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Welcome to *Ratio* magazine

Dear *Ratio* readers,

When I took over as general editor of *Ratio* this year (no small feat after the work Sarah Trotter put into it), I knew exactly what the theme should be. Indeed, Sarah, the star she is, showed me the way. After years of turbulence, uncertainty, debate and change, I wanted to focus on how the Law School is more than a place for theory or debate. I wanted to celebrate how our faculty and students devote so much time and energy to giving back. One example was Sarah's design of a conference centred around hope. Perhaps, initially, hope seems an odd word to pair with law. Yet, the idea and actions of hope and giving back capture a vital story of LSE Law. Hope refers to students' dreams, career expectations, and their growing understanding of the law's roles in our everyday lives, from regulating our food, protecting our capabilities and freedoms, merging our businesses, shaping our government, or coordinating our banking at home and abroad.

A central feature of our Law School's giving back last year was the birth of the LSE Legal Advice Clinic. Led by Diana Kirsch, our inaugural student volunteers and mentors have done an incredible job advising and assisting members of our local community, and, in that way, giving back to our local community. *Ratio*'s central feature includes an interview with Diana on the Clinic's first year. The Clinic provides free legal advice to the public, focusing at the time of writing on employment and family law issues. We have included student reflections to share their experiences working with clients. These students gained many new legal skills, such as interviewing clients, writing legal briefs and consulting with mentor advisors. As you will read, our students emphasised client service. Reading their reflections, it is clear how deeply they cared about these people, and how hard they worked for them – appreciating how their advice could significantly change someone's life. As we brought this issue together, an issue in which we celebrate LSE Law School's contributions over the past year and David Kershaw's legacy as he concluded his deanship, I was struck by how the Clinic brought people together to make a difference. These students may have felt they were impacting their clients, but it was reciprocal. The students grew because these clients offered them a real, hands-on experience doing the work of lawyers.

As we begin to appreciate the impact of machine learning and other transformative digital technologies on the legal profession, LSE Law's emphasis on clinical legal education highlights our central values towards encouraging and preparing students for entering the world. Whether aiming for a career in finance or analytical work in an international organisation, clinical experience prepares students for the challenges and responsibilities of a legal career. In future years, I hope, one day, the Law School can expose students to an even greater array of legal services, from policy planning to business acquisitions. There's that theme again, hope.

Beyond the inauguration of the Clinic, the Law School has been as ever this past academic year. Every day, there were so many events and activities to enrich the student experiences at LSE. As a trade lawyer, I can attest to the energy that came in January 2025, with an explosion of events concerning the globalised economy and the future of international commerce. The LSE Law events team were characteristically excellent, helping our faculty run dozens of events, such as examining the second Trump administration's economic growth and trade strategies (an event I convened), to a masterclass session on sanctions, a book launch on the law of damages, a marketing your LLM session, and a seminar on providing legal services in a time of digital transformation. I am indebted to Alexandra Klegg and her team, who truly deserve all the recognition for continuing to make LSE Law School and *Ratio* outstanding institutions. My thanks to Nafay Choudhury, Roxana Willis, Andrew Scott, and Tarun Khaitan for their hard work delivering our issue to you this year.

As I close this editorial, a letter intended to garner interest in our current issue and explain the theme, there is no escape from the circumstances in which I am writing. Just weeks before the new academic year began and as our issue was going to press, our faculty faced the grave and devastating loss of Professor Conor Gearty. I, alongside my colleagues, have been grieving Conor's passing. His students and colleagues at LSE and Matrix Chambers began writing public memorials, celebrating personal anecdotes and sharing how Conor had impacted their lives.



Conor meant a great deal to me. As a senior colleague, he was warm and welcoming to me and my young family when we first arrived five years ago. We spoke often about our children, the law, our journey to LSE, and our unshakeable passions for our respective fields. Family always came first for him. He would laugh at my overpreparedness for seminars, until the one day he himself tried it and was quite pleased to tell me I may have something about this whole going in prepared business – only to remind me that it should never come in the way of loved ones or research. We talked about justice and freedoms, and through him, I always came away with a deeper respect for how this colleague embodied giving back. I always left him more hopeful than when I started. He reminded me there is a world outside my narrow field. He would say what others would think but never imagined saying aloud. And he would say

it loudly and eloquently. I never could have appreciated how much Conor's passions and vibrancy made me a better colleague. No, a more hopeful colleague.

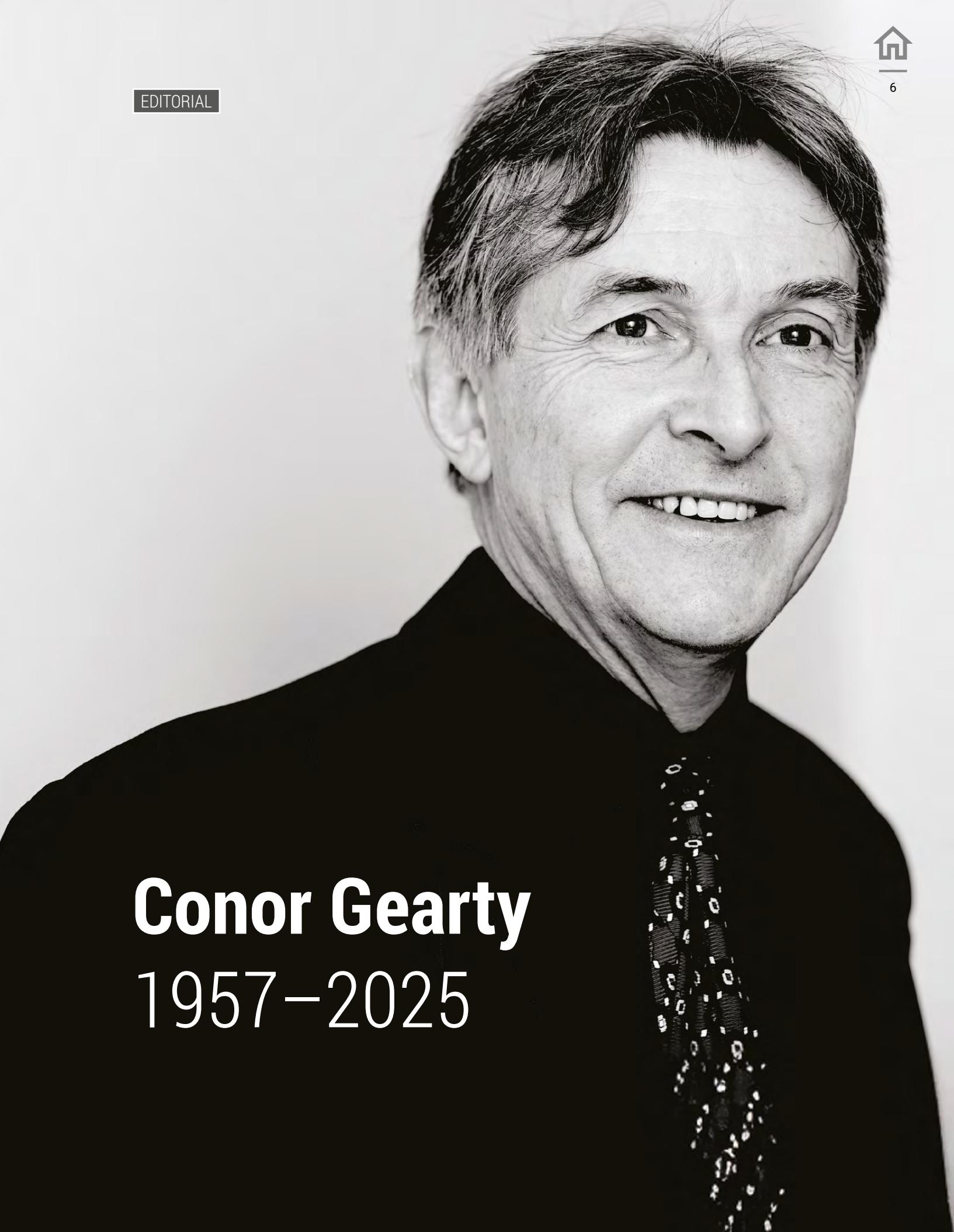
The Law School will celebrate Conor's life and inspiring work throughout the coming academic year and beyond. Work is underway for next year's special memorial event. On December 2nd 2025, the public event Conor was planning before his passing will happen. The event entitled "What role does the issue of race play in understanding the question of Palestine?" speaks to Conor's passionate work on human rights and Palestine. We will have much more to share in next year's issue, which the brilliant Marie Petersmann will lead.

Until next time,

Dr Mona Paulsen

September 20, 2025.

*A condolences page for Conor is available on the LSE website and can be found by following this link:
blogs.lse.ac.uk/condolences/2025/09/15/in-memory-of-conor-gearty-1957-2025/*



Conor Gearty
1957–2025

It is with profound sadness that the Law School shares the sudden death of our beloved colleague Conor Gearty.

Conor joined LSE as founding Director of the Centre for Human Rights in 2002, a position he held until he became Professor of Human Rights in the Law School in 2009. He also served as Director of the Institute of Public Affairs from 2012 to 2016, a position in which he formed a formidable array of intellectual relationships right across the School, exemplified in his *Gearty Grillings* podcasts – conversations defined by his deep and wide-ranging intellectual curiosity as well as his personal charm and wit. A charismatic and devoted teacher, Conor brought tremendous learning and energy to his courses in civil liberties, human rights and anti-terrorism law. He also embodied the power of reasoned argument, as the caution about human rights which marked his early scholarship gradually gave way to a meticulously argued conviction in their potential for human good. This is reflected in an important body of scholarship, notably his Hamlyn Lectures, *Can Human Rights Survive?* (2006); *Principles of Human Rights Adjudication* (2004); and *On Fantasy Island. Britain, Europe, and Human Rights* (2016). In the post-2001 world, he became a leading scholarly voice on state uses and abuses of anti-terrorism law, with contributions such *Liberty and Security* (2013) and – most recently – *Homeland Insecurity: the Rise and Rise of Anti-Terrorism Law* (2024). His work was shaped by a keen historical sensibility as well as an appreciation of the risks of anti-terrorism policy which surely had deep roots in his Irish background.

Conor was that rare thing: someone who was brilliant at every aspect of his job. As well as being a gifted teacher and an important scholar, he was an influential public intellectual, writing regularly for the *London Review of Books*, *Prospect* and many other outlets, notably his own beautifully curated website which spanned his personal experiences and his intellectual, political and cultural passions: his most recent post was a sparkling and thoughtful meditation on his experience of Wagner's Ring Cycle at Bayreuth, which also appeared in *The Tablet* (thetablet.co.uk/authors/conor-gearty/). He was also a respected legal practitioner: a founding member of Matrix Chambers and an honorary KC and Bencher of both the Middle Temple in London and the King's Inn in Dublin; and a Fellow of the Royal Irish Academy and of the British Academy, where he served as Vice President for Social Sciences from 2019 to 2023.

Underpinning Conor's professional achievements were exceptional personal qualities: not merely extraordinary energy, curiosity and vitality, but ready humour, real kindness, and outstanding warmth. His office door was always open, often with students waiting outside for the appointments with which he was so generous, or colleagues chatting informally, more often than not accompanied by gusts of laughter. We treasure his memory, even as we measure the depth of his loss. Our keenest sympathy goes to his wife Aoife Nolan and his children Eliza, Owen, Éile and Fiadh.



porting Our Community, One Conversation at a Time



Bridging the classroom: the LSE Legal Advice Centre launch in 2025

By Diana Kirsch,
LSE Legal Advice Centre Director

EDITORIAL

The theme of *Ratio* 2025/26 is all about Giving Back. The new LSE Legal Advice Centre is a first for LSE Law School – a community-based clinical programme offering free, confidential legal advice to real clients with real legal problems. Under practitioner supervision, students provide essential legal services to individual clients. They contribute to improving access to justice and have a vital opportunity to develop their lawyering skills. Moreover, the clinic aims to develop students' appreciation for the rule of law, which is integral to their growth as future legal professionals. Introducing experiential learning opportunities will allow future graduates to gain practical, hands-on experience that improves their employability and helps them focus on various ways the law impacts their community.

Dr Mona Paulsen met with the Centre's new Director, Diana Kirsch, throughout the year to follow the development and launch of LSE Law's new initiative.

As we sat down and began discussing the clinic, Diana's face lit up with energy as she recounted her experiences with beginning legal clinics from scratch – developing passion projects with homeless shelters and helping to rectify legal needs in Hackney and Brixton. It was clear she had developed deep expertise in fostering pro bono work and hoped to bring her energy and experience to LSE Law to help set up our first legal clinic.

For Diana, this is a return to the LSE: she completed her undergraduate education here. After a decade working as a criminal defence solicitor, she would later refocus her career on teaching and the complement of initiating legal clinics to provide students with the responsibilities and challenges of community-based legal service. Reflecting on her return, Diana smiled and noted that while the buildings had changed, the people's curiosity and thirst for change had not. It seemed like a perfect time to come home.

Diana and I discussed her progress in setting up the clinic. I asked her how her first few months had proceeded. Her office, decorated with congratulatory cards, was open and friendly. An open bowl of sweets sat on her visitor's table – a considerate gesture for visitors.

Her goal was clear: set up the legal clinic as soon as possible while maintaining the highest quality of education for LSE Law students. She described her first few months as frenetic. Many meetings with people inside and outside the School, and challenges ranging from the imperative of data security to recruiting practitioner supervisors. The early months were a dizzying array of logistics and selecting student volunteers. She spoke to our LSE students – many, many students – to assess what they wanted to do. She recruited various barristers and solicitors and noted how quickly law firms donated their time. Based on the supervision and students' interest, she anticipated that the clinic would focus on employment, personal injury, and family law, including domestic abuse and child welfare.

Student interest was phenomenal, and the clinic received almost twice as many applications as anticipated. Following extensive interviews with a selected group, Diana and her team selected thirty-nine undergraduate and graduate law students. She recalled how impressed she was by the applications and cited students' professionalism throughout the selection process. We also discussed students' questions with the clinic and their instincts as to some of the more complicated parts of taking on a role at the clinic, such as approaching someone who had suffered abuse. Diana spoke to me about how insightful the students were; she repeated the adjective *impressive* to me throughout our discussion.

