Artificial Intelligence (AI), Trade, and the Rule of Law

The Asia-Pacific Europe Law Institutes Alliance (APELIA) Conference 2021

12 July 2021
## CONTENTS

- CONFERENCE OVERVIEW ................................................................. 2
- AGENDA ....................................................................................... 3
- SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES ............................................................. 5
- ADMINISTRATION TEAM ............................................................... 12
- NOTES .......................................................................................... 14
CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

We have been captivated by Alpha-Go, experiencing driverless cars, considering smart contracts, tempted by crypto currencies, relying on the use of AI robotics in production, distribution, and product delivery; most importantly we are witnessing, with relief, its targeted application in the development of new vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, AI is also challenging scientific, ethical, legal, and regulatory norms. Where are we now and where are we heading as regards AI technologies? Who is responsible for AI’s applications? How do we eliminate AI bias? How do we deal with cross-border data flows? What legal status may be most beneficial for stakeholders? Although initiatives on AI are being suggested and promoted by national and international actors, there is still a long way to go to reach a consensus on AI under the combined effect of a technological revolution and international political and trade arm wrestling.

With contribution from scholars of prominent law institutes in Asia-Pacific and Europe, as well as policymakers, judges, AI scientists and entrepreneurs, this multidisciplinary conference will examine and debate those challenges against an international context.

Event convened by Dr Guan H Tang, Professor Spyros Maniatis and Qian Liu of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL).

Conference Hosts

The Asia-Pacific Europe Law Institutes Alliance (APELIA) was founded by 18 prestigious law schools and legal research institutions across Asia-Pacific and Europe in 2019. APELIA intends to "provide a platform for legal research and education, academic cooperation, international exchange of researchers and students, and dissemination of knowledge". It holds a conference for academic discussions as well as a meeting of representatives annually. As one of the founding members, BIICL is delighted to be hosting the second annual APELIA conference.

Contact Us

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AGENDA

12 July 2021, 09:00-12:40 (UK time)

09:00-09:10 - Opening Remarks

Professor Spyros Maniatis, Director of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, United Kingdom

09:10-10:10 - Introductory key conversation

Moderator: Lord Clement-Jones CBE, Chair of the House of Lords Select Committee on Artificial Intelligence (2017-18) and Co-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Artificial Intelligence, United Kingdom

- Professor Maria Liakata, Turing AI Fellow and Professor in Natural Language Processing (NLP) at Queen Mary University of London, United Kingdom
  “Towards creating time sensitive sensors from user generated language and heterogeneous content”

- Professor Xiaoyan Song, Dean of School of Law, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics and Vice President of the International Economic Law Research Association of the China Law Society, China
  “How will Fintech influence the world development?”

- Yeong Zee Kin, Assistant Chief Executive of the Infocomm Media Development Authority and Deputy Commissioner of the Personal Data Protection Commission, Singapore
  “Smart Regulations: Implementing a responsive regulatory regime”

10:10-10:20 - Coffee Break


Moderator: Professor Ian Walden, Director of Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London, United Kingdom

Panellists:

- Professor Weidong Ji, Founding Co-Director of APELIA, and Director of Shanghai Jiaotong University Centre for AI Governance and Law and President of China Institute for Socio-Legal Studies, China
  “The Domain of Computational Law”

- Professor Wolf-Georg Ringe, University of Hamburg, Germany
  “Machine Learning, Market Manipulation and Collusion on Capital Markets: Why the ‘Black Box’ matters”

- Alessio Azzutti, University of Hamburg, Germany

- Dr Tianxiang He, City University of Hong Kong, China
  “Towards A Regulative Framework of AI-Copyright Crisis”

- Dr Guan H. Tang, Queen Mary University of London, United Kingdom
  “Artificial Intelligence and Artificial Person: Don’t Count Your Chickens Before Your Eggs Have Hatched?”
11:20-11:30 - Coffee Break

