

Prof. Andrew Harding (conference co-host)



Professor Andrew Harding is a leading scholar in the fields of Asian legal studies and comparative constitutional law. At NUS he held the positions of Director of the Centre for Asian Legal Studies, Director of the Asian Law Institute, and Chief Editor of the Asian Journal of Comparative Law. Professor Harding has worked extensively on constitutional law in Malaysia and Thailand, and has made contributions to scholarship in comparative law, and law and development, having published 25 books as author or editor. He is co-founding-editor of Hart Publishing's book series 'Constitutional Systems of the World', a major resource for contextual analysis of constitutional systems, and has authored the books on Malaysia and Thailand in that series (2011, 2012, 2021). He is currently working on territorial governance in Southeast Asia.

Presentation Title: “General Theory of Law and Development: Constructing Effective Remedies”
(co-presentation with Prof. Y.S. Lee) [link to paper](#)

This paper introduces comparative lawyers to the field known as law and development, which in turn examines the uses of law for developmental objectives. The paper attempts to relate the two fields and indicate the relevance of each to the other. In the course of doing this we also introduce a general theory of law and development that can be used as a bridge between the two and to construct effective legal remedies for the pandemic-caused economic disruptions. We submit that law and development is itself developing in ways that involve new ideas and the processing of varied experiences; these in themselves are preoccupations of comparative law too.

Prof. Y.S. Lee (conference co-host)



Professor Lee is a lawyer, economist, and international relations scholar with internationally-recognized authority in law and development and international trade law. He is Director and Professorial Fellow of the Law and Development Institute. He has also taught and conducted academic research at leading universities throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia, including Cornell University, Emory University, University of Manchester, and University of Sydney. He graduated in economics with academic distinction from the University of California at Berkeley and received law degrees from the University of Cambridge (B.A., M.A., Ph.D). Author of *Reclaiming Development in the World Trading System* (Cambridge University Press, 2nd ed. 2016), *Safeguard Measures in World Trade: The Legal Analysis* (Edward Elgar, 3rd ed. 2014), *Microtrade: A New System of International Trade with Volunteerism Towards Poverty Elimination* (co-authored, Routledge, 2013), and *Law and Development: Theory and Practice* (Routledge, 2019), Professor Lee has published over one hundred twenty scholarly articles, books, chapters and shorter notes with leading publishers in North America, Europe, and Asia, in the areas of international economic law, law and development, comparative law, and international commercial arbitration.

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(co-presentation with Prof. Andrew Harding) [link to paper](#)

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Prof. Thomas F. McInerney (Keynote Speaker)



Thomas F. McInerney is Executive Director of the Rule of Law for Development Program at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. He has taught and advised governments, international organizations, and NGOs on international law and rule of law reform for 20 years. An international lawyer and strategist, he has led numerous innovative initiatives to develop and improve the effectiveness of international law and regulation, advance rule of law, and further global development. Previously, he was Director of Research, Policy, and Strategic Initiatives for the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) from 2009-2012, and served as IDLO’s General Counsel and Secretary from 2002-2009. He holds a BA in philosophy and government from the College of William and Mary, a MA in philosophy from Loyola University Chicago, a JD from DePaul University College of Law, and a PhD in development studies from the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex.

Presentation Title: “State Building, State Effectiveness, and the Rule of Law: Lessons from Covid-19” [link to paper](#)

The Covid-19 crisis put state capacity to the test. While numerous studies have examined the ways in which states violated the rule of law in responding to the pandemic, this talk analyzes the implications of state responses to understand the foundations of rule of law and development. Prevailing accounts of law and development have emphasized the structure of state institutions rather than their functions. The Covid-19 crisis illustrated serious limitations of this account. State effectiveness was shown to be just, if not more, important as good institutional design. Cross-national and sub-national comparisons of Covid-19 responses reflect significant differences in indicators, e.g. mortality, illness, educational outcomes, and economic effects. At one extreme were countries that took overly restrictive approaches, creating significant economic dislocation and a range of social problems, while arguably reducing the spread of the illness. In contrast, some states took overly permissive approaches, which in some cases led to high death and serious illness levels and involved conflicting messages that confused the public. Overall, few countries followed any prepared scripts and almost none followed the WHO normative guidance in the form of the International Health Regulations. Although the responses of governments to the crisis were generally lacking, a paradoxical feature of the responses was the extent to which state power was generally deployed very strongly. This observation suggests that while state power may be essential to determining and implementing government responses to emergencies, power alone is insufficient. State effectiveness is an equal or greater consideration. Given these observations, this paper will consider whether existing accounts of the role of the state in the emergence and maintenance of the rule of law give sufficient attention state effectiveness. Ultimately, this question is important to understanding the drivers of legal and institutional change that bring about and sustain rule of law.

Prof. Charles D. Booth



Charles D. Booth (BA Yale University; JD, Harvard Law School) is the Michael J. Marks Distinguished Professor in Business Law and Director of the Institute of Asian-Pacific Business Law (IAPBL) at the Richardson School of Law, University of Hawaii at Manoa. He taught in the Faculty of Law at the University of Hong Kong (1989-2005), where he also was the Director of the Asian Institute of International Financial Law (AIIFL) (2000-05). His primary research interests are comparative and cross-border insolvency, with a focus on the development of insolvency infrastructures in Asia. He has served as a consultant on Asian law reform and training projects for the World Bank, the IMF, the and the Asian Business Law Institute and has recently been involved in projects in Laos and China.

Presentation Title: The COVID-19 Pandemic and Insolvency Reforms for MSMEs in Asia

Before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, many micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Asia were already in financial distress. MSMEs frequently had difficulty accessing capital and, when they were able to do so, usually had to pay high interest rates. The economic problems confronting MSMEs were dramatically exacerbated by COVID. Most Asian countries enacted a variety of economic stimulus measures to keep MSMEs afloat during the pandemic. Many Asian countries also reformed their insolvency laws for MSMEs that were unable to survive. In some of these countries (e.g. Myanmar and Laos), the laws were enacted pre-pandemic and came into operation during the pandemic. In other countries (e.g. Australia and Singapore), specific reforms were promulgated on a trial basis to alleviate problems caused by COVID. As the world now enters a post-pandemic period, attention is turning to whether these measures and reforms will prove sufficient for handling the expected increase in insolvency filings by MSMEs. My presentation will first consider these reforms in a broader context and discuss the changing approach and culture in Asia for addressing the insolvency of MSMEs (e.g. attempts to move from liquidation-based to rescue-based regimes). My presentation will then turn to the MSME insolvency regimes in the four Asian countries noted above. Among the topics I will consider are: the appointment procedures for administrators; whether the debtor is able to carry on and continue to run the business post-petition (as a debtor-in-possession); whether there are preventive restructuring procedures; the effect of the insolvency procedures on secured creditors; the approval processes for creditors; and whether the enactment of reforms for MSMEs led to a reformulation of personal bankruptcy policy generally. I will conclude with a consideration of the overall success of the various reform efforts, an appraisal of the institutional capacity to achieve the desired results, and recommendations of further steps.

Ms. Sheetal Gahlot



Sheetal is a full-time Ph.D. Research Scholar and a recipient of the Indraprastha Research Fellowship at the University School of Law and Legal Studies, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi, India. Her broad subject area of doctoral research is Sustainability of the Textile Industry in India through the prism of Taxation Laws. She graduated in Bachelor of Business Administration and Bachelor of Legislative Law from the Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University. She has worked as an Assistant Professor after completing her masters in law in International and Comparative Law from the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences. In addition, she has published and presented several research articles on the themes of international law, social justice, and human rights law.

