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**European China Law Studies Association Annual Conference 2025**

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**19 – 21 September 2025**

**University College Cork, Ireland**

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**European China Law Studies Association 2025 Conference Programme**

***The organisers reserve the right to move panels to different times, to change the order of speakers within panels, and to change venues if necessary. As much notice as possible will be given of any changes.***

**DAY ONE Friday 19th September**

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| **10.00-11.30** | European China Law Studies Association Annual General Meeting AGM, Venue: North Wing Council Room (tea and coffee will be provided in the Council Room Antechamber before the start of the meeting). **Note: The ECLS AGM is for ECLS members only.** |

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| **12.00-** | **Conference Registration in Western Gateway Building (WGB) Atrium** | | |
| **12.30-13.30** | **Conference lunch, Venue: WGB Atrium** | | |
| **Plenary Session – 1** | | | |
| **13.30-14.00** | **Welcome from**  **UCC President Prof John O’Halloran,**  **UCC School of Law Dean, Prof Conor O’Mahony,**  **ECLS President Prof Björn Ahl**  **Venue: BHSC G02** | | |
| **14.00-14.30** | **Keynote 1 – Prof Chao Xi**, Dean, Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), Faculty of Law, *Corporate Charters in China: Towards a Research Agenda;* Chair: **Prof Femi Amao** (UCC); Venue: Brookfield Health Science Complex (BHSC) G02 | | |
| **14.30-15.45** | **Parallel panels** | |  |
| **Venue: BHSC 301** | **Venue: BHSC G02** | **Venue: BHSC 303** | **Venue: BHSC 302** |
| **Panel 1: Chinese Perspectives on International Law** | **Panel 2: Personality Rights and the Inner Self: An Interdisciplinary Analysis of the Book of Personality Rights in the Chinese Civil Code** | **Panel 3: Book Talks**  **14.30-15.15** | **Panel 4: Developments in Chinese Commercial and Corporate Law** |
| **Chair: Prof Mark Poustie** (UCC) | **Chair: Dr Shaoming Zhu** (UCC) | **Chair: Dr Jonathan McCarthy** (UCC) | **Chair: Prof Chao Xi** (CUHK) |
| **Bing Ling** (Sydney), *China’s Lawfare on Taiwan and Its Implications for the International Legal Order* | **Talya Deibel** (Maastricht University) [To be delivered by Another Panel Member], *Personality Rights in European Civil Codes: Background and Overview* | **Xuedan Xiong** (unaffiliated), *Shareholder Remuneration and the Law: Shareholder Distributions and Creditor Protection in Comparative Perspective* | **Joseph CHU** (Oxford), *Fetters and Freedoms: Tension as the Essential Characteristic of Chinese Commercial Law* |
| **Ge Chen** (Durham) **& Ming Du** (Durham), *China’s Contemporary Approach to International Law* | **Felicitas Benziger** (UCC) *Personality Rights and the Protection of the Inner Self in the European Legal Tradition* |  | **Tingting SONG** (HKU),  *Who Is One? Rethinking Single Economic Entity Doctrine in Platform Economy in China* |
| **Xinyue Li** (East China University of Political Science & Law; Lauterpacht Centre, Cambridge), *A Quantum Worldview for International Law: WTO Law as an Example* | **Patrick O’Callaghan** (UCC), *Personality Rights in the new Chinese Civil Code: Background and Legal Analysis* |  | **Knut Benjamin Pissler** (Nanjing), *Rescission Actions in Chinese Company Law* |
| **An Ni** (Bologna), *Humanitarian Principles in Ancient Chinese Military Law and Their Implications for Modern International Law* | **Heping Dang** (CUHK), *The idea of the inner self in Chinese Culture* |  | **Stephen O’Regan** (UCC), *The* *Implementation of China’s Foreign Investment Law and its Impact on Foreign Direct Investment* |

