

Yan-ho Lai (黎恩灝)

Hong Kong Law Fellow, Center for Asian Law, Georgetown University Law Center
PhD Candidate (SOAS) | MSc (LSE), BSSc (CUHK) | Chevening Scholar
Email Address: y11445@georgetown.edu | Website: www.ericyanholai.com | LinkedIn: @laiyanhoeric

Education

- 2017 - Present **PhD Candidate in Law**, SOAS University of London
Dissertation title: *Legal Resistance against Authoritarian Legal Transplant: The Politics of the Rule of Law and Legal Profession in Hong Kong*
(Expected Date of Graduation: May 2022)
- 2021 Certificate in *Essex Human Rights Summer School (Online)*, University of Essex
Human Rights Centre, UK
- 2016 Certificate in *Fundamentals of Ignatian Retreat-giving and Spiritual Direction in a Community and Institutional Context and Supervised Retreat-giving Experience (I)*, Centre of Ignatian Spirituality, Ateneo de Manila University, the Philippines
- 2013 **MSc Political Sociology**, London School of Economics and Political Science
Full Sponsorship by Chevening Postgraduate Scholarship
- Certificate in *Understanding Children's Human Rights*, Human Rights Centre,
London School of Economics and Political Science
- 2012 **BSSc (Government and Public Administration)**, The Chinese University of
Hong Kong
- President, Student Union of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (2010-2011)

Academic Employment

- 2021 - Present **Hong Kong Law Fellow, Center for Asian Law**,
Georgetown University Law Center
- 2019 - 2020 **Lecturer (Part-time), Department of Government and International Studies**,
Hong Kong Baptist University
- 2018 - 2020 **Lecturer (Part-time), Department of Political Science**,
Lingnan University, Hong Kong
- 2018 – 2019 **Lecturer (Part-time), Associate of Social Science in Legal Studies**,
Community College of City University, Hong Kong
- Teaching Assistant (Tutor), Department of Government and Public
Administration**, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- 2017 **Senior Research Assistant (Part-time)**. Faculty of Law, the University of Hong
Kong
- 2016 – 2019 **Research Assistant, Division of Social Science**, The Hong Kong University of
Science and Technology
- 2016 – 2017 **Lecturer (Part-time), School of Humanities and Languages**, Caritas Institute
of Higher Education

2014 – 2015

Tutor/Instructor (Part-time), School of Arts and Social Sciences, The Open University of Hong Kong

Acting Programme Manager, MSSc in Government and Politics (Greater China), Department of Government and Public Administration, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Teaching Assistant (Tutor), Department of Government and Public Administration, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Publications

Journal Articles

2020. “Solidarity and Implications of a Leaderless Movement: Its Strengths and Limitations” *Communist and Post-communist Studies*, Vol. 53, No.4, pp.41-67. (Lead author, co-authored with Ming Sing)

2020. “Discernment of Spirits and Pastoral Circle in Social Movement: A Theological Reflection on Hong Kong’s Anti-extradition Movement” *Hong Kong Journal of Catholic Studies* Vol. 11, pp.138-191.

2019. “Lady Justice or The Golden Calf? The ‘China Factor’ in Hong Kong’s Legal System” *Social Transformation of Chinese Societies*, 15:2, pp. 178-96.

2015. “Building Heavenly Kingdom on Earth: The Roman Catholic Church and Deepening Democracy in Brazil and South Korea” *Hong Kong Journal of Catholic Studies* Vol. 6, pp.173-205.

2013. “Systematic Violations of Right to Freedom of Assembly: A Case Study of Hong Kong” *Justitia Omnibus* (The Journal of LSESU Amnesty International Society), 3:1.

Research Reports / Policy Publications

2022. “From Rule of Law to Rule by Fear: An Annual Review of the National Security Law in Hong Kong” in Joseph Yu-shek Cheng, Torbjörn Lodén and Larissa Stünkel (eds), *Politics in East Asia Today: Between Democracy, Debates, and Discourse (Special Paper)*. Stockholm: Institute for Security and Development Policy, pp. 17-27.

