

**CALS
2024**

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

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OVERVIEW

SUPPORTING FACULTY RESEARCH

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ORGANIZING ACADEMIC EVENTS

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CENTRE ACTIVITIES

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1 Professional Training Course
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RESEARCH STAFF/VISITORS

2 Adjunct Research Professors
2 Post-Doctoral/Research Fellows
3 Research Associates/Assistants

RESEARCH CLUSTERS

COMPARATIVE
COMMERCIAL LAW

COMPARATIVE
PUBLIC LAW

COMPARATIVE
CIVIL LAW

LAW AND
RELIGION IN ASIA

INTERNATIONAL
LAW IN ASIA

OUR PEOPLE



DIRECTOR

Associate Professor Jaclyn L. Neo
JSD, LLM (Yale University); LLB (National University of Singapore)

Jaclyn is a prize-winning and internationally known scholar of comparative constitutional law, with a specific research focus on pluralist constitutionalism. She serves on several editorial and advisory boards, including of the Asian Journal of Comparative Law, the International Journal of Constitutional Law (ICON), the Journal of Law and Religion, Thai Legal Studies, and the North-Rhein Westphalia's International Academy of International Affairs. She is also an executive committee member of the International Society for Public Law (ICON-S) and the ASEAN Law Association (Singapore).



DEPUTY DIRECTOR (until 30 June 2024)
Associate Professor Christian Hofmann
Dr. iur. habil. (Humboldt Berlin); Dr. iur. (Halle-Wittenberg); LLM (New York University); LLB (University of Freiburg)

Christian specialises in comparative private and business law in Europe and Asia. He was previously a Humboldt Fellow at Berkeley, a Hauser Fellow at NYU, a Professor of Private and Business Law at the Private University in Liechtenstein and held several other academic positions in Europe. He also served as a senior legal counsel at the German central bank.



DEPUTY DIRECTOR (from 1 July 2024)
Assistant Professor Dian AH Shah
SJD, LLM (Duke University); LLB (University of Warwick)

Dian was previously a Research Fellow at CALS, and a Senior Lecturer of Law at University of Malaya, where she taught constitutional law. Dian is the author of *Constitutions, Religion and Politics in Asia: Indonesia, Malaysia and Sri Lanka* (CUP 2017) and the co-editor of *Law and Society in Malaysia: Pluralism, Religion and Ethnicity* (Routledge 2018).

Executive Committee Members



Professor Ng-Loy Wee Loon
Senior Counsel (Honoris Causa)
LLM (University of London); LLB (National University of Singapore)

Wee Loon specialises in Intellectual Property (IP) Law, and is the author of *Law of Intellectual Property of Singapore* (3rd ed, 2021). She is a member of, *inter alia*, the Copyright Tribunal, and the Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy Panel.



Professor (Adj.) Kevin YL Tan
JSD, LLM (Yale University); LLB (National University of Singapore)

Kevin is the Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Asian Journal of Comparative Law. He has written and edited over 50 books on the law, history and politics of Singapore. He is currently Adjunct Professor at NUS and Visiting Professor at the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Nanyang Technological University.



Associate Professor Chen Weitseng
JSD, LLM (Yale University); LLM, LLB (National Taiwan University)

Weitseng specialises in comparative Asian law, with a special focus in the greater China area. He was a Fulbright scholar at Yale and was subsequently a Hewlett Fellow at Stanford's Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law (CDDRL). Weitseng was previously a fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin).



Professor Kumaralingam Amirthalingam
PhD, LLB (Hons) (Australian National University)

Kumaralingam has served as Vice Dean (Academic Affairs), Vice Dean (International Programmes) and Director, Asian Law Institute at NUS. His research primarily focuses on the areas of criminal law and justice (focusing on the role of the Public Prosecutor) and tort law (focusing on medical liability and economic loss).

OUR PEOPLE

Research Staff



Teng Li
Post-Doctoral Fellow
Research Interests:
Legal and Political
Philosophy; Public Law



Raeesa Vakil
Post-Doctoral Fellow
Research Interests:
Comparative Constitutional
Law; Comparative Public Law;
Judicial Review



Benjamin Low
Research Associate
Research Interests:
Cultural Production;
Innovation; Symbolic
Boundary-Work; Valuation



Ratu Durotun Nafisah
Research Associate
Research Interests:
Comparative Constitutional
Law; Democracy, and
Human Rights



Toh Ding Jun
Research Assistant
Research Interests:
Corporate Insolvency Law;
Company Law; Asian Legal
Studies

Visiting Researchers & Scholars



Andrew James Harding
Visiting Research Professor
Research Interests:
Legal Systems in Asia;
Constitutional Law;
Law and Governance



Yeo Meng Heong, Stanley
Visiting Research Professor
Research Interests:
Criminal Law



Mario Gomez
Visiting Scholar
Research Interests:
Public law; Human Rights;
Gender Studies



Akshaya Kamalnath
Visiting Associate Professor
Research Interests:
Corporate Law;
Corporate Governance;
Corporate Insolvency Law



Lee Jaemin
*Lionel A. Sheridan
Visiting Professor*
Research Interests:
International Trade Law;
Public International Law



Kim Chi Tran
Visiting Researcher
Research Interests:
Constitutional Law;
Administrative Law



Leo You Li
Visiting Researcher
Research Interests:
Constitutional Law;
Law and Technology



Kim Yun Hee
Visiting Scholar
Research Interests:
Capital Markets Law



Rekha Oleschak
Visiting Researcher
Research Interests:
Constitutional Law,
International Law;
Law and Development



Takaaki Murakami
Visiting Scholar
Research Interests:
Constitutional Law



Roshan de Silva-Wijeyeratne
Visiting Scholar
Research Interests:
Constitutional Law;
Colonial Legal History;
Law and Religion



Masum Billah
Visiting Scholar
Research Interests:
Constitutional Law;
Human Rights Law;
Law and Religion



Rebecca Ananian-Welsh
Visiting Scholar
Research Interests:
Constitutional Law

Administration



Rowena Goh
Associate Director



Momoka Ang
Senior Executive

OUR PEOPLE

Research Cluster Coordinators

Our five research clusters are coordinated by faculty members who are experts in their respective legal fields.

Comparative Civil Law



Associate Professor
Chen Weitseng



Associate Professor
Christian Hofmann



Professor
Thio Li-ann



Professor (Adj.)
Kevin YL Tan

Comparative Commercial Law



Associate Professor
Lin Lin



Professor
Umakanth Varrotil

Law and Religion in Asia



Assistant Professor
Dian Shah



Associate Professor
Arif Jamal

International Law in Asia



Associate Professor
Cheah W.L.

OUR PEOPLE

Academic Fellows

Academic Fellows are part of CALS' intellectual community. Their research efforts and expertise enliven our research community.



Kumaralingam AMIRTHALINGAM
Professor
Faculty of Law,
National University of
Singapore



Antony ANGHIE
Professor
Faculty of Law,
National University of
Singapore



Ngoc Son BUI
Associate Professor of
Asian Laws
Faculty of Law,
University of Oxford



Mindy CHEN-WISHART
Professor
Provost's Chair,
National University of
Singapore



Lynette J. CHUA
Professor
Faculty of Law,
National University of
Singapore



Michael William DOWDLE
Associate Professor
Faculty of Law,
National University
of Singapore



Andrew James HARDING
Visiting Research
Professor Faculty of
Law, National
University of Singapore



Michael HOR
Professor
Faculty of Law,
University of Hong
Kong



KHOO Chian Yian, Kenneth
Lecturer
Faculty of Law,
National University of
Singapore



Alan K KOH
Assistant Professor
Division of Business
Law, Nanyang Business
School



LAN Luh Luh
Associate Professor
Faculty of Law,
National University of
Singapore



Jae Woon (June) LEE
Assistant Professor
Faculty of Law,
The Chinese University
of Hong Kong



LIM Wee Kuan Ernest
Professor
Faculty of Law,
National University of
Singapore



LIN Lin
Associate Professor
Faculty of Law,
National University of
Singapore



Erik MOBRAND
Professor
Graduate School of
International Studies,
Seoul National University



Eugenie MERIEAU
Associate Professor
of Public Law
University of Paris 1
Panthéon-Sorbonne



Dan W PUCHNIAK
Professor
Singapore
Management
University



George RADICS
Senior Lecturer
Department of
Sociology,
National University of
Singapore



Samantha TANG
Lecturer
Faculty of Law,
National University of
Singapore



THIO Li-ann
Professor
Faculty of Law,
National University of
Singapore



Bryan Dennis (Bo) G. TIOJANCO
Associate Professor
Graduate Schools for
Law and Politics,
University of Tokyo



Umakanth VAROTTIL
Professor
Faculty of Law,
National University of
Singapore



WANG Jiangyu
Professor
School of Law,
City University of
Hong Kong



WEE Meng Seng
Associate Professor
Faculty of Law,
National University of
Singapore



Helena WHALEN-BRIDGE
Associate Professor
Faculty of Law,
National University of
Singapore

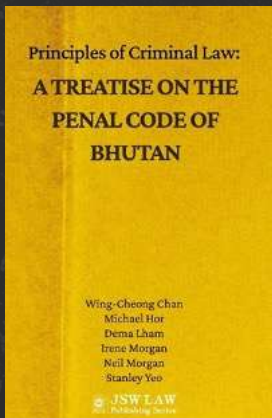


YEO Meng Heong, Stanley
Adjunct Research
Professor
Faculty of Law,
National University of
Singapore

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Books

Principles of Criminal Law: A Treatise on the Penal Code of Bhutan

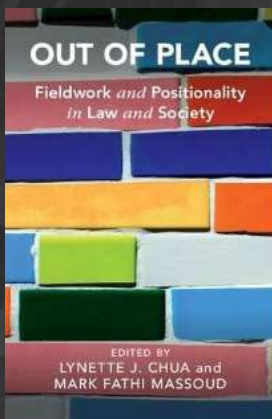


The book organises and explains the principles of criminal law found in the provisions of the Bhutan Penal Code, offers a critical evaluation of the law, and proposes reforms which hopes to clarify and improve the Code. It is the culmination of a four-year project which began with Stanley Yeo teaching in Bhutan's only Law School and involved the authors interviewing District Court Judges around the country, as well as conducting a workshop attended by legislators, prosecutors, and members of the criminal bar of Bhutan.

