



Transnational Law and Why it Matters for Asia



For most of the twentieth century—with echoes from the nineteenth—law has been understood as the product of nation-states. Today, we find ourselves in an age where the state is losing its monopolistic grip on law, with profound implications for the way communities are organized and the norms that are deployed to govern them. This shift in legal thinking has profound global implications, but for a variety of historical, economic, and geopolitical reasons, it has a special significance for much of Asia.

This presentation—drawing on Professor Ramraj's works-in-progress—will explain how transnational legal norms are understood by a growing body of legal thinkers and why this emerging understanding of law offers both a new and an old way of thinking about many of the most pressing regulatory and policy challenges in contemporary Asia.



Presentation by **Dr. Victor V. Ramraj**

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Dr. Victor V. Ramraj has been the Chair in Asia-Pacific Legal Relations at the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives and Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Victoria since July 2014. Professor Ramraj has served as a judicial law clerk at the Federal Court of Appeal in Ottawa and as a litigation lawyer in Toronto before moving to Singapore in 1998. He has twice served as the NUS law faculty's Vice-Dean for Academic Affairs (2006-2010, 2011-2012), and for one year (2010-2011) as a co-director of the Centre for Transnational Legal Studies (CTLS) in London.

Professor Ramraj has held visiting appointments at, among others, Kyushu University, Japan and the University of Toronto. His edited/co-edited books include: *Emergencies and the Limits of Legality* (2009) and *Emergency Powers in Asia: Exploring the Limits of Legality* (2010) for Cambridge University Press. His work on comparative constitutional law has been published in leading journals including *Chicago-Kent Law Review*, *Hong Kong Law Journal*, *ICON: International Journal of Constitutional Law*, *Singapore Journal of Legal Studies*, and *Transnational Legal Theory*.

Wednesday, November 18, 2015 | 3 – 4:30 pm | UVic, Sedgewick C168