

Roundtable Discussion

Public Reason Confucianism Democratic Perfectionism and Constitutionalism in East Asia

a book by **Professor Sungmoon Kim**

3 May 2018, Thursday, 3.30pm – 6.30pm

Lee Sheridan Conference Room, Eu Tong Seng Building
Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore
(Bukit Timah Campus)



Chairperson: Professor Bryan William Van Norden, Yale-NUS College

SYNOPSIS

This roundtable brings together scholars in two fields, namely comparative philosophy and comparative constitutionalism, to discuss the book by Professor Sungmoon Kim titled *Public Reason Confucianism: Democratic Perfectionism and Constitutionalism in East Asia* (Cambridge UP, 2016). Public Reason Confucianism advances a Confucian, political constitutional theory called Public Reason Confucianism, which calls for the active role of a democratic-constitutional state in promoting Confucian values (especially, filial piety and ritual propriety), which according to the author has still remained in contemporary East Asia. The book engages with a variety of Confucian and Western political theories, and discusses the Confucian-constitutional implications of several recent legal cases decided by Korean Constitutional and Supreme Courts. The speakers will discuss, followed by the author's responses, two major themes in the book: (1) the relation of Confucianism to democracy and civic virtues; and (2) Confucian constitutionalism as a normative model committed to values of both western liberal constitutionalism and Confucianism.

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

3.00pm *Registration*

3.30pm Welcome Address & Introduction

Dan W. Puchniak, Director, Centre for Asian Legal Studies, NUS

Bui Ngoc Son, Senior Research Fellow & Convener, Centre for Asian Legal Studies, NUS

3.35pm Session One: Confucianism, Democratic Perfectionism, and Civil Virtue

Bryan William Van Norden, Yale-NUS College, NUS

Loy Hui Chieh, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, NUS

Author's Response: Sungmoon Kim, College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences, CityU

Open Discussion

4.45pm *Coffee Break*

5.00pm Session Two: Confucian Constitutionalism

Andrew Harding, Faculty of Law, NUS

Thio Li-ann, Faculty of Law, NUS

Kevin Tan, Faculty of Law, NUS

Author's Response: Sungmoon Kim, College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences, CityU

Open Discussion

6.30pm *End of Roundtable*

REGISTRATION

There is no fee for this Roundtable, but seats are limited.

Register [HERE](#)
or scan the QR code



Closing Date:
30 April 2018, Monday

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