

Curriculum Vitae

WEITSENG CHEN

National University of Singapore Faculty of Law, 469G Bukit Timah Rd, Singapore 259776 +65 98625416 weitseng.chen@nus.edu.sg

Major Areas of Research: Law, Politics, and Economic Development in East Asia: Focus on Taiwan, China, and South Korea

EDUCATION

Yale Law School, JSD; LLM

Stanford University, Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law, Hewlett Post-doctoral Fellow

National Taiwan University College of Law, LLM; LLB

Fulbright Scholar

QUALIFICATIONS

Bar admission, New York State, U.S.A. (2009)

Bar admission, Taiwan (2000)

Judgeship examination (passed), Taiwan (2000)

SELECT WORK EXPERIENCE

National University of Singapore, Faculty of Law, Associate Professor (tenured since 2019) (2012-present)

Research Interests: Law, Politics and Economic Development in Taiwan, China and S. Korea; Law and Democracy, Taiwan-China Comparison, Financial Institutions, Colonial Legal History

Teaching: Law and Democracy in Taiwan and South Korea; Legal Systems of Asia; Law and Business in Greater China; Property Law

University of Tokyo, Visiting Adjunct Associate Professor (2018-present)

Lecture for the course “Commercial Law in Asia: A Common Law Perspective” every spring semester on property law

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, Attorney, 2008-2011

Specialized in cross-broader transactions in Taiwan, Hong Kong and China, including IPO, tender offers, and various offerings of convertible bonds, high-yield bonds, exchangeable bonds, and global depositary receipts

Advised Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, Citi, Merrill Lynch, Bank of America, Standard Chartered, Deutsche Bank, Barclays, HSBC, UBS, Nomura and numerous international companies on capital market transactions in Asia

Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law (CDDRL), Stanford University, Hewlett Fellow, 2007-2008

Participated in research on the rule of law projects, addressing governance issues in countries in transition

Researched issues of economic development and regulatory regimes in emerging markets and transitional economy in Asia

International Cooperation and Development Fund (Taiwan), Senior Consultant, Feb. 2003-July 2003

Acted as senior consultant for investment and lending activities in Latin America and Africa

Governmental Reform Committee of Presidential Office (Taiwan), Councilor, 2002-2003

Managed the Government Reform Project aiming to reorganize governmental organizations

Participated in free trade agreement research between Taiwan and Japan

Yam Digital Co., Ltd., General Counsel, 2000-2002

Advised the first and leading Internet portal company in Taiwan

Led intellectual property lawsuits including one against Yahoo which set legal precedent on Internet database piracy

Negotiated with global companies including eBay, Microsoft, Google and Acer for various investment projects

VISITING POSITIONS

Seoul National University Graduate School of International Studies (April 2025)

Stanford University Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law (Jan to March, 2025)

Stanford University Hoover Institution (August 2024)

Institute for Advanced Studies, Berlin (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin), Fellow in residence (2021-22)

University of Oxford China Center, Visiting Scholar (July 2019)

Seoul National University, School of Law, Visiting Professor (December 2018)

National Chengchi University, College of Law, Visiting Scholar (February 2019)

University of British Columbia, Peter A. Allard School of Law, Visiting Scholar (July 2018)

University of Tokyo, Faculty of Law, Visiting Associate Professor (2019-present)

Melbourne Law School, Visiting Scholar (June 2017)

Harvard Law School, Visiting Scholar (June 2016)

Academia Sinica Institutum Iurisprudentiae, Visiting Researcher (July 2016)

University of Washington, School of Law, Visiting Scholar (July 2015)

National Taiwan University, College of Law, Visiting Professor (June 2015; June 2018, February 2020; September 2021; June 2023)

FGV Law School, Brazil, Global Fellow (May 2015)

RECENT AWARDS

Singapore Ministry of Education Academic Research Fund, Tier 1 grant as PI for the project “Why the Rule of Law failed and How to Rescue It?” (as PI) (2024)

Summer Scholar Fellowship, Hoover Institution, Stanford University (August 2024)

Teaching Excellence Award, NUS Faculty of Law (2022)

Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin), Full fellowship for one-academic year research in residence for the project entitled “The Legacy of German Law in Asian Developmental States” (2021-22)

