

HRLF Staff Seminar Series

Title : **Comparative Constitutional Law Trends in Clemency**
Speaker : **Dr. Daniel Pascoe**
Date : **11 March 2019 (Monday)**
Time : **12:00 pm – 1:00 pm**
Venue : **School of Law Conference Room (Rm P5401),
5/F, Purple Zone, Yeung Kin Man Academic Building,
City University of Hong Kong**

About the Speaker:

Dr Daniel Pascoe is an Assistant Professor at the School of Law, City University of Hong Kong. He has degrees in Law, Asian Studies and Criminology/Criminal Justice from the Australian National University and from the University of Oxford, where he was the Keith Murray Graduate Scholar at Lincoln College. His first monograph, entitled *Last Chance for Life: Clemency in Southeast Asian Death Penalty Cases* will be published by Oxford University Press in March 2019. His research interests include criminal law and punishment in comparative perspective, Southeast Asian law, and Islamic Law.



Abstract:

This paper will appear as the opening chapter in an edited collection on comparative and empirical approaches to executive clemency, to be published by Routledge in late 2019. The starting point for comparative legal research on executive clemency is Leslie Sebba's 1977 article in the journal *Criminal Law & Criminology* comparing clemency mechanisms around the world. Subsequent scholarship tends to have only considered executive clemency in comparative perspective over a limited number of jurisdictions, or in relation to capital punishment cases only. However, since Sebba published his world survey, based on data from the mid-1970s, there have been significant political and legal changes. Most significantly, more than 150 national constitutions have come into force since 1970. Sebba only considered the constitutional provisions of exactly 100 different jurisdictions, whereas in 2018 there are currently 193 UN member states, plus the Vatican and Palestine as UN observer states, plus other territories whose international status is disputed (e.g. Taiwan, Kosovo). The paper dissects Sebba's four main findings one by one and updates them based on worldwide constitutional data from 2018. Ultimately, the paper assesses whether Sebba's comparative findings are still relevant in the contemporary constitutional landscape.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Refreshments and sandwiches will be provided.

Free admission on first-come, first-served basis.

Seat reservation and enquiry: jcyfung@cityu.edu.hk