(JSW LAW Publishing Series, 2024)
Stanley Yeo et al.

Edited Books

Out of Place: Fieldwork and Positionality in Law and Society



This book tells a new history of the field of law and society through the experiences and fieldwork of successful writers from populations that academia has historically marginalised. Encouraging collective and transparent self-reflection on positionality, the volume features scholars from around the world who share how their out-of-place positionalities have influenced their research questions, data collection, analysis, and writing in law and society. From China to Colombia, India to Indonesia, Singapore to South Africa, and the United Kingdom to the United States,

these experts record how they conduct their fieldwork, how their privileges and disadvantages impacted their training and research, and what they learned about the law in the process. As the global field of law and society becomes more diverse and an interest in identity grows, Out of Place is a call to embrace the power of positionality.

(Cambridge University Press, 2024)
Lynette J. Chua and Mark Fathi Massoud (eds)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Edited Books

Contagion, Technology, and Law at the Limits

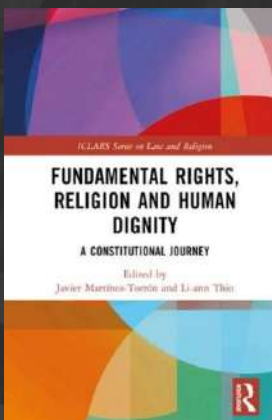


This open access book explores law, politics, and inequality in fights against infectious diseases. Guided by a theoretical framework called “governing through contagion”, the studies in this book analyse how past and present governments have tried to combat contagious diseases, such as the bubonic plague, cholera, HIV/AIDS, and COVID-19.

(Hart Publishing, 2024)

Lynette J. Chua and Jack Jin Gary Lee (eds)

Fundamental Rights, Religion and Human Dignity: A Constitutional Journey



This collection examines theoretical and practical issues concerning the relationship between freedom of religion or belief and other fundamental rights, in the context of secular States, from the perspective of human dignity.

As the Universal Declaration of Human Rights makes clear, human dignity constitutes the foundation of human rights, among which freedom of thought, conscience and religion occupies a prominent place. As a consequence of the inter-cultural debate that is ongoing in contemporary Western societies, which are increasingly pluralistic, the

concept of human dignity faces important challenges in terms of what it requires. The book offers an insightful range of perspectives on some contemporary challenges raised by the exercise of religious freedom in societies that claim to be based on respect for human dignity and human rights.

(Routledge, 2024)

Javier Martínez-Torrón and Thio Li-ann (eds)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Alden Wordsworth Ng, 'Playing with Temporality: South Korea's Flawed Deployment of Prospective Overruling at Constitutional Law' (2024) 41 Singapore Law Review 67

Andrew Harding, 'Review of Duncan McCargo, Fighting for Virtue: Justice and Politics in Thailand' (2024) 4(1) Thai Legal Studies 120

Andrew James Harding, 'Territorial Autonomy and Conflict Resolution: Three Case Studies from Southeast Asia' (2024) 41 Singapore Law Review 31

Arada Vanapruk, 'The Balancing of Scales: Legality versus Legitimate Expectations' (2024) 41 Singapore Law Review 91

Arif A. Jamal and Habib Motani, 'Islamic Wealth Management: Prospects, Challenges, and the Case of Singapore' (2024) 19(3) Capital Markets Law Journal 260

Johan Ding Kar En, 'Singapore's Informal Justice Experience: Evaluating the Practice of the Small Claims Tribunals' (2024) 41 Singapore Law Review 109

Keerakiat Pratai, 'Judicial General Anti-Tax Avoidance Doctrines in Thailand' (2024) 41 Singapore Law Review 51

Law Yan An, 'Private Nuisance in Singapore: From Foreseeability to Reciprocity' (2024) 41 Singapore Law Review 228

Lynette J. Chua, "'He Is Still Your Father": Tetherings, Social Welfare, and Troubled Parental Maintenance Litigation in Taiwan' (2024) 49(4) Law & Social Inquiry 2213

Nawinda Klumsombut, 'Killer Acquisitions & Merger Control: Making a Case for the Thai Adoption of the German Transaction Value Threshold' (2024) 41 Singapore Law Review 141

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Sha Runhe, 'An Analysis of the "Adequate Protection Principle" in the Cross-Border Data Flow System in the People's Republic of China' (2024) 41 *Singapore Law Review* 185

Shamshad Pasarlay, 'Public Participation in the Constitution-Making Process: The Afghan Experiment' (2024) 49(1) *Brooklyn Journal of International Law* 50

Tanyapat Chaiseri, 'Moving Towards an Optimal Remedy for Precontractual Liability in Thai Administrative Contracts' (2024) 41 *Singapore Law Review* 203

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

BOOK CHAPTERS

Thio Li-ann, 'Law, Reconciliation and Human Dignity: Religious Diversity and Managing Religious Harmony in Singapore' in Javier Martínez-Torrón and Thio Li-ann (eds), *Fundamental Rights, Religion and Human Dignity: A Constitutional Journey* (Routledge 2024)

Javier Martínez-Torrón and Thio Li-ann, 'Contemporary Debates on Human Dignity and the Implications for Freedom of Religion — A Provisional Exploration' in Javier Martínez-Torrón and Thio Li-ann (eds), *Fundamental Rights, Religion and Human Dignity: A Constitutional Journey* (Routledge 2024)

Andrew J. Harding, 'The Dynamics of Constitutional Amendment in Malaysia' in Ngoc Son Bui and Mara Malagodi (eds), *Asian Comparative Constitutional Law, Volume 2* (Hart Publishing 2024)

Mario Gomez, 'The Law and Politics of Constitutional Amendment in Sri Lanka' in Ngoc Son Bui and Mara Malagodi (eds), *Asian Comparative Constitutional Law, Volume 2* (Hart Publishing 2024)

Chen Weitseng and Mariana Mota Prado, 'Finance, state-owned enterprises, and development: A comparative study of pawnshops in Brazil, Mexico and Taiwan' in Susan Rose-Ackerman (ed), *Public Sector Performance, Corruption and State Capture in a Globalized World* (Routledge 2024)

Kevin Y L Tan, 'Separation of Powers' in Sujit Choudhry, Michaela Hailbronner and Mattias Kumm (eds), *Global Canons in an Age of Contestation: Debating Foundational Texts of Constitutional Democracy and Human Rights* (Oxford University Press 2024)

Jaclyn L. Neo, 'Freedom of Religion' in Sujit Choudhry, Michaela Hailbronner and Mattias Kumm (eds), *Global Canons in an Age of Contestation: Debating Foundational Texts of Constitutional Democracy and Human Rights* (Oxford University Press 2024)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

BOOK CHAPTERS

Jaclyn L. Neo, 'Constitutional Identity as Discourse: Mis-identity and Dis-identity' in Ran Hirschl and Yaniv Roznai (eds), *Deciphering the Genome of Constitutionalism: The Foundations and Future of Constitutional Identity* (Cambridge University Press 2024)

Daniel PS Goh and Jaclyn L. Neo, 'Christianity and Law in Southeast Asia Today' in John Witte, Jr. and Rafael Domingo (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Christianity and Law* (Oxford University Press 2024)

Andrew J Harding, 'Power-Sharing in Malaysia: Coalition Politics and the Social Contract' in E.W Aboultaif, S. Keil and A. McCulloch (eds), *Power-Sharing in the Global South Patterns, Practices and Potentials* (Palgrave Macmillan 2024)

Lynette J. Chua, 'Feeling at Home Outside: Embracing Out-of-Placeness in the Study of Law and Resistance' in Lynette J. Chua and Mark Fathi Massoud (eds), *Out of Place Fieldwork and Positionality in Law and Society* (Cambridge University Press 2024)

Lynette J. Chua, 'Reinventing a Public Assembly: Pink Dot, Singapore' in Tabatha Abu El-Haj, Michael Hamilton, Thomas Probert and Sharath Srinivasan (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Peaceful Assembly* (Oxford University Press 2024)

Yong-Shik Lee and Andrew J Harding, 'Law and Development' in Mathias Siems and Po Jen Yap (eds), *The Cambridge Handbook of Comparative Law* (Cambridge University Press 2024)

RESEARCH CLUSTERS

Our five research clusters serve as intellectual nodes for the Centre's research agenda and play an important role in the intellectual life of the Centre. Each cluster is faculty-driven, presenting a platform to connect research interests for collaboration purposes and drive focused research in relevant areas of expertise. Activities include meetings, workshops, and seminars on topics within their respective research areas.

Comparative Civil Law (CCivL)

The CCivL Cluster focuses on legal families and traditions in the civil law world and those areas of the law in which shared roots are particularly visible. The defining characteristics of the civil law system are most pronounced in private law, and here in particular, in the law of obligations and property. The Cluster's work, therefore, focuses on but is not necessarily limited to these areas of the law. It strives for balanced analyses of jurisdictions in Asia that are strongly influenced by either the German or French legal tradition and those whose heritage is not as clearly attributable to European origins. The CCivL Cluster also supports work that compares and contrasts approaches in civil law traditions or jurisdictions with their common-law counterparts.

Comparative Commercial Law (CCommL)

The CCommL Cluster promotes high-impact research in areas of commercial law such as contract law, corporate law and governance, and private law more generally, all from a comparative perspective with a focus on Asia. The CCommL Cluster seeks to foster collaborative research with various faculties within NUS and other national and international universities and research institutions. The CCommL Cluster provides a platform for faculty and external members with intersecting interests to exchange ideas and develop research initiatives. The CCommL Cluster is particularly interested in research that compares various aspects of commercial laws in Asian jurisdictions with other legal jurisdictions within and beyond Asia.

