Finnish Center of Chinese Law and Chinese Legal Culture
First four years (2013–2016)
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1. Foreword

by Ulla Liukkunen

When the Finnish Center of Chinese Law and Chinese Legal Culture (the Center) was established in November 2012, it was given the overall objective of developing and coordinating research and education on Chinese law and legal culture in Finland. From the beginning, the point of departure was to identify research areas of mutual interest in collaboration with Chinese partners and conduct comparative Sino-Finnish research. This aim was promoted in 2012 by the Academy of Finland’s specific funding call, which was targeted at Sino-Finnish legal research and enabled concretizing of the research interests of several member institutions of the Center in the form of six Academy of Finland-funded research projects. These were carried out in co-operation between the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Institute of Law (CASS Law) and/or Chinese universities, on the one side, and Finnish universities, on the other.

During its first years, the Center has been able to build strong collaboration with CASS Law and Peking University (PKU) as well as many other major Chinese academic institutions, such as Renmin University and Wuhan University. Establishing strong collaboration has been facilitated through existing collaboration structures between Finnish universities or individual forerunner researchers and Chinese universities.

Collaboration between CASS Law and the Center has focused on facilitating joint research. Annual Sino-Finnish Bilateral Seminars jointly organized by CASS Law and the Center by turns in China and Finland have become an important and well-established tradition. The Seminars have become an important platform for comparative dialogue between Finnish and Chinese legal scholars. Yearly exchange of information and ideas has also enabled us to build stronger research connections. Enhancing the formation of joint research projects has often been based on facilitating networking between Finnish and Chinese scholars under the auspices of the Center.

As research activities concerning Chinese law have gained more visibility in Finland, this has advanced a wider interest in and facilitated Chinese law research and education. With the Center, the existence of increasing China law expertise has been made visible not only to the funding institutions but also to various stakeholders that are interested in developing greater cooperation with the academic sector. With its round table discussions and other activities targeted at several ministries, administrative institutions and businesses operating in China, the Center has contributed to strengthening overall knowledge of Chinese law-related expertise in Finland.
The Center’s activities not only make Chinese law research in Finland more visible but also support its development. Notably, not only research but also education in Chinese law has gained an increasing foothold in the member institutions of the Center during its first years. The Center has also encouraged new researchers to enter into the sphere of Chinese law research. At the international level, awareness of Finnish expertise in Chinese law has been growing through the Center, which has been active in strengthening international collaboration. In addition, universities in both Denmark and Norway have already sought ways to follow the model of centering Chinese law activities within one platform.

Establishing a joint Center at the national level has facilitated deepening collaboration between Finnish and Chinese academia within the field of law. For Finnish Universities, the Center brings about synergy through combining various resources and building on each other’s expertise, experience and contacts. A goal of the Center is to develop a knowledge pool on Chinese law and comparative methodology related to research on Chinese law. In a comparative law framework, the Center has built a unique continuum of dialogue and collaboration leading to both comparative research and research-based education. In practice, the entire law field in Finland is jointly working through the Center, which is also a unique institutional setting internationally.

This report of the Center’s first four years welcomes readers to familiarize themselves with the institutional framework, member institutions, key partners and major activities of the Center.

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1. Professor Ulla Liukkunen, Director of the China Law Center, discussed further cooperation with Professor Li Lin, Director of the CASS Institute of Law, in November 2016.
2. Objectives

The Center coordinates and supports research and education related to Chinese law and legal culture in Finland. The Center cultivates cooperation between Finnish and Chinese universities and works closely with Chinese and international partners to promote multi-national collaboration. The Center’s activities aim to enhance the understanding of Chinese law and legal culture and support the development of Chinese law research in Finland, as well as to foster Sino-Finnish comparative research and Chinese – Nordic/European comparative research in various legal fields.

A key objective of the Center is to advance independent research on Chinese law and legal culture and support that of its member institutions, all in close cooperation with Chinese counterparts. The Center enjoys especially strong research cooperation with CASS Law whereby the two sides organize annual Sino-Finnish Bilateral seminars, host research exchanges, collaborate on research projects and issue joint academic publications. The Center also maintains a library collection devoted to Chinese law research, which can be accessed by all interested in Chinese law research. In Finland, the Center promotes, supports and coordinates Chinese law-related research projects of its member institutions and engages in project-related activities, including hosting academic and networking events in cooperation with its members. The Center also supports publication of research outcomes by research groups and individual researchers from its member universities.

2. Dean Professor Kimmo Nuotio, Dean Professor Shan Wenhua, Xi’an Jiaotong University, Justice Timo Esko, President of the Finnish Supreme Court, Professor Ulla Liukkunen, and Dean Professor Shen Wei, Shandong University Law School in May 2016.
Another key focus of the Center is to promote education in the field of Chinese law and legal culture. The Center supports provision of courses and guest lectures on the topic, and informs its members and the wider public about educational opportunities available through the Center’s member institutions and other instances. The Center and its members cultivate close partnerships with Chinese universities, allowing for extensive student exchange programmes, scholarly expertise and arrangement of relevant course modules.

The Center operates on an open and international basis. By engaging with Chinese, Nordic and other international partners, the Center fosters mutual understanding between the Chinese and Finnish legal systems, and also between the Chinese and Nordic/European legal systems, among students and academics, as well as among legal practitioners and the wider community. The Center supports development of the rule of law in China through presenting Finnish and Nordic legal research to Chinese institutions and by inviting Chinese counterparts to familiarize themselves with Finnish and Nordic legal systems and legal institutions. The Center has been actively developing its Nordic dimension in Chinese law research by increasing cooperation with Danish, Swedish and Norwegian scholars in its activities. The Center has also deepened collaboration with European and other international institutions involved in Chinese law research.

3. Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Turku, Professor Jukka Mähönen, Professor Olli Mäenpää, Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Lapland, Matti Niemivuo, Director of China Law Center, Professor Ulla Liukkunen and Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Helsinki, Professor Kimmo Nuotio in Beijing, 2013.
3. People

The coordinating university of the Center is the University of Helsinki, Faculty of Law. The Center is managed by the Center’s Director. The Center also has its own Coordinator and other supporting administrative staff.

3.1 Director of the Center

Professor Ulla Liukkunen has been the first Director of the Center since 2013.

Ulla Liukkunen is a Professor of Labour Law and Private International Law at the University of Helsinki. She has published extensively on labour law, private international law, transnational law and international labour law and written the only Finnish monograph on the legal aspects of the social dimension of globalisation. She has acted as a legislative counsellor with wide experience of law-drafting, and as an expert in several EU projects on comparative labour law and labour law implementation issues. She has memberships of several international research projects especially in the field of international and EU labour law. She has acted as an expert in the EU-China human rights dialogue.

Professor Liukkunen has led two Academy of Finland-funded international research projects concerning Chinese law (funding 1 060 000 euros). Both projects have been related to labour law in China and have included comparisons between China and Europe/the Nordic countries, resulting in several publications and continued cooperation with Chinese partners (CASS Law, PKU School of Law) after conclusion of the projects. Her third research project related to Chinese law is “Transnational Labour Governance and Posted Workers” and is carried out in collaboration with Associate Professor Chen Yifeng, PKU Law School. Her major publications on Chinese law are “China and ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work” (2014), eds Ulla Liukkunen and Chen Yifeng, Kluwer; “Employee Participation and Collective Bargaining in Europe and China” (2016), eds Jürgen Basedow, Chen Su, Matteo Fornasier and Ulla Liukkunen, Mohr Siebeck; and “Fundamental Labour Rights in China - Legal Implementation and Cultural Logic” (2016), eds Ulla Liukkunen and Chen Yifeng, Springer.
3.2 Other Center Staff

Alice Neffe was the Center’s Coordinator during the period 2013-2016. She holds a master degree in international law from the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and a Master of International and Comparative Law from the University of Helsinki.

The Center has employed trainees and research assistants:

- Mr. Stuart Mooney, 04/2013-01/2015
- Mr. Menotti Torretti, 04/2013-06/2013
- Mr. Ioan Dragoi, 04/2015-05/2015
- Ms. Huang Yiyin, 09/2015-12/2015

6. Coordinator Alice Neffe, Professor Ulla Liukkunen, Director of the Center, and Associate Professor Xie Zengyi, CASS Law, in Beijing, in November 2014.
4. Board of the Center

The Board of the Center consists of representatives from its member institutions. The Board’s responsibility is to plan and supervise the Center’s operations. Each member institution has the right to appoint a representative and a deputy representative to the Board of the Center. The term of the Board is four years. The Board appoints its Chair from amongst its members.

For the four-year term 2013-2016, the Chair of the Board was Professor Kimmo Nuotio, Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Helsinki. Member institutions were represented on the Board as follows:

4.1 University of Helsinki

Kimmo Nuotio, Chair of the Board, Professor of Criminal Law, has been the Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Helsinki since 2010. His research interests include theoretical aspects of criminal law, European criminal law and legal theory. Since 2007, Nuotio has been director of the nation-wide doctoral programme in Law, funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Academy of Finland, under the title “Law in a Changing World”. He is also a member of the Board of Helsinki University of Arts, and Chair of the Board of the Alexander Institute. Nuotio is a former Jean Monnet Fellow at the European University Institute, Department of Law (2000-2001). He was Vice Director of the Centre of Excellence in Foundations of European Law and Polity research funded by the Academy of Finland and co-director of the Research team “Europe as a Polity” at the Center of Excellence.

Pia Letto-Vanamo, Vice Member of the Board, Professor, legal historian and comparative lawyer specialised in European legal history, history of European integration, Nordic legal culture(s) and transnational law. Currently, she is working as director of the Doctoral School in Social Sciences and Humanities at the University of Helsinki. She is also director of the Institute of International Economic Law at the University of Helsinki. Letto-Vanamo has been co-director of the “Europe as a Market” Research team of the Centre of Excellence in Foundations of European Law and Polity research funded by the Academy of Finland and a Guest Professor in Legal History at the University of Lund (Sweden).
4.2 Aalto University

Kari Hoppu, Member of the Board, Professor of Business Law at the Aalto University School of Business, Dept. of Accounting, and Docent of Commercial Law at the University of Turku Business School and Chair of the Board of Business Practice (Finland Chamber of Commerce). Prof. Hoppu has published extensively on business law, including contract and property law.

Matti Rudanko, Vice Member of the Board, Professor of Private Law, Aalto University School of Business since 1998 and Docent of Civil Law at the University of Helsinki since 1990. He is Head of the Department of Accounting. He focuses his research on the interface between competition law and civil law in questions of damages liability of cartels.

4.3 Hanken School of Economics

Nari Lee, Member of the Board (2014-2016), Professor of Intellectual Property at Hanken. She joined Hanken in 2012, having studied law at Ewha Womens’ University in Korea and at Kyushu University, Japan (LLM), and holds a PhD from the University of Eastern Finland and a Doctor of Laws (LLD) degree from Kyushu University, Japan. Since 1996, she has researched and taught in the area of intellectual property and international trade in universities in Europe and Asia. Until 2014, she held the post of affiliated research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Intellectual Property and Competition Law in Munich, Germany.

4.4 Lappeenranta School of Technology

Veli Matti Virolainen, Member of the Board (2015-2016), Professor of Supply Management at LUT School of Business and Management. In addition, professor Virolainen has been nominated president of the International Federation of Production Research (IFPR). Professor Virolainen is the academic leader of the Purchasing and Supply Chain Management Programme.
4.5 University of Eastern Finland

*Kim Talus*, Member of the Board (2013), Professor of European Economic and Energy Law at UEF Law School and the Director of the Center for Climate Change, Energy and Environmental Law. He is also a Professor of Energy Law at the University of Helsinki. His research focuses on international, comparative and European energy law. More specifically, his activities focus on EU energy law and policy and international oil and gas. He has published widely in these areas and is a frequent speaker at international conferences. He has held teaching positions at University College London, the University of Houston and Bonn University. At the Journal of World Energy Law and Business he is the editor-in-chief for oil, gas and energy law and a member of the journal’s editorial board. He frequently works with companies, public authorities and governments in various areas of energy law and policy.

*Katja Lindroos*, Member of the Board (2014-2016), Professor of Commercial Law at UEF Law School since 2014. She frequently gives lectures to expert audiences in various fields, including continuing legal education for attorneys in Finland and the US. Lindroos taught at the Chicago-Kent College of Law as an IP Fellow Fulbright Scholar in 2006-2007 and served as a visiting assistant professor at the University of Louisville Law School in 2008. Lindroos has published widely on issues regarding comparative international and European intellectual property law. She primarily publishes and presents her work in English but also in Finnish and Swedish. Her research interests reflect on the impact and limits of trademark law in society. Her research tackles current topics and raises the issue of international trade law and intellectual property law.

*Tapio Määttä*, Vice Member of the Board, Docent and Professor of Environmental Law in Joensuu, UEF, and Head of UEF Law School. His fields of expertise include environmental law, legal theory, theory of legal argumentation and environmental decision-making. Määttä has been involved in numerous projects in environmental law and has published extensively on topics related to environmental law, both in academic journals and multi-author volumes. He has co-edited multiple educational volumes, authored numerous books and edited academic journals. Määttä has been consistently employed by the Ministry of the Environment as both an expert and consultant.
4.6 University of Lapland

Juha Karhu, Member of the Board, Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Lapland since 2013 and Professor of Law of Obligations. Karhu is also a board member of the European China Law Studies Association. As one of Finland’s leading academics in pioneering Chinese legal education and collaboration, he has been at the forefront of promoting the exchange of legal ideas between Finland and China. Among other initiatives, he has created a programme in China Law Studies, in partnership with one of China’s leading tertiary institutions, Renmin University, and founded the China law ‘Center of Expertise’ at the University of Lapland. In addition, he was Project Leader of the PhD Project “Cross-Disciplinary Doctoral Programme in Contemporary Russian and Chinese Economic Law in a Global Economy” (RUCHIN PhD Project 2010-2012). He also coordinated the University of Lapland’s “Legal Cultures in a Transnational World” PhD Programme.

Matti Tjäder, Vice Member of the Board, PhD Candidate and Researcher in China Economic Law at the University of Lapland. Tjäder has taught courses on Chinese law together with Prof. Juha Karhu at the University of Lapland. His doctoral research topic is “Limits of Obligation: A Comparative Study of the People’s Republic of China and Finland,” supervised by Prof. Karhu.

4.7 University of Tampere

Pekka Länsineva (1958-2013), Member of the Board (2013), was a Professor of Public Law at the University of Tampere. He had a long and prestigious career developing studies in the field of the rule of law, fundamental rights and doctrines of constitutional law. His work was instrumental to contemporary Finnish public law. His final project “How to Rule the Economy” was funded by the Academy of Finland. Before taking the position at the University of Tampere, Professor Länsineva had a long career at his alma mater, the University of Turku. Before leaving for Tampere he worked as a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Turku research collegia. Länsineva was a frequently engaged expert for the Constitutional Law Committee of the Finnish Parliament and his expertise benefited several Ministries.
Jukka Viljanen, Member of the Board (2013-2016), Adjunct Professor of Human Rights Law and University Lecturer in Public Law at the University of Tampere. He has led several important research projects, e.g. evaluation of the Finnish Human Rights National Action Plan (Ministry of Justice, 2013-2014) and Finnish environmental constitutional rights (Ministry of Environment, 2014). He is an expert for the Constitutional Law Committee of the Finnish Parliament and Ministry of Justice in matters related to the European Court of Human Rights. Most recently he was appointed to the Ministry of Justice expert committee reviewing constitutional provisions related to secrecy of communications. His fields of expertise are the European Convention on Human Rights, human and fundamental rights and constitutional law.

Markku Sotarauta, Vice Member of the Board, Professor of Regional Development Studies of the School of Management at the University of Tampere. In 2011-2013, he served as the founding Dean of the School of Management and, in 2009-2010, as the last Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Administration. In 2008 he was appointed Visiting Professor at Newcastle University Business School (UK) for a three-year period. Professor Sotarauta specialises in leadership, innovation systems, and institutional entrepreneurship in city and regional development. He has published widely on these issues in international journals and edited books. His latest publications include “Leadership and the city: Power, strategy and networks in the making of knowledge cities”, published by Routledge. Professor Sotarauta has worked with the Finnish Parliament, many Finnish ministries as well as cities and regions both in Finland and beyond.

