

POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT SEMINAR
**“LAW & RELIGIOUS MARKET THEORY:
THE POLITICAL DIMENSION OF
RELIGIOUS COMPETITION IN
CHINA, TAIWAN AND HONG KONG”**
SPEAKER: A/P CHEN JIANLIN, UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Date : Thursday, 8th February 2018
Time : 2.00pm to 3.30pm
Venue : Block AS1-04-01, PS Staff Meeting Room, Department of Political Science, NUS
Moderator : Dr Elaine Tan

All are Welcome!

Synopsis

The Law & Religious Market theory recognizes that the contours of religious competition are profoundly shaped by the law and other state instruments, whether intentionally or unintentionally. Thus, the theory argues that legal discourse cannot hide behind a veil of religious neutrality and must confront the conversation regarding what sort of religious competition—and the consequent winner in the religious market—should be fostered by the state. Using comparative case studies on how religious involvement in politics are regulated in China, Taiwan and Hong Kong, I argue how the current restrictions in China may be conceived as promoting a more spiritual-based religious competition and/or moderating religious competition during the transition from a relatively infant religious market. In addition, I discuss the paradox whereby jurisdictions in which restrictions on religious involvement in politics is most normative desirable (given the lack of religious plurality and the prevailing exclusive and comprehensive worldview in the polity) is precisely the jurisdictions in which such restrictions will be dismantled during the democratization process, thereby irreparably scarring the eventual governance regime.



Speaker

Jianlin grew up in Singapore and Taiwan. He obtained his LLB from National University of Singapore, and his LLM and JSD from the University of Chicago. He is qualified to practice in Singapore and New York. He joined the Melbourne Law School in July 2017 after starting his academic career at the University of Hong Kong in 2011.

Bilingual in English and Chinese, Jianlin has nearly thirty scholarly publications, including a monograph with *Cambridge University Press*, and articles with *Columbia Journal of Asian Law*, *Law & Social Inquiry*, *Oxford Journal of Law and Religion*, 公司法评论, 北大法律评论, among many others. Utilizing a combination of comparative perspectives and economic analysis, he has written widely on topics such as law & religion, natural resources & property law, corporate & securities law, government procurement regulation, and tax law.

