

CPLR E-Newsletter

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Public Law and Human Rights Forum, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong



Public Law and
Human Rights Forum

香港城市大學
City University of Hong Kong

Happy New Year from the Public Law and Human Rights Forum (CPLR), and welcome to the CPLR's first e-newsletter!

The CPLR is a research centre of the School of Law of the City University of Hong Kong (CityU), which was established in September 2017. Its work primarily focuses on constitutional law, criminal law and criminal justice, human rights in Hong Kong and Asia, public international law and business and human rights. The mission of the CPLR is to conduct research, foster collaboration, and build capacity in the fields of public law and human rights. The CPLR brings together core faculty members with international public law and human rights experts to promote research and practice in human rights, and to exchange ideas.

Since December 2019, the COVID-19 has raged across the globe and changed our lives in many ways. The Hong Kong Government has adopted a wide range of public health and social measures to delay the spread of COVID-19. To prioritise the safety and well-being of students, staff and guests, the CPLR has strictly complied with social distancing rules and travel restrictions. We have postponed face-to-face events and moved conferences online (via Zoom). During these difficult times, we will continue to organise and showcase our events on Zoom.

We are pleased to update you on the highlights of our 2020 events (and other past events since the CPLR's establishment), our members' media presence in 2020, as well as information on upcoming events for the first half of 2021. Hope you enjoy our newsletter and continue to stay in touch with us.

Highlights of Events in 2020

Roundtable Series on National Security Law (IV) — Hong Kong in the Post-National Security Law Era: Some Reflections from International Law and Relations Perspectives

20 October 2020

Moderator: *Dr. Fozia Nazir Lone, Core Member of the CPLR, School of Law, CityU*

Panellists: *Mr. Ian Grenville Cross, SBS, QC, SC, Honorary Professor of Law, University of Hong Kong;*
Prof. Wang Jiangyu, Director of Centre for Chinese and Comparative Law (CCCL), School of Law, CityU;
Prof. John Antony Carty, School of Law, Beijing Institute of Technology

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Since the implantation of Hong Kong's National Security Law (NSL) in June 2020, countries have expressed opposition to the law and reassessed their relationship and suspended their extradition treaties with Hong Kong. The CPLR held its second webinar of the roundtable series on the NSL, with particular focus on international law and relations perspectives. The panellists provided a critical academic reflection on issues such as the legitimacy of the NSL under international treaties, the countries' suspension of extradition agreements with Hong Kong, and the ways of sustaining and restoring Hong Kong's standing as an international city.



Please click here ([Eng/Chi](#)) for a recap of the webinar.

Roundtable Series on National Security Law (III) — International Symposium on the National Security Law of Hong Kong: Theoretical and Practical Perspectives

11 September 2020

(jointly held with “One Country Two Systems” Law Institute of the Renmin University of China (RUC), and the Centre for Chinese and Comparative Law (CCCL), School of Law at CityU)

Moderators: *Prof. Han Dayuan, RUC Law School, Committee Member for the Basic Law of the HKSAR under the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress;*

Prof. Jiao Hongchang, Dean of the School of Law, China University of Political Science and Law;

Prof. Mo Yuchuan, RUC Law School;

Prof. Qin Qianhong, School of Law, Wuhan University;

Prof. Zhu Guobin, Director of CPLR, School of Law, CityU;

Prof. Zou Pingxue, Director of Centre for Basic Laws of Hong Kong and Macau Special Administrative Regions, Shenzhen University



In order to quell the yearlong protest movement in Hong Kong, the Third Plenary Session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) passed the “Decision on Establishing and Improving the Legal System and Enforcement Mechanisms for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to Safeguard National Security” (NPC Decision) on 28 May 2020. The NPC entrusted its Standing Committee (NPCSC) to formulate the Hong Kong NSL, banning any acts or activities (namely secession, subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign

forces) that might threaten China's national security. The NPCSC decided to include the law into Annex III of the Basic Law after consulting the Basic Law Committee and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). The NSL came into effect at 11:00 pm on 30 June 2020.

