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**Time: 6:00pm – 7:30pm**

**Venue: 11/F Conference room, Cheng Yu Tung Tower, Centennial Campus, HKU**

**Language: English.**

**CENTRE FOR CHINESE LAW**

**FACULTY OF LAW**

**tHE uNIVERSITY OF hONG kONG**

China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and the ICCPR

 **Abstract**

On the 50th anniversary of the creation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, I will discuss China’s relevance to the UN’s quest for universal ratification of this major human rights treaty. In view of the ICCPR’s guarantees of freedoms of expression and religion, the restrictions that it imposes on the power of governments to punish people arbitrarily, and its strong support for the right to self-determination of all peoples, why did the People’s Republic sign the Covenant in 1998? Why then has it failed to ratify the ICCPR and what are the prospects? I will compare Beijing’s record with the very different position of the Republic of China on Taiwan and also refer to the unusual situation of Hong Kong (and Macao), a special administrative region of the People’s Republic that is protected by the ICCPR even in the absence of ratification by the central government.



**Prof. Jerome A. Cohen**

Jerome A. Cohen is Professor of Law and Faculty Director of the US-Asia Law Institute of New York University School of Law, where he teaches about China’s legal system as well as the PRC’s attitudes toward international law. He is also Adjunct Senior Fellow for Asia at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YOZiQYdEHrI&feature=youtu.be>)