

INTERNATIONAL LAW IN ASIA SPEAKER SERIES

INTERNATIONAL LAW AND IP PRACTICES IN SOUTH ASIA

Based on the book "Intellectual Property Debates in South Asia: Law, Development and Practice" (Hart Publishing, 2025)

SPEAKERS:



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MODERATORS:



**LECTURER
BENJAMIN
WONG**
NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY OF
SINGAPORE

MONDAY
17 November 2025
4.00 PM to 5.30 PM (SGT)
(Zoom Webinar)



Register:

https://nus-sg.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aO42MVdcQH-F0laDPFDIk9

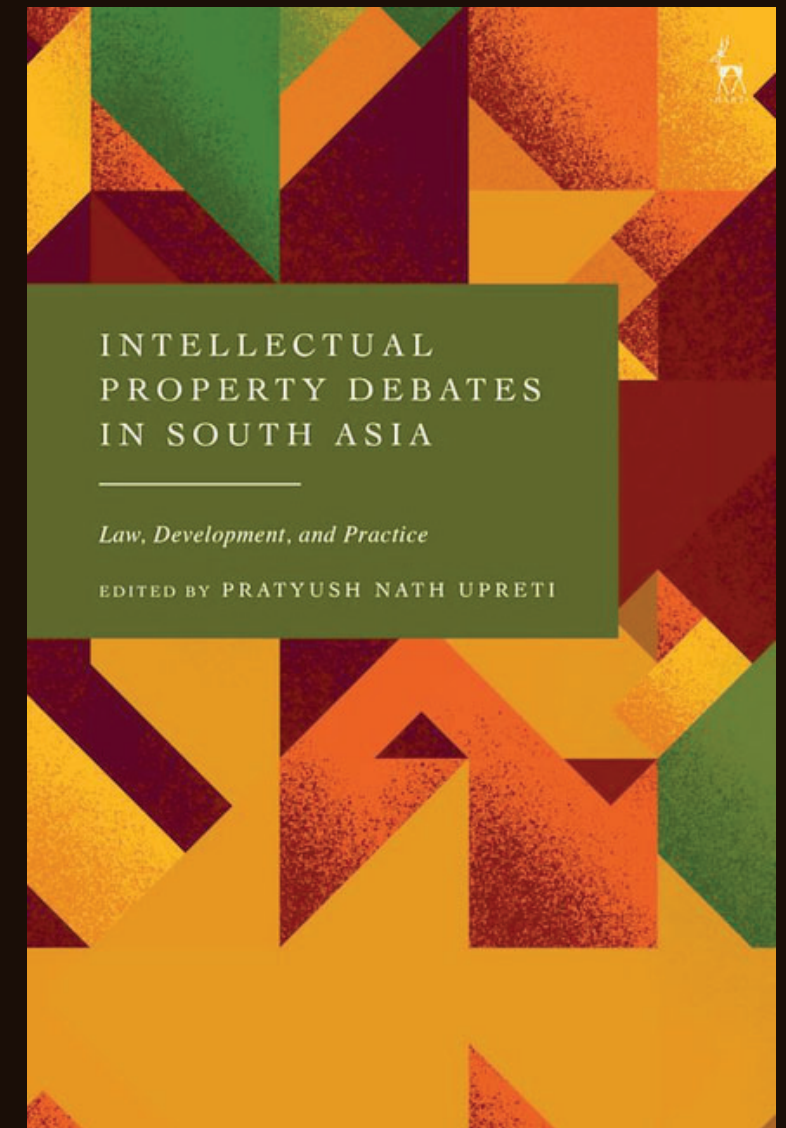


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ABSTRACT:

Asia's growing influence in international law is increasingly evident in the field of intellectual property (IP), where the region, particularly East Asia and the Asia-Pacific, has emerged as a prominent actor in global IP governance. Asian engagement with the international IP regime has evolved through three key phases: the initial transplantation of legal norms in response to obligations under the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS); subsequent processes of adaptation and localisation within domestic legal systems; and, more recently, active participation in shaping international legal norms through bilateral and regional trade agreements. This trajectory highlights the region's shift from passive recipient to active norm-shaper in the global IP landscape.

Yet, while scholarly focus has largely centered on Southeast Asia, South and Central Asia have been underexplored. Central Asia is only beginning to align its IP laws with international standards, while South Asia—despite India's relatively well-known IP regime—reflects a deeper and more complex engagement with IP across the region that remains overlooked. Therefore, the book *Intellectual Property Debates in South Asia: Law, Development and Practice* (Hart Publishing, 2025) addresses that gap by examining developments in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan. It explores how historical legacies, socio-economic contexts, and legal traditions shape national IP systems and how these countries navigate the tension between international obligations and domestic priorities. In doing so, the volume offers a more inclusive, comparative, and regionally grounded perspective on international IP law.



SPEAKERS' BIOS:



ARUL GEORGE SCARIA (NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY, BENGALURU)

Dr. Arul George Scaria is a Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Centre for Intellectual Property Research and Advocacy at the National Law School of India University, Bengaluru. He is also an affiliate faculty member of the CopyrightX and PatentX courses offered under the auspices of Harvard Law School. With a career spanning academia, research, and legal practice, he brings unique interdisciplinary perspectives to his teaching and scholarship, and bridges global and Indian perspectives in IP law.



NAAZIMA KAMARDEEN (UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO)

Dr. Naazima Kamardeen is Senior Professor and Chair of Commercial Law at the University of Colombo with a special interest in Intellectual Property. Her work in this area explores the relationship between trade, intellectual property, community rights and traditional knowledge. As a member of the Law Commission of Sri Lanka (2019-2025) she worked on reforms relating to intellectual property rights. She holds a PhD from the University of Colombo, an LLM from Georgetown University and is an attorney of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka.



PRATYUSH NATH UPRETI (SCHOOL OF LAW, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, BELFAST)

Dr. Pratyush Nath Upreti is a Reader in Intellectual Property Law in the School of Law, Queen's University Belfast. His research explores the intersection of international intellectual property and other branches of international law. He has previously practiced law in Nepal and has served as an expert for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Health Organization (WHO). He is the author of *Intellectual Property Objectives in International Investment Agreements* (Edward Elgar, 2022) and co-editor of *Intellectual Property Rights in the Post Pandemic World: An Integrated Framework of Innovation, Sustainability and Global Justice* (Edward Elgar, 2023).

MODERATOR'S BIO:



BENJAMIN WONG (NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE)

Benjamin Wong is a Lecturer at NUS Law, and an Advocate & Solicitor in Singapore. He graduated with an LL.M. (Distinction) from LSE and LL.B. (Hons) from NUS. Benjamin's primary research interests are in data protection law and the law of confidential information. In 2018, he pioneered the Privacy & Data Protection Law course at NUS Law. Since 2019, he has delivered lectures on breach of confidence and data protection at the annual Developments in IP Law Seminar Series organised by IPOS International. He authors the chapter on confidential information and data protection in the SAL Annual Review of Singapore Cases.