



*Joseph Raz and KarLuis*

CALS Research Assistant, KarLuis Quek, attended the 2016 Julius Stone Address and the JSI Conference 2016 – Legitimacy and the State, organized by the Julius Stone Institute of Jurisprudence (Sydney Law School) from 13 to 15 October 2016 in Sydney, Australia.

He shares with us his experience at the events:

*“Meeting Joseph Raz is a terrifying prospect – at least for someone fresh out of law school. Raz is, as someone put it, the giganotosaurus of legal philosophy. But the man himself cannot be more approachable. When we met at the ‘Legitimacy and the State’ conference held at the University of Sydney Law School (14-15 October), he was gentle and patient in responding to my terribly naïve questions. Nonetheless, his gentleness belied a mind that is razor sharp as ever when he pointed out the flaws in my questions without any hesitation. Professor Raz’s uncanny intellect was also on full display in his opening presentation, as he interrogated one of today’s most cherished idea(l)s: the value of democracy.*

*This critical approach to taken-for-granted notions continued to permeate the conference, which involved discussions from Rawlsian and supranational public reason, to the roles of internal and external consent and whether they map on to legitimizing states and international institutions, to ‘control’ versus ‘benefit’ models of state legitimacy, and to the superpowers and super-vulnerabilities of legal officials.*

*For a neophyte like myself, the opportunity to participate in this conference was tremendously enriching. To this end, I owe great debts of gratitude to the Centre for Legal Theory and the Centre for Asian Legal Studies for making this happen.”*

*KarLuis Quek*