Presentation Title: Post-Pandemic Challenges of Textile Industry Workers in India: Analysis of Social Security Laws of Select Asian Countries [link to paper](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic ensued a challenging period for global health; however, the loss of livelihoods throughout the lockdown also led to a significant economic issue that warranted a reassessment of the existing socio-economic structures. Manufacturing and production lines were severely impeded, particularly in the Indian textile industry, the second-largest employer and labour-intensive industry. The initial lockdown did not provide manufacturers enough time to prepare for the impending catastrophe, compelling many to shut down their operations.

The above circumstances highlighted the issue of the lack of resilient social security laws in India. Despite initiatives like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, and other initiatives, economic security is something that needs due calibration. India has not ratified the International Labour Organizations Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention of 1952. A need was felt to have a competent social security legal framework in India.

My presentation would begin by examining the Code on Social Security that the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India passed in 2020, interpreting it in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic and its effect on the Textile Manufacturing Industry in India. In addition, a comparative analysis would be carried out with the social security laws of other Asian countries to carve out best practices that can be adopted in India. The focal area of the research presentation would be to see if the laws are sufficient to protect the economic interests, decent working conditions, occupational health and safety of the workers and unemployment benefits, thereof, in light of the pandemic.

Assistant Prof. Aswathy Madhukumar



She is an Assistant Professor of Law at the India International University of Legal Education and Research, Goa, India. She recently completed her Ph.D., in May, 2023, in her Thesis titled “Civilian Security in Armed Conflicts: Exploring the Scope of International Humanitarian Law in the Indian Context”, from Indian Law Institute, New Delhi. She takes interest in nuclear disarmament, law regulating the conduct of hostilities, and the intersection of transitional justice with IHL in international peace. She completed her LL.M. in Criminal Law from the Indian Law Institute, and likes to read on juvenile justice and criminal law as well. Prior to joining IIULER, she briefly worked as an Assistant Professor of Law at SRM University, Sonapat, Delhi-NCR.

Presentation Title: “Implementing Post-Pandemic Economic Parity: A Potential Restoration through Distributive Justice”

[link to paper](#)

The Paper looks at the hugely different economic impact left by the Pandemic over people belonging to different economic classes. Particularly, building on data collected by the World Bank, the Paper establishes that the poorer were struck the worst, and the Pandemic has affected the measures for global poverty reduction as well. At the same time, certain ventures profited from the business and economic landscape created by the Pandemic. The Paper argues that it is the duty of the State to eliminate this difference, basing this on the philosophy of Distributive Justice. Particularly, it looks at the concept of Luck and Responsibility Egalitarianism to argue that the privileges created by luck amongst people in the society must not lead to unjust advantages for some at the cost of others, irrespective of any fault element on the part of those left better-off. That is to say that, if the Pandemic created an opportunity for some to amass wealth while pushing others into poverty, the State must initiate (reasonable) measures to proportionately redistribute this wealth to alleviate those impoverished. This can be achieved through establishing a special tax proportionate to the wealth amassed due to the Pandemic, or by imposing Corporate Social Responsibility measures on these entities. The Paper proposes economic- policy measures to put Distributive Justice into practice, in the context of the Pandemic.

Dr. Dami Park



Dami Park joined the Constitutional Court of Korea as a researcher and a law clerk in 2018. Prior to this she worked as a rapporteur and a research commissioner at the Supreme Court of Korea. Dami completed her J.S.D. in constitutional law at Ewha Womans University Law School located in Seoul, S. Korea while she graduated with a degree in English literature and Women's studies (B.A.) with honors and received law degrees (J.D.) from Ewha as well. She started to have interest in gender issues since she spent her years at Harvard as a visiting undergraduate concentrated in women, gender, and sexuality and she determined to study further on citizenship, gender and development while she worked as a research assistant at United Nations Global Compact. Currently, she is actively working in both legal practice and academia. She recently co-translated a book titled *Feminist Legal Theory* by Nancy Levit and Robert R.M. Verchick to promote open and constructive discussion on gender issues.

Presentation Title: Government Relief for Small Businesses Impacted by Covid-19 in Korea

[link to paper](#)

As in many other countries around the globe, Korea's economy had been struggle from the pandemic. Especially it hit hard towards self-employed and small businesses in local market.

In this paper, I'd like to introduce detrimental influence of Covid-19 towards small business in Korea. The pandemic itself was damaging, however, government's measures to handle the pandemic, such as prohibiting or restricting assembly for social distancing, and etc. made it even worse. Companies in difficulty were trying to sought relief and help from the government. Some enraged business owners filed a lawsuit against the government and filed a constitutional complaint to struggle their way out from the pandemic depress.

In this paper, I will try to examine the measures taken by Korean government to contain the economic damage caused by Covid-19 pandemic, focusing on the support provided to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). I'd like to introduce what forms and types of financial and legal support and relief were available to companies and businesses impacted by COVID-19 in Korea. And then, I will give analysis for which policy and measure worked and which did not. I will conclude with a small suggestion to find better way to sustainably support SMEs impacted by Covid-19.

Ms. Sara Wissmann



Sara Wissmann is a Research Assistant and Doctoral Candidate at the Chair of Public International Law at Paris Lodron University Salzburg. She graduated in law with a specialization in Public International Law and European Union Law from the University of Hamburg and currently teaches an Introduction into the International Dimensions of the Law. Prior to joining Paris Lodron University, she worked as a Research Assistant for former International Law Commission Member Marja Lehto. For her PhD thesis, she is researching questions of general international law in the context of reparation for historical injustice and, as a member of the Sea-Eye e.V. Legal Team, she is dealing with current issues of international law of the sea. She has published a variety of articles and book chapters on these topics in the German Yearbook of International Law and the Ocean Yearbook.

Presentation Title: The Draft Convention on the Right to Development and Its Implications for Cooperation in Global Health Crises

[link to paper](#)

During the COVID-19 pandemic, global cooperation arrived at an impasse, illustrated by the resistance of industrialised States to allow vaccines-related knowledge transfer to their economically less advantaged partners. One pertinent example is the EU, withholding its waiver of the TRIPS for vaccines and related medicines and thereby impeding knowledge transfer to States in need – an act that is also referred to as ‘vaccine apartheid’.

In the meantime, a new legal instrument intending to address in broader terms the faltering international cooperation emerged on the horizon: the Draft Convention on the Right to Development (R2D). While the individuals and peoples are the instrument’s beneficiaries, the State is bestowed with the central role in the orchestration of the rights’ realization through cooperation with other States (Art. 13 R2D). My presentation seeks to critically assess the potentials of the future R2D to address global health crises through cooperation. In this context, three main points will be delivered:

First, the R2D has the potential to strengthen cooperation as an international duty, in particular since the drafters of the R2D present cooperation as an existing “duty”, cf. Art. 13 R2D. If the R2D enters into force with a representative number of States parties, the question of the customary-international-law quality of the right to cooperate will have to be reassessed and the balance could shift. Second, if framed as a duty, cooperation may lead to knowledge transfer in health-sensible areas. Arguably, a strengthened duty to cooperate could have obliged the EU and its member states to waive the TRIPS for vaccines and related medicines under Art. 13 (1)(a) R2D. Third and finally, pitfalls may loom at a practical level as the R2D’s duty to cooperate may lead to a widening of the trench between the Global North and the Global South.