The NPC's move has not only attracted national and international attention but also brought forth many academic questions. The CPLR jointly organised an international symposium on the NSL with its sister research centre — the CCCL, together with the "One Country Two Systems" Law Institute at the RUC, discussing the various critical theoretical issues and practical difficulties related to the implementation of the NSL. This was part of the CPLR's roundtable series on the NSL, and was the first bilingual online academic symposium relating to the NSL with simultaneous interpretation provided throughout the whole symposium. Twenty-six legal academics and practitioners from Hong Kong, mainland China and overseas were invited to share their views on the NSL via Zoom. Speakers included (in no particular order) **Prof. Albert Chen Hung-ye** and **Prof. Fu Hualing** from University of Hong Kong; **Dr. Cheng Jie** from University of British Columbia, **Prof. Sunny Lo** and **Mr. Danny Gittings** from HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education; **Prof. Zhu Guobin**, **Dr. Peter Wang Shucheng**, **Dr. Daniel Pascoe**, **Dr. Fozia Nazir Lone** and **Prof. Wang Jiangyu** from CityU; **Dr. Wei Leijie** from Xiamen University; **Dr. Lam Chi Yan** from Hong Kong Policy Research Institute, **Prof. Ye Haibo** from Shenzhen University; **Prof. Yao Guojian** and **Prof. Shi Pengpeng** from China University of Political Science and Law; **Dr. Cao Xudong** from Sun Yat-sen University; **Mr. Anson Wong Yu Yat** from Denis Chang's Chambers; **Dr. Chen Xuan** from RUC; **Dr. Jiang Su** and **Dr. Zuo Yilu** from Peking University; **Dr. Lo Pui Yin** from Nanyang Chambers; **Dr. Tu Kai** from Tsinghua University; **Prof. Wang Jianxue** from Tianjin University; **Dr. Huang Mingtao** from Wuhan University; **Prof. Yang Xiaonan** of Dalian Maritime University; and **Dr. Zhang Xiaoshan** from Guangdong University of Foreign Studies.

Click here ([Eng/Chi](#)) for a recap of the symposium.

To read the full report on the symposium, please click [here](#).

Roundtable Series on National Security Law (II) — Hong Kong's National Security Law: Implications for Companies and their Human Rights Responsibilities

30 July 2020

Moderator: *Dr. Surya Deva, Associate Director of CPLR, School of Law, CityU*

Panellists: *Dr. Tara Van Ho, School of Law, University of Essex;*

Ms. Rebecca MacKinnon, Founding Director, Ranking Digital Rights;

Mr. William Nee, Business and Human Rights Strategy Advisor, Amnesty International Hong Kong

Ms. Carol Ng, Chairperson Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions;

Mr. Kristian Odebjerg, Chairman, Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong

Where the NSL applies to all companies operating in Hong Kong, it is advised that they should ensure that their pecuniary or other financial assistance or property to others will not be used for the acts and/or activities which would endanger the national security law under Articles 21



and 23. Companies may find difficulties in complying with the NSL while observing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and other international standards. The CPLR held its first webinar of the roundtable series on the NSL, with a special focus on its implications for companies and their human rights responsibilities. Five experts representing different stakeholders participated in the webinar.

Please click here ([Eng/Chi](#)) for a recap of the webinar.

Asia Pacific Virtual Consultation on Revised Draft of the Proposed Business and Human Rights Treaty

23 June 2020

(jointly organised with the Law Futures Centre at Griffith University)

Moderators: *Dr. Surya Deva, Associate Director the CPLR, School of Law, CityU;*
Prof. Sarah Joseph, Griffith Law School, Griffith University

Lead Discussants: *Prof. Justine Nolan, Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales;*
Prof. Ryan Song, Law School, Kyung Hee University;
Prof. Zhang Wanhong, School of Law, Wuhan University;
Ms. Akiko Sato, Human Rights Lawyer;
Dr. Joanna Kyriakakis, Faculty of Law, Monash University;
Prof. Ilias Bantekas, School of Public Policy and Law, Hamad bin Khalifa University;
Dr. Shelley Marshall, Director of Business and Human Rights Centre, RMIT University

In June 2014, the United Nations Human Rights Council established an open-ended intergovernmental working group (OEIGWG) “to elaborate an international legally binding instrument to regulate, in international human rights law, the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises”. In its report on its fifth session, the Chair-Rapporteur recommended “regional and political groups, intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations and all other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to organize consultations at all levels, including in particular at the regional and national level, with a view to exchanging comments and inputs on the revised draft legally binding instrument”. Hence, the CPLR and the Law Futures Centre of Griffith University co-organised the “Asia Pacific Virtual Consultation on Revised Draft of the Proposed Business and Human Rights Treaty”. Around 45 participants (including academics, lawyers and civil society organisations) registered for the virtual consultation; about 30 participants engaged in discussing how to improve the revised draft of the proposed legally binding instrument. Based on input received during the consultation, the co-organisers submitted a summary of recommendations to the OEIGWG in July 2020.

