



Public Law and Human Rights Forum

香港城市大學
City University of Hong Kong

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Exploring the Cutting-edge Constitutional Issues in the "New Era" of China

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September 17, 2024

On September 16-17, 2024, the Public Law and Human Rights Forum at the School of Law, City University of Hong Kong, successfully hosted a significant academic conference titled "**Exploring the Cutting-edge Constitutional Issues in the 'New Era' of China.**" This event brought together distinguished legal scholars from around the world to discuss the complexities and developments of constitutional issues in China's new era.

The conference was inaugurated with an opening address by **Professor Lin Feng**, Dean of the School of Law at City University of Hong Kong. Subsequently, **Professor Zhu Guobin**, Director of the Public Law and Human Rights Forum at the School of Law, City University of Hong Kong, and Co-editor of the *Cambridge Handbook of Chinese Constitutional Law*, introduced the background of the conference, outlined its goals and framework, setting the tone for the seminar. The two-day event covered various key aspects of Chinese constitutional theory, practice, and reforms.





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In the first session, chaired by **Professor Zhu Guobin**, enriching discussions unfolded. **Professor Zhai Han** from Wuhan University spoke on the theoretical and ideological foundations of Chinese constitutional law. **Professor Wang Xiaoxiao** from South-Central Minzu University discussed the development of intraparty regulations of the Communist Party of China. After a tea break, **Professor Tian Wei** from Renmin University of China explored democratic centralism as a constitutional organizational principle. **Professor Fan Jizeng** from Sichuan University examined the transition from "governing the country according to law" to "governing the country according to the constitution." **Professor Larry Backer** from Pennsylvania State University discussed the concept of whole-process democracy.

The afternoon session, chaired by **Professor Larry Backer**, delved into the state structure under the National People's Congress. **Professor Lin Yan** from Shanghai Jiao Tong University gave a thorough discussion of the state structure under the National People's Congress. **Professor Xiao Shiling** from the University of Manchester discussed proportionality and protection of human rights through administrative litigation. **Prof. Da Lu** from Southwest University of Political Science and Law analyzed the National Supervisory Commission and its integrated structure within China's rule of law context. After another break, **Professor Björn Ahl** from the University of Cologne spoke on the Supreme People's Court and judicial reforms. **Professor Ji Meijun** from the Institute of Procuratorial Theory of the Supreme People's Procuratorate highlighted the functions of the Supreme People's Procuratorate. **Professor Ngok Kinglun** from Sun Yat-sen University discussed state council and administrative reform, focusing on marketization, decentralization, and prospects.





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On the second day, sessions were chaired by **Professor Björn Ahl** and **Professor Zhai Han**. **Professor Wu Liangjian** from China University of Political Science and Law discussed constitutionalism and public finance. **Professor Zhu Zheng** from the same university presented on the social security clauses in modern China. **Professor Peng Chun** from Peking University explored the judicial enforcement of constitutional duties of citizens and later spoke on freedom and confidentiality of correspondence. After a tea break, **Professor Zhu Guobin** discussed the Presidential system of the People's Republic of China under the Constitution. **Professor Xiao Tong** from China University of Political Science and Law examined the unconstitutionality of constitutional amendments and commented on the doctrine of "benign constitutional violation." **Mr. Sun Yi** from Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich discussed constitutional interpretation.



The conference concluded with closing remarks by **Professors Björn Ahl, Larry Backer, and Zhu Guobin**, summarizing the discussions and thanking all participants for their contributions to a fruitful dialogue on constitutional issues in China.



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This seminar was the meticulous preparation of reports by the presenters, which sparked lively and comprehensive discussions among the participants. The academic enthusiasm was vibrant, allowing for open and free exchange of ideas, thereby achieving the goals of sharing academic perspectives and promoting scholarly advancement. The conference made significant contributions to the theoretical research and academic progress of Chinese constitutional studies.