

Envisioning the Future of Human Rights

-Strengthening Human Rights through
Empowerment and Solidarity-

Tokyo, Japan 8 - 9 December 2025

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**-Strengthening Human Rights
through Empowerment and
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[Register via this link](#)



Registration QR Code

Date

Dec 8 (Mon) – 9 (Tue), 2025 One and a half days
Opening Dec 8, 13:00 / Closing Dec 9, 17:40

Venue

Meiji University Global Hall, Global Front
Building Tokyo, Japan ([📍 Google Maps](#))
Address: 2-1-23 Kanda-Surugadai, Chiyoda-ku

Topics

Indigenous People/ Gender /
AI & Vulnerable Groups

Organized by The International Association of Constitutional Law (IACL), The Tokyo Roundtable Organizing Committee, The Japanese Section of the IACL, and Meiji University

Co-held by Meiji University Institution of Comparative Law; Meiji University Global Human Rights Research Cluster and Meiji University Institution of Modern Constitutional Law

Supported by JSPS KAKENHI Grant Number 23H00035 (Prof Akiko Ejima) and Grant Number 23K25449 (Prof Kazuhisa Saito)

Financially supported by the Egusa Foundation for International Cooperation in the Social Sciences, the Kajima Foundation and the Nomura Foundation





Aims and Overview

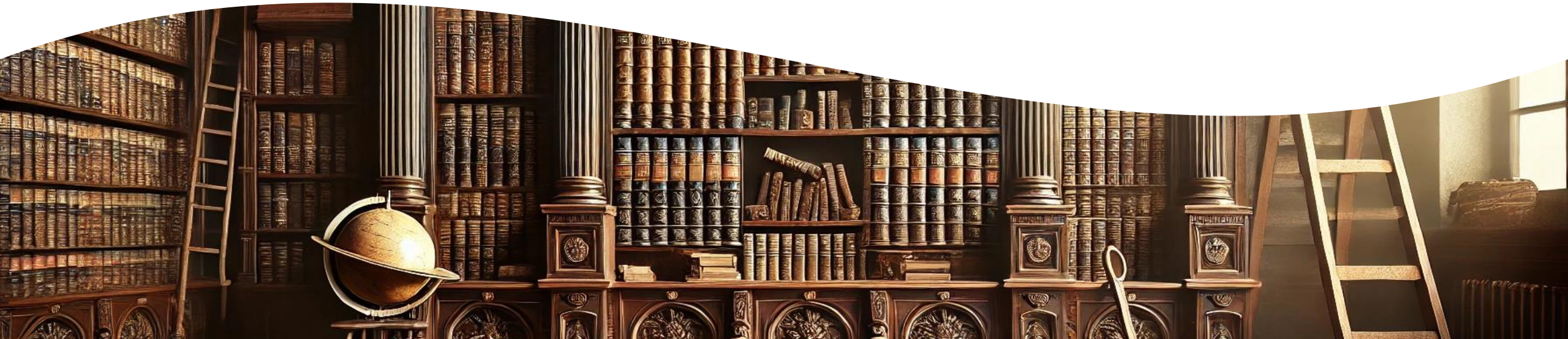
The IACL Roundtable 2025 seeks to critically examine the implementation of human rights frameworks within constitutional systems, envisioning a future where human rights are strengthened through empowerment and solidarity. The discussion will explore the role of the constitutional and international institutions as well as emerging actors, in advancing—or impeding—the realisation of human rights.

Beyond traditional constitutional bodies such as legislatures, judiciaries, and executives, the Roundtable will assess the role of the so-called “fourth branch,” including national human rights institutions, monitoring bodies, and even private entities engaging with frameworks like the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. A Central question is whether constitutional systems genuinely uphold rights they enshrine and provide meaningful avenue for individuals to have their voices heard.

In today's world, human rights face unprecedented challenges from pandemics, war, economic instability, technological innovation (notably artificial intelligence), and climate change. While human rights are extensively codified in constitutions and international treaties, these crises have exposed significant gaps in implementation—leading some to argue that we are witnessing the erosion, or even the demise, of human rights as a global framework.

Over time, human rights have evolved across three generations: civil and political rights (first generation), social and economic rights (second generation), and collective rights such as the right to development (third generation). Yet, constitutional institutions often provide only minimal implementation and, in some cases, actively undermine these rights. In response, international institutions—including the United Nations and regional human rights bodies—have sought to reinforce protections. The UN Paris Principles, for example, emphasize the importance of independent national human rights institutions, while initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights highlight the role of private actors in safeguarding human rights.