NUS Law-Melbourne Law School Research Partnership Grant (2021-2022), research grant of AUD 19,890 (with Professor Sarah Biddulph) for the project “Legal Professionals and Conservatism in Asia” (2020)

European Research Council, Starting Grants of 1.5 million euros for the project “Illiberal Law and Development” (as a Development Specialist in charge of East and Southeast Asia portfolio, with Professor Matthew Erie at the University of Oxford as PI and four other Development Specialists) (2018)

Singapore Ministry of Education Academic Research Fund, Tier 1 grant for the projects “Authoritarian Legality and Economic Development in Asia: South Korea, Taiwan and China” (as PI) (2018)

NUS Center for Asian Legal Studies, research grant for the project “Law, Authoritarianism and Democracy in Asia” (as PI) (2016)

Singapore Ministry of Education Academic Research Fund, Tier 1 grant for the project “The Beijing Consensus: How China has Changed the Western Ideas of Law and Economic Development” (as PI) (2014)

NUS Faculty of Law, Start-up grant for the project “Comparative Studies of China’s Rule of Law Transition and State Capitalism with a Focus on Property Rights, Financial Institutions and Global Capital Markets” (as PI) (2012)

PUBLICATIONS: BOOKS

- Legal Professional and Conservatism in Asia* (w. Hualing Fu) (forthcoming)
- Regime Type and Beyond: The Transformation of Police in Asia* (w. Hualing Fu) (Cambridge University Press, 2023)
- Authoritarian Legality in Asia: Formation, Development and Transition* (w. Hualing Fu) (Cambridge University Press, 2020)
- The Beijing Consensus? How China has Changed the Western Ideas of Law and Economic Development* (Cambridge University Press, 2017)
- Property and Trust Law: Taiwan* (w. Yun-Chien Chang & Y. J. Wu) (Kluwer Law International, 2017)
- Law and Economic Miracle: Interaction between Taiwan's Development and Economic Laws after WWII* (in Chinese) [法律與經濟奇蹟的締造: 戰後台灣經濟與經貿法律體系互動之考察] (Angle Publishing, 2000)

PUBLICATIONS: JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Beyond Security: The Compliance Dimension of National Security Reviews in Singapore and Taiwan*, Regulation and Governance (peer-reviewed) (2025)
- Chinese Investment in Malaysia: COVID-19, Democracy and Beyond* (w. Vivien Chen), Asian Journal of Comparative Law (peer-reviewed) (2022)
- Lost in Internationalization: The Rise of China's Renminbi, Macroprudential Policy, and Global Impacts*, Journal of International Economic Law, Vol.21, issue 1, 31-66 (peer-reviewed) (2018)
- Twins of Opposites—Why China Will Not Follow Taiwan's Model of Rule of Law Transition toward Democracy*, American Journal of Comparative Law Vol. 66, Issue 3, 481-535 (peer-reviewed) (2018)
- Small Property in China and Big Implications on Property Theories* [Book review], The International Journal of Constitutional Law (I-CON) Vol. 16, Issue 1, 723-727 (2018)
- A Historical Review of Taiwan and China's Legal System Development and Its Implication on Law and Development Theories*, (in Chinese) [台灣與中國經驗對於當代法律與經濟發展理論的啟發] Academia Sinica Law Journal, 455-496 (October 2019)
- Arbitrage For Property Rights: How Foreign Investors Create Substitutes for Property Institutions in China*, Washington International Law Journal (peer-reviewed), Vol. 24, No.1, 47-97 (2015)
- Horizontal Accountability in a Polarised New Democracy: The Case of Post-Democratisation Taiwan* (with Jimmy C.S. Hsu), Australian Journal of Asian Law (peer-reviewed) Vol. 15, No.2, 1-19 (2014)
- "Sir, We Suggest You Be Fired!" –Lessons for China from Taiwan's Judicial Reforms*, The Chinese Journal of Comparative Law (Oxford Journal; peer-reviewed) Vol. 2, No. 2, 289-313 (2014)
- 制度套利：中国经济实力全球扩张和国际* (in Chinese) (Chinese translation of "Institutional Arbitrage: China's Economic Power Projection and International Capital Markets", Columbia Journal of Asian Law, Vol. 26, No. 2, 347 (2013), translated and published by Peking University, with the permission of Columbia J. Asian Law), 北大法律和金融评论 (Peking University Law and Finance Review), Vol. 1, 29-53 (2014)
- Institutional Arbitrage: China's Economic Power Projection and International Capital Markets*, Columbia Journal of Asian Law, Vol. 26, No. 2, 347-372 (2013)
- Engaging the Law in China: State, Society, and Possibilities for Justice* (book review), Journal of Asian Studies (Cambridge Journal), Vol. 68, Issue 1, 261-263 (2009)
- WTO: Time's Up for Chinese Banks—China's Banking Reform and Non-Performing Loan Disposal*, Chicago Journal of International Law, Vol.7, 239-261 (2006)
- 市場、國家、與法律：戰後臺灣經濟發展與經貿法律體系互動之考察* (in Chinese) [The Market, State, and Law in Taiwan: Law and Economic Development in Post-WWII Taiwan], 思與言 [Journal of Humanities and Social Science] (peer-reviewed) Vol. 40 (1), 39-124 (2003)

