

# VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLES ON ASIAN LAW SERIES

## BOOK DISCUSSION

*Democracy under God: Constitutions, Islam and Human Rights in the Muslim World (Cambridge University Press 2023)*

22 FEBRUARY 2024 (THURSDAY)

2.00PM TO 3.30PM (SGT)

VIA ZOOM WEBINAR



**MUHAMMAD  
ZUBAIR ABBASI**

OXFORD BROOKES  
UNIVERSITY



**ALI SHIRVANI**

NORTHWEST  
UNIVERSITY



**MARVA KHAN**

LAHORE UNIVERSITY OF  
MANAGEMENT  
SCIENCES



**SHAMSHAD  
PASARLAY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
CHICAGO



**TENG LI**

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
OF SINGAPORE  
(MODERATOR)

Register here!

<http://tinyurl.com/cals240222>

Registration deadline: 20 February 2024

For enquiries, email [cals@nus.edu.sg](mailto:cals@nus.edu.sg)



## Speakers' Bios



### MUHAMMAD ZUBAIR ABBASI (OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY)

Muhammad Zubair Abbasi is an academic lawyer with expertise in family law, corporate law, commercial law, Islamic law, human rights law, and constitutional law. He received his Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil) in Law from University of Oxford, where he conducted research on the formation of Muslim Personal Law, which resulted from the incorporation of Sharia into the Legal System in British India. He earned his Master of Laws (LL.M) degree from Manchester University, where he specialised in Comparative Corporate Law & Governance. He has held several research positions at prestigious institutions, including the Oxford Department of International Development and the Max Planck Foundation for International Peace & the Rule of Law, Heidelberg. He has also held visiting positions at the American University in Cairo and the Punjab Judicial Academy, Lahore. He currently serves as the Associate Editor of the Yearbook of Middle Eastern and Islamic Law and as Editor for Harvard Law School's SHARIAsource.



### ALI SHIRVANI (NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY)

Ali Shirvani is currently an Assistant Professor at the Law School, Northwest University; he studied law in Iran and graduated from Xiamen University, Cina. He worked as a research fellow in the Institute of Middle Eastern Studies at Northwest University, Xi'an, China for two years. His areas of research are International law, constitutional law, and comparative law.



### MARVA KHAN (LAHORE UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES)

Marva Khan is an Assistant Professor at the Shaikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). She is the Co-Editor of the LUMS Law Journal and the Co-Founder of the Pakistani Feminist Judgments Project. She completed her BA-LL.B (Hons.) from LUMS and LL.M from Harvard Law School on the Fulbright Scholarship. Her main areas of interest include constitutional law, human rights, and gender. Her recent publications include book chapters on disability rights and accessible information technology in Pakistan and special courts in Pakistan.



### SHAMSHAD PASARLAY (THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO)

Shamshad Pasarlay is an Assistant Instructional Professor in the Social Sciences Collegiate Division (2023-2024). He will teach courses in comparative constitutional studies as well as the BA seminar in the Program in Law, Letters, and Society (LLSO). Previously, he was a visiting lecturer at the University of Chicago Law School. He received his PhD (2016) and LL.M (2011) from the University of Washington School of Law. He specializes in comparative constitutional law, with a focus on the politics of constitution-making and constitutional design in deeply divided societies, as well as in Islamic law. He has published widely in the field of comparative constitutional studies and Islamic legal history. He is currently working on a book manuscript, titled *Incomplete Constitutions and Coordination in Deeply Divided Societies*. His book is under contract with Cambridge University Press and will be published in the Comparative Constitutional Law and Policy Series.



### TENG LI (NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE)

Teng Li is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Centre for Asian Legal Studies at the National University of Singapore. He graduated from the LL.M in legal theory and JSD programs at NYU School of Law. His scholarship focuses on the normative questions, assumptions, concepts, principles, and methodological ideas that underlie legal and political institutions, as reflected in the fields of general jurisprudence, political philosophy, and public law. His doctoral thesis conceptualizes the legitimacy of the state in terms of justified coercion. It draws attention to the normative implication that citizens are prohibited from resorting to physical force when the state is justified in monopolizing coercion. His current research explores the normative connection between legality and legitimacy.