RESEARCH CLUSTERS

Comparative Public Law (CPL)

The CPL Cluster leverages on the strength of the comparative constitutional law faculty at NUS to bring together scholars and scholarship with a focus on comparative constitutional law in the Asian context, delving deep into areas such as constitutional authority, constitutional foundings and resilience, and constitutional pluralism.

International Law in Asia (ILA)

The ILA Cluster aims to generate cutting-edge international law research and knowledge by facilitating exchange and collaboration among NUS researchers and the larger international law community. It aims to be an inclusive forum for the discussion of international law issues, particularly in the Asian context, among international law researchers, practitioners, and policymakers. The cluster's activities draw on the NUS Law Faculty's expertise across public and private international law in pursuing the study of significant and timely issues within these areas of international law as well as between them. It intends to function as a hub that brings together and showcases the NUS Law Faculty's international law research and collaboration with other international law actors.

Law and Religion in Asia (L&R)

The L&R Cluster aims to lead ground-breaking research on the interaction between law and religion both in Asia and globally. In light of the growing significance of religion in various aspects of public life, the L&R Cluster strives to promote comparative understandings on the challenges and opportunities that religion presents, particularly in law, politics, and governance. Our work spans issues such as religious law, state-religion relations, and the regulation of religion and religious freedom. In all this, we are driven by contextual and inter-disciplinary approaches to understanding the dynamics between law and religion. With a primary focus on developments in Asia, our activities are geared towards facilitating the exchange of ideas, generating new research initiatives and strengthening ongoing ones, as well as producing policy-relevant and practically-grounded outputs.

RESEARCH CLUSTERS

COMPARATIVE COMMERCIAL LAW SPEAKER SERIES



Shedding the Non-Discrimination Principle in International Economic Governance? *08 February 2024*

Moderated by Associate Professor Lin Lin, Professor Jaemin Lee (Seoul National University) explored the legal ramifications of global supply chain reformulation, and examined its potential impact on international economic agreements.

Finfluencers and Other Tech Disruptions to Corporate Law - Insights from South Korea and India *26 September 2024*

Moderated by Associate Professor Lin Lin, Associate Professor Akshaya Kamalnath (Australian National University) discussed the regulation of personal finance influencers - "finfluencers" - in the context of broader social media disruptions of corporate law.



RESEARCH CLUSTERS

INTERNATIONAL LAW IN ASIA SPEAKER SERIES



International Law and Life in Space: Developments

21 March 2024

Moderated by Associate Professor Cheah W.L., Professor Michael Bohlander (Durham Law School), Assistant Professor Hilding Neilson (Memorial University of Newfoundland & Labrador), Ms. Roser Almenar (Working Group on SETI and Law) discussed the role of international law in addressing the discovery of, and contact with, intelligent life beyond Earth. They examined the potential legal and non-legal challenges

we will face in our encounter with extraterrestrial intelligence, especially given the absence of applicable comprehensive legal and ethical frameworks.

Everything, Everywhere, All at Once: Giving Definition to Universal Jurisdiction

29 August 2024

Moderated by Associate Professor Cheah W.L., Associate Professor Devika Hovell (London School of Economics) explored the reach and limits of universal jurisdiction, having regard to the relevant communities and interests that universal jurisdiction puts in relation.



ACADEMIC EVENTS

VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLES ON ASIAN LAW SERIES



Cultural Competence in Legal Education and Legal Practice *26 January 2024*

Exploring the theme of “Cultural Competence in Legal Education and Legal Practice”, panellists delved into the nuances of cultural competence and how they shape the focus of legal ethics education in Singapore, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, and Canada.

Book Discussion on “Democracy under God: Constitutions, Islam and Human Rights in the Muslim World” *22 February 2024*

Based on the book “Democracy under God: Constitutions, Islam and Human Rights in the Muslim World”, panellists delved into the book’s original contribution in debunking the common assumption that the incorporation of Islam in constitutions is necessarily in tension with the protection of human rights.



20 Years of the Indonesian Constitutional Court – A Discussion *25 April 2024*

This session examined the challenges faced by Indonesia’s Constitutional Court and explored potential areas for improvement. Panellists critically analysed the Constitutional Court’s role and impact over the last twenty years within Indonesia’s legal landscape.

Book Discussion on “A History of the Constitution of Bangladesh” *10 May 2024*

Centred on the book “A History of the Constitution of Bangladesh: The Founding, Development, and Way Ahead”, panellists discussed the history, strengths and potential development of the Constitution of Bangladesh.



ACADEMIC EVENTS

CALS CHAI CHATS - PODCAST ON ASIAN LEGAL STUDIES

This year, CALS officially launched its captivating podcast, “CALS Chai Chats” which aims to shed light on critical topics of law and legal developments in Asia. This initiative aligns with CALS’ commitment to enhancing understanding and fostering scholarly discourse in the realm of Asian legal studies. Hosted by Dr Dian AH Shah and Dr Mario Gomez, the podcast episodes offer unique and novel insights that look at “insiders” perspectives of the judiciary. Listeners tuned in to thought-provoking conversations on the responsibilities and strategies of the judiciary in navigating challenges to social cohesion, particularly within the diverse and evolving fabric of Asian societies.



Episodes 1-3 of the podcasts feature conversations with: Madan Lokur (former Justice of the Supreme Court of India), Yasantha Kodagoda (Judge of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka), and Alejandro Linares (Judge of the Constitutional Court of Colombia), all of whom explore the relationship between social cohesion and the law in their respective countries.

ACADEMIC EVENTS

CALS CHAI CHATS PODCASTS ON ASIAN LAW

Episodes 4-6 of the podcasts feature conversations with: Justice Lazaro-Javier (Supreme Court of the Philippines), Tun Richard Malanjum (former Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Malaysia), and Justice Ayesha Malik (Supreme Court of Pakistan). These episodes were released in 2024.



Episode 4: Making Justice Accessible in the Philippines **18 October 2024**

How do courts make justice accessible where complex socio-economic and political inequalities are complex and pervasive? In this episode, CALS Chai Chats sits down with Justice Amy Lazaro-Javier, an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of The Philippines to understand the role of courts in advancing social cohesion, gender equality, and local autonomy in a divided society.



Episode 5: Judging Key Constitutional Moments in Malaysia **19 October 2024**

Tun Datuk Seri Panglima Richard Malanjum reflects on his 27-years career on the bench and as the Ninth Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Malaysia. A Kadazandusun from Sabah, he was the first chief justice to be appointed from indigenous community in East Malaysia. In this episode, Tun Malanjum shares rich insights on the realities of “judging”, indigenous rights, and several key constitutional issues that have significantly shaped the legal, political, and social evolution of contemporary Malaysia.



Episode 6: Breaking Barriers with the Supreme Court of Pakistan **20 October 2024**

In this episode, we talk to Justice Ayesha Malik, whose appointment as the first female Justice of the Supreme Court, represented a significant step forward for gender equality in Pakistan. Aside from shedding some light on the ingrained societal attitudes around gender, we discuss how this impacts the legal profession and how judges navigate the complexities of diversity and inequality in dispensing justice.

ACADEMIC EVENTS

SUPPORTING JUNIOR SCHOLARS

ICON•S Winter/Summer School For Junior Scholars 2024

16 May to 24 May 2024



The 2nd Edition of the ICON•S winter/summer school was hosted in Sydney, Australia from 16 to 24 May 2024, convened by Professor Rosalind Dixon (former co-president of ICON•S) and jointly organised by ICON•S through its Committee on Community and Engagement, UNSW Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law, NUS Law Centre for Asian Legal Studies, Centre for Comparative and Public Law at HKU Law, uOttawa Public Law Centre, and ICON•S Aus-NZ.

Notably, CALS also co-organised the inaugural edition of the ICON•S Winter/Summer School in 2023, reflecting its continued commitment to nurturing junior scholars and advancing academic collaboration within the ICON•S community.

The ICON•S winter/summer school offers the opportunity for approximately twelve to fifteen junior scholars to deepen their sense of connection and community within ICON•S. The program encourages engagement, collaboration, and the cultivation of lasting connections among junior scholars, fostering an environment where knowledge is shared, skills are honed, and a supportive network for future academic endeavours is forged.

At the program's core are introductory sessions conducted by leading scholars in the field focused on methodologies, writing and publishing. In this regard, Assistant Professor Dian Shah (CALS Deputy Director) contributed her expertise as a facilitator for the session titled 'Introduction to Journal Publishing'. These sessions culminate in an opportunity for the junior scholars to workshop a draft article or chapter, allowing them to refine their research under the guidance of experienced mentors and receive feedback from peers and instructors.

ACADEMIC EVENTS

PUBLIC LECTURES

Women's Property Rights Under CEDAW, a Public Lecture by Professor José E Alvarez

24 January 2024

The gender gap with respect to wealth and property is a chasm. For over 40 years, the leading international treaty body on women's rights, the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (the CEDAW Committee), has been generating jurisprudence interpreting CEDAW's obligations that states protect the equal rights of women in relationships; family rights, including inheritance; rights to land, adequate housing, financial credit, social benefits, intellectual property, and other economic rights dependent on equal access to justice. This lecture introduced the book "Women's Property Rights Under CEDAW" and explored the unique vision of property rights for women outlined by the CEDAW.



ACADEMIC EVENTS

PUBLIC LECTURES

Fireside Chat: Equitable Access to Justice-Challenges and Prospects with The Right Honorable Dame Helen Winkelmann

16 July 2024

Access to justice is a major foundation of our justice system and learning from our fellow judicial systems about their initiatives in enhancing access to justice is key to reimagining the courts of the future and rethinking better ways to deliver justice. In this session, the Chief Justice Winkelmann spoke on critical issues impeding equitable access to justice for all and reflected upon the complex interplay of factors that continue to prevent individuals and communities from fully exercising their legal rights and seeking remedies. Her Honour discussed the advancements made by the New Zealand courts to improve access to justice, including efforts to connect the courts to the community and to support a representative and diverse judiciary.



