

# RECONCEPTUALIZING SUSTAINABILITY: CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW REFORM



School of Law  
香港城市大學  
City University of Hong Kong



Hong Kong Commercial  
and Maritime Law Centre  
香港城市大學  
City University of Hong Kong

**5 & 6 DECEMBER 2025**

City University of Hong Kong, School of Law  
Seminar Room (LI-6301)/Online

Zoom Link: <https://cityu.zoom.us/j/82244245217>  
(Meeting ID: 822 4424 5217, Passcode: 20251205)

## DAY 1 (5 DECEMBER 2025)

9:00-9:30

*Check-in (Refreshments Provided)*

9:30-10:00

*Opening Remarks*

- Welcome from Prof. LIN Feng, Dean of CityUHK School of Law
- Welcome from Prof. Michael Tsimplis (Professor, Deputy Director of the Hong Kong Commercial and Maritime Law Centre)
- Welcome and Introduction by Chen Yu: Overview of the Project and Publication Plan
- Group photo

10:00-12:00

***Panel 1: Reforming IEL for sustainability:  
Challenging the theoretical foundations***

<b>Moderator:</b> Chen Yu	<b>Discussant:</b> Julien Chaisse
Muthucumaraswamy Sornarajah	<i>Red Herrings and Reform in International Investment Law</i>
Jiangyu Wang	<i>Weaponizing Green: Geopolitical Rivalry and the Transformation of Rule-making for Sustainability from Norm to Strategic Tool in International Economic Law</i>
Jansen Calamita	<i>Reconceiving Investment Treaties</i>
Weihuan Zhou (online)	<i>Rebalancing International Trade Law and Industrial Policy</i>

12:00-13:30

*Lunch Break (Venue: CityUHK Chinese Restaurant)*

13:45-15:45

***Panel 2: Under-represented values, sustainability,  
and international economic governance***

<b>Moderator:</b> Yawen Zheng	<b>Discussant:</b> Dini Sejko
David Schneiderman	<i>Sustainability for the Most Marginalized: What Role for 'Full Protection and Security'?</i>
Cliff Manjiao Chi	<i>The Elephant in the Room: Disability Protection and International Trade Agreements</i>
Chen Yu & Yawen Zheng	<i>The Inevitable Plurality of Energy Transition Governance: Empowering Domestic Laws in International Investment Law Treaty Reform</i>
Michelle Ratton Sanchez Badin	<i>From National Policy to Global Commitments: Rethinking International Economic Law Through the Brazil-China EV Nexus</i>

## DAY 1 (5 DECEMBER 2025)

15:45-16:00

*Tea Break*

16:00-18:00

### ***Panel 3: Rethinking the balance between IEL obligations and sustainability***

<b>Moderator:</b> Ying Zhu	<b>Discussant:</b> Mark Feldman
Joshua Paine (online)	<i>Advancing Sustainability through Trade- and Investment-Related International Agreements: Exploring the Negotiator's Toolbox</i>
Stefanie Schacherer (online)	<i>Locating International Green Economy Collaborations within the Architecture of Investment Law</i>
Catharine Titi (online)	<i>Rethinking Balance in International Investment Law: The Duty to Protect against Harmful Foreign (and Domestic) Investment</i>
Michael Waibel (online)	<i>Sustainability and the Functions of International Economic Law</i>

18:00-20:00

*Dinner (Venue: Tsim Sha Tsui)*

## DAY 2 (6 DECEMBER 2025)

9:30-10:00

*Check-in (Refreshments Provided)*

10:00-12:00

**Panel 4: Foreign investment and sustainability - a double-edged sword**

<b>Moderator:</b> Dini Sejko	<b>Discussant:</b> Yun Zhao
Olabisi Akinkugbe (online)	<i>The Limits of Special Economic Zones as a Vehicle for Foreign Direct Investment</i>
Mees Brenninkmeijer (online)	<i>Counterclaims in Investment Arbitration: The Forms and Limits of a More Sustainable Adjudication</i>
Federico Ortino	<i>Legitimate expectations in investment arbitration: A sustainability critique</i>
Ying Zhu	<i>Climate Obligation in Economic Warfare</i>

12:00-12:15

*Closing Remarks*

## Speakers & Discussants (Alphabetical Order of the Last Name)

Name	Affiliation	Position
Olabisi Akinkugbe	Dalhousie University	Associate Professor
Mees Brenninkmeijer	McGill University	PhD Candidate
Jansen Calamita	Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore	Head of CIL, Associate Professor
Julien Chaisse	City University of Hong Kong	Professor
Cliff Manjiao Chi	University of International Business and Economics	Professor
Mark Feldman	Peking University School of Transnational Law	Interim Dean and Professor of Law
Federico Ortino	King's College London	Professor
Joshua Paine	University of Bristol	Senior Lecturer
Michelle Ratton Sanchez Badin	Fundação Getulio Vargas São Paulo Law School	Professor
David Schneiderman	University of Toronto	Professor of Law and Political Science
Stefanie Schacherer	Singapore Management University	Assistant Professor
Dini Sejko	Sun Yat-sen University	Associate Professor
Muthucumaraswamy Sornarajah	National University of Singapore	Emeritus Professor
Catharine Titi	University Paris-Panthéon-Assas	Associate Professor
Jiangyu Wang	City University of Hong Kong	Professor
Michael Waibel	University of Vienna	Professor
Chen Yu	City University of Hong Kong	Assistant Professor
Yun Zhao	The University of Hong Kong	Professor
Yawen Zheng	Jinan University	Associate Professor
Weihuan Zhou	University of New South Wales	Professor
Ying Zhu	The University of Hong Kong	Assistant Professor