2021. *The Tong Ying-kit NSL Verdict: An International and Comparative Law Analysis (A GCAL Briefing Paper)*. Washington DC: Center for Asian Law, Georgetown University Law Center. (Co-authored with Thomas E. Kellogg)

2021. *Hong Kong’s National Security Law and the Rights to A Fair Trial (A GCAL Briefing Paper)*. Washington DC: Center for Asian Law, Georgetown University Law Center. (Co-authored with Thomas E. Kellogg and Lydia Wong)

2020. *Observation Report: Democrats 35+ Civil Voting*. Hong Kong: Election Observation Project, Comparative Governance and Policy Research Centre. (Co-authored with Kenneth Ka-lok Chan et al)

2020. *Submission to the United Nations Human Rights Committee 129th Session, 29 June – 24 July 2020, LIST OF ISSUES*. Hong Kong: Election Observation Project, Comparative Governance and Policy Research Centre. (Co-authored with Kenneth Ka-lok Chan)

2019. *One Country, One System: A Special Issue on Hong Kong 2019 Protest*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong Civil Hub. (Edited with Benny Yiu-ting Tai)

- Books* 2021. *破解香港的威權法治: 傘後與反送中以來的民主運動* [Unravelling Authoritarian Rule of Law in Hong Kong: From Post-Umbrella Resistance to the Anti-Extradition Bill Protest]. Taiwan: Showwe Information. ISBN: 9789865540654
- Work in Press / Under Review* “Understanding the Movement Culture and Legal Culture in Christian Activism: The Case of the Anti-Extradition Bill Protest in Hong Kong” (Submitted as a book chapter, under review by Oxford University Press) (Lead author, co-authored with Ka-yan Ip)
- “State-society Contention under Authoritarianism: The Case of Anti-extradition Protest in Hong Kong” (Accepted as a book chapter, expected to be published by Routledge in May 2022).
- “A “Leaderless but Leader-full” Movement: Social Mobilisation in the Hong Kong Anti-extradition Protests” (Accepted as a book chapter, expected to be published by Routledge in May 2022).
- “Securitisation or Autocratisation? Hong Kong’s Rule of Law under the Shadow of China’s Authoritarian Governance” This article examines how Hong Kong’s legal system has consolidated the city’s autocratisation process in post-colonial era. (Under review by *Journal of Asian and African Studies*)
- Work in Progress / Preparation* “Contributions of Informal Trial Records for Studying Judicial Politics in Authoritarian Regimes: The Case of Hong Kong”. This article conducts an empirical case study of civil trial observations in Hong Kong to assess the usefulness and limitations of informal trial records in studying judicial politics in authoritarian regimes.
- “Professional Resistance and Lawyers’ Activism: Cause Lawyering in Hong Kong’s Anti-extradition Bill Protest 2019”. This article draws on my doctoral research on activist lawyering in Hong Kong to theorise the motivations and mechanisms of mobilising lawyers for resistance in authoritarian regimes.
- Other Publication / Newspaper Commentaries* 2022. “Foreign Judges Are Enabling Hong Kong’s Legal Crackdown” *The Diplomat*, 11 February 2022.
2022. “Hong Kong: How Colonial-era Laws Are Being Used to Shut Down Independent Journalism” *The Conversation*, 10 January 2022. (Lead author, co-authored with Yuen Chan)
2021. “NSL Verdict a Major Blow to Free Speech in Hong Kong” *Lawfare*, 19 November 2021. (Lead author, co-authored with Thomas E. Kellogg)
2021. “Hong Kong’s Sedition Law is Back” *The Diplomat*, 3 September 2021.
2021. “Judgement in Tong Ying Kit’s case sets dangerous precedent, ignores human rights law” *Hong Kong Free Press*, 31 July 2021. (Lead author, co-authored with Thomas E. Kellogg)
2021. “Hong Kong democracy protester’s sentencing sets a harsh precedent for national security law” *The Conversation*, 30 July 2021.
2021. “Hong Kong’s National Security Law and the Right to a Fair Trial: Mission Impossible?” *Lawfare*, 15 July 2021. (Co-authored with Thomas E. Kellogg)

