



CPLR PhD Seminar IV: Sentencing Guidelines for Crimes under the Hong Kong National Security Law

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On the evening of April 13th, 2023, the CPLR (Forum on Public Law and Human Rights) held its fourth doctoral seminar at the City University of Hong Kong School of Law and online via Zoom, with 15 scholars and doctoral students from related fields in attendance. The theme of the seminar was a feasibility study on sentencing guidelines for the Hong Kong National Security Law.



The seminar was moderated by Dr. Xiao Shiling (Postdoctoral Researcher at City University of Hong Kong), with Celeste Lo (PhD candidate at Tsinghua University) as the keynote speaker and



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Dr. P. Y. Lo (Hong Kong barrister) and Professor Zhu Guobin (Director of CPLR and Professor at City University of Hong Kong School of Law) as discussants.

Dr. Xiao Shiling first introduced the background of the seminar. Then, Celeste Lo gave a detailed presentation on her thesis topic, the sentencing guidelines of the Hong Kong National Security Law. Lo pointed out that the National Security Law has established mandatory classification rules for four offenses, including secession, subversion, terrorism, and collusion with foreign or external forces to endanger national security. However, the National Security Law does not provide mandatory classification rules for incomplete offenses and accomplice offenses under common law, resulting in legislative gaps.

Celeste Lo's research started from the main axis of sentencing in the Hong Kong National Security Law, and analyzed the sentencing provisions for complete offenses, incomplete offenses, and accomplice offenses under common law. She combined foreign experience with local sentencing precedents and cases in Hong Kong to propose recommendations for developing sentencing guidelines for the National Security Law.

Subsequently, Dr. P. Y. Lo provided some useful insights and suggestions on Celeste Lo's thesis. Professor Zhu Guobin then proposed valuable opinions and views from the perspective of cross-strait academic exchange and communication between common law and mainland law.



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In the final stage of the seminar, the attending scholars and doctoral students had an in-depth discussion on Celeste Lo's thesis.

This seminar provided valuable opportunities for participants to further understand the issues related to the sentencing guidelines of the Hong Kong National Security Law and was a complete success. CPLR has always been committed to providing a platform for students and scholars to exchange ideas and learn from each other.

If you are currently pursuing a doctoral degree, you are welcome to submit your thesis abstract and personal resume to contact us at lwplr@cityu.edu.hk.

Links to past events:

[CPLR Doctoral Seminar Series \(1\): Exclusion of Rohingya Constitutional Identity: A Comparative Study](#)

[CPLR Doctoral Seminar Series \(2\): Legal Basis for Digital Government Data Sharing](#)

[CPLR Doctoral Seminar Series \(3\): Consent of the Governed - Resistance as a Constitutional Power](#)

Upcoming seminars:

Please stay tuned for the upcoming CPLR Doctoral Seminar Series.