

Young Scholar Forum: Route Competition in Hong Kong's Aviation Industry

Topic: Route Competition in Hong Kong's Aviation Industry

Date: December 30, 2025

Time: 5:30pm – 6:30pm (Online via Zoom)

Organizer: School of Law Research Centre for Chinese and Comparative Law (CCCL), City University of Hong Kong (CityUHK)

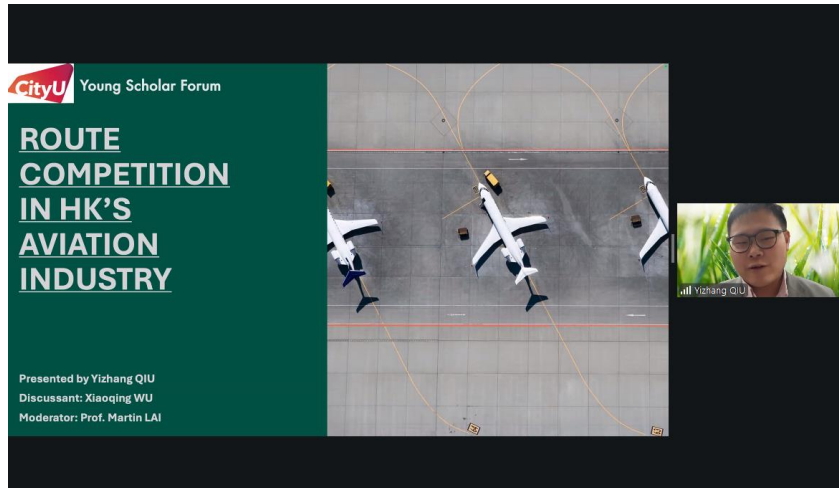
On December 30, 2025, CCCL hosted a Young Scholar Forum session titled “Route Competition in Hong Kong's Aviation Industry.” The event was moderated by Prof. Martin Lai (CityUHK), with Mr. Qiu Yizhang (PhD student, CityUHK) delivering the keynote presentation and Ms. Wu Xiaoqing (East China University of Political Science and Law) serving as discussant.

In his presentation, Mr. Qiu Yizhang explored the current state and challenges of route competition in Hong Kong's aviation market. He began by reviewing the impact of open sky policies, which have encouraged the emergence of independent budget airlines such as EasyJet, Ryanair, Wizz Air, and Southwest Airlines in other regions, fostering greater competition and diversifying route options. In contrast, Mr. Qiu pointed out that Hong Kong International Airport, despite its ambition to become a leading global air hub, remains dominated by local carriers. Non-local budget airlines and competing routes remain rare, particularly on key routes such as Hong Kong-Japan and Hong Kong-Australia.

Drawing on flight data and schedule analysis, Mr. Qiu highlighted that the lack of inter-route competition limits consumer choice and market dynamism in Hong Kong's aviation sector. He identified several structural and policy-related factors contributing to this situation and suggested possible policy measures to encourage a more open and competitive market environment.

During the discussion, Ms. Wu Xiaoqing provided comparative insights from Mainland China and emphasized the importance of balancing market openness with local regulatory considerations. The seminar concluded with a lively Q&A session, where participants discussed the broader implications of aviation liberalization and the role of budget airlines in promoting healthy competition.

This event underscored CCCL's continued commitment to fostering interdisciplinary dialogue on contemporary legal and policy issues. By bringing together experts and students for in-depth discussion, CCCL continues to strengthen its role as a hub for academic exchange and policy engagement in Hong Kong and beyond.



The image is a screenshot of a video presentation slide. On the left, a dark green vertical banner contains the following text: 'CityU Young Scholar Forum' at the top, followed by the title 'ROUTE COMPETITION IN HK'S AVIATION INDUSTRY' in large white letters, and the presenter information 'Presented by Yizhang QIU', 'Discussant: Xiaoqing WU', and 'Moderator: Prof. Martin LAI' at the bottom. The main part of the slide features an aerial view of an airport tarmac with three aircraft and orange flight path lines. On the right side, there is a small video inset showing a man with glasses, identified as 'Qiu Yizhang QIU'.

Mr. Qiu Yizhang