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| **15.45-16.20**  **Teabreak, Venue: WGB Atrium** | | | |
| **16.20-17.35** | **Parallel panels** | | |
| **Venue: BHSC 301** | **Venue: BHSC G02** | **Venue: BHSC 302** | **Venue: BHSC 303** |
| **Panel 5: Constitutional Review in China** | **Panel 6: Socialist Core Values in the Legal Realm** | **Panel 7: Legal Developments in the BRI** | **Panel 8: Environmental, Climate and Sustainable Development Law & Governance** |
| **Chair: Dr Daniel Sprick** (Cologne) | **Chair**: **Prof Björn Ahl** (Cologne) | **Chair: Prof Bing Ling** (Sydney) | **Chair: Prof Owen McIntyre** (UCC) |
| **Mingtao Huang** (Wuhan), *Constitutionalizing Politics? Political agenda as Ground of Review in the Chinese Constitutional Review* | **Hannah Klöber** (Cologne) & **Marianne von Blomberg** (Cologne), *Rethinking the Law-Morality Relationship: Chinese Legal Voices on “Socialist Core Values”* | **Asen Velinov** (Wenzhou-Kean) & **Jin Yingying** (Wenzhou-Kean), *Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Court Judgments in China in the Belt and Road Era: Between Legal Promise and Strategic Caution, History, Status and Expected Future Developments* | **Siqi Li** (UCC), *Understanding the Role of ENGOs in China’s Environmental Governance: A Literature Review from the Perspective of Environmental Public Interest Litigation (EPIL)* |
| **Yuhuan Wang** (Tongji), *China's Legislative-Centric Constitutional Review: the Status Quo and Future Direction* | **Bifan Zhao** (HKU)*, Empirical Research on Courts Invoking Socialist Core Values in Civil Cases* | **Shaoming Zhu** (UCC School of Law), *Beyond Treaties and Contracts: Reimagining Law-Making through Deliberative Negotiation in the Belt and Road Initiative* | **Kunjie Wang** (Coimbra), *The Role of International Law in Shaping Climate and Energy Governance in China: Examining Dynamic and Static Legal Interactions* |
| **Shiling Xiao** (Manchester) & **Mengqi Zheng** (Peking University), *Two Faces of Chinese Constitutional Review: Rule of Law and Rule by the Party* | **Alexander Dittberner** (unaffiliated), *From Moral Concepts to Legal Norms – Comprehension and Application of the Principle of Good Faith* | **Monika Prusinowska** (Barcelona), *Ports, Gold, and Lithium: Chinese Investment Disputes in Latin America - Navigating Formal and Informal Dispute Resolution Methods* | **Chenjun Zheng** (Zhejiang Gongshan), *From Water Towers to Legal Norms: Aligning China’s Glacier Protection with Global Environmental Governance* |
| **Wenbo Luo** (Wuhan), *The System of Constitutional Review under China’s Distinct Constitutional Order: Key Features and Operational Logic* | **Alexander Chan Hou Lou** (Macau), *Chinese Judicial Dominance in Data Intellectual Property* (online/recorded) |  | **Yiyang Xiong** (UCC) and **Hao Zhang** (CUHK), *Breaking the Gridlock: Legal and Governance Reforms for Renewable Energy Integration in Inner Mongolia, China* |

**18.00 – 21.00 Reception, Aula Maxima**

**DAY TWO: Saturday 20th September**

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| **08.45-09.15** | **Coffee & Tea; Venue: WGB Atrium** | |
| **Plenary Sessions – 2** | | |
| **09.15-09.45** | **Keynote 2 – Dr Ling Li** (University of Vienna),*Order of power in China's courts - A "high theory" of Chinese law*; Chair: **Prof Björn Ahl** (Cologne); Venue: WGB G05 | |
| **09.45-11.15** | **Parallel panels** | |
| **Venue: WGB G05** | **Venue: WGB G03** | **Venue: WGB G08** |
| **Panel 9: Comparative Theory of Xi Jinping Legal Thought** | **Panel 10: Insiders’ Reflection on Criminal Justice Reforms in China: Old Problems, New Challenges & Possible Solutions** | **Panel 11: Data Governance in China** |
| **Chair:** **Prof Benjamin L Liebman** (Columbia) | **Chair:** **Prof Georg Gesk** (Osnabruck) | **Chair: Prof Patrick O’Callaghan** (UCC) |
| **Ewan Smith** (UCL), *On Comparative Authoritarianism* | **Yuening Wei** (CUPL), *The Principle of Presumption of Innocence and the Improvement of Chinese Confession System* | **Xixue Shang (CUPL), *Cross-border Data Transfers under the Data Classification and Grading Legal System in China and its International Connection*** |
| **Eva Pils** (Erlangen), *Democratic Erosions, Autocratic Closures, and Global Human Rights: A China-US Comparison* | **Zhiyuan Guo** (CUPL), *Jurisdiction for Cybercrime: Legal Regulation, Practical Problem and Academic Debates* | **Shuyun Yi** (HKU), *Data Trusts as a Remedy for the Antitrust Risks of the Right to Data Portability in China* |
| **Philipp Renninger** (Seattle), *Autocratic Jurisprudence: “Xi Jinping Thought on Law Rule” versus “Donald Trump Thought on Law and Order”* | **Xiaokai Li** (CUPL), *The Evidentiary Regime for Digital Evidence in Chinese Criminal Procedure: Evolution, Safeguards and Challenges* | **Matt Heckman** (Zuyd University of Applied Science), *Discussion of the Chinese laws on outbound data transfers and their impact on European businesses active inside China* |
| **Alexandra Kaiser** (Erlangen), *The Shaping of Authoritarian Law Under the “Socialist Rule of Law”: Academics and Obedience in the Chinese Party-State* | **Bo Yin** (CUPL), *A Critical Study of the Approach to Combating Corruption Involved in Organised Crime in China* | **Shuping Song** (Erasmus Rotterdam), *Towards a Market for Data: A Comparative Legal Analysis of China and the EU* |
|  |  | **Wojciech Panek** (Silesia)/**Zuzanna Kopania** (Jagellonian), *Who Owns Your DNA? Comparing Biotech Data Rights in China and the EU* |

