Confronting Modernity's Challenges to Law and Regulation

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On 7th and 8th of January 2019, the School of Law of CityU of the School of Law of Singapore Management University jointly organized a one and a half days conference entitled “Confronting Modernity's Challenges to Law and Regulation”. This is the return leg of a collaboration between the Singapore Management University and the CityU in the Asian Commercial Law Conference series.

This Conference aims to bring together key stakeholders – academics, practitioners and policy makers – to discuss current issues presented by technological advances. These include: (i) challenges presented by artificial intelligence to copyright authorship and consumer protection; (ii) challenges to labour rights presented by the platform/sharing economy and increasing automation; (iii) privacy concerns with the rise of big data; (iv) tensions in achieving a balance in the delineation of rights and obligations between banker and customer; and (v) the evolving state of art relating to the regulation of transnational corporations.

The conference began with welcoming remarks given by Prof. Geraint Howells (Dean & Chair Professor of Commercial Law, School of Law). Professor Howells extended a warm welcome to all of our conference participants and wished this important conference a great success. Following the welcoming remarks, Prof. Alexander Loke explained the background and objective of this conference and Assoc. Prof. Lee Pey Woan from Singapore Management University thanked organising the conference.

Sixteen papers addressing the following topics were presented in the conference:

- Big Data and the Law;
- Artificial Intelligence and Copyright;
- Corporate and Securities Law;
- Artificial Intelligence and the Consumer;
- Banking and Finance; and
- the Platform Economy, Automation and Labour Rights.

Throughout the whole conference, the atmosphere was inspiring and interactive: While the presenters delivered insightful presentations, other audience also enthusiastically joined the discussion by critiquing the ideas presented and posing thought-provoking questions to our presenters.
This one and a half days conference ended with Assoc Prof. Lee Pey Woan drawing out the overarching themes that connect the different panels, and the summarizing the efficacy and limits of legal responses to the challenges posed by modernity.