PUBLICATIONS: BOOK CHAPTERS

- Contracts, Inequality and the State: Contract Law Ultra-heterodoxy in China*, in Kevin Davis and Mariana Pargendler eds, *Legal Heterodoxy in the Global South* (Cambridge University Press, 2025)
- State-Owned Enterprises, Finance and Development: A Comparative Study of Pawnshops in Brazil, Mexico and Taiwan* (w. Mariana Prado), in Susan Rose-Ackerman ed., *Public Sector Performance, Corruption and State Capture in a Globalized World* (Vol. 2) (2024)
- Transnational Legal Order, Risk Sharing and Resilient State Capitalism: A Case Study in Global Capital Markets*, in Gregory Shaffer and Ji Li eds, *China and the International Legal Order* (forthcoming)
- Pragmatism and Conservatism of Legal Professionals in Republican China and Pre-democratic Taiwan*, in Sarah Biddulph, Hualing FU, and Weitesng Chen (eds), “Legal Professional and Conservatism in Asia” (tentative) (forthcoming)
- The Nexus between Party and State: A Case Study of the Police System in Taiwan*, in Erik Mobrand (ed.), *The Party-State Nexus in Asia* (Stockholm University Press, forthcoming)
- Anti-Revolution as a Revolutionary Agenda in Republican China and Taiwan*, in *Constitutionalism and Legitimacy in Asia and the Pacific* (tentative), Kentaro Matsubara et al, eds (forthcoming 2024)
- Constitutionalism and State Capitalism: Conflicting or Complementary? – Insights from Taiwan* (in Chinese), in S.D. Hsu ed, *How Does Law Matter? [法律有關係 法律是什麼？怎麼變？如何影響我們生活？]* (Book Republic publishing 2023)
- Adaptive Authoritarian Policing: A Journey From China and Japan to Taiwan* in *Regime Type and Beyond: The Transformation of Police in Asia*, Chen & Fu (eds.) (Cambridge University Press, 2023)
- Interactions between Constitutionalism and Authoritarianism in Asian Democracies: A Japan-Taiwan Comparison*, in Helen Hardacre et al (eds.), *Japanese Constitutional Revisionism and Civic Activism* (Lexington Books, 2021)
- Mapping the Authoritarian and Democratic Divide: The Transformation of Policing in Asia* (w. Hualing Fu), in *Regime Type and Beyond: The Transformation of Police in Asia*, Chen & Fu (eds.) (Cambridge University Press, 2023)
- Constitutionalism and Authoritarian State Capitalism* (in Chinese) [憲政主義與威權國家資本主義], in *Handbook on Law and Society Study in Taiwan* (2023)
- Hybrid Regimes: Constitutionalism and Economic Development*, in David Law et al. eds. *Oxford Handbook for Constitutional Law in Asia* (Oxford University Press, 2022)
- Same Bed, Different Dreams: Constitutionalism and Legality in Asian Developmental States*, in *The Global South in Comparative Constitutional Law*, Philipp Dann, Michael Riegner, and Maxim Bönnemann (eds) (Oxford University Press, 2020)
- Authoritarian Legality and Student Activism in Taiwan*, in *Authoritarian Legality in Asia: Formation, Development and Transition*, Chen & Fu (eds.) (Cambridge University Press, 2020)
- Authoritarian Legality, The Rule of Law and Democracy* (with Hualing Fu), in *Authoritarian Legality in Asia: Formation, Development and Transition*, Chen & Fu (eds.) (Cambridge University Press, 2020)
- 台灣與中國經驗對於當代法律與經濟發展理論的啟發 (in Chinese) [A Historical Review of Taiwan and China's Legal System Development and Its Implication on Law and Development Theories] (reprint of the article with the same title published by *Academia Sinica Law Journal*) (2019), in *Review of Taiwan Legal History Studies in Two Decades*, Chengyi Huang & Tay-Sheng Wang (eds.) (National Taiwan University Press, 2020)
- Institutional Arbitrage: China's Economic Power Projection and International Capital Markets* (reprint of “Institutional Arbitrage: China's Economic Power Projection and International Capital Markets”, *Columbia Journal of Asian Law*, Vol. 26, No. 2, 347-372 (2013), published with the permission of Columbia J. Asian Law), in *Global Law Book* (FGV DIREITO Law School)
- China's Long March to Dismantling the Financial Great Wall: Renminbi's Internationalization, Systemic Risks and Macro-prudential Regulations*, in *Systemic Risk, Institutional Design and the Regulation of Financial Markets*, Anita