Assistant Prof. Vaibhavi Rane



Vaibhavi Rane is a legal educator specializing in International Law. She graduated with a position of excellence as a Gold Medalist at Goa University, while also interning at National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi and attending the Summer School at The Hague Academy of International Law, Netherlands. Furthering her interest in international law she pursued a LL. M. at Jindal Global Law School, Sonapat, with dissertation on ‘International Investment & Neo-colonialism’. With an ambition to start a career in academics, she cleared the National Eligibility Test and is currently Assistant Professor at Goa University teaching Human Rights and Conflict Management. She has delivered presentations on vital topics, such as the ‘Role of Sovereign Financing in Neocolonialism’ at the International Conference on Law and Economics in New Delhi, and the ‘Future of the Responsibility to Protect’ at the 80th Biennial International Conference organized by the International Law Association. She has published on ISDS reform and the implications of the paralysis of the WTO Appellate Body. Her research interests lie in the interrelation of international economics, geopolitics and human rights.

Presentation Title: COVID-19 Pandemic Prejudice and Discrimination against Migrant Workers in South Asia (co-presentation with Sapresh Devidas) [link to paper](#)

South Asia with a population of 1.94 billion and opportunities limited in clusters, migration is more of a necessity than a desire. Contributing to the host societies via their manpower and muscle power, the migrant population remains neglected and underserved. This situation was acerbated by the onset of COVID-19 pandemic affecting their economic inequality, right to development and social disparities in society.

My study explores via reports the discriminations faced by South Asian migrant workers throughout the epidemic, covering South Asian countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Thereafter, I aim to collecting data to evaluate the domestic public policies and legal frameworks intended to protect interstate migrant workers during and post pandemic and its effective implementation. My research further investigates the role organisations i.e., ILO, SAARC, and ASEAN in mitigating the plight of migrants.

As we move towards post-pandemic recovery it is pertinent to chart the course towards an egalitarian development and I believe that will be possible when the sovereign and international community truly works towards development of the migrant workers community. Thus my research aims to be a check and bugle call to the sovereign countries in South Asia to priorities right to development and build a more inclusive, egalitarian communities that discriminates against no one.

Assistant Prof. Sapresh Devidas



Sapresh Devidas holds the position of Assistant Professor in Law at Govind Ramnath Kare College of Law, Margao, Goa, which is affiliated with Goa University. He obtained his law degree from the same institution. For his Master's degree in Law, he pursued studies at Savitribai Phule Pune University in Pune, Maharashtra. Currently, he is actively pursuing a PhD in Law from Goa University. Sapresh Devidas is a distinguished scholar and has authored numerous research papers covering a wide range of legal topics, including IPR, Environment, Taxation, and Constitutional law. His passion for research in various aspects of law reflects in his dedicated efforts to contribute to the field through both teaching and scholarly activities.

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Ms. Arimbi Fajari Furqon, S.H.



Arimbi Fajari Furqon is now a postgraduate student of Faculty of Law, Universitas Gadjah Mada. She graduated in bachelor degree from Universitas Bengkulu in International Law Studies. She currently worked as volunteer and assistant researcher in Law, Gender, and Societies Research Centre Faculty of Law Universitas Gadjah Mada. She interested to study international law in the view of marginal group point of views. Her study leads to human rights and state responsibility to regulate the protection of human rights to everyone especially marginal group. She has published media articles on the topic of the rights of domestic worker.

Presentation Title: Protecting Domestic Workers for Decent Work of Economic Care in the Post Pandemic Era [link to paper](#)

The presence of care workers can increase the productivity of care receivers. The estimation illustrates the increasing number of care jobs in the world. The economics of care can be a labour market and contains economic elements. However, the important role of care workers is not proportional to the risks often faced by care workers. The stigma that develops in society views care workers are considered jobs that do not produce high economic value. The condition of care workers in Indonesia can be said to be poor and inadequate.

In this writing, I try to challenges the opportunity that create by Government of Indonesia to protect the domestic worker by the draft of regulation. Also, it can be focused on the advocation lead by JALA PRT to stand the rights of domestic workers. The need to understand the interest of tree level of societies is needed in this wiring. I try to look up on domestic workers, civil societies including international organization (in this case International Labour Organization) and the government of Indonesia. This study also aims the comparative regulation by other country in case can it can be duplicated and modify by the government of Indonesia.

My presentation would therefore seek to: *first*, the protection of domestic workers both within the international framework and the Indonesian national framework. *Second*, how to concretely protect domestic workers in the post-pandemic period both internationally and nationally.

Assistant Prof. Ishita Das



Ishita is Assistant Professor (Law) at the NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad, India. She completed her undergraduate training from National Law University, Jodhpur, specialising in Business Law, and took up diverse roles with governmental and non-governmental organisations in New Delhi. She pursued her postgraduate training from The WB National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata, working on the interface of International Trade Law and International Environmental Law as a part of her LLM dissertation. She has been a member of the legal academia for more than three years now, teaching courses such as Environment, Trade, and Human Rights Laws, Environmental Law, Information Technology/Cyber Law, International Space Law, International Trade Law, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Human Rights Laws. Her research areas focus on the role of developing countries as regards diverse sectors such as commerce, outer space, and AI, inter alia.

Presentation Title: The COVID-19 Pandemic and the Right to Development: A Tale of Two Worlds
[link to paper](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the vast divide between the privileged and underprivileged sections of the human population across the world. While the adversities faced by the former have been documented and discussed in various fora, the plight of the latter has received scarce attention. The right to development of the underprivileged has been severely affected by the lack of access to social protection schemes, including basic healthcare and income security benefits against sudden unemployment or layoffs during the pandemic.

This presentation explores the measures adopted by the US, the UK, Singapore, Hong Kong, and India to deal with the pandemic and understand how these measures affected migrant workers. The presenter would highlight how the right to development of migrant workers was affected during the COVID-19 pandemic, thereby affecting their right to life with dignity as enshrined under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The bundle of social and economic rights, the protection of which constitute the core pillars of social and economic justice, was affected in several ways through the measures adopted during the pandemic.

The pandemic has magnified the existing social and economic bias regarding migrant workers. The dehumanisation of migrant workers has taken place across several states exposing the acute sense of vulnerability experienced by this section of the human population. This presentation would explore specific strategies that would benefit the members of the international community in dealing with similar challenges in the future.

Prof. Tanmeet Kaur Sahiwal



Tanmeet holds a PhD in law from the Department of Laws, Panjab University, India. She graduated in law from University Institute of Legal Studies, Panjab University, India and furthered her studies with a masters in law (LLM) from Department of Laws, Panjab University, India. Tanmeet is currently the Chairperson of the School of Law & Assistant Professor (Law) at SVKM's NMIMS, Bengaluru. She has been a Research & Teaching Assistant at University Institute of Legal Studies, Panjab University, and an Assistant Professor of Law at University Institute of Legal Studies itself. Tanmeet has also held visiting lectureship at the Army Institute of Law, Mohali, India. She has lent her services as a legal associate, and being passionate about human rights also volunteers with the Human Rights Protection Group & MFP Federation as a consulting Legal Chief Operating Officer. Her research interest lies in human rights, governance, administrative law & family law; she has published articles and book chapters on the topics, while aiming to provide workable solutions and policy suggestions.

Presentation Title: Covid-19, Good Governance and United Nations Goals for Sustainable Development

[link to paper](#)

Covid-19 arrived as an unparalleled wave of horror for the global society, catching us entirely off guard despite enormous scientific advancements. While the pandemic was global, the pervasiveness of prejudice against the most disadvantaged members of society was reaffirmed. While the immediate need was for rapid crisis management response to alleviate the health-related effects of Covid, the next imminent need is for global collaboration to sustain progress towards achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. The realisation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has met a mutual impasse, and their realisation by 2030 now appears improbable.