Before we parted for Winter break, she planned to begin the pilot project in the Winter term. Students would begin training at the start and begin seeing clients in January 2025. In addition, Diana spoke about other projects she had begun, including a legal literacy project and speaking to primary schools.

We met in March 2025 for our next sit-down. I asked Diana how the pilot project was going. We met in my office this time, though I was sad to miss the candy dish. Diana began telling me about the term. First, and foremost, the students were brilliant – one hundred per cent attendance and not a single dropout from the project. Students included second-year and third-year law students, as well as some graduate students. Training went well, and the employment law clinic was very busy.

The clinic received one hundred and fifteen enquiries. The remainder focused on other issues, mostly housing. Of these enquiries, the students saw about thirty-six clients – over half of these clients presented employment law issues and the remainder with family law.

Diana broke down the process so I could understand the student experience.

EDITORIAL



All students began with an orientation on ethics, confidentiality, interviewing skills, and role-playing training to learn how to communicate with vulnerable clients. Students then trained in research skills, focusing on the key areas covered by the pilot project (family and employment law). Students worked in pairs and would begin with a call with the attorney supervising the case to develop a plan, including triaging issues, reviewing appropriate client questions, and assessing potential conflicts.

Thereafter, students would conduct a fact-finding interview with the client. Afterwards, they would meet again with the supervising lawyer to identify the relevant issues and develop a research plan. With this guidance, the pair would complete their research and draft a response letter to the client with a proposed plan. Once again, the supervising lawyer would review the letter and make necessary corrections before client delivery. Students had one week to research and draft the letter and aimed to return to the client with the draft letter of advice within two weeks. It was an impressive model with a short turnaround. Diana added that the letters had been excellent – of a standard expected from practising solicitors.

Regarding learning outcomes, Diana and I discussed the difference between law studied in the classroom and law in action. Through the clinic, students met clients, spoke with practitioners, and learned first-hand how disputes take shape. Diana spoke about how students developed a sense

of accomplishment, and she saw increased confidence in them during the winter term. Additionally, she emphasised the autonomy students had in participating in the clinic. This is due in thanks to the model she chose. Rather than relying on shadow participation (where the students follow a practitioner), the LSE Legal Advice Clinic demands active involvement. It's a harder model but a more rewarding one. I asked whether students work from template, boilerplate letters. Diana explained that while students may rely on samples and have letter-writing training, they learn as they work with the practitioners. The students must work through problems and conduct considerable independent research. But this is also what is expected of first-year associates – so it only helps them to learn these skills as early as possible in their careers. Even for students who may not choose the legal profession later, client communication, research, and ethics orientation are vital, transferrable skills.

The 2025/26 academic year would be the first full operational year. We spoke about Diana's plans for the second year of the clinic. She intended to expand the employment law clinic, citing increasing demand, and hoped to recruit more employment law supervisors. She also planned to begin recruiting earlier than she had previously and to begin student training in Week One of the Autumn term so students could begin the new academic year and hit the ground running. Despite a

EDITORIAL



delay in the official launch (owing to a problem with the building's power impacting the Law School in Week Ten of the Winter term), Diana was pleased with the support she received from LSE and the management committee. For the coming 2025/26 academic year, the legal clinic will find its home on the eighth floor of the CKK Building, and Diana hoped a permanent home would be forthcoming.

We spoke about other projects in development and expected to launch next year. Diana noted ongoing opportunities to work with charities and support young, vulnerable people. There would be a *Miscarriages of Justice* project and work with the *Gatekeeping Housing Clinic* with *Centrepoint and Shelter*. This clinic would aim to support homeless young people turned away by their local authority without considering the merits of their case (a process known as gatekeeping). Finally, the clinic was planning several Sustainability Clinics as part of the law element in the new Global School of Sustainability.

I wrapped up our conversation and asked Diana where she sees the legal clinic in five years. She spoke about

expanding into other areas and hopes LSE alumni will get in touch to help as supervisors in the future (an open invitation to our readers!). Diana explained that in their pilot year, the clinic had received more employment enquiries than they could accommodate and hoped to offer more appointments to try and meet demand. In addition, the clinic aimed to recruit more employment law barristers as supervisors. She added that they would seek family law volunteer lawyers in the future. Lastly, she noted an interest in expanding beyond the three subject areas, particularly housing law and wills and probate advice.

I asked her if the centre showed a different side of London life, law beyond the City and its financial heart. We agreed that while working in the clinic may expose students to careers outside of business and finance (nothing wrong with this!), there is no doubt that every student benefited from *pro bono* work. Giving back taught them about more than just the law – it pushed them to ask the right questions and to appreciate the vitality of access to justice for all.

Supporting clients through complex family and work matters

Case Study: Mary's story

Mary approached the LSE Legal Advice Clinic during a particularly challenging period in her life. After nearly a decade of marriage, she and her husband separated in 2023. Divorce proceedings were already underway when she came to the clinic, but her main concern was the financial settlement – particularly relating to the family home, financial security, and future maintenance.



Mary's situation involved a number of complex financial considerations. She hoped to remain in the matrimonial home at least until her son completed his education, but her husband wanted to sell the property immediately. There was a significant disparity in their respective incomes and pension assets, with Mary's financial position being far less secure. Two proposals had been put forward by her husband – one offering an equal division of the home's equity without any ongoing maintenance, and another providing a slightly more favourable equity split along with limited spousal maintenance.

Mary also sought advice on a Declaration of Trust concerning the initial contributions made toward the property purchase. She needed to know whether it could be upheld as part of any financial settlement.

The Legal Advice Clinic was able to provide Mary with a detailed written letter of advice, explaining her legal options in clear, accessible language. The advice covered the process of applying for a financial settlement, the enforceability of the deed of trust, her rights in relation to spousal maintenance, pension considerations, and the potential outcomes regarding the sale or retention of the family home.

Mary expressed deep appreciation for the support she received:

"It was lovely to meet the students on Thursday. Their warm and friendly demeanour made me feel completely at ease. Thank you – being able to use the services of the clinic has been a huge help to me. Please pass on my thanks to the students. The letter was really helpful and I am really grateful for having the opportunity to have had the appointment."

Mary's case is a powerful example of the real-world impact our clinic has on individuals navigating life-changing legal challenges. With the support of our dedicated volunteer supervising lawyers, we hope to continue providing this vital, accessible service to those who need it most.

Case Study: Irene's story

In early 2025, our law clinic was approached by Irene, who had gone through a very distressing experience in her workplace. After disclosing her diagnoses of severe ADHD and complex PTSD to her managers – acting on the advice of a colleague – Irene hoped this would lead to understanding and reasonable adjustments being made to support her. Instead, she was met with hostility, ridicule, and isolation.

Rather than offering the support she was entitled to under the law, her managers and colleagues bullied and harassed her. They ignored her questions, raised their voices at her, and deliberately made her working life more difficult. This toxic environment left her feeling severely depressed and anxious.

After lodging a formal complaint about the bullying she experienced, Irene was dismissed without notice during a brief Teams call. The reasons given were inaccurate and unjustified. She came to the law clinic seeking guidance on her rights and next steps.

The clinic's student advisers, under supervision, provided detailed advice covering a range of potential claims, including:

- Failure to make reasonable adjustments
- Harassment and discrimination related to disability
- Victimisation
- Unfair and wrongful dismissal.

The client described the experience of attending the clinic as transformative:

"I received extraordinary help and support from the students. They listened to me and asked relevant questions to support me with my case. I'd highly recommend this service to anyone – just amazing young people who really want to make a difference. Thank you so much! The world would be much better if there were more people like this lovely team (the students and their supervisor) I met during my appointment at LSE."

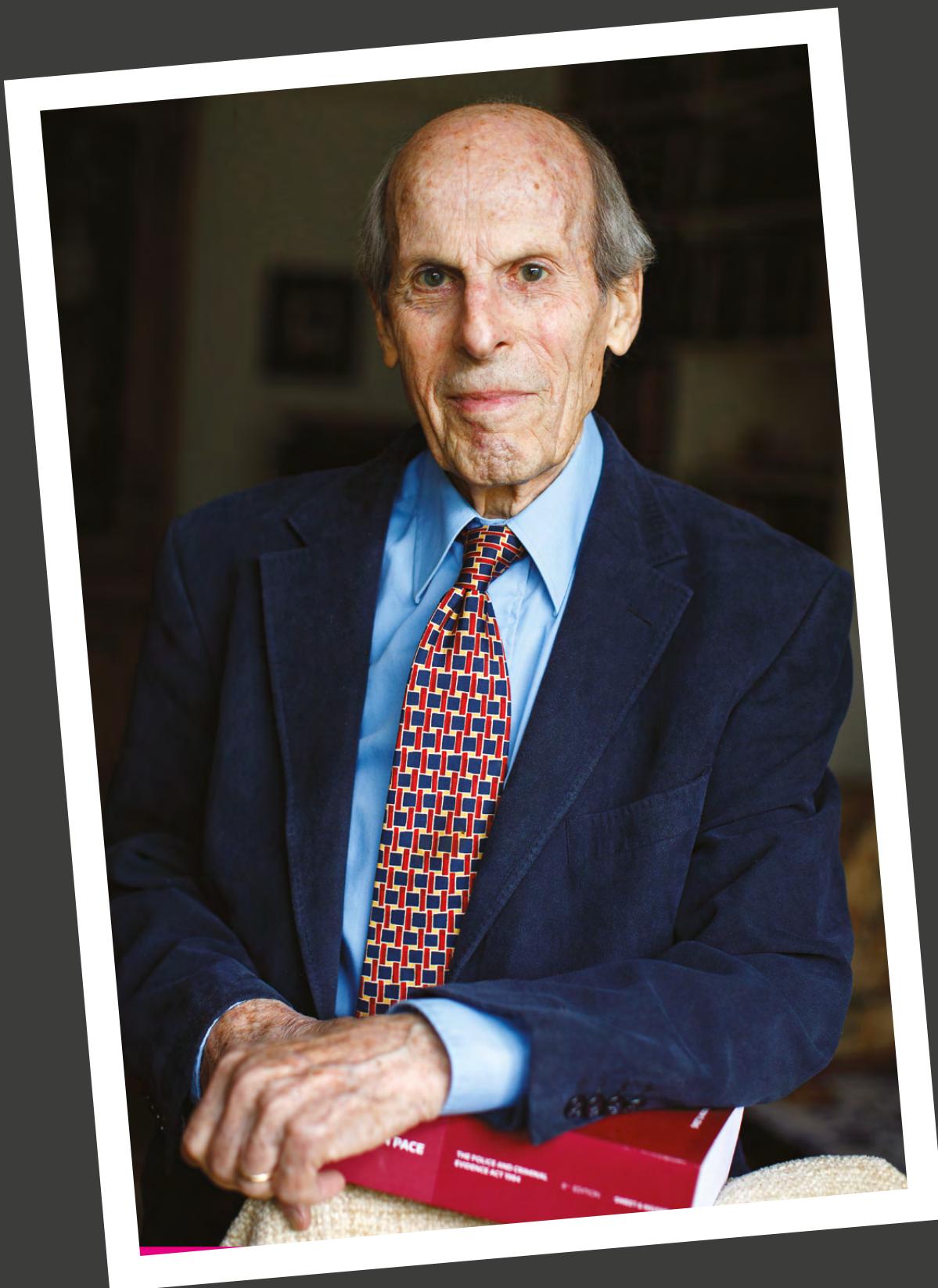
She added:

"Thank you very very much for all the hard work, support and empathy I received from the students and their lovely supervisor. Please send my sincere appreciation for their kindness, understanding, and extraordinary support."

This case illustrates the clinic's ability to offer compassionate and thorough support to individuals navigating some of the most challenging moments of their lives. With continued support from our alumni community, we can expand our impact and help even more people.



EDITORIAL



A long time coming! – Reflections on the Legal Advice Clinic from Michael Zander KC (Hon), former LSE Law Professor

“I was delighted today to meet Diana Kirsch, director of the LSE Legal Advice Clinic, who I sense will be an inspiring leader of this venture. Everything I heard from her was encouraging – the number of students wanting to be involved, their quality and commitment, that she has managed to get barrister and solicitor practitioners in numbers to take part as supervising lawyers, her plans for gradually expanding the scope of the service provided and for strengthening the academic side of the work.

In 1973, I wrote in the *New Law Journal* about the value of clinical legal education in law schools. It is very satisfying to know that LSE is now providing this service which will benefit the members of the public who seek advice, the students who provide the service and the LSE itself.”

Michael Zander KC (Hon),
Emeritus Professor, LSE
Member of the LSE Law Department 1963-98

The “Hope in Law” workshop

How do hope and law relate to one another and engage with each other? This was the question that was at the heart of a workshop that was organised by Dr Sarah Trotter and held at LSE Law School on 15 November 2024. In this piece, Sarah reflects on the workshop, the thinking behind it, and the wider project of which it was a part.

“Hope?”, people sometimes ask in response to the idea of a study of hope in law. “Hope? In what way?” The question is rarely, I think, one about hope itself – about what hope is, about why hope might be interesting, or about how to think about hope – and more about its relation to law. It is a question of the space and place of hope in law, of the role of hope in relation to law, of what thinking about hope might possibly tell us about law, of what thinking about law might possibly tell us about hope. And what is really, to me, quite unendingly interesting is that there are so many ways in which hope and law relate to one another and engage with each other – so many ways in which ideas about hope, and assumptions about hope, and constructions of hope, and ways of relating with and to hope are everywhere in law. There are the ways, for example, in which hope is placed in law, presupposed by law, mobilised by law, and imagined by law. There are the ways in which hope is granted by law, distributed by law, fostered by law, and justified by law. There are the ways in which hope is dashed by law, disrupted by law, taken by law, and lost through law. And there are the ways in which hope challenges law, invites a rethinking of law, involves a move beyond law, and leads to a return to and through law. Of course we may not, in all of these

cases, be talking about the same *conception* of hope; but we are talking about hope, and the ways in which hope and law might relate to one another, and the ways in which we also take and *experience* hope and law to relate to one another. And it was the question of these many ways that underpinned the workshop on “Hope in Law” that was held at LSE Law School on 15 November 2024 and drew together colleagues from within and beyond the Law School to think it all through.

