

SINGAPORE SYMPOSIUM IN LEGAL THEORY

CLT Roundtable: “He Is Still Your Father”: Tetherings and Troubled Parental Maintenance Litigation in Taiwan

BY Associate Professor Lynette J. Chua

National University of Singapore

15 FEBRUARY 2023, WEDNESDAY

5.00PM – 7.00PM (SGT)

FEDERAL CONFERENCE ROOM, LEVEL 1, FEDERAL BUILDING
FACULTY OF LAW, NUS (BUKIT TIMAH CAMPUS)

ABSTRACT

This article is a story of tetherings, a concept that helps us understand the power of law in the constantly evolving three-way relationship among individuals, their families, and the state, and has theoretical significance for law and society research on legal mobilization and legal consciousness. Comprising relationships between and among humans and institutions, tetherings embody relational power; tetherings are ongoing across time and space; and they are open, possessing the propensity for interconnected humans and institutions to change or be changed. I constructed the concept from my study of Taiwanese parental maintenance, particularly litigation over financial support for troubled parents, who are estranged from their children and who abused or neglected them when young. To tell the story of tetherings, I thus elaborate on its features through the Taiwanese study. With this concept, I not only examine how legal power interacts with other institutions to shape individual decisions, but I also capture a more comprehensive range of experiences that influence social change, showing how — beyond large-scale confrontations and acts of resistance — encounters with setbacks and marginalization, whether or not they originated from actions that challenge power, too, can incrementally contribute to legal change.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Lynette J. Chua is a law and society scholar and Associate Professor of Law at National University of Singapore. She is the author of *The Politics of Rights and Southeast Asia* (2022), *The Politics of Love in Myanmar: LGBT Mobilization and Human Rights as A Way of Life* (2019) and *Mobilizing Gay Singapore: Rights and Resistance in an Authoritarian State* (2014), and co-editor of *The Asian Law and Society Reader* (2023). She is also President of the Asian Law & Society Association, 2022-23.

Participation is By Invitation Only.

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Registration is required in order to be admitted to the roundtable.

For more information, please write to clt@nus.edu.sg.