11:30-12:30 - Panel B: Artificial Intelligence and Global Cooperation

Moderator: Professor Feng Lin, Associate Dean of the School of Law and Director of the Centre for Judicial Education and Research, City University of Hong Kong, China

Panellists:

- **Professor Jan Lieder**, University of Freiburg, Germany
  “From Corporate Governance to Algorithm Governance - Artificial Intelligence as a Challenge for Corporations and Their Executives”

- **Professor Oreste Pollicino**, Bocconi University, Italy

- **Dr Giovanni De Gregorio**, University of Oxford, United Kingdom
  “Rule of Law in Digital Transition: The Challenges for Digital Constitutionalism”

- **Professor Huiqin Jiang**, Zhejiang Sci-Tech University, China

- **Professor Xiaochuan Weng**, University of New South Wales, Australia
  “The Principle of Levelling the Playing Field for Foreign Investors: Optimising the Business Environment in China”

12:30-12:40 - Closing Remarks

Professor Yuwen Li, Founding Co-Director of APELIA, and Director of Erasmus University Rotterdam China Law Centre, Netherlands
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Professor Spyros Maniatis
British Institute of International and Comparative Law, United Kingdom

Professor Maniatis joined The British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL) as Director in September 2018. Previously he was Professor of Intellectual Property Law and Head of the Centre for Commercial Law Studies at Queen Mary University of London where he is now Honorary Professor of Intellectual Property. He is also Visiting Professor at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Visiting Professor at the International Business LLM Programme, University of Lausanne, High-end Expert at the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, and Joint General Editor of the International and Comparative Law Quarterly.

Professor Maniatis’ expertise and research interests cover innovation and trade, trade marks and unfair competition, the interaction between trade, AI, and IP, as well as intellectual property in China. His work ‘Trade Mark Law in Europe’ reached its third edition with OUP in 2016. In 2019 he published, with OUP, a co-edited volume on Competition and Intellectual Property in China.

Lord Clement-Jones CBE
House of Lords, UK Parliament, United Kingdom

Lord Clement-Jones was made CBE for political services in 1988 and life peer in 1998. He is the House of Lords Liberal Democrat spokesperson for Digital. He is former Chair of the House of Lords Select Committee on Artificial Intelligence which sat from 2017-18 and Co-Chairs the All-Party Parliamentary Group on AI. He is a founding member of the OECD Parliamentary Group on AI and consultant to the Council of Europe’s Ad-hoc Committee on AI (CAHAI). He is a former member of the House of Lords Select Committees on Communications and the Built Environment and a current member of the House of Lords Select Committee on Risk Assessment and Risk Planning. He is Vice-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Groups on Music; The Future of Work; Digital Regulation and Responsibility; Ticket Abuse; Performers Alliance; and Writers. He is a Consultant of DLA Piper where previous positions included London Managing Partner (2011-16), Head of UK Government Affairs, Chairman of China and Middle East Desks, International Business Relations Partner and Co-Chairman of Global Government Relations. He is Chair of Ombudsman Services, the not for profit, independent ombudsman service providing dispute resolution for communications, energy and parking industries. He is Chair of Council of Queen Mary University London. He is a Senior Fellow of the Atlantic Council’s GeoTech Center focusing on technology, altruism, geopolitics and competition. He is President of Ambitious About Autism.

Professor Maria Liakata
The Alan Turing Institute and Queen Mary University of London, United Kingdom

