



CCPL

CENTRE FOR COMPARATIVE AND PUBLIC LAW  
AT THE FACULTY OF LAW, THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

HKU CCPL TALK

# Goods' Citizenship

**30 July 2024 (Tuesday) 12:00 – 1:00 PM**  
**Room 723, 7/F Cheng Yu Tung Tower, HKU**

Like humans, goods—physical products—also have a complex relationship with their origins. In today's "made in the world" era, the legal and economic life of a product is often carefully constructed. Amid ongoing debates about restructured supply chains and geopolitics, a product's designated nationality can carry weighty implications, affecting issues from national security to trade restrictions to human rights.

This Article explores the legal construction of goods' citizenship through comparative perspectives. Using examples from the United States, Europe, and Asia, it examines three distinct legal frameworks that span across local and transnational laws: the rules of origin principle (RoOs) in trade agreements, administrative determination regarding export-import origins, and domestic regulations for "made in" labels. While these regimes all purport to regulate the flows of foreign products, their distinct target entities, audience, and policy goals inform their varying, sometimes contradicting, rules. In showing that a product's nationality is malleable as it moves through borders and markets, this Article posits product-origin regulations at the center of today's complex geopolitical landscapes.

SPEAKER:

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Trang (Mae) Nguyen is Associate Professor of Law at Temple University Beasley School of Law, as well as an Affiliated Scholar at the U.S.-Asia Law Institute, New York University School of Law and a Stephen M. Kellen Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Her research focuses on business law, contracts, transnational law, and international law. Prior to joining Temple, she served as the inaugural John N. Hazard Fellow in Comparative and International Law at New York University School of Law, where she earned a J.D. degree as a Law and Business Scholar.

CHAIR:

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