At the same time, grassroots movements such as #MeToo and Black Lives Matter have demonstrated the power of individual voices in driving systemic change. These movements underscore the role of activism and collective action in reshaping legal norms and societal structures, reinforcing the idea that human rights are not merely abstract principles but lived experiences and struggles.





Focus and Objectives

The Roundtable aims to empirically and critically assess the extent to which constitutional and international human rights frameworks reflect and amplify the voices of individuals. Are constitutional institutions successfully providing avenues for individuals to realise their rights, or are these systems falling short? Far from being mere abstract concepts grounded in philosophy or ethics, human rights represent the lived struggles, protests, and demands of real people.

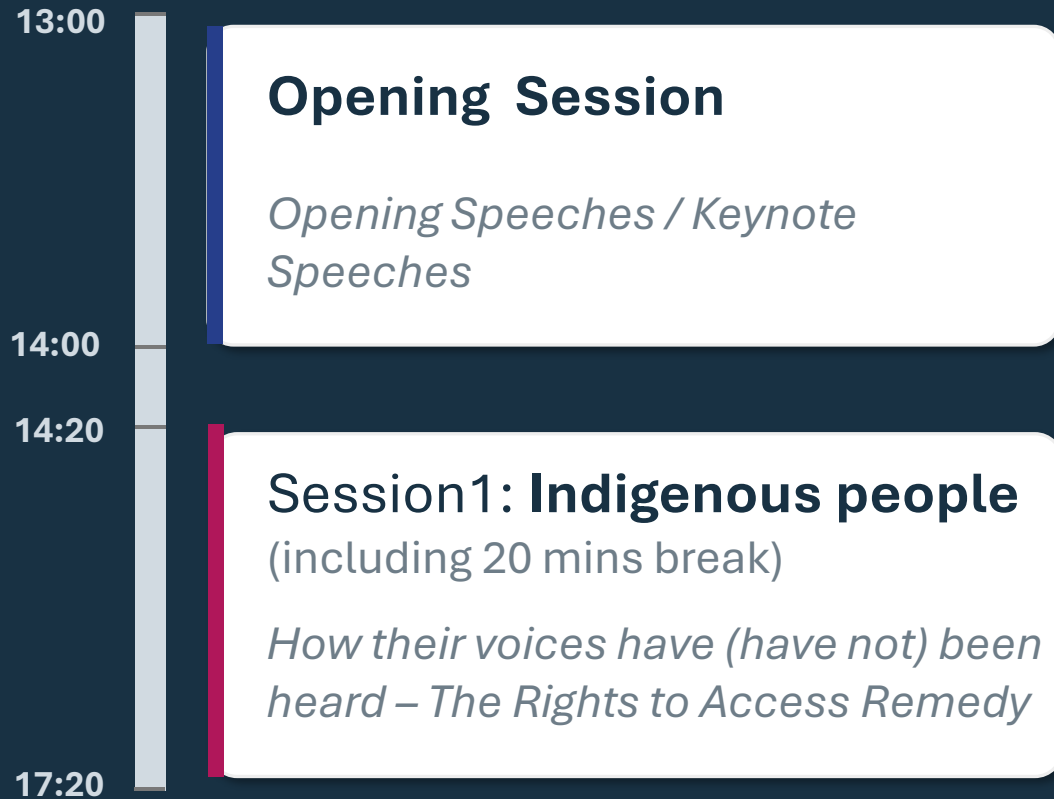
To address these questions, the Roundtable will focus on three key sub-themes (three sessions):

- 1. Indigenous Peoples:** How have constitutional systems addressed the unique rights and challenges of Indigenous communities? What measures have been effective, and where are the gaps?
- 2. Gender:** What progress has been made in ensuring gender equality? How effectively are constitutional institutions responding to gender-based rights violations?
- 3. Artificial Intelligence and Vulnerable Groups:** How does the rise of AI impact vulnerable populations? What safeguards exist to prevent harm and ensure equitable treatment?