4.8 University of Turku

Jukka Mähönen, Member of the Board (2013-2015), Professor dr. juris, University of Oslo, Norway. In Finland, he holds a title of docent from the University of Eastern Finland and the University of Helsinki. Mähönen has worked previously as a professor of civil law and Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Turku. In Oslo, Mähönen is the risk manager of the Horizon 2020 project “Sustainable Market Actors for Responsible Trade (SMART)” with partners from China.
Mähönen’s research interests include company law, securities law, accounting and auditing law as well as economic analysis of law. Recently Mähönen has published with Cambridge University Press and Routledge. His ongoing research concentrates on the role of institutional investors in global corporate governance and public entities as market actors, both with strong Chinese contributions. Mähönen is a member of the Finnish Academy of Sciences and Letters.

Johanna Niemi, Member of the Board (2015-2016), Minna Canth Academy Professor and Professor of Procedural Law, University of Turku. Niemi has worked as a professor at Umeå University in Sweden and is a visiting professor at Lund University, Sweden. She was a Fulbright scholar at the University of Wisconsin, Madison Law School during 1997-1998. Niemi’s research interests include criminal procedure, consumer insolvency, human rights and the construction of gender in legal discourses. She leads the research project “ASLA: Actors, Structures and Law”. Among her recent publications are Backert, Block-Lieb & Niemi (eds), “Contemporary Issues in Consumer Insolvency”, Peter Lang 2013 and Suzan van der Aa et al., “Mapping the legislation and assessing the impact of Protection Orders in the European Member States”, 2015. Niemi is a member of the Scientific Committee of FRA, the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency and the Academy of Finland Research Council for Culture and Society.

Lauri Paltemaa, Vice Member of the Board, Professor of East Asian Politics and Contemporary History, is the director of the Centre for East Asian Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Turku. Paltemaa’s research interests include contemporary Chinese history, politics and governance. His two current research projects focus on Chinese disaster management and internet censorship respectively. He has recently published on these topics with Routledge and the China Journal and is editing a special issue on China’s disaster management in China Information.
Vesa Annola, Member of the Board (2013-2016), Professor at the Faculty of Business Studies, Economics and Business Law and Economic Law at the University of Vaasa. Annola has published widely on property law and topics related to financial law, such as contracts and securities markets. His latest publications include “Appropriation of Performance” and “Property not Accepted” in Restatement in Nordic Contract Law, 2016, (eds Lando, Ole et al.), Djøf publishing.

Kristian Siikavirta, Member of the Board (2016), Senior Lecturer and Head of the Public Law Department at the University of Vaasa. He has lectured on public law, especially on public procurement and state aid law, and also on Law & Economics at many Finnish universities. He has cooperated with government and municipal departments on state aid questions and has experience in private legal assignments on state aid and competition law. He has been a member of the editorial staff of the scientific journal Nordisk Administrativt Tidsskrift (NAT) since 2010. His research focus is on public procurement, EU state aid rules and on general administrative law and public private partnership.

Juha Lindgren, Vice Member of the Board, is Professor of Tax Law, on leave from the Tax Administration where he worked as a Senior Director. He is head of the research group: Business Law, Information and Knowledge (BLINK). The group concentrates on different aspects of legal information and knowledge in order to help decision making on economic issues. His research focus is on direct taxation of corporations, shareholders and entrepreneurs, administrative sanctions in corporate taxation, tax issues on transferring a company to a successor and company law in tax law interpretation. He is chair of the Central Tax Board in Finland (2015-2019) and has been the editor of the tax law journal Verotos since spring 2016.
Tapio Lappi-Seppälä, Member of the Board, is Professor of Criminal Law and Criminology and the Director of the Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy at the University of Helsinki. Prior to his present position, he served in 1996-2015 as the director of National Research Institute of Legal Policy under the Ministry of Justice. Other former activities include several memberships and chairmanships of committees revising Finnish criminal laws since the late 1980s, and participation in the Scandinavian Research Council for Criminology (Board Member 1991-1997), the Council of Europe, the International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation (Vice-President 2005-2008), the UN, and the European Society of Criminology (Board Member 2009-2011). He has published extensively, over 250 titles in several languages, on substantive criminal law, comparative penal policy, sentencing and comparative historical analyses on crime and punishment. He is a member of the Finnish Academy of Sciences. In 2015, he received the American Society of Criminology’s Sellin-Glueck Award for his comparative research.
5. Member Institutions

Research by its member institutions constitutes the foundation of the Center’s research output. Researchers at member institutions engage in research and cooperate with their Chinese counterparts on research projects related to Chinese law. Member institutions each have their individual specific areas of expertise, and each member plays a unique role with a varying degree of engagement in the Center’s activities. In addition to research, member institutions promote education on Chinese law by organizing Chinese law-related courses and lectures, while each member also has independent mobility agreements with Chinese universities, enabling researcher and student exchange.

The Center plays an active role in promoting new research on Chinese law and legal culture, as well as in supporting and coordinating projects, including organization of academic and networking events, and facilitating researcher exchanges. Cooperation between member institutions through the Center creates useful synergies in the field of research, bringing all relevant parties and researchers to the same table. Events organized by the Center have sprung new initiatives into being, deepened existing research, created new partnerships, and facilitated cooperation.
5.1 University of Helsinki

The University of Helsinki, ranked among the top 100 universities in the world, operates a strategy that includes developing cooperation with China. Since 2007, it has hosted the Confucius Institute, a leading institution in Chinese language education, and has partnered with Renmin University. In 2016, a new professorship in Modern China was created and awarded to Professor Julie Chen Yu-Wen who, as Professor of Chinese Studies at the University of Helsinki, also holds the position of Director of the Confucius Institute.

The Faculty of Law was a pioneer in developing and strengthening relations with Chinese partners. The former Dean of the Faculty, Professor Jukka Kekkonen, initiated closer cooperation through his visits to China. The current Dean, Professor Kimmo Nuotio, has since also been actively involved in the cooperation between the Academy of Finland and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences since its beginning in 2009. Within this framework, the Faculty of Law at the University of Helsinki was the first Finnish institution to host the Sino-Finnish Seminar on Comparative Law in 2010. In September 2012, the University of Helsinki hosted the 7th Annual Conference of the European China Law Studies Association, themed “Rule of Law with Chinese Characteristics: Asian, European, and Global Perspectives”. This international conference was attended by over 150 participants from Asia, the US and other European countries. Moreover, several research stays have been conducted by researchers from the two institutions. The foundations of the Center were laid through and during these activities.

In 2011, CASS Law and the University of Helsinki, Faculty of Law agreed on intensified bilateral research collaboration, which has complemented national level cooperation conducted successfully with CASS Law. The background to national level cooperation with CASS Law lies in cooperation between CASS and the Academy of Finland. Cooperation with Finnish partners has been significantly advanced by Director Li Lin, CASS Law, who also made the first initiative towards bilateral collaboration.

Today, the Faculty of Law at the University of Helsinki has an extensively elaborated China profile, built upon mobility agreements, individual and collective research projects, several targeted cooperation programmes and teaching modules. Over the years, the Faculty has gathered approximately three million euros of funding to carry out all these activities.
27. Director of the Center, Professor Ulla Liukkunen, Professor Tapio Lappi-Seppälä, Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Helsinki, Professor Kimmo Nuotio, and Deputy Director, Professor Chen Su, CASS Law, met with their delegations in Beijing, November 2014.

28. Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Helsinki, Professor Kimmo Nuotio, University of Helsinki and Dean of PKU Law School, Professor Zhang Shouwen, in Helsinki, 2015.

29. Representatives of the China Law Center and the China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL) delegation met in Helsinki in 2013.
5.1.1 Cooperation with China

For several years, Professor Nuotio has been visiting Chinese universities, promoting bilateral agreements that have formed the concrete basis of the expansion of Faculty level cooperation. The University of Helsinki, Faculty of Law has signed a number of mobility agreements covering incoming and outgoing students and research staff, e.g.: China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL), Fudan University, PKU, Renmin University of China, Wuhan University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, the University of Hong Kong, and Xi’an Jiaotong University.

PKU is a very important partner to the University of Helsinki. Their collaboration started as long ago as 1983, when the two universities signed the first academic co-operation agreement, which was renewed in 2013. In 2014 an annex to their agreement was signed in Beijing, specifying four target areas for closer collaboration, law being one of them. The two Faculties of Law have been forerunners in bringing written objectives to life. In this context, the “PKU-Helsinki Law Connection” was established in March 2015. The aim of this partnership is to consolidate and make more visible the existing fruitful cooperation manifested in the organisation of lecture series, joint seminars, joint publications and staff mobility, now part of the permanent structure of both institutions. Moreover, the partnership aims to develop new forms of collaboration for the mutual benefit of the two faculties. In terms of fields of law, their cooperation covers: economic law, administrative law, criminal law, labour law and international law.

Recently, cooperation has grown even closer. In October 2016, Professor Juha Raitio participated as a representative of the University of Helsinki in the 4th China-Europe Legal Forum organized by CUPL, where he held a presentation on Brexit. Professor Raitio also became one of the Guest Research Fellows of the China-Europe Research Center, founded alongside China-Europe Legal Training Base, both of which were announced during the event. The 6th China-Europe Legal Forum will be held in Helsinki in 2018.

The University of Helsinki is also a member of the Nordic Center in Fudan, the Finnish University Network for Asian Studies, and the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies.
5.1.2 Research & Projects

One of the first China-related research projects carried out at the Faculty was “Justice in Transitional Societies: Russia and China”, led by Professor Kimmo Nuotio. One of the activities of this three-year (2011-2013) project was to co-organize and host the 7th Annual Conference of the European China Law Studies Association “Rule of Law with Chinese Characteristics: Asian, European and Global perspective” on 24-25 September 2012.

Between 2012 and 2016, the Faculty hosted five out of six China-specific research projects funded by the Academy of Finland. The research project “ILO Core Labour Standards Implementation in China: Legal Architecture and Cultural Logic”, led by Professor Ulla Liukkunen, was the first Academy of Finland-funded project on Chinese law at the University of Helsinki. The project examined implementation of the International Labour Organization (ILO) core conventions in China, combining expertise from international law, labour law, comparative law, social anthropology and Chinese law, and had a strong international profile with a network of global connections and several partners in China, Europe and the US. The research project “Employee Participation and Collective Bargaining in the Era of Globalization – Nordic and Chinese Perspectives”, led by Professor Ulla Liukkunen and Deputy Director, Professor Chen Su (CASS Law), examined workplace governance through collective bargaining and employee participation from a comparative perspective.

The research project “Climate Change Mitigation and Energy Efficiency Legislation, Finland/EU–China”, led by Professor Ari Ekroos (Aalto University/University of Helsinki) and Professor Qin Tianbao (Wuhan University), was carried out jointly between the University of Helsinki, Aalto University, CASS Law, and Wuhan University. The “Gendered Choices in Structures of Law and Gender” research project was led by Professor Johanna Niemi (University of Turku) and Professor Xue Ninglan (CASS Law), was first managed by the University of Helsinki then when Professor Johanna Niemi moved to the University of Turku on 1 January 2014, it became a joint project between the University of Helsinki, the University of Turku and CASS Law. The research project “Legal Transplant For Innovation and Creativity – A Sino-Finnish Comparative Study on the Governance of Intellectual Property Rights” (TranSIP), led by Professor Nari Lee (Hanken), Professor Niklas Bruun (Hanken/University of Helsinki) and Professor Li Mingde (CASS Law), was a comparative law research project which undertook collaborative research in academic institutes in China and Finland. The project was a consortium of two universities, that is, Hanken School of Economics and University of Helsinki.
The University of Helsinki regularly hosts researchers from China. Visitors to the University of Helsinki and the Center during the period 2013-2016 included, e.g., Dr. iur. Knut Pissler (the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg), Professor Shen Wei (Shanghai Jiao Tong University, KoGuan Law School), Associate Professor Xie Zengyi (CASS Law) and Professor Qin Tianbao (Wuhan University).

The Erik Castrén Institute of International Law and Human Rights and the PKU Institute of International Law Collaboration Project (ECI-PUIIL Project), funded by the CIMO Asian Programme, has offered a platform for PhD students and junior researchers interested in Chinese law and legal culture. During 2013-2016, a good example of the activities within the Project is the Sino-Finnish doctoral seminar on “Enforcement in International Law” organised at the PKU Institute of International Law on June 11-12, 2016. Researchers and doctoral students have also carried out individual China-related research on topics falling within labour law, intellectual property, arbitration, anti-trust and international law.

30. Dean Kimmo Nuotio attended the annual conference of the New Silk Road Law Schools Alliance at the University of New South Wales in Sydney in November 2016.

31. The International Conference “Road to New Paradigms: Impact of China’s Silk Road Initiative in China, Central Asia and the EU” was held in Helsinki on May 9-10, 2016.

32. The opening ceremony launching the New Silk Road Law School Alliance in Xi’an in December 2015.

33. The Faculty of Law of the University of Helsinki hosted the first Finnish-Chinese Colloquium on Criminal Law on August 25-26, 2016.
In December 2015, the University of Helsinki, Faculty of Law was invited to join as a founding member of the New Silk Road Law School Alliance. The Alliance aims to become a platform for promoting international collaboration on legal education and research. At its creation the Alliance counted 20 law schools (23 in 2016), of which the Faculty of Law at the University of Helsinki was the only European one. Moreover, the first seminar, launching research cooperation within the Alliance, was hosted in Helsinki on 9-10 May 2016. This international Conference “Road to New Paradigms: Impact of China’s Silk Road Initiative in China, Central Asia and the EU” focused on public law, human rights and administrative law.

The University of Helsinki has aimed to familiarize its Chinese partners with the Finnish legal system. In 2012, an edited volume collecting articles presenting the principles supporting the Finnish legal system “Introduction to Finnish Law and Legal Culture” edited by Kimmo Nuotio, Sakari Melander and Merita Huomo-Kettunen was published.

5.1.3 Teaching

The University of Helsinki, Faculty of Law regularly provides courses on Chinese law. Courses often include guest lectures by visiting scholars. In the fall of 2012, “Introduction to Chinese Law” was held by Associate Professor Chen Yifeng, and the same course was organized again in the fall of 2014. In 2014, Post-Doctoral Researcher Li Haiming held one of the course’s lectures. In spring 2013, “International Law and the Rule of Law in China” was held by Associate Professor Chen Yifeng. A course on “Chinese Law from a Comparative Perspective” lectured by Associate Professor Chen Yifeng was organized in the fall terms 2013 and 2014; the same course was lectured by Post-Doctoral Researcher Zhang Yihong in the fall term 2015. A course “Understanding culturally different law and Chinese law”, lectured by Professor Ulla Liukkunen, Associate Professor Chen Yifeng and Doctoral Candidate Marja Paavilainen, was held in the spring terms 2013 and 2014. The course was targeted at Finnish speaking students (the Finnish name of the course was “Kulttuurisesti vieraan oikeuden ymmärtäminen ja Kiinan oikeus”). In the academic year 2013-2014, Associate Professor Chen Yifeng held a course entitled “Chinese Perspectives on International Law.” In spring 2015, “Transformation of Chinese Private Law and the Chinese Legal System in the Era of Globalisation” was held jointly by Post-Doctoral Researchers Zhang Yihong and Wei Qian, while “Law and Society in Modern China” was lectured by Post-Doctoral Researcher Zhang Yihong in the fall term 2016.

The University of Helsinki has also offered its students a possibility to gain practical experience of Chinese law. It has established a Visit and Exchange Programme with Han Kun law firm and selected students from
In 2015, a delegation of doctoral candidates from the Graduate School Law in Changing World (LCW), and Fudan University students participated in the Sino-Nordic doctoral seminar on rule of law, in Beijing.

On October 8-12, 2013, the University of Helsinki together with the Center organized a series of panel discussions, “China Law Week”, aimed at the wider public. The events, held in Finnish, were attended by a considerable number of participants and simultaneously streamed on the “Think Corner” website of the University. This high level of participation demonstrates genuine interest in Chinese developments on the part of the public and professionals. This successful event was a part of the “Future World Order” series, which aims to provide more information on current international developments caused by the emergence of new global players, such as China, India and Brazil. Panel discussions organized by University of Helsinki and the Center during the China Law Week were the following:

October 8, 2013. “Is Rule of Law Emerging in China?” Speakers: Pekka Hallberg (former President of the Supreme Administrative Court of Finland), Katja Lehto (SAK), Professor Teemu Ruskola (Emory University) and the Deputy Chancellor of Justice Mikko Puumalainen. Chairman: Chancellor Thomas Wilhelmsson (University of Helsinki).


