

CHEAH W.L.  
Email: [lawcwl@nus.edu.sg](mailto:lawcwl@nus.edu.sg)

### WORK EXPERIENCE

**National University of Singapore** (Faculty of Law), Singapore 2007 – present  
*Assistant Professor of Law (tenure-track)*. Design and teaching of courses on international criminal law, Singapore criminal law, and Singapore public law.  
NUS Law Faculty Teaching Excellence Award (2018/2019 and 2015/2016); University Scholars Program Teaching Incentive Award (2015/2016)

**INTERPOL**, Office of Legal Affairs, General Secretariat, Lyon, France 2005 – 2006  
*Legal Officer*. Provided legal analysis and recommendations on human rights and protection claims submitted to General Secretariat. Drafted legal reports, regulations, and resolutions for the General Assembly and Executive Committee. Represented the Office of Legal Affairs in meetings with national and regional actors. Made legal presentations at a variety of international forums.

*External Legal Collaborator*. Provided primary research support for Working Group on Article 3 of INTERPOL Constitution, focusing on INTERPOL’s human rights obligations and neutrality. 2004 – 2005

**Serious Crimes Unit**, Dili, Timor Leste 2004  
*Legal Trainee*. Assisted in the preparation of indictments and court documents. Conducted analysis of affidavits and documentary evidence.

**Suhakam (Malaysia Human Rights Commission)**, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 2003  
*Legal Trainee*. Prepared a research paper on indigenous land rights in Malaysia.

### EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION

**Oxford University**, Centre for Socio-legal Studies, United Kingdom 2016  
**Doctor of Philosophy**, *Thesis topic: “Culture and Communication in the Singapore War Crimes Trials (1946-1948)”*  
National University of Singapore Overseas Graduate Scholarship (full funding)  
*Part-time tutor*. Designed and delivered research seminar on public international law (sources and criminal jurisdiction).

**European University Institute**, Florence, Italy 2012  
**Diploma in Human Rights Law** (1 of 2 diplomas awarded for 2012 course examinations)  
General Course attended: Human Rights Between Individualism and Collective Interests  
Specialised Courses attended: The Environmental Dimension of Human Rights

**Attorney and Counselor-at-Law**, New York, United States (qualified to practice law in New York) 2010

**Harvard University School of Law**, Boston, United States 2007 – 2008  
**Master of Laws**, *Thesis topic: “The Use of Human Rights Discourse by the ‘Comfort Women’ Movement” (subsequently published by Harvard Human Rights Journal)*  
National University of Singapore Faculty of Law Scholarship  
Kathryn Aguirre Worth Memorial Scholarship

March 2020

Harvard's Program on the Legal Profession Research Award, Harvard East Asian Legal Studies Research Conference Award, Human Rights Program Research Conference Award

**Queen Mary University of London** 2006 – 2008  
Diploma in International and Comparative Commercial Arbitration

**National University of Singapore Faculty of Law, Singapore** 2003 – 2005  
**Master of Laws (research)**, *Thesis topic: "Justice and Reconciliation in Post-Conflict Timor Leste"* (subsequently published by *UCLA Journal of International Law and Foreign Affairs*)  
National University of Singapore Scholarship for LL.M Studies (local)  
Asia Research Institute Research Award, Asia Research Institute Graduate Symposium Graduate Paper Prize

**National University of Singapore Faculty of Law** 1999 – 2003  
**Bachelor of Laws**  
Second-upper Honours, Dean's List of Academic Excellence 2000/2001/2003  
Talent Development Programme  
Jessup International Law Moots Competition, Quarter-finalist, 2003  
Asia-Pacific Presentation Competition, Judges Award, 2002  
Rodyk and Davidson Scholarship, 2000

#### APPOINTMENTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

*Editor*, Journal of International Humanitarian Legal Studies. 2020-present

*Editor*, Singapore Journal of Legal Studies. 2015-present

*Kathleen Fitzpatrick Visiting Fellowship, Laureate Program in International Law, Melbourne Law School.* 2018

*Senior Adviser and Editor*, Centre for International Law Research and Policy 2010-2018

*Academic consultant*, Singapore Law Society Criminal Law Practice Committee. 2015

*Coordinating Committee*, European Society of International Law Interest Group on Feminism and International Law. 2012 - 2015

*Visiting Researcher*, iCourts Research Centre, University of Copenhagen. 2012

*Visiting Researcher*, Faculty of Law, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. 2012

*Visiting Professional*, International Criminal Court. 2011

*Young Amicus Curiae*, Singapore Supreme Court, in the case of *PP v Chong Kai Xiong and others* [2010] SGHC 101. 2009

*Teaching Faculty*, Centre for Transnational Legal Studies, London (International Criminal Law). 2010

*Researcher*, Comparative press freedoms research project for Singapore Minister of Law. 2009

*Visiting Professor*, Royal University of Law and Economics (Cambodia). 2008

*Visiting Professor*, University of Lyon III, LL.M. program. 2008

## RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS

Singapore Ministry of Education, Academic Research Fund, 2018-2021.