2021. “Death by a Thousand Cuts: Chipping Away at Due Process Rights in HK NSL Cases” *Lawfare*, 28 May 2021. (Co-authored with Thomas E. Kellogg)

2021. “Ask the Experts: Has Democracy in Hong Kong Come to an End?” *LSE IDEAS: China Dialogues*, 26 May 2021.

2019. *2018 Annual Report on China Human Rights Lawyers*. Hong Kong: China Human Rights Lawyers Concern Group (Principal Writer).

2019. “Kowloon Mosque Water Cannon Incident Shows Why an Inquiry Into Hong Kong Police Handling of Protests is Needed” *South China Morning Post*, 23 October.

2018. “Chinese Catholics Will Not Gain Freedom from a Vatican-China Deal” *Union of Catholic Asian News*, 16 February.

2017. “Hong Kong’s Catholic Church: Which Way Forward?” *La Croix International*, 11 August.

2017. “What Can Hong Kong Catholics Learn from the Past 20 Years?” *La Croix International*, 30 June.

2017. “Catholic Church’s Deal with China Must Not Compromise Fundamental Principles” *Hong Kong Free Press*, 18 February.

2017. “Another Ecclesiological Point of View on Sino-Vatican Relations” *La Croix International*, 16 February.

Teaching

<i>SOAS University of London</i> (2020 - Present)	Law and Justice in Contemporary China (guest lecturer on the topic of Law and Justice in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region)
<i>Hong Kong Baptist University</i> (2019-2020)	World Order Issues (undergraduate) Statistical and Survey Methods for Political Science (undergraduate)
<i>Lingnan University</i> (2018-2020)	NGO, Civil Society and the State (postgraduate)
<i>Community College of City University</i> (2017)	Law, Community and Rights (associate degree)
<i>Caritas Institute of Higher Education</i> (2016-17)	Human Rights, Democracy and China (undergraduate) Global Citizenship (undergraduate) Sociology and Hong Kong Society (undergraduate)
<i>The Open University of Hong Kong</i> (2014-15)	Government and Politics of Hong Kong (undergraduate)
<i>Other</i> (2021)	A Sociolegal Study of the Rule of Law (adjunct lecturer at Intercommon Education, Hong Kong)

Conference Papers

- 2021
- “*Civil Society under Authoritarian Rule: The Hong Kong Experience*”. Civil Society under Authoritarian Rule: Activism, Dialogues and Strategies: International Conference on the occasion of the 2021 International Human Rights Day 2021. Taipei: **Soochow University** (Online)
- “*From Rule of Law to Rule by Fear: An Annual Review of The National Security Law in Hong Kong*” . **Institute for Security & Development Policy (ISDP) Seminar: Politics in East Asia Today** (Online).
- “*Authoritarian Legal Transplant and Judicial Independence in Sub-national Governance: The Case of Hong Kong*” **International Society of Public Law Conference 2021**. (Online)
- “*Comprador Professionalism and Confrontational Professionalism: Lessons from Post-Umbrella Hong Kong*” **International Society of Public Law Conference 2021**. (Online)
- “*Solidarity and Resilience of Hong Kong's Anti-authoritarian Movement: Lessons and Prospects*” The May 18 Uprising Seoul Memorial Society 41st Anniversary Conference: After 5.18: Social Movements and Political Thoughts. Seoul: **Yonsei University**. (Online)
- 2020
- “*Understanding the Movement Culture and Legal Culture in Christian Activism: The Case of Anti-extradition Protest in Hong Kong*” Rapid Religious Cultural Change Conference 2020. Hong Kong: **Hong Kong Baptist University**. (Online)
- “*Professional Resistance and Lawyers’ Activism: Cause Lawyering in Hong Kong’s Anti-extradition Protest 2019*” Law and Society Association Annual Conference 2020. Colorado: **University of Denver**. (Online)
- 2019
- “*State-society Contention under Authoritarianism: The Case of Anti-extradition Protest in Hong Kong*” Civil Society in Asia: International Conference in Melbourne 3. Melbourne: **University of Melbourne**.
- “*Resilient Activism under Emerging Authoritarian Governance: The Case of Anti-extradition Protest in Hong Kong*” Modes of Activism under Authoritarian Governance Regimes in the Asia-Pacific. Sydney: **Macquarie University**.
- 2018
- “*Lady Justice or The Golden Calf? The ‘China Factor’ in Hong Kong’s Legal Sector*” 2017/18 Hong Kong Studies Annual Conference. Hong Kong: **The University of Hong Kong**.
- “*Depoliticising Contentious Politics by Law: A critical evaluation of legal politics in Post-colonial Hong Kong*” International Society of Public Law Conference 2018. Hong Kong: **The University of Hong Kong**.
- “*Neutralising Contentious Politics in Hybrid Regime: Role of Law in Post-colonial Hong Kong*” British Postgraduate Network for Chinese Studies Annual Conference. UK: China Centre, **University of Oxford**.

