

SEMINAR

**Revisiting the
Free Market of Religion**

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Friday, 18 November 2011, 1:00 - 2:00 pm
Room LG104, LG1 Floor, KK Leung Building
The University of Hong Kong

Constitutional law scholars have frequently alluded to the normative value of a free market of religion fostered through the legal guarantee of religions' free exercise and the absence of state establishment of religion. This seminar utilizes the case study of Singapore to critically examine the religious free market from two dimensions. First, the idealized portrayal of religions "flourish according to the zeal of its adherents and the appeal of its dogma" by religious free market advocates overlooked the dynamics of economic and political competitions in a religion's success. Second, the non-neutrality of the religious free market among the different religions is highlighted. The seminar invites the participants to ponder the applicability of and/or necessary modifications (if any) to the religious free market in East Asian societies where the majority's religious outlooks and conception of religion itself is very different from Western societies.

Chen Jianlin is an assistant law professor at the University of Hong Kong. His publications' seemingly diverse research areas of corporate law, securities regulations, insurance law, compulsory land acquisitions, culture wars, and most recently, law & religion is united by his research agenda of drawing on a combination of comparative perspectives and economics analysis (including public choice) to critically examine the unarticulated jurisprudential assumptions inherent in many legal discourses.

Please email Flora Leung at flkleung@hku.hk to reserve a place.