



**The Ved Nanda Center for
International & Comparative Law**
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

October 4, 2024 Book Talk Panel

Gender, Sexuality & Constitutionalism in Asia

Wen-Chen Chang



Wen-Chen Chang is Distinguished Professor of National Taiwan University, College of Law and Joint-Appointed Professor at National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University of Law.

Professor Chang focuses her teaching and research on comparative constitutions, international human rights, international environmental law, administrative law, and law and society. She has published major scholarly works on comparative constitutional law, including *Asian Courts in Context*, with Jiunn-rong Yeh (Cambridge University Press, 2015) and *Constitutionalism in Asia: Cases and Materials*, with Kevin YL Tan, Li-ann Thio & Jiunn-rong Yeh (Hart Publishing, 2014). She serves on editorial boards for leading academic journals including *International Journal of Constitutional Law*, *Cambridge Journal of Global Constitutionalism*, *Asian Journal of Comparative Law*, and *National Taiwan University Law Review*. She was awarded the Outstanding Research Award by Taiwan's Ministry of Science and Technology in 2015, the Junior Research Investigators Award by Academic Sinica in 2012, the Wu Ta-You Memorial Award by National Science Council in 2010, and the Excellence in Teaching Award by National Taiwan University in 2007. At the end of August 2024, Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te nominated her to become the next president of the Judicial Yuan.

Mara Malagodi



Mara Malagodi is a Reader in Law at the School of Law of the University of Warwick. She joined Warwick in 2022 from Hong Kong.

Professor Malagodi is a comparative constitutional lawyer and socio-legal scholar with a linguistically-informed specialism in South Asian law and politics, human rights law, gender and law, legal history, and law and film. She holds her Doctorate, MA in South Asia Area Studies, and BA (Hons) in Nepali & Politics from the University of London (SOAS) and was a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). She is a scholar of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple (Quatercentenary Scholarship) and a non-practising barrister in England and Wales.

Professor Malagodi is also an award-winning documentary filmmaker; she trained at the Escuela Internacional de Cine y TV (EICTV) in Cuba in 2014 and her work has been screened at 2015 Raindance Film Festival (award for best short doc), 2015 Sheffield Doc Fest (nominated for best student doc), and 2015 Shuffle Film Festival (nominated for best doc).

She is also the author of the monographs *Constitutional Nationalism and Legal Exclusion in Nepal* (2013) with Oxford University Press and *The Constitution of Nepal – A Contextual Analysis* (forthcoming 2024) with Hart Publishing. She is a co-editor for Hart Publishing's four-volume series on Asian Comparative Constitutional Law with Ngog Son Bui. Her work has appeared in the *International Journal of Constitutional Law*, the *Journal of Law and Society*, the *Federal Law Review*, *Law and History Review*, and numerous other journals and edited collections.

Professor Malagodi is on the expert roster of iProbono and ROLE UK, has worked as an external consultant for various United Nations agencies, and has been teaching at the Diplomatic Academy of the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office.

Ruth Rubio-Marín



Ruth Rubio Marín is Adjunct Professor at the School of Transnational Governance (STG) at the European University Institute, where she leads the work on Gender, Diversity and Governance. She is Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Sevilla, as well as the holder of the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Interculturalism at the Universidad Internacional de Andalucía.

Previously, Professor Rubio Marín held a Chair in Comparative Public Law at the European University Institute. She has taught at several other prestigious academic institutions, including Columbia Law School; Princeton University and NYU, where she is a member the Hauser Global Law School Program.

Her research represents an attempt to understand how public law creates categories of inclusion and exclusion around different axes including gender, citizenship, nationality and ethnicity both in peaceful and conflict-ridden contexts. Her publications are mostly in the area of law and gender, constitutional law, citizenship and democracy, immigration law as well as transitional justice.

As a consultant and activist, Professor Rubio Marín has worked for several national and international institutions and agencies, including the UN and the EU, as well as NGOs such as the International Center for Transitional Justice. Currently, she sits on the board of the Global Survivors Fund for Victims of Conflict Related Sexual Violence.

Kelley Loper



Kelley Loper is a Professor at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law and the director of the [Ved Nanda Center for International and Comparative Law](#). She also sits on the advisory board of the Berkeley Center on Comparative Equality and Anti-Discrimination Law and the international advisory board of the Centre for Comparative and Public Law (CCPL) at the University of Hong Kong. Before joining the Sturm College of Law in February 2024, she was an associate professor and the director of the LLM in Human Rights Programme in the Faculty of Law at the University of Hong Kong. She also served as the director of the Centre for Comparative and Public Law from 2017-2019 and was co-editor-in-chief of the *Asia-Pacific Journal on Human Rights and the Law* from 2012-2024.

Her scholarship centers on the implementation of international human rights law in domestic contexts, especially Hong Kong, mainland China, and other Asian jurisdictions. She has published on several related topics including: human rights and refugee protection in Asia, the rights to education and legal capacity in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination, dignity as a constitutional value, and gender constitutionalism. She has taught courses on international human rights law, comparative equality law, international refugee law, the national protection of human rights, and human rights research methods.

In addition to her academic work, she has also served on the boards of the Hong Kong Dignity Institute, the Hong Kong Refugee Advice Centre (as past chairperson), Justice Centre Hong Kong, and Amnesty International (Hong Kong). She has advised various other organizations including the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UN Women, and Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor on a range of issues and has made submissions before the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Rebecca Aviel



Rebecca Aviel is a Professor at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. A graduate of Yale College and Harvard Law School, she practiced in the litigation department of Morrison & Foerster in San Francisco and clerked for Judge Barry Silverman of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. She also spent two years as a staff attorney for the Ninth Circuit. Professor Aviel's research and teaching interests include legal ethics and professional responsibility, family law, and constitutional law, with a scholarly focus on the opportunities for insight where these fields intersect. Her current research examines the role of lawyers in a constitutional democracy, the constitutional implications of professional regulation, and innovation in the delivery of legal services to litigants in family court.

Her recent work, *The Weaponization of Attorney's Fees in an Age of Constitutional Warfare*, 132 Yale L.J. 2048 (2023), explains that states are using the threat of catastrophic, one-sided fee awards to evade judicial review in controversial areas like abortion and gun control. Litigants challenging such laws face liability for the opposing party's legal fees, while the state and its

ideological allies bear no such risk. Not only do these provisions thus discriminate on the basis of viewpoint, they obstruct access to counsel by imposing joint and several liability on attorneys for the disfavored parties. For the first time ever, attorneys face fee liability not for any misconduct but solely for representing a certain kind of litigant raising legitimate claims that the state doesn't want subjected to judicial scrutiny.

Luc Beaudoin



Luc Beaudoin's research concentrates primarily on the voice of queer writers and how they find their place in translations broadly speaking (different languages, different countries, different times). He teaches a variety of queer studies and queer theory classes, as well as broader classes on the discipline of gender studies. After completing his PhD in Russian language and literature at the University of Toronto, he joined the Russian program at the University of Denver. For most of the 2010s he served as an administrator in the Office of Internationalization, returning to teach in the Gender and Women's Studies program in 2020.