## THE INTENDED AND UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF TRANSPARENCY REFORMS ON GOVERNMENT

This talk highlights themes from Good Governance in Economic Development (UBC Press, 2019), co-edited by Professors Biddulph and Biuković. The book examines the transparency and accountability mechanisms underpinning international trade, finance, and investment regimes, particularly in view of the intensifying influence of China. It explains not only on how the principles of transparency, accountability, and public participation are applied within China, but also how China uses its new economic and political powers to affect international rules. Ljiljana Biuković will introduce the conceptual approach of the book and set out how individual chapters examine the interplay between global and local forms of good governance, the ways in which transparency and accountability mechanism are incorporated in international and bilateral trade, finance, and investment regime, and how these principles impact domestic regulatory regimes. Sarah Biddulph will then examine the unintended consequences of accountability mechanisms in China. Inertia is an increasingly serious problem of administration in China. Yet administrative law principles in China do not address very well the problem of failure to act and the harms that arise out of this failure. Professor Biddulph explores the ways in which transparency and accountability increase the cost and risk of administrative action and have been used as a tool to strengthen disciplinary control by the Party and higher-level authorities over local authorities..



**Sarah Biddulph** is Assistant Deputy Vice Chancellor International – China, and Professor of Law at the Melbourne Law School. Her research focuses on the Chinese legal system with a particular emphasis on legal policy, law making and enforcement as they affect the administration of justice in China. Her particular areas of research are contemporary Chinese administrative

law, criminal procedure, labour, comparative law and the law regulating social and economic rights. Her other recent publications include *The Stability Imperative: Human Rights and Law in China* and *Handbook of Human Rights in China* Edward Elgar 2019 edited with Josh Rosenzweig.



Ljiljana Biukovic is a Professor in the Allard School of Law. She teaches Contract Law, European Union Law, and International Trade Law. Her research interests are in the areas of international economic law and European Union integration. She publishes on topics of legal transplantation of international norms and standards by national governments, the impact of regionalism on multilateral trade negotiations, megaregional trade and investment agreements, and the

development of European Union. At present, Professor Biuković examines issues on collective memories and international law as a part of a new research project funded by Franklin Lew Innovation Fund.



## CENTRE FOR ASIAN LEGAL STUDIES

March

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## MONDAY

12:30 – 2:00PM

Farris Hall (room 106)

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