

## SEMINAR



# Taking China Seriously: An Appraisal of the Symbiotic Relationship between China's Exercise of Sovereignty and the International Legal Order

**Phil C. W. Chan**

*PhD Candidate, National University of Singapore,  
Visiting Fellow, Centre for Comparative and Public Law, HKU*

**Monday, 6 May 2013, 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm  
Room A724 & A725,  
7/F Cheng Yu Tung Tower  
The University of Hong Kong**

\*\*\*\*\*

China's exercise of sovereignty is often maligned as anathema to the progressive development of international law and the stability of the international system. Such a view stems from Western-centric approaches to international law. It fails to understand China's historical experience with international law and its evolving approach to the current international legal order. In this seminar, Phil will explain that China has in fact engaged with international law, on matters of human rights, democracy, self-determination, and international peace and security, in ways that are positive for the development and legitimacy of international law and the maintenance of the current international order as one underlain and governed by the international rule of law. The symbiotic relationship between China's exercise of sovereignty and the international legal order in turn informs our understanding of international law and the current international legal order, including the locus in which State sovereignty resides and its continuing significance and implications.

**Phil Chan** graduated from HKU with the Rowdget W. Young Medal in Law in 2002 and from Durham with an LLM in 2004. He served as Researcher in the Hong Kong office of Baker Botts in 2005 and in visiting research positions in law, international relations, and Asian studies at Cambridge, Keele, St Andrews, ANU, Toronto, Ottawa, Freiburg and Vanderbilt during 2006–2008, and as Visiting Research Fellow at Otago and Lecturer in Law at Waikato during 2010–2011. He has authored over 25 articles in *Chinese Journal of International Law*, *Criminal Law Forum*, *European Business Law Review*, *Human Rights Law Review*, *International Journal of Human Rights*, *International Journal of Punishment and Sentencing*, *Journal of Intellectual Property Law and Practice*, *King's College Law Journal*, *Leiden Journal of International Law*, *Nottingham Law Journal*, *Sexuality & Culture*, and *Singapore Journal of Legal Studies*, and has presented over 60 refereed conference papers and invited lectures and seminars at research institutes worldwide. He was Guest Editor of two *International Journal of Human Rights* special double issues (*Equality in Asia-Pacific: Reality or a Contradiction in Terms?* and *Protection of Sexual Minorities since Stonewall: Progress and Stalemate in Developed and Developing Countries*), both with Forewords by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and published additionally as Routledge books.

REGISTER



PLEASE EMAIL FLORA LEUNG AT [FKLEUNG@HKU.HK](mailto:FKLEUNG@HKU.HK)  
TO RESERVE A PLACE.