

## CPLR Constitutional Seminar : "Whole Process People's Democracy" as Applied Constitutionalism

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On June 7, the Public Law and Human Rights Forum of the School of Law at City University of Hong Kong hosted a seminar in the LI-6301, delving deep into the theoretical foundations of Chinese Socialist (Marxist-Leninist) democracy. The seminar specifically focused on emerging concepts such as "Chinese Democratic Constitutionalism" and the practical implementation of "Whole Process Democracy," exploring the structured and multilayered consultation's crucial role in establishing democratic institutions in China.

The distinguished speaker for the day was Professor Larry Catá Backer, a law and international affairs professor from Pennsylvania State University. He delivered an in-depth presentation on the application of "Whole Process People's Democracy" in constitutionalism. The panel of discussants included the originally scheduled Professor Dr. Björn Ahl, Chair of Chinese Legal Culture at the University of Cologne, and Professor Zhu Guobin, a law professor at City University of Hong Kong. Additionally, Professor Wang Jiangyu, Professor Virginia Harper Ho, and Professor Daniel Pascoe from the School of Law at City University of Hong Kong attended and actively participated in the discussions. Several doctoral students were also present.



Following the introduction by the seminar's moderator, Prof. Huang Tao, Assistant Professor at the School of Law at City University of Hong Kong, Professor Larry Catá Backer presented for approximately forty minutes. He provided a detailed overview of the development of Chinese Socialist (Marxist-Leninist) democracy over the past decade, with a specific focus on the emerging concept of Chinese democratic constitutionalism and the tangible implementation of "Whole Process Democracy." He emphasized the crucial role of organized, multilevel consultations in the construction of China's democratic system, pointing out their purpose in reconciling the contradictions between mass line democracy and the fundamental constitutional principle of people's democratic dictatorship. Furthermore, he delved into the coordinated role of collective organizations under the leadership of the vanguard party. Finally, he drew comparisons between China's "Whole Process Democracy" and Marxist-Leninist practices in Cuba and those of liberal democracy.



In the discussion segment, attending professors and doctoral students shared their perspectives, engaging in lively discussions that demonstrated a keen interest in the Chinese Socialist (Marxist-Leninist) democracy theory. The diverse academic backgrounds and origins of the participating scholars were evident throughout the one-hour session.

This academic seminar perfectly embodies the mission of the Public Law and Human Rights Forum (CPLR). CPLR brings together multidisciplinary experts in public law and human rights from the School of Law, providing a platform for discussion and knowledge exchange. It is committed to establishing itself as a preeminent research institution in Asia for public law and human rights, collaborating globally across its four main themes: constitutional law, criminal law and criminal justice, human rights in Hong Kong and Asia (including business and human rights), and public international law.