October 10, 2013. “China’s Economic Development Prospects”. Speakers: Paavo Suni (ETLA) and Mikael Mattlin (Institute of International Affairs), Professor Ulla Liukkunen (Finnish Center of Chinese Law and Chinese Legal Culture). Chairman: Dean Kimmo Nuotio (University of Helsinki).

In fall 2014, the University of Helsinki was one of the main partners organising a large Pure Finland event promoting higher education and research in Beijing, China. The event took place at PKU and contained a separate introduction to Chinese law research conducted at the University of Helsinki and under the auspices of the Center.

36. The China Law Week organized in 2013 attracted wide audience.

37. During the China Law Week (2013) a panel “China’s Economic Development Prospects” was arranged with Paavo Suni, ETLA, Mikael Mattlin, Institute of International Affairs, and Professor Ulla Liukkunen, Finnish Center of Chinese Law and Chinese Legal Culture. Chair was Dean Kimmo Nuotio, University of Helsinki.

38. During the China Law Week (2013) a panel "Finnish Business Experience in China" was arranged involving discussants Joakim Strand, City of Vaasa, Antti Herlin, KONE, and Päivi Leiwo, Oilon Oy.
The three founding universities that formed Aalto University (the Helsinki University of Technology est. 1849, the Helsinki School of Economics, est. 1904, and the University of Art and Design Helsinki, est. 1871), all had decades of Chinese cooperation behind them. Once officially founded in 2010, Aalto signed its first ever foreign partnership agreement with Tongji University after only a week of operating. During the same year, the establishment of a Sino-Finnish Centre was announced between the two universities, and the Aalto-Tongji Design Factory was launched as a part of that cooperation. This collaboration has been growing and resulted in the creation of Shanghai International College of Design and Innovation (Shanghai D&I) that will start operating in fall 2017. The aim is to establish a leading international design school with local features, which can cultivate leading talents devoted to sustainable design innovation. Within the Center, Aalto is represented by its Business School, and was one of the founding members of the Center.

5.2.1 Cooperation with China

Professor Emeritus Yrjö Sotamaa, who actively developed university, innovation and design cooperation between Finland and China, received the Chinese Government Friendship Award from Chinese Vice Premier Ma Kai in September 2014. The reward is the highest awarded by the People’s Republic of China to foreign experts who have made outstanding contributions to the country’s economic and social progress.

In terms of student mobility, Aalto has a large student pool of about 50 Chinese exchange students a year, 300 Chinese degree students overall, of which 70 are doctoral students. Aalto is a member of the Finnish University Network for Asian Studies and the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies.
Aalto School of Business partner universities in China include Fudan University, Guanghua School of Economics and Management at PKU, Shanghai Advanced Institute of Finance (SAIF) at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, the School of Economics and Management at Tongji University and the School of Economics and Management at Tsinghua University, the School of Business and Management at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, the Department of Information Systems at City University of Hong Kong, and the University of Hong Kong.

5.2.2 Research & Projects

Aalto Business School hosted the Academy of Finland-funded research project “Climate Change Mitigation and Energy Efficiency Legislation, Finland/EU – China” led by Professor Ari Ekroos. The project was carried out jointly between Aalto University, the University of Helsinki, CASS Law, and Wuhan University, and aimed at improving the knowledge of Finnish, EU and Chinese policy-makers on energy efficiency legislation and policies applied in Finland, EU and in China in areas where European climate change mitigation policies have proved successful. Another example of Aalto’s Chinese law-related research projects was Wang Wei’s doctoral dissertation “Merger Remedies in the EU: Design under the Entire Competition Law Structure” written under the supervision of Professor Matti Rudanko and defended in March 2016.

5.2.3 Teaching

Aalto University School of Business offers two law-related programmes which are attended by international students, Chinese included: the accounting and financial markets programme (including tax law, company law, audit and accounting) and the market competition programme (competition law, IPR, contract law). Moreover, specific China-related courses are provided, such as “Rising China - Business and State,” taught by Professor Matti Nojonen in May 2016.

41. It is official: Shanghai D&I is launched! The Launch of Shanghai International College of Design And Innovation at Tongji University, April 14, 2016.
5.3 Hanken School of Economics (Hanken) (Member since 2014)

Hanken is one of the oldest business schools in the Nordic countries and the only stand-alone business school in Finland. Its strategy is to profile the School as genuinely international and Hanken was the first university in Finland to introduce a mandatory period abroad as an integrated part of the curriculum. The Hanken Department of Accounting and Commercial Law has been a member of the China Law Center since 2014.

5.3.1 Cooperation with China

Hanken has mobility agreements with a number of Chinese partners: City University Hong Kong, College of Business, Fudan University School of Management, Nankai University, Renmin University of China School of Business, Sun Yat-sen Business School, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Faculty of Business, Tsinghua University School of Economics and Management, and Zhejiang University School of Management. Hanken is also a member of the Nordic Center at the Fudan University.

Hanken provides businesses and society with education on comparative Chinese/EU (and Finnish) IP laws. Hanken closely cooperates with Shanghai University Law School and IP School, and Tongji University Law School and IP School to organize joint courses in Finland for Chinese students and in China for Finnish students respectively, as well as exchange of doctoral students and research staff. Educational cooperation also aims to develop new joint research projects.

In addition to cooperation between universities, Hanken has also engaged in other forms of cooperation with China, where its expertise on IP law has become well-recognized. For instance, in 2016, Hanken hosted members 42. Participants to the round table discussion on ‘Unfair Competition and intellectual property law developments in Europe’ in May 2016.
from the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress of the PRC together with the Legislative Affairs Commission from IP Key.

5.3.2 Research & Projects

Collaboration in the field of law research started when Hanken’s professor of intellectual property law, LLD Nari Lee, led the consortium for the Academy of Finland-funded project “Legal Transplant For Innovation and Creativity - A Sino-Finnish Comparative Study on the Governance of Intellectual Property Rights” (TranSIP) between 2013 and 2015. The project was a consortium of Hanken and the University of Helsinki. Educational collaboration followed conclusion of the research project. Hanken has organized many academic events as a part of the TranSIP project. For instance, in November 2013, a workshop was held together with CASS Law in Beijing. In addition, in summer 2014, Hanken organized two academic events as part of the TranSIP project. The first of these, ‘Governance of Intellectual Property Rights in China and Europe’ was an academic conference. Research teams included members from CASS, Shenzhen University, Hanken and the University of Helsinki. The latter, ‘IP in China – Growth and Opportunities’ was part of the IPR Summer School organized by IPR University Center’s China IP Day series and open to the general public. Hanken organizes China IP Day seminars once a year and also hosts researchers from China. Among others, Li Yang, Professor at Shenzhen University (15.09.2013-15.11.2013) and Associate Professor Li Zhao from Shanghai University (November 2014) have visited Hanken.

In 2015, Hanken, together with the University of Lapland, received funding from the CIMO’s China 2015 Programme to implement the “Linking European and Asian Academic Networks - Sharing Excellence in IP Education” mobility project. Joint education modules, exchanges and lectures with visiting professors have been organized as part of the project.

5.3.3 Teaching

Hanken organizes courses on IPR in China on a regular basis. Guest lectures by visiting researchers are integrated into the teaching. For instance, in the fall term 2013, Hanken arranged a course on “International and Comparative Intellectual Property Law”. This course included guest lectures arranged in the context of the TranSIP project. Guest lectures were the following: “Introduction to Chinese Copyright Law”, by Li Yang, Professor at Shenzhen University, on November 12, 2013. “Chinese IP Law in the Context of International Trade Law”, by Andrea Wechsler, Professor of Economic Law at Pforzheim University and Affiliated Researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Intellectual Property and Competition Law, on November 15, 2013.
43. Professor Mindge Li, CASS, at the TranSIP conference in December 2015.

44. Participants to the TranSIP conference in December 2015. In the middle, Professor Mingde Li, CASS, Professor Nari Lee, Hanken, and Professor Niklas Bruun, Hanken.
LUT is a pioneering science university in Finland, bringing together the fields of science and business since 1969. Clean energy and water, circular economy and sustainable business are key questions of humankind to which LUT seeks solutions through technology and business. LUT has strong links with the business community, and promotes business generated by scientific research. The LUT School of Business and Management joined the Center in 2015.

LUT has an extensive partner network all around the world. The network of over 200 higher education and research institutions provides an excellent basis for collaboration in joint education and research projects, as well as mobility for students, teachers and researchers.

5.4.1 Cooperation with China

Chinese partners of LUT include Beijing University of Chemical Technology, Beijing University of Technology, Chongqing University, Harbin Institute of Technology, Hubei University of Technology, Shanghai University, Yantai University, the University of Michigan – Shanghai Jiao Tong University Joint Institute, Shandong University, South China University of Technology, Tianjin University of Science and Technology, Institute of Plasma Physics Chinese Academy of Sciences.

LUT has also been a member of the Finnish University Network for Asian Studies (until December 2016) and is a member of the Nordic Center at Fudan University, Shanghai.

5.4.2 Research & Projects

The LUT School of Business and Management uniquely combines business, industrial engineering and management, as well as software expertise. The focus of both education and research is on building sustainable competitiveness and promoting green technology. Research is based on the following areas of expertise: strategy, management and accounting; international business, marketing and entrepreneurship; operations management and systems engineering; innovation and software. Their researchers have expertise in both economics and technology, which facilitates broad-scoped understanding of research phenomena. They conduct research in international and national inter-organisational research groups and in close cooperation with companies.
The Business School hosts several research projects, yet the research project “Boosting the Internationalization of Cleantech SMEs” (BICS) has particular relevance in the context of cooperation with China. BICS is a two-year (2015-2017) research project funded by the Green Growth programme within the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation (TEKES). Its main goal is to accelerate the internationalization and growth of Cleantech SMEs by developing new capabilities, business models, networks and value propositions to innovate, commercialize and profit from Cleantech innovations in global markets.
UEF emphasizes a multidisciplinary approach to research and education. Key interdisciplinary research areas are built around four global challenges: ageing, lifestyles, and health; learning in a digitised society; cultural encounters, mobility and borders; and environmental change and sufficiency of natural resources. International cooperation and internationalization is considered one of the cornerstones of this approach. UEF Law School is one of the founding members of the Center.

5.5.1 Cooperation with China

UEF has signed mobility agreements with several partners: Beijing Haidian Special Education School, Northeast Forestry University (Harbin), Hong Kong Baptist University, the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Hong Kong, the School of Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Engineering of the Qilu University of Technology, Nanjing University, Guangxi Academy of Sciences, the University of Nottingham Ningbo China, Fudan University, Shanghai University of Traditional Medicine, China Medical University, and Northwest A&F University.

Research and educational cooperation with Chinese universities, research institutions and companies is promoted especially through the Sino-Finnish Environmental Research Centre (SFERC), established jointly by UEF and Nanjing University in May 2009. The SFERC, located on the Xianlin campus of Nanjing University, promotes multidisciplinary research and educational cooperation relating to the environment.

UEF is also a member of the Nordic Centre at Fudan University in Shanghai and is involved in developing the Nordic Studies programme aimed at Chinese students. UEF Law School has used cooperation with the Nordic Center to organize education, such as the 12th UEF–UN Environment Programme Course on Multilateral Environmental Agreements. The course, held on 2-12 November 2015 in Shanghai, was attended by 22 participants from 22 countries, chosen from among 270 applicants. The course was hosted by the Fudan Nordic Centre in cooperation with Fudan University Law School and UNEP-Tongji Institute of Environment for Sustainable Development.
In addition to environmental issues, UEF Law School has also developed cooperation in the field of intellectual property law with a number of Chinese universities. In 2013, UEF Law School organized a guest lecture on “IP Law Enforcement in China” given by Post-Doctoral Researcher Zhang Yongfan from Renmin University Law School.

In 2015, as a member of the International Conference on Innovation and Communications Law (CICL), representatives from UEF attended the yearly CICL Conference in Xiamen in July 2015. This conference was an opportunity to discuss new forms of cooperation with the Intellectual Property Research Institute at Xiamen University.

5.5.2 Research & Projects

In 2011, the first doctoral dissertation containing a comparative dimension with China was defended at UEF when LLD Zhang Yanan published her dissertation, “Approaches to Resolving the International Documentary Letters of Credit Fraud Issue”. Post-Doctoral Researcher Zhang Yanan also taught a course on “Introduction to Chinese law and Business”.

45. Participants to the 12th UEF – UN Environment Programme Course on Multilateral Environmental Agreements, held 2-12 November 2015 at the Nordic Centre Fudan University, Shanghai, China.
5.6 University of Lapland

The Faculty of Law at the University of Lapland was among the first in Finland to develop its profile in Chinese law. Under the influence of his students, Dean of the Law Faculty, Professor Juha Karhu created a programme in China Law Studies in partnership with Renmin University. The Faculty also reinforced cooperation between Finnish universities and CASS Law by organizing the 4th Sino-Finnish Seminar in September 2012. This seminar was of great importance as a few weeks later the rectors of the founding member institutions signed an agreement establishing the Center. The Faculty of Law of the University of Lapland thus became one of the founding members of the Center.

5.6.1 Cooperation with China

The University of Lapland highly values international cooperation, as proven by the numerous cooperation agreements with universities in more than 40 different countries. In China, the Faculty of Law has signed mobility agreements covering both students and research staff with Zhongnan University of Economics and Law (ZUEL), Renmin University of China and the City University of Hong Kong. Collaboration with Renmin University was further enhanced by visits to and seminars at Renmin University by the Rector of the University of Lapland and a scholarly delegation led by Professor Karhu during the autumn term 2016. Within these frameworks, several research and teaching stays have been conducted.

The University of Lapland was a member of the Finnish University Network for Asian Studies until 2015, when it decided to join the Nordic Center at Fudan University, Shanghai.

5.6.2 Research & Projects

Between 2010 and 2012, the University of Lapland, Faculty of Law hosted the “The Cross-Disciplinary Doctoral Programme in Contemporary Russian and Chinese Economic Law in a Global Economy”. The project aimed to create cross-disciplinary knowledge of Russian and Chinese economic law through fostering interchange and cooperation. It prepared European level legal experts to be competent in three different legal cultures. In addition, this northern faculty of law hosted the “Legal Cultures in a Transnational World” Doctoral Programme (LeCTra). One of the focal areas in this programmewas Chinese legal culture and Chinese law. Two professors from Renmin University were among the supervisors in LeCTra. Matti Tjäder, LLM, “Limits of Obligation: A Comparative Study of the People’s Republic of China and Finland” (2012-2015) was one of the doctoral candidates of LeCTra.
The Faculty has also hosted the “Arctic Law and Governance in the People’s Republic of China and in Finland” research project, led by Professor Timo Koivurova and funded by the Academy of Finland (2013-2015). Research related to China has further been enhanced with the appointment of Professor Matti Nojonen as the Chair of Chinese Culture and Society. Alongside the senior researcher, the Faculty hosts several doctoral projects focusing on China. In November 2016, Jyrki Kallio defended his doctoral dissertation “Towards China’s Strategic Narrative: on the construction of the historico-cultural roots of China’s national identity in the light of the Chinese debate relating to the rise of the traditional school of thought”. Additionally, two dissertations are in their final stage: one in administrative law and the other in the law of obligations.

The Faculty of Law regularly hosts researchers from China. For instance, Li Peifeng, Associated Professor of Legal History at the Law School of Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, visited Rovaniemi from July to December 2014. Other shorter stays were conducted by Professor Shi Daxiao, Lecturer at Fudan University, in October 2013, Professor Tian Hongjie, Professor at the Law School of Renmin University, in October-November 2013, and Zhu Wenqi, Professor of International Law at Renmin University of China and Director of the International Criminal Law Institute and the International Humanitarian Law Centre, in October-November 2014. Dean, Professor Shen Wei, Shandong University Law School, visited the University of Lapland twice in 2015 and 2016.

