



Asian Cities and the International Legal Order 2.0

Urban Challenges and International Law in Asia

WORKSHOP

2–3 NOVEMBER 2026

Yong Pung How School of Law
Singapore Management University
Singapore

PROGRAMME & BIOGRAPHIES



MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
FOR COMPARATIVE PUBLIC LAW
AND INTERNATIONAL LAW



Urban
Institute



Centre for
Commercial Law
in Asia



PROGRAMME / 2–3 NOVEMBER 2026

DAY ONE

2 NOVEMBER 2026

9:00 AM–10:30 AM | Welcoming & Keynote Roundtable

WELCOME & GROUP PHOTO

Professor Lee Pey Woan

Dean, Yong Pung How School of Law, Singapore Management University

Associate Professor Nengye Liu

Yong Pung How School of Law, Singapore Management University

KEYNOTE ROUNDTABLE

International Law and Geography in Asian Cities

Chair and Convenor: Associate Professor Nengye Liu

Panellists

- Associate Professor Michelle Lim — UNESCO Chair in Sustainability Law Futures, Yong Pung How School of Law, Singapore Management University
- Associate Professor Maria Adele Carrai — Oxford School of Global and Area Studies / St Cross College, University of Oxford
- Professor Orlando Woods — Director, SMU Urban Institute
- Professor Helmut Aust — Director, Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law

10:30 AM–11:00 AM | Coffee Break

11:00 AM–12:30 AM

PANEL 1 Cities, Networks and International Law

Chair: Associate Professor Michelle Lim

1. Ling Chen — Asian Cities and Transnational Networks: Making International Energy Governance Local
2. Shisong Jiang — Regulating Without Standing: International Rules as a Resource for Urban Governance in Chinese Cities
3. Yang Liu — Urbanising International Water Law? The Role of Chinese Cities in Collaborative Governance of the Lancang–Mekong Basin
4. Vivek V Nemane — Reconfiguring the International Legal Personality of Cities through Norm Innovation: Bottom-Up Governance for Global Catastrophic Risk Management in Asian Cities

15 minutes per presentation + 30 minutes discussion and Q&A.

12:30 PM–1:30 PM | Lunch

1:30 PM–3:00 PM

PANEL 2 Climate, Environment and Urban Resilience

Chair: Professor Helmut Aust

1. Ethan Beringen & Nengye Liu — International Marine Environmental Law and the Urban Challenges of South China Sea Cities
2. M Shawkat Alam — Responsibility Without Power: Dhaka's Canal Governance and the Urban Translation of International Climate Adaptation Law
3. Shainy Pancrasius — Thirsting Asian Cities: Groundwater Depletion, Urban Water Security and the International Legal Order in Asia
4. Paul J Govind — Data Centres, Cities, and Climate Law: Assessing Paris Agreement Alignment in South-East Asia

15 minutes per presentation + 30 minutes discussion and Q&A.

3:00 PM–3:30 PM | Coffee Break

3:30 PM–5:00 PM**PANEL 3 Rights, Justice and Urban Development**

Chair: Professor Shawkat Alam

1. Rahul Desarda — Redeveloping Dharavi, Rewriting Rights: International Human Rights Law and the Urban Life of Treaty Obligations in Asia
2. Anaïs Mattez — Cultural Property and the Urban Commons: The Legal Battle to Save the Mazu Shrine of Sam Yan
3. Pawan Kumar & Kashish Jain — Environmental Exposure and Layered Vulnerability in Indian Cities – an International Legal Perspective of Urban City of Delhi and Ahmedabad
4. Enzamaría Tramontana and Alice Stillone — Towards More Inclusive Urban Trajectories: Innovative Approaches to Tackling Gender Inequality in Asian Cities

*15 minutes per presentation + 30 minutes discussion and Q&A.***6:00 PM | Conference Dinner — Speakers Only****DAY TWO****3 NOVEMBER 2026****9:00 AM–10:15 AM****PANEL 4 Power, Authority and the Reconfiguration of International Law**

Chair: Dr Asanka Edirisirisinghe

1. Kasim Balarabe — The Authoritarian City and the Limits of the Norm-Entrepreneur Thesis in Asian International Legal Practice
2. Sergey Sayapin — From Universum to Pluriversum? Silk Road Cities as Sites of Legal Translation and the Reconfiguration of International Law in Practice
3. George Wong — Charity (Governance) Starts at Home: Asian Philanthropic Hubs and the Making of Family Office Philanthropic Governance Standards

