Is Unlawful Downloading Really Stealing?

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The law of theft emerged in an age in which most wealth was found in tangible objects, such as money, domesticated animals, crops, and furnishings. Today, our economy is increasingly based on things that are intangible, including information, ideas, identities, and intellectual property. In this presentation, I will consider some of the difficulties the law of theft faces in dealing with the misappropriation of intangibles.

Stuart Green is a Professor of Law at Rutgers Law School, in Newark, New Jersey. A graduate of Yale Law School, he is the author of the award-winning Lying, Cheating, and Stealing: A Moral Theory of White Collar Crime, and co-editor (with Antony Duff) of Philosophical Foundations of Criminal Law – both published by Oxford University Press. His latest book, Thirteen Ways to Steal a Bicycle: Theft Law in the Information Age, will be published by Harvard University Press in May.

Please email Flora Leung at fkleung@hku.hk to reserve a place.