

INTERNATIONAL LAW ISSUES SURROUNDING THE UNITED KINGDOM'S DEPARTURE FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION



Over 10-12 January 2019, Professor Suzannah Linton was the guest of the South China University of Technology's Law School in Guangzhou. She was hosted by international law professors HU Henan and CHEN Hongyan (who is also the Law School's Vice-Dean).



Prof Linton with Professor HU Henan and Vice Dean Professor CHEN Hongyan

In the monumental referendum of 3 June 2016, 51.9% of the United Kingdom's eligible voters chose to leave the European Union (EU), with 48.1% voting to remain. The Prime Minister who called the referendum, David Cameron, promptly resigned, leaving his government, party and nation in turmoil. Since then, with Prime Minister Theresa May at the helm of the Conservative government, the United Kingdom (UK) has been seeking to go where none have gone before: implement a very narrow democratic decision to take England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland out of the EU.



The UK has been lurching from one BREXIT-related crisis to another since the referendum. With BREXIT Day fast approaching on 29 March 2019, the political situation is becoming increasingly unstable and unpredictable. Professor Linton's presentation addressed the highly fluid situation surrounding the withdrawal and the new post-BREXIT relationship between the European Union and the UK. She focused on five of the International Law issues that surround BREXIT: the meaning of sovereignty, treaty law, 'acquired rights' in international law, territorial issues and the UK in the WTO after BREXIT.

