

Call for Abstracts

Thammasat University Faculty of Law – Centre for Asian Legal Studies (TU-CALS) Symposium 2027

Thammasat University Faculty of Law and the Centre for Asian Legal Studies at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore are pleased to co-organise the second iteration of the Thammasat University Faculty of Law – Centre for Asian Legal Studies (TU-CALS) Symposium 2027. The Symposium will be held in person on 10–11 June 2027 at Thammasat University in Bangkok, Thailand.

Symposium Concept

The theme for this year's Symposium is '**Legal Certainty in Asian Contexts**'. Asian legal systems reflect a rich diversity of indigenous, customary, religious, socialist and Western legal traditions. Decades, and in some cases centuries, of interaction between these traditions have produced complex and plural legal landscapes across the region. This diversity raises important questions about how legal certainty is understood, experienced and negotiated across different Asian jurisdictions.

Conventional accounts of legal certainty often emphasise the importance of clear, consistent and predictable laws in supporting investment and economic growth, protecting individual rights and promoting social welfare. In Asian contexts, however, the meaning and degree of legal certainty may differ across jurisdictions. Normative reliability may take distinct local forms, while processes such as cross-fertilisation, coerced adoption, legal transplantation and more recently, regulatory experimentation may have shaped differing expectations of legal clarity and predictability.

Against this background, the Symposium seeks to explore how legal certainty is conceived and negotiated in Asian jurisdictions, and how different legal systems balance the demands of predictability and consistency against competing considerations such as flexibility, discretion and regulatory experimentation. In doing so, the Symposium asks what the richness and diversity of Asian legal cultures mean for the certainty, predictability and reliability of law.

By bringing together established and emerging scholars across different areas of law, the Symposium aims to provoke fresh comparative perspectives on the forms of certainty that Asian legal systems seek to achieve, the uncertainties they tolerate, and the circumstances in which certainty may neither be intended nor desirable.

Parameters for Abstract Submissions

We invite submissions across all areas of law that engage with these related questions. We particularly welcome papers adopting a comparative perspective across common law and civil law jurisdictions.

While submissions may address any aspect of legal certainty in Asian contexts, authors may wish to consider topics such as:

- Conceptions of legal certainty, predictability and reliability in Asian legal systems;
- Legal pluralism and the interaction between different legal traditions;

- Judicial interpretation, precedent and the role of courts in shaping legal certainty;
- Administrative discretion, regulatory flexibility and the rule of law; and
- Legal change, regulatory innovation and the management of uncertainty.

This list is not exhaustive, and authors are welcome to submit papers addressing other dimensions of legal certainty that are relevant to Asian jurisdictions.

Submission Guidelines

In addition to senior academics, this Symposium is open to PhD Candidates and other early career researchers. We regret to inform that this Symposium is not intended for LLM Candidates and undergraduate students.

Please submit the following information [here](#):

- Name, affiliation and contact details of all authors and co-authors;
- The title of the proposed paper; and
- An abstract of no more than 500 words outlining the proposed paper.

Deadlines

The deadline for submissions is 2359H (Singapore Time, GMT+8) on 18 October 2026. Participants will be notified of the outcome of their submission by 15 November 2026.

Successful participants will be expected to submit a working paper of at least 5,000 words (excluding footnotes) by 10 May 2027, one month before the Symposium, so as to allow participants sufficient time to read and constructively engage with the papers in advance.

Financial Information

Attendees will be provided with food and accommodation at Thammasat University for the duration of the Symposium but are responsible for their own travel and other expenses. There is no conference fee.

Organising Committee

Thammasat University Faculty of Law	Assistant Professor Amnart Tangkiriphimarn Assistant Professor Lasse Schuldt
Centre for Asian Legal Studies	Associate Professor Jaclyn Neo Toh Ding Jun Lee Jo Yee Claire Chang Anny Shan