Why hope, and why now? It’s an interesting question, and one that we did actually talk about a little at the workshop itself in thinking about how it was that each of us had come to the question of hope and whether there was anything specific about the context and *contexts* of our present times that had led us there. It certainly feels as if there has been an increase in writing about hope in recent years, with a number of wonderful books on the subject published in the last few years alone – books including, at the time of writing (in May 2025) *Hope: A Literary History*, by Adam Potkay;¹ *An Architecture of Hope*, by Yvonne Jewkes;² and *Hopeful Pessimism*, by Mara van der Lugt³ – all adding to an already rich literature that includes such fabulous works as Jonathan Lear’s *Radical Hope*,⁴ Stephen Mitchell’s *Hope*

1 Adam Potkay, *Hope: A Literary History* (2022, Cambridge University Press).

2 Yvonne Jewkes, *An Architecture of Hope: Reimagining the Prison, Restoring a House, Rebuilding Myself* (2024, Scribe Publications).

3 Mara van der Lugt, *Hopeful Pessimism* (2025, Princeton University Press).

4 Jonathan Lear, *Radical Hope: Ethics in the Face of Cultural Devastation* (2006, Harvard University Press).

Research

RESEARCH



and Dread in Psychoanalysis,⁵ Rebecca Solnit's *Hope in the Dark*,⁶ Jerome Groopman's *The Anatomy of Hope*,⁷ and Stan van Hooft's *Hope*.⁸ There is a sense in which that increased turn to hope – if there has in fact been such a turn – is now gradually being echoed in legal scholarship too, building up a field of study that had already been

shaped by such groundbreaking contributions as the work by Kathryn Abrams and Hila Keren on "Law in the Cultivation of Hope"⁹ and Annelise Riles's "Is the Law Hopeful?",¹⁰ and pushing us on to think through further the role of hope in relation to law – and the role of law in relation to hope.

5 Stephen A. Mitchell, *Hope and Dread in Psychoanalysis* (1993, Basic Books).

6 Rebecca Solnit, *Hope in the Dark: Untold Histories, Wild Possibilities (Third Edition)* (2016, Canongate Books).

7 Jerome Groopman, *The Anatomy of Hope: How You Can Find Strength in the Face of Illness* (2005, Simon & Schuster UK Ltd).

8 Stan van Hooft, *Hope* (2014 [2011], Routledge).

9 Kathryn R. Abrams and Hila Keren, 'Law in the Cultivation of Hope' (2007) *California Law Review* 95, 319.

10 Annelise Riles, 'Is the Law Hopeful?', in *The Economy of Hope* (eds. Hirokazu Miyazaki and Richard Swedberg) (2017, University of Pennsylvania Press).



The background to the LSE workshop was really rooted, in that context, in the sense that the question of the relationships between hope and law – which I had become increasingly interested in through my own work on the right to hope¹¹ – really called for examination from different perspectives. Indeed this was one of the things that I liked most about it as a question: that there were so many different ways of looking at it, that there were so many different perspectives that could be brought to bear on it, and that there were so many different ways in which the lines of thinking that it opened up offered scope for reflection both on law and on hope.

It is interesting really, thinking back to that background now, because there was actually also, in hindsight, an earlier layer to the history of the workshop too, which came in the form of a small reading group on the concept of hope that I had run back in the autumn of 2020 just after I'd finished writing my first article on hope. The context of that reading group – and actually, of the article – was that of the first year of the pandemic; and we had set up reading groups in the Law School as a way of bringing members of our community together in that time. Of course questions of hope were then (as still, in different ways, now) both urgent and fundamental; and my thinking was that a reading group on hope would create a space – I think I thought a hopeful space – in

which to think through different portrayals of hope. Most of the members of the group – and I say "most", but usually, there were four of us, me and three graduate students, with an occasional other member of faculty too – were coming from a background of studying the EU, and EU law; and my recollection is that we did talk a bit about hope in the EU. But beyond that, we generally said very little about hope in law, other than in a session in which I presented my article on the right to hope in European human rights law. As I developed that line of work in subsequent years, the question of hope in law felt as if it was becoming more pressing, and what was clearest about it to me was that it was a question that implied and needed attention from different areas of law – and implied and needed, too, different ways of thinking about law. I thought it would be interesting to bring together colleagues who were also interested in the question, so that we could think it all through together. And so that was (we reach it finally!) the idea behind the workshop that was then held in November 2024.

My initial plan was to write to everyone who I knew to be working on hope and law and also to all LSE Law colleagues and PhD students, to see whether they would be interested in a workshop on the relationships between hope and law. I thought that I would then issue a public

¹¹ Sarah Trotter, 'Hope's Relations: A Theory of the "Right to Hope" in European Human Rights Law' (2022) *Human Rights Law Review* 22(2), ngac007; Sarah Trotter, 'Living with a Sense of a Right to Hope' (2024) *Social & Legal Studies* (OnlineFirst).

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call for papers, to see if there was interest more widely. In the end, the latter didn't happen, because the response from Law School colleagues and external "hope and law" colleagues was so warm and enthusiastic that the schedule for the day filled up completely and immediately. That initial warmth and enthusiasm continued through to the workshop itself; and what was so wonderful about it was not only the interest and engagement that it reflected in the topic – and more especially in the possibility of us all thinking it through together – but also the range of disciplines that came to be drawn together so swiftly. We had colleagues coming from fields including environmental law, property law, legal theory, medical law, international law, legal anthropology, international criminal law, intellectual property law, sustainable finance, climate law, legal education, criminal law, and human rights law. That, to me, was from the outset incredibly exciting; and other members of the group later expressed the same feeling too: that it was really interesting to be in a group of colleagues working on such different substantive fields and from such different methodological approaches and perspectives and yet to be bound by a common thread and interest that meant that we could all actually talk to each other about our different fields.

I think in hindsight the format of the workshop supported this. In advance of the day itself, participants had shared with the group short reflection pieces of 2,000-3,000 words; and the workshop was then organised into four sections that drew these papers together: "hope and the role of law", "hope through law", "looking for hope in and around law", and "hope and rights, and hope as a right". These themes were ones that stemmed from my readings of the papers, and the resulting focus was on the way in which the different pieces, irrespective of their disciplinary categories, spoke to each other on the question of the way in which hope and law relate to one another and engage with each other. And so we heard, for example, on the panel on "hope through law" reflections on hope that spanned contexts including IVF technology, the pharmaceutical industry, sustainable finance, property law, and environmental law. And what we saw and experienced, in the process, was the way in which thinking about these different contexts and subject areas both individually and more especially together could really deepen our understanding of the relationships – and ways of relating – between hope and law.

The discussions and conversations that we had throughout the day were rich and far-ranging, with reflections reaching such questions as of the construction and conceptualisation of hope, the limits and capacities of law when it comes to hope, and the ways in which

hope is framed and distributed by law. Over the course of the day one of the things that became most apparent through our discussions was the way in which looking at law through the lens of hope could tell us a great deal about law itself, just as looking at hope through the lens of law could tell us a great deal about hope. And so, for example, we considered what the space and place of hope in law could tell us about law, and about experiences of – and in relation to – law; and we considered, too, what constructions of hope in law could tell us about the structure and orientation and temporality of hope, and also about the concepts to which hope relates, such as optimism, pessimism, hopelessness, dread, and despair.

So, where next? Well, the next step for the project is one that I am really delighted about: a special issue on hope in law that will come out in the LSE Law Working Paper Series in 2025 – as its first ever special issue! – and will be published by the time that this issue of *Ratio* is out. It will mirror and develop the discussions that we had at the workshop, with a format of four sections of short reflection pieces each concluding with a longer conversation piece between the section authors and members of the project more widely. The format is one that Fatima Ahdash and I recently used for a project that we edited on regulating parenting;¹² and we found it to work wonderfully well in the way in which it captured the liveliness of the conversations and discussions of that project and the breadth and depth of the debate in the field more broadly. The hope is that readers will find it to do so for the "Hope in Law" project too, and that the special issue will be a way of sharing and inspiring further debate about the many ways in which hope and law relate to one another and engage with each other.

In ending I would like finally to thank LSE Law School for generously funding and supporting the project through the Small Projects Fund and Socio-Legal Hub, the Law School's wonderful events team for their support with the logistics, the LSE colleagues who came along to the different sessions, the section chairs – Professor Susan Marks, Professor Tom Poole, Professor Gerry Simpson, and Dr Roxana Willis – for their engagement, Amadea Hofmann for taking notes on the day's discussions, and the project's participants – Professor Kathryn Abrams, Dr Tola Amodu, Dr Chaloka Beyani, Professor Kimberley Brownlee, Parashar Das, Dr Sandhya Fuchs, Professor Conor Gearty, Dr Alperen Gözüglü, Professor Emily Jackson, Professor Hila Keren, Professor Nicola Lacey, Professor Imelda Maher, Professor Jill Marshall, Dr Luke McDonagh, Dr Matthew Wray Perry, Dr Marie Petersmann, Professor Anat Rosenberg, Professor Elen Stokes, Dr Marion Vannier, and Dr Ayşe Gizem Yaşar – for their enthusiasm and participation.

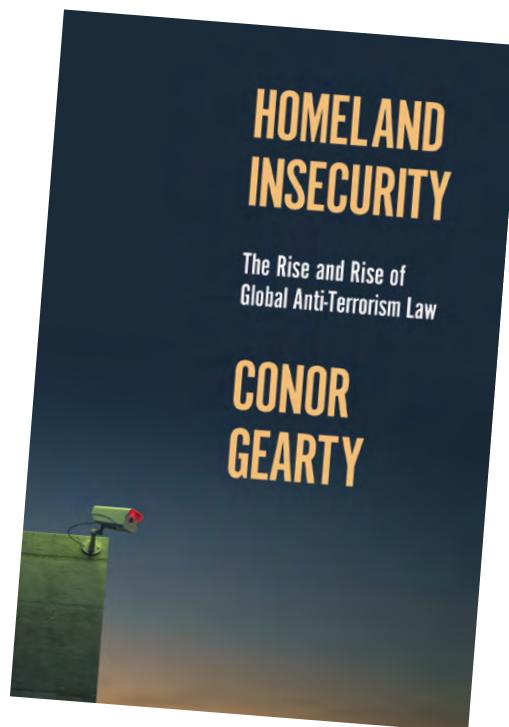
12 Sarah Trotter and Fatima Ahdash (eds.), 'Special Issue: Regulating Parenting' (2025) *Child and Family Law Quarterly* 37(2).

Homeland Insecurity. The Rise and Rise of Global Anti-Terrorism Law

I have written a lot on terrorism in the past, starting as long ago as 1991. That early book did not follow an explicitly legal trajectory; it was concerned mainly with terrorism as a phenomenon in international relations, how the term is used (and abused) in politics, how counter-terrorism is used as a cover for aggressive state violence towards political opponents, and so on. True, I became a bit more legal in what I wrote after the 11 September 2001 attacks, but I had never done a terrorism law book.

I had not really understood the colonial aspect to terrorism law until I began work on this book. But once I decided to write a history of anti-terrorism law (rather than just a history of terrorism as such) the evidence was all around me. The narrative became quite simple. In the modern era, European powers acting in a colonial manner extended their grip on much of the world, in a way that was next to impossible to resist for those affected by it, since the Europeans had vastly superior weaponry: if you took them on directly (and at the start many did) you just got wiped out. In very few places however did colonial authority ever secure acceptance. After a while those who resisted it added asymmetrical violence to their repertoire of defiance: assassinations, bombings, prison raids, covert operations of all kinds. This was violence-as-communication, sending a message rather than setting out to win the conflict militarily. Colonial power came up with a number of ways of describing this irritating resistance, “terrorism” and “terrorist” chief among them. The term has always been useful to power as it both describes and condemns at the same time, and seems to make whatever the state does in retaliation (“counter-terrorism”) seem good.

The term went through a ropey period after the wave of decolonisation starting in 1945. The right of people to self-determination became part of international law, and violent resistance to colonial power was much more likely to be accepted. I have a chapter in the book on how the term survived in the Cold War (principally as a means



Polity (2024)

of removing your political opponents or those whose radicalism threatened a new nationalist regime in a freshly independent state). But it came into its own again in the late 1960s and through the 1970s and 1980s, when we had our first “war on global terror”. There was quite a lot of subversive violence in the Global North during this period – nationalist, radical Left and, of course, Palestinian, and it all got packaged together as a cohesive challenge to Western civilisation. It wasn’t any such challenge to Western civilisation, of course, but that was how it was successfully packaged. The United States of America (USA) got heavily involved as well, using the terrorism label to attack the Soviets (“Godfathers of world terror” as they were described at the time) and also, after the Iranian revolution of 1979, as a way of describing the newly empowered Islamic movement of the time.

The next important move in this saga was to link Palestinian resistance to the wider terrorist movements of the 1970s and 1980s and so decoupling it from how the self-determination of peoples was seen, in other words, turning Palestinian militants from guerrillas and freedom fighters back into the “terrorists” of colonial times. The move was largely successful, with huge amounts of books being written, conferences being held, and experts being interviewed on the problem of global terrorism during the 1970s and beyond. One of these leading “experts” of the 1980s was Benjamin Netanyahu, saying then exactly what he is saying – and doing – now. The main difference in 2025 is that Israel and America have largely given up trying to pretend there’s a legal basis for what they’re doing. There is no longer any plausible, or even *implausible* effort, to locate it in law. It’s raw power.

Mitigation in the Law of Damages

Mitigation determines how the claimant's own conduct in response to a civil wrong (such as a tort or breach of contract) affects the damages they can recover. Although judges have often explained mitigation as an aspect of causation, legal scholars have preferred instrumental explanations, such as the promotion of self-reliance, economic efficiency or (relatedly) the prevention of waste. Thus, legal scholars have regarded mitigation as an anomalous policy tool, cut loose from general theories of damages. Consequently, it has been largely overlooked by private law theorists.