While there is global unanimity on the need to act to achieve the SDGs, the implementation of future-focused sustainable plans must occur at the national level, prioritizing purposeful action via Good governance. Goal 16 of the UN SDGs focuses on providing the cornerstone for good governance. It seeks effective and transparent institutions, decision-making which is inclusive, participatory and representative, strengthening of institutions of global governance in developing countries, and ensuring access to information by the public, including protection of fundamental rights via domestic legislation and international agreements. Creating a better "new normal" is difficult if good governance is not the norm in all nations, particularly the least developed ones. The solution lies in the implementation of long-term plans and policies designed to mitigate the effects of the epidemic and enforcement of good governance practices.

Prof. Gabriel Lochagin



Gabriel holds a PhD in Economic and Finance Law from the Faculty of Law of the University of São Paulo in Brazil. He also graduated in law from this institution, where he currently teaches Economic Law, Regulation and Public Finance. He was also a visiting researcher at the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin from 2014 to 2015. He is also the Adjunct General Controller of the University of São Paulo since 2022.

Presentation Title: A New Approach to Economic Development: Fighting Economic Crimes and Corruption – Looking at Islamic Law [link to paper](#)

My presentation starts by showing how fiscal rules have been under pressure ever since. Their main goal is to define, in the first part, how legal parameters for controlling deficits and other financial variables usually work in order to achieve sustainable levels of public debt and expenditures. At this part, I will elaborate on the Latin American context and show how, in the 1990s, countries have been prone to adopting them as a means of correcting persistent fiscal imbalances that had damaged their ability to sustainably finance development strategies, though with inconsistent results, for excessive restraints have also been responsible for social upheavals.

In the second part of my presentation, I will explain how these are the rules that have been widely revised under current fiscal pressures arising from higher levels of public expenditures and a more flexible approach to deficit controls. This has happened in a post- pandemic scenario of weaker surplus levels and more relevant imbalances in government budgets. I will analyze particularly the Brazilian experience, where political elites have responded to the necessity of maintaining convincing commitments to fiscal responsibility alongside with social concerns. Fiscal rules have either been redesigned or re-discussed in a more challenging environment both to economic stability and general welfare.

In the last part, I will explore the impact of new financial conditions on fiscal rules, which have been either i) reformulated or ii) at least re-discussed in the countries of the region. This third part is especially important to give evidence of how the current scenario has been everything but indifferent to increasing fiscal pressures on sustainable public finances. Latin American countries will be scrutinized case by case, according to changes that have been proposed or already enacted to their i) expenditure, ii) debt or iii) deficit rules. As a result, a consolidated approach to changes of fiscal rules in the region will be offered.

Dr. Manotar Tampubolon



Manotar Tampubolon is a permanent lecturer at the Master of Law Program, Faculty of Law, Indonesian Christian University, Jakarta. He graduated with a Bachelor of Laws degree at the HKBP University Nommensen Medan, Master of Arts in International Studies from the University of Wollongong, Australia, Master of Laws from the Indonesian Christian University Jakarta, Doctor of Laws from Pelita Harapan University Jakarta and Postdoctoral at the University of Catania, Italy. He is currently pursuing Philosophy of Doctor (Ph. D) at the Law Faculty of Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Malaysia. He is engaged in research, law and human rights, freedom of religion and ethnic minorities.

Presentation Title: Legal and Institutional Approaches in Least Developed Countries during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Systematic Review [link to paper](#)

The author analyzes that the Covid-19 pandemic has created various legal approaches in various countries, not only in rich countries but also in the most underdeveloped countries. As a result of different legal approaches and institutions, different legal handling and protection is required. Therefore, this study intends to carry out a systematic literature review of articles on different approaches by less developed countries to avoid transmission of COVID-19. This study identifies, evaluates and interprets all relevant research results related to legal and institutional approaches to 150 articles from the Web of Science and Scopus databases obtained with the keywords legal and state approaches to reduce transmission of COVID-19 for the 2020-2022 period. which is then processed and visualized using VOSviewer.

The results of this study indicate that there are three concepts that are most dominantly studied, namely the incomplete legal instruments for handling COVID-19, the health system that is unable to cope with the impact of COVID-19 and the approach taken by the state to deal with the economy. crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The incomplete legal and institutional approach to preventing the spread of COVID-19 arises due to the low level of public knowledge, the spread of Covid-19 disinformation, and the lack of trust in the government. This research contributes to the country on how to legislate and the approach taken by the government to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. The limitation of this research is that the articles reviewed are only sourced from Scopus and Web of Science, so this research does not have comparative data. Therefore, further research needs to use a comparative analysis approach that uses indexed data in other databases.

Ms. Chi Zhang



Chi ZHANG is a PhD candidate in Civil Procedure Law at Peking University in Beijing. She graduated from Beijing Foreign Studies University, one of the best university of foreign studies in China, with two bachelor degrees in Law and English Language and Literature. She got her Juris Master degree in Peking University, majoring in civil and commercial disputes settlement. Her research interest lies in civil procedure law and judicial system, especially Internet governance and foreign-related civil procedures; she has published articles and book chapters on the topic, looking at issues of internet court and personal information protection. She is committed to promoting the exchange and development of civil procedural law in a comparative context, and has organized international seminars on behalf of Peking University, and she has translated articles from English into Chinese to introduce advanced judicial experience.

Presentation Title: Online Trial in China: Legal and Institutional Approaches During the Different Stages of the Pandemic

[link to paper](#)

As one of the biggest developing country in the world, China has set off a wave of legal and institutional approaches to online trials.

My approach will divide the development of online trials in China the into three stages: the Pre-Pandemic era, the Pandemic era and the Post-Pandemic era, and discuss the functions and aimed values of online trial during different times. Before the Pandemic, the focus is to explore the online litigation mechanism, taking the convenience of justice and the practical needs of rapid dispute resolution as the important starting point and foothold. During the Pandemic era, online litigation is no longer a special treatment exclusively for Internet courts, but has gradually become a universal measure developed by people's courts at all levels and of all types in China. In the Post-Pandemic era, as the the pioneer in the field of online trial, the Internet courts in the Post-Pandemic era, shall act as the integrator of multi-centers, the aggregator of cyberspace and the comber of network rules rather than confine themselves to mere online trial.

My presentation would therefore seek to explore the direction of reform in the literature: compared with government and management, governance features decentralization, wide scope and co-construction of rules, which suits the characteristics of network society accordingly. I hold the strong belief that further improvement must be made in the court organization, the case jurisdiction and the procedural rules in order to realize the function of network social governance.

Dr. T.K. Pooe



T.K. Pooe (PhD) currently works at the Witwatersrand School of Governance (WSG) teaching, supervising and leading projects looking into State Owned Entities, Law and Development, Institutional analysis, and Scenario Planning. Before joining the WSG he worked with various other institutions of higher learning, North-West University (Vanderbijlpark), University of KwaZulu-Natal (Howard College) and the Gordon Institute of Business Science (University of Pretoria). Before joining academia on a fulltime bases, he worked as a Policy research consultant at the Gauteng Provincial Legislature (Provincial Legislature), the Sedibeng District Municipality (South African local government) in the Integrated Development Planning Unit.

In 2021 he was appointment Head of the Secretariat for the Presidential State-owned Enterprise Council via the Department of Public Enterprises. As of 2023 he is the head of the WSG Energy Transition Consortium Group focusing on providing energy complex police advice to the public, private and other sectors.

