

Durham-ECLS-EALSC Summer Academy for Global China 2024

Law, Governance & Culture



European China Law Studies Association
欧洲中国法研究协会

EAST ASIAN LEGAL
STUDIES CENTER



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
LAW SCHOOL

Welcome to the Summer Academy

In a world where China's ascendancy reshapes the global tapestry, understanding its legal system is pivotal for navigating the intricacies of international diplomacy, trade, and governance. The **Centre for Chinese Law & Policy (CCLP)** at Durham Law School, in collaboration with the **European China Law Studies Association (ECLS)** and the **East Asian Legal Studies Center (EALSC)** at the University of Wisconsin Law School, proudly presents an exclusive one-week Summer Academy. This programme offers a deep dive into the evolution of Chinese law within a global context, exploring the intersections of governance, economic development, historical narratives, and cultural dialogues.

Set in the historical heart of Durham, this immersive academy caters to students and professionals eager to expand their understanding of Chinese law and its global interplay. Participants will gain unparalleled insights from an esteemed assembly of scholars and experts, each a renowned contributor to their field. This educational journey is not just about comprehending Chinese law: it's an opportunity to engage with its application in the transnational arena.

Durham University's prestigious Law School hosts this first-of-its-kind academy in the UK, offering a unique learning experience complete with an academic certificate. With faculty drawn from the upper echelons of global scholars and practitioners, the academy promises diverse perspectives and experiences. Enrolment is intentionally capped to ensure a personalised, hands-on instructional experience for every participant, with a 3:1 teacher-to-student ratio.

Situated in a UNESCO World Heritage Site, encompassing Durham Cathedral and Durham Castle, Durham Law School ranks in the QS World's Top 50 law schools. It is an environment where history and modern legal thought converge, providing an inspiring backdrop for this global educational experience.

100%

of research impact and environment was ranked 3* or 4* (REF 2021)

6th for Law

The Complete University Guide 2024

Top 10

The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2024



Top 50

QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023

Faculty



Professor and Chair of Chinese Legal Culture, University of Cologne; President of the ECLS;

Course: Fundamentals of Chinese Legal System

From me about the summer course: Grasping the nuances of Chinese law involves delving into its rich historical, social, political, and economic contexts. This summer course embraces this comprehensive perspective, exploring the multifaceted nature of Chinese law to unlock its current trends and forecast its trajectory.

Why should people attend the programme: For academics, it's an opportunity to gather content and pedagogical strategies for curriculum development in their home institutions.

Prof. Björn Ahl



Assistant Professor in Global Media and Information Law & Director of the Centre for Chinese Law and Policy, Durham Law School; FRSA; FHEA; Affiliated Fellow, Information Society Project, Yale Law School; Associate, Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Law, University of Cambridge.

Course: Law and Society

From me about the summer course: Understanding the legal intricacies of China requires a grasp of its culture and governance, which the summer school aims to provide, thereby offering a holistic understanding of Chinese law and governance!

Why should people attend the programme: Through rigorous academic discussions and debates, attendees will sharpen their critical thinking and analytical skills, crucial for both students and young professionals.

Prof. Ge Chen



George Young Bascom Professor Director, East Asian Legal Studies Center Senior Advisor, Graduate Programme, University of Wisconsin Law School

Course: Law and Development

From me about the summer course: An important question to ask about any legal system is whether it is conducive to successful economic development. The relationship between China's legal system and its rapid economic development is important in its own right, but also poses challenges to theories about law and economic development that do not take China's experience into account. Understanding China's pathway to legal and economic development provides important context for understanding how China arrived at its current situation, and the challenges it faces in the future.

Why should people attend the programme: Students and young professionals can gain inspiration and clarity about potential career paths in the field of Chinese law and international relations.

Prof. John Ohnesorge

Faculty



Research Associate and lecturer at the chair of Chinese Legal Culture, University of Cologne

Course: Law & History; Law & Society

From me about the summer course: The complex dynamics and inherent forces of inertia in Chinese law and legal development may appear at times counterintuitive and require a set of finely calibrated tools for deeper and highly contextualized understanding of concepts and practices of law in China. This summer school offers a unique opportunity to acquire a broad overview of China's legal system as well as being introduced to most recent and timely issues of China's legal development.