Mitigation in the Law of Damages provides the first comprehensive theoretical and doctrinal treatment of mitigation in any common law jurisdiction. It argues that mitigation is indeed best explained as an aspect of causation, but to see why, we must look at how ordinary people use causal principles to attribute responsibility



OUP (2024)

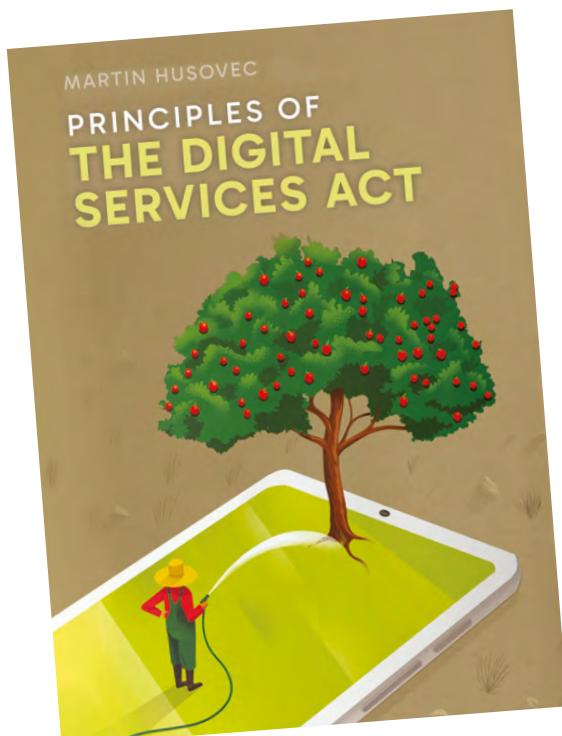
outside the law. The book's main thesis is that the twin principles of choice and abnormality that underlie "commonsense" causal reasoning also explain how judges approach questions of mitigation. Specifically, the effect of mitigation is to hold claimants legally responsible for the consequences of their choice to respond abnormally to the breach, for better or worse.

In developing this argument, the book builds on previous work by Hart and Honore in *Causation in the Law*, supported and refined by new experimental research into causal reasoning by cognitive scientists. By applying these insights to the law of mitigation, the book provides a concrete example of how experimental evidence about cognition can generate useful new hypotheses about the principles affecting judicial decisions. Although the book does not presuppose any determinative link between judicial reasoning and commonsense reasoning, it shows how this methodological approach can be helpful where judges themselves have stated that their causal judgments are based on "common sense", as in mitigation.

The implications of the book extend beyond mitigation. First, the rules of mitigation – properly understood – encompass several other doctrines concerning damages that have previously been regarded as distinct, including the so-called "market rule" of damages, intervening acts by the claimant, and betterment. Second, the book argues that mitigation is integral to the legal concept of loss since it is effectively "built in" to the application of the compensatory principle. This understanding offers a way to rehabilitate "loss-based" theories of damages and prompts a re-evaluation of competing "rights-based" theories.

A seminar to mark the book's release was hosted by the Law School in January 2025, organised by Professor Hugh Collins. It was chaired by Lord Leggatt (UK Supreme Court), with comments from Adam Kramer KC (3 Verulam Buildings), Professor Solene Rowan (KCL) and Professor Janet O'Sullivan (Cambridge), followed by a Q&A with Dr Summers. The event was well attended by both academics and practitioners and led to a lively discussion, followed by drinks.

Principles of the Digital Services Act



OUP (2024)

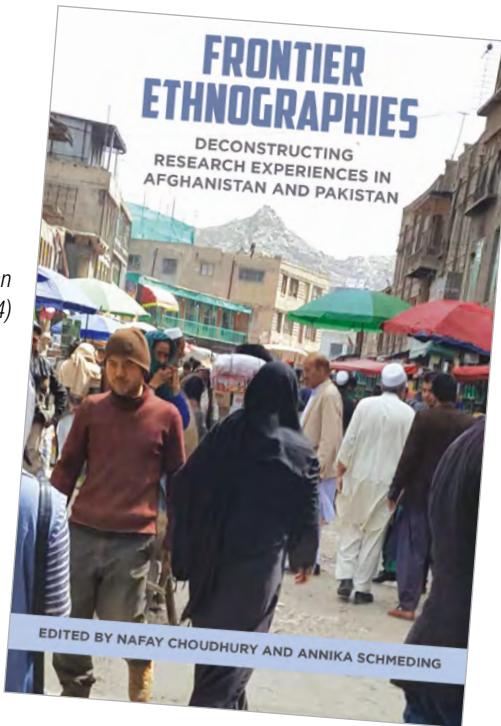
How should liberal democracies prevent illegal and harmful online activities and protect fundamental rights? How should digital service providers assess the impact of their technology on others? And how should technology companies moderate user-generated content?

Martin's new book, *Principles of the Digital Services Act*, provides the answers by analysing the new EU Digital Services Act. He dissects DSA's mechanisms and components to understand the new law's likely impact on digital services in Europe and beyond. The book puts the new legal framework into its political, economic, and social contexts by explaining its grounding within economic regulation and human rights frameworks. It examines the European legislature's approach to the DSA, offering a detailed historical account of the legislative and pre-legislative process.

The book argues that the envisaged regulatory system has the potential to boost trust in the digital environment. However, its mechanisms must be able to rely on the robust network of civil society organisations, and the regulators should follow a set of principles. In this way, the DSA's goal can be achieved through means that are firmly aligned with respect for individual liberties, including the freedom of expression. Combining academic research with practical insights, *Principles of the Digital Services Act* offers a robust analysis of how to apply and further develop the most important tools of the DSA to rebuild trust in the digital environment. It argues that the DSA is a tool that is meant to foster a trustworthy online environment by suppressing illegal information and rewarding trustworthy information. To achieve the former, public and private enforcement are crucial. To achieve the latter, the social structures, such as NGOs, content creators associations, and charities, must take the lead in using the tools of the DSA and building upon its concepts to enhance the public's trust in the decentralised ecosystem of information distribution.

Frontier Ethnographies: Deconstructing Research Experiences in Afghanistan and Pakistan

Berghahn Books (2024)



Frontier Ethnographies explores the ethnographic edges of contemporary anthropological inquiry in Afghanistan and Pakistan by assembling voices of emerging scholars who have conducted field research within the region in the past two decades. Ethnography as a form of knowledge production destabilises conventional notions of the “frontier” as merely a geographic space and offers crucial impulses for investigating the layers of encounters and symbolic meanings produced by diverse forms of research in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Through examining moments of insecurity, vulnerability, doubt, fear, failure, and daydreaming, the contributors to this volume reflect on their own experiences of field research and how – faced with frontiers – they have been forced to reimagine or reconstruct their understanding of the social world.

Three themes that cut across the various chapters animate the book. The first theme of “Contesting Frontiers” discusses how – while serving as a title theme – the very notion of “frontier” is subject to deconstruction, questioning, contestation and friction. The term is used to probe the edges of the known and the knowable, and to examine the questions that drive researchers and their interlocutors individually and collectively. The second theme of “Unsettling AfPak Discourses from the Ground Up” questions policy framings and media-led understandings of how Afghanistan and Pakistan have been portrayed in a simplified, Orientalizing manner that served destructive ends in the so-called “War on Terror”. The ethnographic approaches of the different authors resist such framings and instead rely on first-hand interactions to

shape their understanding of the specific environment they describe. The third theme of “Questioning Ethnography” takes to task the methods employed by the researchers. While the authors adopt ethnographic methods, they do so in a critical, reflexive and varied manner by seeing themselves not only in dialogue with their interlocutors but also with their chosen research method.

Afghanistan and Pakistan have attracted much scholarly, public and political attention in the past two decades. While accounts about the region may continue to exoticise it as mysterious, unfamiliar, and ultimately fraught with danger, this volume hopefully shows that the region is sprawling with vitality and accessible for research by committed individuals. The kaleidoscope of authors in the volume cuts across a broad array of unrelated topics and provides widely different accounts of their given settings. However, taken together, they provide compelling evidence that Afghanistan and Pakistan remain fertile grounds for extended empirical research. Moreover, beyond the apparent physical frontier that separates the two countries, the ethnographic works in this volume bring attention to the plethora of frontiers that punctuate different settings and the methodology of researchers within those settings. It is hoped that this volume motivates ethnographers focusing on the region and beyond to reflect on their propensity to carry out research in difficult settings, how their subjective experiences in the field impact knowledge production, and whether their ethnographic studies enable new ways of seeing the world in correspondence with those being studied.

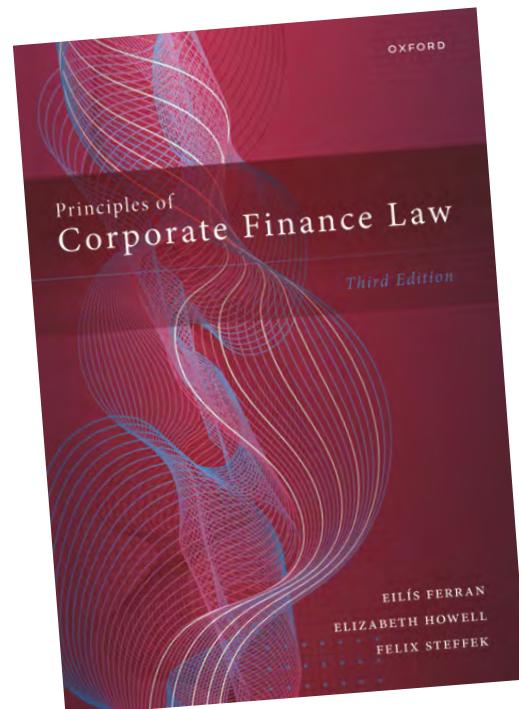
Principles of Corporate Finance Law

Corporate finance theory seeks to understand how incorporated firms address the financial constraints that affect their investment decisions. This is achieved using varied financial instruments that seek to give holders different claims on the firm's assets. Recent scholarship in this area has highlighted the critical importance of the legal environment in explaining the choices that companies make about their capital structure.

Principles of Corporate Finance Law by Eilís Ferran, Elizabeth Howell, and Felix Steffek combines company law, capital markets law and aspects of commercial and insolvency law to give readers a detailed understanding of the legal and regulatory issues relating to corporate finance.

Informed by insights from theoretical and empirical work, the book examines the key elements of corporate financing structures and capital markets in the UK from a legal perspective. The authors' practical experience of transactions and regulatory issues ensures that thorough scholarly inquiry and critical reflection are complemented by an assured understanding of the interface between legal principles and rules as they are documented and in their actual operation. The aim has been to provide a wide-ranging and up-to-date resource grounded in the enduring principles underpinning corporate finance law.

Seismic shifts and dynamic challenges have shaped the global landscape since the book's previous edition. The convergence of multiple transformative events, such as Brexit, a prolonged economic downturn influenced by the pandemic and war in Europe, the rise of digital finance, and the ever-pressing concerns of climate change, has reshaped the corporate finance arena in unprecedented ways. This is an era of regulatory recalibration and uncertainty, with repercussions felt in corporate finance across jurisdictions. The book seeks to place the various legal and regulatory developments firmly within their broader social, economic, and political context, and it



OUP (3rd ed, 2023)

seeks to illuminate the deep interconnections between law, finance, and the world at large. The authors have included careful analysis of important new cases and policy proposals that aim at bridging gaps in regulation and addressing enforcement weaknesses. Key developments include the post-Brexit adaptation of UK company law and capital market regulation, important new cases on parent company liability in tort, creditor-facing duties of directors, issuer and director liability for misleading statements to the market, alternatives to public market financing and recent changes in the practice of debt finance.

LSE Law School welcomes Professor Lea Ypi



LSE Law School welcomes Professor Lea Ypi to help the law school bring together scholarship in the fields of politics and law. She sat with Professor Tarun Khaitan to discuss her academic path.

TK: Welcome to the Law School, Lea. We are delighted that you will be joining us. Thank you also for agreeing to do this interview. Let me start by asking you to tell us a bit about your childhood. What was the intellectual environment at home like?

LY: I grew up in Albania in the Eighties, just before the fall of the Berlin Wall, during a time of profound political and social change. My grandmother played a central role in my upbringing. She straddled worlds – the Ottoman Empire, fascism, communism, the post-communist transition – and was very important in helping me approach reality with a critical eye. The intellectual environment at home was layered – on the surface, it aligned with communist state ideology, but beneath it, there was a history of persecution, suppressed memories, and quiet dissent. My grandfather had graduated in Law at the Sorbonne before becoming a political prisoner for fifteen years. There were a lot of Law textbooks in French, which came down one day from the attic when Albania was no longer a communist country.

TK: As a teenager, what did you want to become when you grew up?

LY: I wanted to be a writer. I loved Greek myths as a child, and 19th-century novels as teenager. I became interested

in philosophy because of literature. My favourite writers, Tolstoy and Dostoevsky, thought a lot about philosophical questions, about good and evil, the meaning of life, justice and politics, and how historical events shape human characters. I read War and Peace during the 1997 armed conflict in Albania, when the school was closed, and there were lots of Kalashnikov sounds just outside my window, and it somehow helped me stay intact in the midst of all the madness. That's when I decided that a good writer had to study philosophy.

TK: What were your most formative experiences?

LY: The fall of communism in Albania and its ripple effects, the massive emigration from my hometown of Durrës, and the 1997 collapse of the pyramid schemes where my family lost all its savings. It was very strange to find oneself thrust from one system to the other all of a sudden. My childhood was made of pioneer camps, quotes from Marx and Lenin, loyalty to the communist party, and growing up in an atheist state. In my teenage years, we celebrated the free market even as we grappled with the consequences of shock therapy, we discovered political pluralism and religion (I experimented with all the monotheistic religions at one point, before going back to where I had started), there were drugs everywhere, and it was unsafe to go out at night. It was a time of deep contradictions in which it was very easy to feel disoriented.

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TK: What about your journey from Albania to the LSE?

LY: My journey began with migration to Italy, where I encountered xenophobia and discovered that nationality mattered as much as class. I studied Philosophy in Rome and became interested in the philosophy of Kant, and in German idealism more broadly. I was on a very small scholarship from Italy and my parents could not afford to support me so I was very poor, had to work alongside studying and could not afford to go out – I barely made it to the end of the month. Later I obtained a scholarship to do a PhD at the European University Institute, and then at Nuffield College in Oxford. With time, the scholarships became more generous, but it was only when I started my tenure-track job at the LSE (after my Oxford postdoc) that I felt a little more liberated from the tyranny of finances.