Presentation Title: Ending 1990s Law and Development Ideas, Paradox of Path Dependence In Economic Planning Institutions Under Covid-19: South Africa’s Response [link to paper](#)

My presentation contends that the COVID-19 pandemic can and should be understood as a form of Creative Destruction (Schumpeter's gale), at a hyper level owing to its biological/medical dimensions. Therefore, the critical response to such a hyper force is to rethink how institutions administer Public Policy in South Africa (Path Dependency).

The critical focus of my contention being how economic planning institutions responded to Covid-19, specifically the much lauded ‘*The Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan*’. It’s my contention that the reason why Covid-19 continues to impact the South African government’s economic planning ethos is anchored in its developmental orientation, particularly how constitutional legalism has impaired economic development planning. This could impart be due to the unaddressed influences of the initial waves of Law and Development post-1994.

Prof. Salil K. Mehra



Salil holds a J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School and an M.A. in Asian Studies from the University of California, Berkeley. He did his undergraduate work in Economics and East Asian Languages and Civilizations at Harvard College. Prior to joining academia, he started his legal career at the United States Department of Justice in the Antitrust Division, and subsequently, he practiced law privately before beginning his law teaching career. He has been a visiting professor at Keio University, and he is a previous Abe Fellow of the Japan Foundation and Japan's Center for Global Partnership. He has published articles and book chapters on competition law and law and economics.

Presentation Title: The Office after the Pandemic: Technology, Law, and Development

[link to paper](#)

As we emerge tentatively into a hopeful post-COVID-19 future, it has become clear that the pandemic has had a large impact on the traditional office, particularly in the developed world. Major office centers such as Silicon Valley, New York and London have seen great reductions in the number of workers who spend their days there in-person. One lesson of the pandemic is that many workers can be as – or even more – productive working from home, thanks chiefly to software such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and Slack, among others, which enable better collaboration across distances than was previously possible. As a result, across the developed world, a large percentage of office workers' labor has continued to be performed remotely.

The shift to remote white-collar work has significant implications for investment, development, and migration. First, the traditional office building or office park represents a massive fixed cost for many industries. Second, from the perspective of development, one important implication is that the investment to create a successful firm may have shifted to at least some degree away from buildings and real estate to software and worker talent. Finally, there are important implications for migration. For the past half-century, knowledge workers have left the developing world for the world's major business centers, located mostly in the developed world. The ability to collaborate at a distance may reduce that part of migration pressure generated by the “pull” towards traditional developed-world office centers.

This Article contends that the international trade and development regime should promote these shifts, which should tend to make the world economy more equitable in part by reducing that portion of the world's production drained by economic rents accruing to landlords in developed world megacities – a significant portion of which was generated by talented migrants from the developing world.

Dr. Nadia Naim



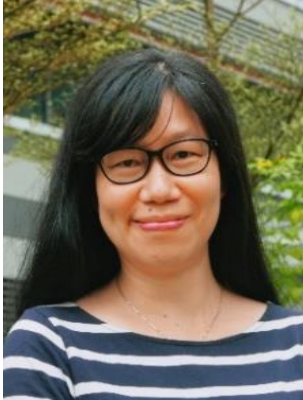
Dr. Nadia Naim is an Associate Dean International Law and Social Sciences and is a Senior Lecturer in Law at Aston University. She is a qualified barrister and fellow of the HEA. She has published many scholarly articles in the areas of international intellectual property law, Islamic finance, intangible asset financing and development, comparative law, and international law. She completed her PhD on intellectual property rights and Islamic finance on the GCC, titled “*The intellectual property regimes in the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC): Recommendations to develop an integrated approach to intellectual property rights*”. She has authored books in the intellectual property field and specialises in emerging areas of intellectual property development. Her most recent publication is “Islamic Legal Principles and Intellectual Property Rights in the Gulf” with Gerlach Press and her upcoming publication is with Palgrave McMillan on “Intellectual Property Law Developments”.

Presentation Title: Law and ethics of emerging technologies in the healthcare and intellectual property fields arising from the pandemic (co-presentation with Dr. Hui Yun Chan) [link to paper](#)

Ethical discourse is commonly not a priority in a conventional study of intellectual property. Moral sentiments often take a back seat to market sentiments. This anomaly persists despite growing interest in ethics and IP. Taking an interdisciplinary and diverse perspective, this paper enriches the evolving scope of ethical discourse literature by focusing on intellectual property assets and regulation that shape the healthcare sector, specifically the use of robotics and artificial intelligence.

Research in this area includes the rapidly growing artificial intelligence and robotics industries in the legal, business, manufacturing, and healthcare sectors and the impact of intellectual property protection on emerging technologies. Currently, all intellectual property rights created with human and artificial intelligence “effort”, belong to the human however as artificial intelligence becomes more sophisticated, the law on intellectual property protection will need to adapt accordingly. An analysis of the value of robotics, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies will be examined with a focus on the medical and healthcare field. The pandemic is used as an example to examine applicable ethical issues, intellectual property issues and how regulations can deal with these concerns without forgoing market developments. Covid-19 has seen wide-ranging introductions of new applications, technological advances and new modes of healthcare delivery to the medical and healthcare field. However, they also raise important issues within intellectual property rights and healthcare delivery. An example is continued access to technologies that are created at the time of the pandemic and ethical implications such as equity and public benefit to society where access is restricted due to intellectual property rights and market needs.

Dr. Hui Yun Chan



Hui Yun is a law scholar with research interests in health law and bioethics. She has taught in universities in the UK and is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, UK. She works on the Future Health Technologies research programme established under the Singapore-ETH Centre and is affiliated with the Centre for Biomedical Ethics, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore. Her current work focuses on the legal and ethical aspects of cross-border data transfer under the Future Health Technology research programme on trustworthy data governance. She has published in the field of advance directives, the application of artificial intelligence in healthcare decision-making and end-of-life care, and the legal and ethical aspects of Covid-19 related issues.

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Dr. Vy Ngo Nguyen Thao



Vy Ngo Nguyen Thao, a Lecturer at Ho Chi Minh City University of Law (Vietnam), has been serving as the Managing Editor of the Vietnamese Journal of Legal Sciences since 2023. Holding dual Bachelor's degrees in Law and Business Administration, she earned a Master's degree in International Law along with a U.S. Department of State full scholarship for the Master of Public Policy program at Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management, Fulbright University Vietnam, in 2022. Additionally, she completed an intensive course on economic policy, energy, and technology at Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University, in November 2022.

Vy Ngo Nguyen Thao's academic pursuits are centered on international law and personal data protection law. Her contributions include several articles, books, and book chapters. She has shared her insights on contemporary international law and public policy issues at numerous international conferences both abroad and events hosted by prestigious national institutions, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Justice of Vietnam.

Presentation Title: From Crisis to Control: Amidst and Post-pandemic Data Protection Concerns in Singapore and Vietnam through the Lens of Techno-Solutionism and Efficiency Violations of Privacy Rights [link to paper](#)

Inspired by Singapore's successful curve-flattening through swift digital deployment, Vietnam's government found the idea of using technology for COVID-19 outbreak control compelling. Despite differing strategies, both countries encounter parallel challenges in harmonizing public interests with individual rights during the deployment of digital contact tracing applications. However, the recent enactment of Vietnam's 2023 Decree on Personal Data Protection and Singapore's amendments to the Personal Data Protection Act both seem to underscore this tension.

