

SEMINAR

Law, Power and International Politics with Special Reference to East Asia: Carl Schmitt's *Grossraum* Analysis



Professor Michael Salter

*Lancashire Law School,
University of Central Lancashire*

**Monday, 10 December 2012, 12:30pm – 1:30pm
Room A0724, 7/F Cheng Yu Tung Tower
The University of Hong Kong**

Working as both lecturers and researchers within the theory and practice of international law, we are regularly confronted with materials and issues that raise the question of the relationship between this form of legal regulation and the political exercise of sovereign power. In turn, this persistent confrontation raises the question of which type (or types) of analytical perspective is most likely to illuminate how this relationship appears within the East Asian and other geopolitical contexts? For example, have we, as the German law professor Carl Schmitt suggested in the mid-20th century, been entering a new global order comprising multiple and co-existing regional hegemonic bodies, each possessing its own spheres of influence and located at an intermediary level between the United Nations and the traditional individual nation State? In this order of large political spaces, will China's growing status as a regional superpower, projecting its sovereign power and influence well beyond its own national borders, require legal recognition by a modified and realist form of international law and, if so, then in which particular ways?

Professor Michael Salter teaches and researches on war crimes trials, international criminal law and jurisprudence, and European and international human rights. He has published extensively on jurisprudence and the involvement of intelligence source and officials in the war crimes trials process. He is the author of *Carl Schmitt: Law as Politics Ideology and Strategic Myth* (Routledge 2012), where he provides an overview and assessment of Schmitt's thought, as well as a consideration of its potential relevance for contemporary legal thought and debates. Professor Salter's research areas include The Nuremberg trials, the role of metaphors in legal reasoning, the legal theory of Carl Schmitt, experiential forms of socio-legal studies, and the mediation of public law by national security imperatives.

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