

A CCPL LUNCHTIME SEMINAR

Is the European Social Union Crumbling?

Speaker: Professor Ulrike Davy

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**Discussant: Professor Lech Garlicki**

Visiting Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Hong Kong
Former Judge of the European Court of Human Rights



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Room 723, 7/F Cheng Yu Tung Tower
Centennial Campus
The University of Hong Kong

The European Union started out in the late 1950s as an “economic” community. In the 1990s, European politics launched the idea that the concept of the internal market should also have a “social dimension”, and become an economic union supplemented by a social union that would reach the hearts of all the people bound together by the founding treaties. While the idea of a “social union” lost political momentum in the 2000s, the European Court of Justice continued to ensure that EU nationals (residing in a member state other than that of which they are a national) had access to social benefits, even if the benefits were tax-based and not contribution-based. Solidarity was not confined to nationals of the member state concerned. However, more recently, the European Court of Justice seems to heed to the sceptics propagating the idea of nationally conceived communities who ought to be able to exclude non-nationals from social benefits, including nationals from other EU member states. The seminar will discuss these issues, as well as relevant cases and trends.

Ulrike Davy is Professor of Constitutional and Administrative Law, German and International Social Law, and Comparative Law at the Faculty of Law, Bielefeld University. She is also a member of the University Council of Bielefeld University and Co-Director of the Institute for World Society Studies. From 2010 through 2015, Ulrike Davy was the Managing Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies; from 2006 through 2007, she was Vice-President of Bielefeld University for Organisational Development. Her fields of expertise include global and European human rights; global and European social policy; German social law; immigration and refugee law.

Judge Lech Garlicki is a Polish jurist who has taught at Warsaw University since 1968. He served as a judge of the Constitutional Court of Poland in 1993-2001, and as judge of the European Court of Human Rights in 2002-2012. He is Vice-President of the International Association of Constitutional Law, and a Founding Member of the European Law Institute.

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