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## REGULATING RELIGION IN ASIA

*(Based on the book "Regulating Religion in Asia" edited by Jaclyn L. Neo,  
Arif A. Jamal and Daniel P.S. Goh)*

**DATE: 10 DECEMBER 2020**

**TIME: 10AM (SGT) (90 MIN)**

**SPEAKERS:**



**DIAN SHAH**

NATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY OF  
SINGAPORE  
FACULTY OF LAW  
(MODERATOR)



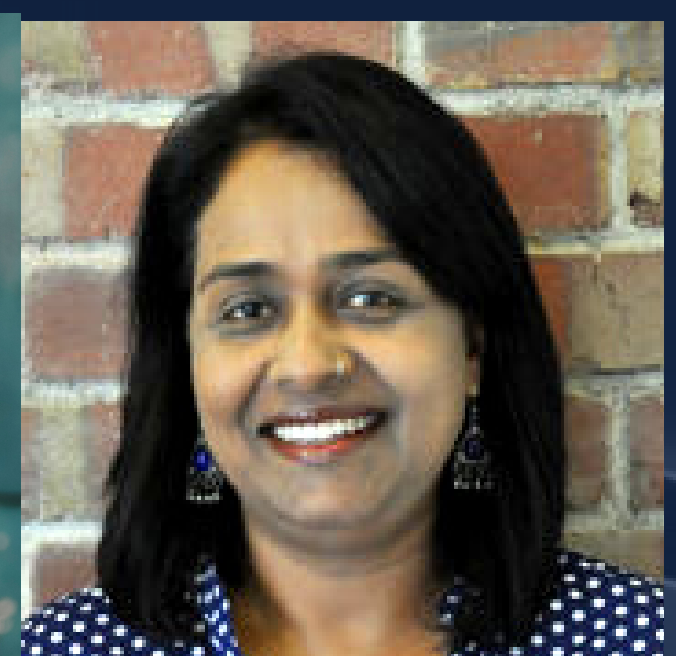
**KENNETH DEAN**

NATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY OF  
SINGAPORE  
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**MONA ORABY**

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SOCIAL THOUGHT



**VINEETA SINHA**

NATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY OF  
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DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIOLOGY

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## Speakers' Bios:



### **DIAN SHAH (NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE) - MODERATOR**

Dr Shah is Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, NUS. Her research interests include law and religion, comparative constitutional law, and human rights, and her work focuses on the interaction of law, religion, and politics in plural and divided societies. Dian is the author of *Constitutions, Religion and Politics in Asia: Indonesia, Malaysia and Sri Lanka* (CUP 2017) and the co-editor of a volume on *Law and Society in Malaysia: Pluralism, Religion and Ethnicity* (Routledge 2018). She has also published in the *International Journal of Constitutional Law* (I-CON) and *Oxford Journal of Law and Religion*. She serves as Editor of the *Asian Journal of Comparative Law* (AsJCL).



### **KENNETH DEAN (NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE)**

Dr Dean is Raffles Professor of Humanities and Head, Chinese Studies Department, at NUS. He is Research Cluster Leader for Religion and Globalisation at the Asia Research Institute, NUS. His recent publications include *Epigraphical Materials on the History of Religion in Fujian: Zhangzhou region, Fuzhou 2019*, *Secularism in South, East, and Southeast Asia*, NY: Palgrave, (2018) co-edited with Peter van der Veer, and *Chinese Epigraphy of Singapore: 1819-1911* (2 vols.), Singapore: NUS Press (2017), co-edited with Dr. Hue Guan Thye. He has also launched the Singapore Historical GIS (SHGIS), and Singapore Biographical Database (SBDB) databases.



### **MONA ORABY (AMHERST COLLEGE)**

Dr Oraby is Assistant Professor of Law, Jurisprudence, and Social Thought at Amherst College. Her research focuses on membership and belonging at the intersection of administrative law, religion, and politics. She is editor of the Social Science Research Council's *The Immanent Frame*, a forum for interdisciplinary exchange on secularism, religion, and the public sphere. She also serves as a steering committee member of the Secularism and Secularity Unit of the American Academy of Religion. Her editorial board memberships include *Arab Law Quarterly* and *Middle East Law and Governance*. She is completing her first book, *How Will We Know Who We Are? Devotion to the Administrative State*.



### **VINEETA SINHA (NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE)**

Dr Sinha is Professor and Head of the Department of Sociology at NUS. Her research interests include Hindu religiosity in the Diaspora, intersections of religion, commodification and consumption processes, interface of religion and materiality, religion-state encounters in colonial and post-colonial moments, formation of concepts and categories in the social sciences, Eurocentric and Androcentric critique of classical sociological theory, pedagogy and innovating alternative teaching practices. Besides numerous publications, she is also Associate Editor of *The Sociological Quarterly*, Editorial Board Member of the *American Ethnologist* and Co-Editor of the *Routledge International Library of Sociology*.

## Book Editors' Bios:



### **JACLYN L. NEO (NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE)**

Dr Neo is Associate Professor and Director of the Centre for Asian Legal Studies (CALS) at the Faculty of Law, NUS. Her research specialization is in comparative constitutional law. She is an elected Council Member of International Society for Public Law (ICON-S) and the co-founder of the Singapore Chapter of ICON-S. She currently serves on the Singapore Law Society's Public and International Law Committee and the Singapore Academy of Law's Law Reform Committee, and was recently appointed Professorial Fellow to the AGC Academy.



