



**From Research into Values of Future Lawyers to Promoting  
Legal Professionalism in Greater China Region:  
Informing and Implementing Legal Ethics Education in  
Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan**

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# Summary of the Impact

- Highlights the **research on values of law students in Greater China Region**, and the **impact of his research *beyond local academia* in promoting legal professionalism in Mainland China and Taiwan**
- Directly informed the development and dissemination of three new legal ethics course:
  - School of Transnational Law, Peking University, China;
  - HKU Faculty of Law, Hong Kong;
  - National Chiao Tung University School of Law, Taiwan
- ✓ Promoted awareness of ***legal professionalism***
- ✓ Advanced ***legal ethics education*** in Greater China Region
  - ✓ Evidenced by **online survey results**, testimonials and new legal ethics curricula

# Underpinning Research

1. *Empirical and Comparative Study of Values of Law Students in Greater China Region*
2. *Development and Dissemination of New Model of Legal Ethics Course for Law Schools in Greater China Region*
3. *Development of a 'value-based' model of Legal Ethics Education Through Experiential Learning in Greater China Region*



# Underpinning Research

## ***(1) Empirical and Comparative Study of Values of Law Students in Greater China Region***

- The **first** empirical and comparative study of values of law students in Greater China Region: **Hong Kong, Mainland China and Taiwan.**
  - **Significant Research Findings:**
    1. Lawyers in Hong Kong, Mainland China and Taiwan share a ***'materialistic'*** career orientation
    2. Those studying in a system whose legal education goal is to train professional and technical lawyers like Hong Kong are ***more inclined to pursue professional legal ideals.***
    3. Legal education systems in Greater China Region, while different in their traditions, **share the same need to strengthen legal professionalism through according greater emphasis to legal ethics in their respective law school curricula**
- **Development and Dissemination of Innovative Model of Legal Ethics Course in Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan**

