

COMPARATIVE COMMERCIAL LAW  
SPEAKER SERIES

# GLOBAL COMPANY TOWNS

## SPEAKER:



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
TRANG (MAE) NGUYEN  
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY BEASLEY  
SCHOOL OF LAW

## CHAIR:



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
UMAKANTH VAROTTIL  
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF  
SINGAPORE

**20 NOVEMBER 2023**  
**3.00PM TO 4.30PM (SGT)**  
**Lee Sheridan Conference Room**  
**NUS (Bukit Timah Campus)**



Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/cals231120>

Registration closes on 14 November 2023.

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





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## Global Company Towns

### ABSTRACT

“The employers provided everything”—wages, housing, post office, parks, canteens. Such a model of the “company town,” where a single corporation dominates in multiple capacity as employer, landlord, service provider, and quasi-regulator has endured across borders and time. It can just as fittingly portray textile mills in 18th century England, coal and steel towns in early 20th century America, as it does today’s Foxconn and other “supply chain cities” in China, Southeast Asia, and elsewhere. No matter the setting, certain features remain constant, notably the expansive articulation of corporate power and blurring lines between work and personal space. This talk anchors the business model of company towns as a window into various moments of economic development and draws lessons on its symbiotic relationship with law.

### SPEAKERS' BIO



#### **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR TRANG (MAE) NGUYEN (TEMPLE UNIVERSITY BEASLEY SCHOOL OF LAW)**

Trang (Mae) Nguyen is an Associate Professor of Law at Temple University Beasley School of Law. She is also an Affiliated Scholar at the U.S.-Asia Law Institute, New York University School of Law and a Stephen M. Kellen Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Prior to joining Temple Law School, she served as the John N. Hazard Fellow at NYU Law and a visiting scholar at UC Berkeley’s Center for the Study of Law and Society.



#### **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR UMAKANTH VAROTIL (NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE)**

Umakanth Varottil is an Associate Professor at National University of Singapore. He specializes in corporate law and governance, mergers and acquisitions and corporate finance. While his work is generally comparative in nature, his specific focus is on India and Singapore. He has co-authored or co-edited five books, published articles in international journals and founded the IndiaCorpLaw Blog. He has also taught on a visiting basis at law schools in Australia, India, Italy, New Zealand and the United States.