Invited Public Lectures & Talks

- 2021
- “Hong Kong, China and the International Community”* Panellist, **Cambridge University Hong Kong & China Affairs Society, St. John’s College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge.**
- “The Critical Room: Is the Fight for Democracy in Hong Kong Over? Post-screening Panel Discussion of When A City Rises”* Panellist, **Film fra Sør (Film from the South), Oslo.**
- “COVID-19, Autocratisation and Geopolitical Instability: Electoral challenges and Democratic Backsliding in East Asia”* Panellist, **5th Asian Electoral Stakeholders Forum, Bangkok.**
- “Book Talk: Unravelling Authoritarian Rule of Law”* Presenter, **Economic Democracy Union, Taiwan.**
- “Pro-democracy Protest and Human Rights in Hong Kong”* Guest Speaker in module “Human Rights in East Asia”, **Boston College, Massachusetts.**
- “Professional Autonomy under Authoritarianism”* Guest Panellist, **Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions.**
- 2020
- “2020 George Meany-Lane Kirkland Human Rights Award Ceremony”* Guest Panellist. **The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations.**
- “Current Challenges to Participatory Democracy: The Case of Hong Kong”* Guest Panellist. **Busan Democracy Forum.**
- “Conference on Justice, Reconciliation and Forgiveness”* Panel Chair. Centre for Catholic Studies, **the Chinese University of Hong Kong.**
- 2019
- “Higher Education, Academic Freedom and the Hong Kong Protests”* Guest Panellist. **City University of London.**
- “Creative Agency & Screening Ideas Present: Ten Years (2015) + Panel Discussion”* Guest Panellist. **The University of Melbourne.**
- “Hong Kong Report on Democracy and Human Rights”* Guest Speaker. **Peace Forum and East Asia Forum, Seoul.**
- “Hong Kong’s Democratic Development”* Guest Speaker. Evening Seminar, **“Sharing Culture” (“Nanummunhwa”), Seoul.**
- “Debating Hong Kong’s crises: launch event of the Hong Kong Studies Association”* Guest Panellist. **King’s College London.**
- “Hong Kong’s Anti-extradition Protest”*. Presenter. **Asian NGO Network on National Human Rights Institutions Regional Conference 2019, Seoul.**
- “MCS Screening@Lingnan — Umbrella Diaries: The First Umbrella”*. Guest Panellist. Department of Cultural Studies, **Lingnan University, Hong Kong.**
- 2018
- “(In)tension: One Country, Two System”*. Guest Panellist at Screening Event of the Exhibition by the Essex MA Curating Group, **University of Essex.**
- “Crony Capitalism and Democratic Movement in Hong Kong”*. Guest Lecturer. Department of Politics, **University of Surrey.**

