

CAN THE PUBLIC BE TRUSTED? THE PROMISE AND PERILS OF VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE

TUESDAY, 14 APRIL 2026 || 5:00PM TO 6:15PM || EWBCLB MEETING ROOM, NUS UTOWN



PROF YUVAL FELDMAN
MORI LAZAROF PROFESSOR OF LAW &
PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY (BY COURTESY)
BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY

ABOUT

Can the Public be Trusted? The Promise and Perils of Voluntary Compliance explores a central puzzle in regulatory governance: if voluntary compliance can reduce enforcement costs, improve regulatory outcomes, and foster more cooperative relationships between regulators and the public, why do authorities around the world continue to rely so heavily on deterrence-based approaches? Moving from conceptual foundations to real-world application, the book examines what voluntary compliance means in practice and the theoretical case for trust-based regulation. Drawing on empirical case studies in areas such as taxation, environmental behavior, and public health, it shows how strategies that appeal to intrinsic motivation can, in some contexts, outperform sanction-based enforcement. At the same time, the book offers a critical assessment of the limits and risks of voluntary compliance, including institutional inertia, conceptual ambiguity, democratic and ethical concerns, uneven effects, and cross-cultural variation. Rather than presenting trust-based regulation as a universal solution, the book's central contribution is a nuanced framework for combining voluntarist and coercive tools into effective hybrid regulatory strategies, particularly in an era of increasing polarization and digital governance.

PROGRAMME

- 4:30PM Registration
- 5:00PM Presentation by Prof Yuval Feldman
- 6:00PM Q&A session moderated by Prof Ernest Lim
- 6:15PM End of Event

REGISTRATION

Register at nus.edu/4sMqFC9
or scan the QR code

Closing Date: 13 April 2026
Contact: ewbclb@nus.edu.sg



SPEAKER



PROFESSOR YUVAL FELDMAN

MORI LAZAROF PROFESSOR OF LAW & PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY (BY COURTESY)
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Yuval Feldman is the Mori Lazarof Professor of Legal Research at Bar-Ilan University Faculty of Law, where he is the head of the ERC-funded Voluntary Compliance Lab. He is also a professor (by courtesy) in the Psychology Department of Bar-Ilan. Between 2021-2025 He has been the Associate Dean for Research.

His areas of research include Behavioral Analysis of Law, Experimental Law and Economics, Behavioral Ethics, Computational Law, Regulation, Enforcement, and Compliance. From 2011 to 2013, he was a fellow in the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics - Institutional Corruption Lab at Harvard Law School and the Implicit Social Cognition Lab in Harvard Psychology. He has advised various governmental bodies on behavioral and experimental informed policies in areas related to ethical decision making, trust-enhancing regulatory design, public cooperation, and enforcement in areas related to public health (COVID), environment, and tax. Between 2016-2020, he served as a member of Israel's Young Academy of Sciences.

Feldman has received numerous national fellowships, including Rothschild, Fulbright, Alon, and awards such as Zeltner (2008, Young), Chesin (2019, Senior Researcher), Bruno Award (2020), Fatal Award (2021), and Provost's Innovative Researcher (2023), as well as more than 30 competitive research grants from foundations such as Olin, GIF, Marie Curie, ISF (4 times), and IIAS. During the years 2022-2027, he hold the ERC Advanced Grant for his research on: Generating Voluntary Compliance Across Doctrines and Nations: Integrating Behavioural & Regulatory Aspects of Governments' Ability to Trust the Public's Cooperation, Ethicality & Compliance.

He has co-authored more than 80 papers, many of them published in leading journals in law, public policy, management, and psychology, among them NYU, Texas, Georgetown, and Northwestern Law Reviews, Journal of Legal Studies, Journal of Empirical Legal Studies, Regulation & Governance, Journal of European Public Policy, Journal of Business Ethics, Psychological Science, Nature Human Behavior, Journal of Applied Psychology, Behavioral Public Policy, Advances in Experimental Social Psychology and the Journal of Experimental Social Psychology. He is on the editorial board of Regulation and Governance, Law & Policy, and European Journal of Law & Economics and among the founders of ComplianceNet, an interdisciplinary and global network of compliance researchers. His first book, "The Law of Good People," was published by Cambridge University Press in June 2018. His second book, "Can the Public be Trusted," was published in Nov 2025, also from Cambridge University Press.

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).