TK: What a remarkable journey. Why did you choose to become an academic? What alternatives did you consider?

LY: I didn't exactly plan to become an academic – when you are struggling with financial problems you can't really plan anything, you take whatever keeps you going and that looks remotely acceptable and compatible with your interests. I was applying for PhDs at the same time as other jobs and had received an offer for a junior officer (JPO) position at the International Labour Organisation in Turin. The salary was much better than my (very) modest PhD stipend but I wanted to continue reading and writing for a little longer so postponed the decision to enter the "real" job market. The same thing happened when I finished my PhD – I started looking for a job and applied for a number of positions (some academic, some not) and my postdoc at Oxford came up. I am always amazed that one can start university thinking about what they would like to become, as if the aspiration were enough.... For me the choices have always been much more constrained, a fine balance between following my interests and being able to make it to the end of the month.

TK: Do you regret the road not taken?

LY: I enjoy researching and teaching, though I regret that the combination of financial struggles and the strictures of academic writing meant I more or less abandoned my aspiration to write literature for a very long time. Sometimes, I wish I had been braver or more persistent earlier on and continued to write alongside my academic work.

TK: As you seek to expand your literary interests alongside your scholarly work, what do you take to be the role of a scholar in our times?

LY: The same as at all times, to fight fanaticism, and to encourage social critique. It's surprisingly hard, and surprisingly risky (think about Socrates). And we have to engage in that struggle while avoiding both dogmatism and scepticism; continue to question authority, but never completely lose faith, and of course act so that the faith can continue to be sustained.

**TK: Allow me to play Devil's Advocate: who really is helped by all the "ivory tower thinking" that scholars do? Doesn't the world really need action?**

LY: Define "ivory tower". The term is often used as a criticism, but it is only a criticism if one fails to see education as an inherent good. I am convinced that thinking is valuable inherently, not just instrumentally, it is part of being human. Of course, the world does need action, but as Hegel suggested, thought and action are inseparable. Meaningful action is informed by rigorous thought. The effort to separate practical from impractical knowledge is just authoritarianism in disguise: who decides and based on what values exactly? And why should we take those values for granted?

TK: I wish we saw such a robust defence of scholarship more frequently in our contemporary public discourse. What would you say to a student considering a career in the academy?

LY: I don't like giving "career" advice. But if I had to say something, I would say: don't think about the future in terms of "career". Follow your interests and try to think about the role (however small) each of us plays to avoid wrecking the world.

TK: What is the one thing you wish someone had told you as an early career scholar?

LY: I think I already received the best advice back then: "Time spent worrying is time wasted."

TK: Do you have a reading recommendation for our readers?

LY: My favourite novel is Dostoevsky's *The Demons*. It's an extraordinary exploration of human psychology, political ideology, and the complexities of revolutionary fervour.

TK: Thank you so much for your time and valuable insights. We look forward very much to have you as a colleague in the Law School.



The inaugural lecture of the Chair Professorship of Public Law delivered by Professor Tarun Khaitan

The LSE hosted the inaugural lecture for the new incumbent for its prestigious Chair Professorship of Public Law Professor Tarun Khaitan on November 13, 2024. The Chair has previously been held by a string of exceptional scholars, including Profs Glanville Williams, Stanley de Smith, John Griffiths, Carol Harlow and Martin Loughlin.

In the lecture titled "Liberty, Verity, and Social Media Regulation" Professor Khaitan argued that social media, powered by AI algorithms, fundamentally refute the liberal-constitutional assumption of a "free marketplace of ideas," in which autonomous citizens freely form their beliefs. Drawing on insights from psychology, he

showed that social media platforms deploy "affective" and "cognitive" scaffolding – such as "like" buttons, infinite scrolling, and content curation algorithms – that exploit ubiquitous emotional and cognitive biases to keep users engaged. These manipulative design elements, which he referred to as "hostile scaffolds",

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bypass or erode users' cognitive autonomy: the ability to direct one's attention, critically assess facts, and make independent judgments.

Professor Khaitan proposed a new constitutional value: "verity". Verity entailed a perfectionist commitment to the pursuit and protection of truth, alongside the rejection of relativism (the idea that there was no objective truth) and of radical scepticism (the notion that truth was fundamentally unknowable). An embrace of verity is therefore incompatible with Rawlsian anti-perfectionist liberalism. But verity can, nay must, be embraced by comprehensive or perfectionist liberals, who do not require a liberal state to remain neutral between differing conceptions of the good. Under this framework, he suggested that verity-embracing states should nurture truth-seeking institutions and uphold their independence from the government as well as from capital, and thereby better protect the cognitive autonomy of their citizens.

Professor Khaitan then explored the regulatory implications of embedding verity into liberal constitutionalism. He noted that existing measures – such as imposing transparency requirements, breaking up large platforms, and reforming content moderation – only tinker with the symptoms of social media's devastating influence on our cognitive autonomy. They do not challenge the mistaken assumption that

social media users are fully autonomous "consumers". By contrast, he explained, a verity-based approach could impose anti-manipulation fiduciary duties on platforms, ban or tightly regulate hostile scaffolds, and train AI to adhere to editorial best practices. If profit motives continued to prove incompatible with cognitive autonomy, he suggested that the state might even require platforms to adopt not-for-profit structures, thereby loosening the grip of private capital on the political discourse. Crucially, he emphasised that a commitment to verity cannot translate into state control of content; instead, verity demands robust media pluralism that prevents both governmental and corporate monopolies on information.

Concluding, Professor Khaitan proposed a broader shift to "constitutional polytheism," in which liberty, equality, solidarity, and verity carried equal weight. He believed this approach could address not only the manipulative power of social media but also other pressing crises of liberal constitutionalism, such as stark material inequality and questions of social belonging. By embracing verity, Professor Khaitan argued, societies could protect and enhance citizens' cognitive autonomy, ensuring that digital platforms shaping political discourse did so in service of truth and genuine human flourishing.



*Speakers: Professor Tarun Khaitan and Professor Lea Ypi
Chair: Professor David Kershaw*

Professor Nicola Lacey delivers Chorley Lecture for the LSE Law community

The Chorley Lecture is an annual lecture inaugurated in 1972 and named in honour of Lord Chorley of Kendal, the founding editor of the *Modern Law Review*. The Lecture, which is normally delivered in late May or early June at the London School of Economics and Political Science, is the most important occasion in the calendar of the *Modern Law Review*. In 2024, Professor Nicola Lacey delivered the Chorley Lecture on interpersonal ideas in law. With Professor Tarun Khaitan, Professor Lacey reflected on her lecture for *Ratio*:

How can we best deploy law so as to have positive effects in the social world? This question is at the heart of legal scholarship. Law-makers, it is assumed, create or empower the creation of legal regulations for important reasons of policy and principle: our job as academics is not merely to analyse these regulatory laws but also to evaluate their impact.

Judging by the press which regulation has been received in recent months, that assumption has now been brought into question. Indeed, it seems that the regulatory enterprise is in crisis. Across the Atlantic, the US Supreme Court last year overruled the decades-long doctrine of "Chevron deference" to regulatory agencies' interpretation of federal statutes, claiming its inconsistency with the rule of law but also disclosing a pronounced suspicion of the powers of the regulatory state. More recently, the Trump administration has unleashed a multi-pronged assault on "the





bureaucracy", ironically using its own executive power to select an unelected appointee to wield the wrecking ball. In the UK, the situation is less extreme: but we, too, are familiar with governments noisily committed to reducing "red tape".

Of course, a concern with the transparency, accountability and effectiveness of regulation is not the same as an ideological distaste for state intervention. And it is firmly on the first ground that, as a criminal lawyer, I have long been concerned about the acceleration of law-making in the UK in recent decades, and in particular the social effects of increasingly complex regulatory frameworks deploying criminal sanctions. Ironically, much of this has been overseen by administrations ideologically hostile to "big government" and committed to reducing "red tape". What explains the remarkable intensification of

legal regulation over the last half-century? And has it had positive effects?

There are many reasons why governments reach for regulation, and back it up with criminal sanctions. The acceleration of globalisation and the associated need for governments to assert their national sovereignty and orient political competition over terrains other than the economic policies over which they have lost primary control is undoubtedly one factor. The economic and social disruptions of deindustrialisation, too, have brought in their wake the fragmentation of the sectoral interest groups which were reflected in the two party and first-past-the-post electoral systems, leaving governments increasingly focused on chasing the "floating" voter by reacting to salient issues of public concern, and even exacerbating those concerns for political ends (not

RESEARCH

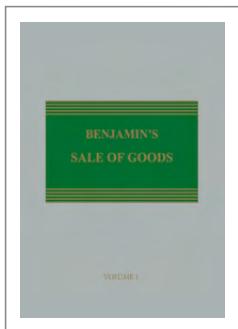
least in the areas of crime and immigration policy). The decline of trust and of political participation, and the emergence of populist groupings to left and right, have further destabilised the political order and encouraged governments to keep hold of whatever levers of power they possess. As economic and social restructuring has added to the difficulty of democratic compromise over political issues, it is perhaps no surprise that governments and their surrogates have reached for detailed regulatory regimes – regimes whose often technocratic framework may, ironically, further contribute to the suspicion of experts which is one component of the populist critique of liberal democracy. In addition, the extraordinary rate of technological change following the semi-conductor revolution has created whole new fields of digital activity, data gathering and exploitation, and artificial intelligence, exacerbating the regulatory challenge and adding to the force of regulators' own demands for increasing powers. After decades of socio-legal research on the impact of legal regulation, we have evidence about what law can (and can not) achieve and how it does so. Yet we are also surrounded by pervasive evidence of failures of legal regulation: for example, rates of crime which endure notwithstanding the increasing scope of criminal laws and greater intensity of penal responses; rising numbers of public inquiries set up in the wake of tragic failures of regulation. Over the last thirty years, UK public inquiries have featured matters as diverse as the Hillsborough stadium collapse and the Grenfell Tower fire, Bloody Sunday, the Paddington rail crash, phone hacking, Child Sexual Abuse and, most recently, COVID and the infected blood scandal. And the number has been increasing. According to the Institute for Government, whereas just nineteen inquiries were launched in the thirty years to 1990, from 1990 to 2017, sixty-nine were launched, and forty-six of those reported by 2017 led to two thousand seven hundred and ninety-one recommendations. This brief history is far from giving reassurance that the upshot of hyper-regulation has been a positive one.

In my Chorley lecture, I set out to map the growth of regulatory law-making abutting criminal law in recent decades, and to ask how we might best pursue the project of constraining, rationalising, or even reversing these developments so as to improve their impact. For decades – indeed centuries – law-makers have sought to streamline and rationalise legislative and regulatory systems through procedural mechanisms such as codification; and more recently, both policy-makers and scholars have advocated the structuring of regulation in terms of clear principles. Building on both approaches, I argued that the research evidence points us towards

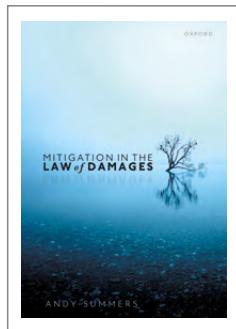
giving greater attention to the language within which legal or other regulatory standards are framed. In particular, I argued that we should pay attention to the coordinating and communicative potential of legal institutionalisations of ideas which find their primary reference point in extra-legal discourse. Such concepts have long played a role in the common law. They have explicitly shaped legal doctrines – as in the case of the ECtHR's articulation of a "right to hope" in sentencing and asylum cases, and the longstanding role of equity; they have helped to frame underlying norms of association which stabilise legal arrangements; and they have served to motivate or facilitate the inculcation of certain attitudes. Yet their practical importance in shaping legal governance has been eclipsed by the concern with the institutional frameworks and vectors of interest within which legal regimes co-evolve. There is, I argued, strong reason to think that framing legal and regulatory reform within ideas with a grounding in interpersonal life, underpinning explanatory narratives with greater power to communicate effectively with regulatory subjects, could be one component of achieving better legislation and regulation. It would also imply a change in legislative drafting and rule-making practices, re-orienting them firmly towards the audiences to which laws are addressed.

My lecture, however, ended on a less optimistic note. Given the fragmentation of interests – not to mention the democratic commitment to pluralism – any radical change in regulatory style can only be effected by means of negotiation and compromise. So an equally large challenge – and a more intractable one – is to re-inspire faith and participation in broadly democratic processes – a category which would include the regulatory conversation and dialogue which scholars like Julia Black, and John and Valerie Braithwaite have advocated. Forty years ago, Eugene Bardach and Robert Kagan called for regulators (and, by extension, legislators), "to activate and draw upon the conscience and the talents of those they seek to regulate". Nearly half a century on, their call retains all its persuasive force: but our hope of meeting it depends on a radical change in not only our regulatory but our political institutions. The realignment of interests in our globalised world has posed profound challenges to our systems of governance, including law: meeting those challenges will undoubtedly require institutional change. But it also requires us to revisit and re-evaluate the ideas on which our governance structures are based.