Please click [here](#) to read the summary of recommendations.

International Symposium on COVID-19 and Models of Governance in East Asia and the World

12 June 2020

(jointly held with the CCCL)

Chairs: *Prof. Zhu Guobin, Director of CPLR, School of Law, CityU;*
Dr. Nicholas Thomas, Department of Asian and International Studies, CityU;
Prof. Jean-Pierre Cabestan, Department of Government and International Studies, Hong Kong Baptist University;

Prof. Jonathan Zhu, Chair Professor of Computational Social Science, School of Data Science, CityU;
Prof. Wang Shucheng, School of Law, CityU

As the COVID-19 has spread around the planet, countries have adopted different policies and approaches to tackle the crisis. With the success of the CCCL's online workshop on 22 May 2020 which focused on discussing the impacts of COVID-19 on international law, international relations and international order; the CCCL and the CPLR jointly held another online symposium to evaluate the performance of different models in fighting the pandemic in Asia and examine governance-related regulatory issues concerning legitimacy, rule of law and rights protection, policy-making process, public health system, global governance, and so on.

Twenty-six scholars and policymakers were invited to participate in the international symposium, including (in no particular order) **Prof. Wang Chenguang** and **Prof. Ren Jiantao** from Tsinghua University; **Prof. Wang Lei**, **Prof. Shen Kui** and **Prof. Zha Daojiong** from Peking University; **Prof. He Zhipeng** from Jilin University; **Prof. Lin Yan** from Shanghai Jiao Tong University; **Mr. Zhu Haubin** from J.P. Morgan; **Prof. Xi Chao** from Chinese University of Hong Kong; **Dr. Ding Chunyan**, **Dr. Surya Deva**, **Dr. Edmund Cheng**, **Prof. Zhu Guobin**, **Dr. Zhang Xiaoshan**, **Dr. Elena Sherstoboeva**, **Dr. Fozia Nazir Lone**, **Prof. Tan Cheng Han**, **Prof. Wang Jingyu** from CityU; **Ms. Zhang Qianye** from World Bank; **Dr. Li Hui** and **Dr. Ker Sin Tze** from National University of Singapore; **Prof. Wang Kuan Hsi** from Zhejiang University; **Prof. Yeh Jiunn-rong** from National Taiwan University; **Prof. Xiong Bingwan** from Renmin University of China; **Prof. Thomas Kadner Graziano** from University of Geneva; and **Dr. Valentina Pavlenko** from National Research University Higher School of Economics.



Click here ([Eng/Chi](#)) for a recap of the symposium.

To watch the recording of the international symposium, please click [here](#).

Roundtable Series on National Security Law (I) — Online Symposium on “National Security Legislation of the HKSAR”

5 June 2020

(jointly held with the CCCL)

Where the NPC approved the decision to enact NSL for Hong Kong on 28 May 2020, it attracted worldwide attention. Many questioned the legal basis of the NPC Decision, the relationship between the NPC Decision and the Basic Law, etc. The CPLR and its sister research centre, the CCCL, jointly organised an online symposium on the National Security Legislation of the HKSAR, inviting 14 scholars and lawyers to share their opinions on the NPC Decision. This was the CPLR's first academic event of the roundtable series of the NSL.

Speakers included (in no particular order) **Prof. Han Dayuan** from Renmin University of China; **Prof. Chen Duanhong** and **Prof. Wang Lei** from Peking University; **Prof. Qin Qianhong** and **Dr. Huang Mingtao** from Wuhan University; **Prof. Yang Xiaonan** from Dalian Maritime University; **Prof. Ling Bing** from the University of Sydney; **Dr. Li Zhe** from Macau University; **Dr. Jimmy Ma** from Liberty Chamber; **Dr. Lo Pui Yin** from Nanyang Chambers; **Prof. Albert Chen Hung-ye** and **Prof. Fu Hualing** from University of Hong Kong; **Prof. Zhu Guobin** and **Prof. Wang Jiangyu** from CityU.



