

MICHAEL AND LAURA HWANG (INAUGURAL) PROFESSORIAL LECTURE

# LAW AND THE EXPANSION OF POLITICS

## *The Case of International Arbitration*

**Professor Stavros Brekoulakis**

Michael and Laura Hwang Chair in International Arbitration, NUS Law

**Chairperson:** Associate Professor Gary F. Bell, NUS Law  
Secretary General of the International Academy of Comparative Law (IACL)THURSDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2025  
5.30 PM – 7.00 PM

NUS LAW (BUKIT TIMAH CAMPUS), BLOCK B, LEVEL 3 AUDITORIUM

### SYNOPSIS

Should a private tribunal of three individuals decide whether the decisions of a foreign government on matters concerning its economy, public health and environment are lawful or unlawful under international law? Should important decisions of public policy and governance be subject to a rules-based system of independent justice?

The answer that most of us would have given to these questions forty years ago might be different from the answers that most of us might give today. For several decades, public policy decisions taken by national and regional governments have been routinely reviewed by an independent system of justice in the form of international tribunals. Currently, this system of justice is under contestation on several grounds. The broader, and possibly more potent, ground of contestation is the claim that decisions of public policy is a matter of politics; not law. Once shrinking, the empire of politics is currently expanding.

The subject of this inaugural lecture is the place of international law and justice in policy making. The lecture will raise, and aim to answer, the following questions: do we need more international law or more politics to assess decisions involving public policy matters? Do international tribunals have too much power? What is the role of the rule of law in today's expanding empire of politics?

### ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Stavros Brekoulakis is the Michael and Laura Hwang Professor in International Arbitration at the National University of Singapore.

Stavros is widely recognised as a leading authority in the field of international arbitration; he has led major research projects and advised governmental, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organisations on policy and legislative matters.

Stavros is the author of several monographs, books, edited volumes, and articles in international law journals; he has been invited to deliver the Summer Course on Private International Law at the Hague Academy of International Law in 2026.

Stavros serves in senior editorial positions in leading international law journals and is the Vice President of the International Court of Arbitration of the International Chambers of Commerce, and a member of the Governing Board of the International Council of Commercial Arbitration.

### PROGRAMME

5.00pm: Registration  
5.30pm: Lecture by Prof. Stavros Brekoulakis  
6.30pm: Q&A Session  
7.00pm: Dinner Reception

### REGISTRATION

There is no registration fee for this lecture.  
Visit [HERE](#) or scan the QR Code to register

**Closing Date:** 13 February 2025, 5.00 PM  
**Contact:** [law.events@nus.edu.sg](mailto:law.events@nus.edu.sg)



### CPD POINTS



Public CPD Point: 1  
Practice Area: International Law  
Training Level: Foundation

Participants who wish to obtain CPD Points are reminded that they must comply strictly with the Attendance Policy set out in the CPD Guidelines. For this activity, this includes signing in on arrival and signing out at the conclusion of the activity in the manner required by the organiser, and not being absent from the entire activity for more than 15 minutes. Participants who do not comply with the Attendance Policy will not be able to obtain CPD Points for attending the activity. Please refer to <http://www.sileCPDcentre.sg> for more information.