



Law, Authoritarianism, and Democracy in Asia Symposium

12 & 13 December 2016, Monday & Tuesday
Staff Lounge, Block B, Level 2,
National University of Singapore (Bukit Timah Campus)



Centre for Asian Legal Studies
Faculty of Law



香港大學
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Law, Authoritarianism, and Democracy in Asia Symposium

Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore

12 & 13 December 2016

(Participation for this closed-door symposium is by invitation only)

Synopsis

A number of Asian states are/were well-known for their authoritarian legality, a concept at odds with the liberal idea of the rule of law and democracy. How has a credible commitment to legality been made possible under authoritarian regimes in Asia? Under what conditions would the transformation of authoritarian legality take place and move towards a liberal, democratic system? The contributors of this project are to compare the past the current experiences of China, Hong Kong, S. Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, and Vietnam and produce a comprehensive, comparative scholarship on this timely topic.

List of Contributors:

- Ngoc Son Bui (National University of Singapore)
- David Campbell (Lancaster University)
- Tony Carty (Tsinghua University)
- Jianlin Chen (The University of Hong Kong)
- Weitseng Chen (National University of Singapore)
- Richard Cullen (The University of Hong Kong)
- Jacques deLisle (University of Pennsylvania)
- Michael Dowdle (National University of Singapore)
- Hualing Fu (The University of Hong Kong)
- Tom Ginsburg (The University of Chicago)
- Thomas Kellogg (Open Society Foundation)
- Erik Moberand (Seoul National University)
- Koichi Nakano (Sophia University)
- Eva Pils (King's College London)
- Yen-Tu Su (Academic Sinica)
- Kevin Tan (National University of Singapore)

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SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

12 December 2016, Monday

- 0830-0850** **Registration**
- 0900-0910** **Welcome Address**
Dan W. Puchniak (Director, Centre for Asian Legal Studies, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore)
- 0910-0920** **Introductory Comments**
Weitseng Chen (National University of Singapore)
Hualing Fu (The University of Hong Kong)
- 0920–1040** **Panel 1: Theoretical Framework**
Moderator: Dan Puchniak
- Authoritarian Legality in East Asia: Why, What and Whither?**
Jacques deLisle (University of Pennsylvania)
Commentator: Tony Carty
- Debating Authoritarian Legality**
Hualing Fu (The University of Hong Kong)
Mike Dowdle (National University of Singapore)
- 1040–1055** **Coffee Break**
- 1055–1215** **Panel 2: Taiwan**
Moderator: Jacques deLisle
- Angels Are in the Institutional Details: Voting System, Poll Workers, and the Integrity of Election Administration in Taiwan**
Yen-Tu Su (Institutum Iurisprudentiae, Academia Sinica)
Commentator: Erik Mobernd
- Student Activism and Authoritarian Legality in Taiwan**
Weitseng Chen (National University of Singapore)
Commentator: Tom Ginsburg
- 1215-1330** **Lunch**
Student Seating Area, Block B, Level 2

12 December 2016, Monday (cont.)

1330-1450

Panel 3: Japan

Moderator: Yen-Tu Su

Meiji Japan and Authoritarian Legality

Tom Ginsburg (University of Chicago)

Commentator: Kevin Tan

Neoliberal Turn of State Conservatism in Japan: Understanding the Shifting Modes of Authoritarian Legality

Koichi Nakano (Sophia University)

Commentator: Bui Ngoc Son

1450-1505

Coffee Break

1505-1625

Panel 4: Singapore

Moderator: Tom Ginsburg

Democracy, Legitimacy, Authority and the Rule of Law: Is Singapore a Constitutional Authoritarian Regime?

Kevin Tan (National University of Singapore)

Commentator: Jacques deLisle

Preserving Constitutionalism by Changing the Constitution: A Revisit and Defense of the Chng Suan Tze Episode

Jianlin Chen (The University of Hong Kong)

Commentators: Richard Cullen and David Campbell

1625-1640

Break

1640-1720

Panel 5: Korea

Moderator: Kevin Tan

Authoritarian Legality after Authoritarianism? Legal Governance of the Political Sphere before and after Democratic Transition in South Korea

Erik Mobrand (Seoul National University)

Commentators: Koichi Nakano and Yen-Tu Su

1745-1930

Welcome Dinner

(For Authors, Moderators and Invited Guests)

End of Day 1

13 December 2016, Tuesday

0900-1020

Panel 6: Hong Kong and Vietnam

Moderator: Erik Mobernd

Authoritarian Legality in Hong Kong: How the Diceyan Past Shapes the HKSAR Present

Richard Cullen (The University of Hong Kong) & David Campbell (Lancaster University)

Commentator: Eva Pils

The Transformation of Legality in Vietnam

Ngoc Son Bui (National University of Singapore)

Commentators: David Campbell and Richard Cullen

1020-1035

Coffee Break

1035-1155

Panel 7: China

Moderator: Richard Cullen

Rule of Law Reform and the Rise of Rule by Fear in China

Eva Pils (King's College London)

Commentator: Mike Dowdle

The Foreign NGO Law and the Closing of China

Thomas Kellogg (Open Society Foundation)

Commentator: Jianlin Chen

1210-1220

Closing Remarks

1230-1250

Walk through Botanic Gardens

1300-1430

Lunch

(For Authors, Moderators and Invited Guests)

End of Symposium