Anand (ed.) 143-174 (Oxford University Press, 2016)

Debating the Consensuses, in *The Beijing Consensus? How China has Changed the Western Ideas of Law and Economic Development*, Chen (ed.) 1-12 (Cambridge University Press, 2017)

Size Matters? Renminbi Internationalization and the Beijing Consensus, in *The Beijing Consensus? How China has Changed the Western Ideas of Law and Economic Development*, Weitseng Chen (ed.) 144-175 (Cambridge University Press, 2017)

Regulating Internationalization of Currency: Experiences in Asia, in *Finance, Rule of Law and Development in Asia: Perspectives from Singapore, Hong Kong and Shanghai*, Matthias Vanhullebusch, Jiaxiang Hu & Andrew Harding (eds.) 106-136 (Brill Publishing, 2016)

Horizontal Accountability and the Rule of Law (w. C.S. Hsu), in *Taiwan's Democracy Challenged: The Chen Shui-bian Years*, Yun-Han Chu, Larry Diamond, and Kharis Templeman (eds.) 145-172 (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2016)

Screening the Dragon's Gift: National Security Review of China's Outbound Investment, in *China's Socialist Rule of Law: Reforms Under Xi Jinping*, John Garrick & Yan Bennett (eds.) 197-208 (Routledge, 2016)

From the Middle East to the Far West: What Can Chinese Overseas Investments Tell Us About Law and Development and Global Regulatory Regimes?, in *Converging Regions: Global Perspectives on Asia and the Middle East*, Charlotte Schriwer & Nele Lenze (eds.) 25-54 (Ashgate Publishing, 2014)

The East Asian Model and Developing the Rule of Law (w. Randall Peerenboom), in *Political Change in China: Comparisons with Taiwan*, Larry Diamond & Bruce Gilley (eds.) 135-160 (2008)

RECENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Great Rule of Law Fallacy: Rethinking Legal Modernization in Taiwan and South Korea (manuscript in preparation): This book project challenges the modernization theory in law, which asserts that authoritarian regimes embracing the rule of law would eventually democratize. Revisiting Taiwan and South Korea—two textbook cases of legal modernization theory—it analyzes state-law interactions during the Cold War within the broader context of Asian geopolitics. In doing so, it exposes the flaws of conventional theories and the limitations of global rule of law promotion, particularly in China.

“Alternative Regime, Same Institutions? How Transnational Law Fuels China’s Resilient State Capitalism” This book project analyses how China has been able to piggyback transnational legal regimes thus far to distribute legal and business risks globally, thereby increasing risk-taking ability for the sake of its state capitalism. It focuses on global capital market, insolvency, financial institutions and RMB internationalization.