National University of Singapore Law Faculty Teaching Excellence Award 2018/2019.

Honorary mention by ESIL Young Scholar Prize Committee, “International Courts as Cross-cultural Translators”, ESIL Conference, Manchester University, UK, 13-15 September 2018.

National University of Singapore Law Faculty Teaching Excellence Award 2015/2016

National University of Singapore University Scholars Program Teaching Incentive Award 2015/2016.

Humboldt-NUS research grant, 2015-2016.

Singapore Judicial College research grant, 2015-2016.

Singapore Academy of Law (2015-2016; 2018-2019) and Singapore National Heritage Board (Heritage Participation Grant, 2015-2016).

Longlisted for Antonio Cassese prize, “Post-WWII British ‘Hell-ship’ Trials in Singapore: Omissions and the Attribution of Responsibility”, *Journal of International Criminal Justice* (Oxford University Press), Volume 8.4, 2010, pp 1035-1058.

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

### International criminal law and public international law

#### JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Culture-Specific Evidence before Internationalized Criminal Courts: Lessons from Asian Jurisdictions”, *Journal of International Criminal Justice*, Volume 17, 2019, 26 pages.

“British War Crimes Trials in Europe and Asia (1945-1949) – A Comparative Study” (co-authored with Moritz Vormbaum), *Leiden Journal of International Law*, Volume 31, Issue 3, 2018, 23 pages.

“Culture and Understanding in the Singapore War Crimes Trials (1946-1948): Interpreting Arguments of the Defence”, *International Journal of Law in Context* (Cambridge University Press), Volume 14, Issue 1, 2018, 23 pages.

“The Curious Case of the Singapore BIA Desertion Trials: War Crimes, Projects of Empire, and the Rule of Law”, *European Journal of International Law*, Volume 28, Issue 4, November 2017, 23 pages.

“An Overview of the Singapore War Crimes Trials: Prosecuting Lower-level Accused”, *Singapore Law Review*, 2017, Volume 34, 50 pages (3 pages of charts).

“British Indian Army Desertions in the Singapore War Crimes Trials: Contesting Victim Status and Legal Gaps”, *Asian Journal of International Law* (Cambridge University Press), 2016, 20 pages.

“Post-WWII British ‘Hell-ship’ Trials in Singapore: Omissions and the Attribution of Responsibility”, *Journal of International Criminal Justice* (Oxford University Press), Volume 8.4, 2010, pp 1035-1058 (longlisted for Antonio Cassese prize).

March 2020

“Policing Interpol: the Commission for the Control of Interpol’s Files and the Right to a Remedy”, *International Organizations Law Review* (BRILL), Volume 7.2, 2010, pp 375-404.

“Mapping Interpol’s Evolution: Functional Expansion and the Move towards Legalization”, *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice* (Oxford University Press), Volume 4.1, 2010, pp 28-37.

“Walking the Long Road in Solidarity and Hope: a Case Study of the ‘Comfort Women’ Movement’s Deployment of Human Rights Discourse”, *Harvard Human Rights Journal*, Volume 22, Issue 1, 2009, pp 63-107.

“Migrant Workers as Citizens on the ASEAN Landscape: International Law and the Singaporean Experiment”, *Chinese Journal of International Law* (Oxford University Press), 2009, pp 205-231.

“Forgiveness and Punishment in Post-conflict Timor”, *UCLA Journal of International Law and Foreign Affairs*, Volume 10, No.1, 2005, pp 297-359.

“The criminal law model and human rights model: a case study of counter-trafficking strategies in the ASEAN region”, *Essex Human Rights Review*, Volume 3:1, 2005, pp 46-63.

“Sagong Tasi and Orang Asli Land Rights in Malaysia: Victory, Milestone or False Start”, *Law, Social Justice and Global Development Journal*, Volume 2, 2004, pp 1-23.