*15 minutes per presentation + 30 minutes discussion and Q&A.***10:15 AM–10:45 AM | Coffee Break****10:45 AM–12:15 PM****PANEL 5 Urban Transformation, Heritage and Mega-Events**

Chair: Professor Orlando Woods

1. Dilini Pathirana — Classic Sovereignty, Modern Economic Realities and Emerging Forms of Urban Governance: The Case of Colombo Port City
2. Saharat Augnistasat & Thitirat Thipsamritkul — Blind Spot in Urban Indicators: Testing International Standards through Bangkok's Transplanted Sky Exposure Plane Regulation
3. Michal Dahl — Sport Mega-Events and the International Legal Order: Sustainability, Urban Governance, and Olympic Ambitions in China's Greater Bay Area
4. Sze Hong Lam (Ocean) — The Twin Legacies of "Strategic Ambiguity": the Legal-Historical Origin of Hong Kong's Uneven Urban Development and its *sui generis* international status

*15 minutes per presentation + 30 minutes discussion and Q&A.***12:15 PM | Wrap-Up & Lunch****Associate Professor Nengye Liu & Professor Helmut Aust**

Yong Pung How School of Law, Singapore Management University

CONFERENCE FORMAT

Each paper presentation will be limited to 15 minutes, followed by 30 minutes of discussion and Q&A.
The workshop is an in-person, invitation-only event.

BIOGRAPHIES

SPEAKERS



Michelle Lim

Singapore Management University

Michelle Lim is the UNESCO Chair of Sustainability Law Futures. She is an Associate Professor in Law, Yong Pung How School of Law, Singapore Management University. She is also Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Review of European, Comparative and International Environmental Law. Her interdisciplinary scholarship focuses on futures-oriented biodiversity law research aimed at advancing equity and sustainability under conditions of unprecedented environmental change. Michelle's scholarship includes exploration of affect and methods which challenge the form of scholarship including creative and imaginative means of expression (e.g. speculative fiction, poetry, dramatic and visual arts). Lim was a fellow on the Global Assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and an author of the IPBES/IPCC joint workshop report. She received the 2016/2017 Law Council of Australia Mahla Pearlman Australian Young Environmental Lawyer of the Year Award and the 2021 Law and Society Association of Australia and New Zealand publication prize for a published scholarly article or book chapter.



Maria Adele Carrai

University of Oxford

Maria Adele Carrai is an Associate Professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations and the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies (OSGA) at the University of Oxford, and a Fellow of St Cross College. Her research examines the history of international law in East Asia and investigates how China's rise as a global power shapes norms and reconfigures the international order, with particular interests in sovereignty, extraterritoriality, and digital governance. She is the author of *Sovereignty in China: A Genealogy of a Concept since 1840* (Cambridge University Press, 2019) and *China's Normative Power in Cyberspace* (Routledge, 2026). She received her PhD from the University of Hong Kong, and was awarded a three-year Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship at KU Leuven. Carrai is the founder and Executive Director of Mapping Global China, a research initiative that combines data and storytelling to better understand China's global presence.



Ling Chen

University of Western Australia

Ling Chen is a Lecturer at the University of Western Australia (UWA) Law School. His current research considers innovative forms of cooperation between governments and corporations in environmental, climate, and energy governance, and how legal institutions and expertise can advance technology-policy interactions. Before joining UWA, Ling was a Visiting Scholar and an SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard Law School, and previously a Visiting Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School and a Research Affiliate with the Penn Program on Regulation. He has also developed legal practice and policy expertise through professional and research roles at the Centre for International Governance Innovation and the Hague Academy of International Law. His article, "Subnational Climate Clubs: An Interactional Approach to Transnational Lawmaking," was awarded this year's Transnational Environmental Law Best Article Prize Honourable Mention.



Shisong Jiang

Chongqing University

Shisong Jiang is an Associate Professor of International Law at Chongqing University Law School, where he also directs the Graduate Program Office. He holds a PhD in “Politics, Human Rights, and Sustainability” from the Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna and a PhD in Law from the University of Antwerp. His research spans international legal theory, socio-legal approaches to international law, cities and international law, and global health law.