# Underpinning Research

## *(2) New Model of Legal Ethics Course for Law Schools in Greater China Region*

### Traditional View of Legal Ethics

- Matter of ***professional Rules***

### Wu's Research Findings

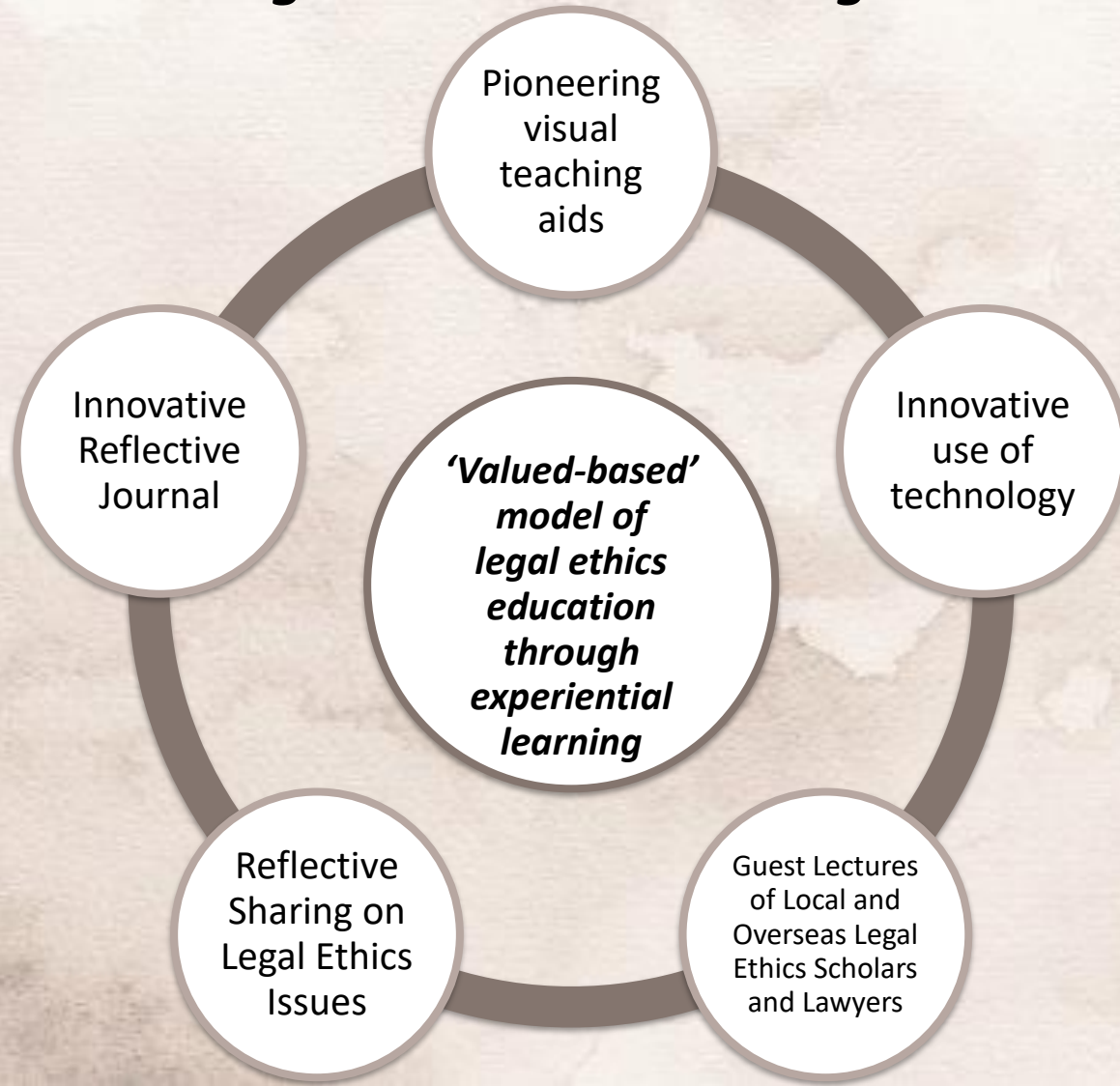
- ***Legal ethics*** should be treated ***as a matter of values***
- Legal Education in Greater China Region, while different in their Tradition, ***share the same need to strengthen legal professionalism through according greater emphasis to legal ethics***

### Innovative Response to Research


- Development and dissemination of a ***new model of legal ethics course*** for law schools in Mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan
- Development of a '***valued-based***' ***model of legal ethics education through experiential learning***

# Underpinning Research

## *(3) 'Valued-based' model of legal ethics education through experiential learning in Greater China Region*








# Engagement

## **China University of Political Science and Law, China**

1. *Dissemination of research findings at the **Annual Chinese Legal Ethics Conference***
2. *Dissemination of research findings in the form of a **Chinese-language article published in the Journal Legal Ethics for the legal ethics teachers in China***
3. ***Book Editing** with Professor Xu Shenjia of China University of Political Science and Law and Professor Adrian Evans of Monash Law School, Australia*



# Engagement

## **School of Transnational Law, Peking University, China**

- Implementation of Legal Ethics Course titled ***“Engaging with Professionalism and Legal Ethics in Globalized Legal Practice Through Experiential Learning”***

## **National Chiao Tung University School of Law, Taiwan**

- Implementation of Legal Ethics Course titled ***“Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility”***



# Impacts Achieved

## ***1. Developing the teaching and learning capacity for legal ethics in China***

**Dissemination of Research Findings in Annual International Legal Ethics Conference**

- Providing Insights on the Teaching and Learning of Legal Ethics to the Audience in the Annual Legal Ethics Conference

**Book co-authored with Professor Xu and Professor Evans**

- The book will become a standard textbook for legal ethics courses in Chinese law schools.