“The Legacy of German Law in Asian Developmental, Authoritarian States” (the research project sponsored by the fellowship of the Berlin Institute for Advanced Study/Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin). This project compares the Prussian state with various developmental and authoritarian states in Asia, examining their perceptions of the state, domestic political and societal structures, state roles in markets, and legal transplants in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. A paper based on this research will be presented at a conference hosted by Freiburg University in May 2025.

“Conservatism and Legal Professional in Asia” (collaborated with Melbourne Law School under the NUS Law-Melbourne Law joint research grant) This project challenges the conventional theory that suggests the liberal role of legal professional as the agent of changes and is leading to an edited volume entitled “Conservatism and Legal Professional in Asia” (w. Hualing Fu and Sarah Biddulph eds.).

“Mapping Law and Society Research on Modern China’s First Supreme Court”

This project aims to identify research topics for the newly discovered national archive of the Supreme Court (1927-1949) of the Republic of China (Taiwan), the first Western-style high court created after the fall of China’s Qing dynasty.

REPORT, DISSERTATION AND OTHER ACADEMIC WORK

Lost in Internationalization: The Rise of Chinese RMB and Macprudential Policy, Oxford Law Business Law Blog (2017)

Internationalization of the RMB: Implications & Challenges, Centre for Banking & Finance Law report, NUS Faculty of Law (No. CBFL-Rep-CW1) (2013)

Foreign Direct Investment and Property Rights Transition in China, Yale Law School J.S.D. Dissertation (2007)

(unpublished)

SELECT INVITED CONFERENCES AND LECTURES

- International AI and Law Research Foundation and Shih-Chien University**, appointed as Vice President of Taiwan Tung-Min Shieh Memorial Distinguished Lecturer, seminar talk and annual conference on “AI, Global Industrial Chain, and Rule of Law” (August 2025) (full travel sponsorship)
- Stanford University Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies**, seminar on “When Rule of Law Builds Authoritarianism: Lessons from Taiwan, S. Korea and China” (October 2025) (partial sponsorship)
- Stanford Law School**, as a guest lecturer for the course “Law, Geopolitics and De-globalization” by Professor Robert Madson (May 2025)
- Melbourne University**, seminar on “Asian Legal Studies” at Asia Law Center, Melbourne Law School (June 2025) (full travel sponsorship)
- University of Freiburg**, conference on “Illiberal and Populist Challenges to Liberal Constitutionalism” at The Max Planck Institute (May 2025) (full travel sponsorship)
- Stanford University Hoover Institution**, seminar talk on “Guardians of Economic Sovereignty: How Taiwan and Singapore Navigate Chinese Capital Through National Security Review” (January 2025)
- Stanford University Hoover Institution**, seminar talk on “De-risking or Decoupling: Law, Risking Sharing, and State Capitalism in China” (August 2024) (Full travel sponsorship)
- Meiji University**, seminar on “Authoritarian Legality: A Comparison between Taiwan, Singapore and China” (March 2024) (full travel sponsorship)
- UC Irvine School of Law**, conference on China and the International Legal Order (September 2023) (full travel sponsorship)
- UC Law San Francisco**, lecture on “Alternative Regime without Alternative Institutions” (September 2023) (full travel sponsorship)
- New York University School of Law**, conference on Legal Heterodoxy (April 2023) (full travel sponsorship)
- Yale Law School**, conference on “Public Law, Political Economy, Corruption, and Development: Susan Rose-Ackerman's Scholarly Legacy” (28-29 August 2022) (full travel sponsorship)
- University of Tokyo Faculty of Law**, workshop on the review of Bruce Ackerman’s “Revolutions” thesis (December 2022) (full travel sponsorship)
- Melbourne Law School**, workshop on “conservatism and legal professional in Asia” (December 2022) (full travel sponsorship)
- City University of Hong Kong**, conference on "The Belt and Road Initiative 2.0: Challenges and Strategies" (20-21 March 2020) (full travel sponsorship)
- Taiwan Institutions and Economic History Association**, lecture on “Regime Changes and Property Institutions: A Comparison between Republican China and Colonial Taiwan” (21 December 2019) (full travel sponsorship)
- Melbourne Law School**, conference on “Constitutional Resilience in South Asia” (6-8 December 2019) (full travel sponsorship)
- The University of Michigan Law School**, conference on “China’s Legal Construction Program at 40 Years – Towards an Autonomous Legal System?” (11-13 October 2019) (full travel sponsorship)
- Seoul National University School of Law**, visiting professorship and lectured on “Authoritarian Legality and Economic Development in Asia: China, Taiwan and South Korea” (3-24 December 2018) (full travel sponsorship)
- Stockholm University**, conference on *The Party-State Nexus in Asia* (23-24 August 2018) (full travel sponsorship)
- University of Tokyo, School of Law**, lecture on *Common Property Law in Singapore* (15-22 June 2018) (full travel sponsorship)
- National University of Taiwan, College of Law**, lecture on *Search for China Model: Law and Development in East Asia* (4-30 June 2018) (full travel sponsorship)

