



MA PROGRAMME IN JAPANESE STUDIES & COMPARATIVE ASIAN RESEARCH NETWORK

Lecture Series on Issues and Research in the Asian Region
Organized by the Department of Japanese Studies, CUHK

presents

THE LEGACY OF PRIME MINISTER SHINZO ABE IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION OF JAPAN

**Speaker : Dr. Samantha Ma, Solicitor,
LLB, PCLL, LLM, MA, Ph.D**

Date : 13 March 2021 (Saturday)

Time : 2:00 - 3:30 PM

Venue: ZOOM (the meeting link will be emailed to registrants)

Language: English

all are Welcome!

ABSTRACT

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is the first Japanese Prime Minister who was born after WWII but the goal of constitutional revision – in particular revisions to Article 9 of the Constitution - has deep roots in his mind. He was strongly influenced by his late grandfather Nobusuke Kishi who was unable to achieve his goal of constitutional revision. On 3 May 2017, the 70th anniversary of the 1947 Constitution, Prime Minister Abe announced a plan to revise the Constitution by 2020. However, in late August 2020, Prime Minister Abe resigned for health reasons which, together with the COVID-19 pandemic, have put the Constitutional revision agenda of Japan on hold. Prime Minister Abe pushed the Constitutional revision initiative to the forefront of Japan's political agenda when the country legitimized the right of collective self-defence in 2014. What will be the legacy of Prime Minister Abe in the constitutional reform initiative of Japan? How far will Abe's successor, like Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, continue Abe's unfinished goal of Constitution revision? These questions will be addressed in the talk.

SPEAKER'S PROFILE

Dr. Samantha Ma is a solicitor in Hong Kong. An academic who has worked in various universities in Hong Kong, Dr. Ma has research interests in Hong Kong law, Chinese law, international law and the political environment of Japan. She has published articles on the political environment of Hong Kong and the legal implications of COVID-19 in Hong Kong. A graduate of the Master of Arts in Japanese Studies in CUHK, she has broadened her research interests from legal studies in Hong Kong and China to the political and constitutional development of Japan. Her Ph.D. from the University of Sheffield focused on the constitutional revision initiative of the Koizumi and Second Abe administration.

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