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| **11.15-11.30** | **Coffee & Tea; Venue: WGB Atrium** | |
| **11.30-13.00** | **Parallel panels** | |
| **Venue: WGB G05** | **Venue: WGB G03** | **Venue: WGB G08** |
| **Panel 12: The Domestic and Global Practice of Xi Jinping Legal Thought** | **Panel 13: AI Governance in China** | **Panel 14: Marine Law** |
| **Chair:** **Prof Philipp Renninger** (Seattle) | **Chair: Dr Magdalena Łągiewska** (Gdańsk) | **Chair: Prof Mark Poustie** (UCC) |
| **Benjamin L Liebman** (Columbia), *Redefining Law in China* | **Paulina Uznańska** (Warsaw), *The Legal Architecture of AI Governance in China: Navigating Technological Advancement and Party Control* | **Jingyu Wang** (Hainan), *Research on the Application of the Capacity-Building and the Transfer of Marine Technology Norms in the BBNJ Agreement* |
| **Jacques DeLisle** (Pennsylvania), *Foreign-Related Rule of Law and Xi Jinping Legal Thought* | **Daniel Sprick** (Cologne), *Systemic Uncertainty in China’s Regulation of Algorithms: On Risky Information Cocoons and Content Diversity in a “Clear and Bright” Internet* | **Sirui Yang** (Jilin), *From Physical Boarding to Virtual Inspection: Rethinking Enforcement in Autonomous Maritime Environment* |
| **Sue Trevaskes** (Griffith), *Constructing Xi Jinping’s Rule of Law-Based Society: Integrating Social Instability Prevention with Social Stability Maintenance in China’s Social Governance System* | **Yutong Hou** (CUHK), *Selecting Jurisdiction in the Age of Generative AI: Is It Time for New Rules?* |  |

