



**CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION**

**VENUE:  
LEE SHERIDAN  
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**LEVEL 1, EU TONG SEN  
BUILDING  
NUS FACULTY OF LAW  
(BUKIT TIMAH CAMPUS)**

**Lying about God (and Love?) to Get Laid:  
The Case Study of Criminalizing Sex under Religious  
False Pretense in Hong Kong**



**By  
Associate Professor Chen Jianlin  
University of Melbourne**

**TUESDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2018  
3:00PM TO 4:30PM**

**SPEAKER**

Associate Professor Chen Jianlin grew up in Singapore and Taiwan. He obtained his LLB from National University of Singapore, and his LLM and JSD from the University of Chicago. He is qualified to practice in Singapore and New York. He joined the Melbourne Law School in July 2017 after starting his academic career at the University of Hong Kong in 2011.

Bilingual in English and Chinese, Jianlin has nearly thirty scholarly publications, including a monograph with Cambridge University Press, and articles with Columbia Journal of Asian Law, Law & Social Inquiry, Oxford Journal of Law and Religion, 公司法评论, 北大法律评论, among many others. Utilizing a combination of comparative perspectives and economic analysis, he has written widely on topics such as law & religion, natural resources & property law, corporate & securities law, government procurement regulation, and tax law.

**ABSTRACT**

Section 120 of the Hong Kong Crimes Ordinances—which traces its origin to the U.K. and which is replicated in several other English common jurisdictions—criminalizes procurement of sexual act through false representations. The provision has been recently used to prosecute individuals who procured sexual acts on the pretext of performing luck-improving religious rituals. Beyond presenting the first ever systematic examination of these intriguing fraudulent sex court cases, this Article makes two arguments. First, this Article explains how the strong skepticisms and at times instinctive rejections by the judges of the purported religious proclamations not only confirm the scholarly concerns over the sincerity test in *U.S. v Ballard*, but also demonstrates how the often proposed solution of bench trials and other procedural safeguards is of limited efficacy to restrain religious bias. Second, by situating religious fraud with romantic fraud—both being frauds that raise serious conceptual difficulties in terms of objectively proving falsehood—this Article highlights that fraudulent sex criminalization is as much a regulation of fraud as it is a sexual offence. Thus, the inquiry should not only be sensitive to the different normative considerations that varied with the subject matter of the representations, but should also incorporate the economic literature regarding the impact of fraud on market dynamics in appreciating the unintended effects of the law and prosecutorial decisions.

**Programme**

02:30pm to 03:00pm Registration & Tea  
03:00pm to 04:30pm Seminar

**Registration**

There is no registration fee but seats are limited.  
Please register [HERE](#).

For enquiries, please contact Ms Poova at:

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**Closing Date for Registration:  
2 February 2018 (Friday)**