

# Dr Dhiraj NAINANI

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## Education

- PhD (Law) University of Hong Kong, 2021
  - LLM (Law) London School of Economics and Political Science, 2011
  - LLB (Law) London School of Economics and Political Science, 2010
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## Professional Experience

DEC 2021 – DEC 2023

### **Research Fellow, Singapore Centre for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering (SCELSE), Nanyang Technological University**

- Served as the sole social scientist postdoctoral fellow on a multi-university, multi-faculty, and intergovernmental grant project focusing on the technological surveillance of COVID-19 in wastewater.
- Produced a body of research that involved looking at the sociological aspects of wastewater surveillance from a variety of interdisciplinary perspectives, such as critical legal geography, legal history, bioethics, and sociological fieldwork.

MAY 2021 – OCT 2021

### **Adjunct Research Fellow, Centre for Asian Legal Studies (CALs), National University of Singapore**

- Worked primarily on various activities and events that concerned diverse aspects of Asian law (for example: law and religion, constitutionalism in Asia).
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## Research Area/Topic/Discipline

- Law and geography
  - Law and the Asian city
  - Asylum and migration
  - Surveillance and infrastructure
  - International law, climate change, and the urban
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## Short Biography

Dhiraj Nainani is a Postdoctoral Fellow at ARI and completed his LLB and LLM at the London School of Economics and Political Science before earning his doctorate in law at the University

15 May 2024

of Hong Kong, where he was a Postgraduate Scholarship recipient and was also nominated for several university awards.

As a legal geographer interested in urban Asia, Dhiraj's current research focuses on interrogating the relationship between the law and the Asian city. He is especially interested in exploring the legal concept of "sanctuary" in urbanism, the aesthetics of the law in urban space, and the spatio-legality of international law.

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## Publications

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### Refereed Articles

- Anticipating the legacy of wastewater surveillance: A spatio-legal geography of infrastructure and disease in Singapore. *Geographical Research*. (Currently under review)
- Balancing public health and group privacy: ethics, rights, and obligations for wastewater systems. (2024) *Water Research* 121756. DOI: 10.1016/j.watres.2024.121756.
- The somatic and spatio-legal regulation of stagnant water in Singapore. (2023). *Somatechnics* 13(3), 233–254. DOI: 10.3366/soma.2023.0404.
- A justice-centred framework for wastewater-based public health surveillance (with M. R. Arefin et al.). *Water Research*. (Currently under review)
- Longitudinal wastewater-based surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 in high-density student dormitories in Singapore (with W.J. Ng et al.). (2024). *ACS ES&T Water* 4(2), 355–367. DOI: 10.1021/acsestwater.3c00304
- The One Health perspective to improve environmental surveillance of zoonotic viruses: Lessons from COVID-19 and outlook beyond (with M. Leifels et al.). (2022). *ISME Communications* 2(1) 107. DOI: 10.1038/s43705-022-00191-8

### Book Chapters

- Health and safety in the inter-Asian ghetto: Regulation and resistance in Chungking Mansions, Hong Kong. In J. Kingsley, K-W Lee, & M. Aung-Thwin, *Inter-Asian Legalities* (title TBC). Publisher TBC. (Forthcoming, 2025)
- "The Music Dance Experience is officially cancelled": The spatio-legality of the corporate body in *Severance*. In A. Green, M. Travis, & K. Tranter (eds), *Jurisprudence of the Future: Science Fiction and the Legal Imaginary*. Routledge. (Forthcoming, 2025)

- Wastewater surveillance in colonial and present-day Hong Kong: Governing through contagion from below. In L. Chua & J.J.G. Lee (eds), *Governing through Contagion*. Hart. (Forthcoming, 2024)
- Surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 in Wastewater at the Population Level: Insights into the Implementation of Non-invasive Targeted Monitoring in Singapore and the USA (with M. Leifels et al.). In *The Handbook of Environmental Chemistry*. (2023). Springer. DOI: 10.1007/698\_2023\_988

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## **Awards/Grants and Distinctions**

University of Hong Kong Postgraduate Scholarship (2016-2021)

Law, Literature and Humanities Association of Australasia Bursary Award (2019)