

ASIAN LEGAL STUDIES



NUS
National University
of Singapore

Centre for Asian Legal Studies
Faculty of Law



The Centre for Asian Legal Studies (CALs)

The Centre for Asian Legal Studies (CALs) was established in February 2012 to create a significant forum in Asia for the research and discussion of legal issues in Asia from Asian perspectives and with Asian priorities. The Centre aims to move the centre of gravity in Asian legal studies to Singapore.

NUS Law is known as Asia's Global Law School. The scholarly pursuit of the issues that encompass Asian legal studies is one of the core missions of our world-renowned law school. CALs plays an important role in realising that strategic vision.

At NUS Law, Legal Systems of Asia is a compulsory core module for all of our undergraduate students. Every member of our faculty has experience with an Asian legal system and a significant portion of our faculty regularly research and teach at the highest level on multiple Asian legal systems. NUS Law has played a seminal role in developing Asian legal scholarship from within Asia, through its leadership roles in the Asian Law Institute (ALI), the Asian Journal of Comparative Law (AJCL) and cutting edge research projects and visitors programs that have brought together the very best of what Asian legal studies has to offer. We do this all from the heart of Asia, in Singapore – a vibrant, diverse and fascinating success story that has been at the crossroads of Asian commerce for more than a century.

The vision of CALs is to utilise the strengths of NUS Law to become the world's leading centre for Asian legal studies. Our mission is to transform the way that people think about law in Asia and to positively influence the development of Asian legal systems in the process.

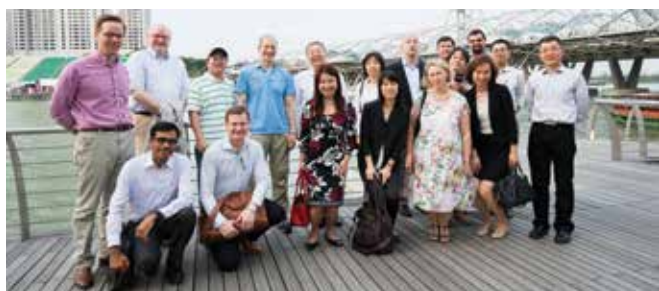


Associate Professor Dan W. Puchniak, Director of CALs



Assistant Professor Chen Weitseng, Deputy Director of CALs

Selected Research Projects



Participants of the Independent Directors in Asia Symposium

Independent Directors in Asia

Although there is a significant literature on independent directors generally, the vast majority of it views this ubiquitous corporate governance mechanism through an Anglo-American (Western) lens. While independent directors have been transplanted into all of Asia's leading economies, there has been no detailed comparison of the role that independent directors play (or should play) in Asia's leading economies. This project seeks to fill this gap in the literature by bringing together leading comparative and Asian corporate law scholars to undertake a comparative analysis of the meteoric rise of independent directors in Asia. In the process, it aims to re-evaluate several foundational theories in comparative corporate law.

Researcher: Associate Professor Dan W. Puchniak, Director of CALS



Researchers from NUS Law, and Myanmar at the University of Mandalay

Criminal Law in Myanmar

This project brought together a team of leading criminal law scholars to study the current state of the criminal law of Myanmar and, where needed, to recommend reform of the law. The team conducted three field trips to Myanmar, meeting the Attorney-General, judges of the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Court, law professors at the University of Yangon and University of Mandalay, and senior legal practitioners working in the area of criminal law and criminal justice. The result of the team's work was a seminal book on *Criminal Law in Myanmar*. This book is the first of its kind in Myanmar and promises to be a leading reference text on criminal law for government officials, judges, legal practitioners and students for years to come.