The Faculty of Law and Faculty of Sociology together with the Graduate School of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (Beijing) and Fudan Law School (Shanghai) received a mobility grant (2015-2017) from CIMO. The ongoing project is named “Sustainable Societal Development – regulatory framework and social work in China and Finland” and is aimed at enhancing faculty exchange between institutions in the given field.

5.6.3 Teaching

The Faculty of Law provides its students with Chinese law teaching dispensed by Finnish and Chinese scholars. In 2013-2014, Professor Karhu and LLM Tjäder taught two courses, “Basics of Chinese Law” and “Chinese Legal Culture”. More specific courses taught by visiting professors were added to these modules. In October 2013, Professor Shi Daxiao, lecturer at Fudan University Law School, taught an introduction to Chinese business law. Later, Tian Hongjie, Professor at Renmin Law School, in two week-long courses, explained how IP (intellectual property) is protected by criminal law in China, and presented the development of
criminal law in China. Lastly, Zhu Wenqi, Professor at Renmin University Law School, gave an intensive course on International Criminal Law in 2014.

As of August 2016, the University of Lapland has increased its China-related teaching. The University (as an initiative of the Faculty of Law) established a China-related minor programme “China Domestic, Global and Arctic Trajectories”. The programme offers to all students at the University a total of 25 ECTS in China-related studies. The programme is divided into five topics: culture and history; political system; economy and management; legal culture; Chinese society and media. The courses are taught by scholars from Finland and visiting scholars from China. In addition to the teaching offered by the minor programme, the Faculty of Law offers one master and one bachelor level course in Chinese law.

46. Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Lapland, Professor Juha Karhu, Dean of PKU Law School, Professor Zhang Shouwen, Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Helsinki, Kimmo Nuotio, Associate Professor Chen Yifeng, PKU Law School, and Doctoral candidate Zhang Kangle, University of Helsinki, at PKU Law School in December 2013.
The University of Tampere, Faculty of Management, was one of the founding members of the Center. The focus of research at the Faculty of Management is on management, decision-making and participation in a changing and networked society. This overall theme is explored from the perspectives of administration, business, politics and economics. The University of Tampere, represented by the Faculty of Management at the Center, enjoys an excellent reputation for the high quality of its educational services. It has a long experience of cutting edge research in the field of administrative sciences and business studies. With the help of highly qualified academic and research staff and their national and international networks, the University of Tampere’s partners gain access to the latest research and up-to-date professional development. Therefore, the Faculty is well known among international public authorities, foreign government officials wishing to expand their higher education capacity, and various companies in the private sector.

5.7.1 Cooperation with China

The University of Tampere also operates the Network of Europe-China Education and Innovation Studies (NECEIS), an international research networking hub, for hosting and connecting researchers, practitioners and policy-makers in the area of European-Chinese education and innovation, particularly concerning issues related to EU-China cooperation. It is initiated by the University of Tampere and its strategic partners who have been long engaged in research on Europe-China cooperation in education and innovation, such as the Sino-Finnish education research network between the University of Tampere and Beijing Normal University as well as various related projects in which the University is coordinating or involved in.

The University of Tampere has signed partnership agreements with universities in China, including Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU), Beijing Normal University, Beijing University of Technology, Central China Normal University, China University of Political Science and Law, Communication University of China, Communication University of China Nanjing, Fudan University, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics, Jinan University, PKU HSBC Business School, Renmin University of China, Shanghai Normal University, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Education University of Hong Kong, Tongji University, Wuhan University, Zhongnan University of Economics and Law.
The University of Tampere is also a member of the Nordic Center at Fudan University, the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies and the Finnish University Network for Asian Studies.

5.7.2 Research & Projects

The University of Tampere also hosts the Chinese Education, Research and Exchange Centre (CEREC). CEREC’s mission is to bridge the Chinese and European actors in the field of education. It has been playing a national role in coordinating and organising activities related to education cooperation and exchange between Finland and China. With the expertise in Chinese and European education, the centre provides support in research, training and consulting services. On April 25, 2014, CEREC organised the Finn-Sino Education Forum jointly with the City of Tampere.

The University of Tampere coordinates two Academy of Finland’s Centres of Excellence (CoE): the FinMIT, Centre of Excellence in Research on Mitochondria, Metabolism and Disease, BioMediTech (2014–2019), and the FiCEHiR, The Finnish Centre of Excellence in Historical Research, Faculty of Social Sciences (2012–2017). The University of Tampere is also a partner university in two other Centres of Excellence: RELATE, Relational and Territorial Politics of Bordering, Identities, and Transnationalization at the Faculty of Management (coordinated by the University of Oulu, 2014–2019), and The Finnish Centre of Excellence in Russian Studies – Choices of Russian Modernisation, (coordinated by the University of Helsinki, 2012–2017).

5.7.3 Teaching

The University of Tampere, Faculty of Management offers several international master degree programmes attended by Chinese students: Leadership for Change; Research and Innovation in Higher Education; Business Competence (last intake 2015); Russian and European Studies (last intake 2015); and the Nordic Master Programme in Innovative Governance and Public Management (first intake 2017).
5.8 University of Turku

The University of Turku, Faculty of Law is one of the founding members of the Center. It played an important role in strengthening cooperation with CASS Law by hosting the 6th Sino-Finnish Bilateral Seminar on Comparative Law in June 2014. This event created the opportunity for scholars to meet, and also worked as the launch event of the third joint Sino-Finnish publication. The University of Turku plays an important role in coordinating China-related research in Finland. Turku has the first and only academic centre in Finland devoted to study of contemporary East Asia, the Centre for East Asian Studies (CEAS), which conducts original research and offers multidisciplinary teaching on the region. The University of Turku also coordinates the Finnish University Network for Asian Studies.

5.8.1 Cooperation with China

The University of Turku cooperates globally through numerous university networks, programmes and projects. In China, its partners are Beijing Forestry University, Central China Normal University, Changzhou University, China University of Political Science and Law, City University of Hong Kong, Fudan University, Hong Kong Baptist University, Jiangnan University, Nanjing University, Nankai University, National Chengchi University, Renmin University of China, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, Shenzhen University, Sichuan University, Tamkang University, Tianjin University, Tongji University, Universidade de Macau, University of Science and Technology of China and Zhejiang University.

The mobility agreement signed with Chinese partners has led to various academic events in Finland and China. For example, on May 8, 2013, Professor Han Changyin from the KoGuan Law School of Shanghai Jiao Tong University gave a guest lecture on Chinese Company Law and Foreign Investment. In July 2015, as a member of the International Conference on Innovation and Communications Law (CICL), representatives from the University of Turku attended the yearly CICL Conference in Xiamen. This conference was an opportunity to discuss new forms of cooperation with the Intellectual Property Research Institute at Xiamen University.

The University of Turku is also a member of the Nordic Center in Fudan and the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, and manages the Finnish University Network for Asian Studies.
5.8.2 Research & Projects

The University of Turku, Faculty of Law hosted the research project “Gendered Choices in Structures of Law and Gender”. The project was funded by the Academy of Finland, led by Professor Johanna Niemi, and carried out jointly with CASS Law.

The Faculty also hosts several individual research projects on Chinese law. In 2014, Wan Xinhong defended his doctoral dissertation entitled “Open Environmental Information upon Disclosure Request in China: the Paradox of Legal Mobilization”. In 2016, Herman Aubié followed with “Liu Xiaobo’s Struggle for Human Rights – A Contextual Analysis from a Historical Perspective”. Both dissertations were supervised by Professor Lauri Paltemaa. Currently, four more dissertations are works in progress. They are related to the condition of rural women’s land rights, public interest litigation, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, and Northeast Asia regional integration.

Alongside established research projects, the Faculty of Law contributes with its expertise to projects carried out by other research groups in Finland. As an example, in May 2013 the University of Turku, Faculty of Law and UEF Law School co-organized a seminar comparing Chinese and Finnish company law. Later, the Dean of the Faculty of Law, Professor Jukka Mähönen, co-organized the international research seminar “Who are the Stakeholders? Comparative Perspectives on Corporate Governance and Employees’ Role in the Corporation”, held on 7-8 May 2015 in Helsinki. This seminar was one of the major events organized as a part of Professor Liukkunen’s and Deputy Director, Professor Chen Su’s joint research project “Employee Participation and Collective Bargaining in the Era of Globalisation – Nordic and Chinese Perspectives”.

5.8.3 Teaching

In spring 2016, the University of Turku, Faculty of Law introduced a new course for its students: “Citizen Resistance through Public Interest Litigation in China”, taught by PhD Candidate Jiang Junxin. The University of Turku also provides extensive teaching on Chinese culture, society and law through the Finnish University Network for Asian Studies (Asianet). The courses are available not only to the University of Turku’s students, but to students of all universities within the network. These include some members of the Center: Aalto University, Lappeenranta University of Technology, the University of Helsinki, the University of Tampere, and the University of Vaasa. In the field of law, Asianet provided an online course entitled “Introduction to Chinese Law” taught by Associate Professor Chen Yifeng between 2012 and 2014.
The University of Vaasa provides a wide range of education and research in business studies, administration, and technology, as well as languages and communication. The research is relevant to our time and the output is scientific knowledge of high international quality. The University of Vaasa supports community spirit and promotes multidisciplinary studies and research. The Faculty of Business Studies is one of the largest in its sector in Finland and its programmes have a high international standard, having achieved EPAS quality accreditation. The University of Vaasa is also one of the establishing members of the Center.

5.9.1 Cooperation with China

The University of Vaasa is well networked and cooperates with 180 universities in over 40 countries. Its internationalization takes place through international mobility of students and staff, as well as through international degree programmes. Among Chinese universities, the University of Vaasa collaborates with City University of Hong Kong, Northwestern Polytechnical University, Renmin University of China, Shandong University, Shanghai University – Sydney Institute of Language and Commerce SILC, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, and Wuhan University of Technology.

The Faculty of Business Studies, Economics and Business Law Department, develops cooperation with Chinese partners in the field of law. Research within this department covers legal issues arising in business and its aim is to find new and innovative ways in which jurisprudence can help business development. Although business law and economics are two independent fields of study at the faculty, still close cooperation between the two ensures a holistic approach to business related research. The Business Law department works closely with the Public Law department at the University of Vaasa both in research and in academic teaching. The University of Vaasa is a member of the Finnish University Network for Asian Studies.

5.9.2 Research & Projects

A great example of combining law and economics in comparing Finnish and Chinese approaches is the ongoing doctoral research project of Katriina Pankakoski. Under the supervision of Professor Juha Lindgren, she is researching problems related to valuation of trademarks in applying and interpreting the arm’s length principle in Finnish and Chinese international tax law.
5.10 Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy (KRIMO)

KRIMO, formerly the National Research Institute of Legal Policy (until 2015), is a research institute at the University of Helsinki. The National Research Institute of Legal Policy was one of the founding members of the Center. KRIMO specialises in researching and monitoring crime and legal policy in Finland. As specified in the Law on the Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy (No 1139/2007), the tasks of the Research Institute are to practice independent research on legal policy, with regard to the needs of the Ministry of Justice and society at large; to monitor legal policy and crime, to analyse their trends and to maintain research databases necessary for research specified in the law. The Institute became part of the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Department of Social Research on January 1, 2015. It is the only academic research unit in Finland that specializes in research on crime and legal policy.

KRIMO has been operating with the Faculty of Law of the University of Helsinki and PKU Law School in order to develop research cooperation in criminal law. The director of KRIMO, Professor Tapio Lappi-Seppälä, has long been involved in Chinese criminal law research. He has held several presentations both in Helsinki and in Beijing. For instance, on August 25-26, 2016 he held a presentation on the subject of “Sentencing and Sanctions in Finland and the Other Nordic Countries” at the first Finnish-Chinese Colloquium on Criminal Law. The Colloquium was hosted by the University of Helsinki, Faculty of Law. Another example of his activities is the Pure Finland session on “Alternatives to imprisonment” which he held together with Associate Professor Su Jiang, PKU Law School, in Beijing 2014.

48. Director, Professor Renwen Liu, CASS Law, Assistant Professor Sakari Melander, University of Helsinki, and PhD Candidate Matti Tjäder, University of Lapland, at the 6th Sino-Finnish International Seminar on Comparative Law, in Turku, 2014.
6. Cooperation with CASS Law

CASS Law is a national research institute for law in China and the governmental think-tank that carries out policy research on topics such as democracy, the rule of law and human rights. CASS Law also dispenses multi-level legal education and legal training in China and abroad. It is the Center’s key partner in China and has contributed significantly to deepening Sino-Finnish China law research. CASS, together with Finnish institutions, has co-funded research projects carried out jointly by its own researchers and those from the Center’s member universities. The Center has come to have its own, deep collaboration with CASS Law, including organization of Sino-Finnish Bilateral Seminars, researcher exchanges, and a publication series that has resulted from research collaboration and comparative dialogue between Chinese and Finnish researchers.

Many individual research projects have stemmed from cooperation between the researchers of the Center’s member institutions and CASS Law researchers. Events co-organized by the two parties have inspired further research and have operated as a platform for researchers and practitioners to meet, network and collaborate. Furthermore, the model of cooperation between CASS Law and the Center has inspired similar models elsewhere in the Nordics and Europe.

6.1 Cooperation between CASS Law and the Center

The firm collaboration between Finland and CASS Law has been uninterrupted since 2009. Its success lies in in-depth academic cooperation based on developing an intensive comparative Sino-Finnish dialogue in the field of law. For the last seven years, Finnish and Chinese legal scholars have met each year, alternatively in Finland and China, to discuss pressing legal issues relevant not only to the Chinese and Finnish legal systems but often also globally. Chinese and Finnish legal scholars have jointly carried out several research projects on important issues such as fundamental labour rights, intellectual property, the Arctic question, environmental law and gender issues. Both seminars and research projects have presented tangible outcomes in the form of international publications.

The committed contributions by CASS Law, including those of Director Li Lin, Deputy Director Chen Su and Professor Xie Zengyi have added irreplaceable value to development of the Center’s activities and its role in research collaboration. Director Li Lin, LLD, a CASS Academician and Vice President of the China Law Society, to name a few of his titles, has published widely. His major research areas are jurisprudence, legislation, constitutional law, and comparative law, especially theory of human rights and rule of law, and theory of constitutionalism and democracy. Director Li Lin has played a key role in strengthening mutual co-operation…
between the Center and CASS Law and he has significantly contributed to broadening the agenda of Sino-Finnish Bilateral Seminars to new themes and fields of law. He is also one of the regular editors of the China Forum on the Rule of Law, the publication series of CASS Law that also publishes outcomes of the Bilateral Seminars.

Chen Su, Professor of Law and Deputy Director of CASS Law has been Vice President of the China Commercial Law Society since 2001. Director Chen Su has been active in research collaboration between CASS Law and the Center and conducted a joint research project, “Employee Participation and Collective Bargaining in the Era of Globalisation – Nordic and Chinese Perspectives”, with the Center’s Director, Ulla Liukkunen.

Professor Xie Zengyi, PhD (Tsinghua), LLM (Renmin), is a Vice President and Deputy Secretary-General of China’s Labour and Social Law Association. Professor Xie is also Director of the Department of Research Administration and International Cooperation at CASS. His research interests include labour law, social security law and comparative law. Professor Xie has been notably collaborating with the Center on two Academy of Finland-funded projects “ILO Core Labour Standards Implementation in China: Legal Architecture and Cultural Logic”, and “Employee Participation and Collective Bargaining in the Era of Globalisation – Nordic and Chinese Perspectives”. He has also played an important role in strengthening mutual co-operation between the Center and CASS Law from the beginning. In particular, he has devoted much effort to organizing the annual Sino-Finnish Bilateral Seminars on Comparative Law. He was also a visiting researcher at the University of Helsinki, Faculty of Law and the Center in the period September 1-October 9, 2013.
6.2 Sino-Finnish Bilateral Seminars

The Sino-Finnish Bilateral Seminars on Comparative Law (Bilateral Seminars), jointly organized by the Center and CASS Law, bring together law professors from China and Finland to discuss current issues and developments in the field of law. Since 2009, these seminars have created an important platform for dialogue between Finnish and Chinese legal scholars.

