

**JOURNALISM AND MEDIA STUDIES CENTRE
CENTRE FOR COMPARATIVE AND PUBLIC LAW
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**

Joint Seminar

Privacy: The Changing Landscape

Dr Venkat Iyer

*Editor, The Commonwealth Lawyer and
Law Commissioner, Northern Ireland*

Wednesday, 8 April 2009, 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Room LG102, LG1 Floor, KK Leung Building, The University of Hong Kong

Recent years have seen increasing judicial activity in the area of personal privacy in the United Kingdom. Many of the cases have involved celebrities or other high-profile public figures wanting to protect themselves against intrusion into their personal life or affairs, often under controversial circumstances. In the face of this trend, journalists have expressed serious concern over the “chilling” effect that the newly-emerging right to privacy can have on their freedom to publish true information of public interest.

Dr Venkat Iyer, who has followed these developments closely, will explain the significance of recent cases such as *Douglas v. Hello*, *Campbell v. MGN*, and *Mosley v. News Group Newspapers* as well as the approach taken by the European Court of Human Rights, notably in the case of *Van Hannover v. Germany* which has been the subject of sustained criticism by media freedom advocates. He will examine the complex issues involved in striking the right balance between privacy and free speech, and assess the implications of the ongoing judicial activism in this area.

Dr Iyer has acted as a consultant, and has carried out special projects, including overseas missions and the researching and writing of reports, for a number of organisations such as Amnesty International, Article XIX (London), the International Commission of Jurists (Geneva), the Lawyers’ Committee for Human Rights (New York), the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (Singapore), and the Open Society Institute (New York). His Research Interests include Media Law; Constitutional Law; Human Rights (esp. the universality v. cultural relativism debate); Rule of Law; and Legal & Judicial Reform.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

**Please register on-line via www.hku.hk/ccpl/ or
email Flora Leung at fkleung@hku.hk if you would like to attend.**