

CHAN SEK KEONG PROFESSORIAL LECTURE IN PUBLIC LAW

THE CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES

Professor Adrienne Stone
Melbourne Law School

Chairperson: Associate Professor Jaclyn Neo
Director, Centre for Asian Legal Studies, NUS Law

6 FEBRUARY 2025, THURSDAY
5.30 PM to 7.00 PM

NUS LAW (BUKIT TIMAH CAMPUS), WEE CHONG JIN MOOT COURT

SYNOPSIS

Universities have recently been at the centre of heated controversy and debate that raises fundamental questions about the nature of universities and of their place within a democracy. This lecture brings the insights of constitutional law— a discipline squarely focussed on the nature and distribution of power and on the place of institutions within democracies – to the fore. It advances an understanding of universities as institutions of democratic government by virtue of the role they play in supporting civil society and enabling democratic government through teachings and research.

This perspective raises questions as to the purpose, nature and extent of the university's core commitments to academic freedom and open inquiry and the role of academics in protecting those norms. This lecture will advance a conception of a university as a central institution in democratic government and explore the rights and responsibilities that attend that role.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Adrienne Stone is a Melbourne Laureate Professor and Director of the Centre for Comparative Constitutional Studies at Melbourne Law School. She researches in the areas of constitutional law and constitutional theory, freedom of expression and academic freedom.

As an Australian Laureate Fellow, she established and directed the Laureate Program in Comparative Constitutional Law which developed a significant research capacity in comparative constitutional law at Melbourne Law School. Among her major works are the *Oxford Handbook on the Australian Constitution* (co-edited with Cheryl Saunders) the *Oxford Handbook on Freedom of Speech* (2021)(co-edited with Frederick Schauer) and *Open Minds: Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech* (2021)(co-authored with Carolyn Evans).

She is a foundation editor of *Comparative Constitutional Studies*, the immediate past President of the International Association of Constitutional Law, a former Vice President of the Australian Association of Constitutional law, an elected Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, and the Australian Academy of Law.

PROGRAMME

5.00PM: Registration
5.30PM: Lecture by Professor Adrienne Stone
6.30PM: Q&A Session
7.00PM: Dinner Reception

REGISTRATION

There is no registration fee for this lecture but seats are limited. Visit <https://bit.ly/3YxpacF> or scan the QR Code to register by 31 January 2025, 5.00 PM.



CONTACT PERSON

Ms Khairunnisa Khan
law.events@nus.edu.sg

CPD POINTS



Public CPD Point: 1
Practice Area: Government
Training Level: Foundation

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