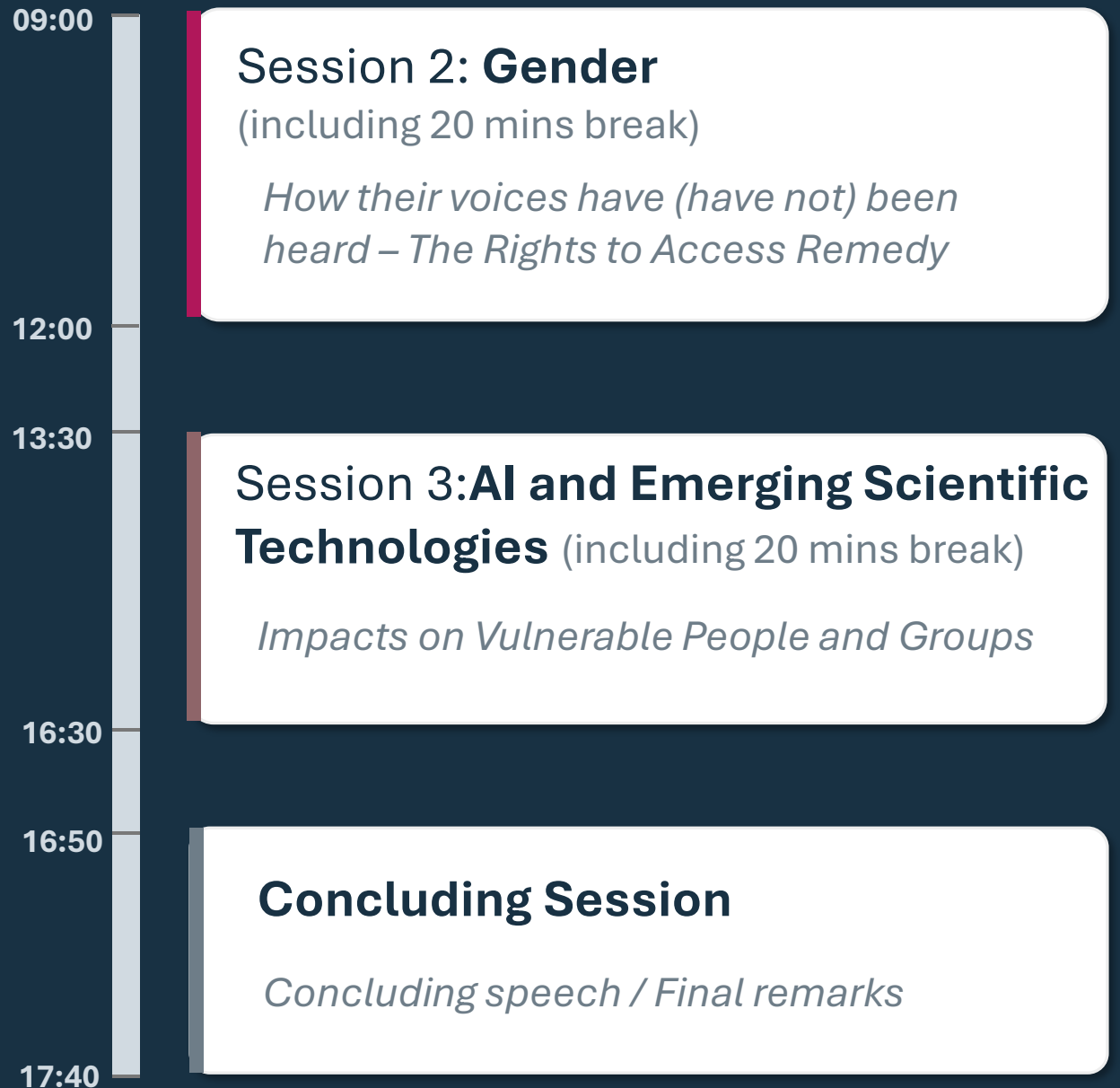
By bringing together legal scholars, policymakers, human rights practitioners, and activists, this Roundtable aims to generate critical insights and practical strategies for strengthening human rights protections through empowerment and solidarity.

Programme Overview

Day 1 — Dec 8 (Mon)



Day 2 — Dec 9 (Tue)



Details of the Programme
Day 1 | Mon Dec 8 2025



Opening
Session
13:00-14:00

Chair: **Yasuo Hasebe** (Waseda University) and **Akiko Ejima** (Meiji University)

Opening Speeches:

- **Masao Ueno**, President of Meiji University
- **Helle Krunke**, Copenhagen University, President of IACL
- **Yasuo Hasebe**, Waseda University, President of the Japan Section of IACL
- **Akiko Ejima**, Meiji University, EC member

Keynote Speeches:

- **Yoko Hayashi**, Attorney at Law, the former Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and the President of the ICHIKAWA Fusae Center for Women and Governance, *East meets West: Japan's engagement with the CEDAW Convention*
- **Catherine O'Regan**, Emeritus professor of human rights law, Oxford Law Faculty, judge of the South African Constitutional Court (1994 - 2009) and EC member, *Courts, Rights and Constitutions in the Third Wave of Democracy: Convergence or Divergence?*