# Impacts Achieved

## 2. Impact on law students in Greater China Region



***“Engaging with Professionalism and Legal Ethics in Globalized Legal Practice Through Experiential Learning”*** at the School of Transnational Law, Peking University, China



***“Ethical Lawyering for Public Interest”*** at HKU Faculty of Law, Hong Kong



***“Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility”*** at National Chiao Tung University School of Law, Taiwan

***New Model of Legal Ethics Course in Law Schools in Greater China***

***More direct engagement with legal professionalism by law students*** in Greater China Region.

***Evidenced by the feedback from students*** studying the new legal ethics courses designed by Wu:

- Survey on the effectiveness of Legal Ethics Courses taught in Mainland China and Taiwan

# Impacts Achieved

## 2. Impact on law students in Greater China Region (cont.)

### Some highlights of online survey results:

#### ***On the usefulness of Wu's course on Student Learning of Legal Ethics:***

- ***All respondents (100%) agreed that The course was extremely useful in helping them understand Legal Ethics***
- ***Over 70% of respondents agreed / strongly agreed the course helped them understand / reflect more on legal ethics / practical issues in legal ethics***

Do you think the course help your future work?

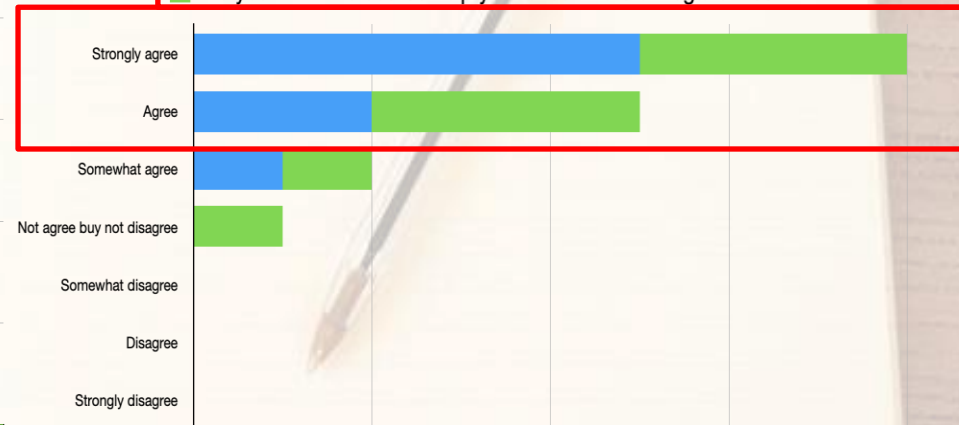
Do you think the course help you understand practical issues in legal ethics?

Do you think the course help you understand legal ethics?



Do you think the course help you reflect more on practical issues in legal ethics?

Do you think the course help you reflect more on legal ethics?





