

Book Launch and Conference

China's Foreign Investment Legal Regime: Toward China's Development Goals

National University of Singapore, Centre for International Law (CIL)

Virtual Event

15 June 2023, Thursday

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm (SGT) / 9:00 am – 11:00 am (GMT) / 11:00 am – 1:00 pm (CET)

[Register here](#)

Panel 1 – “China's Foreign Investment Legal Regime: Toward China's Development Goals”

5:00 pm - 5:50 pm SGT / 9:00 am - 9:50 am GMT / 11:00 am - 11:50 am CET

China's foreign investment legal regime encompasses its domestic laws governing inward and outward investments, investment protection treaties, and the special rules of the Belt and Road Initiative. After more than four decades' continued effort in building and reforming the regime, it is worth considering whether the regime works as expected – contributing to its five main development goals: building technological capacity; deepening integration into the global economy; promoting green development; protecting security; and participating in global economic governance and rule-making.

This panel offers an evaluation of the contribution of China's foreign investment legal regime to the achievement of China's development goals, noting areas of progress and areas of continuing challenge. The starting point for the discussion is the recently published book [China's Foreign Investment Legal Regime: Toward China's Development Goals](#) (Brill 2023), authored by Yawen Zheng.

Moderator

- **Filippo Fontanelli** (Senior Lecturer in International Economic Law, University of Edinburgh)

Book Presentation

- **Yawen Zheng** (Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore)

Discussant

- **Heng Wang** (Professor of Law, Singapore Management University)

10 min break

Panel 2 – “China’s Inward and Outward Foreign Investments: Opportunities, Challenges and Response”

6:00 pm - 7:00pm SGT / 10:00 am - 11:00 am GMT / 12:00 pm-1:00pm CET

For the past two decades, China has experienced unprecedented growth in its inward and outward foreign investments. However, their growth is showing a downward trend more recently despite China’s continued steps towards the promotion of foreign investment flows, including the improvement of the foreign investment legal regime and further liberalization of the range of sectors into which foreign investments can be made. Against this background, this panel brings together both academics and practitioners from both inside and outside of China to share their views on various issues related to China’s two-way foreign investments. Specifically, this panel will discuss the investment environment and possible opportunities for the development of China’s foreign investments, the challenges they face, and possible responses of both China and investors to address these challenges.

Moderator

- **N Jansen Calamita**

(Head, Investment Law & Policy, Centre for International Law; Research Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore)

Panellists

- **Vivienne Bath** (Professor of Chinese & International Business Law, University of Sydney)
- **David Boitout** (Partner, Gide Loyrette Nouel)
- **Qingjiang Kong** (Professor, Dean of School of International Law, China University of Political Science and Law)
- **Patrick Yuan** (Equity Partner, Zhong Lun)

China's Foreign Investment Legal Regime

Toward China's Development Goals

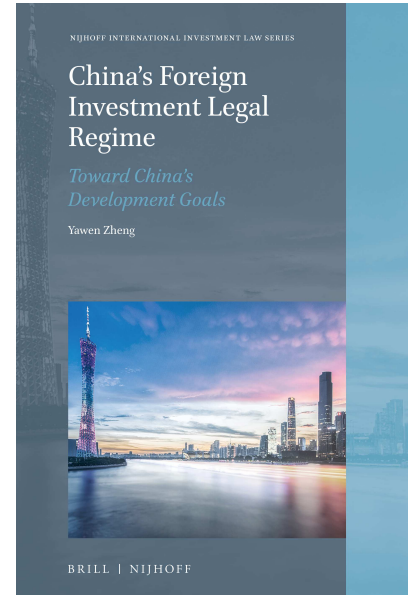
Yawen Zheng, National University of Singapore

China's foreign investment legal regime encompasses domestic laws governing inward and outward investments, investment treaties and the Belt and Road Initiative. Can China's foreign investment legal regime lead its two-way investments towards the country's five development goals (building technological capacity, deepening integration into the global economy, promoting green development, protecting security, and participating in global economic governance and rule-making)? Yawen Zheng pioneers a systematic study of China's foreign investment legal regime, finding that the regime has gradually made progress towards the development goals, but the effort is diluted by obstacles such as outdated treaties, conflicts with the West, and domestic political challenges.

Readership

Institutes, academic libraries, specialists, students and practitioners in international investment law, administrative law, Chinese studies, international dispute settlement, international relations, and environmental law.

Yawen Zheng, Ph.D (2021), University of Edinburgh, is a postdoctoral fellow of investment law and policy at the Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore. Her work has appeared in journals including the *Journal of World Investment and Trade*.



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