Click here ([Eng/Chi](#)) for a recap of the symposium.

To read the full report on the symposium, please click [here](#).

Virtual Seminars on International Investment Law in Times of COVID-19

1 & 3 June 2020

Moderator – Webinar 1 (1 June 2020): *Dr. Surya Deva, Associate Director of CPLR, School of Law, CityU;*

Lead Discussants – Webinar 1: *Dr. Jean Ho, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore;*

Ms. Lise Johnson, Head: Investment Law and Policy, Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment;

Dr. Prabhath Ranjan, Faculty of Legal Studies, South Asian University;

Ms. Celine Tan, School of Law, University of Warwick;

Prof. Markus Krajewski, School of Law, University of Erlangen-Nürnberg;

Moderator – Webinar 2 (3 June 2020): *Prof. Sufian Jusoh, Institute of Malaysian and International Studies, National University of Malaysia*

Lead Discussants – Webinar 2: *Ms. Nathalie Bernasconi-Osterwalder, Senior Director of Economic Law and Policy Program, International Institute on Sustainable Development*

Dr. Romesh Weeramantry, Counsel, Clifford Chance Asia;

Dr. Paolo Vargiu, Leicester Law School, University of Leicester;

Dr. Tara Van Ho, School of Law, University of Essex;

Prof. Julien Chaisse, School of Law, CityU

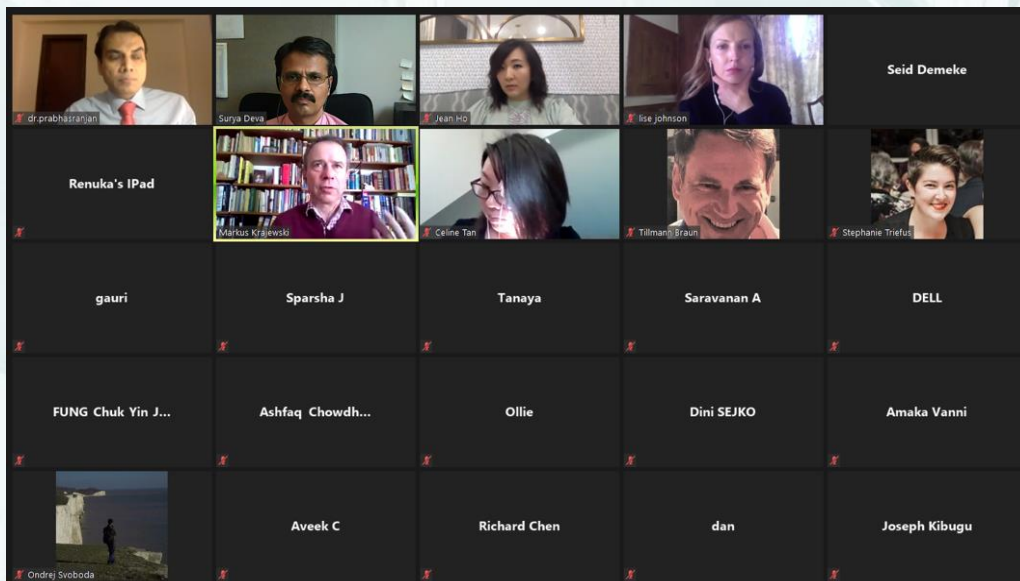
The outbreak of COVID-19 has brought unprecedented challenges to the global community and economy. Governments have enforced lockdowns and curfews of varying degrees (e.g., calling on employers to adopt work from home arrangement, shutting down non-essential businesses) to protect public health, disturbing most industries as well as foreign investors. Thus, international investment law (IIL) has become significantly more important to companies as their businesses have been inevitably affected. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many ILL-related questions arise such as: Has IIL been able to strike a balance in achieving the goals of protecting human rights (and employees' rights) and that of companies? Is IIL designed to facilitate

inclusive and sustainable development? Has IIL exacerbated existing asymmetries between corporate investors and communities, including about access to justice? Does Covid-19 offer the global community an opportunity to rebuild a more equitable IIL?