ACADEMIC EVENTS

PUBLIC LECTURES

Sovereignty Contested: Cultural Intimacies, the Politics of Space and State-Legal Forms

15 August 2024

The concept of sovereignty was advanced between the 16th and 18th centuries to legitimise the power and authority claimed by early modern sovereigns and states. While a state legitimates the recourse to force and claims a monopoly on violence, centralised state power is limited in centre-periphery relationships. These limitations eventually expose the vulnerability of a sovereign centre, such as in the case of post-colonial ethno-religious conflicts in Sri Lanka, India, Australia, Myanmar and Thailand. In this session, panellists explored the politics of conversion and Hindutva mobilisation in India, the colonial mapping and the bureaucratic evisceration of cultural and legal pluralism in the Indo-Pacific (Sri Lanka, Australia and New Zealand) and the spatial legal politics of land and nationhood in Sri Lanka after the end of Sri Lanka's civil war.



ACADEMIC EVENTS

Jones Day Professorial Lecture on the Rule of Law in Asia “International Sanctions and the Rule of Law”

18 January 2024

The Jones Day-Centre for Asian Legal Studies Lecture on the Rule of Law in Asia, on the subject of ‘International Sanctions and the Rule of Law’ was attended by over a hundred legal practitioners, government officers and academics. The event provided an opportunity for the NUS and Singapore’s legal community to interact with and learn directly from leading practitioners, judges, and scholars.

Drawing from his experiences as Ombudsperson to the United Nations Security Council, in terms of UN Resolution 2610 (2021), by which the United Nations Security Council decided that individuals or entities may be eligible to be included in the ISIL (Da’esh) & Al-Qaida Sanctions List if they are associated with ISIL (Da’esh) or Al-Qaida, Tun Richard Malanjum, delivered the lecture and addressed guests on the subject of ‘International Sanctions and the Rule of Law’.

Tun Richard Malanjum spoke of the importance of due process in administering and reviewing sanctions, noting that they were intended as a targeted, or smart tool, rather than a comprehensive one. Recognising this collective impact of imposing sanctions, and the relatively low standard of ‘reasonable and credible’ proof for sanctions to be applied, Tun Richard Malanjum emphasised the importance of the office of the Ombudsperson in providing an avenue for seeking review and delisting, and the relation this remedy has in establishing the rule of law within the regime of international sanctions.



ACADEMIC EVENTS

Jones Day Professorial Lecture on the Rule of Law in Asia “International Sanctions and the Rule of Law”

Tun Richard Malanjum went on to provide a detailed account of the work that the Ombudsperson does in reviewing sanctions, and the process by which each claim is evaluated and considered before the Ombudsperson makes a recommendation to the Security Council on whether a person affected by sanctions should be delisted. Describing the delisting process, he noted that a sanctioned person had the opportunity to engage in dialogue, with counsel, with the Ombudsperson’s office before a recommendation was made. Countering criticism that the following of such procedures reflected leniency, he proposed that due process in following sanctions contributed to establishing their legitimacy. Tun Richard Malanjum noted that while the United Nations Security Council effectively followed a ‘reverse veto’ in examining the Ombudsperson’s recommendations, in practice, it had not yet rejected any recommendation made by the Ombudsperson. The contribution of an effective delisting procedure, he noted, was reflected by the fact that other international bodies, such as the European Court of Justice, now directed applicants to the Ombudsperson’s office, rather than take up such questions judicially. Of the cases raised before the Ombudsperson’s office thus far, 70% have resulted in delisting.

Tun Richard Malanjum concluded that terrorism is a global problem, and that Southeast Asian states are not immune from the dangers posed by it. He encouraged guests, and lawyers, particularly, to help raise awareness of the delisting process, and to extend their support in legal aid to applicants seeking delisting; calling on the Singapore legal fraternity to take up this challenge and support the upholding of the rule of law.



ACADEMIC EVENTS

WORK IN PROGRESS SEMINARS

The **CALS “Work-in-Progress Lunchtime Discussion Series”** is dedicated to providing CALS researchers, visitors, and faculty members associated with CALS an informal platform to receive feedback on their works-in-progress. Conducted seminar-style, each monthly-held session features a speaker presenting his or her work and receiving comments from the audience. Since its launch in September 2024, the Series has hosted discussions on a variety of topics.

On 25 September 2024, Professor James Fowkes (University of Muenster) presented his work on re-describing the common law world from a global, non-Anglo-American-centric perspective (25 September).

On 18 October 2024, Mr Toh Ding Jun (Research Assistant, CALS) offered a critical analysis and reconstruction of English jurisprudence on product liability regime under the Consumer Protection Act 1987.

On 22 November 2024, Associate Professor Cheah Wui Ling (NUS Law) shared a chapter of her book project where she traced the details of the post-War Sime Road Camp Trial and gave a comparative account on why its punishment was publicly criticised then for being unjustly harsh.

The Series’ casual and friendly setting encourages brainstorming, freewheeling discussion, and frank constructive criticism. It forms one of the staple events that reflect CALS’s mission to promote rigorous scholarly work, and forge scholarship with a regional focus and global perspective. More sessions in this Series will be conducted in 2025.

ACADEMIC EVENTS

RESEARCH WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES



3rd SNU APLI – NUS CALS Asian Forum for Comparative Legal Studies *27 February 2024*

A delegation from CALS visited the Seoul National University to hold the 3rd SNU APLI – NUS CALS Asian Forum for Comparative Legal Studies with SNU's Asia-Pacific Law Institute. The conference was organised into several sessions that provided in-depth discussions on different aspects of Asian legal studies, emphasising the importance of comparative legal studies to understand and address the unique challenges faced by Asian legal systems in a global context.



Research Conference on Advancing the Rule of Law in Asia Pacific – A Regional World Justice Project *28 June 2024*

ACADEMIC EVENTS

RESEARCH WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

The Centre for Asian Legal Studies (CALS), in collaboration with the World Justice Project (WJP) and with the support of the Ministry of Law (MinLaw), convened the Research Conference on Advancing the Rule of Law in Asia Pacific at the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law. The event brought together more than 50 participants, including academics, legal practitioners, civil society actors, and government officials from across the region.

The conference opened with remarks from Associate Professor Jaclyn Neo (Director, CALS), Ms Sarala Subramaniam (Director General, International & Advisory, MinLaw), and Ms Elizabeth Andersen (Executive Director, WJP), and concluded with special remarks by Minister of State Ms Rahayu Mahzam. The speakers highlighted the importance of advancing the rule of law (ROL) in the Asia Pacific through dialogue, knowledge exchange, and practical outcomes that strengthen governance and trust in institutions.

The event promoted dialogues among scholars and practitioners to build regional knowledge and contextual understanding of the ROL, given the ideal's foundational significance to Singapore's judiciary and society. The conference featured three panels that addressed ROL challenges and issues relevant to the circumstances of Asian countries on the following sub-topics: Criminal Justice Challenges in Asia Pacific; Defending and Strengthening Judicial Independence; Transparency, Anti-Corruption, and Accountability.



ACADEMIC EVENTS

RESEARCH WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES



International Forum on Asian Laws: Diffusion of Laws in Asia

1 August 2024

Asia is a very dynamic region, and its jurisdictions draw their inspirations from many sources. There are multiple instances of transnational movements of legal ideas, principles, rules, and institutions in East, Southeast, South, and Central Asia. The diffusion may be horizontal – from one Asian jurisdiction to another jurisdiction; or vertical – from international law into domestic law. Over the two-day conference, a total of 22 papers were presented and discussed through three overarching themes: Private Law, Public Law, and Religious/Traditional Law. Speakers explored the nuances and different perspectives on the successes and failures of transplanted systems in these Asian case studies.



Digital Religion: Social, Political, and Legal Future

16 August 2024

As part of the pilot project LaPIDoR (Legal and Political Implications of the Digitalization of Religion) and generously sponsored by the NUS HSS (Humanities and Social Sciences) Seed Fund, this workshop brought together speakers representing diverse disciplines and sub-disciplines from within the social sciences and humanities to present empirical case studies on digital religion across different religious communities in Southeast Asia and beyond.

ACADEMIC EVENTS

RESEARCH WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES



Edward Elgar Handbook on Legal Theory and Constitutionalism Workshop

23 September 2024

In partnership with the Rubinstein Centre for Constitutional Challenges at Reichman University, Israel, this workshop presented chapters from “Edward Elgar Handbook on Legal Theory and Constitutionalism”, a forthcoming book on constitutionalism and legal theory, edited by Associate Professor Jaclyn Neo (NUS) and Professor Yaniv Roznai (Reichman University). The presentations received detailed responses from designated commentators, and were followed by lively discussions.



Text, Cases and Materials on Asian Contract Law Workshop

18 November 2024

The workshop brought together contributors from China, Japan, Singapore, India, and South Korea, to collaboratively develop six chapters on remedies for breach of contract for a proposed publication, “Text, Cases and Materials on Asian Contract Laws”.

ACADEMIC EVENTS

RESEARCH WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES



Advancing Social Cohesion and the Rule of Law in the Courts of Asia Workshop

29 November 2024

The workshop provided a forum for an interactive and in-depth discussion on how courts adjudicate, mediate, and shape cases implicating social cohesion. Attended by sitting and retired judges from different Asian jurisdictions, including Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Nepal, the workshop discussed issues such as the processes of litigation and judicial deliberations and developing remedies, with participants engaging in a rich discussion on the role of courts in managing social cohesion.



Beyond Mandatory Pro Bono: Compulsory Lawyer Mechanisms in Access to Justice

5 December 2024

The symposium explored the various compulsory mechanisms jurisdictions imposed on lawyers in access to justice, such as mandatory court appointments and mandatory paid legal aid. Scholars and practitioners gathered to map these mechanisms, analyse their role in enhancing access to justice, and theorise their broader purposes within different jurisdictions.

