



## 4<sup>th</sup> UMSAILS-UAP Lecture Series



Dear Sir/Madam,

The Department of Law and Human Rights, University of Asia Pacific in collaboration with UNESCO Madanjeet Singh South Asian Institute of Advanced Legal and Human Rights Studies (UMSAILS) will organize its 4<sup>th</sup> UMSAILS-UAP Lecture Series on Monday, 05 April 2021 at 4 pm. Dr. Ridwanul Hoque, Professor, Department of Law, University of Dhaka and IASH-Alwaleed Research Fellow, the University of Edinburgh will deliver his lecture on “**Constitutionalism in South Asia: The Significance of Constitutional Founding Values**” as the Distinguished Speaker.

We look forward to your kind presence at the program.

**Meeting ID:** [meet.google.com/mmf-nsbb-ehw](https://meet.google.com/mmf-nsbb-ehw)

**Dr. Chowdhury Ishrak Ahmed Siddiky**

Associate Professor and Head of the Department

Department of Law and Human Rights, UAP

&

Deputy Director, SAILS

## **Post-colonial Constitutionalism in South Asia: Do Constitutional Foundings Matter?**

**Ridwanul Hoque**

### **Abstract**

I will shed light on the nature of present-day South Asian constitutionalism. Based on evidence from major South Asian countries, I argue that there is a democratic backstepping in this region. While founding constitutional values do provide a normative framework for a post-colonial constitutional future for a given country, they do not themselves produce a clean break from colonial legacies. The significance and durability of foundational values in a post-independence constitutional order depends on the culture of democracy and the fidelity of constitutional actors to the founding norms. Overall, most South Asian nations have travelled much away from their constitutional foundings.

### **Brief Profile of Prof. Dr. Ridwanul Hoque**

**Ridwanul Hoque** is a Professor of Law at the University of Dhaka and a University Fellow at Northern Institute, Charles Darwin University, Australia. He has held visiting positions at Cornell University, Melbourne University, Edinburgh University, La Trobe University, and National Law University, Delhi. Professor Hoque is a leading constitutional law scholar, with focus on comparative and South Asian constitutional law. He is author of *Judicial Activism in Bangladesh: A Golden Mean Approach* (Cambridge Scholars, UK). His co-edited volume, *Constitutional Foundings in South Asia* is published in January 2021 (Hart Publishing, Oxford). Professor Hoque provided over a dozen expert reports for UK, US, and Australian courts on various issues including citizenship and torts.