



ICON-S (Singapore Chapter)

Launch Event

Friday, 12 October 2018 @ 9.30am – 5.35pm

CONSTITUTIONAL INTERPRETATION IN AND OUTSIDE THE COURTS

"[T]he judiciary has the responsibility for the adjudication of controversies which carries with it the power to pronounce authoritatively and conclusively on the meaning of the Constitution and all other laws." Tan Seet Eng v AG [2016] 1 SLR 779

The interpretation of the written constitution is often thought of as primarily a judicial exercise. Judges must of necessity construe legal rules when deciding cases before them and the constitution is, first and foremost, a country's supreme law (cf. Art. 4 Sing. Const.). What is more, judicial interpretations of constitutional rules command particular respect as these purport to "authoritatively and conclusively" settle the matter. However, constitutional interpretation is not solely a judicial exercise nor are judicial constructions always as definitive as might appear at first blush. Other branches of government too partake in such interpretation; and their interpretations can also produce some legal effects. Beyond state institutions, there is conceivably also a role for civil society and the citizenry at large in establishing what the constitution means when they debate topical social and political issues, even while recognizing that this discourse may not always use the language of the constitution. In this Workshop, we will bring together Singapore-based constitutional law scholars and practitioners to examine the scope of constitutional interpretation inside and outside Singapore's courts. The connections between judicial and extra-judicial interpretation will also be interrogated from a dialogic perspective.

This Workshop is the inaugural event of ICON-S (Singapore), a country chapter of the International Society of Public Law (ICON-S). ICON-S was established by the editorial board of the International Journal of Constitutional Law (I-CON), a leading journal in constitutional law. ICON-S (Singapore) supports the work of the global ICON-S organization and aims to promote intellectual exchange and cooperation among scholars, practitioners, and those in the judiciary in Singapore with an interest in public law (widely conceived).

Founding Co-Chairs: Jaclyn L. Neo (NUS) | Maartje de Visser (SMU)

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There is no registration fee for this workshop but seats are limited.
Please register [here](#) by Friday, 5 October 2018. For enquiries, please email law@smu.edu.sg.