



香港中文大學  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

*Centre for Financial Regulation and Economic Development*

金融規管與經濟發展研究中心



FACULTY OF LAW

**A CFRED Seminar:**

## **CHOICE OF LAW IN BUSINESS MATTERS**

by

**Prof. Dr. Hannes Rösler, LL.M. (Harvard)**

*University of Siegen, Germany*

Chaired by: **Prof. Robin Huang**, *Faculty of Law, CUHK*

**11 August 2014, Monday, 12:30 – 2:00p.m.**

*The Faculty of Law Boardroom, 6/F Lee Shau Kee Building, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, N.T.*

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Only a century ago the parties' ability to choose the law applicable to a contract was generally rejected. That is very different today. A choice of law by the parties has become the preferred method for the determination of which law is applicable to an international commercial contract. In the European Union, the Rome I Regulation (i.e. the Regulation (EC) No 593/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 on the law applicable to contractual obligations) made the choice of law a cornerstone of conflict of laws. The talk will address the theoretical backgrounds for the shift towards party autonomy. In addition, it will address some empirical studies dealing with the question which laws actually get chosen. Finally, the talk will discuss if it should be possible that "principles and rules of substantive contract law recognised internationally" can be chosen also in non-arbitration matters. The talk closes by looking at the "Working Group on Choice of Law in International Contracts" by the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

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**All are welcome!  
Admission is free of charge!**

**Light Lunch will be provided.**

**Please join us by registering your interest [here](#) by 8 August 2014.**

## About the Speaker

### Prof. Dr. Hannes Rösler

*Professor for Civil Law, International Private Law and Comparative Law, University of Siegen*



#### Main Fields of Research:

Civil law, commercial and economic law (including intellectual property law), media and information law, civil procedure, private international law, European law, legal sociology and comparative law

#### Academic Career:

Commenced legal and social science studies at the University of Marburg in 1992 including a one-year stay (1994/95) at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) as an Erasmus scholarship holder. Fellowship recipient of the German National Merit Foundation. Completed first legal examination in 1998 in Marburg (Faculty Prize). 1995 to 1996 Student Assistant and 1999 to 2000 Research Assistant at the Institute for Comparative Law in Marburg. Doctoral fellowship recipient from the Hessian Scholarship for Young Scientists. Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute of European and Comparative Law of the Oxford University (Merton College) in 2000 for three months. In July 2001 completed a six-week research stay with the European Commission in Brussels. From 2001 through 2003 law clerk in Frankfurt am Main. In 2003 doctorate conferred (s.c.l., Marburg), second state examination in Frankfurt am Main and for four months associate at UNIDROIT in Rome. LL.M. completed at Harvard Law School (2003/04) as German Academic Exchange Scholarship Recipient. 2004 an eight-week guest stay at the New York University, School of Law.

2004 to 2013 a Senior Research Fellow for European Private and Economic Law at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law, Hamburg. In 2006 for three months Visiting Fellow at the University of Cambridge (Wolfson College). Founder and head of the Hamburg International Media Law Forum (IMLF) of the German-American Lawyers' Association (DAJV) held annually since 2008. Since 2012 in the Board of Directors of the DAJV. Winter semester 2011/12 completion of post-doctorate thesis (Habilitation) at the University of Hamburg and award of *Venia legendi* for the above-mentioned areas of research. Kurt Hartwig Siemers Award 2012/2013, Hamburg Scientific Foundation and Award of the Esche Schümann Commichau Foundation 2013.

After interim professorships at the University of Freiburg (chair for civil law, international private law and comparative law, winter semester 2012/13), at the University of Bonn (chair for civil law, international private law, comparative law, European private law, summer semester 2013) and at the University of Frankfurt/Oder (chair for civil law, international private law, comparative law and European private law, winter semester 2013/14) appointment as professor for civil law, comparative law and international private law at the University of Siegen (summer term 2014). Presentations in Germany and, i.a., in Great Britain, Italy, Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Ex-Yugoslavia, Turkey, Oman, Brazil and Japan. (Guest) lectureships on economic and UN sales law as well as German private law, in particular in Hamburg (since 2006), Ankara (2007), Frankfurt am Main (2008 to 2012), Istanbul (2008), Verona (2009), London (2010), Beijing (2011) and Lille (2013). Expert assignments for legislative reforms in Macedonia (IRZ) and Vietnam (GIZ). More than 100 publications in German and English and translations into Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Turkish, Chinese and Japanese.

