

“National Security Law and Implementation: Comparing Hong Kong and Macau” Symposium

21 April 2026

On 18 April 2026, the Public Law and Human Rights Forum (CPLR), in collaboration with the Institute of Hong Kong & Macau Affairs of the Development Research Center of State Council, successfully held a Symposium on “National Security Law and Implementation: Comparing Hong Kong and Macau”. The event brought together a distinguished assembly of legal scholars from Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong, and Macau to conduct a comparative analysis of the legal frameworks and practical implementation of national security laws within the two Special Administrative Regions (SARs).



Group Photo

The symposium commenced with an opening ceremony moderated by **Prof. Guobin Zhu** (Director of CPLR, City University of Hong Kong). Opening remarks were delivered by **Prof. Feng Lin** (Dean of the School of Law, City University of Hong Kong), **Dr. Kwok-kwan Cheung, SBS, JP** (Deputy Secretary for Justice, HKSARG), **Prof. Zhenmin Wang** (Dean of the Institute for State Governance, Tsinghua University), and **Prof. Yanying Bi** (Director of the Institute of Hong Kong and Macau Affairs). The speakers collectively emphasized the importance of safeguarding national security as a shared responsibility across all jurisdictions to ensure the steady progress of “One Country, Two Systems”. Prof. Feng Lin and Prof. Yanying Bi both spoke highly of this collaborative project and expressed their hope to continue working together in the future.



Prof. Zhenmin Wang



Dr. Kwok-kwan Cheung, SBS, JP, Prof. Yanying Bi

The first session, also moderated by **Prof. Guobin Zhu**, focused on the constitutional foundations and legislative environments of the two SARs. **Prof. Zhenmin Wang** opened the discussion by analyzing the practical characteristics of safeguarding national security under the “One Country, Two Systems” framework. **Prof. Yanying Bi** followed with an exploration of national security and the rule of law within this framework, arguing that national security legislation actually reinforces the resilience of Hong Kong’s unique economic status. **Prof. Feng Lin** then examined the constitutional status and far-reaching impacts of national security legislation in both Hong Kong and Macau, emphasizing the necessity of comparative legal research in the current era. **Prof. Xiaonan Yang** (Professor, Sun Yat-sen University) provided a systematic comparative study of the national security legal systems in both regions, noting how Macau’s proactive completion of Article 23 legislation served as a parallel to Hong Kong’s transition from legislative vacancy to a dual-layer mechanism of central and local laws.



Prof. Feng Lin



Prof. Guobin Zhu

The second session, moderated by **Prof. Albert Chen** (Professor, The University of Hong Kong), shifted the focus toward judicial application and common law adaptation. **Prof. Pingxue Zou** (Director of the Center for Basic Laws of Hong Kong and Macau, Shenzhen University) discussed the adaptation and improvement of Hong Kong’s common law system under the national security legal system, noting how courts have flexibly integrated HKNSL concepts, such as the definition of incitement, with existing common law principles. **Dr. Celeste Lo** (Post-doctoral Fellow, City

University of Hong Kong) analyzed the interpretation and reconstruction of national security norms by Hong Kong courts. **Prof. Haibo Ye** (Professor, Shenzhen University) provided a detailed review of the “designated judge” system, evaluating its theoretical basis and practical implementation over the past five years based on a comprehensive analysis of public judgments. **Prof. Jing Fu** (Associate Professor, Zhongnan University of Economics and Law) concluded the session with an empirical analysis of how Hong Kong courts have fulfilled their duty to safeguard national security from 2020 to 2025, detailing how the judiciary has fulfilled its duty while maintaining the principles of the rule of law.

The afternoon proceedings began with the third session, titled “Crime and Punishment,” moderated by **Prof. Xiaonan Yang**. This session featured in-depth case commentaries and comparative studies of specific offenses. **Mr. Steven Kwan** (Barrister) and **Prof. Hualing Fu** (Dean of the School of Law, The University of Hong Kong) both offered their perspectives on the legal controversies and practical observations surrounding the Jimmy Lai case. Following on this topic, **Prof. Albert Chen** shared an in-depth and critical commentary on the subversion cases in Hong Kong, while **Dr. P.Y. Lo** (Barrister) compared the legislative and implementation paths of sedition-related offenses in both SARs. **Prof. Feng Huang** (Professor, Beijing Normal University) provided a comparative study of treason legislation across Mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macau, and **Prof. Su Jiang** (Professor, Peking University) then analyzed the similarities and differences in the crime of subversion between the Hong Kong National Security Law and the PRC Criminal Law.



Prof. Albert Chen, Dr. P.Y. Lo, Mr. Steven Kwan



Prof. Feng Huang, Prof. Su Jiang

The final session, moderated by **Prof. Pingxue Zou**, shifted the focus to the institutional development and reflection. **Dr. Dongxiao Lin** (Institute of Hong Kong and Macau Affairs) discussed the legal responses to external risks in the new stage of "One Country, Two Systems". **Prof. Tiexun Leng** (Professor, Macao Polytechnic University) reviewed the construction of the national security system in Macau, while **Prof. Guoqiang Zhao** (Professor, University of Macau) explored the inspirations that Macau has drawn from the Hong Kong experience. **Dr. Wenchao Xue** (Macao University of Science and Technology) provided an overall study of the criminal law provisions of Macau, followed by **Prof. Xiaobo Zhai** (Associate Professor, University of Macau) who compared “national security rule of law” with “ordinary rule of law” across China. **Dr. Adrienne Lam** (Lecturer, The Education University of Hong Kong) concluded the session with a reflection on the practice and future of national security education in Hong Kong based on her professional experience in this area.



Prof. Tiexun Leng, Prof. Guoqiang Zhao, Prof. Pingxue Zou



Prof. Xiaonan Yang

The symposium concluded with closing remarks and a summary delivered by **Prof. Albert Chen**, **Prof. Pingxue Zou** and **Prof. Guobin Zhu**, who all reaffirmed the value of academic exchange in strengthening the legal safeguards for “One Country, Two Systems”. The Symposium has provided a valuable platform for strengthening the academic exchanges and legal mechanisms of national security law while upholding the rule of law across the three jurisdictions.