Yang Liu

Guangzhou University

Yang Liu is a Lecturer at Guangzhou University Law School. Her research focuses on international environmental law, particularly international water law. Her research journey in international water law began at Xiamen University in 2014, continued through her doctoral studies at Ghent University (2016–2020), and later as a postdoctoral researcher at Wuhan University (2021–2024). This decade-long engagement has shaped her interest in how international law can respond to the increasingly complex challenges facing shared waters in the context of climate change. Her monograph, *International Watercourses Law and Multilateral Environmental Agreements: A Case for the Integrated Protection and Preservation of Shared Inland Water Ecosystems*, was published by Brill | Nijhoff in 2024. She currently leads a National Social Science Fund project on transboundary water governance at the intersection of international water law and climate change law.



Vivek Nemane

Symbiosis Law School

Dr. Vivek V Nemane is an Associate Professor at Symbiosis Law School, Pune (M.S), Symbiosis International (Deemed University), India. With a background in Science, Law, Governance and Public Policy, his research focuses on interdisciplinary issues pertaining to implementation of law and policy with an emphasis on institutions. His professional experience with international organisations, including the United Nations, alongside law offices and research institutions across the European Union, the United States, and Australia, has significantly informed and enriched his academic research. His current research explores the dimensions of law and governance within the broader contexts of technology, public-environmental health and biosecurity.



Ethan Beringen

The University of Queensland

Ethan Beringen is a Lecturer at the School of Law at the University of Queensland. He was previously a Yong Pung How Research Fellow at the Centre for Commercial Law in Asia at Singapore Management University and completed his PhD within the Centre for Environmental Law at Macquarie University in Sydney. He has also been a guest PhD Researcher at the Norwegian Centre for the Law of the Sea at UiT the Arctic University of Norway. Ethan’s research is focused on international environmental law, the law of the sea and international relations. Specifically, he is interested in the protection of marine biodiversity and the prevention of marine plastic pollution. He has published research on topics such as the negotiations for new biodiversity conservation and pollution prevention treaties, international fisheries law, Australia’s ocean governance, regime interaction and middle power theory.



Shawkat Alam

Macquarie University

Shawkat Alam is a Professor of Law at Macquarie Law School, Macquarie University. His teaching and research span international law, environmental law, trade law, human rights and sustainable development, with a particular focus on the legal, institutional and policy challenges facing developing economies in the pursuit of sustainable development. He is the author of Sustainable Development and Free Trade (Routledge, 2008) and co-editor of several volumes, including International Natural Resources Law, Investment and Sustainability (Routledge, 2018), International Environmental Law and the Global South (Cambridge University Press, 2015), International Trade Law and the WTO (Federation Press, 2013), the Routledge Handbook of International Environmental Law (Routledge, 2012), and Globalisation and the Quest for Social and Environmental Justice (Routledge, 2011). His international collaborations across South and Southeast Asia have generated significant research partnerships, capacity-building programmes and consultancies.



Shainy Pancrasius

Christ University

Shainy Pancrasius is an Assistant Professor at the School of Law, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru. With an academic foundation including an LLM and a Master of Business Laws (MBL), she specializes in the intersection of international law, public policy and social equity. She co-authored critical analyses of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, focusing on overcoming socio-economic barriers to ensure equitable access to education in India. Her scholarship also extends into International Law, Energy Law, Space Law, Gender Diversity Laws and Legal History. She has presented her papers at various international conferences. Beyond the classroom, Shainy Pancrasius is a part of Christ University's learner centric programs. She serves as a faculty coordinator for the International Relations and Foreign Policy Committee (IRFPC).



Paul Govind

Macquarie University

Paul Govind is a Senior Lecturer at the Macquarie Law School, Sydney, Australia and Deputy Director of the Environmental Law Research Centre and Executive Member of Smart Green Cities at Macquarie University. Paul's research sits at the intersection of environmental law/ planning law and value change in the context of urbanisation. The role of law in regulating data centre expansion is a current focus of Paul's research especially the importance of climate and sustainability considerations and whether current legal frameworks are fit for purpose. Paul is applying these ideas across domestic and transnational scenarios across the Asia Pacific region. Paul is also Regional Director of the Global Network on Human Rights and the Environment for the Pacific and a Board Member of the National Environmental Law Association.