Maria is a Turing AI fellow and Professor in Natural Language Processing (NLP) at the School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science, Queen Mary University of London and the Department of Computer Science, University of Warwick. At the Turing she founded and co-leads the NLP and data science for mental health special interest groups and supervises PhD students. She leads a team of 5 postdocs and 7 PhD students. Maria is in receipt of a five-year EPSRC/UKRI Turing AI Fellowship on Creating time sensitive sensors from user-generated language and heterogeneous content. The research in this fellowship involves developing new
methods for NLP and multi-modal data to allow the creation of longitudinal personalized language monitoring. She is also the PI of projects on “Emotion sensing using heterogeneous mobile phone data”, “Language sensing for dementia monitoring & diagnosis” and “Opinion summarisation from social media”. Maria has a DPhil from the University of Oxford on learning pragmatic knowledge from text. Her work has contributed to advances in knowledge discovery from corpora, automation of scientific experimentation and automatic extraction of information from the scientific literature. She has published widely both in NLP and interdisciplinary venues. Past awards include an IBM Faculty Award for work on emotion sensing from heterogeneous mobile phone data, being a co-investigator on the EU Project PHEME, which studied the spread of rumours in social media (2014-2017) and an Early Career Fellowship from the Leverhulme Trust (2010-2013) on reasoning with scientific articles.

Professor Xiaoyan Song
Shanghai University of Finance and Economics and International Economic Law Research Association of the China Law Society, China

Song Xiaoyan, Dean, Professor and Ph.D. Supervisor of School of Law, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics. She is entitled the ‘New Century Excellent Talents’ by the Ministry of Education, selected among the Fifth ‘Top Ten Middle-aged and Young Jurists in Shanghai’, and appointed as Vice President of International Economic Law Research Association of China Law Society, Vice Chairman of China Securities Law Research Association, Director of the International Financial Law Committee International Economic Law Research Association of China Law Society, Vice President of the Financial Law Research Association of the Shanghai Law Society, Vice President of the Commercial Law Research Association of the Shanghai Law Society.

Professor Song is also designated as Legal counsel for Shanghai Pudong New District Committee, Pudong New District People’s Government and China (Shanghai) Free Trade Zone Administrative Committee, member of Shanghai Stock Exchange Review Committee, Deputy Chairman of the Institute of Financial Law of the Shanghai Law Society, Vice President of Commercial Law Research Association of Shanghai Law Society. Shanghai International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (Shanghai International Arbitration Center) and arbitrator of Shanghai Arbitration Commission.

Professor Song has engaged for many years in teaching and research work in financial law, international economic law, and international financial law. Professor Song’s career is acknowledged by being awarded the second prize of the thirteenth Shanghai Philosophy and Social Science Outstanding Achievement Award in 2016, the second prize of the 2015 Shanghai Tenth Decision Consultation Research Achievement Award, and the Excellence Award of Baosteel Outstanding Teacher Education Fund Award in 2015. She is named 2017 Shanghai University of Finance and Economics "Education and Education Model", and praised for the Best Education award by Shanghai Education Development Foundation in 2019.

Yeong Zee Kin
Infocomm Media Development Authority and Personal Data Protection Commission, Singapore

Zee Kin is presently the Assistant Chief Executive (Data Innovation and Protection Group) of the Infocomm Media Development Authority of Singapore (IMDA), and Deputy Commissioner of the Personal Data Protection Commission (PDPC). His scope of work includes developing forward-thinking governance on AI and data, driving a pipeline of AI talent, promoting industry adoption of AI and data analytics, as well as building specific AI and data science capabilities in Singapore. Zee Kin spearheaded the development of Singapore’s Model AI
Governance Framework, which won the UNITU WSIS Prize in 2019. Zee Kin is an internationally recognized expert on AI ethics. He is currently a member of the OECD Network of Experts on AI (ONE AI). In 2019, Mr. Yeong was a member of the AI Group of Experts at the OECD (AIGO), which developed the OECD Principles on AI. These principles have been endorsed by the G20 in 2019. He was also an observer participant at the European Commission’s High-Level Expert Group on AI, which fulfilled its mandate in June 2020.

