

ALSA Private Law 2026 Conference: “Private Law in Crisis – From Doctrine to Policy”

The Private Law in Crisis: From Doctrine to Policy conference, co-organized by City University of Hong Kong School of Law and National University of Singapore School of Law, successfully concluded on 29 May 2026. Hosted at the CityUHK School of Law, the two-day event featured over 30 papers presented in non-parallel sessions by speakers from 12 jurisdictions, enabling deep and focused scholarly exchange among participants from Asia, Australia, Europe, New Zealand, South America, and beyond.



Conference Group Photo

On the first day of the conference, Associate Dean of CityUHK School of Law, Prof. Alexander LOKE delivered welcome remarks. He emphasized the value of medium-sized forums for meaningful discussion and feedback on academic papers. The session was followed by a keynote panel on the modern transformation of private law, featuring distinguished scholars Prof. Lusina HO (Hong Kong University), Prof. Jodi GARDNER (University of Auckland), Prof. Ernest LIM (National University of Singapore), and Prof. Dan PRIEL (City University of Hong Kong). The speakers delivered diverse and insightful perspectives, covering how emerging challenges including AI, climate change and global supply chains strain traditional private law frameworks, the positive reformative value of the current private law crisis, historical structural flaws in private law that lead to unfair judicial outcomes, and the necessity of rethinking core doctrinal assumptions in trusts and property law.



Prof. Alexander LOKE



Keynote Panel

Spanning two days, the conference comprised eight thematic panel sessions covering diverse legal topics. Participants engaged actively in in-depth exchanges throughout the event, fostering a cordial and dynamic academic atmosphere. During the conference dinner on the first day, Dean and Chair Professor of Basic Law of CityUHK School of Law, Prof. LIN Feng delivered welcome remarks.

Scholars examined the evolving shift in private law from traditional doctrine toward policy-oriented responses amid contemporary crises. Tort law papers addressed structural harms such as climate change litigation, domestic violence, digital and algorithmic injuries, and AI-generated content. Corporate and financial law papers explored stablecoins, creditor duties, institutional investors, insurer insolvency, and regulatory negligence. Discussions on information, innovation, and responsibility covered dark patterns, non-compete agreements, AI copyright issues, addictive technologies, and children's vulnerability on social media, while discourses on private ordering and grand theories analyzed family provision, trusts, contracts under sanctions, higher education frameworks, and the crisis of traditional private law theories.



The closing remarks were delivered by Prof. Ding Chunyan (CityUHK) and Prof. Zhong Xing TAN (NUS). They expressed their gratitude to the scholars who delivered wonderful speeches. The event came to a successful close in a warm and collegial atmosphere.



Prof. DING Chunyan and Prof. Zhong Xing TAN

Overall, the conference powerfully demonstrated private law's growing need to balance doctrinal coherence with ethical, regulatory, policy and societal imperatives in an era of polycrisis. The rich presentations highlighted the vitality of comparative private-law scholarship and its relevance to addressing real-world challenges across jurisdictions.

Members of the Centre for Chinese and Comparative Law, Prof. DING Chunyan and Prof. CHEN Yang, served as core members of the conference organising committee.

Organizing Committee

Professor Carrie DING Chunyan (CityUHK SLW)

Associate Professor Zhong Xing TAN (NUS Law)

Assistant Professor CHEN Yang (CityUHK SLW)

Assistant Professor HU Ying (NUS Law)

Assistant Professor Jeremiah LAU (NUS Law)

Assistant Professor TAN Weiming (NUS Law)

Advisory Panel

Professor TAN Cheng Han (NUS Law)

Professor Lusina HO (HKU Law)

Professor James PENNER (NUS Law)