The Bilateral Seminars are held in both countries alternately, once a year. Each year a delegation of legal scholars travels from China to Finland or from Finland to China. The seminars are a platform for researchers to meet, exchange views and deepen cooperation. To ensure development of new partnerships, the Center emphasizes the importance of rotation in hosting the Bilateral Seminar by different Finnish universities, so that each member institution is offered an opportunity to present its research profile and develop its own connections.

Alongside the Sino-Finnish dialogue, the seminar also creates an important opportunity for dialogue between senior researchers and the younger generation of researchers. Since 2013, the seminars have invited participation by doctoral students, who act as commentators. Such inclusion enhances the international exposure of younger scholars and ensures that dialogue will continue in the future.

50. Deputy Director Mo Jihong, CASS Law, Director Li Lin, CASS Law, Professor Olli Mäenpää, University of Helsinki, Dr. Wang Lei, Director General of the International Cooperation Bureau, CASS, and Professor Kimmo Nuotio, Chair of the Board of the Center, at the 5th Sino-Finnish International Seminar on Comparative Law, in Beijing in 2013.
During the years of existence of the Center, three Bilateral Seminars have been arranged. In 2013, the 5th Sino-Finnish Bilateral Seminar on Comparative Law under the topic “Rule of Law and Economic and Social Development” was organized in Beijing. In 2014, the 6th Sino-Finnish Bilateral Seminar on Comparative Law was organized in Turku, Finland. In 2015, the 7th Bilateral Seminar under the topic “Rule of Law and Protection of Rights” was organized in Beijing.

In addition to organizing Bilateral Seminars, visiting researchers from CASS Law have become a regular feature of the Center’s activities. Similarly, Finnish researchers and academics are also regularly invited to speak at CASS Law international events. For instance, in November 2016, Professor Ulla Liukkunen and Professor Kimmo Nuotio were invited to speak at the 6th Rule of Law Forum held by CASS Law in Beijing.
6.3 Publication Series (China Forum on the Rule of Law)

The Sino-Finnish Bilateral seminars provide an opportunity for the organizers to make visible the tangible outcomes of their collaboration. Since the first Bilateral Seminar organized in 2009, it has become a tradition to make available to a wider public the papers given at seminars in the form of publications within the publication series China Forum on the Rule of Law. Following the language principle prevailing during the seminars, articles written by Chinese scholars are published in the original language and the Finnish scholars’ pieces in English. CASS Law (the Social Sciences Academic Press in Beijing) publishes the series within the China Forum on the Rule of Law collection and takes care of distribution of books. The outcome of the 5th Bilateral Seminar is included in “Safeguarding Human Rights and Constructing the Rule of Law: A Comparison between China and Finland” edited by Li Lin, Xie Zengyi and Kimmo Nuotio. The outcome of the 6th and 7th Bilateral Seminar is included in “Rule of Law Development and Judicial Reform: A Comparison between China and Finland” edited by Li Lin, Xie Zengyi and Ulla Liukkunen.

The publications are listed below:


This publication includes the following contributions by Finnish authors:


The contributions by Chinese authors are written in Chinese in the publication. The titles of the articles, translated into English in the volume, are listed below:

- He, Hairen, “Public Interest Litigation and Judicial Reform in China”, p. 101-111.
- Shi, Pengpeng, “Adjudication Centralism: Taking the Reform of the People Assessor System as the Breakthrough Point”, p. 121-130.

This publication includes the following contributions by Finnish authors:


The contributions by Chinese authors are written in Chinese in the publication. The titles of the articles, translated into English in the volume, are listed below:

- Li, Buyun and Zhang, Qiuhang, “The Significance of Human Rights Protection”, p. 149-158.
- Li, Mingde, “Proposals on the Upcoming Revision of the Chinese Copyright Law”, p. 34-46.
• Mo, Jihong, “The Entry Point of the Reform of Judicial Administration System”, p. 325-345.
• Xiong, Qiuhong, “Macro-Thinking and Concrete Plan of Deepening the Judicial Reform in China”, p. 346-362.
• Xu, Mengzhou, “Economic Rule of Law and the Prevention and Management of Economic Risks”, p. 3-12.


This publication includes the following contributions by Finnish authors:

The contributions by Chinese authors are written in Chinese in the publication. The titles of the articles, translated into English in the volume, are listed below:

- Li, Lin, “Current Situation, Challenges and Development Trend of the Rule of Law in China”, p. 3-16.
- Luo, Binfei, “Approaches to Social Management: an Analysis from the Perspective of the Rule of Law”, p. 605-615.

7. Cooperation with Chinese Universities

Important Chinese partners of the Center include, among others, PKU Law School, Shanghai Jiao Tong University KoGuan Law School, Renmin University of China, Wuhan University School of Law and Xi’an Jiaotong University School of Law. Cooperation between the Center and PKU Law School has been especially versatile. Research collaboration, joint events and reciprocal visits have been a valuable source of inspiration. In addition, Professor Shan Wenhua, Dean of Xi’an Jiaotong University School of Law, the founding Director of the Silk Road Institute for International and Comparative Law (SRIICL) at Xi’an Jiaotong University, and Professor Shen Wei, Dean of Shandong University Law School, former KoGuan Chair Professor of Law, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, have also been valuable partners for the Center and its member institutions. Dean Shen Wei is a regular guest visitor at the Center.

8. Cooperation with Peking University Law School (PKU Law School)

From the beginning, the Center has received significant input to developing its core activities from PKU Law School, which has co-organized several academic events with the Center and its member institutions. The Dean of the Law School, Professor Zhang Shouwen; Director of the Labour and Social Security Law Institute at PKU Law School, Professor Ye Jingyi, and Director of the PKU Institute of International Law, Professor Li Ming have greatly contributed to the development of the Center to a platform for exchange of research ideas and outcomes. They have also contributed to strengthening educational collaboration in its various forms between Finland and China. Additionally, the PKU Institute of International Law has devoted much effort to collaboration in the field of international law between Finnish and Chinese legal scholars, which has led to seminars and mutual researcher visits. In the field of criminal law, Professor Liang Genlin and Associate Professor Su Jiang from PKU Law School have established collaboration with criminal law scholars in Finland through the Bilateral Seminars and mutual visits. In the field of labour law, Professors Chen Yifeng and Ye Jingyi have carried out research in close collaboration with Professor Ulla Liukkunen.

While working as a post doctoral researcher at the Law Faculty of the University of Helsinki in 2011-2013, Chen Yifeng, who now works as an Associate Professor at PKU, facilitated Sino-Finnish cooperation and partnership between Chinese research entities and the Center. He also contributed to developing collaboration models that advanced networking by the Center and its individual members with its Chinese partners.

Associate Professor Chen Yifeng has worked in close co-operation with Professor Ulla Liukkunen, Director of the Center, for several years in the field
of Chinese law research. They jointly conducted a highly successful research project “ILO Core Labour Standards Implementation in China: Legal Architecture and Cultural Logic” funded by the Academy of Finland and led by Professor Liukkunen. In 2016, Ulla Liukkunen and Chen Yifeng jointly began a research project on “Transnational Labour Governance and Posted Workers”.

Chen Yifeng, Associate Professor; LLM, LLD from PKU Law School; Docent at the University of Helsinki Faculty of Law; visiting scholar at the Free University of Berlin, the Max Planck Institute for Public law and International Law research, the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law at Cambridge University, and the Eric Castrén International Law and Human Rights Institute of the University of Helsinki. Chen Yifeng was a member of the research project “Law in transitional Societies” at the University of Helsinki Faculty of Law and a senior researcher on the Academy of Finland-funded project “ILO Core Labour Standards Implementation in China: Legal Architecture and Cultural Logic” led by Professor Ulla Liukkunen. His research interests include international law, international organizations, human rights, international labour law, and Chinese law.

56. Professor Ulla Liukkunen, Director of the Center, and Associate Professor Chen Yifeng, PKU Law School, in Book Launch “ILO Core Labour Standards Implementation in China: Legal Architecture and Cultural Logic” (2014), eds Ulla Liukkunen and Chen Yifeng, January 16, 2014, Helsinki.

55.
9. Research

One of the cornerstones of the Center’s activities is to promote research on Chinese law and legal culture and support that of its member institutions. In addition to research-advancing activities carried out directly in collaboration with CASS Law, the Center also plays an important role in supporting and coordinating joint research by its member institutions with Chinese universities. The Center promotes and supports Chinese law-related research projects by coordinating and organizing project-related activities, including co-hosting academic research seminars and networking events in cooperation with its members, and facilitates researcher exchanges and communication between different parties.

The Center also hosts academic events on Chinese law. Such events have also been used to attract the interest of the wider public, including the business community and practitioners in the legislative field, and provide a platform for exchange of ideas and insights between practitioners, China law scholars and other specialists in the field. The events provide an opportunity for researchers to expand their research horizons, gain new insights, engage in new projects and cooperation and expand their toolkits for China law research. Events organized by the Center have attracted an international audience, as well as scholars and keynote speakers from China, Europe and the US.

57. Professor Li Ming, Director of the PKU Institute of International Law, and Professor Martti Koskenniemi, University of Helsinki, at the international conference “Global Governance, Rule of Law and China”, in Helsinki, May 6, 2013.
9.1 Projects funded by the Academy of Finland

The Academy of Finland has significantly promoted collaboration between Finnish and Chinese researchers in the field of law, particularly in comparative law. Altogether, the Academy has funded seven research projects on Chinese law organized by member institutions. In May 2012, the Academy decided to fund the first research project of Chinese law entitled “ILO Core Labour Standards Implementation in China: Legal Architecture and Cultural Logic” led by Professor Ulla Liukkunen, University of Helsinki.

Later in 2012, the Academy of Finland together with CASS Law and Chinese universities decided to jointly fund Sino-Finnish research in comparative law with a total of some two million euros. The aim was to promote high-level, long-term and systematic Sino-Finnish research collaboration in comparative law. Another aim of this specific call was to establish and strengthen research networks between Finland and China. In December 2012, the funding was granted to six projects, including one consortium with two projects, listed below:

- “Arctic Law and Governance in People’s Republic of China and in Finland” led by Professor Timo Koivurova, University of Lapland, and Professor Qin Tianbao, Wuhan University

- “Climate Change Mitigation and Energy Efficiency Legislation, Finland/EU–China” led by Professor Ari Ekroos, Aalto University/University of Helsinki, and Professor Qin Tianbao, Wuhan University

- “Employee Participation and Collective Bargaining in the Era of Globalisation – Nordic and Chinese Perspectives” led by Professor Ulla Liukkunen, University of Helsinki, and Professor Chen Su, CASS Law

- “Gendered Choices in Structures of Law and Gender” led by Professor Johanna Niemi, University of Turku/University of Helsinki, and Professor Xue Ninglan, CASS Law

- “Legal Transplant for Innovation and Creativity: A Sino-Finnish Comparative Study on the Governance of Intellectual Property (TranSIP)”, a consortium of two Universities and two projects, led by Professor Nari Lee (consortium leader), Hanken School of Economics; Professor Niklas Bruun, Hanken School of Economics/University of Helsinki, and Professor Li Mingde, CASS Law
9.1.1 Arctic Law and Governance in People’s Republic of China and in Finland

Arctic law has entered the spotlight of international political and legal developments due to climate change, melting sea ice, and new possibilities for alternative international shipping routes or extraction of hydrocarbons and minerals. At the same time, the rising role of China in the global economy, international relations and international law, has engendered questions about Chinese Arctic interests and the effects that Chinese involvement may have on regional governance.

In 2014, the Northern Institute of Environmental and Minority Law (NIEM, Arctic Centre) led the project to study and compare Arctic Law and Governance in Finland and in China. From the scientific point of view, the project was to fill in knowledge gaps related to the topic, especially in Arctic International Law. “Comparing Chinese legal perspectives on Arctic governance with those espoused by traditional Arctic players, like Finland, is timely and highly relevant for policy-makers, researchers and the general public. It is intriguing to study for example how a rising global economy like China adjusts its policies and practices to the prevailing frameworks of Arctic law and governance, or is China going to challenge these,” says NIEM director and research professor Timo Koivurova from the Arctic Centre.

The general objective of the project “Arctic Law and Governance in People’s Republic of China and in Finland” was to identify similarities and differences between the positions of Finland, as an EU member state, and China on Arctic law and governance. The project conducted comparative studies on Finnish and Chinese legal and policy stances in specific policy areas of relevance for the Arctic, including maritime sovereignty, scientific research, marine protected areas, the Svalbard Treaty, and Arctic Council participation. “Comparison enables us to draw general conclusions on Finnish and Chinese approaches to Arctic governance and international law. This new point of view provides fresh theoretical insights on Arctic governance,” explains researcher Adam Stepien from the NIEM.

The project was implemented in 2014 within the NIEM at the Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, and was conducted in close cooperation with researchers from Wuhan University and Shanghai Jiao Tong University. The project received funding from the Academy of Finland and CASS.

9.1.1.1 Research Team

Principal Investigators: Professor Timo Koivurova, NIEM, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, and Professor Qin Tianbao, Wuhan University.
Project Members: Sébastien Duyck, Research Fellow at the Institute of European and International Economic Law, University of Bern, Switzerland and Visiting Researcher at the NIEM, University of Lapland, and Tapio Nykänen, Researcher at the Faculty of Social Sciences at University of Lapland.

9.1.1.2 Events

Research Seminar: “Comparing Arctic Law and Governance in China and Finland” held in January 2014 in Rovaniemi.

Workshop: “Comparing Arctic Law and Governance in China and Finland” held in March 2014 in Rovaniemi.

Research stay by Tapio Nykänen at Wuhan University, Research Institute for Environmental Law in April 2014.

Research stay by Sébastien Duyck, at Wuhan University, Research Institute for Environmental Law in April-May 2014.


58. Professor Qin Tianbao, Wuhan University, Undergraduate student Tuuli Tanninen, Research assistant Assi Harkoma and Director of NIEM, Associate Professor Kamrul Hossain in Wuhan 2014.
59. Professor Timo Koivurova, NIEM, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, in 2014.

60. Sébastien Duyck visiting at Research Institute for Environmental Law, Wuhan University, in April 2014.
9.1.1.3 Publications


The book identifies similarities and differences between the positions of Finland, as an EU Member State, and China, on Arctic law and governance. The book compares Finnish and Chinese legal and policy stances in specific policy areas of relevance for the Arctic, including maritime sovereignty, scientific research, marine protected areas, the Svalbard Treaty and Arctic Council participation. Building on these findings, the book offers general conclusions on Finnish and Chinese approaches to Arctic governance and international law, as well as new theoretical insights on Arctic governance.

61. Professor Qin Tianbao, Wuhan University, visiting Arktikum Science Centre in Rovaniemi in 2014.
Arctic Law and Governance
The Role of China and Finland

Studies in International Law

Edited by Timo Koivurova and Tianbao Qin

Bloomsbury
According to the research project “Climate Change Mitigation and Energy Efficiency Legislation, Finland/EU – China”, the EU has a very strong and broad consensual legislative position on climate change mitigation, which calls for global cooperation focused on energy efficiency objectives and developing guiding instruments. External research action on climate change mitigation instruments with China could provide an ideal avenue for pioneering more systematic cooperation and reflection. China is very rapidly gaining ground in the area of climate change mitigation regulation, including legislation related to energy efficiency. These assets will become increasingly pertinent in the context of the climate change mitigation landscape of the future. Cooperation on climate change mitigation between EU and China should be given the highest possible priority and should strengthen research cooperation on climate change mitigation policies and developing legislation on energy efficiency.

Sino-Finnish research cooperation in the project has been aiming at improving the knowledge of Finnish, EU and Chinese policy-makers of energy efficiency legislation and policies applied in Finland, the EU and in China in areas where European climate change mitigation policies have proved successful. The project has been carried out jointly between the University of Helsinki, Aalto University, CASS Law, and Wuhan University. The project, launched in 2013, received funding from the Academy of Finland and CASS.

9.1.2.1 Research Team

Principal Investigators: Professor Ari Ekroos, Aalto University/University of Helsinki and Professor Qin Tianbao, Wuhan University.

