

SEMINAR

"Licensing Bargaining under Non-Discrimination"

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Date: 19 November 2021 (Friday)

Time: 14:30-16:00

Venue: WYL314

ABSTRACT:

We consider how licensing bargaining would change under non-discrimination restrictions. For an owner of a patent that is essential to a technology standard (e.g. 5G and WIFI), the owner would have monopoly power since it is impossible to implement the standard without the technology. In particular, the owner could extract additional profits from the implementors through price discrimination. However, this market power was created only because the technology was chosen as part of the standard by the industries, among other competing technologies. To avoid such a hold-up problem, patent holders are often required to commit to licensing without discrimination for their patents in order to be a part of a standard. We show that this non-discriminatory restriction only works as expected in some situations and could lead to very undesirable outcomes in many other situations.

BIOGRAPHY:

Chiu-yu Ko obtained his BBA (Insurance, Financial and Actuarial Analysis) and MPhil (Economics) from The Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2005 and 2007. He received his PhD (Economics) from Boston College in 2012. Upon graduation, he joined the Department of Economics in the National University of Singapore as an assistant professor.

His research focuses on game theory, industrial organisation, and political economy. For game theory, he works on the bargaining, principal-agent, and resource allocation problems. For industrial organisation, he specialises in innovation and platform competition. For political economy, he is interested in political system and political history.

His research has been published/accepted in peer-reviewed journals including Canadian Journal of Economics, International Economic Review, Games and Economic Behavior, Journal of Economic Theory, Journal of Economic and Management Strategy, Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, and Theory and Decision.

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