Rahul Desarda

O.P. Jindal Global University

Rahul Desarda is a Lecturer at Jindal Global Law School and Assistant Director at the Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Peace Studies, O.P. Jindal Global University, India. He is also PhD candidate at University of Cologne, Germany under Prof Angelika Nußberger. He completed a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Law from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Boston. His professional experience includes working with former President of Costa Rica, Carlos Alvarado Quesada, on climate and nuclear disarmament initiatives, and with Dr. James Kraska of the United States Naval War College on drafting a new manual on the law of naval warfare. He also had the privilege of completing a judicial clerkship under Justice David Unterhalter of the Supreme Court of Appeal of South Africa. Additionally, he has demonstrated a strong commitment to mentoring students interested in international law by coaching them for the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, a competition in which he himself, as a participant, was awarded 2nd Best Speaker at the International Rounds.



Anaïs Mattez

National University of Singapore

Anaïs Mattez is a socio-legal scholar and a Laureate Fellow at the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law. Her academic work investigates the constitutive relationship between culture, property, and international law, using cultural property as a lens to examine the construction of sovereignty and political authority in the postcolonial world. Dr Mattez completed her PhD at the University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law. Her research has appeared in the *Asian Journal of International Law*, the *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, and the *International Journal of Cultural Property*. She is an Associate at the Harvard Asia Center and was previously a Visiting Scholar at Harvard Law School. She is also a consultant to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). She previously earned master's degrees in Law and Philosophy from the University of Louvain.



Pawan Kumar

Amity University

Pawan Kumar teaches at Amity Law School, Amity University, Noida, India. He is an honorary assistant professor at the International Institute of Justice and Police Sciences, Bengaluru and has close to 7 years of full-time teaching experience. He has attended the Indian Law Institute, South Asian University and Chanakya National Law University for his doctorate, masters and bachelor's education. His research area is international law and public law. In international law, he writes on international criminal justice and victims, international institutions and the Global South. In public law, he has written on constitutionalism in the digital world. He has previously published with *International Annals of Criminology* (Cambridge University Press), *Kathmandu School of Law Review*, *Sri Lanka Journal of Legal Studies*, *Indian Law Review*, *Indian Journal of International Law* and *AALCO Journal of International Law*. He has two forthcoming books, one on *Transforming the United Nations* by Taylor and Francis and another on *DharmoPrudence* by Thomson Reuters.



Enzamaría Tramontana

University of Palermo

Enzamaría Tramontana is Associate Professor of International Law at the University of Palermo, Department of Law, where she teaches International Law and the Law of International Organisations. She is a member of the PhD Programme in Gender Studies at the University of Palermo. Her recent research has focused, inter alia, on environmental sustainability, gender, and international law, resulting in the co-edited volume *Gendering International Legal Responses to Environmental Chronic Emergencies* (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2026). Her current research interests include the gendered impacts of urbanisation from an international law perspective.



Alice Stillone

University of Palermo

Alice Stillone is a PhD candidate in Gender Studies at the University of Palermo. Her doctoral research in public international law focuses on gender binarism in the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and its implications in light of feminist and queer legal theory. Her current research interests also include the gendered impacts of processes such as environmental degradation and urbanisation examined through the lens of international law. She recently completed a six-month visiting research stay at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg.



Kasim Balarabe

O.P. Jindal Global University

Kasim Balarabe is Professor of Law and Associate Dean at Jindal Global Law School, O.P. Jindal Global University, India. He holds a PhD in Law from Maastricht University and postgraduate degrees from Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and the University of Geneva. His research examines the regulation of emerging technologies, with particular emphasis on AI governance, algorithmic accountability, digital sovereignty, quantum technologies, neurotechnology, and the implications of technological change for fundamental rights and public international law. His scholarship has appeared in leading journals, including the European Journal of Risk Regulation, Computer Law & Security Review, Information & Communications Technology Law, and the International Journal of Human Rights, with forthcoming contributions to volumes published by Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Routledge, Edward Elgar, and World Scientific. He is a former Fernand Braudel Senior Fellow at the European University Institute and a recipient of the Best Paper Prize at the 5th Machine Lawyering Conference at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.



