



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

9 - 10 January 2023 (Monday & Tuesday)

Note: Zoom Meeting links have been embedded into the underlined session titles, you can click to join sessions at the appropriate time.

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)

Why Chinese Judges Resign: An Empirical Study
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	<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)
	<i>Corpus Linguistics: A Novel Approach to Empirical Legal Research</i> Xiaoqin He (Wuhan University)
	<i>Managing Transparency in China's Courts</i> Benjamin Liebman (Columbia Law School)

15:45 – 16:00 Break

Plenary Session Two: Data and Sampling

16:00 – 17:45 11/F	<i>Monopoly and Fragmentation: Data Collection in Chinese Legal Studies</i> Ma Qin (University of California, Los Angeles)
	<i>Estimating Caseload and Transparency of the Chinese Courts</i> Zhuang Liu (The University of Hong Kong) Yuxia Zhang (The University of Hong Kong)
	<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)

Day 2: 10 January 2023 (Tuesday)

Plenary Session Three: Fallacies and Fixes

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

10:45 – 11:00 Break

Plenary Session Four: The Limitations of Quantitative Empiricism

11:00 – 12:40 11/F	<i>Problems and Misunderstandings in Legal Empirical Research in China: Taking Papers Related to Judgment Documents as an Example</i> Zeyang Yu (Jilin University)
	<i>The Application and Limitations of Quantitative Methods in the Assessment of Administration of Justice in China</i> Hongqi Wu (Peking University)
	<i>How to do Empirical Legal Studies Without Numbers</i> Sida Liu (The University of Hong Kong) Sitao Li (University of Toronto)

12:40 – 12:45
11/F Closing Remarks
Angela Zhang (Director, Philip K.H. Wong Centre for Chinese Law)