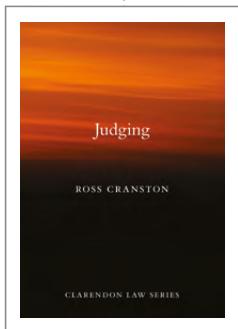
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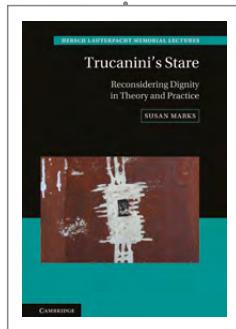
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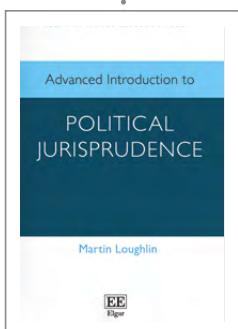
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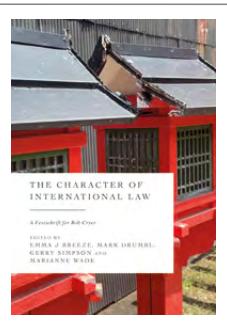
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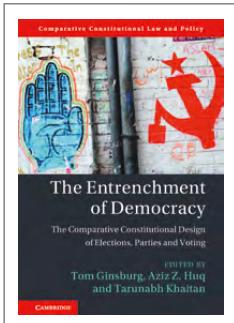


Emma J Breeze (Anthology Editor),
Mark Drumbl (Anthology Editor),
Gerry Simpson (Anthology Editor),
Marianne Wade (Anthology Editor)

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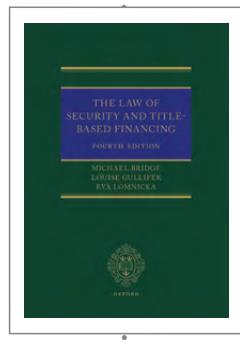


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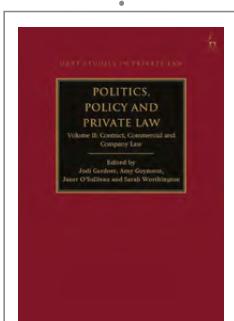


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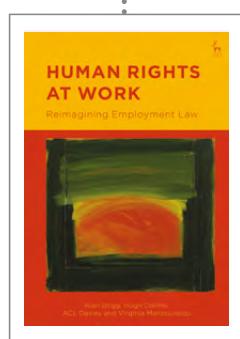


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lse.ac.uk/law/study/phd/completions

RESEARCH

October 2024

Dr Valeria Ruiz Perez

Field of Study: Law

Title of Thesis: Unconstitutional punishment: political authority and penal crises in Colombia

Supervisors: Professor Nicola Lacey and Professor Peter Ramsay

Dr Paul Newman

Field of Study: Law

Title of Thesis: The Reporting of Nisi Prius Cases: Origin, Reputation and Effect

Supervisors: Professor Michael Lobban and Professor Neil Duxbury

November 2024

Dr Vittoria Mastrandrea

Field of Study: Law

Title of Thesis: "Saved for the Nation? Interrogating the Construction of National Treasures in the UK"

Supervisors: Dr Tatiana Flessas and Dr Siva Thambisetty

December 2024

Dr Mikolaj Szafranski

Field of Study: Law

Title of Thesis: International law and global waste governance: the making and discarding of smartphones

Supervisors: Professor Susan Marks and Dr Margot Salomon

Dr Shingira Masanzu

Field of Study: Law

Title of Thesis: "Public', 'private' and 'partnership': making sense of the persistence of infrastructure public-private partnerships in international development."

Supervisors: Dr Jan Kleinheisterkamp and Dr Margot Salomon

Dr Viknes Muthiah

Field of Study: Law

Title of Thesis: "Rethinking precarity"

Supervisors: Professor Susan Marks and Professor Stephen Humphreys

April 2025

Dr Bob Roth

Field of Study: Law

Title of Thesis: Between Myth and Reality: A Critical Genealogy of the Rule of Law in European Economic Integration

Supervisors: Professor Mike Wilkinson and Professor Jacco Bomhoff

June 2025

Dr Alexandra Sinclair

Field of Study: Law

Title of Thesis: The Application of Judicial Review Doctrines to Automated Administration in The United Kingdom

Supervisors: Professor Tom Poole and Dr Orla Lynskey

July 2025

Dr Sebastian Gazmuri Barker

Field of Study: Law

Title of Thesis: "In search of tax progressivity in developing countries. Analysing Chile's tax system as a case study"

Supervisors: Dr Ian Roxan and Eduardo Baistrocchi



Feminist Legal Theory at LSE Law School – At Last!

The restructuring of the LLB degree from 2023 provided an opportunity to offer students a greater choice of options – not least in the broad area of theoretical approaches to law. In this piece, Professor Nicola Lacey reflects on the exciting Feminist Legal Theory course that she introduced with Dr Sarah Trotter.

Teaching and learning

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Sarah and I have long been concerned with how law genders its subjects, and feminist ideas more generally have always been an important component of our teaching and research. But, within the constraints of the pre-2023 curriculum, these issues had to be slotted into existing courses – Sarah's existing Family Law course was an obvious place, as was Emily Jackson and Cressida Auckland's Medical Law course. Even beyond these courses, gender issues were considered in other courses too, such as Criminal Law, Introduction to Legal Systems, Employment Law, International Law and Human Rights. More recently, Emily Jackson and Niki Lacey have taught feminist legal theory as part of the Jurisprudence course. Likewise, Roxana Willis's Race, Class and Law course opened up a further space for both feminist engagement and consideration of the intersecting ways in which social vectors of power organised along ethnic, socio-economic and gender lines shape the development, interpretation and implementation of law, opening up a broad critical project of unearthing the assumptions on which legal arrangements which we often take for granted are founded.

Student enthusiasm for such socially engaged courses, including Law, Poverty and Access to Justice, has made it clear that the Law School's decision to add several other options within a compulsory theory component of the degree offered an ideal framework for the development – at last – of a course on Feminist Legal Theory at LSE.

In designing the very first Feminist Legal Theory course, Sarah and I were also building on a long tradition of concern at LSE, across many departments, with gender issues. LSE, after all, has the largest Gender Studies department in Europe. And in Law, Erika Szyszczak ran a Women and Law course at LSE in the 1990s, while the Women Law Teachers' Group, which formed a key part of my feminist legal education, met regularly at LSE in the 1980s. We met in what I remember as a basement room in the old building. At the launch of my feminist essays, *Unspeakable Subjects*, soon after my arrival at LSE in 1998, I mentioned this, only to be assured by one colleague that the Old Building doesn't have a basement seminar room. I can however attest – and anyone who knew LSE in those days will confirm – that it definitely had rooms that *felt* as if they were in the basement...

Last but not least, LSE's founders, staff and alumni include many significant figures in feminist historiography. Beatrice Webb (1858-43), one of the co-founders of the LSE, was a feminist and an influential advocate for the rights of women. Eileen Younghusband, 1902-81, was honoured – one can't really say "damed", can one?: itself perhaps a feminist point... – for her defining contribution to the teaching and practice of social work; while the Law Department's (as it then was...) own Rosalyn Higgins (1937-) became the first woman Justice on the International Court of Justice at the Hague, its first woman President, and a Baroness, while our alumna Dame Linda Dobbs became the first black woman judge in the High Court. Most recently, Susanne Baer, one of the leading

feminist legal scholars in Europe, and a former Justice of the German Constitutional Court, has joined the Law School as Centennial Professor; she, along with Emily Jackson and Marie Petersmann, contributed to the course.

We were delighted to be able to recruit 30 enthusiastic, thoughtful and engaged students to the new Feminist Legal Theory course. With assistance from our recent graduate Amadea Hofmann, who took notes so that the rest of us could concentrate on the debate, we ran ten lively seminars through the Autumn Term of 2024.

We moved from relatively general issues – the gendering of legal concepts, arrangements and underlying ideas: autonomy, the legal person, contract, property, the constitution – and precepts of legal reasoning: objectivity, rationality, neutrality, universality – through to more concrete areas of law. How does law construct, think about and regulate motherhood? Who is the paradigm subject of criminal law, and how adequately do criminal law principles and defences account for differently situated persons? How does, and how should, the law respond to the quotidian experience of street harassment, and what does its efforts to do so reveal about its underlying dynamics? How far does law construct its subjects in terms of their bodily characteristics, experiences, and relations with others, and how does this shape its operation in areas such as family law and medical law, encompassing in particular the question(s) of reproduction? How does the notion of the autonomous legal subject accommodate those in a state of dependency, notably but not exclusively children? How can a legal order whose imaginary has long been shaped by the paradigm of an autonomous individual accommodate collective subjects – corporations, states – or other non-human subjects such as the planet or more specific environmental phenomena, or respond to harms to these putative subjects? And why do most legal systems accord legal subjects a legal sex at birth, when they wouldn't dream of doing the same for, for example, ethnic or religious identity?

This is just a sample of the issues which we debated with our wonderful students. It was interesting to discover, too, their motivations for taking the course. For some, the original inspiration came from cultural studies, notably literature, during their sixth form; for some, it was straightforwardly a product of feminist commitments; and for some, it was born of frustration that issues to do with law and gender had not featured in their other courses. We tried to connect with these motivations in various ways: the Law School kindly gave us support to take the students to a very well-reviewed play, *The Years*, adapted from a novel by the Nobel Prize-winning feminist author Annie Ernaux; and we are working with the students and Amadea to construct a feminist reading list which stretches right across the curriculum, and beyond it to the arts, which we hope will provide a useful resource for colleagues open to exploring some gender issues in their own courses. Watch this space!

Law Teacher of the Year Award

Why we nominated Niki

When we saw the call for nominations asking, "Do you know a teacher who inspires their students and colleagues?", we immediately thought of Niki. Having taught alongside her on the Feminist Legal Theory (Sarah) and Outlines of Modern Criminology (Richard) courses, we've witnessed her extraordinary teaching firsthand. Niki's classrooms are full of energy, curiosity, reflection, and perspective; she has the power to generate a genuine spirit of inquiry that encourages students to think for themselves and to develop their way of expressing themselves. To see this in action is to see students learning to think and develop their voices in relation to law. It was this liveliness in learning that we had in mind when we nominated Niki, but also all of her behind-the-scenes work: the extraordinary care that she brings to course preparation, assessment marking, student discussions, and the thoughtful extra-curricular activities that she creates. Niki is also, for us, a truly fabulous and inspiring colleague and we feel so lucky to work with her and to learn from her. Our joy in nominating Niki and hearing that she was shortlisted was topped only by our delight when she won the award, confirming what we knew all along – Niki is an academic superstar. We are thrilled and delighted for you, Niki, and for the Law School too. With warmest wishes, Sarah and Richard.



Professor Khaitan offers new public law courses for LSE law students

Professor Tarun Khaitan, Chair Professor of Public Law, introduced new public law courses to LSE Law's cohort in the 2024-2025 academic year and shared his plans to advance future offerings. He described his new courses for *Ratio*, one for advanced LLB students and the other for LLM students:

The course for LLB students is called *Constitutionalism Beyond Courts*. This course studied constitutional law and politics from a comparative perspective. The course went beyond a focus on courts and legal norms. While constitutional courts did feature, they do so as one of many constitutional actors that comprise a constitutional system. The focus was on constitutional actors typically ignored by legal scholarship (such as legislatures, executives, political parties, the bureaucracy, regulators, the monarchy, federal units, the political opposition, the military, and guarantor institutions such as electoral commissions and anti-corruption bodies). This course sought to understand these non-judicial actors by adopting a comparative constitutional perspective. It drew examples not only from constitutionally influential jurisdictions (such as the United States, United Kingdom, South Africa and Germany) but also from jurisdictions outside the "canon" of comparative constitutional law, such as China, Iran, Australia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Kenya, and Afghanistan. This diverse jurisdictional lens aimed to help students critique the dominant court-focused approach and explore other possibilities of constitutional design.

The LLM course – *Constitutionalisms in the Global South* – sought the agenda of provincialising Euro-American constitutional practice more directly by trying to decentre its influence in comparative constitutional discourse. To do so, the course examined some recent attempts to theorise Southern constitutionalisms – including whether there is anything distinctively "Southern" about the practice of



constitutionalism in such a large and diverse part of the world. Illustrations of comparative constitutional practice were drawn from a wide canvas of Southern jurisdictions – sometimes juxtaposed against a Northern example – with a focus on constitutional innovations that have been especially prominent in Southern jurisdictions. The particular experience of the Global South with colonialism and its implications for constitutionalism was also studied.

Both courses had a good first year, with enthusiastic student cohorts who fully engaged with the material and helped to shape course development. Building on the success of these new courses, Professor Khaitan will offer another new course to advanced undergraduate students in 2025/26, called "Philosophical Foundations of Discrimination Law". Altogether, these courses will provide a rich canopy of public law topics and issues for students to engage with at various levels of their legal education.

Student Reflections: What I learned from my volunteering at the LSE Legal Advice Centre

Anya Broad and Tom Bower are among the first LSE law students to volunteer with the LSE Legal Advice Centre. Tom and Anya reflected on their unique experiences of engaging with the law in new, applied, and creative ways for *Ratio Magazine*.

Anya: Volunteering with the LSE Legal Advice Centre has provided invaluable insight into legal practice. As a student, I was accustomed to writing essays and problem questions, meaning there was a steep learning curve when figuring out how to interact with clients and apply the law to their circumstances. Having never delivered legal advice previously, this experience opened my eyes to what it takes to translate academic knowledge into practical guidance that is both legally sound and genuinely responsive to a client's needs.

I somewhat unexpectedly learned the value of creativity when devising solutions or recommendations in our letters of advice. While black-letter law may seem rigid, providing tailored recommendations often requires a degree of inventiveness. Alongside asking what the legally correct route was to take, it was necessary to consider which claims would lead to the outcome a client most wanted. If a client primarily sought emotional vindication for the discrimination they faced, the recommended pathways would potentially differ from a client whose main concern was recovering lost pay, though the factual circumstances they experienced may have been similar. In addition to considering which pathways of action would align most with a client's needs, we had to consider which potential evidence may exist to meet the differing thresholds of different claims, and what combination of available or discoverable evidence would most likely convince a tribunal judge. In each client meeting, we were surprised by unexpected elements, new information that had not been previously disclosed through the triage calls, or the documents sent by the client, which would open new avenues of discussion. No two cases were the same, and I found it challenging and rewarding to think creatively when devising potential solutions, and when drafting the advice letters.

We learned the significance of what was stated by Akua Reindorf KC during our training sessions, that in many Employment Law cases, the winner has the better human story. In our cases, the claim was often one person's word against their employer. Instances of workplace discrimination or harassment are rarely recorded or witnessed, making it necessary that each client's story be not just presented accurately, but persuasively and compellingly. Each case we handled had significant inequality of resources, where the employer had access to legal representation, but not the employee bringing the claim, which reinforced our awareness of the power of narrative. We centred each client's personal story throughout, which influenced our recommendations when offering advice on the phrasing or structuring of witness statements to strengthen the impact of each client's account.

