



*The Society of International Economic Law has launched SIEL Conversations, a series of webinars on international economic law*

The aim of SIEL Conversations is to bring together authors and commentators to give talks that are idea-focused so as to foster learning and inspiration, and provoke conversations that matter. Each SIEL Conversation will last approximately one hour and will include commentary from the speakers, with questions from the public.

## What's On

### **China's Belt and Road Initiative: A New Model of Transnational Economic Governance?**



**Jonathan Bonnitcha** – *Moderator*

Associate Professor  
University of New South Wales



**Shen Wei**

KoGuan Distinguished Professor  
Shanghai Jiao Tong University



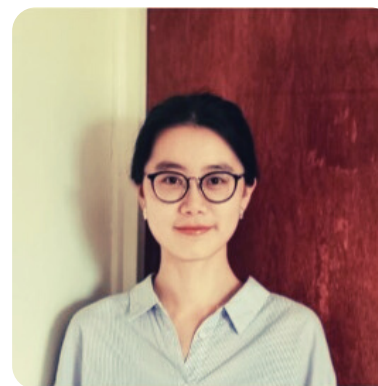
**Heng Wang**

Professor  
Singapore Management University



**Kun Fan**

Associate Professor  
University of New South Wales



**Zhenyu Xiao**

University of New South Wales

## When

**Tuesday  
28 November 2023**



**9 am**  
London



**10 am**  
Berlin



**5 pm**  
Singapore



**8 pm**  
Sydney

Register here for the event: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ykDT8uOWScueojjaDs5OYw#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ykDT8uOWScueojjaDs5OYw#/registration)

More information available at [www.sielnet.org](http://www.sielnet.org)



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## *Description*

### ***China's Belt and Road Initiative: A New Model of Transnational Economic Governance?***

China is promoting a new model of transnational economic governance through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a high-level policy framework shaping China's outward economic activities. The BRI's stated aims include policy coordination, infrastructure connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration and people-to-people bonds in countries along overland and maritime trade routes. It involves more than 6,000 investment projects with a combined value of over USD 1 trillion.

Engaging with existing scholarship on transnational governance, this SIEL Conversation considers the various modes of governance that China uses under the framework of the BRI. It aims to identify various cross-cutting characteristics of governance under the BRI, including the construction of new networks with China as the central node and the growing use of informal, power-based modes of governance, particularly where China is the more powerful actor.

The speakers will consider topics including the internationalization of the RMB, the roll-out of China's central bank digital currency and associated payments infrastructure, China's reliance on informalism in the resolution of BRI disputes, and legal and political dynamics in investor-state contract renegotiation under the BRI. Each speaker also considers the extent to which modes of governance that China deploys under the BRI depart from and/or seek to displace established Western structures of governance in the relevant field.

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## Participant Bios



**Jonathan Bonnitcha** is Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law & Justice at the University of New South Wales. His current research projects examine the relationships between investment treaties and other regimes and processes of investment governance, including domestic investment laws, investor-state contracts, investment dispute prevention agencies, and domestic administrative policies and practices.



**Shen Wei** is KoGuan Distinguished Professor of Law at Shanghai Jiao Tong University Law School. He is also Global Professor of Law at New York University School of Law, L. Bates Lea Visiting Professor of Law at Michigan Law School, an associate member of the International Academy of Comparative Law (Académie internationale de droit comparé), a member of Moody's China Academic Advisory Panel, a member of Financial Markets Law Committee of G20 Steering Group, and an Honorary Fellow of Asian Institute of International Financial Law, University of Hong Kong. His current research interests include international investment law, corporate governance, financial regulation, and international commercial arbitration.



**Heng Wang** is a Professor of Law at Yong Pung How School of Law at Singapore Management University (SMU). Before joining SMU, he was a professor at UNSW Sydney and a founding co-director of China International Business and Economic Law (CIBEL) Centre. Heng is a recipient of major grants and awards. He has advised or been a (keynote) speaker at major events organized by international organizations and institutions (e.g., ADB, APEC, BIS, HCCH, ICC, ICSID, IMF, UNICTRAL, World Bank, WTO) and the private sector. His current research focuses on the governance of digitalization, sustainable development, and the future of international economic relationships.

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## *Participant Bios*



**Kun Fan** is Associate Professor of UNSW Law & Justice's China International Business and Economic Law (CIBEL) Centre. She was named Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Scholar in Arbitration & Commercial Law in 2017 and has received numerous awards in recognition of her academic contribution. She has held academic positions at the Faculty of Law, McGill University, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and was also a Visiting Scholar of the Harvard Yenching Institute (2012-2013) and a Visiting Scholar at Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy (SIDRA) (2023).



**Zhenyu Xiao** recently obtained her PhD degree from the University of New South Wales. Her interdisciplinary research combines law and political economy, with a particular focus on China and investment governance. She publishes and participates in major research projects in China and Australia.

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