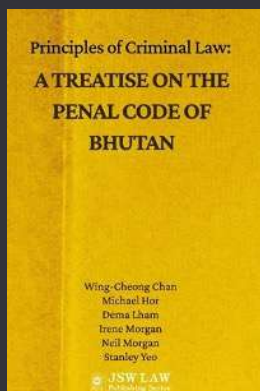
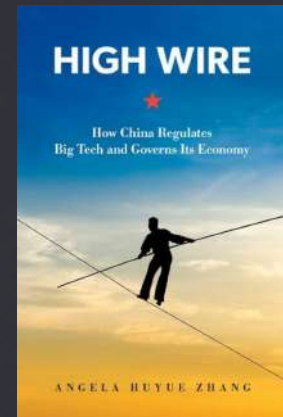
ACADEMIC EVENTS

BOOK LAUNCH

Book Talk: "High Wire: How China Regulates Big Tech and Governs Its Economy"

19 March 2024

This book provides an in-depth analysis of the three key areas of platform regulation in China: antitrust, data, and labour enforcement. It examines the shrewd self-regulatory schemes employed by Chinese tech titans and their co-regulation with the State and performs a comparison of Chinese tech regulation with the rapidly evolving regulatory landscape in the United States and the European Union. In this talk, the author, Professor Angela Huyue Zhang (USC Gould School of Law), drew upon insights from her book, and discussed the multifaceted nature of China's institutional dynamics and its impact on AI regulation.



Launch of the monograph entitled "Principles of Criminal Law: A Treatise on the Penal Code of Bhutan"

11 November 2024

The monograph entitled "Principles of Criminal Law: A Treatise on the Penal Code of Bhutan" was launched at the opening of the Gross National Happiness and Criminal Law Conference at the JSW School of Law in Bhutan by the Hon. Lungten Dorji, Speaker of the Bhutan Legislative Assembly. Written by an international team of criminal law experts led by Professor Stanley Yeo (CALs Adjunct Research Professor), this book is the culmination of a four-year project which began with Professor Yeo teaching in Bhutan's only law school and involved the authors interviewing District Court Judges around the country, and conducting a workshop attended by legislators, prosecutors, and members of the criminal bar of Bhutan. The work organises and explains the principles of criminal law found in the provisions of the Bhutan Penal Code, offers a critical evaluation of the law, and proposes reforms which hope to clarify and improve the Code.

INDUSTRY OUTREACH

MUSLIM LAW PRACTICE COUSE 2024



Muslim Law Practice Course 2024
13 JULY 2024, 9.30AM - 6.30PM
NUS FACULTY OF LAW, SR 4-4

SPEAKERS:
Arif Jamal
National University of Singapore
Ustaz Alfian Yasrif Bin Kuchit
National University of Singapore

Raihanah Halid
Syariah Court Singapore
Ahmad Nizam Abbas
Crescent Law Chambers LLC

Irwan Hadi
Syariah Court Singapore
Muhammad Fazalee Bin Ja'afar
Syariah Court Singapore

This course is a collaboration between NUS Law, the Syariah Court of Singapore, and the MUIS Academy. It serves to acquaint and familiarise participants with key concepts, common terminologies, issues and recent developments in Muslim law.

The event featured three comprehensive modules, and was attended by over 50 participants, including academics, legal practitioners and government officers. The first module, "Introduction to the Foundational Principles of Syariah Law," was presented by Associate Professor Arif Jamal and Ustaz Alfian Yasrif Bin Kuchit from NUS Law. It provided a historical overview and discussed the development of Islamic law, particularly in Southeast Asia and Singapore. The second module, "Muslim Inheritance Law: Principles and Practice," was led by Ustazah Raihanah Halid from the Syariah Court of Singapore and Mr Ahmad Nizam Abbas from Crescent Law Chambers LLC. This module covered wealth management and distribution principles, examining both classical jurisprudence and contemporary applications in Singapore. The final module, "Muslim Family Law: Ethics and Principles of Divorce," was presented by Ustaz Irwan Hadi and Mr Muhammad Fazalee Bin Ja'afar from the Syariah Court of Singapore. This module addressed the ethical considerations and recent developments in Muslim divorce law, highlighting differences between Syariah and civil court practices. The course provided valuable insights into the multifaceted nature of Muslim law and its practical implications in modern legal contexts.

13 July 2024

INDUSTRY OUTREACH

DISTRESSED AIRLINES – THE MODERN TOOLKIT FOR ASIA AND BEYOND



Webinar Invitation: **Distressed Airlines – The Modern Toolkit for Asia and Beyond**

Date & Time: Monday 28 October 2024 | 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm SGT (GMT+8)

Registration Fee

INSOL Member: S\$45 | **Non-Member:** S\$80

REGISTER HERE

Registration is open until 28 October 2024, 12:00 am SGT (GMT+8)

This online webinar, held in collaboration with INSOL Asia and Baker McKenzie, explored issues arising in the restructuring of airlines in Asia. It features a panel of five speakers, all of whom possessed deep experience in the restructuring of distressed companies, and moderated by Mr Toh Ding Jun (Research Assistant, CALS).

The speakers shared real-world insights from their work in the restructuring of Thai Airways, NOK Air, Hong Kong Airlines, and LATAM Airlines. The panel explored the complex challenges faced and how they overcame them, tackling cross-border legal issues, financial difficulties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, and the different ways of classifying creditors. The speakers engaged in a fruitful discussion, where they exchanged perspectives on financing and re-financing strategies and compared how domestic policy considerations influenced their respective approaches.

28 October 2024

INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

CALS has established close institutional relationships with several law centres in the region to promote the exchange of academic publications, legal and other research materials, visiting researchers, joint research and academic conferences and cooperation in legal assistance projects in countries in Asia.

Among our close collaborators are Seoul National University's Asia-Pacific Law Institute (SNU-APLI), (South Korea), Nagoya University Centre for Asian Legal Exchange (CALE) (Japan), the National Chiao Tung University (Taiwan), the University of New South Wales' Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law (Australia), University of Melbourne's Asian Law Centre, Centre for Comparative Constitutional Studies Centre, and the Peter McMullin Centre for Statelessness (Australia), as well as the University of Mandalay (Myanmar).

Outside of the region, CALS is also a cooperation partner of the EURAC Research Institute for Comparative Federalism for a European Union funded project on Local Government and Changing Urban-Rural Interplay. We are also cooperation partners of the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg's Elite Masters Program on Standards of Decision-Making Across Cultures. In addition, there are ongoing research collaborations with the Max Planck Institute on Religious and Ethnic Diversity (Germany), the College of Law and Business (Israel), Stanford University (United States) and the "China, Law and Development" project (CLD) at Oxford University, funded by the European Research Council. In addition to collaborations with research centres, CALS is a partner of the Supreme Court of Japan's Short-term Overseas Training and Research Program for Japanese judges, under which it hosts a judge from the Supreme Court every year.

INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

INTERNATIONAL THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Prof Thio Li-ann Engaged as Expert Consultant in the 14th Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of the Complementary Standards to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

22 July to 2 August 2024



The Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of the Complementary Standards to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination was formed to explore the structure, scope, elements and terms of a draft additional protocol to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) criminalising acts of a racist and xenophobic nature.

The engagement of Prof Thio as expert consultant to the committee came following the joint preparation of "Preliminary Inputs and Advice by the Experts on the Four Questions in Paragraph 79(a)-(d) of Report A/HRC/51/57" along with other human rights experts in May 2023. The other experts are as follows: Rhonda Bain, former Supreme Court Justice and Associate Tutor at Eugene Dupuch Law School, Bahamas; Beatrice Bonafe, Professor of International Law, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy; Joanna Botha, Head of the Department of Public Law, Faculty of Law, Nelson Mandela University, South Africa; and Mark Drumbl, Class of 1975 Alumni Professor of Law and Director of the Transnational Law Institute, Washington and Lee University, United States of America.

In preparation for the 14th session, Prof Thio focused on the following issues: first, whether the ICERD should address religious discrimination; second, how to address online hate speech from an international perspective; and finally, what non-punitive measures might be taken to address problems associated with hate speech.

INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS – International Conference

Asian Law Schools Association (ALSA) Public Law Conference

24 October to 25 October 2024



CALS partnered with Jindal Global Law School (JGLS) to organise the inaugural Asian Law Schools Association (ALSA) Public Law Conference at JGLS' campus on 24 and 25 October 2024.

The conference aimed to serve as a platform for emerging research on “the evolution of public law in post-colonial Asian nations” and reflect on “the broader socio-political transformations and the shifting boundaries between the public and private spheres”. Speakers from 14 institutions across 9 jurisdictions presented their research across 6 panels on various aspects of public law, including its interaction and/or relationship with tax law, criminal law, environmental law, and corporate law. Each panel of paper presentations was followed by detailed responses from commentators and saw lively discussions.

It is hoped that this conference will be the first of several such research conferences focusing on the evolving legal landscapes in Asia.

INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS – CALS Peer Learning Initiative (CAPLI)

Centre for Asian Legal Studies – Thammasat University Faculty of Law Peer Learning Initiative (CATPLI)

Following the success of CATPLI's first and second workshops for Thai law students on Singapore contract and company laws respectively, students of the Thammasat University Comparative Legal Studies organised a reciprocal workshop in 2024 titled "An Introduction to the Basics of Thai Contract Law" for Singapore law students.

As Assistant Professor Amnart Tangkiriphimarn, Vice Dean for International Affairs and International Program at TU Law observed at the opening ceremony of the inaugural workshop: "This is the first time we have the opportunity to allow our students to give an introduction on Thai contract law to the Singapore legal community; this will not only benefit the Singapore legal community, but it will prepare the Thai student instructors to practice giving a presentation on Thai law to foreign lawyers in future."



CATPLI Reciprocal Workshop: An Introduction to the Basics of Thai Contract Law

13 and 20 January 2024

This workshop focused on the doctrinal differences between Singapore and Thai contract laws – specifically the Thai Civil and Commercial Code. It discussed Thai legal history, foundations of its legal system, as well as substantive Thai legal concepts such as the principles governing contract formation and the situations in which a contract may be rendered invalid under Thai law.



