

## Public Lecture

# Regional and Universal Organizations: Past and Present Interactions

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**Monday 23 March 2015, 13:00-14:00**

**Small Moot Court, Room 723, Cheng Yu Tung Tower,  
The University of Hong Kong**

The emergence of a complex network of relationships between universal and regional international organisations is linked to the evolution of the international legal order in its normative and institutional dimensions. These relationships are diverse in nature. Relationships of complementarity, autonomous relationships, operational cooperation, competitive relationships and relationships concerned with efficiency and comparative advantage between universal and regional organisations can all be identified.

The area of the maintenance of peace and security offers a particularly interesting prism through which to view past and present interactions between universal and regional organisations. The experience of the League of Nations in the inter-war period provides important lessons for the United Nations in its interaction with regional organisations today. The relationship between the universal and regional sphere can often be in tension and managing that tension effectively is essential to the maintenance of peace and security. The present architecture of the UN Charter addresses that challenge to a certain extent, but contemporary practice has also exposed new challenges in the cooperative endeavours of universal and regional organisations, particularly regarding the attribution of responsibility.



**Laurence Boisson de Chazournes** has been professor in international law and international organization at the Law Faculty of the University of Geneva since 1999 and has published widely in international economic law, international environmental law and in the area of dispute settlement. She has served as chairperson of WTO arbitration panels on pre-shipment inspections, has pleaded before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and has been an arbitrator in international and investment arbitration.

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