer remember the world before it, when war was a well-established legal institution and, thus, a legitimate method for enforcing rights and resolving disputes. I attempt to recover this once dominant but now-forgotten conception of war by returning to its first formulation by Hugo Grotius and the strange confluence of events that led to its creation.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Scott Shapiro is the Charles F. Southmayd Professor of Law and Professor of Philosophy at Yale Law School. He joined the Yale Law faculty in July 2008 as a professor of law and philosophy. He previously taught law and philosophy at the University of Michigan and before that, was a professor of law at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. His areas of interest include jurisprudence, international law, constitutional law and theory, criminal law, family law, philosophy of action, and the theory of authority. He is the author of *Legality* (2011) and editor (with Jules Coleman) of *The Oxford Handbook of Jurisprudence and Philosophy of Law* (2002). He earned B.A. and Ph.D. degrees in philosophy from Columbia University and a J.D. from Yale Law School, where he was senior editor of *The Yale Law Journal*. He and Oona Hathaway are currently working on *THE WORST CRIME OF ALL*, a history of international law as it has evolved from the 17th century through the present.

Participation is By Invitation Only

Registration commences at 3.30pm and light refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact Ms Yvonne Lim at lawylhh@nus.edu.sg