My presentation examines Singapore and Vietnam's COVID-19 data governance through the lenses of techno-solutionism and human rights violations in the digital age. The research suggests that the actions of these governments during and after the pandemic may lead to the normalization of surveillance and civic engagement, promoting government digitalization post-pandemic. However, I also emphasize the potential for these technologies to worsen inequalities and violate individual rights, particularly in terms of privacy and post-pandemic data protection. I strongly advocate that the pandemic or any public agenda should not excuse abuse. Governments must adopt a normative approach to technology and regulations for sustained data governance, preventing unforeseen adverse consequences.

Ms. Cynthia Lee Mei Fei



Cynthia Lee Mei Fei is a PhD candidate in law and a graduate research assistant at the University of Malaya (UM) under a research project on competition law and consumer protection in the digital market. The research project is led by Dr Ong Tze Chin and funded under a Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS) by the Malaysian Ministry of Higher Education. She is also a lawyer practicing civil litigation (contractual and tortious) in Kuala Lumpur. She graduated in law from Cardiff University with an LLB (Hons) and has a Master of Commercial Law (MCL) from the University of Malaya. She was called to the Bar as a barrister at Middle Temple, United Kingdom and is an advocate and solicitor of the High Courts of Malaya, Malaysia.

Presentation Title: Competition in the Digital Market of E-Commerce Platforms Post-Pandemic: A Comparative Analysis of Malaysia, China, and the European Union [link to paper](#)

The Covid-19 pandemic catalysed a wave of digitalisation of commercial businesses that continues to have increasing added value in contribution to the global gross domestic product (GDP). Studies have shown that the competition dynamic in the digital market creates new challenges which affect the fundamental rights of users of digital services and the level playing field in the market. Thus, an understanding of the competition laws and policies in regulating the digital market post-pandemic is needed.

Malaysia is part of the bigger digital transformation plan in the ASEAN region that seeks to harmonise competition policies and laws in the digital market in line with the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint and ASEAN Competition Action Plan 2025. Yet, the legal developments to assess competition issues in the digital markets of e-commerce platforms in Malaysia pale in comparison to other jurisdictions such as China and the European Union.

Our presentation would address two objectives which are to compare the competition law frameworks governing the digital market of e-commerce platforms in Malaysia, China, and the European Union and to propose recommendations to the design of Malaysian competition law framework in addressing new challenges in the digital market e-commerce platforms.

Prof. Priti Saxena



Prof. Priti Saxena is Director, Center of Post Graduate Legal Studies, Ex-Head, Department of Human Rights, and Former Dean, School for Legal Studies, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, Central University, Lucknow. Besides University Gold Medal in LL.M., she is the recipient of various scholarships during her studies. Her field of specialization is Constitutional Law, Constitutional Governance, Torts, and Human Rights. She has to her credit more than 75 research papers and articles published in different National and International Law Journals. Few International papers as key speaker and resource person were presented by her in -Buffalo University New York, US, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia, Sri Lanka, South Ural State University, Russia, University of Maribor, Slovenia, Legal Studies Association, United States. She has delivered lectures as Visiting Fellow and resource Person in other Universities to law students, in Refresher Courses to law teachers and at National Human Rights Commission training Programme, State Human Rights Commission, State Welfare Board, , National Judicial Academy, Bhopal, Judicial Academies of various States and Railway Protection Force Academy and Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India etc.

Presentation Title: Technological Innovations in India’s Legal Sector for Access to Justice During and Post Pandemic

[link to paper](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the legal landscape in India, particularly in the context of technological innovations during the pandemic. The pandemic has accelerated the adoption of digital technologies in various sectors, including the legal sector. The Indian government and the judiciary have introduced several measures to promote digitalization, including the introduction of online courts and the development of digital infrastructure for the legal system. The measures to promote the use of digital technologies and improve access to justice were the key developments. The introduction of e-courts and virtual hearings using video conferencing technology in the Supreme Court and several High Courts in India were landmark steps towards a justice delivery system during the pandemic along with subordinate courts that have introduced e-filing. With the use of technology, the virtual hearing conducted using video conferencing and the litigants participated from their homes or offices.

I will explore the efficiency and importance of these measures that have been introduced by the government to improve the digital infrastructure and platforms for the legal sector. The legal information portals to provide access to legal resources and information, and also the measures to reduce the backlog of cases to improve access to justice for litigants who live in remote areas. I will also highlight the changes made in the legal sector due to the role of technology in access to justice and dispute resolution during and after the pandemic.

Professor Carole J. Petersen



Carole J. Petersen is the Cades Foundation Professor of Law and Director of International Programs at the William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawaii at Manoa. She taught law in Hong Kong from 1989-2006 and is a former Director of the Centre for Comparative and Public Law at the University of Hong Kong. Her main areas of research are human rights in Hong Kong, gender equality, and the rights of persons with disabilities under international law. She holds a BA from the University of Chicago, a JD from Harvard Law School, and a Postgraduate Diploma in the Law of the People's Republic of China from the University of Hong Kong.

Presentation Title: The Impact of the Pandemic on Reproductive Autonomy and Gender Equality

[link to paper](#)

Reproductive autonomy promotes gender equality and economic development, as it enables more women to pursue education, participate in the labor market, and accumulate wealth. The UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls has therefore called upon governments to provide access to effective methods of birth control and to allow women to terminate a pregnancy, at least during the first trimester. During the pandemic, some governments excluded reproductive health care from the category of “essential” services that could be provided during shutdown orders. Yet the pandemic also caused an expansion in telemedicine, which improved access to “medication abortion” (a term for a non-surgical abortion in early pregnancy induced by taking pills).

Preliminary studies show that women who have used telemedicine for abortion care are highly satisfied and that complications are rare. This argues in favor of making telemedicine abortion widely available on a permanent basis in jurisdictions where abortion is legal. Indeed, if the transaction is carefully structured, women in jurisdictions that prohibit abortion can obtain abortion pills by mail. The World Health Organization now provides guidelines for “self-managed” abortions, which are difficult for law enforcement to detect. Thus, the pandemic may ultimately increase the ability of women to control their fertility, even in jurisdictions that have traditionally made it difficult to access birth control and abortion care.

This could help to promote gender equality and economic development. On the other hand, the increased access to telemedicine and self-managed abortion care may decrease political activism for affordable and legal surgical abortion care. This could have its own discriminatory effects, particularly on women who lack internet access, cannot take abortion pills due to an underlying health condition, or require abortions later in pregnancy.

Dr. Mana Takahashi



Mana TAKAHASHI is a Full-time Lecturer Faculty of Global Liberal Arts, Kanda University of International Studies (KUIS), located in Chiba, Japan. At KUIS, she is lecturing in Global Governance, Introduction to International Organizations, and research seminars of global issues. Mana received her Ph.D. in Comparative Law in 2018, and a M.A. in International Development in 2009 from Nagoya University, Japan. Her research interests are Law and Development, Global Governance, Gender, and Oceanic Regional Studies. Prior to joining KUIS, she worked as an IT Engineer at IBM Japan Ltd., as a consultant at UNCITRAL (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law), and as a Designated Assistant Professor at Nagoya University, Center for Gender Equality. More details and publications are available at <https://researchmap.jp/manna?lang=en>

Presentation Title: Unpacking Fragile Access to Justice in a Small Island State amid Global Pandemic: Narratives from Experiences of Niue, the Rock of Polynesia [link to paper](#)

This study considers challenges and features of law and development faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS) amid the COVID-19 global pandemic. This research analyzes the pre- and post-pandemic situation of access to justice in SIDS to clarify the transformation of society and the critical impact brought by the pandemic. In this context, this research focuses on Niue, which is recognized as a SIDS by the United Nations and one of the smallest island states in the world as a case study.