Professor Ian Walden
Queen Mary University of London, United Kingdom

Dr Ian Walden is Professor of Information and Communications Law and Director of the Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary, University of London. His publications include Computer Crimes and Digital Investigations (2nd ed., 2016) and Telecommunications Law and Regulation (5th ed., 2018). Ian was a Board Member and Trustee of the Internet Watch Foundation (2004-09); the Press Complaints Commission (2009-14); a member of the RUSI Independent Surveillance Review (2014-15); a member of the Code Adjudication Panel at the Phone-paid Services Authority (2016-21); a member of the European Commission Expert Group to support the application of the GDPR (2017-21), and a Non-Executive Board Member of the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (2020- ). Ian is a solicitor and Of Counsel to Baker McKenzie. Ian is a principal investigator on the Cloud Legal Project and co-author of Cloud Computing Law (2nd ed., 2021).

Professor Weidong Ji
China Institute for Socio-Legal Studies, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China

Ji Weidong was Dean and KoGuan Chair Professor of Law School, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China during the period of 2008-2018, and is now University Professor of Humanity and Social Sciences, President of China Institute for Socio-Legal Studies, Director of Center for AI Governance and Law. Prior to joining SJTU, he was a professor of Graduate School of Law, Kobe University, Japan during 1990-2008, and also worked as a visiting scholar, Stanford Law School, 1991-92. Ji is the Founding Co-Director of APELIA.


Professor Wolf-Georg Ringe
University of Hamburg, Germany

Professor Georg Ringe is Director of the Institute of Law & Economics at the University of Hamburg and Visiting Professor at the University of Oxford, Faculty of Law. His research focuses on questions of corporate law, capital markets, and financial regulation, from an interdisciplinary and comparative perspective. He is a Research Member with the European Corporate Governance Institute, Brussels, a Fellow Academic Member at the
European Banking Institute, Frankfurt, and co-editor of the Journal of Financial Regulation. As Visiting Professor, he regularly teaches at leading academic institutions in North America, Europe, and Asia.

Alessio Azzutti
University of Hamburg, Germany

Alessio Azzutti is a PhD Candidate at the University of Hamburg, School of Law, and a Research Associate within the “Law, Finance, & Technology” programme at the Institute of Law & Economics (University of Hamburg). Alessio holds an LLM in Law & Economics (Utrecht University) and an MSc in Finance and Risk Management (University of Florence). His research focuses on the implications of technological innovation for banking, payments, capital markets law and crime. He is also a Member of the European Banking Institute Young Researchers Group.

Dr Tianxiang He
City University of Hong Kong, China

Tianxiang He (China P. R. 1984) is Assistant Professor at the School of Law, City University of Hong Kong. Dr. He holds an LL.B. degree (Huaqiao University, China, 2007) and a Master degree in International Law (Jinan University, China, 2009). Dr. He received his degree of Ph.D. in IP law at Maastricht University (the Netherlands, 2016), where he was Researcher at the Department of International and European Law, and Ph.D. Fellow at Institute for Globalization and International Regulation (IGIR), and another Ph.D. degree in Criminal Law at Renmin University of China (2017). In Europe, the Ius Commune Research School conferred to him an Honorable Mention in the Ius Commune Prize 2014. Dr. He is the author of the book Copyright and Fan Productivity in China: A Cross-jurisdictional Perspective. Dr. He’s articles appeared in top journals such as American Journal of Comparative Law. Dr. He is currently on the editorial board of the Chinese Journal of Comparative Law (CJCL) published by Oxford University Press.

Dr Guan H. Tang
Queen Mary University of London, United Kingdom

Dr Guan H. Tang is Senior Lecturer and Director of Dual LLM in Commercial Law (London/Singapore) at Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London. She was previously Senior Lecturer and Programme Leader for LLM Information Rights & Practice at Northumbria University. Before that she was Associate Professor of Civil and Commercial Law and Director of the Law Internationalisation at the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics.

Her academic journey started in 1998 when she was awarded a governmental scholarship to undertake her Masters at Queen's University Belfast and researched information technology and the law with a focus on intellectual property rights in China. She later read law with Professor Hector MacQueen and received her PhD at the University of Edinburgh Law School.