Project Members: Doctoral Student Inga-Liisa Paavola, University of Helsinki; Doctoral Student Jenny Rontou, University of Helsinki; Doctoral Student Sara Kymenvaara, Aalto University; Doctoral Student Yu Chuxiao, Wuhan University; Doctoral Student Luo Yanni, Wuhan University; Doctoral Student Liu Qing, Wuhan University; Doctoral Student Wei Lele, Wuhan University; Doctoral Student Yi Luo, Wuhan University; Doctoral Student Wang Jingpeng, Wuhan University; Doctoral Student Bo Zhao, Wuhan University.
9.1.2.2 Events

Workshop: “Climate Law” held on October 20–22, 2013 in Wuhan.


Sino-EU (Finland) Workshop: “Environmental and Energy Law” held on October 17-18, 2014 at Kaifeng University.

Closing Seminar: “Climate Change Mitigation and Energy Efficiency Legislation, Finland/EU – China” held on June 10, 2015 in Espoo.

9.1.2.3 Publications


The book aims to present an outline of climate change legislation and policy in both Finland and China. The focus is predominantly on policy and legislation concerning mitigation of climate change. Although climate legislation is extensive and developing fast, the volume covers its most important parts and is a unique and up-to-date comparison of climate change policy and legislation in China. The publication presents an overall view of climate change policy and legislation in Finland and China and the climate law enforcement issues involved, presents emission trading schemes in China and the EU, and investigates Finnish, EU and Chinese renewable energy policy and legislation, energy efficiency regulations, and carbon capture and storage regulations.

The book was presented during the project’s closing seminar on 10th June 2015. The seminar once again brought together Finnish and Chinese researchers composing the research team, as well as scholars and practitioners working in the field of environmental law. The in-depth discussion was a continuation of previous seminars and workshops held in Wuhan, Helsinki, Tallinn and Kaifeng.

62. Project team at Kaifeng University in 2014.

Climate Law in Finland and China

Outlines of European and Chinese climate change mitigation and energy efficiency regulation

Jenny Rontu, Sara Kymenvaara, Ari Ekroos (Eds.)
9.1.3 Employee Participation and Collective Bargaining in the Era of Globalisation – Nordic and Chinese Perspectives

Well-established collective bargaining and employee participation are characteristics of the Nordic labour law model. Finland and the other Nordic countries have high union density and established industrial relations. In China, labour law and industrial relations regimes are undergoing profound changes, including the rapid spread of collective bargaining. However, growth of labour conflicts within and outside the formal labour relations system indicates that the institutionalisation of industrial relations may not be producing the desired effects. The Finnish and Nordic collective bargaining and employee participation system can provide useful references for China’s future legal development.

The research project “Employee Participation and Collective Bargaining in the Era of Globalisation – Nordic and Chinese Perspectives” examined workplace governance through collective bargaining and employee participation from a comparative perspective. The project explored the legal framework and experience in collective bargaining and employee participation in Finland and the other Nordic countries and China and assessed legal adaptation to changes caused by globalisation.

The Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg, and its Director, Professor Jürgen Basedow, was a key partner in this project. In 2014, the project with the Max Planck Institute jointly co-organized an international research seminar “Employee Participation and Collective Bargaining in the Era of Globalisation”, which offered comparative insights into collective labour law so that not only Chinese and Nordic but also European and international levels of development were covered.

The research project acknowledged the wide-ranging effects of globalisation of the world economy on labour markets both in the Nordic countries and China, and explored how national legal frameworks for collective bargaining and employee participation correspond to these changes. For example, business restructuring, outsourcing and moving production from one region or country to another pose challenges to collective labour law both in the Nordic countries and China. The project offered a platform for comparative discussion and exchange of views and ideas between researchers on how best to develop national models of collective bargaining and employee participation to avoid conflicts related to these changes.

In this research project, employee participation was also examined in the context of corporate governance so that interactions between collective labour law and company law were highlighted. Not only employee participation in company administration but also employee participation at the workplace level were examined in terms of corporate
governance. In 2015, the project organised a major international research seminar “Who are the Stakeholders? Comparative Perspectives on Corporate Governance and Employees’ Role in the Corporation” in collaboration with Professor Jukka Mähönen, former Dean of the University of Turku.

The project was a joint effort between CASS Law, and the University of Helsinki, Faculty of Law. The project received funding from the Academy of Finland and CASS.

9.1.3.1 Research Team

Principal Investigators: Professor Ulla Liukkunen, University of Helsinki, Faculty of Law, and Professor Chen Su, CASS Law.

Project Members: Teemu Ruskola, Professor, Emory University School of Law; Chen Yifeng, Associate Professor, PKU Law School; Li Haiming, Post-doctoral Researcher, University of Helsinki; Zhang Yihong, Post-doctoral Researcher, University of Helsinki; Marja Paavilainen, LLD Candidate, University of Helsinki; Ekpemi Ekhabafe, LLD Candidate, University of Helsinki; Samuli Hiilesniemi, LLD Candidate, University of Helsinki; Xie Zengyi, Associate Professor, CASS Law; Deng Li, Post-doctoral Researcher, CASS Law, and Wu Xiaodan, Post-doctoral Researcher, CASS Law.

9.1.3.2 Events


Research stay by Xie Zengyi, Associate Professor of Law, CASS Law, at the University of Helsinki, Faculty of Law, September 1- October 9, 2013.

Guest lecture: “New Developments in Chinese Labour Law” by Xie Zengyi, Associate Professor of Law, CASS Law, at the China Law Center, September 25, 2013.

International Research Seminar: “Employee Participation and Collective Bargaining in the Era of Globalisation”, May 16-17, 2014, at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg. The speakers of the Seminar were: Professor Örjan Edström, Umeå University; Dr Louise Merrett, Trinity College; Dr Matteo Fornasier, for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg; Professor Chen Su, CASS Law; Professor Etienne Pataut, Université Paris 1; Professor Li Jianfei, Renmin University; Professor Bernd Waas, Frankfurt University; Professor Ulla Liukkunen, University of Helsinki; Professor Roobert van het Kaar, University of Amsterdam; Associate Professor Xie Zengyi, CASS Law; Dr Zhang Hui, CASS Law, and Professor Achim Seifert, Jena University. Different sessions were chaired by Professor Jürgen Basedow and Dr Ninon Colneric.

Panel: “Corporate Governance and Employee Participation” at the 6th Sino-Finnish Bilateral Seminar on Comparative Law, June 11-12, 2014, Turku. Presentation by Professor Ulla Liukkunen on the topic “Employee Participation and Corporate Governance – Finnish and European Developments”.


Visit to the International Labour Organization (ILO), Geneva, by Associate Professor Chen Yifeng, Post-doctoral Researcher Zhang Yihong, LLD Candidate Wu Yixuan and LLD Candidate Ekpemi Ekhabafe, May 4-5, 2015. The delegation visited the ILO library and archive and collected data and material for the research project.
International research seminar: “Who are the Stakeholders? Comparative Perspectives on Corporate Governance and Employees’ Role in the Corporation”, May 7th-8th, 2015, Helsinki. Speakers: Katherine Stone, Arjay and Frances Fearing Miller Distinguished Professor of Law, UCLA School of Law; Lorraine Talbot, Professor of Company Law, University of York; Beate Sjåfjell, Professor of Company Law, University of Oslo; Teemu Ruskola, Professor of Law, Emory University Law School; Ulla Liukkunen, Professor, University of Helsinki; Bernd Waas, Professor of Labour Law and Civil Law, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main; Xie Zengyi, Associate Professor, CASS, Institute of Law; Shen Wei, Professor of Law, Shanghai Jiao Tong University Law School; Robbert van het Kaar, Senior researcher, University of Amsterdam and Member of the European Commission Informal Company Law Expert Group (ICLEG); Jukka Mähönen, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Professor of Commercial Law, University of Turku; Zhang Yihong, Post-Doctoral Researcher, University of Helsinki; Xia Xiaoxiong, Associate Professor, CASS Law; and Chen Yifeng, Associate Professor, PKU Law School.

Panel: “The Rule of Law and Safeguarding of Labour Rights” at the 7th Sino-Finnish International on Comparative Law, June 6th-7th, 2015, Beijing. Presentation by Professor Ulla Liukkunen, “National Laws and Posted Workers in the EU after the Laval case”.

Guest lecture: “Employee Participation in Finland in a European Context” by Professor Ulla Liukkunen at the University of Hamburg on 15 June 2016.

9.1.3.3 Publications

Employee Participation and Collective Bargaining In Europe and China (2016), eds Jürgen Basedow, Chen Su, Matteo Fornasier and Ulla Liukkunen, Mohr Siebeck.

The book contains the papers presented at an international conference held at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in 2014. The authors look, from a comparative perspective, at current developments in the fields of collective bargaining and employee participation in several European countries and in China. They analyse the extent to which differences between national legal systems still prevail and whether common features are about to emerge. The book also contains a critical assessment of recent international regulatory developments in the field of collective labour law.

Ulla Liukkunen, Forum Iuris, Helsingin yliopiston oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan julkaisuja, Helsinki.

Other publications

Li, Haiming, “The Roles Played by the Staff and Workers’ Representative Congress in the Formation of Work Regulations” [publication is in Chinese], in Social Sciences in China, Special Issue: the Institutional Value and Practical Performance of the Labor Contract Law, Vol. 37, No. 1, 2016, p. 152-163.


Other articles and works are in the pipeline for forthcoming publications.


Employee Participation and Collective Bargaining in Europe and China

Edited by
JÜRGEN BASEDOW, CHEN SU, MATTEO FORNASIER and ULLA LIUKKUNEN

Max-Planck-Institut
für ausländisches und internationales Privatrecht

Beiträge zum ausländischen und internationalen Privatrecht
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Mohr Siebeck
9.1.4 Gendered Choices in Structures of Law and Gender

The focus of the project has been law and gender as the central social structures constricting choices by women and men. Post-modern gender studies, approaching gender as identity, performance or construction, have a difficult relation to earlier feminist theories that emphasized gender as social structure. This project has acknowledged the structural power of law and gender but also risen the agency of women and men when they make important choices in their lives.

The project has emphasized exchange of ideas in the area. Even though both societies deal with similar issues, such as violence against women and discrimination on the basis of maternity, it is difficult to compare the level of gender equality in such different political and cultural contexts as the Chinese and Finnish. Therefore collaboration, based on exchange of information and ideas, has been more about learning from the other’s legal system to gain new perspectives for approaching one’s own.

Professor Johanna Niemi has been working with a treatise on Law and Gender, including sections on theory and on equality law. LLM Amalia Verdu’s doctoral thesis (defence expected in 2017) discusses the relationship between law and gender theories and how gender is reflected in the regulation of prostitution. LLM Marjo Rantala’s doctoral thesis consists of articles on access to justice in gendered violations. Her first article on transgender rights was published in 2016. Next articles on femicide and male circumcision are related to legal activism, that is, applications to international human rights bodies.

The project has been managed by University of Helsinki but since the leader of the project Professor Johanna Niemi moved to the University of Turku on 1 January 2014, it became a joint project between the University of Helsinki and the University of Turku. The project has been carried out jointly with CASS Law, and has received funding both from the Academy of Finland and CASS.

9.1.4.1 Research Team

Principal Investigators: Professor Johanna Niemi, University of Turku, and Professor Xue Ninglan, CASS Law.

Project Members: Doctoral Candidate Amalia Verdu Sanmartin, University of Helsinki, Doctoral Candidate Marjo Rantala, University of Helsinki, Associate Professor Dai Ruijun, CASS Law, Guo Hui-Min, Centre for Women’s Development and Rights, Northwestern Polytechnical University, Xian.
9.1.4.2 Events

Research visit by Professor Johanna Niemi, April 4th-8th, 2014, Beijing.

Presentation: “Violence against Women” by Professor Johanna Niemi, April 7, 2014, Beijing.


Research visit by Professor Xue Ninglan, CASS Law, and Associate Professor Dai Ruijun, CASS Law, at the University of Helsinki and the University of Turku in May 2015. The stay included study visits, meeting with Professor Kevät Nousiainen and participation in events.

Finnish-Chinese panel: “Nordic Law and Gender” Conference, presentations by Doctoral Candidate Amalia Verdu, Doctorate Candidate Marjo Rantala, Professor Xue Ninglan, CASS Law, and Associate Professor Dai Ruijun, CASS Law, May 5, 2015, Umeå.

Conference Key Note: “Academic Women and Violence against Women”, by Professor Johanna Niemi, May 8, 2015. Xue Ninglan, CASS Law, and Associate Professor Dai Ruijun, CASS Law, were participating at the Conference.

Lecture: “Law and Gender” by Professor Johanna Niemi at the Master and Doctoral program of CASS; commented by Xue Ninglan, CASS Law, and interpreted by Associate Professor Dai Ruijun, CASS Law, June 5, 2015, Beijing.

Research visit by Professor Johanna Niemi and Doctoral Candidate Marjo Rantala to CASS Law and PKU Law School, June 1-8, 2015.


Presentation: “Killed ‘because she is a woman’”, by Doctoral Candidate Marjo Rantala, September 1, 2016, Critical Legal Conference, University of Kent, Canterbury.

Research visit by Doctoral Candidate Pia Eskelinen, November 17-29 2016, Shanghai.

9.1.4.3 Publications


Rantala, Marjo, ”Sukupuoleen sopeutetut – intersukupuolisten ja transsukupuolisten henkilöiden oikeusasema suomessa”, in 45 Oikeus 2016, p. 8-28.


68. The 7th Sino-Finnish Bilateral Seminar on Comparative Law held on June 7, 2015 in Beijing.
9.1.5 ILO Core Labour Standards Implementation in China: Legal Architecture and Cultural Logic

The research project “ILO Core Labour Standards Implementation in China: Legal Architecture and Cultural Logic” examined implementation of the ILO core conventions in China. While domestic reforms in China have facilitated ratification of ILO conventions since 2002, it had been unexplored to what extent the ILO conventions have continued to influence development of labour law in China and to what extent international labour standards are implemented in Chinese law and practice, especially considering China’s multi-layered administrative structure and incentives for local governments to attract foreign investment.

The ILO Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1988) commits ILO Member States to respect and promote fundamental principles and rights, being freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, the elimination of forced or compulsory labour, the abolition of child labour and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation. China, an original member of the ILO since 1919, has ratified four out of eight ILO core conventions.

The research project aimed to improve understanding of the structural forces that influence implementation of the ILO core conventions in China. The project analysed local cultural logics that informs implementation of core labour standards and maps the roles of different actors in this process. Existing and emerging practices that can play a positive role in enforcement of law were also identified. The objective of the project was to sketch a blueprint for Chinese legal architecture capable of implementing ILO core labour standards effectively. In addition to its substantive research outcomes, the project contributed to developing comparative law theory and methodology in terms of examining culturally different legal systems. The project also produced a model for assessment of how international legal standards are implemented at the national level. The project combined expertise from international law, labour law, comparative law, social anthropology and Chinese law and had a strong international profile with a network of global connections and several partners in China, Europe and the US.

The two major international publications of the research project, “China and ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work” (2014) and “Fundamental Labour Rights in China – Legal Implementation and Cultural Logic” (2016) were the first international research outcomes that systematically analyse and assess fundamental labour rights implementation in China. The scholars that contributed to the research project include Professor Ronald C. Brown, University of Hawaii Law School; Associate Professor Chen Yifeng, PKU.
Law School; Catherine A. Rein Professor of Law Cynthia Estlund, New York University School of Law; Professor Jan Klabbers, University of Helsinki; Professor Alan C. Neal, University of Warwick; Professor Xie Zengyi, CASS Law; Professor Zheng Shangyan, Tsinghua University; Professor Xue Ninglan, CASS Law and Professor of Law Ye Jingyi, PKU Law School.


The project was funded by the Academy of Finland.

9.1.5.1 Research Team

Principal Investigator: Professor Ulla Liukkunen, University of Helsinki, Faculty of Law.

Project Members: Chen Yifeng, Associate Professor, PKU Law School; Teemu Ruskola, Professor, Emory University School of Law; Wei Qian, Post-doctoral Researcher, University of Helsinki, Faculty of Law; Marja Paavilainen, LLD Candidate, University of Helsinki, Faculty of Law; and Wu Yixuan, LLD Candidate, University of Helsinki, Faculty of Law.

9.1.5.2 Events


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Research stay by Xie Zengyi, Associate Professor of Law, CASS Law, at the University of Helsinki, Faculty of Law, September 1-October 9, 2013.

