Third party punishment under judicial review: An economic experiment on the effects of appeals

29 September, 2014
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On 29 September 2014, the Centre for Chinese and Comparative Law (RCCL) invited Professor Peter Lewisch of the University of Vienna to give a lecture on “Third party punishment under judicial review: An economic experiment on the effects of appeals”. Professor Lewisch is the Professor of Criminal Law at University of Vienna and Director of the Centre for Business and Financial Crime. His main academic fields are Criminal and Constitutional Law, Competition & Regulatory, Economic Analysis of the Law.

During the lecture, Professor Lewisch discussed how the presence of the appellate courts affects the first instance punisher, the potential thief, the level of satisfaction of the victims and the overall welfare of the society. He started with pointing out that procedural law is commonly to serve a threefold goal: expedient, cheap and just. Then, he used a “stealing scenario” to analyze the impact of the appellate court on both the first instance court and people’s welfare – mainly on the victims’ welfare.
Although the introduction of the appellate court seems to increase the costs, the experiment proved that with the presence of the appellate court, the level of crime decreases; overall level of welfare increases; and satisfaction among the victims increases.

The audience found the presentation very interesting and they also actively interact with Prof. Lewisch during the Q & A session.