Sergey Sayapin

KIMEP University

Sergey Sayapin is Professor of Law at KIMEP University in Almaty, Kazakhstan. He holds a doctorate in law from Humboldt University of Berlin and degrees from the University of Essex and the University of World Economy and Diplomacy. His research focuses on public international law, international criminal law, international legal history, and the place of Central Asia within the international legal order. He is the author of *A Central Asian Perspective on International Law* (Hart, 2026). He is the Founding Editor of the Central Asia Yearbook on International Law and Editor of the Brill | Nijhoff book series *International Law on the Silk Road*. His current research explores Central Asia's contribution to global international legal thought and develops "International Law on the Silk Road" as a framework for studying legal interaction across political, normative, and regional boundaries.



George Wong

Singapore Management University

George Wong is Assistant Professor of Sociology (Education) at the School of Social Sciences at the Singapore Management University, where he is the Coordinator of the Global Asia second major programme. His research sits at the intersection of 3Cs: Cities, Communities and Capital in Asian contexts. His works include examining community powers and development, and the role of private and public capital in making (im)possible urban regimes and everyday experiences on the ground. He is also a trained ethnographer with a decade of experience in examining state-sponsored urban community development as political legitimacy projects in Asia. His current research projects include a study of state-sponsored grassroots leaders in neighbourhood micro-governance, an urban political analysis of eco-urban regimes in Asian cities, and a study of private concessional capital in tri-sector community development. His works have been published in the *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, *Anthrozoös*, and *Asian Studies Review*. He currently teaches courses in Urban and Political Sociology, including *Anthropocene Asia* and *Deconstructing Singapore Society*.



Dilini Pathirana

University of Colombo

Dilini Pathirana holds a Bachelor of Laws Degree and a Master of Laws Degree from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. In 2019, she obtained a PhD in International Law from the China University of Political Science and Law, specialising in International Investment Law. Since 2009, she has served as a faculty member in the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo. She was an invited Visiting Scholar at the China University of Political Science and Law (2023) and a Global South Visiting Scholar at the Peter A. Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia, Canada (2025). She has also served as an Executive Committee Member of the Asian Society of International Law and as a Research Associate in the University of Oxford China Centre's project on "China, Law and Development". Her research primarily focuses on International Investment Law and governance, with a particular emphasis on Chinese investments in Sri Lanka and beyond.



Saharat Augnistasat

Thammasat University

Saharat Augnistasat (刘金永) is a full-time faculty member at Thammasat University's Faculty of Law. Prior to entering academia, he practiced corporate tax law and wealth management at Baker McKenzie (Thailand). He earned his LL.B. and LL.M. in Taxation from Thammasat University, and a second LL.M. from New York University (NYU) School of Law. His studies at NYU were fully funded through a combination of the Fulbright Scholarship (Thai-US government), the NYU Dean's Graduate Award, and the Thammasat-Don Muang Tollway Scholarship. Saharat's research and advisory work span property theory, real estate law, urban development, transportation law, wealth management, and property taxation. His recent publications include a Property Law textbook and a critical analysis of the Supreme Administrative Court's landmark Ashton Asoke decision, a major ruling on the use of expropriated land and high-rise building permit revocations.



Thitirat Thipsamritkul

Thammasat University

Thitirat Thipsamritkul has taught public international law, human rights, and technology law at the Faculty of Law, Thammasat University since 2014. She studied law in Japan, France and the UK. She co-authored the Thailand Data Protection Guidelines. Her research focuses on freedom of expression, open data, and internet governance. She also collaborates with civil society and the public sector to advocate for better legislation and policy, including political participation, personal data protection, digital platform regulation, and AI governance. She is part of the Asian Alliance for Parliamentary Openness (AAPO) that recently launched the Asia Parliamentary Transparency Index (APOI). Thitirat also served as chairperson of Amnesty International Thailand and is now a board member of Amnesty International.



Michal Dahl

Beijing Sport University

Michal Dahl is an Associate Professor at Hainan International College, Beijing Sport University, where he serves as Director of the Research Centre for Olympism, Global Sport and Sustainability. His research focuses on cities in international relations, urban governance, and sport diplomacy. He is the author or co-author of several monographs, including *The Role of Cities in International Relations: The Third Generation of Multi-Level Governance?* (2022) and *Participation of Cities in International Decision-Making Processes* (2025), both published by Edward Elgar. His articles have appeared in leading peer-reviewed journals, including *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, *Urban Affairs Review*, *European Urban and Regional Studies*, *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*, and *Political Research Quarterly*. His current research explores the role of cities, sport mega-events, and sustainability frameworks in addressing global governance challenges.



