The debate about the right to rule over territory has recently taken a prominent place among political philosophers. Yet, the three most prominent views on the right to rule over territory – a Kantian, a Lockean, and a nationalist view – unduly neglect the global dimensions that the debate about territory should integrate. They proceed as if one could assess the right to rule one state at a time. However, in my 2012 book *On Global Justice*, I present a theory of global justice that gives pride of place to humanity’s collective ownership of the earth. In this talk, I argue that we can overcome the shortcomings of the Kantian, Lockean, and nationalist perspectives by applying my theory of global justice to the question of territorial rule. This leads to an overall more plausible account of legitimate ways of taking up space on earth, one that theorizes territorial rights, the justification of states, and immigration from a unified and global standpoint.

Friday 1 November 2013, 4:00pm
Social Sciences Chamber, 11/F, The Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus, HKU

Details and registration:  http://ppa.hku.hk/p/mrisse