The principal research question to be addressed is: What did the COVID-19 pandemic reveal in Niue as challenges in the context of law and development? To answer the main question, the following sub-questions are raised: 1) how does the geographical condition of SIDS affect the transformation of the society amid a global pandemic, and how it differs from metropolitan cities or larger countries; 2) What is the situation of access to justice in Niue after the global pandemic; 3) What kind of policy approach can be feasible and appropriate for enhancing the rights of access to justice in Niue?

This research incorporates a range of different methodological approaches, but mostly qualitative analysis based on a socio-legal and empirical approach, utilizing the case of Niue. By exploring the current situation of access to justice among people in Niue, this research aims to lead policy suggestions for the required initiatives and assistance for guarantee the right of access to justice in Niue.

Dr. Nabiyla Risfa Izzati



Nabiyla is an assistant professor of labour law in Faculty of Law Universitas Gadjah Mada. She is currently doing her PhD in Queen Mary University of London, researching about gendered work in Indonesia's gig economy, where she works with Centre for Research in Equality and Diversity.

Her research interest is mainly about gender and work, workers' right, trade union, and Indonesian labour law. She is actively involved as a researcher in the Law, Gender, and Society Research Center. She conducted several research with International Labour Organization, UN Women, Fairwork Project which is based on Oxford Internet Institute and the WZB Berlin Social Science Center. In 2022, she is awarded *Nugra Jawa Dharma Pustaloka* as an author of Best Labour Law Books from the National Library of Indonesia. Nabiyla's selected works can be accessed in: <https://linktr.ee/nabiylarisfa>

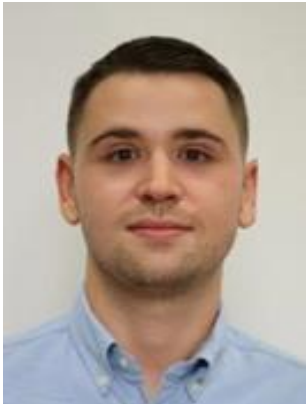
Presentation Title: Pandemic, Labour Deregulation, and the New Wave of Labour Movement in Indonesia

[link to paper](#)

During the pandemic, the Indonesian Government introduce Law Number 11 of 2020 on Job Creation, an omnibus law which contains a significant revision of Manpower Regulation in Indonesia. This law received massive criticism from trade unions and civil society since it reduced existing labour rights and opened more labour flexibility. However, the government is unwavering since it argues that the COVID-19 pandemic has massively hit the Indonesian economy and labour market, and Job Creation Law will attract more investors and boost Indonesia's economy.

Existing research has shown how the law caused deregulation and the erosion of labour protections since its enactment; easier layoff, more flexible temporary working contracts, and more liberty to use outsourcing working arrangements. However, this paper will further argue that the labour deregulation policy also fosters the new wave of the labour movement. By looking at the trend of the labour movement in social media during 2020-2023, this study aims to discuss how the enactment of the Job Creation law indirectly affected the emergence of new, non-conventional trade unions in Indonesia. These new unions have gained significant support from younger generation workers who feel that the Job Creation Law regime is making them more vulnerable in the labour market.

Mr. Jura Golub



Jura Golub, L.L.M., is a research assistant at the Faculty of Law Osijek, Croatia, and a doctoral student of the Croatian Science Foundation. He teaches seminar classes in private international law, while his research interest is focused in the field of digitalization of law. Jura presented at several international scientific conferences, the most notable of which are those at Radboud University (The Netherlands), the University of Milan (Italy) and the University of Ferrara (Italy). As a scholarship holder of the British Scholarship Trust, he spent a two-month research stay at King's College London, The Dickson Poon School of Law. Jura is the author of several scientific and professional papers.

Presentation Title: COVID-19 as a Catalyst for the Development of Digitalized EU Cross-Border Judicial Cooperation [link to paper](#)

This research deals with an overview of the normative activity of the EU in relation to digital changes in cross-border judicial cooperation induced by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic underscored the urgency of digitalizing the judicial system, expediting its implementation. The proposed Regulation (EU) on the digitalisation of judicial cooperation and access to justice in cross-border civil, commercial and criminal matters aims to address this by introducing unified rules for ICT use in cross-border proceedings. This Regulation sets a "gold standard" for electronic communication among EU Member State authorities, enabling digital interaction between citizens/legal entities, regulating videoconference participation, and establishing rules for electronic evidence, trust services, and fee payments. It aims to expedite justice access, aligning with Digital Europe Program goals, such as interoperability of information systems, resilience, efficiency, and economy of the judiciary. It is also expected to contribute to the green transition of the judiciary by reducing the need for travel and CO₂ emissions.

Recognizing Member States' varied economic capacities, the EU offers a financial framework for seamless digital tool implementation. However, technological adoption poses challenges including equity for disadvantaged participants, data protection, and storage responsibility. These concerns are highlighted in the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and public oversight of e-justice institutions. Efficient digital judicial cooperation requires a framework respecting human rights, investing in information infrastructure, enhancing internet access, and fostering digital competency through lifelong learning for legal professionals. The proposed Regulation signifies a pivotal step towards a rule of law-based digital justice, with citizens and legal entities as active participants. Respecting EU Member States' procedural autonomy, digitalizing cross-border judicial cooperation is poised to catalyze digital tool integration in national proceedings.

Dr. Claudia LU Yi



Claudia Lu Yi received her J.S.D. degree and LL.M. degree from Yale Law School and J.D. degree and J.M. degree from Peking University School of Transnational Law. As an academic, Claudia served as Lecturer in Law and Assistant Director of the Center for Research on Transnational Law at Peking University School of Transnational Law. As a licensed attorney in China, Claudia practiced at TransAsia Lawyers, Clifford Chance LLP, Morrison & Foerster LLP, Shenzhen Municipal Government, and Burger King (China) Holding Co. Ltd. Claudia’s academic interests include administrative law, food and drug law, risk regulation, international trade, comparative law and legal issues pertaining to China’s legal reform.

Presentation title: Regulating “Employee Sharing” in Post-pandemic China

[link to paper](#)

A novel employment paradigm known as “Employee Sharing” emerged in China during the pandemic. Companies having a surplus of workers (“exporting employers”) transfer their employees to the companies with a labor deficit (“importing employers”) through sharing employees. The model of sharing employees was the labor market’s ingenious solution to the issue of unequal resources distribution during the pandemic. This paradigm stays in post-pandemic China due to a variety of favorable influences on the labor market. Nevertheless, China’s current legal system falls short of fully regulating this new model, leading to a series of legal problems. This paper will address these legal issues and identify the gaps to be filled in China’s legal framework.

My presentation will focus on two subjects. The first relates to the legal nature of “sharing employees”. This paper highlights a key problem with Chinese labor law—the law does not account for the recent development of employee sharing. Sharing employees also means sharing the right to use labor. Consequently, there are two related labor relationships in existence. The current Chinese labor law system, however, is focused on single employment relationships, which means that only the interactions between exporting employers and employees are governed by the labor law. The rights of shared employees are not completely protected due to this problem. The second part explores the reasons and propose how the labor law system should protect the rights of shared employees. The reasons are twofold. First, the distribution of rights and obligations among three parties is unclear due to the intricacy of tripartite legal relationships. Additionally, labor law has a strong local component, which results in diverse practices on the same issues. Following a discussion of the following topics: social insurance, work injury, management and discipline, termination of employment relationships, and dispute resolution, this paper makes an effort to establish a few guiding principles for regulating employee sharing.