Researchers: Associate Professor Chan Wing Cheong (NUS Law), Professor Michael Hor (University of Hong Kong), Assistant Professor Mark McBride (NUS Law), Adjunct Professor Neil Morgan (University of Western Australia) and Professorial Fellow Stanley Yeo (NUS Law)



The 6th Asian Constitutional Law Forum

Constitutional Pluralism in Southeast Asia

Southeast Asia is a region of great demographic, ethnic, linguistic, religious and cultural diversity. The legal systems in the region are considerably diversified and offer empirical intra- and inter-state case studies for "legal pluralism". This plurality also manifests itself in the constitutional arrangements of the various Southeast Asian states. The research hypothesis is that the constitutional design and practices of Southeast Asian states is best understood as conforming to "constitutional pluralism". This research project employs the theory of constitutional pluralism to develop an analytical framework through which to examine the range of plurality and their influence on constitutional design and practice in the region.

Researchers: Assistant Professor Jaclyn Neo, CALS Exco Member and Bui Ngoc Son, Senior Research Fellow at CALS



Participants at The Beijing Consensus Workshop

Law, Authoritarianism, and Democracy in Asia

In the past 150 years, Asia has seen the rise and fall of many authoritarian regimes within its region. Some have transitioned to fully democratic states while others remain as semi or fully authoritarian states with varying levels of commitment to the rule of law. Yet, both types of regimes have legal systems that are considered to be legitimate. This project aims to further the research and the literature surrounding the concept of authoritarian legality. As a means of conceptualising a regime's legal legitimacy, "authoritarian legality" denotes the political and legal order that exists within an authoritarian state. In other words, the concept of authoritarian legality postulates that authoritarian regimes can have legal systems that commit to normative constitutionalism. This lies in sharp contrast to the neoliberal ideals of political liberalisation and the separation of powers.

Researcher: Assistant Professor Chen Weitseng, Deputy Director of CALS

Selected Publications



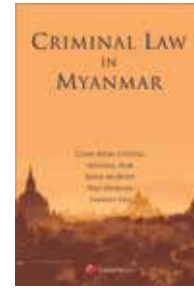
Constitutional Interpretation in Singapore: Theory and Practice (Routledge, 2016)

Jaclyn NEO



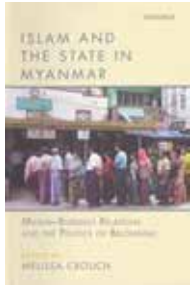
Confucian Constitutionalism in East Asia (Routledge, 2016)

BUI Ngoc Son



Criminal Law in Myanmar (Lexis Nexis, 2016)

CHAN Wing Cheong, Michael HOR, Mark MCBRIDE, Neil MORGAN, Stanley YEO



Islam and The State in Myanmar: Muslim-Buddhist Relations and the Politics of Belonging (Oxford University Press, 2016)

Melissa CROUCH (ed)



Central-Local Relations in Asia Constitutional Systems (Hart Publishing, 2015)

Andrew HARDING and Mark SIDEL (eds)



A Financial Centre for Two Empires: Hong Kong's Corporate, Securities and Tax Laws in its Transition from Britain to China (Cambridge University Press, 2013)

WANG Jianguo, David C. DONALD and Jefferson VANDERWOLK

The Centre for Asian Legal Studies (CALs) welcomes queries and opportunities for research project collaboration in the field of Asian legal studies.

Visiting Researchers & Scholars Programme

Academics and PhD Scholars interested in visiting to conduct research are welcomed to contact the Centre or any member of the CALS Executive Committee. Applications for the Visiting Scholar and Visiting Researcher Programme will generally be for periods of no more than two months.

Post-doctoral Fellowship

The Faculty offers annual Post-doctoral Fellowships administered by the Office of Vice Dean (Research). Successful applicants will commence their Fellowships at the start of the following Academic Year (ie. August) and conclude them at the end of the following July.

Doctoral Research Scholarships

As Asia's Global Law School, the Faculty is committed to fostering excellence in research by building a strong core of doctoral research students.

Details on opportunities to come to NUS Law on the various schemes are available at law.nus.edu.sg/cals/coming_to_nus.html

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