Overall, my experience with the clinic has not only deepened my understanding of the application and functioning of the Equality Act and Employment Rights Act, but has equipped me with the practical skills to hold interviews with clients professionally and sensitively, and to provide tailored and specific advice to meet the differing needs of individuals. Most significantly, however, the clinic represents the first time the LSE Law School has directly contributed to the community through legal advice. It has been a source of genuine pride for all volunteers to be able to use the knowledge and skills gained throughout our degree in a way that truly makes a difference.

Tom: Struggles with access to justice are a major issue within the UK. Whilst the large fees for bringing a claim before the Employment Tribunal were removed in 2017, those unable to fund their own legal assistance are expected to present their claim themselves. This was

TEACHING AND LEARNING



Anya Broad



Tom Bower

one of the key reasons I chose to study law, to help tackle inaccessibility to justice, and so I was thrilled when I heard about the creation of the Legal Advice Centre. The Centre allows students like me to create a degree of change by offering free legal advice to individuals who would have otherwise been unable to afford professional legal services.

Anya and I worked with two clients across the winter term who were both waiting for employment tribunal hearings. We would initially receive a huge bunch of documents from our clients, outlining their issues and claims. We would then hold client interviews to gain a deeper understanding of these issues and fill in any missing information, along with what kind of support and options the client wanted from us. Catering to individual client needs was important throughout everything we did. Our client interviews were guided by what the client felt comfortable discussing with us, which was a vital approach since much of the information we were told was extremely sensitive and revealed troubling experiences of mistreatment suffered at work. Compassion and kindness were some of the most important attributes when working with our clients, since this ensured we could build a relationship of trust in which our clients could open up, so that in return, we could provide the best possible advice.

Interviewing clients gave me a much deeper insight into the nuances of practising law. Initially, I had expected it

to be a fairly simple process of applying the law to real facts. However, hearing first-hand about the extended campaigns of discrimination some of the clients had faced, which had left lasting damage on their mental health, really solidified just how difficult a position they had been left in. This human side of law is something you don't, and indeed can't, learn about from your studies alone, and yet I think it's one of the most important elements of law.

Following these interviews, we set to writing our letters of legal advice, which required legal research. The research was focused entirely on the practical aspects of law, and so we turned to practitioners' texts over textbooks, which made it considerably different to studying the law for academics. Even in areas of law I thought I knew from studying employment law, real-life cases presented a lot of complications which required me to delve into quite fringe parts of the law. I also needed to develop a deeper understanding of the law so that I could then present it in a non-technical, accessible manner that could be clearly understood by our clients.

As a whole, whilst challenging, this process was immensely rewarding. Practising law is an entirely different matter to studying law, and I'm so thankful that me and other volunteers have had the opportunity to use some of our time at LSE to be part of something to make real change.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Kiera Fernandes, a second-year LSE law student, reflects on her personal experience working in the LSE Legal Advice Clinic as a Student Advisor working on family law issues.

Legal education is an incredibly valuable opportunity, especially for those of us drawn to questions of justice and fairness. When I applied to law school, I recall writing extensively about my interest in the principles that drive the law and the potential to build a legal system where individuals do not fall through the cracks for lack of resources. I hoped that, through further education, I could explore these ideas in a more meaningful and practical way. For students who share these motivations, the LSE Legal Advice Clinic offers much more than practical experience – it provides unexpected insight into the very questions that may have led you to study law, and it challenges you to critically examine the efficacy of the legal system that serves us today.

At the LSE Legal Advice Clinic, I volunteered as a Student Advisor within the family law branch of the clinic, where I had the opportunity to interview clients, conduct legal research and draft letters of advice under the supervision of a practising family lawyer. With all my previous experience in law grounded in academic study, I expected client interviews to be a completely new challenge. However, I was surprised to discover that the skills I required for legal research and writing in practice were vastly different from those I had developed during my undergraduate degree. Translating legal knowledge into clear, actionable advice required a shift in approach that I hadn't anticipated.

Over the course of our training sessions, I became familiar with the preferred tools of a practising family lawyer, such as case management software and practitioner texts. Unlike the often dense and detailed legal reasoning I was used to reading in lengthy judgments and probing academic articles, research in practice required the consultation of practitioner texts, such as "The Red Book" and "Butterworths Family Law Service", which were deliberately concise, accessible and geared toward immediate problem-solving. I came to appreciate the importance of adapting the style of legal research and writing I was familiar with to provide clear and actionable guidance for individuals uncertain of their rights and needing reliable advice for their immediate next steps.

Aiding my first case, my partner and I conducted initial research and consulted our supervising lawyer to discuss what our client could do. In our letter of advice, we explained their legal options and our recommended next steps in clear and simple language. Although there was something deeply rewarding in being able to provide advice, knowing that it had the potential to make a real difference to their situation, this experience reinforced the importance



Kiera Fernandes

of making legal services accessible and reliable, particularly for individuals who might otherwise feel excluded from the legal system.

The experience of volunteering at the LSE Legal Advice Clinic was enriching in many ways and offered me insight into the multidimensional nature of law in practice. Interviewing clients helped me to appreciate the importance of empathy when engaging with clients who felt uncertain and vulnerable in the face of complex legal and practical challenges. Drafting letters of advice taught me how to balance legal accuracy with accessibility. It allowed me to recognise the value of clarity and precision in communication and sharpened my ability to distil complex legal frameworks into clear, actionable advice. Working closely with my partner and supervising lawyer on research encouraged me to view problem-solving as a collaborative effort where mutual support and accountability enabled greater confidence in the quality and accuracy of the produced work. Engaging with the law in practice has deepened my appreciation for the impact of law in everyday life, and it has helped me to understand the effort and responsibility of volunteers within the legal community who are dedicated to plugging the gap in access to justice. My experiences in the clinic and with the individuals whom I have had the opportunity to provide advice to and work alongside have strengthened my conviction that it is vital that individuals, regardless of background, should be able to access a legal system that is not only technically proficient but also attentive to the human realities behind each case. Until then, collaborative efforts such as the LSE Legal Advice Clinic provide an immensely valuable opportunity for students at LSE to actively contribute to bridging the access to justice gap.



Start 'em Young! Connecting LSE Law School to Primary School Children

A novel and important part of the LSE Legal Advice Centre's work this year involved joining the School Tasking Project, which is an initiative that aims to introduce primary school children to the concepts and practices of law and human rights. Felcia Fong and Seraphine Lai were part of the Law School team that co-established and ran LSE's first round of the project in Hackney, under the guidance of Diana Kirsch. Felcia and Seraphine offer us a vivid account of this project in action.

A dozen tiny feet patter through the hallway of a primary school tucked away in a quaint neighbourhood. The excited sounds of children laughing and chattering echo off the walls as they rush into their classroom – not for maths or spelling, but to become detectives, judges, and citizens-in-the-making.

This is the magic of the School Tasking Project, a legal literacy initiative designed to widen participation in primary schools, many of which have a high proportion of children receiving free school meals. The School Tasking project was initiated at the University of Warwick and now involves over 30 universities across the UK. The project brings the law to life for young learners through fun, interactive workshops that make legal concepts engaging and accessible. Inspired by the popular TV show *Taskmaster*, the project saw LSE Law students stepping into classrooms as facilitators, guiding Year 5 pupils through creative tasks that explore rights, responsibilities, and how the law shapes our everyday lives.

The LSE School Tasking project was led by Ms Diana Kirsch, Director of the LSE Legal Advice Centre. Under her guidance, LSE Law students were divided into four groups, each assigned to lead a Year 5 class at either Daubeney or Rushmore Primary School. Reflecting on what inspired her to launch the programme, Ms Kirsch shared, "We ran School Tasking at my previous university and saw firsthand how much the children loved the interactive, engaging activities. It's a fun way to introduce young people to the law and important principles like human rights. We work with schools

with higher numbers of pupils on free school meals and I hope that the project will inspire children to see university as an option and consider a career in law."

In addition to her role as project lead, Ms Kirsch also embraced the title of Head Taskmaster, overseeing the students' progress and ultimately selecting one team from each school to advance to the regional finals. Week after week, she could be found hurrying between classrooms – observing lessons, collecting creative submissions, and cheering on both pupils and volunteers. Despite the packed schedule, she described the experience as profoundly meaningful, recalling, "I absolutely loved playing the role of Taskmaster and judging the tasks. I was genuinely impressed by the children's imagination and creativity. My favourite task to judge was when they had to recreate a right from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child using Play-Doh. The thought and effort they put in were incredible – it was inspiring to see how deeply they engaged with such important topics."

Assisting her in the programme's planning and implementation was Mr Tilmann Karreh, an LSE LLM student appointed as Student Director. Personally selected by Ms Kirsch, he played a pivotal role in coordinating student volunteers and ensuring the smooth delivery of each workshop. "I felt very grateful for the opportunity, but at the same time, I had tremendous respect for the responsibility ahead of me," he said, reflecting on his first day on the project. He added: "However, the work was always rewarding and enjoyable, especially thanks to Diana's excellent

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guidance and the exemplary participation of the other volunteers. Working in areas like Hackney, where many young people have limited access to legal knowledge and professional role models, made the experience especially meaningful. It was incredibly rewarding to see how introducing children to their rights and potential careers in law could spark genuine interest and open up new possibilities.”

The selected LSE Law student volunteers underwent training sessions and rehearsals following a rigorous interview process to prepare for the workshops. These sessions equipped us with the knowledge to teach legal concepts – from the Rule of Law to foundational case law in tort – and the tools to deliver them in an engaging, age-appropriate way. Creativity, teamwork, and quick thinking became essential as we adapted complex legal ideas into interactive challenges, all within a playful yet intellectually stimulating environment. We discovered that legal literacy is more than just understanding rules – it’s about empowering young people to think critically, ask questions, and understand their rights and responsibilities in society. By introducing these concepts at an early age, projects like School Tasking help demystify the law and make it accessible, engaging, and relevant to children’s everyday lives.

Student Reflections

To capture the heart of the School Tasking Project, we gathered reflections from some of the LSE Law student volunteers themselves. From teaching legal concepts to learning from the students they worked with, their experiences speak to the impact and joy of the programme.

Felicia Fong (Rushmore): I joined the School Tasking Project due to my love for volunteering and pro bono, and it is possibly my favourite volunteering job that I have ever done! It has been an absolute joy to teach the students. Even from the very first session, I remember being impressed by their intellect, curiosity, and the fact that they were such good students (and very sweet kids, too). Seeing their progress from the first to the last session has been genuinely inspiring, especially when I saw that they had remembered key cases, like *Donoghue v Stevenson*! I always looked forward to these teaching sessions and it has been a truly fun and rewarding project to be a part of.



Seraphine Lai

Seraphine Lai (Rushmore): I signed up for the School Tasking Project because I’ve always found working with children to be incredibly rewarding. Having been quite active in community outreach back home, I was also eager to explore the volunteering scene in London and learn from the new environment. The students at Rushmore have been an absolute joy. Honestly, I think I’ve learnt more from them than they have from me. Their passion, creativity, and sense of teamwork constantly reminded me why legal education – even at a young age – matters.”

Yamin Zuo (Rushmore): Volunteering for the School Tasking Project will definitely be one of the most memorable moments during my time at LSE. I was amazed to see how energetic these kids were,

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Felicia Fong

their eagerness to learn, and especially their wild imagination and incredible creativity. I felt like it was not only about us teaching them about what we already knew. It was also a journey where we supported and witnessed them exploring the legal world, and we should always prepare ourselves to be surprised by their ideas and pieces of work.

Lim Yi Ning (Daubeney): Doing School Tasking was an extremely rewarding experience. I had been assigned to Daubeney Primary School, and through engaging team activities (my personal favourite was where the kids modelled UN Rights out of plasticine), the students learned about the law and developed their confidence. This reinforced my belief in law as a tool for

empowerment, and to not underestimate the depth of thought that children are capable of!

Nitika Bagaria (Daubeney): Being part of the School Tasking project was a unique and fulfilling experience. Teaching primary school students about the rule of law, human rights, and the basics of the English legal system challenged us to make complex ideas fun, clear, and engaging. It was incredible to see how curious and thoughtful the students were. This initiative not only promotes early legal education but also empowers young minds to think critically about fairness, justice, and their rights. The experience deepened my appreciation for legal education and the role it can play in building awareness and confidence in young people.

Masterclass offered at LSE Law School on *The Practice of International Arbitration*

Dr Paul MacMahon, Associate Professor in Law at LSE, offers us a fly-on-the-wall account of the popular *The Practice of International Arbitration* Masterclass which has been in high demand for several years. Alongside Paul's reflections, firsthand accounts from participating students and Constantine Partasides, who delivered the course, are shared.

International arbitration is a fascinating and challenging area of legal practice. Lawyers working across borders handle disputes worth hundreds of millions – sometimes even billions – of dollars. In cross-border cases, businesses might have chosen arbitration in a contract (like in international commercial arbitration). Alternatively, a government might have agreed in a treaty to arbitrate claims brought by foreign investors (investor-state arbitration) or to submit a dispute with another sovereign state to an arbitral tribunal (interstate arbitration).

The Law School offers a range of arbitration-centred courses on the LLM and Executive LLM. Our LLB students can gain some exposure to the subject in the Commercial Law course. These courses naturally focus on doctrinal and theoretical aspects of the topic. However, since the field changes so fast, and much of the action occurs behind closed doors, students hunger for supplemental insights from the world of practice.

The Masterclass in *The Practice of International Arbitration* allowed LSE Law Students to learn from Constantine Partasides and his colleagues. An LSE Law faculty member chaired each of the five interactive sessions – Paul MacMahon, Oliver Hailes, and Joseph Spooner – while Three Crowns LLP provided the content. Constantine led the Masterclass, joined by his colleagues Briana Young, Julia Sherman, and Joshua Coates, to deliver the Masterclass sessions.



It's hard to think of a law firm better placed to provide those insights than Three Crowns LLP. Three Crowns specialises in international arbitration, excelling in various areas of the discipline. With offices in London, Paris, Madrid, Singapore, and Washington, DC, the firm often scores in the top tier of legal rankings. Most recently, Three Crowns was named "International Arbitration Team of the Year" in the *Chambers UK* Awards in 2025. Its London-based founding partner Constantine Partasides KC is described by *Who's Who Legal* as "the leading arbitration lawyer in London", "exquisite as an advocate", and "a leader of his generation". *Chambers Global* recognises him as one of only two "Star Individuals" in international arbitration worldwide. He is also the editor of the leading textbook *Redfern and Hunter on International Arbitration*.