Day 1 | Mon Dec 8 2025

Session 1:
Indigenous people
How their voices
have (have not)
been heard – The
Right to Access
Remedy

14:20-17:20

(including 20 minutes break)

Chairs: **Selin Esen** (Ankara University) and **Pablo Riberi** (Universidad Nacional de Córdoba)

○ **Helle Krunke** (University of Copenhagen), *Protection of rights of Greenlandic Inuit*

○ **César Landa Arroyo** (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú), *Indigenous people and the protection of the environment and nature in Latin America*

○ **Yuko Osakada** (Chuo University), *Restoring the Rights of the Ainu People: Towards the Decolonisation of Law and Justice in Japan*

○ **Adrienne Stone** (Melbourne Law School), *Truth, Treaty, Voice: Some recent constitutional history*

○ **Jose Maria Serna de la Garza** (Institute of Legal Research, National University of Mexico), *Pluralism and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Mexico: the difficult coexistence of state and non-state judicial systems*

○ **Giacomo Giorgini Pignatiello** (University of Naples "L'Orientale"), *Constitutional Voices Beyond Borders: A Transregional Comparison of Indigenous Rights Recognition in Latin America and Southeast Asia*

○ **Chiara Padrin** (University of Milan), *Environmental protection and collective rights: the Canadian experience in comparative perspective*

Day 2 | Tue Dec 9 2025

Session 2:

Gender

How their voices

have (have not)

been heard – The

Rights to Access

Remedy

9:00-12:00

(including 20 minutes break)

Chairs: **Helle Krunke** (University of Copenhagen) and **Itsuko Yamaguchi** (University of Tokyo)

○ **Iris Nguyễn Duy** (University of Agder), *Gender equality in France: Some reflections on recent progress and lack thereof*

○ **David Bilchitz** (University of Johannesburg and University of Reading), *Fundamental Rights and LGBTQ+ persons: What are the Obligations of Business?*

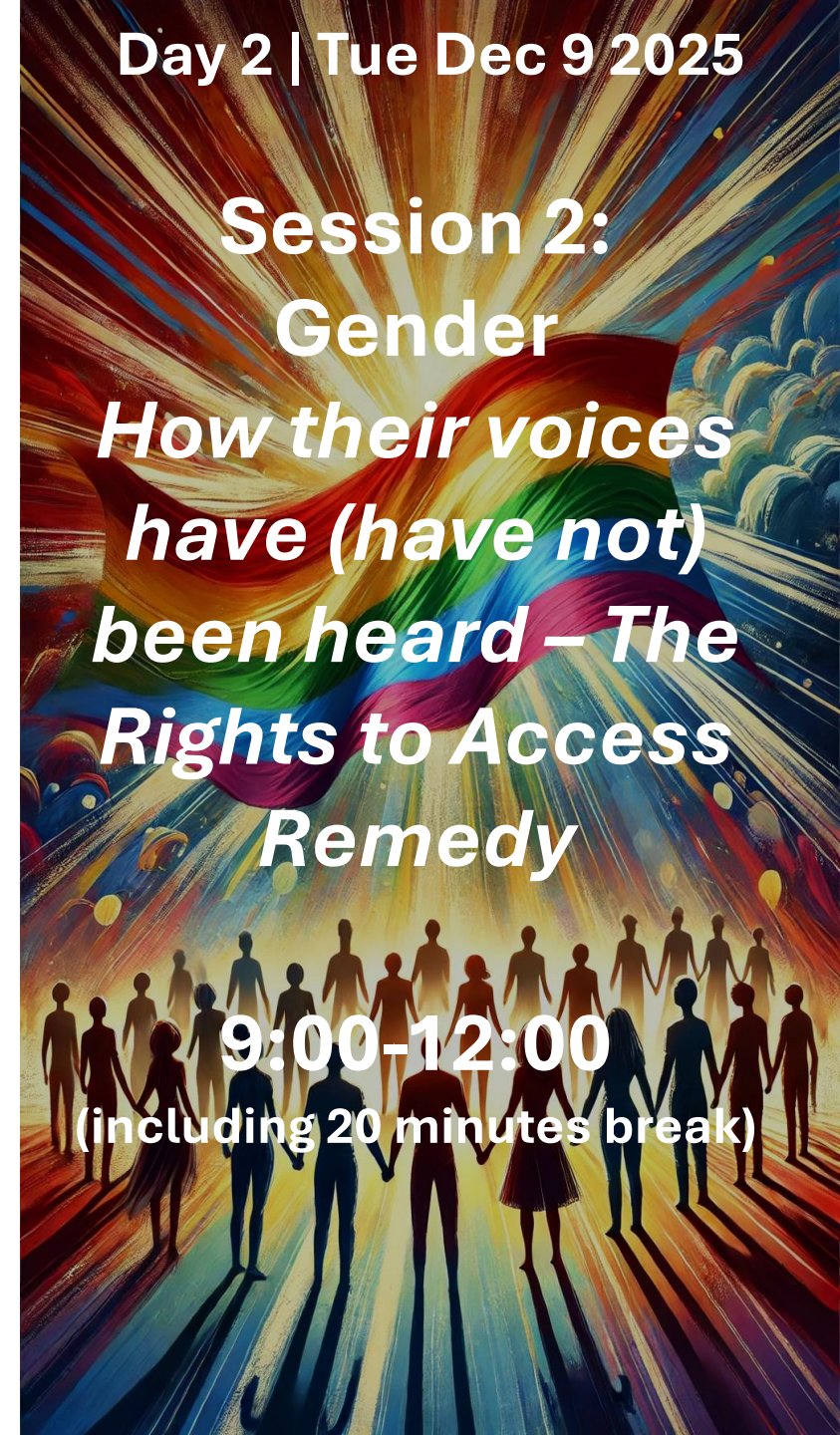
○ **Bryan Tiojanco** (University of Tokyo), *Gender and Democratic Constitutionalism in Transnational East Asia*