“Being an International Law Lecturer in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Where Tradition Meets Innovation”, *Cambridge Journal of International and Comparative Law*, Volume 2, No 4, 2014 (co-authored with Freya Baetens), pp 974-1011.

## CHAPTERS

“Culture and International Criminal Law”, in Kevin Heller, Frédéric Mégret, Sarah Nouwen, Jens Ohlin and Darryl Robinson (eds), *Oxford Handbook of International Criminal Law*, Oxford University Press, 2020.

“Oaths of Allegiance in the Singapore Trials”, in Kerstin von Lingen and Robert Cribb (eds.), *War Crimes Trials in Asia: Collaboration and Complicity in the Aftermath of War*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2017, 13 pages.

“Post-Second World War British Trials in Singapore: Lost in Translation in the Car Nicobar Spy Case”, in Morten Bergsmo, Cheah Wui Ling, Yi Ping (eds.), Volume 2, *Historical Origins of International Criminal Law: A Four Volume Anthology* (co-editor, with Morten Bergsmo and Yi Ping), 2014, Torkel Opsahl, pp 301-330.

“The superior orders defence at the post-war trials in Singapore”, in Kirsten Sellars (ed.), *Trials for International Crimes in Asia* (Cambridge University Press, 2015), pp 100-121.

“Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance in the Prosecution of Serious Maritime Crimes: A Comparative and Critical Analysis of Applicable Legal Frameworks”, in Efthymios D. Papastavridis and Kimberley N. Trapp (eds.), *Crimes at Sea* (Hague Academy of International Law, 2014), pp 311-336.

“Placing Old Evidence and Core International Crimes on the Agenda of the International Discourse on International Criminal Justice for Atrocities” (with Morten Bergsmo), in Morten Bergsmo and Cheah Wui Ling (eds.), *Old Evidence and Core International Crimes* (Torkel Opsahl Academic EPublisher, 2013).

March 2020

“Towards Rational Thematic Prosecution and the Challenge of International Sex Crimes” (with Morten Bergsmo), in Morten Bergsmo (ed), *Thematic Prosecution of International Sex Crimes* (Torkel Opsahl Academic EPublisher, 2012), pp 1-10.

“Maritime Crimes and the Problem of Cross-border Enforcement: Making the Most of Existing Multilateral Instruments”, in J Ashley Roach and Robert Beckman (eds), *Piracy and International Maritime Crimes in ASEAN: Prospects for Cooperation* (Edward Elgar, 2012), pp 207-232.

“Justice as Practised by Victims of Conflict: Post-WWII Movements as Sites of Engagement and Knowledge”, in *Feminist Perspectives on Transitional Justice* (Intersentia, 2012), pp 145-169.

#### **EDITED VOLUMES**

*Historical Origins of International Criminal Law: Volume 1* (Torkel Opsahl Academic EPublisher, 2014) (co-editor, with Morten Bergsmo and Yi Ping), 680 pages.

*Historical Origins of International Criminal Law: Volume 2* (Torkel Opsahl Academic EPublisher, 2014) (co-editor, with Morten Bergsmo and Yi Ping), 792 pages.

*Historical Origins of International Criminal Law: Volume 3* (Torkel Opsahl Academic EPublisher, 2015) (co-editor, with Morten Bergsmo, SONG Tianying, and Yi Ping), 814 pages.

*Historical Origins of International Criminal Law: Volume 1* (Torkel Opsahl Academic EPublisher, 2015) (co-editor, with Morten Bergsmo, SONG Tianying, and Yi Ping), 949 pages.

*Old Evidence and Core International Crimes* (Torkel Opsahl Academic EPublisher, 2012) (co-editor, with Morten Bergsmo), 313 pages.

#### **Singapore criminal law and public law**

#### **JOURNAL ARTICLES**

“An Empirical Study on the Singapore Court of Appeal’s Citation of Academic Works: Reflections on the Relationship between Singapore’s Judiciary and Academia” (with Goh Yihan), *Singapore Academy of Law Journal*, 2017, 53 pages with charts.

“Fair Treatment Standards in Transnational and International Criminal Law: International Developments and National Relevance”, *Singapore Academy of Law Journal*, Volume 25, 2013, pp 778-800.

“Developing a People-Centred Justice in Singapore: In Support of Pro Bono and Innocence Work”, *Cincinnati Law Review*, Volume 80, 2012, pp 1429-1464.

