



**NAGOYA**  
UNIVERSITY



**Nagoya University Center for Asian Legal Exchange (CALE)  
and Graduate School of Law (GSL)  
2021 CALE Annual Conference**

## **Citizenship (Nationality) Struggles in the 21 Century and its Social Costs: Asian and Global Trends. Including Reflections of COVID-19 impact on Vulnerable Groups**

Date/ Time: Day 1: January 28 (Thursday) 2021, 11:00 – 13:00 (Japan)

Day 2: January 29 (Friday) 2021, 11:00 – 13:00 (Japan)

Venue: Via Zoom online conferencing system

Hosted by: Nagoya University Center for Asian Legal Exchange (CALE) and Graduate School of Law (Japan)

Supported by: JSPS Core-to-Core Program: Asia-Africa Science Platforms “Advancing Research in Asian Constitutionalism – Establishing a Transnational Research Network to Promote Human Rights and Legal System”

Language: English

Please register from here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApdeqtqDkpHNc679IA2NWyljA7mcL7yJVC>

Details:

<https://nuss.nagoya-u.ac.jp/s/6PjpkWkrdCJgwKF>

If you do not receive an immediate automatic response after registration or experience any issues joining the workshop, please check your spam box or contact CALE at

[cale-jimu@law.nagoya-u.ac.jp](mailto:cale-jimu@law.nagoya-u.ac.jp)



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## **Citizenship (Nationality) Struggles in the 21 Century and its Social Costs: Asian and Global Trends. Including Reflections of COVID-19 impact on Vulnerable Groups**

Are there universally agreed on practices for states to follow while creating their policies of individuals' belonging or non-belonging? Historically, monarchs thought of individuals belonging to their societies as 'subjects' or, more precisely, as subjects holding certain rights and privileges caused by the mere fact of membership. In contrast, individuals who were not members or 'subjects' could not enjoy such rights and obligations. Later, in the post-revolutionary, post-colonial eras 'subjecthood' was widely replaced by 'citizenship' (nationality).

In the contemporary world, policymakers enforce citizenship (nationality) laws to set up a legal and political bond between individual and state. Though 'citizenship' has conceptual differences with 'subjecthood' and appears to be a more progressive concept, some states design their citizenship laws in such a way that deprive certain groups of residents of a legal and political bond. Consequently, individuals who cannot secure citizenship face limitations of certain rights and equality as compared with citizens. In other words, through citizenship laws, states often have to delineate 'us' from 'others' in establishing their own identity. Whether ethnically tinted citizenship laws in states where ethnic nationalism is present or civic citizenships laws, mainly in successor states, the citizenship struggles to varying degrees arise in different parts of the globe. Notably, protracted problems related to citizenship (nationality) disputes that often result in de jure or de facto statelessness mostly occur in Asia and affect thousands of people annually, including married women, children and ethnic minorities. The most recent challenge is that number of people with undetermined citizenship (nationality) who lack valid identity become even more vulnerable in the context of the negative socio-economic impact of the COVID-19, following the imposed restrictions of movement, the shortage of medicines, unpredictable access to healthcare facilities and raising prices of basic items such as food.

The aim is to reflect on how citizenship disputes appear in various legal contexts, and how effectively jurisdictions and international actors respond to human needs. Reports on how socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 affect vulnerable people with undetermined citizenship (nationality) or stateless are of particular interest.



# Program


Day 1: January 28 (Thursday) 2021, 11:00 – 13:00 (Japan)

## Perspectives from Taiwan, Vietnam, Myanmar, and Eurasia

11:00-11:15 Introduction to the Workshop

**Azizbek Ashurov** (*Nansen Refugee Award Winner 2019, Human Rights Lawyer, FVLWB, Coordinator, Central Asian Network on Statelessness*)

**Kaoru Obata** (*Professor, Graduate School of Law, Nagoya University*)



Moderator: **Aziz ISMATOV** (*Assistant Professor, Center for Asian Legal Exchange, Nagoya University, Japan*)

11:15-12:15 Reports

- 1) **Vanessa Ruget** (*Professor, Salem State University*)  
'Labor Migration, Transnationalism and Citizenship: the case of Kyrgyz labor migrants to Russia'
- 2) **Susan Kneebone** (*Professorial Fellow, and Senior Associate, Asian Law Centre, and Affiliate of the McMullin Statelessness Centre, Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne*)  
'Instrumental nationality and marriage migration to Taiwan: a gendered and hierarchal approach'
- 3) **Nyi Nyi Kyaw** (*Independent researcher/Associate with the Inter-Asia Engagements cluster at the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore and with the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre at Sydney*)  
'Illegal migrants and reckless citizens across porous borders securitizing the COVID-19 pandemic in Myanmar'
- 4) **Chau Xuan Hoang** (*Rector of Northern College of Law under MoJ of Vietnam*)  
'Situation of stateless persons in Vietnam during COVID-19 pandemic'

12:15-13:00 Q & A/ Discussions

Day 2: January 29 (Friday) 2021, 11:00 – 13:00 (Japan)

**Perspectives from India, Nepal, Japan, and Eurasia**

Moderator: **Giorgio Fabio Colombo** (*Professor, Graduate School of Law, Nagoya University*)

11:00-12:00 Reports

5) **Deirdre Brennan** (*Research Assistant, PhD Candidate, the McMullin Statelessness Centre, Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne*)

‘Campaigning against gender discriminatory laws in Nepal: Feminist care ethics of activism’

6) **Shuvro Sarker** (*Assistant Professor, Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur*)

‘Vulnerable Chakma refugees in India and their quest for Indian citizenship’

7) **Dai Yokomizo** (*Professor, Graduate School of Law, Nagoya University*)

‘Stateless persons in Japan: what makes them stateless and vulnerable?’

8) **Aziz Ismatov** (*Assistant Professor, Center for Asian Legal Exchange, Nagoya University*)

‘Clumsy border demarcation, undocumented mixed marriage, and stateless trans-border spouses in Central Asian enclaves’

12:00 – 12:50 Q & A/ Discussions

12:50 – 13:00 Closing Remarks

**Akira Fujimoto** (*Professor/Director, Center for Asian Legal Exchange, Nagoya University*)

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