Associate Prof. Jedidiah J. Kroncke



Jedidiah Kroncke is Associate Professor of Law at the University of Hong Kong, where he teaches Equity & Trusts and the Private Law of Cooperative Institutions. He earned a doctorate in anthropology from Berkeley and a law degree from Yale. After fellowships at Yale, NYU and Harvard, he worked at Harvard Law’s East Asian Legal Studies and FGV Sao Paulo School of Law. His work focuses on transnational historical and comparative approaches to cross-cultural legal analysis. His articles have addressed comparative issues relating to the US, Chinese, and Brazilian legal systems, as well as law and development, authoritarian law, comparative constitutionalism, legal education, and economic republicanism.

Presentation Title: The Global Avoidance of Economic Democracy in Labor & Development

[link to paper](#)

Over the last forty years, the economic development of the United States and China became increasingly intertwined. Today, recriminations are made with growing vigor in the United States regarding assumptions about the relationship between democracy and markets that were used to justify this growing interdependence between the economies of two nations with distinct political systems.

The current content of these recriminations concerning economic growth and political democratization elide completely that the integration of American and Chinese economic activity was made possible in large part through a converging consensus on the ademocratic, at best, or anti-democratic, at worst, nature of the modern workplace in both countries. This convergence was facilitated by the mutual development of contractarian norms of employment law and authoritarian norms of corporate governance which eliminated both traditional socialist and republican claims to workplace democracy.

The depth of this developmental convergence at the level of legal regulation has been further highlighted by failed attempts to sooth the dislocation between political and economic democratic values in both countries by recourse to employee ownership, as illustrated in the parallel rise during this of ESOPs in the United States and Chinese share ownership plans—recently highlighted by controversies over the ownership structure of Chinese multinational Huawei.

These twin developments lead to what should be a troubling conclusion for both countries: that fundamental differences in formal political organization appear to have little impact on the organization of the workplace—a core aspect of any substantive notion of economic citizenship.

Prof. Michael Dowdle



Michael W. Dowdle is an Associate Professor on the law faculty of the national University of Singapore. He specializes in the relationship between regulatory capacity and different kinds of space. Taught courses include law and geography, regulatory foundations of public law, transnational law and legal systems of Asia. Recent publications include *Transnational Law: A Framework for Analysis* (Cambridge University Press 2003); *Constitutionalism beyond Liberalism* (ed., with Michael A. Wilkinson) (Cambridge University Press, 2017); and *Public Accountability: Designs, Dilemmas and Experiences* (ed.) (Cambridge University Press, 2006)..

Presentation Title: On The Regulatory Geography of Modern Capitalism: Putting ‘Rule Of Law’ In Its Place

[link to paper](#)

Why is rule of law found in some places but not others? Conventional wisdom holds that rule of law is a product of human agency. This article shows, instead, that rule of law is innately limited to particular kinds of spaces by the spatial nature of modern capitalism. Both rule of law and modern capitalism order their respective regulatory spaces in particular ways. Capitalism orders some of its space in a way that makes it amenable to rule of law’s own spatial predicates, but it also causes much more of that space to be innately inhospitable to these predicates. All in all, the realms suitable for rule of law are likely to be much less common than we are wont to presume.

Prof. Asha Verma



Asha Verma holds a PhD in Child Labour in India- A Socio-Legal Study from Department of Law, Kurukshetra University Haryana in 2008. She is Master's in Law in Labour Laws. She is a seasoned professional with 20 years of work experience in Academic Administration, Educational Leadership, and holistic development of empowered personalities. She is the Pro Vice-Chancellor of IILM University and Director- IILM Law School. Her core expertise lies in Human Rights, Environmental Law, the Transfer of Property Act, Professional Ethics, Research Methodology, the Copyright Act, Labour Laws and Constitutional Law. She is also a guest speaker regularly invited to deliver insightful lecture sessions in numerous seminars, conferences etc. She has presented her papers in national and international conferences and published articles in reputed journals.

Presentation Title: Investigating the effectiveness of various strategies implemented by Legal Education Institutions to mitigate the impact of the Pandemic in India [link to paper](#)

The research work lays particular focus on the efficacy of the various strategies implemented by Legal Education Institutions to mitigate the impact of the Pandemic in India. The moment where the right to education in India was confronting the right to health guaranteed by the Indian Constitution, various strategies were envisioned and implemented. The research work demonstrates the impact assessment of these strategies.

My approach therefore included bringing the context of economic barriers and digital literacy to juxtapose ambitious plans and socio-economic realities.

My presentation would be segmented into 3 broad areas. Firstly, I shall demonstrate the scale of the pandemic. Secondly I shall talk about the penetration of technology in India across the various socio-economic groups and urban/rural/semi-urban demography. Lastly I shall present the inclusivity and effectiveness of various education imparting strategies which were based on remote learning.

Prof. Weitseng Chen



Weitseng Chen specializes in comparative Asian law—particularly within greater China area, with an emphasis on law and development. After he received JSD from Yale Law School, he worked for Stanford University as a Hewlett Fellow of the Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law (CDDRL). Immediately before he joined NUS Faculty of Law, Weitseng Chen worked as a corporate lawyer at Davis Polk & Wardwell. He is a fellow of Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin during 2021-22. Weitseng's recent research interests include authoritarian legality in South Korea, Taiwan and China, Asian state capitalism, China's outbound investment, and German law legacy in East Asia. His most recent project is “Legal Professional and Conservatism in Asia.” He has published books entitled “Regime Type and Beyond: The Transformation of Police in Asia” (w. Hualing Fu; CUP, 2023), "Authoritarian Legality in Asia: Formation, Development and Transition" (w. Hualing Fu; CUP 2019), "The Beijing Consensus? How China has Changed the Western Ideas of Law and Economic Development" (CUP, 2017), “Property and Trust Law: Taiwan” (w. Yun-Chien Chang & Y. J. Wu) (Kluwer, 2017), and “Law and Economic Miracle: Interaction between Taiwan's Development and Economic Laws after WWII” (in Chinese, 2000).

Presentation Title: Contracts, Inequality and the State: Contract Law Ultra-Heterodoxy in China

Does contract law have any role to play in tackling inequality? The orthodox answer is no, as contract law respects individual autonomy and freedom of contract. Recently, the view of contract law heterodoxy is emerging, especially in developing countries. Against this theoretical backdrop, I use contract disputes during the pandemic in China as a case study to examine how Chinese courts dealt with inequality and resulting disputes exposed by the pandemic. I found Chinese courts have pursued a much more aggressive alternative than the points of debate between contract law orthodoxy and heterodoxy. Similar to other contract law in civil law countries, Chinese contract law actually has delegated a wide discretion to judges to fix inequality, but Chinese judges do not really exercise their discretion. Rather, I identify three approaches Chinese judges have adopted, depending on the extent of social and economic impacts the contract disputes might bring about. They include the mediation, insolvency, and macro-prudential approaches. With these approaches, Chinese courts deal with inequality and its impacts by bypassing terms of contracts in dispute as well as those of other related contracts not in dispute. I posit that the three approaches are the manifestation of the peculiar perception of legality in China, which I call “negotiated legality.” Hence, these approaches might not be replicable elsewhere. Nonetheless, China's approaches do indicate that market mechanisms embraced by contract law orthodoxy are insufficient to tackle economic inequality; rather, further regulatory/state intervention is necessary.