Guest lecture: “New Developments in Chinese Labour Law” by Xie Zengyi, Associate Professor of Law, CASS Law, at the China Law Center, September 25, 2013.


Panel: “Corporate Governance and Employee Participation” at the 6th Sino-Finnish Bilateral Seminar on Comparative Law, June 11-12, 2014, Turku. Presentation by Prof. Ulla Liukkunen on the topic “Employee Participation and Corporate Governance – Finnish and European Developments.”

International conference: “Chinese National Social Science Fund Project: Legal Construction on Harmony of Labour Relations”, November 27, 2014, Beijing. This event was co-organized by PKU Law School and the “ILO Core Labour Standards Implementation in China: Legal Architecture and Cultural Logic” research project.

Visit to the International Labour Organization (ILO), Geneva, by Associate Professor Chen Yifeng, Post-doctoral Researcher Zhang Yihong, LLD Candidate Wu Yixuan and LLD Candidate Ekpemi Ekhabafe, May 4-5, 2015. The delegation visited the ILO library and archive and collected data and material for the research project.

Panel: “The Rule of Law and Safeguarding of Labour Rights” at the 7th Bilateral Seminar on Comparative Law, June 6-7, 2015, Beijing. Presentation by Prof. Ulla Liukkunen, “National Laws and Posted Workers in the EU after the Laval case”.


China was among the founders of the ILO in 1919. It has devoted much attention recently to reforming its labour law system, a process driven by political reorientation towards labour protection in the context of economic globalisation. However, labour disputes and labour unrest continue to proliferate. The volume gathers academic perspectives on China and its legal system by scholars from China, Europe and the US into a stimulating and unique combination of commentary and analysis of the challenges relating to implementation of fundamental labour rights as spelled out in the landmark 1998 ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work in the Chinese setting. Importantly, the analysis fully takes into account action in relation to promotion of labour rights by not only the Chinese government but local governmental authorities, trade unions, enterprises, and other actors. Each author focuses on a different aspect of how these fundamental labour rights operate in the Chinese legal environment and the kinds of obstacles met in their protection. Among the issues that arise are the following:

- gaps between ILO conventions and Chinese national laws occurring in the transformation of international obligations into domestic laws;
- how parties to a labour dispute may invoke ILO conventions before courts or administrative authorities;
- market obstacles caused by linking trade with observance of labour standards;
- the trade union rights framework in China;
- bottom-up pressures from workers’ collective action;
- conflicts between Chinese state-owned enterprises and their employees;
- complications in informal employment labour relations;
- the growing divide between statute law and legal practice;
- implementation of the anti-discrimination law;
- discrimination due to China’s household registration system; and
- corporate social responsibility.

Many of the challenges relating to implementation of fundamental labour rights discussed in the volume can be considered common to many countries. The book offers new research questions and a wider scope of analysis, and also provides new tools for discussion regarding promotion of fundamental labour rights. In that sense, the volume relates not only to research on labour issues in China but also to global research concerned with an increasingly pressing challenge of our time.
The volume explores the legal framework as well as key institutions and other actors along with the socio-economic context involved in interpretation, implementation, enforcement and overall promotion of fundamental labour rights in China. As a collection of chapters, it assembles comparative and mutually complementary perspectives and insights by distinguished scholars from China, Europe and the US. With its broad perspective on implementation, the book discusses the most topical challenges to realizing fundamental labour rights in China.

With the regulatory approach of the ILO, fundamental labour rights have gained a new foothold as a key pillar in managing the social dimension of globalisation. The development of fundamental labour rights protection in China can be viewed as part of a larger development within China’s domestic economic and social transition as well as its integration into the global economic system. While China has ratified four of the eight ILO core conventions, the challenge of effective implementation and enforcement in the domestic context remains. With its in-depth research on fundamental labour rights in the particular cultural context of the Chinese experience, the book studies Chinese labour law from multiple perspectives, at the same time examining the wider role of international labour standards in developing Chinese law and society.

The volume is a remarkable enlargement of existing scholarship on international labour standards, on the one hand, and fundamental labour rights in China on the other. The chapters thoroughly analyse the legal and institutional framework for implementing labour law in China. The volume benefits from socio-historical observations on the cultural logics that inform implementation of fundamental labour rights in China in which the history and current development of Chinese labour law are equally reflected with substantive depth.

Other Publications

China and ILO: Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work

Georg Blanpain

Ulla Liekkonen and Chen Yifeng

Wolters Kluwer
Law & Business
Fundamental Labour Rights in China - Legal Implementation and Cultural Logic
9.1.6 Legal Transplant for Innovation and Creativity: A Sino-Finnish Comparative Study on the Governance of Intellectual Property (TranSIP)

Chinese IP law is going through a transformation due to international conventions based on Anglo-European IP norms, providing a rich source of legal transplants, but these may create tension in the receiving legal system and may work differently from in the source country. Therefore, this process needs to be critically analysed from the perspective of comparative law.

The core of the research explored the interaction of law and changes in society, through regulation of economic activities as observed in the development of Chinese intellectual property laws. In particular, the project explored use of legal transplants as a method of inducing societal and behavioural changes, in particular to promote innovation and creativity in China. In terms of outcomes, first, by testing the theory of legal transplants, the project found an explanation for European IP law’s influence on Chinese law. However, observation showed that China simultaneously takes the role of being an IP norm taker (or a recipient of a legal transplant) as well as a norm maker. Second, the project compared several significant doctrines and concepts, norms in Chinese and European IP Law: copyright law, patent law as well as trademark law, also in the context of implementing national and regional IPR strategies. Third, the research project looked into practices and focused on the transformation in governance of practices and enforcement of IP rights in China and Europe.

“Legal Transplant for Innovation and Creativity – A Sino-Finnish Comparative Study on the Governance of Intellectual Property Rights” (TranSIP) was a comparative law research project which undertook collaborative research in academic institutes in China and Finland. Beyond the named partners to projects in China, which are CASS Law, and Shenzhen University, the consortium is extensively cooperated with other institutions worldwide: the Max Planck Institute for Competition and Innovation, the Frankfurt Goethe-Universität, John Marshall Law School, Texas A&M Law School, Nagoya University, Hokkaido University, Tsinghua University, Beijing Institute of Technology, Hanyang University and IP KEY - EUIPO. The project was conducted during 2013-2015 and received funding from CASS and the Academy of Finland.
9.1.6.1 Research Team

Principal Investigators: Professor Nari Lee, Hanken, Professor Niklas Bruun, Hanken/University of Helsinki, and Professor Li Mingde, CASS Law.

Project Members: Professor Marcus Norrgård, Hanken; Professor Andrea Wechsler, Max Planck Institute for Intellectual Property and Competition Law; Professor Peter Yu, Texas A&M University; Post-doctoral Researcher Li Yang, Shenzhen University, Faculty of Law; Post-doctoral Researcher Zhang Liguo, University of Helsinki; Post-doctoral Researcher Rosamaria Ballardini, Hanken; Post-Doctoral Researcher Dhanay Chandler Cadilo, Hanken/University of Helsinki; Doctoral Candidate He Kan, Hanken; Doctoral Candidate Laura Tammenlehto, Hanken/University of Eastern Finland; Doctoral Candidate Kelli Larson, Hanken; Doctoral Candidate Zhao Yajie, University of Helsinki; Doctoral Candidate Mikko Antikainen, Hanken; Professor Benjamin Liu, John Marshall School of Law; Doctoral Candidate Daniël Joseph Wietse Jongsma, Hanken.

71. Research Team after the China IP Day III held on December 17, 2014 in Beijing.
9.1.6.2 Events

First Joint Workshop Kick-off in China, April 2, 2013, Beijing.


9.1.6.3 Publications


Intellectual property law performs a number of complex functions in society. To foster innovation and creativity in a society, governments are using intellectual property law as a means of governance. Both in China and in Europe, intellectual property law is used to further innovation and cultural policies to increase national competitiveness in a global economy. Due to their impact on global trade, intellectual property laws are increasingly made and influenced by international norms. Against the backdrop of this dynamic global intellectual property norm competition and interaction, this book explores governance of intellectual property rights in China and Europe. The book examines and compares a series of intellectual property law and system reforms in China and Europe.
Through the analysis, the book argues that successful governance of intellectual property rights requires not only adoption of a set of norms but also transformation of the perspectives and the implementing institutions.

The book highlights, in three parts, intellectual property for innovation and creativity in China, comparing concepts and norms in Chinese and European IP law, and governance of practices and IP enforcement. Demonstrating that governance of IP rights requires adoption of a set of norms, the contributors also argue that success depends on transformation of perspectives and implementation. Intellectual property (IP) law has been widely discussed in recent scholarship, though many recent works explore the topic from a largely descriptive perspective. The book provides an analytical and comparative study of Chinese and European IP law, as well as an analysis of system reforms in China. Students and scholars of IP law, and Chinese IP law in particular, will find the book a valuable resource for their work. It will also be of interest to IP practitioners looking for an insight into system reforms in China.

Other publications


Chandler, Dhanay M. Cadillo, “Biotechnology and its development in developing countries: Can IPR’s foster innovation in the field?” in Harikesh B. Singh, Alok Jha and Chetan Keswani (eds), *Biotechnology and its Development in developing countries: Can IPR’s foster innovation in the field?* (2016), Cabi publishing, p. 5-16.


Senftleben, Martin; Bently, Lionel A. F.; Dinwoodie, Graeme B.; Geiger, Christophe; Griffiths, Jonathan; Kur, Annette; Ohly, Ansgar; Peukert, Alexander; Ricolfi, Marco; Schovsbo, Jens; Weckstrom (Lindroos), Katja and Zelechowski, Lukasz, “Recommendation on Measures to Safeguard Freedom of Expression and Undistorted Competition in EU Trade Mark Law,” European Intellectual Property Review 2015, September 15, 2014, p. 337-344.


During the project, there have been at least 41 international publications in the form of articles, monographs, edited books, and chapters for edited books. At the time of writing, at least five articles are in the pipeline for forthcoming publications, as well as one special issue of an internationally
9.2 Other Research Projects

Alongside projects funded by the Academy of Finland, various other research projects have been conducted by the member institutions and their individual researchers. For instance, in 2016, Professor Ulla Liukkunen, University of Helsinki, and Associate Professor Chen Yifeng, PKU Law School, started a joint research project on “Transnational Labour Governance and Posted Workers”.

9.3 China Law Research Workshop

The China Law Research Workshop, which took place in Helsinki on 22-23 March 2016 and was organized by the Center, offered both theoretical and practical tools to approach Chinese law research, giving fresh insights into the specificities of this comparative effort. It was targeted at those carrying out or interested in China-related legal research. By bringing together researchers from Finland and other European countries who are already working in the field or considering expanding their horizons, the workshop was an occasion to develop new research ideas and cooperation. The main speakers invited to the seminar were Professor Ronald Brown, University of Hawai‘i Law School and Professor Alan C. Neal, University of Warwick, who have over 20 years’ experience in China law research.

9.4 Guest Lecture Series

The guest lecture series organized by the Center is a concrete example of the Center’s engagement in providing knowledge of China law research outcomes for scholars, students, practitioners and the wider public. The Center invites scholars specializing in Chinese law from China and Finland, as well as research institutions in Europe, the US and Asia to visit the Center and report on their research findings. During their visits, researchers may network with researchers in the field, conduct further research, and give lectures on their areas of specialty. Lectures are regularly attended by professors and researchers from the Center’s member institutions, students, as well as practitioners in the field of law, and they are also open to the wider public.

Guest lectures and related researchers’ visits provide substance for the Center’s activities, promote research, and create an opportunity to develop academic cooperation. The purpose of this series is to keep all interested informed about transformations within Chinese law as well as bring awareness of the research focus among China law scholars. Moreover, the guest lecture series aims to facilitate cross-border exchange of ideas and promote legal comparison. Since 2013, the Center has hosted numerous guest lectures by scholars from China, the United States, Singapore, Germany, Austria, Norway, Denmark, Finland and Italy.

- “The Past and the Future of Foreign Investment in China” by Senior Research Fellow Knut Pissler, Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law, Center for Expertise in East Asian Law, April 3, 2013
- “The Social Life of Law in Rural China: Peasant Movements and the Search for Justice” by Professor Susanne Brandtstädter, University of Oslo, April 18, 2013
- “China’s International Commercial Arbitration and International Investment Arbitration – A Key Review” by Professor Shen Wei, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, KoGuan Law School, September 11, 2013
- “New Developments in Chinese Labour Law” by Associate Professor Xie Zengyi, CASS Law, September 25, 2013
- “Searching for Law and Order in China: Between Confucianism and Legalism” by Dr. Shi Daxiao, Fudan University, October 2, 2013
- “Legal Orientalism: China, the United States, and Modern Law” by Professor Teemu Ruskola, Emory University, October 7, 2013
- “The Interdisciplinarity of Justice: Researching Chinese Legal Culture and the Case Study of Rehabilitating ‘Unjust Cases’” by Professor Agnes Schick-Chen, University of Vienna, November 12, 2013
• “Developing Environmental Law in Developing China” by Professor Qin Tianbao, Wuhan University, March 10, 2014
• “Studying Asian Law in Translation: Considerations of Comparative Legal Linguistics” by Professor Heikki E.S. Mattila, University of Lapland, October 2, 2014
• “Welfare-Wellbeing-Harmony? Reflections on Migrant Labour Protection in the Greenland-China-DK Interrelation” by Professor Hanne Petersen, University of Copenhagen, April 21, 2015
• “Venture Capital in China: Law and Practice” by Assistant Professor Lin Lin, National University of Singapore, May 26, 2015
• “ADR and Arbitration of International Financial Disputes in Shanghai” by Professor Shen Wei, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, KoGuan Law School, May 2, 2016
• “Rule of Law with Chinese Characteristics” by Professor Ignazio Castellucci, University of Trento, May 11, 2016
• “The Legal Issues of China’s Ethnic Minority Cultural Inheritance and Development” by Professor Zhou Shaoqing, CASS, November 11, 2016, event co-organized with the Helsinki Confucius Institute
• “Policy making for sustainability in China. The role and constraints of institutionalized public participation” by Dr Daniele Brombal, University of Venice, December 13, 2016

76. Senior Research Fellow, Knut Pissler, Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law, Director of the Center, Professor Ulla Liukkunen, and Associate Professor Chen Yifeng, PKU Law School in April 2013.


80. “Searching for Law and Order in China: Between Confucianism and Legalism” by Dr. Shi Daxiao, Fudan University, October 2, 2013.
81. “Legal Orientalism: China, the United States, and Modern Law” by Professor Teemu Ruskola, Emory University, October 7, 2013.


83. “Developing Environmental Law in Developing China” by Professor Qin Tianbao, Wuhan University, March 10, 2014.
84. “Studying Asian Law in Translation: Considerations of Comparative Legal Linguistics” by Professor Heikki E.S. Mattila, University of Lapland, October 2, 2014.


86. “Venture Capital in China: Law and Practice” by Assistant Professor Lin Lin, National University of Singapore, May 26, 2015.

88. “ADR and Arbitration of International Financial Disputes in Shanghai” by Dean, Professor Shen Wei, Shandong University Law School, May 2, 2016.

89. Director of the Center, Prof. Ulla Liukkunen and Dean, Professor Shen Wei, Shandong University Law School, in Helsinki in May 2016.

90. “Rule of Law with Chinese Characteristics” by Professor Ignazio Castellucci, University of Trento, May 11, 2016.

91. “Policy making for sustainability in China. The role and constraints of institutionalized public participation” by Dr. Daniele Brombal, University of Venice, December 13, 2016.
9.5 Developing Nordic and other International Cooperation

Strengthening Nordic cooperation in the field of China law fosters mutual understanding between China and the Nordics, and represents an attractive model for Chinese counterparts for research purposes. The Center has been actively developing its Nordic dimension in China law research by increasingly including Danish, Swedish and Norwegian scholars in its activities. Scholars from other Nordic countries have been invited to participate and present at seminars and conferences organized by the Center, and to hold guest lectures at the Center. This activity has not been limited to scholars only from the Nordics: researchers from other European countries have been invited to network and present their research findings at events organized by the Center.