Guan has enlightening academic, managerial and advisory experiences in both the UK and China. Holding an insight about the rule of law in China from a commercial law perspective and its relevance to the rest of the world, her research has a strong theme of comparative intellectual property and technology. Her current projects include the legal status of artificial intelligence, and the technological response to social media, copyright and censorship.
Professor Feng Lin  
City University of Hong Kong, China

Lin Feng joined the School of Law of City University of Hong Kong in 1992. He is Professor of Law and Associate Dean at the School of Law. He is also Director of the Centre for Judicial Education and Research at City University of Hong Kong. He was a member of the Hong Kong Law Reform Commission. His research areas include Hong Kong Basic Law, comparative constitutional law, administrative law, and judicial system. He has published more than one hundred academic papers.

Lin Feng obtained LLB from Fudan University in 1987, LLM from Victoria University of Wellington in 1992, and Ph.D. from Peking University in 1998. He was called to the Bar of England and Wales by the Honourable Society of Middle Temple in 1998 and was admitted to practice at the Bar of the High Court of Hong Kong in February 2000.

Some of his recent publications include: (1) Lin Feng, From “Occupying Central” to “Anti-extradition” in Hong Kong – Limits of Law and Power of Politics, in Revista Asia America Latina, ISSN 2524-9347, Asia/America Latina, Vol. 5, No. 8, 2020; pp. 66-96; (2) Is It Constitutional to Demand Hong Kong Independence? – A Comparative Study, HKLI, 2019, Part 2; (3) 2018 Constitutional Amendments and Their Significance and Impact on the Theories of Party-State Relationship in China, China Perspectives, No. 2019/1, pp. 5-15; (4) A Comparative and Jurisprudential Analysis of the “Umbrella Movement” – Is It a Constitutional Moment, Indian Yearbook of Comparative Law, 2019, pp. 95-125.

Professor Jan Lieder  
University of Freiburg, Germany

Professor Dr. Jan Lieder, LL.M. (Harvard), born in 1979, is Director Department Business Law of the Institute for Business, Labor and Social Law at Albert Ludwigs University of Freiburg, Germany, Full Professor for Civil Law, Commercial Law and Business Law, as well as Judge at the Court of Appeals for the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein, Schleswig, Germany. He has studied law at Friedrich-Schiller-University of Jena School of Law, Germany (First State Examination 2003, Second State Examination 2008) and at Harvard Law School, Cambridge, USA (Master of Laws 2009). He received his degree as Doctor of Laws in 2006 and his Habilitation in 2013. From 2014 to 2016, he has served as the Managing Director of the Institute for Business and Tax Law at Christian Albrechts University of Kiel, Germany. From 2018 to 2020, he has been Dean for Student Affairs, Faculty of Law, Albert Ludwigs University of Freiburg.

Professor Oreste Pollicino  
Bocconi University, Italy

Oreste Pollicino is Full Professor of Constitutional law and Internet law at Bocconi University where he is also the director of the LLM in Law of Internet Technologies. His research activities concern information technology law, constitutional and comparative public law, privacy and data protection law. Oreste is regularly appointed as expert and advisor by national and international institutions like the High-Level Group on Disinformation launched by the European Commission in 2018. He is also Italian Member of the Managing Board of the European Agency for Fundamental Rights and Independent Expert at the Global Partnership for Artificial Intelligence.
Dr Giovanni De Gregorio  
*University of Oxford, United Kingdom*

Giovanni De Gregorio is postdoctoral researcher working with the Programme in Comparative Media Law and Policy at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies at the University of Oxford and Academic Fellow at Bocconi University. Within the framework of the ERC ConflictNet project, his research focuses on content moderation and artificial intelligence; hate speech and disinformation in conflicts; digital policy. His research interest deals with digital constitutionalism, human rights, Internet law, privacy and data protection law.

Professor Huiqin Jiang  
*Zhejiang Sci-Tech University, China*

Dr Huiqin JIANG is currently an Associate Professor at the School of Law and Politics, Zhejiang Sci-Tech University. She is also a Fellow of the Herbert Smith Freehills CIBEL Centre, Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales (UNSW), and an Associate of the CEBCLA Centre, School of Law, Singapore Management University.