CATPLI Workshop: An Introduction to the Basics of Singapore Contract Law

9 March to 13 April 2024

This workshop introduced Thai law students to the basic principles of contract law in Singapore. The first two sessions were held in-person at TU Law while the remaining five sessions were held virtually. The Centre would like to thank A/Prof Burton Ong, A/Prof Sandra Booysen, As/Prof Tan Zhong Xing and Mr Benjamin Wong for taking valuable time out to ensure the legal accuracy of the content delivered by the students.

INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS – CALS Peer Learning Initiative (CAPLI)

Centre for Asian Legal Studies – Thammasat University Faculty of Law Peer Learning Initiative (CATPLI)

CATPLI Writes is an initiative that was conceptualised in 2022 and formally launched in 2024. As part of its launch, CATPLI Writes successfully collaborated with the Singapore Law Review (SLR) to publish a series of nine articles by student contributors as part of a special volume.



CATPLI Writes serves as a platform for student contributors to showcase their legal research, thinking, and writing skills, by writing on an issue that they are passionate about with the aim to promote student scholarship amongst law students at NUS and TU, as well as to shed light on some of the contemporary issues found in various Asian jurisdictions, through the lens of eager, soon-to-be lawyers. All student contributors are mentored by faculty members and/or full-time researchers from NUS and TU. Then, once the student contributor is ready to publish their work, they would be guided through the publication process by a staff member at the CALS.

As part of the inaugural CATPLI Writes, Johan Ding '24 and Alden Ng '24, had each undertaken independent research pertaining to Singapore's small claims tribunal processes and South Korean constitutional law respectively. There were each awarded the NUS Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Prize (OURP). Johan's project, titled 'Singapore's Informal Justice Experience: Evaluating the Practice of the Small Claims Tribunals' was supervised by both Associate Professor Helena Whalen-Bridge (CALS Academic Fellow) and Toh Ding Jun (CALS Researcher), while Alden's project, titled 'Playing with Temporality: South Korea's Flawed Deployment of Prospective Overruling at Constitutional Law', was supervised by Ding Jun.

INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS – CALS Peer Learning Initiative (CAPLI)

Centre for Asian Legal Studies – Universitas Gadjah Mada Fakultas Hukum Peer Learning Initiative (CAUPLI)

CAUPLI is the second peer learning initiative launched under CAPLI.

This marked another significant step in CALS' broader efforts to foster cross-border collaborations between NUS Law students and its partner institutions in the ASEAN region to provide students with unparalleled opportunities to deepen their understanding of the law.

CAUPLI's inaugural series of sharing sessions was conducted by NUS Law to provide Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) Law students "An Introduction to the Basics of Singapore Company Law". At the same time, it provided NUS Law students with an opportunity to strengthen their understanding of these concepts. Additionally, UGM Law students conducted a reciprocal workshop titled "An Introduction to the Basics of Indonesian Company Law", to share with Singapore law and pre-law students about the various aspects of Indonesian company law.



CAUPLI Reciprocal Workshop: An Introduction to the Basics of Indonesian Company Law 7, 14 and 21 September 2024

Conducted by law students from UGM, the workshop featured three sessions, over three weeks, each focusing on a specific aspect of Indonesian company law. The first session introduced Indonesia's legal system, different types of limited liability companies in the jurisdiction, and the unique developments in piercing the corporate veil to establish shareholders' liability. The second session explored Indonesia's two-tier board system, the duties of the board of directors and the board of commissioners, and lastly, shareholder's legal protection. The third and final session covered the dissolution of companies as well as corporate bankruptcy under Indonesian law.

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INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS – CALS Peer Learning Initiative (CAPLI)

CAUPLI Workshop: An Introduction to the Basics of Singapore Company Law

28 September 2024

This workshop featured three in-person sharing sessions at Universitas Gadjah Mada in Indonesia. 53 Indonesian law students from the Yogyakarta region were introduced to the Singaporean legal system and various aspects of Singaporean company law.

Given the structural differences between Indonesia's civil law system and Singapore's common law system, these sharing sessions and reciprocal workshop cultivated a deeper appreciation of diverse legal frameworks through insightful discussions on the doctrinal differences found in the company laws of the two jurisdictions.

As part of CALS' wider initiative to promote the learning of the Indonesian legal system, laws, and culture, CAUPLI organised a student visit to the Special Region of Yogyakarta, Indonesia in conjunction with the inaugural workshop.

Students from CAUPLI first paid a visit to the Sleman District Court where they were shown around the various courtrooms and given an opportunity to engage in a lively discussion with the court's judges on a variety of issues. They were also allowed to observe a criminal matter, where they learned how criminal deliberations were made through a criminal bench of three judges, rather than the one-man coram that is seen in Singapore.



Throughout the four-day visit, the students had ample opportunities to interact with their counterparts from UGM Law, informally learning more about the differences between Indonesian and Singaporean laws.

The Centre would finally like to take this opportunity to express its gratitude Prof Umakanth Varottil and Samantha Tang for taking valuable time out to check our students' content.

NOTES FROM OUR VISITORS



Kim Yun Hee
Visiting Scholar

I have had the honor of serving as a judge in South Korea for over 15 years. This year, I was fortunate to be selected by the judiciary for an international research opportunity at the National University of Singapore (NUS).

Choosing NUS as my destination was a deliberate decision, inspired by the growing collaboration between South Korea and Singapore in legal and academic fields. Prior to joining NUS, I handled a wide range of criminal cases, including securities-related offenses and juvenile crimes, issuing verdicts on an average of 100 cases per month. Stepping away from such intensive work and returning to an academic environment at NUS was both refreshing and enriching.

At NUS, I was deeply inspired by the diverse academic discussions and seminars hosted by CALS and the other research centers. My primary research focuses on comparative study of insider trading regulations in South Korea and Singapore. In addition to this, I had the opportunity to attend a lot of seminars. These experiences exposed me to a wide range of perspectives, not only on topics actively debated in South Korea but also on issues that are not often discussed – discussions on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in legal systems and its regulatory challenges were especially thought-provoking. I believe these experiences will provide valuable ideas for advancing discussions on AI's application in the South Korean judiciary and legal market. I also believe this valuable time has reignited my intellectual curiosity and challenged me to approach legal issues with a more global perspective.

My time at CALS would not have been as fruitful without the support and encouragement of many individuals. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Professor Jaclyn Neo, Professor Ernest Lim, Professor Lin Lin, as well as to Ms. Kris Zhao and Ms. Momoka Ang. Their guidance and support made my experience truly exceptional. This opportunity has been a pivotal chapter in my professional journey, and I look forward to applying the insights I have gained at NUS to my work in South Korea.

NOTES FROM OUR VISITORS



Kim Chi Tran
Ludwig-Maximilians-
University of Munich

During the months of March and April 2024, I had the privilege to be a secondee at CALS at NUS.

Upon my arrival at the CALS, I was very warmly welcomed by everyone, and I am especially grateful to Professor Jaclyn Neo, Director of CALS and Ms Momoka Ang.

Coming from Germany, a civil law country, the common law basis in Singapore offered a great opportunity to delve into a completely different legal system. During my stay, I was lucky to be able to attend some very insightful seminars and roundtable discussions, e.g. the seminar “Reconstructing Critical Legal Studies” by Sam Moyn, Chancellor Kent Professor of Law and History, Yale Law School or “When Women’s Rights are not Human Rights – the Non-Performativity of the Human Rights of Victims of domestic abuse within English Family Law” by Professor Shazia Choudhry, University of Oxford. All colleagues at CALS were always helpful and kindly provided me with a lot of useful information regarding my research but also on Singapore in general.

I am deeply grateful to everyone at CALS for this rewarding experience, both from a personal and professional perspective.

I am deeply honored to have been a visiting researcher at CALS, NUS Law during the summer of 2024. I am grateful to Prof. Jaclyn Neo, who made this experience possible. I am also grateful to Rowena and Momoka, whose exceptional administrative support made my visit even more welcoming.

During my time at CALS, I had the privilege to deepen my research on comparative legal technology and access to justice. The distinguished faculty and diverse event opportunities offered me a wealth of resources. I was honored to discuss my research with Professors Weitseng Chen, Lynette Chua, Ying Hu, Christian Hofmann, Kenneth Khoo, Lin Lin, Jaclyn Neo, Dian Shan, and other remarkable scholars. Their expertise, hospitality, and thoughtful suggestions offered me invaluable insights. I also had the opportunity to attend conferences and events organized by CALS, including “Equitable Access to Justice”, “Diffusion of Laws in Asia”, etc. These gatherings allowed me to engage with a diverse community of scholars from around the world.

The incredible experience at CALS truly enriched my scholarship and the appreciation for NUS as a global leader in legal education. I look forward to learning more from my mentors at CALS when future opportunities arise.



Leo You Li
Stanford Law School

NOTES FROM OUR VISITORS

Lee Jaemin

Seoul National University



I had the privilege and honor of visiting CALS from 5 to 9 February 2024. It was a rare and tremendous opportunity to meet with scholars and colleagues at CALS and discuss various legal issues of mutual interest. As CALS has become the hub of legal research on the issues of Asian concern, I was able to observe firsthand the robust research activities of CALS within the unique academic environment of NUS Law.

I was able to learn from friends and colleagues at CALS, which was reflected in my articles and teachings after I returned to my home institution, the Seoul National University School of Law in Seoul, Korea. As a result, one article was published by the Journal of International Economic Law in September 2024, and the other was published by the World Trade Review in October 2024. The experience and learning at CALS was pivotal in finalizing these articles, and for that I stand extremely grateful to CALS.

During the visit, I made a presentation on the topic for which I had been conducting academic research. The presentation was conducted on February 8, 2024, and the title of presentation was "Shedding the Non-Discrimination Principle in International Economic Governance?: Legal Implications of the Global Supply Chain Reformulation". Many colleagues and scholars attended the session. In the talk, I tried to touch upon the structural implications of the supply chain reformulation being under way for several years now amidst the U.S.-China confrontation and the fast advent of the digital economy in our daily lives.

