

**CENTRE FOR COMPARATIVE AND PUBLIC LAW
FACULTY OF LAW
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**

Seminar

Intoxication Is Never a Defence

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Wednesday, 9 July 2008

1:00 - 2:00 pm

Room 303, 3/F KK Leung Building, HKU

It is settled law in many common law jurisdictions that, when charged with a basic intent offence, it is no answer for the defendant to assert that he lacked *mens rea* because he was voluntarily intoxicated from the effects of non-therapeutic drugs. This seminar analyses the structure of that doctrine, including whether it is evidential or substantive in nature, and what work is done by the basic-versus-specific intent distinction. Most importantly, this seminar focuses on the nature of the doctrine itself. Sometimes thought of as a defence, Prof. Simester suggests here that it is an entirely different kind of doctrine. It is only once this is clearly seen that people can assess its rightful place in the law.

Professor Simester is Professor of Law at the National University of Singapore and Fellow of Wolfson College, Cambridge. After completing his doctorate at Oxford, Professor Simester taught in England at the Universities of Cambridge, Birmingham and, more recently, at Nottingham. He remains an adjunct professor at the University of Cambridge, where he has taught on the LL.M. programme since 1994. Professor Simester's main interests lie in the fields of legal philosophy, criminal law, and restitution, and he has published in these areas in every major common law jurisdiction.

Admission is free. Please register on-line via www.hku.hk/ccpl/ or email Flora Leung at fkleung@hku.hk to reserve a place.

All are Welcome!