Public Reason Confucianism
Democratic Perfectionism and Constitutionalism in East Asia

a book by Professor Sungmoon Kim

3 May 2018, Thursday, 3.30pm – 6.30pm
Lee Sheridan Conference Room, Eu Tong Seng Building
Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore
(Bukit Timah Campus)

Chairperson: Professor Bryan William Van Norden, Yale-NUS College

SYNOPSIS
This roundtable brings together scholars in two fields, namely comparative philosophy and comparative constitutionalism, to discuss the book by Professor Sungmoon Kim titled Public Reason Confucianism: Democratic Perfectionism and Constitutionalism in East Asia (Cambridge UP, 2016). Public Reason Confucianism advances a Confucian, political constitutional theory called Public Reason Confucianism, which calls for the active role of a democratic-constitutional state in promoting Confucian values (especially, filial piety and ritual propriety), which according to the author has still remained in contemporary East Asia. The book engages with a variety of Confucian and Western political theories, and discusses the Confucian-constitutional implications of several recent legal cases decided by Korean Constitutional and Supreme Courts. The speakers will discuss, followed by the author’s responses, two major themes in the book: (1) the relation of Confucianism to democracy and civic virtues; and (2) Confucian constitutionalism as a normative model committed to values of both western liberal constitutionalism and Confucianism.

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

3.00pm    Registration

3.30pm    Welcome Address & Introduction
Dan W. Puchniak, Director, Centre for Asian Legal Studies, NUS
Bui Ngoc Son, Senior Research Fellow & Convener, Centre for Asian Legal Studies, NUS

3.35pm    Session One: Confucianism, Democratic Perfectionism, and Civil Virtue
Bryan William Van Norden, Yale-NUS College, NUS
Loy Hui Chieh, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, NUS

Author’s Response: Sungmoon Kim, College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences, CityU
Open Discussion

4.45pm    Coffee Break

5.00pm    Session Two: Confucian Constitutionalism
Andrew Harding, Faculty of Law, NUS
Thio Li-ann, Faculty of Law, NUS
Kevin Tan, Faculty of Law, NUS

Author’s Response: Sungmoon Kim, College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences, CityU
Open Discussion

6.30pm    End of Roundtable

REGISTRATION
There is no fee for this Roundtable, but seats are limited.
Register HERE or scan the QR code

Closing Date: 30 April 2018, Monday
For enquiries, contact Ms Alexandria Chan at cals@nus.edu.sg or 65167499.