

**Unpacking the Complexity of Regulatory Governance in a Globalizing World:
An International Conference to inaugurate a Global Regulatory Governance Research
Network**

4-6 July 2019, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

**Jointly organized by the Department of Government and Public Administration and the Hong Kong
Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong with the support of the
Standing Group on the Regulatory Governance of the European Consortium of Political Research**

In the past two decades, there have been growing complexities in regulatory governance, owing much to the rapid diffusion of regulatory regimes from industrialized economies to developing countries and the ever-expanding scope of regulation in different sectors. In term of regulatory approaches, a focus on national styles has gradually shifted to a focus on local levels, all the way down to street-level regulators. Together with the emergence of ideas of value co-creation, more complexities have been added to existing dialogues between the legalistic and co-operative/voluntary paradigms. As for compliance strategies, regulated entities, particularly enterprises, have moved from a preoccupation with the choice between compliance and evasion to considering compliance as part of broader strategies for gaining competitive advantages and business innovation. As more developing and emerging countries have adopted their own regulatory regimes under diverse national circumstances, new theoretical frameworks are needed to account for how cross-national variations affect emerging issues in regulatory governance.

In addition to complexities, new sectors (e.g., information technology and the internet) have emerged that call for some forms of government or self-initiated regulation. These newly emergent domains often involve problems that are distinctly different from those in the traditional domains (e.g., environmental, education, and financial). Even within the traditional domains, changes have been emerging given, for example, the rise of new technologies. Adding to these nation-based complexities is the globalization of regulatory governance, as pressures for the establishment of global regulatory regimes have been emerging, giving rise to the need to reconcile the regulatory norms in different parts of the world. All these developments have generated new excitement and revised agenda to existing regulatory research with greater demand for both theoretical advancement and empirical-based problem-solving.

In the face of the aforementioned trends, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, with support from the Standing Group on Regulatory Governance of the ECPR (European Consortium for Political Research, has jointly endeavoured to introduce this regulatory conference series in Asia as an initial step to globalizing regulatory research with the objective of facilitating the gathering of regulation researchers from the East and West to explore complex research issues on regulatory governance. Underpinning this event is the vision of building a global network to meet the demands and challenges of globalizing regulatory governance research. Specifically, this conference aspires:

1. to promote regulatory governance research in the Asian-Pacific region;
2. to provide a venue for regulatory governance researchers in the Asian-Pacific region to connect with each other;
3. to bring leading regulatory governance researchers in the West to Asia to share academic insights with their peers in the Asia-Pacific region;
4. to set up a global regulatory governance research network with regular conference meetings in the Asia-Pacific region in alternate years to ones organized by the Standing Group on Regulatory Governance of the ECPR in Europe.

Since its inauguration in Bath in 2006, the ECPR Standing Group on Regulatory Governance's biennial conference has established itself as the leading forum for regulation and regulatory governance research in Europe, forging a strong European network of researchers working in various dimensions of regulatory governance. Given the growing attention to regulatory governance in Asia, CUHK has initiated another biennial conference series to be held out of Europe in Asia Pacific with a view to energizing regulatory governance research in this region with the strong support of the ECPR Standing Group on Regulatory Governance. It is our aspiration to bring scholars and researchers from countries in Asia-Pacific to Hong Kong, namely Australia, the mainland China, Taiwan, India, Singapore and South Korea, to interact with their Western peers to jointly unpack the complexity of regulatory governance at the local, regional and global levels.

This conference will feature key stakeholders debating issues in regulation and compliance that have profound impact on Hong Kong's regulatory governance. In particular, it is expected that the conference will inspire creative thinking to examine the complexity of regulatory regimes in the emerging economies and developing countries in the Asian-Pacific region from a comparative perspective with the focus on the following topics:

- Regulatory Governance in Emerging Sectors
- Global and Regional Regulatory Governance
- Innovations and Value Creation in Regulatory Governance
- Trends and Emerging Issues in Regulation and Compliance
- Regulatory Challenges for the Global South

We will set the conference headquarter at the Cheng Yu Tung Building at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

The major features of this inaugural Conference are as follows:

1. The Opening Speech: Speaker to be confirmed
2. The Keynote Speech: Prof. Colin Scott, University College Dublin
3. A round table discussion by leading Think Tanks in Hong Kong
4. A ceremony to establish a Asian-Pacific network on Regulatory Governance research
5. An Editor's Forum of the world's leading public management journals, namely, *Regulation & Governance*, *Public Administration*, and *Policy Studies Journal*

Social Activities:

1. A reception, evening, July 3, 2019
2. A Gala Dinner, July 5, 2019
3. A Farewell Harbour Cruise gathering, July 6, 2019

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