



Kobe Seminar on International Law

## **Colonial Citizenship: A Theory for the Present**

Liberal citizenship scholarship has built sophisticated frameworks for understanding how citizenship can be made more inclusive, but it has not produced a method for identifying the oppression built into citizenship regimes. This lecture proposes one, based on the forthcoming monograph *Colonial Citizenship: Race, Law and Rights through the Portuguese Empire*. Drawing on the longest case of European colonialism in modern history, it argues that this negation operates across three dimensions: the formal (laws that openly declare it), the material (laws that enforce it in lived conditions), and the real (the experience of those who inhabit and seek to escape it). Together, these three dimensions form a theory for identifying the oppression built into citizenship across different legal orders, including those that have abandoned colonial vocabulary while preserving its function. The lecture closes by asking what the framework can reveal in relation to modern constitutional architecture and opens a space for reflection on its possible resonance within Japanese law and beyond.

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Speaker: Dr M.C. Loureiro (University of Leicester)

Date & Time: 11 May 2026 (Monday) 15:10-16:40

Venue: Frontier 406, Rokkodai 1st Campus, Kobe University (in-person)

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M. C. Loureiro is a constitutional and political theorist working as Lecturer in Law at the University of Leicester whose research addresses colonial law, nationality and citizenship law, and constitutional rights theory. He is the author of *Colonial Citizenship: Race, Law and Rights through the Portuguese Empire* (Bristol University Press, forthcoming 2026) and 'The Argument for Justice: A Critical Taxonomy of Citizenship' (EUI Robert Schuman Centre Working Paper). He has previously held positions at the University of Birmingham and SOAS, University of London, and was a Visiting Fellow at GLOBALCIT, European University Institute.

No registration is required. Contact for details: Mari Takeuchi: [maritake@port.kobe-u.ac.jp](mailto:maritake@port.kobe-u.ac.jp)