

## SEMINAR

**International Treaties and Citizenship  
Law in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century****Professor Norbert Varga**

*Department of Hungarian Legal History  
University of Szeged (Hungary) Faculty of Law*

**Friday, 7 September 2012, 1:00 - 2:00 pm**

**Room A824, 8/F, Cheng Yu Tung Tower, The University of Hong Kong**

**(Please note: the venue has been changed)**

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The bourgeois transformation created the conditions subsequent to which the demand for statutory regulation of citizenship could emerge in the 19th century. The goal of the seminar is to provide an overview of the international treaties in the 19th century related to citizenship law. The speaker will demonstrate the theoretical, public law and political background of the international treaties, as well as the problems emerging in the course of the execution which shed light on these significant areas of the public law of the dualistic era (Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy 1867-1918). The speaker will analyse how it was possible to lose and acquire the citizenship on the basis of the international treaties (between USA, Switzerland, Serbia, Rumania and Hungary). Following the Austrian-Hungarian Conciliation of 1867, Hungary entered into contract with just a few countries (England, Siam, China, Japan etc.). After a careful examination of the essences of these contracts, it can be clarified that these, basically private law contracts contained several directions in relation to the public law of both ratifying countries. These directions were based on the principal of reciprocity, and regulated the rights and duties of the citizens of these nations. These treaties regulated the freedom of religion, the administrative procedures available at the consulates, the settling, the purchase of land, the criminal jurisdiction, the commercial activities, the inheritance procedures and the customs system.

**Norbert Varga** is associate professor in legal history at the University of Szeged (Hungary) Faculty of Law, Department of Hungarian Legal History. He studied law and history at the University of Debrecen (Hungary) before completing his PhD in law at University of Miskolc (Hungary) and PhD in History at University of Debrecen. He has held visiting posts at various institutions including the University of Bloomington, the Harvard University, the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History (Frankfurt am Main) and the University of Oxford. He has published widely in the fields of citizenship law, administration law and constitutional law. His main research interest lies in the history of constitutional law especially citizenship law.

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**Please email Flora Leung at [flkleung@hku.hk](mailto:flkleung@hku.hk) to reserve a place.**