She obtained her first PhD degree in Law from UNSW with an Excellence Award. Her thesis performed a doctrinal and empirical analysis of Australia’s foreign investment review system. She obtained her second PhD degree in Comparative Law from China University of Political Science and Law, exploring mainly the betterment of Chinese foreign investment law through comparative analysis. In 2020, she received a national research grant from the National Office for Philosophy and Social Science, supporting her research in the field of China’s foreign investment law issues for three years.

She has abiding interests in foreign investment law, international economic law, company law and comparative law, with a particular focus on China, Australia and Singapore. Her recent publications in English appear in Journal of World Trade, Asia Pacific Law Review, Tsinghua China Law Review, The Company Lawyer, Civil Justice Quarterly, Chinese Yearbook of International Law and Affairs, etc.

Professor Xiaochuan Weng  
*University of New South Wales, Australia*

Charlie Xiao-chuan WENG joined the UNSW Law faculty in 2015 as an Associate Professor. Previously, he was Eastern Scholar Chair Professor of Law and Assistant Dean at the KoGuan Law School of Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU, China). He also taught at Nagoya University Graduate School of Law (Japan) as Designated Associate Professor. He studied law at East China University of Political Science and Law (ECUPL) before completing his LLM at the National University of Singapore (NUS). After working for ECUPL for five years, he went to the University of Pennsylvania School of Law for his LLM and SJD in corporate law, followed by an appointment as a Robert S. McNamara Fellow at the Yale Law School Center for the Study of Corporate Law. In 2012, he was recruited by SJTU as a Research Professor. He also held fellow/visiting professor positions in many leading research institutions, such as Stanford Law School and Cambridge University.

His research interest centers on law and business. He has published widely in the fields of corporate law, securities law, and bankruptcy. His research projects were heavily supported by multiple organizations, including the World Bank and the Municipal government of Shanghai. Before joining UNSW, his research outputs well advised funding organizations and legislatures.
Currently, he is especially interested in research on the law of capital markets and the fundamental theory of corporate law. Also, he is interested employing cross-disciplinary research methodologies to analyze the impact on the real economy of changes in the law governing corporate law and financial regulation.

**Professor Yuwen Li**
**Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands**

Professor Yuwen Li specializes on Chinese Law and international investment law. She is the founder and Director of the Erasmus China Law Centre at the Law School of Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands. Professor Yuwen Li is the Founding Co-Director of APELIA.

Professor Li holds a BA in Chinese Law from Peking University and a PhD in International Law from Utrecht University, the Netherlands. Since 1985 she has studied and worked in the Netherlands. She has broad academic interest in Chinese law and the relationship between domestic law and international legal order. Her most recent book is entitled China, The EU and International Investment Law: Reforming Investor-State Dispute Settlement (eds.) (UK: Routledge 2019). She has acted as co-director of numerous legal collaborative projects on training Chinese judges, public prosecutors, lawyers and NPO practitioners. She supervises a number of PhD candidates who conduct comparative legal studies in the field of investment law, company law, criminal law, environmental law and arbitration law. Professor Li is on the panel list of arbitrators in a number of arbitration commissions China.
Qian Liu
Visiting Fellow, British Institute of International and Comparative Law, United Kingdom

Qian Liu is Visiting Fellow at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL). He majors in Intellectual Property Law and has achieved Distinction in the UK, mainland China and Taiwan. He served as Research Assistant in academic institutions in both the UK and China, including Queen Mary University of London, Peking University and East China University of Political Science and Law. Several projects he participated in were initiated or funded by the Chinese government and have had an impact on China's legislative and administrative documents, for example, the 'Outline of the National Intellectual Property Strategy (2021-2035)' and Article 45 on 'right to remuneration for broadcasting and communication to the public for producers of phonograms' in the 2020 Amendments to Copyright Law of China.

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