

The 'Human Element' in the Courtroom:

**Framing and shaping the deliberative
process in mental capacity law**



**Associate Professor
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Similar to Singapore's Mental Capacity Act 2008, the Mental Capacity Act 2005 in England and Wales (MCA) prescribes a values-based legal framework, centred largely around the concepts of 'mental capacity' and 'best interests'—one in which legal practitioners must form value judgements about the unique persons in each case, but must often operate with little guidance.

This seminar aims to a growing body of scholarship shedding light on the 'black box' of how such cases are deliberated about and adjudicated in the courtroom.

It shows how the concept of the 'human element' offers important new insight into how judges, barristers and solicitors understand the performative requirements of their roles, and how they justify these requirements, in mental capacity law practice—functioning to give shape to an overarching set of normative commitments that are enacted and negotiated within the courtroom.

Dr Michael Dunn is an Associate Professor at the Centre for Biomedical Ethics (CBmE). Prior to joining NUS in January this year, Mikey spent 13 years at the Ethox Centre in the University of Oxford. His current research projects explore various ethical aspects of community-based and long-term care practice, policy, and law – in Singapore, the UK and internationally.

**22nd
Mar**
4:30—6PM

Mode: Zoom

**Register
here**

Registration is free.
CPE points are
pending.