In response to these questions, the CPLR has hosted the “States, Investors and Individuals:

Need for Re-Balancing Rights and Obligations?” (Webinar 1) on 1 June 2020.

On 3 June 2020, it has organised the “Settlement of Investor-State Disputes: Moving Beyond the Privileged Justice?” (Webinar 2).



An Online Workshop on the Court Decisions of the Anti-mask Case

25 April 2020

Chairs: Prof. Zhu Guobin, Director the CPLR, School of Law, CityU;
Prof. Wang Lei, Faculty of Law, Peking University

In October 2019, the Hong Kong Government invoked the colonial-era Emergency Regulations Ordinance (ERO) to introduce the Prohibition on Face Covering Regulation (“anti-mask law”) at the height of civil unrest. People were banned from covering up their faces at demonstrations. Activists and pro-democracy lawmakers lodged a judicial review application against the Government, challenging the constitutionality of the ERO as well as the anti-mask law made under the ERO.

The CPLR brought together experts and scholars to present their views and comments on the anti-mask law case. Where the case was undergoing judicial proceedings at the time of the online workshop, it mainly focused on the academic aspect.



Please click here ([Eng/Chi](#)) for a recap of the workshop.

Past Events (2017– 2020)

As this is the CPLR first e-newsletter, we would like you to have a glance at our previous activities. Since the establishment of the CPLR in September 2017, the CPLR has organised a wide range of academic events dedicated to public law and human rights, including:

Roundtable Series on National Security Law (IV) — Hong Kong in the Post-National Security Law Era: Some Reflections from International Law and Relations Perspectives

20 October 2020

Coordinator: Dr. Fozia Nazir Lone

Roundtable Series on National Security Law (III) — International Symposium on the National Security Law of Hong Kong: Theoretical and Practical Perspectives

11 September 2020

Coordinator: Prof. Zhu Guobin

Roundtable Series on National Security Law (II) — Hong Kong's National Security Law: Implications for Companies and their Human Rights Responsibilities

30 July 2020

Coordinator: Dr. Surya Deva

Asia Pacific Virtual Consultation on Revised Draft of the Proposed Business and Human Rights Treaty

23 June 2020

Coordinator: Dr. Surya Deva

Staff Seminar Series (Online): Cross-Fertilization of Westphalian Approaches to International Law: Third World Studies and a New Era of International Law Scholarship

16 June 2020

Coordinator: Dr. Fozia Nazir Lone

International Symposium on COVID-19 and Models of Governance in East Asia and the World

12 June 2020

Coordinator: Prof. Zhu Guobin

Roundtable Series on National Security Law (I) — Online Symposium on "National Security Legislation of the HKSAR"

5 June 2020

Coordinator: Prof. Zhu Guobin

Virtual Seminars on International Investment Law in Times of Covid-19

1 & 3 June 2020

Coordinator: Dr. Surya Deva

A Dialogue: Removing Barriers to Access to Justice in Hong Kong

21 May 2020

Coordinator: Dr. Chow Pok Yin Stephenson

An Online Workshop on the Court Decisions of the Anti-mask Case

22 April 2020

*Coordinator: Prof. Zhu Guobin***BHR Network Hong Kong: Corporate responsibility concerning freedom of speech and freedom of association in Hong Kong**

17 January 2020

*Coordinator: Dr. Surya Deva***Symposium on the System and Powers of Chief Executive**

20 – 21 December 2019

*Coordinator: Prof. Zhu Guobin***BHR Network Hong Kong: Discussion on Human Rights Responsibilities of Business Enterprises concerning Ongoing Protests in Hong Kong**

23 August 2019

*Coordinator: Dr. Surya Deva***The 2019 6th International Model UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review (I-Model UN UPR)**

11 – 14 August 2019

*Coordinators: Dr. Surya Deva & Dr. Chow Pok Yin Stephenson***BHR Network Hong Kong: Discussion on the Modern Slavery Act and the ESG Guideline**

24 May 2019

*Coordinator: Dr. Surya Deva***Symposium on the Power of Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPCSC) over the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) with Special Reference to "the Co-location Case"**

26 April 2019

*Coordinator: Prof. Zhu Guobin***Roundtable with a delegation from the German-Chinese Association for Labour Law**