I tried to underscore that the current discussion of global supply chain restructuring goes beyond the U.S.-China rivalry, or semiconductors or electric vehicles. It is about ushering in a new 'template' of global trade in which the non-discrimination principle, one of the cardinal principles of the existing international economic agreements, is being discarded finally. As such, the current global supply chain discussion is the first leg of a potentially lengthy negotiation for a new economic governance and trading regime for the global community. Those who attended the talk offered valuable insights and comments that helped me re-examine, fine-tune, and elaborate my arguments. I would like to thank all the participants in the talk on 8 February.

All in all, I would like to thank CALS for this great opportunity. In particular, I would like to thank Professor Jaclyn Neo, Director of CALS, for all the hospitality and arrangements. I also would like to thank other colleagues at CALS – Professor Christian Hofmann, Ms. Momoka Ang, Ms. Rowena Goh, Professor Lin Lin, and Professor Umakanth Varottil for their valuable time and efforts before and during my visit. Everything went smoothly because of their tireless efforts. I would like to convey my heartfelt appreciation to all the colleagues at CALS.

I am looking forward to future opportunities to collaborate and cooperate with CALS, especially since both institutions have many areas where we can collaborate and cooperate. I am also very much looking forward to finding chances to reciprocate the kindness and hospitality from CALS in the future.

NOTES FROM OUR VISITORS



Takaaki Murakami
Supreme Court of Japan

My visit to CALS was a great opportunity, and I am grateful to everyone who made it possible. Professor Neo and other professors and researchers kindly took the time to discuss my research topic and supported me throughout my stay.

CALS provided me with a highly privileged environment for my research on the digitalization of court proceedings and practices in Singapore. The Singapore Courts have been introducing emerging technologies over the last 25 years. During my visit, I researched how the Singapore Courts have managed to introduce these technologies, the ways that they have pursued better practices through such technologies and what new technologies (such as AI) they were planning to introduce in the Singapore Courts. As courts in Japan are turning towards digitalization, I plan to keep learning from CALS and Singapore.

I am currently a Lecturer in Law at the University of Dundee, Scotland where I teach English Property Law and Comparative Constitutional Law. I had the pleasure of been a Visiting Fellow at CALS in early August 2024 which was in fact my first trip back to Singapore in over five years. I am grateful to Professor Jaclyn Neo and Momoka Ang for organising my trip and stay in Singapore. As I had not been to Singapore for quite some time it was a great opportunity to catch up with old friends like Professor Kevin Tan, Assistant Professor Dian Shah and Professor Andrew Harding.

Many thanks to both Kevin and Momoka who organised a roundtable on a forthcoming edited collection - Sovereignty Contested: The Politics of Religion and State-Legal Forms in the Borderlands of the Indo-Pacific - which will be published by Sean Kingston Publishing in 2025. We were fortunate to be joined virtually for the roundtable (chaired by Kevin Tan) by Professor Lee Godden (University of Melbourne) and Dr James Taylor (Chiang Mai University) who both contributed chapters to the collection. Sovereignty Contested brings together scholars focused on exploring the limits of sovereign power in ethnically and religiously plural societies in South and Southeast Asia and the wider Indo-Pacific. In addition to the roundtable, my time at CALS enabled me to have many conversations with Kevin Tan about ghosts, Buddhist shamans and the management of temple succession - this provided much food for thought in terms of future research that I would like to develop on Buddhist legal forms. I am very grateful to Professor Jaclyn Neo, the Director of CALS, for providing a warm and intellectually stimulating environment during my stay in Singapore.



**Roshan de
Silva-Wijeyeratne**
University of Dundee

NOTES FROM OUR VISITORS



Akshaya Kamalnath
Australian National University

I have enjoyed my time at NUS as a visitor to CALS and as a visiting Associate Professor teaching a course of 'Corporations, Technology, and the Law' which included Asian perspectives. I was also working on a book manuscript of the same title during my visit. Prof. Jaclyn Neo was a fantastic host and I am grateful to her for the hospitality.

I was also able to present my work-in-progress on 'Influencers and other Tech Disruptions' and enjoyed having Prof. Lin Lin's comments on it. The seminar attracted audiences from the law school and the school of public policy and so I was able to have inter-disciplinary around this topic during the Q&A. Overall, it was great to be able to chat and interact with people in CALS who work on my area – Profs. Umakanth Varottil, and Lin Lin in corporate law; and Benjamin Low Chen Wah in social dynamics in digital spaces.

During my time as a CALS visitor, I also enjoyed talking to NUS colleagues in my area – Profs. Cheng Han, Ernest Lim, Simon Chesterman, Dora Neo and Kenneth Khoo on corporate law, AI, local food, etc. Even beyond my research areas, so many NUS colleagues made the effort to be welcoming, and it was great to be able to engage in fun legal discussions with them.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention all the lunch gatherings with live food stations which provided an informal setting to get to know many NUS colleagues. I will be taking many good memories of Singapore and NUS back with me to the ANU in Canberra. I hope that I will have the chance to welcome friends from CALS and NUS to Canberra soon.

CALS provided an inspiring space for my academic research and my work on the 'Judges and Social Cohesion' project (in partnership with Dian Shah).

As part of my engagement with CALS' scholarly activities, I authored a book chapter on 'The Law and Politics of Constitutional Amendment in Sri Lanka' which was published in *Asian Comparative Constitutional Law Volume II – Constitutional Amendment*, edited by Ngoc Son Bui and Mara Malagodi. Additionally, I authored a second book chapter, 'Women, Gender and the Constitution in Sri Lanka' which was published in *Gender, Sexuality and Constitutionalism in Asia*, edited by Wen-Chen Chang, Kelley Loper, Mara Malagodi and Ruth Rubio-Marin. I also began work on another book chapter, 'Striking a Constitutional Balance', which is scheduled for publication in 2025.

I presented a paper, 'Balancing Social Cohesion and Social Coercion: The Role of the Courts', at the workshop hosted by CALS on 'Advancing Social Cohesion and the Rule of Law in the Courts of Asia', held at the National University of Singapore (NUS) from 29 – 30 November 2024.

I also presented my papers at various overseas academic conferences. I had the opportunity to visit Chulalongkorn University from 29 – 30 May 2024 to deliver a paper presentation on 'Dealing with Sri Lanka's Dark Past' at the 21st Asian Law Institute Conference 2024. At the launch of *Gender, Sexuality and Constitutionalism in Asia* at the ICON-S Annual Conference held in Madrid from 8 – 10 July 2024, I presented my paper on 'Women, Gender and the Constitution in Sri Lanka'.

Beyond publications, I co-organised a workshop on 'Advancing Social Cohesion and the Rule of Law in the Courts of Asia', for CALS, held from 29 – 30 November 2024 at the Faculty of Law, NUS. I also contributed to the CALS podcast series 'CALS Chai-Chats', by recording three new podcasts which were uploaded on the podcast site.



Mario Gomez
International Centre
for Ethnic Studies,
Sri Lanka

NOTES FROM OUR VISITORS



Rekha Oleschak
University of Fribourg

As part of the Local Government and the Changing Urban-Rural Interplay (LOGOV) Project, I had the opportunity to carry out a research stay at CALS during June-July 2024, which was immensely fruitful. I worked on developing a research paper on Smart Cities in the Global South, with India as a case study. I hope to be able to further work on the paper in 2025 and develop it for publication. I also wrote a short blog piece for the NUS Law Blog, that was published in October.

After a very detailed introduction by the library staff, I was able to access the resources at the NUS Law Library, which were of outstanding quality, I especially appreciated the online resources, which made accessing materials relatively easy. I visited CALS during the summer break, so it was a rather quiet period. Yet, there were two interesting events that I was able to attend. First, the Research Conference on Advancing the Rule of Law in Asia Pacific and second, the Fireside Chat : Equitable Access to Justice-Challenges and Prospects with The Right Honorable Dame Helen Winkelmann, Chief Justice of New Zealand.

During my stay, I was able to interact with CALS Researchers and staff, who spent time for a quick chat or to discuss legal issues. The administrative staff were immensely helpful before my arrival and afterwards, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to them for their time. My stay at CALS was also my first stay in Singapore: walking through the botanic gardens in the morning and evening was a delightful experience, I found the multicultural society and the role of Singapore as a gateway to South-East Asia fascinating. I look forward to coming back to CALS for hopefully a longer research stay.

My academic visit to CALS was a fantastic opportunity to further my research on the essential constitutional characteristics of courts and, specifically, to take in the historical and contemporary experiences South East Asian judiciaries. Associate Professor Jaclyn Neo and Professor Kevin Tan were incredibly welcoming and have fostered a rich environment for comparative research and scholarship. The research I undertook at CALS valuably strengthened my presentations at Oxford University on parliamentary sovereignty over courts, and at the Australian National University on due process as a defining feature of courts. Most rewarding, however, was the degree to which my CALS research experience enriched and deepened my thinking on the relationship between courts and the wider constitutional setting in which these evolving bodies exist, including the values and history imbued in different nations. CALS was an ideal environment to explore comparative and theoretical aspects of public law and I am deeply grateful for my experience as a visitor there.



Rebecca Ananian-Welsh
University of Queensland

NOTES FROM OUR RESEARCHERS



Andrew Harding
Visiting Research Professor

I spent the first part of 2024 completing my MS on Territorial Governance in Southeast Asia, which is to be published in February 2025 with Hart Publishing in the series Constitutional Law in Asia, edited by Keven Tan and Thio Li-ann. I worked on successive edits, proofs, tables etc during August and September.

On 30 June 2024 I attended a conference at Oxford University Law Faculty on comparative law in Asia, which was organised by Professor Bui Ngoc Son and Dr Munin Pongsapan in recognition of my career contribution to Asian law and comparative law studies. At the same venue on 5 July I gave the first in a new series of public lectures under the Oxford Programme in Asian Law, entitled Innovation in Public Law: Southeast Asian Territorial Governance.