Why should people attend the programme: The curriculum covers a spectrum of topics, from ancient legal philosophies to contemporary legal challenges in China.

Dr. Daniel Sprick



Partner, WedLake Bell LLP

Course: Chinese Law in Practice

From me about the summer course: I hope this summer course will provide you not only provide with knowledge about Chinese law but also an opportunity to know the legal practice in relation to China here in the UK as well as back in China.

Why should people attend the programme: Knowledge of Chinese law is increasingly valuable in the global marketplace. Attendees can enhance their employability and expertise in a niche yet important area of law.

Mr. Charles Wang



Assistant Professor in Law & Policy, Durham Law School Co-Director, Centre for Chinese Law and Policy, Durham Law School Fellow and Department Representative, Research Methods Centre, Durham University

Course: Law and Society

From me about the summer course: Through the course, we will discuss the dispute resolution channels available to people in contemporary China. Driven by the smart-courts initiatives, we will also look at how modern technology may shape the face of Chinese justice.

Why should people attend the programme: The event would provide a platform for networking with professionals, academics, and peers who have similar interests or can offer diverse perspectives on Chinese law and governance.

Prof. Zhiyu Li



*JSPS Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Tokyo (2024)
Marie Curie Research Fellow, University of Cologne and Chinese
University of Hong Kong (2019-2022)*

Course: Law and History

From me about the summer course: As a permanent member of the UN Security Council and rising economic powerhouse, today's China affects the international legal order like few other states. In order to better understand how present Chinese approaches to international law are shaped by its rich and often troubled past, a historical perspective is indispensable.

Why should people attend the programme: Researchers could find opportunities for collaboration, access to unique resources, and discussions that may inform and support their work.

Mr. Lucas Brang



*Research Associate, Bern University of Applied Sciences PhD
Candidate, Zhejiang University Law School and Cologne University,
Dissertation: "Entangled modes of governance in data era China:
Where law meets social credit" Editor of the [ECLR Hub Blog](#)*

Course: Law and Society

From me about the summer course: Many myths have surrounded the construction of the social credit system(s) in China. In this course, we will dive into the topic from a bottom-up perspective and investigate court decisions and local government policies to see what parts of the central social credit system project are already affecting law and society in China.

Ms. Marianne von Blomberg



Course

The course spans five days, encompassing five comprehensive aspects of Chinese law:

(1) fundamentals of the Chinese legal system;

(2) law and development;

(3) law and society;

(4) law and history; and

(5) law and practice.

Agenda

2024 Durham Summer Academy for Global China: Law, Governance & Culture

July 15th, Monday

8:30 – 9:00

Coffee/tea and pastries

9:00 – 9:30

Opening speech & Introduction
(University/Faculty leader TBC)

Fundamentals of Chinese Legal System (1)

Instructor: Björn Ahl

9:30 – 11:00

Topic: Comparative Approaches to Chinese Law

Law & History (1)

Instructor: Daniel Sprick

11:15 – 12:45

Topic: Law and Justice in Imperial China

12:45 – 13:45 Lunch

Law & Development (1)

Instructor: John Ohnesorge

13:45 – 15:15

Topic 1: History and Mainstream Approaches

Law & Society (1)

Instructor: Ge Chen

15:30 – 17:00

Topic: Can I say it? Freedom of expression in China

17:00 Informal gatherings

July 16th, Tuesday

9:00 – 9:30

Coffee/tea and pastries

Law & Development (2)

Instructor: John Ohnesorge

9:30 – 11:00

Topic 2: Law in the East Asian Developmental State

Law & Society (2)

Instructor: Marianne von Blomberg

11:15 – 12:45

Topic 2: Who Needs Social Credit? How Citizens, Companies, and Government Agencies Make Use of the Social Credit System

12:45 – 13:45 Lunch

Fundamentals of Chinese Legal System (2)

Instructor: Björn Ahl

13:45 – 15:15 Topic 2: Chinese Law and Legal Culture

Law & History (2)

Instructor: Daniel Sprick

15:30 – 17:00

Topic: Classical Chinese Legal Philosophy

17:00 Informal gatherings

July 17th, Wednesday

9:00 – 9:30

Coffee/tea and pastries

Law & Society (3)