3 April 2019

*Coordinator: Dr. Julia Tomassetti***The UN Business and Human Rights Treaty – In Danger of Being Dead on Arrival? by Dr. Jonathan Kolieb**

1 April 2019

*Coordinator: Dr. Surya Deva***Actualising Capacity in Chinese-Speaking Asia: On the Challenges and Good Practices to Implementing Article 12 of the UNCRPD**

30 March 2019

Coordinator: Dr. Chow Pok Yin Stephenson

Comparative Constitutional Law Trends in Clemency

11 March 2019

*Coordinator: Dr. Daniel Pascoe***Labour Power in the Electronics Manufacturing: A Stakeholder Consultation (A round-table organized as part of the research project on Sustainable Market Actors and Responsible Trade (SMART))**

8 March 2019

*Coordinator: Dr. Surya Deva***Implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in Hong Kong and Mainland China: The Role of a BHR Network**

1 March 2019

*Coordinator: Dr. Surya Deva***International Conference on Human Rights at a Crossroads: From 1948 to 2018 and Beyond**

10 – 12 December 2018

*Coordinators: Prof. Zhu Guobin, Dr. Surya Deva & Dr. Mark Kielsgard***Building an Access to Justice Network for Business and Human Rights in Asia**

28 October 2018

*Coordinator: Dr. Surya Deva***Conference on the Challenges to the Implementation of CPRD in Asia and the World**

28 October 2018

*Coordinator: Dr. Chow Pok Yin Stephenson***2018 International Model UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review**

31 July – 3 August 2018

*Coordinators: Dr. Surya Deva & Dr. Chow Pok Yin Stephenson***Human Rights and the Business of Social Media**

25 June 2018

*Coordinator: Dr. Surya Deva***China's Role in Reshaping Global Governance: Challenges and Opportunities**

2 March 2018

Coordinator: Dr. Surya Deva

Media Presence (2020)

The CPLR members have activity engaged in public discussions concerning public law and human rights matters. In 2020, members were widely cited in local and international media outlets, including:

Prof. Zhu Guobin

- Prof. Zhu was quoted in South China Morning Post on [“Hong Kong elections: will Legislative Council polls be postponed, and who stands to gain?”](#), 29 July 2020
- [“National Security Law is still within the ‘One Country, Two Systems’ framework”](#), Ming Pao, 29 June 2020
- Prof. Zhu was quoted in South China Morning Post on [“Hong Kong national security law: how will China introduce it and who will be consulted?”](#), 23 June 2020
- An interview with the HK01 on Hong Kong National Security Law – [Part I](#) & [Part II](#), 15 June 2020
- [“The enactment of National Security Law by Hong Kong itself is no longer an option”](#), Ming Pao, 25 May 2020
- [“The past, present and future of ‘One Country, Two Systems’” – Part I & Part II](#), Ta Kung Pao, 10 April 2020
- Prof. Zhu Guobin was appointed as an Advisor of Our Hong Kong Foundation, 1 April 2020

Dr. Surya Deva

- Prof. Deva was quoted in Quartz on [“Singapore’s migrant workers are basically in coronavirus jail”](#), 18 December 2020
- Prof. Deva was quoted in Financial Times on [“Banks in Hong Kong advised to report security law breaches to police”](#), 20 October 2020
- [“BHR Symposium: The Business and Human Rights Treaty in 2020–The Draft is ‘Negotiation-Ready’, but are States Ready?”](#), Opinio Juris, 8 September 2020
- Prof. Deva was quoted in The Atlantic on [“Hong Kong’s Most Brazen Arrest Yet”](#), 10 August 2020
- Prof. Deva was quoted in Hong Kong Free Press on [“Security Law: Hong Kong sanctions snare banks as US-China tensions spiral”](#), 5 August 2020
- Prof. Deva was quoted in Reuters on [“Bangkok court admits Cambodia farmers' lawsuit against Thai sugar firm”](#), 31 July 2020
- An interview with Melbourne Asia Review on [“COVID-19 and Belt and Road: Some of the issues impacting business and human rights”](#), 20 July 2020
- Prof. Deva was quoted in Quartz on [“Multinational companies are calling out injustice everywhere—except in China”](#), 9 July 2020
- Dr. Surya Deva was invited to join the UN Global Compact’s Target Gender Equality Global Coalition, 17 April 2020
- [“With coronavirus crisis, China sees a chance to export its model of governance”](#), South China Morning Post, 29 March 2020