Returning to the region in August I also completed a chapter for Kevin Tan's forthcoming edited collection on the Basic Structure Doctrine in Malaysia. This chapter is now in press. I also researched and co-authored with Dr Rawin Leelapatana an article for a special issue of the Asian Journal of Law and Society, on monarchy-led urban development in Thailand and Malaysia. This article is under review.

In November I participated in the second CALS conference on the judiciary and social cohesion led by Dr Dian Shah and Dr Mario Gomez.

NOTES FROM OUR RESEARCHERS

Stanley Yeo

Adjunct Research Professor



As with previous years, I had several opportunities to use the comparative legal method in advancing criminal law scholarship. Commencing with April, I conducted a full day seminar at Thammasat University Law School (with Prof Ronnakorn Bunmee) on selected general principles of criminal responsibility drawing on Singapore and Thai law.

My book *Principles of Criminal Law: A Treatise on the Penal Code of Bhutan* (with Chan Wing Cheong, Michael Hor, Dema Lham, Neil and Irene Morgan) was published in November by JSW Law School, Bhutan. Much of the book critically compares the provisions of the Bhutan code with those of the US Model Penal Code on which it is based. The book is the culmination of four years' work, which included conducting workshops and field trips in Bhutan to obtain first hand knowledge of how the Penal Code was operating in practice. It is the first comprehensive and analytical legal text of its kind in Bhutan.

Most recently, I completed a manuscript entitled *The Lao Penal Code: A Comparative Discourse* (with Ronnakorn Bunmee, Chan Wing Cheong, Phanthasak Mingnakhone and Perrine Simon) which discusses the general principles of criminal responsibility under the Lao Penal Code with those of Thailand, France and Singapore. The book is scheduled to be published by LexisNexis, in both English and Lao languages, in April next year.

My other book project on the Criminal Law of India (with Mrinal Satish, Chan Wing Cheong, Michael Hor and Neil Morgan) is progressing well, and is expected to be completed in mid-2025.

NOTES FROM OUR RESEARCHERS



Teng Li
Post-Doctoral Fellow

2024 saw my completion of an article manuscript that explores the normative connection between two political ideals, Rule of Law and Legitimacy. The manuscript is currently under review by a peer-review journal. I also collaborated with Professor Weitseng Chen on a book chapter, which draws on a comparison of the legal thoughts in Weimar Germany and that of the Republic of China during 1930s to explain why the conservative intellectual circles of these two states managed to dominate their respective legal discourses on constitutional interpretation. This book chapter will appear in an edited volume on Legal Professionals and Conservatism in Asia.

Apart from research work, I assisted in organizing various events for CALS. I coordinated and hosted the monthly CALS's Work-in-Progress Lunch Discussion Series, and two sessions of CALS's Virtual Roundtable on Asian Law Series. I served as a moderator in the Edward Elgar Handbook on Legal Theory and Constitutionalism Workshop. In February, as part of CALS's delegation team, I presented a paper at the 3rd CALS-Seoul National University Asian Forum for Comparative Legal Studies held in Seoul, South Korea. In June, I assisted in compiling the event report and media write-up for the CALS-World Justice Project Research Conference "Advancing the Rule of Law in Asia Pacific".

Last but not least, I am given the opportunity to teach Introduction to Legal Theories for LLB students in the second semester of AY24/25. As the sole convenor of the course, I spent the last month of 2024 preparing the syllabus and course materials. This process offered me valuable insight into the world of teaching. I am grateful to CALS for giving me a diverse exposure to various aspects of academic life.

At CALS this year, I was fortunate to be involved in a number of academic events that took place at NUS and beyond. At the beginning of this year, my colleague Dr. Teng Li and I organised a series of virtual round tables, and it was my pleasure to help host a discussion to commemorate twenty years of the Indonesian Constitutional Court, as well as one on a recently released book on the history of Bangladesh's Constitution. In September and October, I assisted in organising two workshops: one at NUS, and the other, online, to discuss draft chapters for The Edward Elgar Handbook on Constitutionalism and Legal Theory, edited by Prof. Jaclyn Neo (NUS) and Prof. Yaniv Roznai (Reichman University). In October, as my colleague Ding Jun and I helped organise the inaugural ALSA Public Law Conference, and I was fortunate to have the opportunity to also present some of my research on federal dispute resolution at the same event.

During 2024, I have made progress on my own project concerning the procedural implications of public interest litigation in South Asia. I had the opportunity to present an early draft at the Comparative Constitutional Law Workshop at UNSW Sydney in December. I contributed a chapter on the Indian administrative state to the upcoming Cambridge Companion to the Indian Constitution, which will be published in 2025, and a chapter to an upcoming volume on statutory interpretation in the common law world, to be published by Cambridge University Press as well. I had the opportunity to present a draft of the latter at UNSW Sydney in December 2024. Finally, CALS, in collaboration with The World Justice Project organised a conference on advancing the rule of law in Asia in 2024, where I had the opportunity to present some of my research on judicial appointments in India. In 2025, I am looking forward to developing these draft papers and chapters for publication, as well as to teaching in the upcoming semester.



Raeesa Vakil
Post-Doctoral Fellow

NOTES FROM OUR RESEARCHERS



Ratu Durotun Nafisah
Research Associate

In 2024, I assisted in the production of three CALS-Chai Chats podcasts, exploring how judges navigate issues implicating social cohesion in their jurisdiction.

In July, I presented my paper on the social-democratic vision of Indonesia's constitutional democracy at the 4th Asian Legal History Conference in Hue, Vietnam. The conference was co-organized by the University of Oxford Programme in Asian Laws, CUHK LAW CCTL's Transnational Legal History Group, and Hue University of Law.

I also had the privilege of serving as a co-project advisor for the Peer Learning Initiative between the CALS and the Faculty of Law at Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Indonesia. The program concluded with a retrospective workshop conducted by eight NUS Law students at UGM Law School in Yogyakarta from 26 to 29 September. I supported collaboration and workshop preparations and facilitated a visit to a local district court to help students gain insights into the Indonesian legal system.

In November, I assisted in organizing a workshop on 'Advancing Social Cohesion and the Rule of Law in the Courts of Asia,' which invited sitting and retiring judges from various Asian jurisdictions. During the workshop, I had the opportunity to present my draft article on the case of interfaith marriage in Indonesia and receive feedback. My co-authored article has been conditionally accepted for publication by the Australian Journal of Asian Law, where it discusses abusive judicial review in the Indonesian presidential age limit case.

This year has been a productive year for me. I spent the first half of the year designing a survey questionnaire, road-testing it, and then collecting survey data with it. In August, Prof Jaclyn, Dr Erica Larson from ARI, and I presented and discussed preliminary findings from this dataset at Digital Religion: Social, Political, and Legal Futures – a groundbreaking international workshop on digital religion held at NUS in which we invited both prominent local and overseas digital religion scholars to present and discuss their work. The workshop was a meaningful session in which we received great feedback and where new connections were formed among attendees. All in all, what we have achieved this year puts our digital religion project in good stead for the coming year. As 2024 comes to a close, I look forward to an exciting year with CALS ahead.



Benjamin Low
Research Associate

NOTES FROM OUR RESEARCHERS



Toh Ding Jun
Research Assistant

It has been a hectic but fun 2024. I was given the opportunity to travel to six countries - United States, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Japan, and Australia - as part of my research and academic pursuits. I spent a month (April) visiting the Australian National University's College of Law, where I was given the opportunity to present my working paper titled 'The Logics and Limits of (Chinese) Bankruptcy Law'. The feedback that I got from that presentation enabled me to refine my paper, for which I was subsequently awarded the INSOL ERA Outstanding Presentation Award at the INSOL Early Researcher Academics Workshop held in San Diego.

In November, I was invited to visit the Southwest University of Political Science & Law's China-ASEAN Legal Research Center, where I attended the 6th China-ASEAN Legal Cooperation Forum and shared how the Centre for Asian Legal Studies (CALS) is promoting civil law education in Singapore through the Centre for Asian Legal Studies Peer Learning Initiative (CAPLI). In between these exciting opportunities, I was also able to visit Thammasat University's Faculty of Law as a Visiting Lecturer in June, where I convened the course titled 'An Introduction to Singapore Law'. This was my first time formally teaching (and convening) a course, and I learnt a lot from the steep learning curve that I was exposed to.

On CAPLI, 2024 was a year where the project launched two new sub-initiatives: (1) the inaugural reciprocal workshop organised by law student from Thammasat University, introducing Singaporean law students to the basic concepts of Thai contract law and Thailand's legal system; and (2) the launch of the Centre for Asian Legal Studies - Universitas Gadjah Mada Fakultas Hukum Peer Learning Initiative (CAUPLI). These sub-initiatives were in addition to further refinements made to the Centre for Asian Legal Studies - Thammasat University Faculty of Law Peer Learning Initiative (CATPLI), which saw NUS Law students being able to visit Thailand to conduct the first two sessions of our workshop titled 'An Introduction to the Basics of Singapore Contract Law' in-person, a first since the project was launched during the pandemic. CATPLI also formally launched its writing project, affectionally known as CATPLI Writes. CATPLI Writes has since published, in collaboration with the Singapore Law Review, a total of nine articles, written by faculty members and students from its constituent institutions. As CAPLI's Project Advisor, I am proud of how far the project has come, and excited about where this project is headed to.

I am thankful for the guidance and opportunities that CALS' Director, A/P Jaclyn Neo, has given me throughout my time in CALS. Looking ahead, I am excited as to what my 2025 calendar holds - two reciprocal workshops and two outgoing workshops under CAPLI, and the launch of a new corporate insolvency law forum later in the year. I will also be starting my LLM (Research) in Australia, where I am expected to write my thesis on Chinese bankruptcy law. All in all, I do hope that my 2025 will be much less hectic than 2024, while being no less intellectually stimulating!

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