Harvard University, conference on *Colonial Legacy and Authoritarian Legality* (3 November 2017) (full travel sponsorship)

Academia Sinica, conference on *The Past, Present, and Future of Taiwan Legal History* (30 November – 1 December 2017) (full travel sponsorship)

Humboldt University, conference on *Celebrating 50 years of 'Verfassung und Recht in Übersee [Law and Politics in Africa, Asia and Latin America]* (13 -15 July 2017) (full travel sponsorship)

Seoul National University School of Law, Inaugural Asian Forum for Comparative Legal Studies (25 November 2017) (full travel sponsorship)

Melbourne Law School, presentation on *Searching for the Beijing Consensus in Context: Property, RMB Internationalization, and Authoritarian Legality* (2 June 2017) (partial travel sponsorship)

The American Society of Comparative Law, conference on *Comparative Development Models* (27-28 October 2016) (partial travel sponsorship)

The University of Washington, School of Law, *The Transnational Constitutional Law Roundtable* (29 October 2016) (partial travel sponsorship)

FGV DIREITO Law School (Brazil), lecture on *Law and Development in China* (11-15 May 2015) (full travel sponsorship)

National University of Taiwan College of Law, lecture on *Law, Society and Economic Development: China and East Asia* (1-30 June 2015) (full travel sponsorship)

University of Toronto, Faculty of Law, conference on *Global Law and Development* at FGV Law School, Brazil (8-9 December 2014) (full travel sponsorship)

Peking University, School of Law (China), presentation on *China's Economic Power Projection and International Capital Markets*, (19 June 2013) (partial travel sponsorship)

Shanghai Jiao Tong University, KoGuan Law School (China), conference on *Asian Financial Centre Development and Regulation—Comparative Study from Singapore, Hong Kong and Mainland China* (21-22 November 2014) (full travel sponsorship)

Hong Kong University Faculty of Law, conference on *Judicial and Political Reforms under Authoritarian Rule in Taiwan and Mainland China* (4 July 2014) (full travel sponsorship)

National Taiwan University, College of Law, conference on *NTU Comparative Asian Legal Studies Forum* (14 November 2013) (full travel sponsorship)

Academia Sinica, Institutum Iurisprudentiae, conference on *Academia Sinica Comparative Asian Legal Studies Forum* (15 November 2013) (full travel sponsorship)

EDITORIAL APPOINTMENTS

Asian Journal of Comparative Law (Cambridge journal)

Chinese (Taiwan) Yearbook of International Law and Affairs

SELECT ACADEMIC SERVICE

Director, NUS Faculty of Law Asian Legal Studies LLM program (2022-present)

NUS Center for Asian Legal Studies (CALs), Deputy Director (2016-2019) and Executive Committee member of CALs (2020-present)

Faculty Search Committee, NUS Faculty of Law, member (2019-2021)

Asian Law and Economics Association (AsLEA), Management Board member (2019-present)

NUS Center for Banking & Finance Law, Executive Committee member (2014-2016)

Faculty Social Committee, National University of Singapore, member (2011-present)

LANGUAGE

English (working language); Chinese (native); Japanese (reading and basic conversation)

OTHER SKILLS AND INTEREST

Play Cello. Practice Tai Chi (Chinese martial art). Enjoy Asian cooking and adventure sports such as DLG glider and mountain biking.