

Love Tragedy from Drama to Law
——A Legal Examination of “Liang Zhu” and “Butterfly”

Dongrui Lv*

Abstract: The theater works “Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai” and “Butterfly” respectively portray the love tragedies of “Liang Shanbo” and “Zhu Yingtai” in different worlds. The traditional script of Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai are not allowed to be together due to the marriage system of the feudal society, while the musical adaptation of Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai go to the fire because of the rule of marriage which is against human nature. Based on the legal elements involved in the above two dramas, this paper will discuss the research path and current limitations of “law and drama”, and look for the future development trend and direction of “law and drama”.

Keywords: Law and Drama; “Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai”; “Butterfly”; Love Tragedy

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Analysis of the Evolution and Effectiveness Limitations of the Song Dynasty's Advisory System

Yujun Shi*

Abstract: The Song Dynasty's system of imperial advisers and censors, as an important part of China's ancient supervisory system, developed and matured under the backdrop of feudal absolutist centralized authority. Its ideological foundation mainly came from Confucianism, emphasizing "benevolent governance," "people-centeredness," and "the relationship between emperor and ministers." Its purpose was to correct the emperor's policy mistakes, improve the country's major policies, and restrain the emperor's arbitrary behavior. The Song Dynasty's system of imperial advisers and censors experienced a practical evolution from a clear division of duties between the inspectors and censors to the integration of the two offices, reflecting the thoughts of the Song Dynasty's rulers to strengthen centralized authority and balance the power of the prime minister. To a certain extent, the system guaranteed the correctness of the emperor's decisions, monitored officials' illegal and dereliction of duty behaviors, and maintained the stability of the country. However, it also had certain limitations of its time, and its implementation depended on the degree of enlightenment of the feudal emperor, which was too idealistic in the trend of integrating the two offices. At the same time, it weakened the restraining function of advisory criticism on imperial power. The Song Dynasty's system of imperial advisers and censors provides valuable lessons for enhancing the efficiency of modern supervision and strengthening anti-corruption efforts. It has important implications for achieving power balance.

Keywords: Song Dynasty; Advisory System; Combination of Censorial and Advisory Offices; Origin and Evolution; Value and Drawbacks

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The Dilemma of Modernity: Where Does a Lonely Soul Remain?

Pu Li*

Abstract: The story of Tanaka, the character in *Odd Taxi*, is full of tragedy, as he struggles through various means for identity and acceptance, only to be defeated by fate. The story can cause us to reflect on modernity. Being modern means that we can take matters into our own hands and become elites through our own efforts. Modern people believe that through reflection and choice, they can achieve what is often the result of accident and external forces. In the past, success was left to fate, or the historical contingency. Individuals in modernity desire autonomy and self-guidance, and when fate cannot be a proper explanation for success or failure, we need to take ultimate responsibility for our own lives and actions. When the individual who is openly committed to the pursuit of happiness finds that the attainment of happiness becomes an unattainable goal, the life with no place to live eventually becomes a lonely soul with no support.

Keywords: Identity; Modernity; Autonomy; Contingency

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The Collapse of the American Myth

Zhen Zhang*

Abstract: This article critically examines *America Unfolded* by exploring how the United States “folds” China, the world, and itself in the context of globalization. By revisiting the historical and cultural dynamics of U.S.-China relations, it analyzes how American narratives have shaped knowledge production and public perceptions in China. Through case studies in politics, judiciary, and culture, this paper reveals the construction and evolution of the “American myth” and its implications for the global order. It advocates for a multidimensional perspective to better understand U.S. internal contradictions and its complex relationship with the world beyond a singular narrative framework.

Keywords: American Fold; U.S.-China Relations; Cultural Critique; Globalization; Political Polarization

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AI Malpractice

Bryan H. Choi; *trans.*, by Wenjun Li*

Abstract: Should AI modelers be held to a professional standard of care? Recent scholarship has argued that those who build AI systems owe special duties to the public to promote values such as safety, fairness, transparency, and accountability. Yet, there is little agreement as to what the content of those duties should be. Nor is there a framework for how conflicting views should be resolved as a matter of law.