#### **CHAPTERS**

“An Expository Approach to Public Law Adjudication: The Singapore Judiciary’s Evolving Jurisprudence”, in Goh Yihan and Paul Tan (eds.), *Singapore Law 50 Years in the Making* (Singapore Academy of Law, 2015), pp 321-357.

“Criminal Law”, *Singapore Academy of Law Annual Review of Singapore Cases* (2014), pp 269-294.

“Criminal Law”, *Singapore Academy of Law Annual Review of Singapore Cases* (2013), pp 274-301.

“Singapore country report”, in *Rule of Law for Human Rights in the ASEAN Region: A Base-line Study* (Human Rights Resource Centre of ASEAN 2011), pp 219-252.

March 2020

“Private Defence”, in Wing-Cheong Chan, Barry Wright & Stanley Yeo (eds), *Codification, Macaulay and the Indian Penal Code: The Legacies and Modern Challenges of Criminal Law Reform* (Ashgate 2011).

#### SHORTER ARTICLES (BELOW 13 PAGES) AND BOOK REVIEWS

“Examining Thematic Prosecutions and the Challenges of Understanding and Proving International Sex Crimes” (with Morten Bergsmo, Alf Butenschøn Skre & Elizabeth Wood), *Policy Brief Series No.11* (Torkel Opsahl Academic EPublisher, 2013), pp 1-4.

“Suhakam: Malaysia Human Rights Commission: The First Ten Years”, Development Note, *Asian Yearbook of International Law*, 2010, pp 307-318.

Review of Morten Bergsmo (ed), *Complementarity and the Exercise of Universal Jurisdiction for Core International Crimes* (Torkel Opsahl Academic EPublisher, 2010), *Criminal Law Forum*, 2013 (5 pages).

Review of Simon Chesterman and Angelina Fisher (eds), *Private Security, Public Order: The Outsourcing of Public Services and Its Limits* (Oxford University Press 2009), *Singapore Journal of Legal Studies*, July, 2011 (5 pages).

#### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Cross-Cultural Adjudication and Individual Criminal Responsibility: A Comparative Study of International and Asian Jurisdictions”, International Junior Faculty Forum, Stanford Law School, US, 18-19 October 2019.

“Taking a Transformative Justice Approach to the 'Comfort Women' Movement”, “Redistributive Human Rights?” workshop, Australian Human Rights Institute at UNSW Sydney, 31 January – 1 February 2019.

“International Courts as Cross-cultural Translators”, ESIL Conference, Manchester University, UK, 13-15 September 2018. *Paper awarded honorary mention by ESIL Young Scholar Prize Committee.*

“Navigating Diversity: Trial Participation Challenges in the Singapore War Crimes Trials”, Fifth Annual Junior Faculty Forum of International Law, New York University, 27-29 June 2016.

“Japanese Defence Counsel in the Singapore War Crimes Trials”, Asia Research Institute Seminar. 3 February 2016.

“Culture and Interpretation in the Singapore War Crimes Trials”, International Journal of Law in Context and Oxford Centre for Socio-Legal Studies Early Career Workshop, Oxford, 29-20 June 2015.

“Cultural disconnect in the Singapore War Crimes Trials: Substantive Arguments at Trial”, 2015 writing workshop of the Harvard Law School Institute for Global Law and Policy, Doha, Qatar, 2-11 January 2015.

“The Role of Historical Studies in International Criminal Law”, Invited Speaker, Triple book launch of “Historical Origins of International Criminal Law”, Volumes 1 and 2, and “On the Proposed Crimes Against Humanity Convention” by Torkel Opsahl, side-event at 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the ICC Assembly of States Parties, 12 December 2014

March 2020

“Dealing with Oaths of Allegiance in the Singapore War Crimes Trials”, Rethinking Justice? Decolonization, Cold War, and Asian War Crimes Trials after 1945 Conference, Heidelberg University, 26-29 October 2014.

“A Critical Assessment of the Historical Turn in International Criminal Law”, European Society of International Law 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, Vienna, 4-6 September 2014.

“The Singapore Trials”, Historical Origins of International Criminal Law Seminar, Centre for International Law Research and Policy, Hong Kong, 1-2 March 2014.

“Old Evidence and the Singapore Trials”, Old Evidence Collection and War Crime Trials in Asia, 5-6 March 2014, Fudan University Law School (invited speaker).

“Claims of Superior Orders in the Singapore Trials”, Research Seminar Series, NUS Law, 16 October 2013.