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| **13.00-14.00** | **Conference Lunch; Venue: WGB Atrium** | | |
| **14.00-15.30** | **Parallel panels** | | |
| **Venue: WGB G05** | **Venue: WGB G03** | **Venue: WGB G08** | **Venue: WGB G04** |
| **Panel 15: Corporate Governance** | **Panel 16: International Economic Law – 1** | **Panel 17: Criminal Justice and Criminal Law** | **Panel 18: Human Rights** |
| **Chair: Prof Femi Amao** (UCC) | **Chair: Dr Monika Prusinowska** (Barcelona) | **Chair: Dr Catherine O’Sullivan** (UCC) | **Chair: Prof Eva Pils** (Erlangen) |
| **Min Yan** (City University London), *Operationalising Stakeholder Governance: Some Lessons from China’s New Company Law* | **Alexis Brin** (CUHK), *Regulatory Developments and Prospects for Forced Technology Transfer: A Comparison of the Sino-US Phase One Agreement and the Sino-European Draft CAI* | **Wenqi Liu** (Peking University), *Due Process Control in Predictive Policing: A Comparative Perspective Between China and Europe* | **Siyi Lyu** (CUHK)*, Regulation of Gender Discrimination in China: The Little Room for the Development of Indirect Discrimination Laws* |
| **Natalie Mrockova** (Oxford), *An evaluation of the duty to consider non-financial interests in Chinese companies* | **Michelle Q Zang** (Victoria University Wellington), *When Goods Stop Crossing Borders:*  *Tariffs as Geopolitical Weapons and the Shadow of Bastiat’s Prophecy* | **Yulun Wu** (Cologne), *Paradigm Shift and Institutional Construction* | **Feifei Shen** (European University Institute), *Three Models of Judicial Erasure of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in China’s Courts* |
| **Yi Zhang** (Leeds), *The Influence of the Company Law 2024 on Accountability in Chinese Corporate Governance System* | **Alexandr Svetlicinii** (Macau) and **Jing Wen** (Macau), *China’s Export Control of Dual Use Items: from Multilateralism to Extraterritoriality* | **Yu Mou** (SOAS), *What do we talk about when we talk about “Picking Quarrels”? Understanding the Legal Categorisation of Picking Quarrels and Provoking Trouble in Chinese Criminal Law* | **Stanislav Gubenko** (Luxembourg), *Myth or reality: China-EU competition of (ir)responsible normative powers in the EU neighborhood* |
| **Charles Wang** (Durham), *Social Enterprises in China: Legal Forms, Government Supervision and Entrepreneurial Choice* | **Xiaofeng Li** (Durham),  *China’s Industrial Policy and WTO Reform* | **Wei Pei** (Beihang) [to be delivered by **Wenqi Liu,** PKU], *What is a “Court”?*  *On the Logic and Construction of the Online Criminal Trials in China* |  |
| **Daoning Zhang** (Roehampton), *Reconceptualising Directors’ Climate Duties: Lessons from Common Law and China’s Regulatory Future* |  |  |  |

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| **15.30-15.45** | **Coffee & Tea; Venue: WGB Atrium** | | |
| **Plenary Sessions – 3** | | | |
| **15.45-16.15** | **Keynote 3 – Prof Weijia Rao**, Boston University School of Law, *Signalling through National Security Lawmaking* (recorded/online); **Chair Prof Mark Poustie** (UCC); Venue: WGB G05 | | |
| **16.15-17.45** | **Parallel panels** | | |
| **Venue: WGB G03** | **Venue: WGB G05** | **Venue: WGB G04** | **Venue: WGB G08** |
| **Panel 19: Intellectual Property Law and the Impact of AI** | **Panel 20: The Legal Architecture of Authoritarian Governance** | **Panel 21: Family Law** | **Panel 22: Fundamental Norms and Concepts in Chinese Law** |
| **Chair: Dr Daniel Sprick** (Cologne) | **Chair: Dr Ewan Smith** (UCL) | **Chair: Prof Benjamin Liebman** (Columbia) | **Chair: Prof Lutz-Christian Wolff** (CUHK) |
| **Magdalena Łągiewska** (Gdańsk), *Significance of China’s new Measures for labelling AI-generated and synthetic content: Possible Implications for IP regime* | **Georg Gesk** (University of Osnabruck), *Once Again: on Law and Policy – or: Policy as Law?* | **Sara D’Attoma** (Verona), *‘In the Name of Love’: Legal Responses to Gender-Based Violence in the Domestic Sphere in the PRC and Taiwan* | **Zhong Zhang** (Sheffield), *The Rule of Law, Property Rights and Economic Growth: China vs. The U.K* |
| **Anna Pokrovskaya** (Peoples’ Friendship University) & **Lianqi Cui** (Tongji), *Harnessing AI Technology to Combat Copyright Infringement on E-commerce Platforms: A Comparative Analysis of Regulatory Models in China and the European Union* | **Sarah Biddulph** (Melbourne), *The tension between loyalty and professionalism in administration* | **Simona Novaretti** (Turin)*, From Grief to Joy: Posthumous Fecundation in the People’s Republic of China’s Law and Practice* | **Xiaotian Zhu** (Birmingham), *Legitimacy in the Chinese Context: Questioning the Applicability of Tom R. Tyler’s Model* |
| **Yingying Xu** (Soochow), *Copyrightability of AI-Generated Content: Assessing China’s Judicial Recognition and Its Implications* | **Larry Backer** (Pennsylvania State), *Smart Regulation, Smart Society, and Smart Party: The Ideology of Chinese Social Credit and its Dialectics* |  | **Zhen Chen** (Groningen)*, Legal Barriers in Restitution Claims for Chinese Cultural Relics* |
| **Ziyu** **Lai** (Minzu), *A Study on the Determination of Copyright Infringement by Generative AI Platforms* | **Qin (Sky) Ma** (Max Planck Institute), *Paternalistic Privacy: Power Dynamics among Individuals, Platforms, and the State in China* |  | **Anna Maria Rizzo** (Silesia), *The Three-Body Problem of Modern Private Law- Biotechnology Contracts within China’s Legal System* |
| **Mengyi Mei** (Strathclyde), *Evaluating China’s Short Video Copyright Infringement Challenges Through the Lens of the EU Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market* |  |  |  |