Dr. Fozia Nazir Lone

- Dr. Lone was quoted in Nikkei Asia on [“Kashmiris expect Biden to pressure India on human rights”](#), 3 December 2020
- [“China’s promotion of international anti-epidemic cooperation is of clear and progressive significance”](#), People’s Daily, 22 July 2020
- Dr. Lone was quoted in People’s Daily on [“Summary of the Global Pandemic Prevention & Control and Human Rights Protection Conference Series”](#), 15 July 2020

- Dr. Lone was quoted in Xinhua News on [“Protection of Human Rights In Public Health Crisis: Function and Obligations of States”](#), 9 June 2020

Upcoming Events (First Half of 2021)

2021 Asia-Oceania Business and Human Rights Doctoral Symposium: Shaping the business and human agenda of the next decade

3, 4 & 9 February 2021

(jointly hold with the RMIT Business and Human Rights Centre)

Facilitators: *Dr. Surya Deva*, Associate Director of CPLR, School of Law, CityU;

Dr. Shelley Marshall, Director of Business and Human Rights Centre, RMIT University;

Ms. Daisy Gardener, Managing Director of Business and Human Rights Centre, RMIT University

Speakers: *Dr. Andy Hall*, Human Rights Defender and Migrant Worker Rights Specialist;

Ms. Poonsap Tulaphan, Manager, Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion (HomeNet Thailand);

Dr. Surya Deva, Associate Director of CPLR, School of Law, CityU;

Dr. Usha Ramanathan, Independent Lawyer and Legal Researcher;

Dr. Fiona McGaughey, UWA Law School, The University of Western Australia;

Prof. Justine Nolan, Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales (UNSW Law School);

Ms. Kalpona Akter, Founder and Executive Director, Bangladesh Centre for Worker Solidarity;

Dr. Kate Macdonald, School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne

Dr. Ruth Saovana-Spriggs, School of Culture, History and Language, Australian National University

Dr. James Fitzgerald, UNSW Law School, and Strategy Lead, Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility

Commentators: *Prof. Vasanthi Srinivasan*, Organizational Behavior & Human Resources Management, Indian Institutes of Management;

Dr. Joanna Kyriakakis, Faculty of Law, Monash University;

Prof. Fiona Haines, School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne;

Dr. Jonathan Kolieb, Graduate School of Business and Law, RMIT University;

Dr. Kate Grosser, School of Management, RMIT University;

Prof. Sang Soo Lee, School of Law, Sogang University;

Dr. Surya Deva, Associate Director of CPLR, School of Law, CityU;

Prof. Alan Lowe, School of Accounting, Information Systems and Supply Chain, RMIT University;

Prof. Jolyon Ford, Associated Dean (International) of ANU College of Law, Australian National University

This online symposium is jointly hosted by the CPLR and the RMIT Centre for Business and Human Rights. It will strengthen the next generation of scholars. It will place them in collaboration with their peers as they develop innovative ideas and alternative approaches to ways that business can embed human rights in their practice and supply chain governance, and the law can better promote respect for human rights by business. The symposium will also offer a forum for business and human rights doctoral scholars to engage in legal, policy and practice debates that have currency in the region, while offering unparalleled opportunities to strengthen participants' writing and research. All participants will receive feedback on their existing research from peers as well as selected experts (i.e., commentators).

The 10th Hong Kong Human Rights Moot 2021

6 February 2021 (Preliminary Round); 27 March 2021 (Final Round)
(jointly hold with the Vidler & Co. Solicitors)

Coordinators: *Dr. Mark Kielsingard*, Associate Director of the CPLR, School of Law, CityU;
Mr. Michael Vidler, Senior Partner, Vidler & Co. Solicitors

The Hong Kong Human Rights Moot was first launched in 2010 by Vidler & Co. Solicitors to raise awareness amongst law students of Hong Kong human rights issues. Previous moot questions have touched upon a diverse range of issues – including the right to life, access to social housing, disability and race discrimination, recognition of foreign registered same-sex marriages, freedom of expression as well as prisoners’ rights. This year the inter-university moot is co-sponsored by Vidler & Co. Solicitors and the CPLR and co-hosted by the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the University of Hong Kong. Each Law School will host its Preliminary Round on 6 February 2021 and delegate a team of 2 students (based on the students’ performance on the Preliminary Round) to the Final Round on 27 March. The semi-finalists from the three Law Schools will compete for the title of “winner” of the moot in the Final Round.