The strong Sino-Finnish cooperation developed by the Finnish China Law Center has already been modelled by other Nordic and European Universities. Finland was the first Nordic country to establish a center focused on Chinese law and legal culture. The Danish Forum for Chinese Law and Legal Culture was established on the basis of an initiative by Professor Ditlev Tamm. Moreover, the University of Bergen, Faculty of Law, Norway, is establishing a China Law Centre. As well as strengthening the quality and scope of research, Nordic cooperation also creates synergies in opportunities for conducting further research. In addition, within Polish academia the Finnish China Law Center and its style of cooperation have also served as a model.

Multiple events have led to enhanced Nordic cooperation. For instance, in December 2014, the Director of the Center, Professor Liukkunen, was invited to speak at the “Law and Transitional Society: Chinese and Global Perspectives” conference organized by the Centre for Studies in Legal Culture, Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen. This was also the opening event of the Danish Forum for Chinese Law and Legal Culture. In May 2016, the Center’s Director, Professor Liukkunen, and the Chair of the Board, Professor Nuotio, welcomed a delegation from the University of Bergen, led by Professor Borvik, Vice-Dean for Education at the Faculty of Law. Both events provided an opportunity to discuss cooperation between Nordic scholars researching Chinese law and enhance cooperation in the Nordic dimension.
92. Faculty Director Øystein L. Iversen, Faculty of Law at the University of Bergen, Associate Professor, Vice Dean Bjørnar Borvik, Faculty of Law at the University of Bergen, Chair of the Center’s Board, Professor Nuotio, Professor Letto-Vanamo, University of Helsinki, Professor Ditlev Tamm, representing the Danish Forum for Chinese Legal Culture, Dean Professor Shan Wenhua, Xi’an Jiaotong University, Director of the Center, Professor Ulla Liukkunen, and Dean Professor Shen Wei, Shandong University Law School in Helsinki, May 2016.

93. Professor Ditlev Tamm, University of Copenhagen, Professor Pia Letto-Vanamo, University of Helsinki, Dean, Professor Kimmo Nuotio, University of Helsinki, Dean, Professor Sun Xiaoxia, Fudan University Law School, and Professor Wang Zhiquiang, Fudan University Law School, at the Seminar on Rule of Law: A Dialogue between Chinese and Nordic Young Jurists, in Fudan, 2015.
10. Education

The Center promotes education in the field of Chinese law and legal culture. The member institutions of the Center have been organizing education for undergraduate and graduate students, as well as doctoral candidates. The Center informs its member institutions and the wider audience about educational opportunities provided by the Center’s member institutions. The Center and its members support doctoral students conducting research on Chinese law. The Center has organized networking events and seminars where younger researchers can also build connections with other researchers in the field.

Member institutions of the Center have been hosting several doctoral candidates conducting research on Chinese law and legal culture, including:

At Aalto:

- Wang Wei, Doctoral Candidate: Merger Remedies in the EU: Design under the Entire Competition Law Structure; Thesis supervisor: Professor Matti Rudanko (thesis defended on March 4, 2016)

At the University of Helsinki:

- I An Gao, Doctoral candidate: China and the Indigenous Peoples: An Initial Inquiry from Taiwan’s Experience; Thesis supervisor: Professor Anne Maria Holli
- Iina Tornberg, Doctoral candidate: Mandatory rules of law and international commercial arbitration: EU competition law provisions as manifestations of EU public policy in institutional arbitration in China; Thesis supervisor: Professor Ulla Liukkonen
- Jenny Rontu, Doctoral Candidate: Energy Efficiency Regulation of Existing Buildings; Thesis supervisor: Professor Ari Ekroos
- Marja Paavilainen, Doctoral candidate: Dynamics of Employment Discrimination Law Implementation in China – A Study in Comparative Law; Thesis supervisor: Professor Ulla Liukkonen
- Tan Xiaowen, Doctoral candidate: Evidence in Private Antitrust Enforcement: A Comparison between EU and China; Thesis supervisor: Dr Katri Havu and Professor Mika Hemmo
- Timo Sipi, Doctoral candidate: Managing Contractual Risks – Indemnification for Third Party IPR Claims in Connection with the Commercialization of Technology by Finnish Technology Companies; Thesis supervisor: Professor Mika Hemmo
• Wu Yixuan, Doctoral candidate: Labour Protection in Transformative Society: The Evolution and Conceptualisation of Chinese Labour Laws; Thesis supervisor: Professor Ulla Liukkunen
• Zhao Yajie, Doctoral candidate: IT Patent Infringements and Regional Protection in China; Thesis supervisor: Professor Niklas Bruun
• Zhang Kangle, Doctoral candidate: Private Credit Rating in the Construction of Neoliberal Society; Thesis supervisor: Docent Jarna Petman

At the University of Lapland:

• Fei Lu, Doctoral candidate: Administrative Litigation Systems of China and Finland: a comparative study; Thesis supervisor: Professor Juha Karhu
• Matti Tjäder, Doctoral candidate: Limits of Obligation: A Comparative Study of the People’s Republic of China and Finland; Thesis supervisor: Professor Juha Karhu

At the University of Turku:

• Joel Kuorikoski, Doctoral candidate: TTIP – A Prerequisite Blueprint for China’s Inclusion; Thesis supervisor: Senior Lecturer Outi Korhonen
• Jiang Junxin, Doctoral candidate: Public Interest Litigation in Contemporary China: the Voice from Emerging Civil Society; Thesis supervisor: Professor Wang Dong
• Liisa Kauppila, Doctoral candidate: Arctic Opportunities as a Driver of Regional Integration in Northeast Asia? Chinese Strategies and Visions for Supranational Maritime Cooperation; Thesis supervisor: Dr Outi Luova
• Pia Eskelinen, Doctoral candidate: Urbanization and Rural Women’s Land Rights in Chengdu, Wuxi and Shanghai; Thesis supervisor: Dr Outi Luova
• Wang Xinhong, Doctoral candidate: Open Environmental Information upon Disclosure Request in China: the Paradox of Legal Mobilization; Thesis supervisor: Adjunct Professor Lauri Paltemaa

At the University of Vaasa:

• Katriina Pankakoski, Doctoral candidate: A Valuation of the Trademark for Transfer Pricing Purposes: research of problems related to valuation of trademarks in applying and interpreting the arm’s length principle in Finland’s and China’s international tax law; Thesis supervisor: Professor Juha Lindgren

In addition to doctoral projects, the Center has also supported collaborative seminars where doctoral candidates can get feedback on their research from professors and specialists in the field. In 2015, a delegation of doctoral candidates from all Finnish law faculties led by Dean Professor Nuotio,
University of Helsinki, visited China. The visit included a Sino-Nordic Doctoral Seminar, which was co-organized with Fudan University Law School with the support of the Nordic Center. The delegation also attended the 7th Sino-Finnish Bilateral Seminar on Comparative Law at CASS, and a Doctoral Seminar on Environmental Justice and Human Rights at PKU Law School.

The Center has also contributed to funding doctoral research. In December 2015, the Center received a donation of 40 000€ from the Tiina and Antti Herlin Foundation (Tiina ja Antti Herlinin Säätiö). The purpose of the grant was to cover the salary of one PhD student for a year in order to advance research related to Chinese law. A Selection Committee, consisting of representatives from each member university of the Center, selected Doctoral candidate Zhang Kangle, from the University of Helsinki, with a doctoral project “Unravelling the Economic Innocence of International Law: Credit Rating in International Financial Regulation”, to receive the grant.

94. Doctoral candidates at the Nordic Center of the Fudan University where the seminar "Rule of Law: A Dialogue between Chinese and Nordic Young Jurists" was held in June 2015.
95. A delegation of doctoral candidates from Finland visited China in 2015.
11. Library Collection

The Center supports research and education on Chinese law and legal culture by maintaining a library collection on the subject. The Library Collection consists of a wide range of books, journals and other academic publications on topics concerning Chinese law. The constantly growing collection offers over 750 titles on specific fields, including comparative law, legal theory, legal history, criminal law, labour law, environmental law, private law and private international law, as well as contributions on the methodology of comparative legal research, in both Chinese and English. The collection provides a valuable resource for students and scholars conducting research on Chinese law and legal culture, and is accessible for the Center’s member institutions, as well as to all individuals interested in the subject.

The Library collection is located in the vicinity of the central campus of the University of Helsinki, the Kaisa library in Kaisaniemi, and is maintained by the staff of the public library. Books can be consulted at the library by the public. Researchers and students from member institutions may also request inter-library loans.

The Library Collection is largely built upon donations from the Chinese and Finnish supporters. The Center has received book donations from visiting scholars, partner institutions such as CASS Law and PKU Law School as well as from other Chinese and Finnish institutions. For instance, in January 2013, CASS Law Institute and the CASS Law Library donated a number of central books on constitutionalism, human rights and the rule of law. In August 2013, the Center received two important book donations from PKU Law School and Fudan University Law School. In December 2016, the Center received a generous book donation from the Library of the Finnish Parliament. The collection included books on a wide range of judicial topics, including legal aspects of business, trade, domestic and international affairs, and history.

Establishing the Library Collection has been an achievement which would not have been possible without the commitment of library officials Eeva Henriksson, Leena Huovinen, Jussi Korte and Johanna Lahikainen.
In addition to the Library Collection, the Center also provides access to valuable electronic resources for research of Chinese law. The Center subscribes to ChinaLawInfo, an advanced legal information retrieval system launched by PKU’s Legal Information Center. ChinaLawInfo provides English translations for Chinese laws and regulations and is a very valuable online resource for scholars researching Chinese law and regulations. The Center has made access to ChinaLawInfo available to students and researchers of member institutions from designated computers in their libraries.

With continual improvements to technology and additions to content, PKU Law has evolved over the last 20 years into the largest and most professional legal research system in China. Accessible databases within the PKU Law, ChinaLawInfo are: Laws & Regulations, Judicial Cases, Law Journals, English Translations, Special Reference, and Law Firms Practice.

The Center also runs a blog and a newsletter. The Center’s blog (http://www.helsinki.fi/chinalawcenter) functions as an important source of information for all interested parties both in Finland and abroad. The Center staff regularly updates information on upcoming events, projects and funding opportunities. The Center publishes a newsletter, which aims to keep readers well informed about recent developments and events at the Center and its member institutions, as well as to collect useful information about opportunities for China law research and education worldwide. The Center is also active on Facebook and Twitter.

97. LLM Student, Ms. Liu Ying, familiarizing herself with the Center’s library collection, in December 2014.
An important cross-cutting issue within Sino-Finnish research endeavours is comparative law. The overall aim of better understanding the nature of Chinese law and legal culture requires considering the larger societal framework of where and how law operates. In order to understand this, it is essential to look at law in its culturally-specific historical context, viewing it as a part of a more comprehensive and complex multilevel societal order.

At the same time as China has become an important player in a globalized world, it should be viewed as one of world’s oldest civilisations where aspects of the past intersect with deeper ideas and conceptions of law. While law was an essential instrument of governance in traditional China, it was always considered as something that can be curtailed and was subordinate to *Li* in achieving social harmony. Changes to the legal system need thus to be considered within this broader historical spectrum. For example, the influence of the tradition of Confucianism on the Chinese legal system explains certain essential features of dispute settlement mechanisms used in the country.

Sino-Finnish legal research has sought to contribute to an understanding of the need not to examine Chinese law in isolation but rather in the wider context so that investigation covers different kinds of historical influences and legal system relations to other societal sub-systems, which require taking into account economic, political, sociological, anthropological and historical context. Often, the Finnish China Law Center’s research collaboration has been enriched so that scholars from different Western countries that are active in China law research have joined forces with Chinese scholars. Close collaboration of scholars with distinctive yet complementary backgrounds and expertise has enabled a broader perspective on Chinese law. Simultaneously it has also made more visible presumptions that may affect the way we pose research questions or highlight certain aspects of a foreign legal system under scrutiny. In this kind of context, comparative law is inevitably placed more directly at the heart of internationally oriented research activities.

Since 1978, China has opened up to the world and undergone a fundamental social transformation in economic, social and legal development. We have been witnessing a transitional period where rapid economic reform in China has resulted in profound changes in the legal system. With the opening of Chinese society, growing interest in different regulatory models has paved the way to developing comparative law scholarship. In Finland, too, a better understanding of globalisation has resulted in a renewed emphasis
on the need for comparative research approaches that cross continents. Put differently, comparative law belongs in the frontline when we tackle complex questions as to how to approach culturally different legal systems. Often, the roles and impact of similar legal actors – or seemingly similar legal provisions – can be strikingly different in different legal systems. Law is best understood by examining the social context which confers its meaning and life. In Sino-Finnish collaboration we have gradually been moving away from keeping solely to the level of legal rules and concepts to the cultural-historical context where law operates.

Law as a social phenomenon is deeply embedded in the culture and tradition of each nation, or community. However, comparativists often focus on the normative system and remain at the surface of the legal system, treating any extra-legal cultural and social factors either as irrelevant, or as something to overcome. To talk about legal culture is sometimes considered an excuse for deviation from what is understood to be the usual understanding of law, or a symbol of a less developed, problematic society. From this perspective, culture is something outside the law, and indeed antagonistic to law. Within Sino-Finnish research, this approach has been challenged in order to bring the cultural aspect with its multidimensionality to the forefront of research.¹

It is generally known that comparative legal studies have often played an important role in the process of transplanting models and ideas from abroad. China is no exception. Transplantation of foreign legal ideas has paved the way to development of the present Chinese legal system. From the end of the 1970s, when China started its opening up policy, the Chinese legislator has increasingly actively gained information about other legal systems when developing the Chinese legal order. The Chinese legal system has also been receiving growing influences that originate from the international law framework, stemming for example from WTO membership requirements. With the WTO accession agreement, which came into force in 2001, a significant number, over 3000, of existing laws and regulations were amended and new ones enacted. Overall, the legal system has significantly developed with the market economy, although several challenges, such as efficient implementation, still remain.

The impact of international labour standards could serve as another example of Chinese legal development. So far China has ratified twenty-six ILO Conventions and has increasingly been following developments in the international labour law field. However, in previous years fundamental labour rights have not been a major topic of academic discussion in China and in

Chinese research on labour law they have been little spoken out. The Academy of Finland-funded project “ILO Core Labour Standards Implementation in China: Legal Architecture and Cultural Logic” has contributed to launching academic research on fundamental labour rights and their international labour law context in China. In this project, the development of fundamental labour rights protection was viewed as part of a larger development within China’s economic and social transition as well as its integration with the global system of governance. Analysis of implementation of labour standards was extended beyond the surface of the law to legal culture and socio-economic factors that affect the position of law. The research, being the first to examine how fundamental labour standards have been implemented in China, promoted academic discussion of the impact of fundamental labour rights on the entire Chinese labour law model.

In China, models from other countries have influenced development of labour law as well as several other fields of law. Comparative efforts intensified in the late 1990’s when the legislator started to pay increasing attention to foreign regulatory models. This also paved the way for academia’s increasing interest in comparative law. In particular, Japanese law’s influence on the Chinese legal system can easily be noticed but we can also identify for example European or US influence in specific fields of law. Yet, models adopted from foreign countries have been adapted so that they fit the legal and political system of China. In recent years, when Chinese academia has devoted increasing attention to developing comparative law scholarship, the Nordic legal model has also gained in interest. In China, there is an increasing interest in understanding how Nordic societies function and what kind of legal thinking their legal systems are based on, starting from the most fundamental principles and values.

The need for China-related legal research is often associated with global governance. China, as a major world actor, calls for comparisons. Yet the economic and political significance of the country is more easily acknowledged than it is to admit how legal researchers have to transform themselves to deal with the idea of exploring a fundamentally different legal system. A genuine dialogue between researchers enables us to equip ourselves to acquire knowledge about legal cultures that are fundamentally different from our own. Within the context of globalisation, demands to promote the rule of law are emphasized and linked, not only to the international legal framework but also, and increasingly, new kinds of legal interactions. For the Finnish China Law Center, contributing to development of the rule of law in China has been a core area when developing Sino-Finnish relations.
98. Director of the Center, Professor Ulla Liukkunen and Professor Jia Junling, PKU Law School, who is also known as the Mother of Chinese Labour Law, at international conference “Chinese National Social Science Fund Project: Legal Construction on Harmony of Labour Relations”, November 27, 2014, Beijing.
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