○ **Penelope Hardy** (University of Tokyo), *The right to social security in response to gender-based violations: An application to non-standard workers in France*

○ **Tainá Garcia Maia** (Center for Human Rights Erlangen-Nürnberg of the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU CHREN)), *Courts as Catalysts: Gender Equality and Transformative Constitutionalism in Latin America*

○ **Benjamin Moron-Puech** (Université Lumière Lyon 2 (CERCRID & Transversales)), *Reflections on the development of intersex human rights before constitutional and international courts*

○ **Stefano Osella** (University of Hong Kong), *LGBTQI+ Constitutionalism in Hong Kong: The Transformation of the Family*



Chairs: **Francesco Biagi** (University of Bologna) and **Shohei Eto** (Hitotsubashi University)

○ **Serges Alain Djoyou Kamga** (University of South Africa), *AI & Vulnerable Groups: A focus on persons with disabilities in Africa*

○ **Mayu Terada** (Hitotsubashi University), *Algorithmic Discrimination and the Right to Effective Remedy in Japan—Constitutional and Regulatory Perspectives*

○ **Tania Groppi** (University of Siena), *Digitalisation in the Courts: an European perspective*

○ **Ayako Hatano** (University of Oxford), *Localizing AI Governance in Africa: Content Moderation, Human Rights, and Access to Justice*

○ **Federica Fedorczyk** (University of Oxford), *Non-consensual sexual deepfakes and legal fragmentation: reclaiming human rights through criminal law and tech regulation*

○ **Darshan Datar** (Central Queensland University), *Freedom of thought: cognitive vulnerability, non-discrimination, and state obligations*

○ **Shao-Man Lee** (National Cheng Kung University) and **Yi-Li Lee** (National Tsing Hua University), *Regulating Artificial Intimacy: A rights-Based Framework for AI Companions*

Day 2 | Tue Dec 9 2025

Session 3:
AI and Emerging
Scientific
Technologies
Impacts on
Vulnerable
People and
Groups

13:30-16:30

(including 20 minutes break)



Day 2 | Tue Dec 9 2025

Chairs: **Selin Esen** (Ankara University, the First Vice President of the IACL) and **Yasuo Hasebe** (Waseda University, President of the Japanese Chapter of the IACL, President of the Public Law Association (Japan))

Concluding speech:

Wen-Chen Chang (National Taiwan University, EC member)

Final remarks:

○ **Helle Krunke** (University of Copenhagen, President of the IACL)

○ **Magdalena Ines Correa Henao** (la Universidad Externado de Colombia, Organizing Committee of the 2026 IACL World Congress of Constitutional Law – Sustainable Constitutionalism: Answers for a Changing World (tbc))

○ **Akiko Ejima** (Meiji University, EC member)

Concluding
Session

16:50-17:40





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If you have any questions, please email us at:
[**iacl.trt2025@gmail.com**](mailto:iacl.trt2025@gmail.com)

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