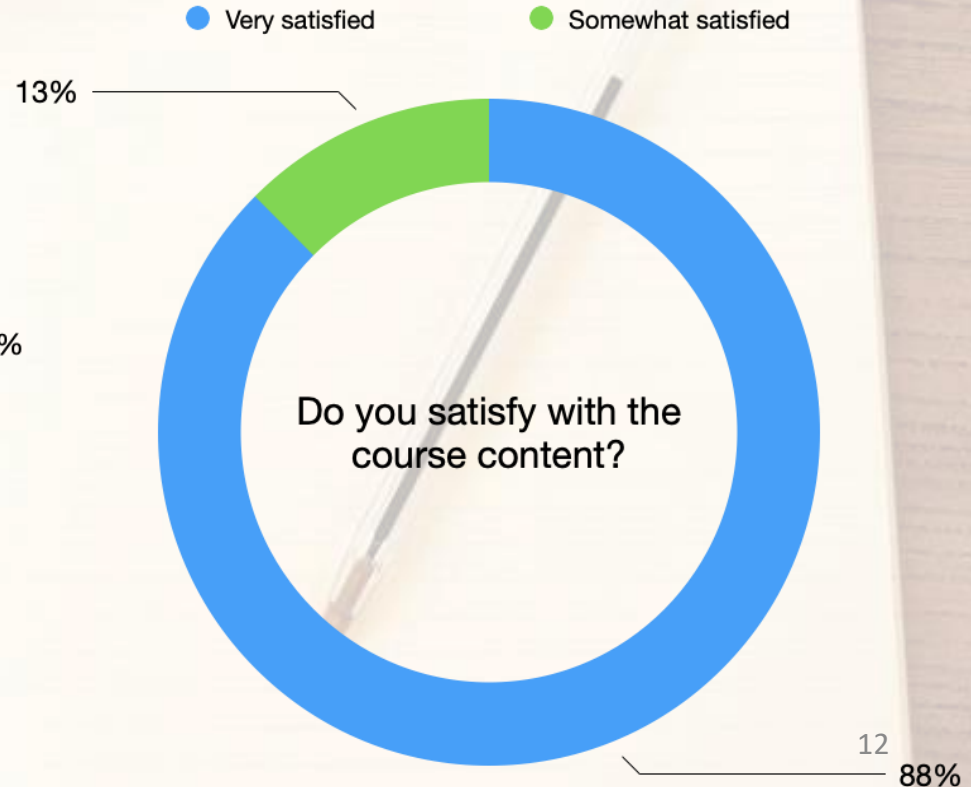
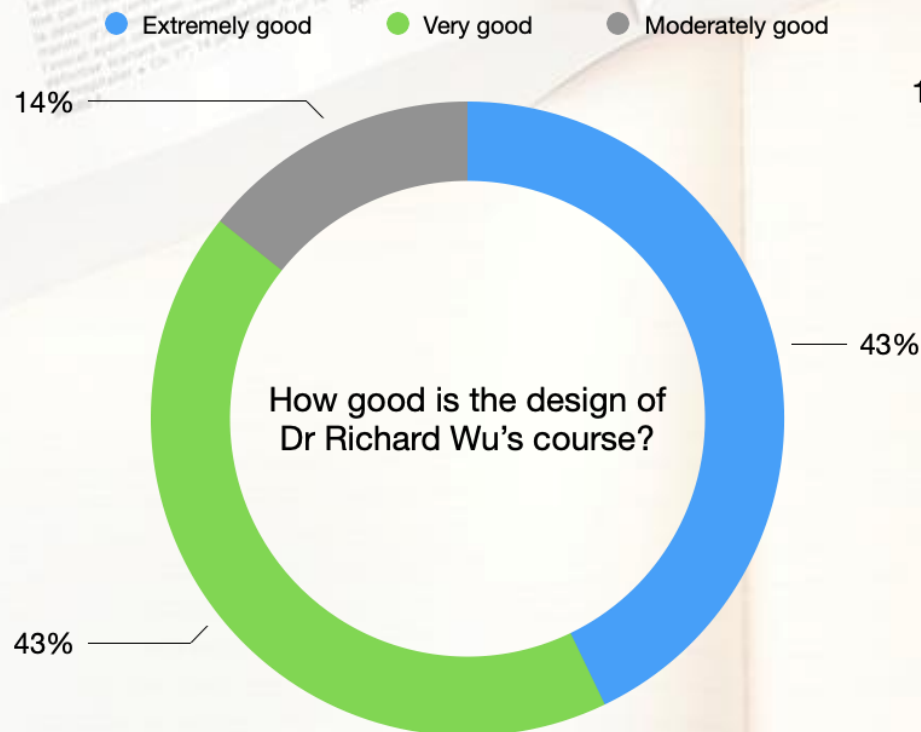
# Impacts Achieved

## 2. Impact on law students in Greater China Region (cont.)

Some highlights of online survey results:

***On Wu's course design, over 80% of respondents agreed that it was Extremely / Very Good***

***On Wu's course content, over 80% of respondents are very Satisfied with the course content***





# Impacts Achieved

## 2. Impact on law students in Greater China Region (cont.)

### Some highlights of online survey results:

***On the impact of Wu's course, over 80% of respondents agreed / strongly agreed that they find reading Legal Ethics related materials more enjoyable → Wu's course has been able to arouse their interest on legal ethics AND they are more critical on legal ethics issues***

***- Over 70% of respondents agreed / strongly agreed they have attached greater emphasis /paid more attention to legal ethics AND they are more interested/active to discuss/understand legal ethics***