“Situating the Singapore Trials within the Landscape of Post-WWII Prosecutions”, Centre of International Law, NUS, 16 October 2013.

“Modes of Liability in ‘Hell-ship’ cases”, Trials for International Crimes in Asia, Centre of Asian Legal Studies, NUS, 17-18 October 2013.

“Maximising the Use of International Legal Frameworks to Facilitate Inter-state Cooperation in Cases of Piracy”, Invited Speaker, Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia’s Working Groups 2 (WG2), 2013.

“History and Development of Transnational Criminal Justice: ASEAN”, invited speaker, International Crime Control Workshop, Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law, Freiburg, Germany, 27-28 November 2012.

“The British Military’s Prosecution of Japanese War Crimes in Singapore: Colonial Ideas of Justice”, Critical Approaches to International Criminal Law Conference, University of Liverpool, 6-8 December 2012.

“The Importance and Use of Historical Evidence by Courts trying Core International Crimes”, Invited Speaker, Double book launch of “State Sovereignty” and “Old Evidence and Core International Crimes” by Torkel Opsahl, side-event at 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the ICC Assembly of States Parties, 19 November 2012.

“The British Military’s Prosecution of Japanese War Crimes in Singapore: A Socio-legal and Historical Study”, Lunchtime Seminar, iCourts Research Centre, University of Copenhagen, 8 November 2012.

“The British Military’s Prosecution of Japanese War Crimes in Post-Colonial Singapore: A Socio-Legal and Historical Study”, Exploring the Legal in Socio-Legal Studies, London School of Economics, 21 September 2012.

“Open Access Publishing and Increasing the Availability of Legal Research and Information”, Invited Speaker, Seminar to launch to books on International Sex Crimes by Torkel Opsahl, Centre for Transnational Legal Studies, London, 25 April 2012.

“Multiple Forms of IO Legal Accountability: A Case Study of Interpol’s Public and Private Data Processing Arrangements”, 7<sup>th</sup> Global Administrative Law Seminar, La Tuscia University, Viterbo, 10 – 11 June 2011.

March 2020

“Macaulay’s Private Defence after 150 Years: Historical Origins, Judicial Developments and the Need for Legislative Reconsideration”, Symposium on A Model Indian Penal Code adhering to the philosophy of Macaulay, National University of Singapore, 9 – 10 June 2010.

“Victim Participation at the Extraordinary Chambers of the Courts of Cambodia”, Brown-bag Lunch Presentation, East-West Centre, Hawaii, 7 January 2010.

“Death and Suffering onboard WWII ‘Hell-ships’: Reading the Singapore Trials”, Oxford Transitional Justice Conference, 27 – 29 June 2009.

“Hybrid Tribunals as Agents of Translation and Transformation”, 2009 Law and Society Junior Scholar’s Workshop (selected participant), Denver, 26 – 27 May 2009.

“Revisiting the Tokyo Trials’ Historical Legacy: The Resistance Paradigm of Post-Conflict Justice”, Workshop on Conflict and Transitional Justice: Feminist Approaches, Emory University, 19 – 20 September 2008.

“Advancing Counter-narratives of Post-conflict Justice using a Human Rights Discourse: the ‘Comfort Women’ Social Movement as a Case Study”, Cornell Inter-Graduate conference, 2008.

“Two Models of Post-conflict Justice: Reconciliation and Retribution”, War, Culture and Humanity Conference, Manchester University, 2004.

“Sagong Tasi and Orang Asli Land Rights in Malaysia”, Asia Research Institute Inaugural Graduate Symposium, 2004.

#### **PUBLIC TALKS AND MEDIA INTERVIEWS**

“Raffles Redux: The Singapore Story in the Language of International Law”, Singapore Writers Festival 2019, 3 November 2019.

“Portraits and Stories of Justice and Resilience in the Singapore War Crimes Trials”, invited by Singapore Arts House to speak at LumiNation 2019, 17 August 2019.

Invited by National Heritage Board to speak at NHB's Battle for Singapore (BSG) Public Talk, Singapore Art Museum, 12 March 2017.

Interviewed as expert for Channel NewsAsia WWII documentary “I Remember: The Fall of Singapore”, aired 14 February 2017.

Panellist on Straits Times Forum (with Singapore Minister of Law) on Singapore’s Elected Presidency, aired and published 18 September 2016.

#### **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

English (fluent), Malay (fluent), Mandarin (basic), French (intermediate, passive)