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RECHT BERATUNG WEITERBILDUNG



Public Lecture

Prof. Johannes Chan, SC (Hon)

Former chair professor of law and Dean of the Faculty of Law of the
University of Hong Kong

«From Liberty to Authoritarianism»

Thursday, 2 May 2024

18.30 - 19.45 h

University of Zurich, Rämistrasse 71

Room KOL-G-217

Free entrance. No registration required. Limited seating.

Further information: www.eiz.uzh.ch

Speaker



Mr. Johannes Chan, SC (Hon) is a former chair professor of Law and Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of Hong Kong.

More information of the Speaker can be found on our website: [Short CV Johannes Chan](#)

Content of the lecture

A former British Dependent Territory, Hong Kong became a Special Administrative Region of China on 1 July 1997 under the constitutional model of One Country, Two Systems, under which Hong Kong retains its previous social, economic, political and legal systems. A major international financial centre and once a stronghold of liberalism and common law values, the lack of progress in democratic development in Hong Kong in the last two decades led to an increasing level of public frustration and revealed an increasingly wide ideological gap between the socialist sovereign and the liberal common law regime in Hong Kong. The Extradition Bill in 2019, which would have allowed extradition of suspects from Hong Kong to Mainland China for trial, intensified the conflicts and led to the worst period of confrontation in the history of Hong Kong. While the Bill was eventually withdrawn, over 10,000 people were arrested. Archaic criminal offences were invoked, and heavy penalties were imposed even on those engaged only in entirely peaceful activities. In 2021, the National People's Congress enacted the National Security Law ("NSL") for Hong Kong, which introduced sweeping national security offences and conferred wide police powers. In 2024, the Hong Kong Government enacted the Protection of National Security Ordinance. What is the impact of these laws on Hong Kong? Do they bring Hong Kong back from chaos to stability and from stability to prosperity, or do they take Hong Kong from liberalism to semi-authoritarianism or authoritarianism? What are the implications for the constitutional model of One Country, Two Systems, and the future of Hong Kong?