“The London Premiere of Raise the Umbrellas: Film Show and Discussion”
Panel co-host. **SOAS University of London.**

2017 *“Vanishing Hong Kong: a non-Beijing Perspective”* Forum host. Democracy For Hong Kong. **London School of Economics and Political Science.**

“Understanding the Political Movement in Hong Kong” Guest Speaker. Movement Builders Training Course. **New Economy Organisers Network (NEON), UK.**

“Christianity and Civil Society” (In Chinese) Guest Panellist. Talentum Bookshop, Department of Cultural Studies, **Lingnan University, Hong Kong.**

2016 *“Being in Heaven on Earth: Theology of Church-state Relations”* (In Chinese) Guest Speaker and Discussant. **Hong Kong Christian Institute.**

2015 *“Politics of Human Rights: The Case of Freedom of Assembly in Hong Kong”* (In Chinese) Guest Lecturer. School of Arts and Social Science, **The Open University of Hong Kong.**

“What’s Our Next Step After the Umbrella Movement?” (In Chinese) Guest Speaker. **Justice and Peace Commission of Hong Kong Catholic Diocese.**

Scholarships, Fellowships and Grants

Fellowships Hong Kong Law Fellow at Center for Asia Law 2021-22,
Georgetown University Law Center

Visiting Fellow at Centre of Comparative and Public Law 2018-19,
Faculty of Law, **the University of Hong Kong**

Scholarship Chevening Scholar 2012-13, The Chevening Postgraduate Scholarship,
The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, the United Kingdom

Grants Sino-British Fellowship Trust 2017-18, SOAS China Institute,
SOAS University of London

Professional Service

Cross-national Research Country Expert (Hong Kong) for the Varieties of Democracy Project (V-Dem),
The V-Dem Institute, **University of Gothenburg** (since 2021)

Research Supervision Election Observation Project,
Comparative Governance and Policy Research Centre,
Hong Kong Baptist University (Since September 2019)

I. CARE Community Research Project,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong (2014-2015)

Membership Asian Civil Society Research Network,
University of Melbourne (since 2019)

Peer Review *Government and Opposition*, *SAGE Open*, *Journal of Asian and African Studies*

Expert Report Writing expert reports for Hong-Kong-ese asylum-seekers in the United Kingdom

Media Service

<i>Opinion Columnist</i>	Christian Times (Hong Kong), Citizen News (Hong Kong), Hong Kong Free Press, Initium Media, Inmedia.net, La Criox International, Lawfare, Ming Pao, South China Morning Post, The Diplomat, The Stand News, UCANEWS, USA Today
<i>Commentator</i>	ABC News, AFP, Apple Daily, BBC News, BBC World, Bloomberg, Channel TEN, Deutsche Welle, Hong Kong Free Press, NBC News, New York Times, Nikkei Asia, Now TV (Hong Kong), Radio Free Asia, South China Morning Post, TBC, The Guardian, The Independent, Voice of America, Vox, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post
<i>Programme Host</i>	Our TV, Radio Television Hong Kong

External Service / Human Rights Advocacy

<i>2019</i>	Election Observation Project, Hong Kong
<i>2018</i>	Hong Kong NGO Delegation of UN Human Rights Committee Hearing on China/Hong Kong implementing the Convention of Eliminations of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
<i>2013</i>	Hong Kong NGO Delegation of UN Human Rights Committee Hearing on China/Hong Kong implementing the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
<i>2011</i>	Cross-border Children Coalition, Hong Kong (until 2012)
<i>2010</i>	Human Rights Working Group of Justice and Peace Commission of Hong Kong Catholic Diocese (HKJP) (until 2018)

Language Proficiency

<i>English</i>	IELTS Average Score: 7.5, with each component scored 7.0 or above (2017)
<i>Cantonese</i>	Native language
<i>Chinese (Mandarin)</i>	<i>Excellent in speaking, listening, reading and writing (both Traditional and Simplified Chinese)</i>