



# Empirical Turn in Chinese Legal Research Challenges, Strategies, and Solutions

9 - 10 January 2023 (Monday & Tuesday)

Academic Conference Room, 11/F Cheng Yu Tung Tower, Centennial Campus, HKU  
Philip K.H. Wong Theatre, 2/F Cheng Yu Tung Tower, Centennial Campus, HKU

## Day 1: 9 January 2023 (Monday)

08:50 – 08:55  
11/F

### Welcoming Remarks

**Hualing Fu** (Warren Chan Professor in Human Rights and Responsibilities, Dean, Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong)

### Parallel Session One: Empiricism in Chinese Legal Research

09:00 – 10:30  
11/F

**Introduction to Empirical Methods**

*Experiments*  
**Zhiyu Li** (Durham Law School)

*Observational Studies*  
**Lauren Yu-Hsin Lin** (City University of Hong Kong)

*Interview and Case Studies*  
**Xin He** (University of Hong Kong)

09:00 – 10:30  
2/F

**The State of the Field**

*Empirical Legal Research Based on China's Judgment Documents Still on the Upward Way*  
**Yang Feng** (Zhejiang University)  
**Ke Li** (Zhejiang University)

*On the Impact of Intelligent Algorithms on Empirical Research—Research on the “Zhejiang Smart Justice”*  
**Yandong Gao** (Zhejiang University)  
**Qionghui Zhang** (Zhejiang University)

*Empirical Research on “Empirical Legal Research in China”: Current Situation, Challenges and Improvements*  
**Xujiang Zheng** (Zhejiang Sci-Tech University)  
**Pengfei Wang** (Zhejiang Sci-Tech University)

10:30 – 10:45

Break

### Parallel Session Two: Empirical Studies

10:45 – 12:45  
11/F

**Courts and Judicial Decision-making**

*The logic of authoritarian judicial review: how Chinese courts handle citizens' administrative lawsuits against the police*  
**Yutian An** (Princeton University)

*Recognition and Resolution of Differences in Application of Law to the Identification of Overage Laborers' Labor Relationship—Full-sample Analysis and Deep Learning Based on 1851 Judgments*  
**Nanfei Gu** (Jilin University)  
**Runliang Niu** (Jilin University)

*The Silent Influence of the Guiding Cases*  
**Benjamin Chen** (University of Hong Kong)

*An Empirical Study on Enhancing Guarantees to Improve Judges' Willingness to Stay*  
**Changming Hu** (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences)

10:45 – 11:45  
2/F

**Event Studies**

*What Motivates the Diffusion of Judicial Organizations? A Event History Analysis on 294 Environment Courts in China*  
**Yuanyuan Zhang** (Tsinghua University)  
**Jun Zhang** (Syracuse University)

*Does Regulation of Defensive Tactics with Mandatory Rules Benefit Shareholders? Evidence from Event Studies in China*  
**James Zeng** (Chinese University of Hong Kong)

11:45 – 12:45  
2/F

**Crime and Punishment**

*Pan-moralism, Retributionalism, and Heavy-Penaltyism: A Corpus-Assisted Study of Chinese Youth's Legal Consciousness*  
**Han Wang** (City University of Hong Kong)  
**Mengliang Dai** (Macau University of Science and Technology)

*An Empirical Study on the Harmless Error Doctrine in Taiwan*  
**Mao-hong Lin** (National Taipei University)

12:45 – 14:00

Lunch Break

## Plenary Session One: Legal Documents as Data

14:00 – 15:45 11/F	<p><i>How to Measure Institutional Agency and Procedural Justice in Court Decisions?</i> Straton Papagiannenas (Leiden University) Eric Zhang (Leiden University) Ye Meng (University of Tübingen)</p> <p><i>Corpus Linguistics: A Novel Approach to Empirical Legal Research</i> Xiaoqin He (Wuhan University)</p> <p><i>Managing Transparency in China's Courts</i> Benjamin Liebman (Columbia Law School)</p>
15:45 – 16:00	Break

## Plenary Session Two: Data and Sampling

16:00 – 17:45 11/F	<p><i>Monopoly and Fragmentation: Data Collection in Chinese Legal Studies</i> Qin Ma (University of California, Los Angeles)</p> <p><i>Estimating Caseload and Transparency of the Chinese Courts</i> Zhuang Liu (The University of Hong Kong) Yuxia Zhang (The University of Hong Kong)</p> <p><i>Tradeoff between “Big Data” and “Small Data”: A Simulation Study on the Application of Sampling Technique in Empirical Legal Research</i> Yiwei Xia (Southwestern University of Finance and Economics)</p>
-----------------------	--

## Day 2: 10 January 2023 (Tuesday)

### Plenary Session Three: Fallacies and Fixes

09:00 – 10:45 11/F	<p><i>Fashion and Fallacies: An Empirical Study of “Empirical Legal Studies” in Mainland China</i> Jinhua Cheng (Shanghai Jiao Tong University)</p> <p><i>Bad Controls in Chinese Empirical Legal Studies</i> Benjamin Chen (The University of Hong Kong) Xiaohan Yin (The University of Hong Kong)</p> <p><i>Augmenting Serialized Bureaucratic Data: The Case of Chinese Courts</i> Xiaohan Wu (University of California, San Diego)</p>
10:45 – 11:00	Break

### Plenary Session Four: The Limitations of Quantitative Empiricism

11:00 – 12:40 11/F	<p><i>Problems and Misunderstandings in Legal Empirical Research in China: Taking Papers Related to Judgment Documents as an Example</i> Zeyang Yu (Jilin University)</p> <p><i>The Application and Limitations of Quantitative Methods in the Assessment of Administration of Justice in China</i> Hongqi Wu (Peking University)</p> <p><i>How to do Empirical Legal Studies Without Numbers</i> Sida Liu (The University of Hong Kong) Sitao Li (University of Toronto)</p>
12:40 – 12:45 11/F	<p>Closing Remarks Angela Zhang (Director, Philip K.H. Wong Centre for Chinese Law)</p>

### \*\*CCL Talk by Benjamin Liebman

15:30 - 16:30 11/F	<p><b>A Fireside Chat with Benjamin Liebman on Chinese Judicial Trend</b></p> <p>Speaker: Benjamin Liebman, Columbia Law School</p> <p>Discussants: Hualing Fu, The University of Hong Kong Xin He, The University of Hong Kong</p>
-----------------------	---