**DAY THREE: Sunday 21st September**

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| **08.45-09.15** | | **Coffee & Tea; Venue: WGB Atrium** | | |
| **Plenary Sessions – 4** | | | | |
| **09.15-10.45** | | Academic Cooperation with China; Chair: **Prof Sarah Biddulph** (Melbourne); Panellists: **Ewan Smith** (UCL), **Eva Pils** (Erlangen), **Daniel Sprick** (Cologne), **Ling Li** (Vienna), **Benjamin Liebman** (Columbia); Venue: WGB G05 \* | | |
| **10.45-11.00** | | **Coffee & Tea; Venue: WGB Atrium** | | |
| **11.00-12.30** | | **Parallel panels** | | |
| **Venue: WGB G08** | **Venue: WGB G03** | | **Venue: WGB G05** |  |
| **Panel 23: Sustainable Development & Circular Economy** | **Panel 24: Book Talks** | | **Panel 25: International Economic Law – 2** |  |
| **Chair: Prof Mark Poustie** (UCC) | **Chair: Prof Björn Ahl** (Cologne) | | **Chair: Dr Michelle Zang** (VUW**)** |  |
| **Yaxing Xu** (UCC), *From Sustainable Development to Metabolic Justice: A Three-Generation Model for Reconstructing Circular Economy in International Law* | 11.00-11.45 **Ling Li** (Vienna), *Governance of a Party-state: Corruption, Law, and the Modus Operandi of the Chinese Communist Party* | | **Lutz-Christian Wolf** (CUHK),  *Harmonizing Conflicts Rules in China’s Greater Bay Area: Desirable, Possible or Just Wishful Thinking?* |  |
| **Jakub Błażej Zwierzchowski** (Silesia), *Standard takers or standard makers? Chinese Multinational Enterprises environmental sustainability standards* | 11.45-12.30 **Shiling Xiao** (Manchester), [*Judicial Review in Greater China: Activism and Deference of Four Apex Court*](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fresearch.manchester.ac.uk%2Fen%2Fpublications%2Fjudicial-review-in-greater-china-activism-and-deference-of-four-a&data=05%7C02%7Cmark.poustie%40ucc.ie%7C4c1677256be24f4965f108dde655d266%7C46fe5ca5866f4e4292e9ed8786245545%7C0%7C0%7C638919978492031752%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Ba%2B07pszKRYIEmCSYSopvhc4mNvikIR%2BMBCJT8ntm7k%3D&reserved=0)*s* | | **Qi Zhang** (Maastricht), *Licensing of Music by Digital Platforms: Can Competition Law Address the Panacea of Exclusive Music Licensing? - Policy Approaches in the EU, US, and China* |  |
| **Ranchun Wang** (Groningen), *Forging a Distinctive Path: Regulating ESG Disclosure in China* |  | | **Zijing Lyu** (Washington U St Louis), *The Intersection of Public Procurement and the CISG: Exploring Opt-Out Situations* |  |
| **Tianqi Gu** (Singapore Management University), Data Sovereignty versus Sustainability:  Legal Tensions Between China’s Data Laws and the EU Digital Product Passport |  | |  |  |

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| **Plenary Sessions – 5** | |
| **12.30-12.45** | Closing Remarks; Venue WGB G05 |

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| **12.45-13.45** | **Conference Lunch; Venue: WGB Atrium** |

**List of Panel Chairs – ECLS 2025**

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| **Name** | **Affiliation** | **Email** |
| Björn Ahl | Cologne University | bjoern.ahl@uni-koeln.de |
| Femi Amao | University College Cork | FAmao@ucc.ie |
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