



Università degli Studi di Napoli  
**FEDERICO II**  
Dipartimento di Giurisprudenza



## University Lecture: Professor Vijay BHATIA

**Date:** Wednesday 25 May 2016

**Time:** 14.30-16-00

**Venue:** Aula Pessina, Dipartimento di Giurisprudenza  
Corso Umberto 1 - Napoli

### Organisation:

English Language Chair

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## Contesting Identities in International Commercial Arbitration

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It is generally believed that international arbitration is a consensual, economical and effective out-of-court mechanism for resolving commercial disputes. In practice, however, it is being increasingly influenced by adversarial, expensive and time-consuming litigation practices, thereby threatening the integrity of arbitration as an independent *alternative* to litigation, which often results in contesting identities of arbitrators, which are reflected in hybrid discourses across arbitration-litigation borders.

Drawing evidence from discursal data (narrative and documentary), I would like to argue that interdiscursive construction of identity across cultural, disciplinary, professional, or jurisdictional boundaries invariably results in contested forms reflected in discourse hybridity. More generally, I will also identify some of the key socio-critical issues and their implications for the future of arbitration institution as a non-litigative practice in international commercial contexts.

*under/postgraduate and PhD students, lecturers and other participants are warmly welcome*

### About the speaker

Vijay Bhatia retired as Professor of English from the City University of Hong Kong. He is the President of the Asia-Pacific Association of LSP and Professional Communication. Some of his recent research includes *Analyzing Genre-bending in Corporate Disclosure Practices*, and *International Arbitration Practice: A Discourse Analytical Study*, in which he led research teams from more than 20 countries. He has to his credit more than 150 publications, which include individually authored monographs, edited books, book chapters and research articles in international journals. Two of his books, *Analyzing Genre: Language Use in Professional Settings* and *Worlds of Written Discourse: A Genre-based View*, are widely used in genre theory and professional communication studies. His new book *Critical Genre Analysis: Investigating Interdiscursive Performance in Professional Practice* is due to be published later in the year by Routledge.