This Article builds on prior work applying professional malpractice law to conventional software development work, and extends it to AI work. The malpractice doctrine establishes an alternate standard of care—the customary care standard—that substitutes for the ordinary reasonable care standard. That substitution is needed in areas like medicine or law where the service is essential, the risk of harm is severe, and a uniform duty of care cannot be defined. The customary care standard offers a more flexible approach that tolerates a range of professional practices above a minimum expectation of competence. This approach is especially apt for occupations like software development where the science of the field is hotly contested or is rapidly evolving.

Although it is tempting to treat AI liability as a simple extension of software liability, there are key differences. First, AI work has not yet become essential to the social fabric the way software services have. The risk of underproviding AI services is less troublesome than it is for conventional professional services. Second, modern deep-learning AI techniques differ significantly from conventional software development practices, in ways that will likely facilitate greater convergence and uniformity in expert knowledge.

Those distinguishing features suggest that the law of AI liability will chart a different path than the law of software liability. For the immediate term, the interloper status of AI indicates a strict liability approach is most appropriate, given the other factors. In the longer term, as AI work becomes integrated into ordinary society, courts should expect to transition away from strict liability. For aspects that elude expert consensus and require exercise of discretionary judgment, courts should favor the professional malpractice standard. However, if there are broad swaths of AI work where experts can come to agreement on baseline standards, then courts can revert to the default of ordinary reasonable care.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence; Professional Malpractice; the Ordinary Reasonable Care Standard; the Customary Care Standard

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Bodies and Power, Revisited

Judith Butler; *trans.*, by Hongru Pan *

Abstract: Judith Butler reexamined Foucault's early and later analyses of the relationship between the body and power, concluding and emphasizing that Foucault viewed the body as both governed and productive, with these two aspects occurring simultaneously rather than independently. Power controls the body, but through the body's agency, it also reveals the potential for resistance. Power and subjectivity are part of a complex interaction, and the formation of the subject depends not only on the oppressive nature of power but also on the resistance and agency within the power-subject relationship. By analyzing the dual meaning of the concept of "subjection" (both obedience and becoming a subject), Foucault uncovered how power shapes individuals while also sparking the potential for resistance and the reconfiguration of the self. This article not only explores how power operates on the body but also seeks to understand how the body and subjectivity become a nexus of power and resistance, and how this nexus can redefine subjectivity.

Keywords: Power; Body; Foucault; Coercive Power; Nexus

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Uṣūl al-Fiqh and Shāfi'ī's Risāla Revisited

Wael B. Hallaq; trans., by Jingfan Xiao *

Abstract: In an article published in 1993, I argued that Muḥammad Ibn Idrīs al-Shāfi'ī (d. 204/820) was not, as commonly thought, the architect of uṣūl al-fiqh and that this discipline emerged only after the main battles over what became the Sunnite sources of the law were won. I had dated the emergence of writings on uṣūl al-fiqh to the last part of the third/ninth century and the first half of the fourth/tenth, pointing to Ibn Surayj (d. 306/918) and his students as amongst the earliest exponents of this type of literature. The article contributed to the rise of a considerable controversy in the field, in which a number of critics reasserted earlier origins of the discipline. In this writing, I reply to some of these critics, while confirming the main conclusions of that article and expanding and refining its arguments. In light of new evidence, empirical and interpretive, I maintain that uṣūl al-fiqh proper arose slightly later than my initial estimate. I also provide an analytical description of this theoretical science and situate it within a periodizing schema that charts its development from its prehistory down to the present.

Keywords: *uṣūl al-fiqh*; Islamic Legal Theory; Shāfi'ī; Ibn Surayj; Sunnī Islam; Historiography

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