Sze Hong Lam (Ocean)

National University of Singapore

Sze Hong Lam (Ocean) is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Centre of International Law (CIL) at the National University of Singapore (NUS). He holds a PhD in Public International Law and an Advanced Master of Law (LLM) from Leiden University. Previously, Ocean worked for the Legal Office of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the Office of the Prosecutor of the United Nations International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT) from 2020 to 2021. From 2022 to 2026, Ocean taught public international law at Leiden University and international criminal law at UC Santa Clara's the Hague Programme. Since 2023, Ocean has also served as an elected member of the Steering Committee of the European Society of International Law's Interest Group on the History of International Law. Ocean publishes widely across public international law, with a focus on issues relating to China and the Asia-Pacific Region. His current research focuses on conceptualising "strategic ambiguity" in public international law.

BIOGRAPHIES

ORGANISING COMMITTEE



Nengye Liu

Singapore Management University

Nengye Liu is an Associate Professor of Law at Singapore Management University, and the Director of the Singapore Sustainability Futures Initiative. His work focuses on ocean governance, international environmental law, polar law, and the relationship between cities and international law. He holds an LLB and LLM from Wuhan University, China, and a PhD from Ghent University, Belgium. He has edited several books, including *The European Union and the Arctic* (Brill, 2017), *Governing Marine Living Resources in the Polar Regions* (Edward Elgar, 2019), and *The Law of the Sea and the Planetary Crisis* (Routledge, 2025). He has also published more than 50 refereed journal articles and book chapters in leading outlets such as *International and Comparative Law Quarterly* and the *Leiden Journal of International Law*.



Helmut Philipp Aust

Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law

Professor Helmut Philipp Aust is Director at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg, Germany. From 2016 to 2026, he was Professor of Public and International Law at Freie Universität Berlin. From 2025 to 2027, he is Visiting Professor at the Urban Institute of Singapore Management University. He also serves as Co-Chair of the International Law Association's Committee on Urbanisation and International Law – Potential and Pitfalls. He has published widely in the fields of public international law and comparative constitutional law and his publications include *Complicity and the Law of State Responsibility* (CUP 2011); *The Interpretation of International Law by Domestic Courts* (OUP 2017, co-edited with Georg Nolte); *Das Recht der globalen Stadt* (Mohr Siebeck 2017); *The Globalisation of Urban Governance* (Routledge 2019, co-edited with Anél du Plessis); the *Research Handbook on International Law and Cities* (Edward Elgar 2021, co-edited with Janne E Nijman), *Encounters between Foreign Relations Law and International Law* (CUP 2021, co-edited with Thomas Kleinlein); as well as the *Research Handbook on International Law and Domestic Legal Systems* (Edward Elgar 2024, co-edited with Heike Krieger and Felix Lange).



Orlando Woods

Singapore Management University

Orlando Woods is Associate Provost (Research Strategy) at Singapore Management University and Director of the SMU Urban Institute. He is an interdisciplinary scholar whose research spans social, cultural, and political geography, urban studies, new media and communications, and critical infrastructure studies, with a particular focus on South and Southeast Asia and holds a BA (First Class Honours) in Geography from University College London and a PhD in Geography from the National University of Singapore. He is the co-author of *Religion and Space: Competition, Conflict and Violence in the Contemporary World* (Bloomsbury, 2016) and the co-editor of several major volumes, including *Religion, Hypermobility and Digital Media in Global Asia: Faith, Flows and Fellowship* (2020) and the *Handbook of the Geographies of Religion* (2025).



Asanka Edirisinghe

Singapore Management University

Asanka Edirisinghe is a Yong Pung How Research Fellow at the Centre for Commercial Law in Asia, Yong Pung How School of Law, Singapore Management University. She is also a Sessional Teaching Academic at Macquarie Law School. She holds a PhD in Law from Macquarie University, where her doctoral research examined legal personhood and the rights of nature, with a particular focus on rivers. Her research interests include the rights of nature, more-than-human governance, and relational approaches to environmental law. Prior to joining SMU, she was Head of the Department of International Law and a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Law, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU), Sri Lanka.

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