# Impacts Achieved

## 3. *Impact on legal ethics education in Hong Kong*

Hong Kong as an  
Exceptional Common Law  
Jurisdiction not Teaching  
Legal Ethics

Wu's Research on the  
Legal Ethics of Law  
Students in Greater China

Calling for Legal Ethics  
Education in Government  
Appointed Consultants'  
Report

Wu's Research Findings  
Corresponding to the  
Recommendation of the  
Consultants' Report

Design and  
Implementation  
of Legal Ethics  
Course "Ethical  
Lawyering for  
Public Interest"  
by Wu

Wu's Impact in Designing  
and Implementing the  
first undergraduate legal  
ethics course in Hong  
Kong

# Impacts Achieved

## *4. Impact on legal ethics education in China*

- Continuing collaboration with between Wu and major law schools in Chinese law schools
- In the form of academic scholarship, collaboration in Research Project on Legal Professionalism, exchange in teaching and learning
  - School of Transnational Law, Peking University,
  - China University of Political Science and Law





# Impact Achieved

## 5. *Impact on legal ethics education in Taiwan*

Legal ethics is underdeveloped in Taiwan

- Considered as a matter of statutes than rules



Wu's research has demonstrated that ***legal ethics should be treated more as values than rules***



Introducing '***value-based teaching of legal ethics***' through collaboration with local law schools like National Chiao Tung University School of Law

- Legal Ethics Course titled "*Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility*"
- Exchange of Teaching and Learning
- Academic Scholarship



# Reference to the Research

1. Wu, R. (2016), 'A Comparative Study and Empirical Study of Ethical Values of Law Students in Beijing, Taipei and Hong Kong: Implications for Legal Education in Mainland China', *Journal of Comparative Law*, 11(2), pp. 258-282.
2. Wu, R. (2017) 'An Empirical Study of Hong Kong Law Students' Ethical Values: Does Common Law Education Enhance Their Professionalism?', *Legal Ethics*, 20(2), pp. 242-267.
3. Wu, R. (2019). 'Reforming and Regulating Legal Education and Admission to Practice in the Greater China Region in the Age of Globalization: A Comparative Study of China, Hong Kong and Taiwan', *An International Conference to inaugurate a Global Regulatory Governance Research Network*, Chinese University of Hong Kong, 4-6 July 2019.
4. Wu, R. (2019), 'Cross-System Study of Career Orientations of Future Lawyers: Implications for Legal Professionalism and Ethics in Greater China', *International Conference on Higher Education in Greater China*, Chinese University of Hong Kong, 29 April 2019.
5. Wu, R., Lo, C. and Liu, N. (2020) 'Legal Professionalism and the Ethical Challenge for Legal Education: Insights from a Comparative Study of Future Lawyers in Greater China', *China Quarterly*.

# Sources to corroborate the impact

1. Result of Online Student Survey on The Effectiveness of Teaching Legal Ethics in China and Taiwan Through Experiential Learning By Dr. Richard Wu;
2. Letter from The Honourable Anna Wu Hung-Yuk, Former Chair of Competition Commission & Equal Opportunities Commission, Hong Kong;
3. Letter from Professor Philip J. McConnaughay, Dean and Professor, School of Transnational Law, Peking University, China;
4. Letter from Professor Adrian Evans, Emeritus Professor, Monash Law School, and Legal Scholar who pioneered in the study of values of law students in Australia;
5. Letter from Professor Xu Shenjian, Dean of the School of Juris Master, China University of Political Science and Law, China;
6. Letter from Professor Thomas Chen, Professor, National Chiao Tung University School of Law, Taiwan;
7. Letter from Mr. Joe Ng, Acquisitions Editor of Cambridge University Press;
8. Legal Ethics Course Outline for School of Transnational Law, Peking University, China;
9. Legal Ethics Course Outline for National Chiao Tung University School of Law, Taiwan;
10. Extracts from the Final Report of the Consultants on the Comprehensive Review of Legal Education and Training in Hong Kong (April 2018), pp.67-68.