



Ninth Annual General Conference of the European China Law Studies Association Call for Papers

“Making, Enforcing and Accessing the Law”

Hong Kong, 15-16 November 2014

The 9th Annual General Conference of the European China Law Studies Association (欧洲中国法研究协会 www.ecls.eu) will be held at the Faculty of Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. The conference will bring together Western and Chinese scholars, professionals, policy makers, and the like, to reflect on and advance the broader themes of law-making, law enforcement, and access to law in China from a variety of perspectives.

Since its founding in 2006, the European China Law Studies Association has become a major international venue for scholars and practitioners who are engaged in the study of Chinese law, from both comparative and interdisciplinary perspectives. The annual general conference provides an excellent forum for the exchange of information and ideas, as well as a platform for the development of research collaboration. The conference is also intended to cultivate a new generation of scholars and practitioners interested in issues related to China, the European Union and legal globalization.

The 2014 General Conference will focus on three themes, with each posing a wide range of pressing new and challenging research questions, conceptually, methodologically and empirically:

- Law-making;

- Voluntary compliance with, and implementation of, the law; and
- Enforcement of the law through adjudication and ADRs.

Thus far, analyses of law-making have not kept the same pace as analyses of many other themes in Chinese law. Law-making is an activity common to all areas of the Chinese legal system, yet there remain many questions that call for fuller and more sophisticated answers. Who are law-makers in China? Are new types of law-maker, e.g., courts, and trade associations, emerging in China? How do Chinese lawmakers interact and compete with each other in the formation, development, and refinement of formal legal rules? How has law-making changed over time and, what are the factors that have shaped such a change? What is the role of lawmakers in the development of "informal law", e.g., social norms, and commercial customs? What role do domestic lawmakers play in the making of international law, understood both as "hard" and "soft law"? How do different groups inside and outside of China conceive of and approach law-making? What does it mean, to them, making the law? Does law-making face the same set of challenges and opportunities in various fields of civil, administrative and criminal law?

Methodological advances, as well as opportunities to access new research materials, have made it possible to apply a similar set of questions to other themes too, amongst which the questions of implementation and enforcement of law stand out as particularly important. How has the implementation and enforcement of law evolved since the onset of legal reforms in the late 1970s? Have any patterns of law implementation and enforcement emerged across different sectors of the legal system? More fundamentally, why do people choose to comply or not to comply with the law? Do they act in the shadow of formal law enforcement? Do the public enjoy the same degree of access to law in administrative, civil and criminal cases? Can the poor and the powerless enjoy ready access to law-making and enforcement, and in this sense "access" the law in ways which are new and distinctive? What challenges and opportunities exist in the implementation and enforcement of civil, administrative and criminal law?

These questions are indicative of the topics to be explored in fields which include but are not limited to:

- Administrative law
- Civil and commercial law
- Constitutional law
- Comparative law
- Criminal and criminal procedure law
- Environmental law
- Intellectual property law
- International law
- Legal history
- Legal philosophy
- Labour law

We invite papers and full panel proposals in any of the above areas and beyond, and we welcome contributions from practitioners and young scholars.

Submission Guidelines

Authors are invited to submit paper abstracts and panel proposals **in English** by **15 May 2014**. Abstracts and proposals should be limited to 300 words for a paper and 1,000 words for a panel. They should include: 1) the title of the paper or panel; 2) name, institution and email address of the author(s); 3) up to three keywords. Acceptance of the paper and the panel proposals will be notified by **15 June 2014**.

Full papers should not exceed 6,000 words, and be produced by **15 September 2014**.

Submissions should be sent to ecls2014@cuhk.edu.hk, and all other enquiries are to be addressed to Dr. XI Chao (chaoxi@cuhk.edu.hk) and Dr. Flora SAPIO (florasapio@cuhk.edu.hk).

Selected conference papers will be published in the *China-EU Law Journal*, as well as in *The China Review* (SSCI indexed) We encourage authors who wish to have their papers considered for publication to indicate their interest upon acceptance of their abstract.

Conference participants will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs in Hong Kong.

Relevant practical information will be provided in due time through the ECLS official website (<http://www.ecls.eu/>), blog (<http://ecls2014hk.wordpress.com/>), Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/123725687136>), and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/ecls2014hk>).