

2026 CCCL Chinese and Comparative Law Junior Scholars Forum: The Study of Chinese Law in the Age of AI

The 2026 CCCL Chinese and Comparative Law Junior Scholars Forum: The Study of Chinese Law in the Age of AI was successfully held at the School of Law, City University of Hong Kong (CityUHK), from 11 to 12 June 2026. Hosted by the Centre for Chinese and Comparative Law (CCCL), the forum gathered over 50 experts, junior scholars and researchers from more than 30 universities and research institutions worldwide. Featuring keynote speeches, parallel presentations and editors' roundtable discussions, the event conducted in-depth exchanges on cutting-edge Chinese legal issues and built an interdisciplinary, cross-institutional academic platform for early-career legal researchers.



Conference Group Photo

On the opening day, Dean and Chair Professor of Basic Law of CityUHK School of Law, Prof. LIN Feng, and Director of CCCL, Prof. WANG Jiangyu, delivered opening addresses. Prof. LIN introduced that CCCL is a research centre with a history of over 30 years, devoted to research in both fundamental and cutting-edge issues in Chinese and comparative legal studies. Prof. WANG emphasised that the forum aims to provide a platform for junior scholars to challenge existing paradigms and build networks. Programme Coordinator Prof. Peter CHAN (Assistant Professor, Associate Director of CCCL) also extended a warm welcome to all participants.



Prof. LIN Feng



Prof. WANG Jiangyu and Prof. Peter CHAN

The keynote session featured two leading scholars in Chinese legal studies. Prof. Jacques deLisle (University of Pennsylvania) delivered a speech titled *A Brave New World” for Studying Chinese Law?: Old and New Challenges, Double-Edged Tools, and Emerging Topics*. He explored AI’s sweeping impacts on Chinese legal scholarship, pointing out that tighter regulatory constraints have complicated access to both qualitative and quantitative research data and hampered conventional research methodologies. Nevertheless, AI brings transformative opportunities, including natural language processing and cross-linguistic analysis, allowing academics to efficiently sort through vast volumes of public legal materials. He added that young Chinese researchers are uniquely positioned to carry out rigorous research amid such evolving institutional limitations. Prof. LIN Xifen (Shanghai Jiao Tong University)’s speech *Will Artificial Intelligence Potentially Dominate Criminal Judicial Decision-Making? Evidence from Cognitive Experiments* drew on cognitive experimental data. He demonstrated that judges tend to rely heavily on AI-generated recommendations and incline toward machine judgments even when algorithmic outputs contain flaws. He traced the root causes to cognitive inertia and heavy case workload assessment mechanisms, and proposed solutions, including improved judicial accountability and standardised human-AI collaborative frameworks to balance technological efficiency and judicial independence. The presentation sparked extensive audience discussions on AI’s academic application risks and the unique value of human legal reasoning.



Prof. Jacques deLisle and Prof. LIN Xifen

Structured into a Main Forum and parallel Early Researchers Panels, the forum ran 17 presentation sessions covering diverse fields, including Tech law and AI, civil and commercial private law, criminal procedure, and international trade and economic law. Criminal law sessions delved into practical dilemmas such as the legal standing of sexual assault victims and the criminalisation boundary of cryptoasset transactions. Arbitration law and practice session

centred on smart arbitration reforms and blockchain-based dispute resolution mechanisms. Tech law and AI session tracks explored algorithmic checks on judicial discretion and liability for harms arising from clinical AI applications. Private law session re-examined foundational legal doctrines via algorithmic contracts, electronic wills and digital labour disconnection rights. Intellectual property session unpacked copyright governance challenges posed by AI cover songs and platform-generated content. The session on international trade and economic law offered a comparative analysis of WTO's digital trade rules and cross-border legal risks associated with artificial intelligence. All sessions featured innovative arguments and vibrant scholarly dialogue.



Beyond parallel presentations, multiple thematic workshops were held on 12 June. Prof. WANG Jiangyu, delivered a dedicated workshop drawing on his long-standing experience as an international journal reviewer. He outlined core benchmarks for high-quality English legal scholarship, weighed the merits and academic integrity risks of AI-assisted writing, and shared practical submission guidance for junior scholars targeting overseas law journals.



Prof. WANG Jiangyu

The Editor-in-Chief Panel was moderated by Prof. HE Tianxiang, Assistant Professor at CityUHK. Three internationally renowned journal editors — Prof. Jacques deLisle, Prof. WANG Jiangyu and Prof. LIU Qiao — shared insights onstage. The panellists stressed that rigorous legal papers must feature clearly defined research puzzles, solid legal archival support and original scholarly contributions, and resolved common doubts regarding Chinese and English submission thresholds, citation standards and double-blind review procedures.



Editor-in-Chief Panel

The Scholars Panel “Conducting China Law research in Hong Kong” was hosted by Prof. Peter CHAN. Prof. LI Yahong (the University of Hong Kong) and Prof. HE Tianxiang served as panellists. The scholars compared empirical research environments and data accessibility between the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong, and shared cross-jurisdictional comparative analytical frameworks based on their own studies in intellectual property and internet regulation.



Scholars Panel

Prof. WANG Jiangyu and Prof. Peter CHAN delivered the closing address, summarising cross-forum consensus on AI legal governance, academic writing and journal submissions. They announced the call for papers for the forum’s special issue and confirmed that the Junior Scholars Forum will become a permanent annual free academic initiative run by CCCL to continuously support early-career researchers. The Centre will also launch visiting scholar programs open to global Chinese law scholars for sustained academic collaboration. They extended sincere gratitude to all speakers and participants, bringing the academic forum to a successful conclusion amid a warm and engaging atmosphere.