

REIMAGINING PROSPERITY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

MONDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2026 || 5PM TO 6.15PM || SHAW FOUNDATION ALUMNI HOUSE



Professor Marija Bartl
University of Amsterdam

In my recent book *Reimagining Prosperity: Toward a New Imaginary of Law and Political Economy in the EU* (CUP 2024, open access), I argue that the EU's central task today is to articulate and institute a new imaginary of prosperity. Imaginaries of prosperity integrate societies around an attractive vision, and a credible path, toward future prosperity, making 'political-economic' questions the heart of democratic politics. Without a broadly shared (thin) consensus about a viable path to a prosperous future, democratic pluralist societies will face pressures toward disintegration – as we are witnessing today. These disintegration pressures pose a particularly acute challenge for the EU, which is a direct offspring of imaginaries of prosperity that were prevailing after the WW2. In this talk, I will explore an additional crucial question: to what extent must such an imaginary be deliberately global, or at least transnational, given the transnational and planetary scale of the challenges we confront? And what role Asian countries can and should play in reimagining prosperity for the 21st century?

PROGRAMME

4.30PM Registration

5.00PM Presentation by Prof Marija Bartl

6.00PM Q&A moderated by Prof Ernest Lim

6.15PM End of event

REGISTER

Visit bit.ly/marijabartl to
register or scan the QR code

Closing Date: 2 February 2026
Contact: ewbclb@nus.edu.sg



SPEAKER



Professor Marija Bartl
University of Amsterdam

Marija is Professor of Transnational Private Law at the Amsterdam Law School. She is also a Director of the Amsterdam Centre for Transformative Private Law, the editor of European Law Open and a founding Co-president of European Law Unbound - Society. Marija has just published an open access monograph Reimagining Prosperity: Towards a New Imaginary of Law and Political Economy in the EU (CUP 2024). This book is one of the outcomes of Marija's ERC funded project 'Law as a vehicle for social change: Mainstreaming Non-Extractive Economic Practices (N-EXTLAW)'.

MODERATOR



Professor Ernest Lim
NUS Law

Ernest Lim is the Chan Sek Keong Professor of Private Law at NUS Faculty of Law. He also serves as Vice Dean (Faculty Development) and Co-Director of the Centre for Technology, Robotics, AI & the Law. His publications include A Case for Shareholders' Fiduciary Duties in Common Law Asia (CUP 2019), awarded the Society of Legal Scholars Peter Birks Book Prize for Outstanding Legal Scholarship 2020 (joint second prize), Sustainability and Corporate Mechanisms in Asia (CUP 2020), Social Enterprises in Asia: A New Legal Form (CUP 2023), longlisted for the Inner Temple Book Prize 2025, The Cambridge Handbook of Private Law and Artificial Intelligence (CUP 2024) (co-edited with Phillip Morgan), and The Oxford Handbook of Climate Change and Private Law (OUP 2026, forthcoming) (co-edited with Douglas Kysar).