Instructor: Daniel Sprick

9:30 – 11:00

Topic: Surveillance and Predictive Policing in China

Law & Development (3)

Instructor: John Ohnesorge

11:15 – 12:45

Topic 3: Law & Development in China: 1978-1989

12:45 – 13:45 Lunch

Fundamentals of Chinese Legal System (3)

Instructor: Björn Ahl

13:45 – 15:15

Topic 3: Chinese Socialist Rule of Law

Law & History (3)

Instructor: Lucas Brang

15:30 – 17:00

Topic 3: From the Treaty of Nanjing to the War in Ukraine

17:30

Informal gatherings

Each module begins with theoretical foundations, explores specific legal aspects related to China, and engages with comparative perspectives. The course includes about 40 hours of classroom time, offering both theoretical and practical insights. Additionally, daily networking activities such as coffee hours, luncheons, dinners, and local excursions provide ample opportunities for interaction with faculty experts and practitioners.



July 18th, Thursday

9:00 – 9:30

Coffee/tea and pastries

Fundamentals of Chinese Legal System (4)

Instructor: Björn Ahl

9:30 – 11:00

Topic 4: The Supreme People's Court

Law & Development (4)

Instructor: John Ohnesorge

11:15 – 12:45

Topic 4: Law & Development in China: 1990-2010

12.45 – 13:45 Lunch

Law & Society (4)

Instructor: Daniel Sprick

13:45 – 15:15

Topic: Of COVID, Data and the Environment: Chinese Law in a Risk Society

Law & Practice

Instructor: Charles Wang

15:30 – 17:00

Topic: China related legal practice in the UK and China

18:00

Formal dinner

July 19th, Friday

9:00 – 9:30

Coffee/tea and pastries

Law & Development (5)

Instructor: John Ohnesorge

9:30 – 11:00

Topic: Law & Development in China: 2010 to Today

Fundamentals of Chinese Legal System (5)

Instructor: Björn Ahl

11:15 – 12:45

Topic: Courts and Judicial Reforms

12.45 – 13:45 Lunch

Law & Society (5)

Instructor: Daniel Sprick

13:45 – 15:15

Topic: The Chinese Suppression Regime of Transnational and Organized Crime

Law & Society (6)

Instructor: Zhiyu Li

15:30 – 17:00

Topic 2: The Societal Impacts of Smart Courts

17:00 – 17:30

Closing ceremony (awarding certificates) Dean of law school & summer school faculty

17:30 Informal gatherings

Formal dinner

On the evening of Thursday, 18th July, we cordially invite you to a formal dinner at Hatfield College, the second oldest college of Durham University, established in 1846. Nestled between the World Heritage site of the Norman Cathedral and the scenic banks of the River Wear, Hatfield College stands on one of Durham's most historic streets. The evening's festivities commence at 6:00 pm with a welcoming drinks reception, followed by dinner in the majestic Great Hall. This event promises to be a highlight, featuring the presence of Durham's distinguished academics, guest speakers, and colleagues instrumental in the inauguration of this Summer Academy.

All sessions take place at Hogan Lovells Lecture Theatre, Durham Law School, Palatine Centre (DH1 3LE)

Coffee/tea and pastries will be available each day from 9am

Refreshments will be available during selected breaks



Pricing

The Durham Summer Academy welcomes both undergraduate and postgraduate students from any university, as well as professionals with an interest in the subject matter. Upon completion, participants will receive a Diploma or Certificate of Attendance. For students, the program is equivalent to 2 ECTS credits. Participants are encouraged to consult with their home institution to facilitate credit recognition. Durham Law School will provide certificates and necessary documentation to support the credit transfer process.

The course fee varies:

GBP 600 for Durham University students,

GBP 700 for students from other universities, and

GBP 1400 for professionals.

This fee covers all course materials, sessions, and event attendance.

Group accommodation rates are available and will be provided upon registration. A **GBP 100 non-refundable deposit is required** to confirm registration, which will be deducted from the overall tuition fee. Full refunds, excluding the deposit, are available for cancellations communicated in writing at least 14 business days before the course start date. For more details, including information about group discounts, please contact jessica.banks@durham.ac.uk.