



CCCL Seminar: The Polar Silk Road and the Future Governance of Northern Sea Route (5 October 2022)

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On 5 September 2022, the Centre for Chinese and Comparative Law (CCCL) of the City University of Hong Kong's School of Law hosted a virtual seminar to assist students in understanding the China, Russia and the Polar Silk Road. **Dr. Liu Nengye, Associate Professor at Yong Pung How School of Law Singapore Management University** have been invited as our awesome speaker to explain his argument.

The seminar kicked off with a welcoming speech by **Prof. Wang Jianguy**, Director of Centre for Chinese and Comparative Law at the City University of Hong Kong School of Law.

Dr LIU Nengye (LLB & LLM, Wuhan, PhD, Ghent) is Associate Professor of Law (with tenure) at Yong Pung How School of Law, Singapore Management University. Prior to moving to Singapore, he taught at three Australian universities (UNE, Adelaide and Macquarie). Most recently, he was Associate Professor at Macquarie University, Sydney and served as the Director of its Centre for Environmental law (2020 – 2022) – the oldest environmental law research centre in the Southern Hemisphere. Dr Nengye Liu is an internationally recognized authority in the fields of the law of the sea and international environmental law. Since 2021, he has been serving as Co-Chair of American Society of International Law's International Environmental Law Interest Group as well as Member of the Governing Board, IUCN Academy of Environmental Law. He also sits on the editorial board of Marine Policy and Ocean Development and International Law.

In this seminar, he presented his recent publication entitled same as the seminar title, which is written by himself and Dr. Jan Jakub Solski (Postdoctor at Norwegian Centre for the Law of the Sea, UiT/Arctic University of Norway). The article examines China's Polar Silk Road (PSR) and its legal implications for the future governance of the Northern Sea Route (NSR). To introduce the topic, he first explained the concept of the melting arctic and how it be seen as an economic frontier. He stated there is no such thing as called Arctic Treaty, but due to the geopolitical shift, technology development, and climate change, The United Nations on the Law of the Sea, negotiated between 1973 and 1982, and finally entered into force in 1994. Next, he focused on explaining the Polar Silk Road with some introduction to massive projects in Russia including

Yamal LNG Project. He in addition shared about the governance of the Northern Sea Route. He pointed out that there are various controversial issues about the legal regime of the NSR, including permit and UNCLOS, icebreaker monopoly, full autonomy and predictability, transparency, and even some fundamental and climate change-related issues. He, in addition, briefly explained China's coastal practice since 1958, the declaration on China's Territorial Sea, and the recent Coast Guard Law in 2021. To summarize, his analysis of coastal state practices of China and Russia reveals remarkable commonalities. Both are driven by the concern about the potential adverse effects of uncontrolled foreign shipping in proximity to their coasts. The coastal regulations of both countries show evident traits of efforts to maximize their exclusive authority to prescribe and enforce laws and regulations.

Following **Dr. Liu's** thought-provoking speech, we moved on to a discussion conducted primarily by **Prof. Ling Bing**, a Professor at the Sydney Law School of the University of Sydney, who presented her insightful views on the topic. The majority of those in attendance took the opportunity to voice their opinions, many of which were thoughtful and innovative. Prof. Wang concluded the seminar with a closing speech in which she thanked the speakers for their valuable contributions and all of the participants for their attendance, which carry out the seminar a success.



Dr. Liu Nengye and Prof. Ling Bing (from left to right).



Prof. Wang Jianguo.