### **ARIF A. JAMAL (NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE)**

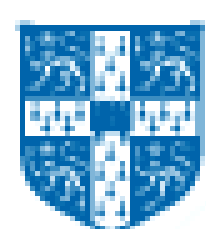
Dr Jamal is Associate Professor and Deputy Director of the Centre for Asian Legal Studies (CALS) at the Faculty of Law, NUS and co-Editor-in-Chief of the *Asian Journal of Comparative Law*. Arif's research and teaching interests include law and religion, law in Muslim contexts, and legal and political theory. He has held visiting appointments with the law schools of the University of Trento, Tel Aviv University and City University of Hong Kong and has been a Visiting Researcher with the Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School.



### **DANIEL P.S. GOH (NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE)**

Dr Goh is Associate Professor and Deputy Head of the Department of Sociology at NUS. He specializes in comparative-historical sociology and studies state formation, race and multiculturalism, urbanisms, and religion. His edited books include *Race and Multiculturalism in Malaysia and Singapore* (Routledge, 2009), *Worlding Multiculturalisms: The Politics of Inter-Asian Dwelling* (Routledge, 2015), *Precarious Belongings: Affect and Nationalism in Asia* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2017), *Urban Asias: Essays on Futurity Past and Present* (JOVIS Verlag, 2018), and *Regulating Religion in Asia* (Cambridge, 2019). He is currently co-Principal Investigator of the Social Science Research project, *Christianity in Urban Centres of Southeast Asia*.





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# Regulating Religion in Asia

Norms, Modes, and Challenges

Edited by Jaclyn L. Neo

*National University of Singapore*

Arif A. Jamal

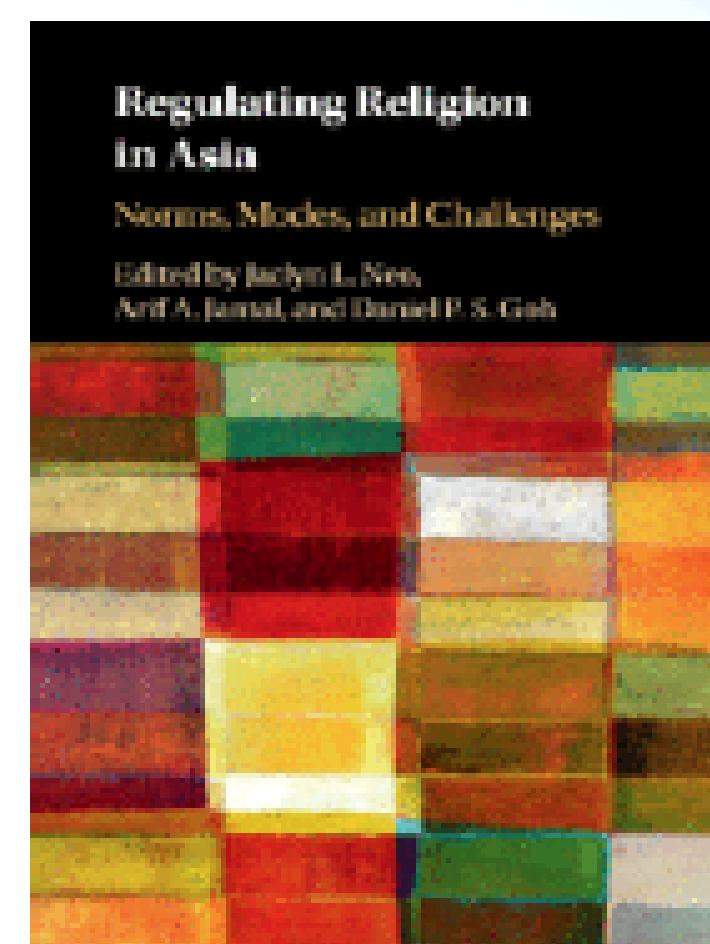
*National University of Singapore*

and Daniel P. S. Goh

*National University of Singapore*

In recent years, law and religion scholarship has increasingly emphasized the need to study the interaction of legal and religious ideas and institutions, norms and practices. The overall question that this scholarship explores may be stated as follows: how do legal and religious ideas and institutions, methods and mechanisms, beliefs and believers influence each other, for better and for worse, in the past, present and future? This volume engages this area of scholarship by examining how law regulates religion, and how religion responds to such regulations. It examines underlying norms influencing state regulation of religion, and challenges emerging from such regulation. Importantly, this volume will go beyond the conventional enquiries that draw upon the Anglo-European approaches and experiences, and emphasize instead Asian perspectives in order to expand and build upon existing understandings about the complex relationship between law and religion.

Introduction: regulating religion in Asia: Part I. Theorizing Regulation: 1. Regulatory markers; 2. Conceptualizing the regulation of religion; 3. The role of authority and sanctity in state-religion conflicts; 4. Jurisdictional vs. official control: regulating the Buddhist Saṅgha South and Southeast Asia; 5. Defining and regulating religion in early independent Indonesia; Part II. Regulating Religion: State Practice and Legal Norms: 6. Principled pluralism, relational constitutionalism and regulating religion within Singapore's secular democratic model; 7. Legal regulation of religion in Vietnam; 8. Regulating Buddhism in Myanmar: the case of deviant Buddhist sects; 9. The bureaucratization of religious education in the Islamic Republic of Iran; 10. Managing religious competition in China: case study of regulating social and charitable service provisions by religious organizations; Part III. Challenges to State Regulation: 11. Regulating religion through administrative law: religious conversion in Malaysia beyond fundamental rights; 12. Legal pluralism, patronage secularism and the challenge of prophetic Christianity in Singapore; 13. Equality in secularism: contemporary debates on social stratification and the Indian constitution; 14. Regulating the state and the Hawza: legal pluralism and the ironies of Shī'ī law.



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