Roundtable Series on National Security Law (V) — Hong Kong’s National Security Law: Procedural and Sentencing Implications

25 February 2021 (7 pm – 8:30 pm HKT)

Moderator: *Dr. Daniel Pascoe*, Core Member of CPLR, School of Law, CityU

Panellists: *Prof. Vivienne Bath*, Sydney Law school, University of Sydney;
Prof. Michael C. Davis, Global Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars;
Mr. Denis Edwards, Barrister and Mediator, Normanton Chambers;
Mr. Paul Harris, SC, Barrister, Denis Chang’s Chambers, and Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association;
Prof. Simon N. M. Young, Barrister, Parkside Chambers, and Associate Dean (Research) of Faculty of Law, University of Hong Kong

Since the NPC approved the decision to enact NSL for Hong Kong on 28 May 2020 and the law came into effect on 30 June 2020, the CPLR has organised the Roundtable Series on the NSL to discuss its academic implications. The CPLR will host its third webinar as part of the Series, aiming at clarifying the NSL’s implications for criminal practice in the near future. The panellists will provide a critical reflection on six topics: (1) prosecutors’ decision on which courts to try NSL cases in; (2) the power to exclude juries from Court of First Instance trials in NSL cases; (3) the selection of magistrates and judges to hear NSL offences; (4) the ongoing impact of the *Tong Ying-kit* decision on bail for NSL offences; (5) the impact of mandatory minimum punishments on sentencing in NSL cases; and (6) which types of cases might result in the assertion of jurisdiction by mainland courts, via the Office for Safeguarding National Security.

Virtual Workshop on the Role of Scholars in Promoting Business and Human Rights Law and Policy Reforms in Asia

26 – 28 April 2021

Coordinators: *Dr. Surya Deva*, Associate Director of CPLR, School of Law, CityU;
Mr. Namit Agarwal, Asia Policy Lead, World Benchmarking Alliance;

Dr. Harpreet Kuar, *Business & Human Rights Specialist, United Nations Development Programmes;*
Human Rights and Business Academy

In the last decade, the discourse on business and human rights (BHR) and responsible business conduct (RBC) has gained significant momentum all over the world. International standards such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, and the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises have provided impetus to promote business respect for human rights. Business enterprises are also expected to contribute to inclusive and sustainable development in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). National action plans on business and human rights (NAPs) have emerged as a critical tool for states to implement these standards, especially the UNGPs. Thailand (2019) and Japan (2020) are two Asian states that have adopted stand-alone NAPs, while several other states in Asia are in the process of developing a NAP. However, inadequate evidence-based research and scholarship in Asia is undermining the effective implementation of global standards in varied local contexts.

The CPLR, the World Benchmarking Alliance, the United Nations Development Programs as well as the Human Rights and Business Academy are co-organising a virtual workshop to build capacity of academics and researchers from Asian states. The workshop will be facilitated by leading experts in an interactive manner. This virtual workshop aims to pursue two long-term objects: (1) establishment a network of BHR scholars in Asia to institutionalise regular collaboration to conduct research, influence global BHR landscape, and promote the implementation of BGR standards by states and businesses; and (2) publish a special issue on BHR issue on BHR in Asia in the Business and Human Rights Journal or some other medium.

Public Law and Human Rights Book Review Series

Date TBC

(jointly hold with the Asia Pacific Law Review (APLR), School of Law, CityU)

Coordinators: *Prof. Zhu Guobin*, Director of CPLR, School of Law, CityU;

Dr. Daniel Pascoe, Core Member of CPLR, School of Law, CityU;

Dr. Chow Pok Yin Stephenson, Core Member of CPLR, School of Law, CityU

The CPLR is going to organise the Public Law and Human Rights Book Review Series with the APLR, combining the expertise of both the CPLR and APLR. The objectives of the seminar series are to foster research in the fields of public law and human rights and to exchange ideas.

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