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The first session was on the four “Ws” of international arbitration – why, which, who and where? This began what LLM student Idil Zoraloglu called “a truly engaging and insightful journey into modern international arbitration”. Though most participants in the Masterclass have some arbitration background as students or as practitioners, the introductory session brought all students up to speed. It also gave participants a unique first-hand account of how the field has developed over the past twenty-five years and an informed assessment of future challenges.

The next two sessions covered tactical considerations. Unlike in court litigation, the parties to arbitrations can typically influence the identity of the decision-makers. Session Two thus covers the art of selecting arbitrators, concluding with a hypothetical case study involving a dispute between a foreign investor and a Latin American government. Students debated which of three candidates they would nominate to an arbitral tribunal: the law firm partner with government experience, the eminent professor of public international law, or the younger lawyer with extensive expertise in energy disputes. Likewise, and again in contrast to litigation, the parties to arbitration have the power to shape the procedure. These procedural choices are the subject of Session Three. The students again learn via a case study involving an Indian energy company and a Middle Eastern technology supplier.

Many students considered the fourth session – on the art of cross-examination in international arbitration – the highlight of the Masterclass. Constantine shared his ten golden rules for grilling the other side’s witnesses before demonstrating his skill by engaging in an entertaining and instructive mock cross-examination of one of his associates. For many participants, this exercise was the most memorable aspect of the Masterclass. LLM student Siddharth Aiyanna calls it “an unparalleled opportunity to see a master at work”.

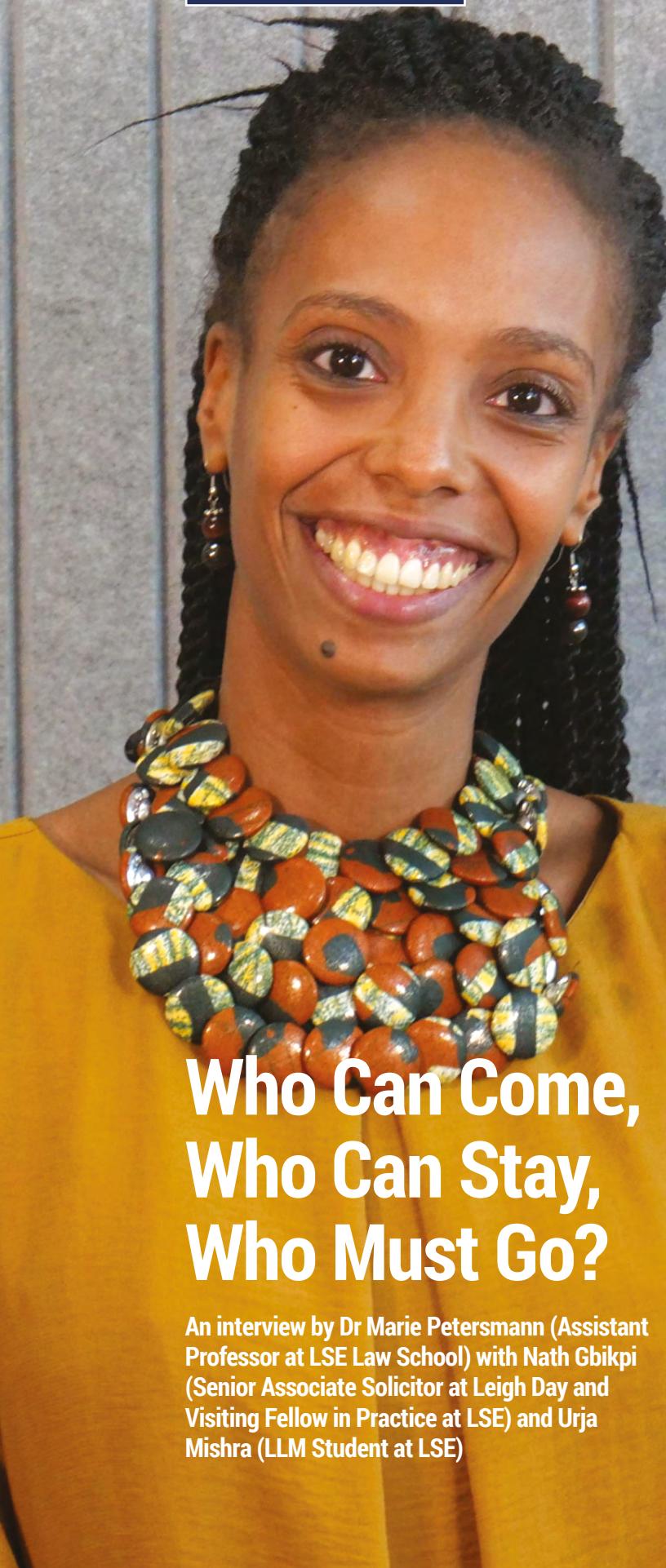
The fifth Masterclass session covered issues crucial to making international arbitration practically relevant. Students benefit especially from the Three Crowns perspective on third-party funding, a fast-moving and controversial issue. This session also discussed recourse against arbitral awards and their enforcement. Briana, Joshua, and Julia shared their insights into how to find a recalcitrant debtor’s assets, wherever they might be, and how to persuade courts around the world to give effect to the arbitrators’ award.

In addition to the five sessions held at LSE, Three Crowns hosted a sixth session on careers in international arbitration at the firm’s London office, allowing students to meet other firm lawyers.



Unsurprisingly, the Masterclass was exceptionally popular with LSE Law students. Janice Castelino, for example, found it “engaging and thought-provoking,” with “each session more engaging and impactful than the last”. Nitika Bagaria said it was “an invaluable experience that provided deep insights into the nuances of international arbitration,” and equipped her with “the knowledge and skills to navigate complex disputes more effectively”.

The experience was valuable for Three Crowns, too. Constantine commented: “We are delighted that the Masterclass has been so well received. By focusing on practical and strategic aspects of arbitral practice, based on our combined experience, we aim to give the students an insight into the types of issues they might face as practising international arbitration lawyers. They also bring their own experiences to the table, leading to lively discussion and debate that draws on practice from all over the world. It has been a pleasure to engage with and learn from the students in every class we have taught.”



Who Can Come, Who Can Stay, Who Must Go?

An interview by Dr Marie Petersmann (Assistant Professor at LSE Law School) with Nath Gbikpi (Senior Associate Solicitor at Leigh Day and Visiting Fellow in Practice at LSE) and Urja Mishra (LLM Student at LSE)

In March 2025, Nath Gbikpi (Senior Associate Solicitor at Leigh Day and Visiting Fellow in Practice at LSE since 2023) delivered an insightful Masterclass titled *"Who Can Come, Who Can Stay, Who Must Go: A Practical Introduction to UK Immigration Law"*. This three-session masterclass provided students with a hands-on understanding of the UK's complex immigration framework, covering topics from visas and asylum claims to the violent realities of detention and deportation. Thirty students attended the Masterclass, all very engaged and eager to understand how to navigate the complexity of immigration law.

Dr Marie Petersmann spoke with Nath Gbikpi about her extensive experience and expertise in immigration, asylum, and nationality law (with particular emphasis on human rights applications and asylum claims) and the pressing issues confronting UK migration policy today. Dr Petersmann also discussed the importance and benefits for LSE Law students to learn about and confront these legal issues with Urja Mishra (LLM student at LSE Law School 2024-2025), who participated in Nath's Masterclass.

MP: Nath, what shaped your professional choice to specialise in immigration and asylum law, and what continues to drive your commitment to it?

NG: I come from a family of migrants. I have Burundian, Togolese and French roots, was born and grew up in Italy, and now live in the UK with a Spanish partner. I remember, as a child, asking my dad what it meant to be "sans papiers" (the literal translation from French to English is "without papers", for this is how people who do not have regular immigration status are called in France). I could not comprehend why a "sans papiers" couldn't just go to an office and get those famous "papers", or why a piece of paper was so important in the first place. Sadly, I can't say that I knew then that I wanted to become an immigration lawyer (although, wouldn't that have been the sweetest story?), but I guess it is my background and education that attracted me to immigration law. As to why I am still committed to it – migrants are some of the most marginalised and vilified communities in the country, for no rational reason. They need people fighting their corner, and I'm proud of being one of them.

MP: In your Masterclass, you showed how immigration laws and policies are complex and in constant flux. You gave examples such as the numerous Immigration Bills and Acts which restricted access to the UK asylum system. What explains the constant changes?

NG: Immigration law is fundamentally political. Regardless of party or ideology, successive governments have intentionally used immigration as a political football. In recent years, governments have consistently made efforts to present themselves as "tough on immigration." Often, this is based on misconceived perceptions of public opinion and fuelled by sensationalised media reporting rather than evidence. Sadly, this comes at the expense of real people who, like anyone else, are simply seeking safety, the opportunity to reunite with their families, or a chance to live a dignified life.

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MP: You spoke about how immigration control has been outsourced to many different bodies and people, including employers, landlords, banks, the NHS, the police, and even education providers. Why is that problematic?

NG: Immigration law is incredibly complex. Lawyers barely manage to keep up with it, let alone lay people. Employers, landlords and other service providers cannot be expected to have the expertise to properly assess an individual's immigration status, but the sanctions imposed for getting it wrong mean that they get overzealous and make biased decisions. People from minoritised and racialised backgrounds, in particular, end up being disproportionately targeted, even when they are legally entitled to live and work in the UK. This system also leaves people vulnerable to abuse and exploitation by unscrupulous landlords and employers. Those who do not have regular status in the UK are even scared of reporting crimes to the police for fear of being referred to immigration authorities. The intention of this "hostile environment" is that people without status will find life in the UK so difficult that they will leave. But the reality is that there is no evidence that these policies achieve their stated aim, fuelling discrimination and exploitation instead.

MP: What transformations would you like to see in UK immigration law and border politics? Do you believe meaningful change is possible within the current political climate?

I asked a similar question to students at the end of the Masterclass and was very inspired by their answers. One of them reckoned: "the system actually works perfectly: it is designed to make it unbearably difficult for people from certain backgrounds to make it or stay in the UK, which is exactly how the system is currently functioning". In short, students want to see a more humane, transparent and fair system, which I wholeheartedly agree with. Is meaningful change possible within the current political climate? It is difficult but not impossible. It requires a multifaceted yet collaborative approach: journalists and others active in the media sector should work to change the media narrative; lawyers should take on strategic litigation; policymakers and activists should lobby for change; and academics should conduct research and publish impactful work that can inform evidence-based policy development.

MP: Your Masterclass allowed students to study immigration law with a practitioner who understands the complexities of this area, particularly for people living under economic, ecological and military duress who are forced to move and seek refuge to survive. Nath, thank you for taking the time to deliver this invaluable Masterclass and sharing your reflections with us for our *Ratio* readers.

Marie then spoke with Urja Mishra, one of the students who participated in the Masterclass on Immigration Law.

MP: Urja, as a graduate student, what made you participate in the Masterclass in Migration Law? What motivated you to take it?

UM: Immigration law is not exactly the easiest legal terrain to navigate. It's like trying to solve a Rubik's cube that keeps changing its colours. As an LLM student from India, I was drawn to this Masterclass because migration law is not just about paperwork and legal jargon but about people, their lives, and their struggles. The UK's immigration system is one of the most debated in the world, and I wanted to see for myself how it functions in practice. The opportunity to learn from Nath Gbikpi, a practitioner who does not just study the law but actively battles its injustices, was particularly compelling. Immigration law is often seen as a legal maze – this Masterclass promised to be the map.

MP: What is your main takeaway from the Masterclass?

UM: One of the strongest takeaways was the realisation that immigration law is not just a set of rigid rules but a highly dynamic and often unpredictable legal field, more of a constantly shifting puzzle. The discussion on asylum, human rights applications, and detention highlighted how the law is as much about interpretation as it is about statutes. The class showed that legal safeguards exist, but their effectiveness depends on how they are applied – sometimes fairly, sometimes harshly, and often unpredictably. The stark reality is that immigration control is not just about rules but power, discretion, and who gets to make the final call.

MP: How did you experience being taught by a practitioner?

UM: There is something different about learning from someone who has been in the trenches of legal practice. Nath Gbikpi's insights brought the law to life in a way that textbooks simply cannot. She first established the base by wonderfully explaining the intricacies and mode of working of the immigration system. Furthermore, she shared not just legal principles but real battles – cases that involved lives, futures, and sometimes heartbreak. Her ability to weave case studies into legal discussions made it clear that immigration law is not a distant policy issue but a deeply personal one. The case law discussions were perhaps the most eye-opening aspect of the Masterclass. The class was a reminder that legal practice is as much about strategy and persistence as it is about knowledge.

MP: What new insights did the Masterclass offer you to deal with and make sense of migration injustice?

UM: The Masterclass provided a crucial insight: challenging migration injustice requires more than just legal knowledge – it requires strategy. The law, while restrictive in many ways, is also a tool that can be used to push back against unfair policies. Strategic litigation, public advocacy, and media engagement all play a role in shaping migration justice. The case law discussions further reinforced that while the law often creates barriers, it can also be leveraged to dismantle them. The key is knowing when and how to challenge the system effectively.

Broadening horizons and honing skills: Benefitting from the Convene Masterclass series

Throughout the academic year, LSE Law School hosts a number of Convene Masterclass series, providing all students with the opportunity to enhance knowledge and skill in areas beyond the core curriculum. Drawing on experiences from the hugely successful *FinTech and Digital Finance Masterclass series*, Philipp Paech (Associate Professor of Financial Law, LSE) and Elisabeth Noble (European Banking Authority, Paris, and Visiting Professor in Practice, LSE), discussed with Roxana Willis the benefits and reflect on recent digital finance developments.

RW: What are the objectives of the Convene Masterclass?

PP: Convene events are organised for members of the LSE community and provide a forum to engage with faculty and external experts on topical legal and regulatory developments. The fora are informal, and the content is non-examined.

RW: How are the Convene Masterclasses structured?

EN: It depends on the subject matter. In the case of the *FinTech and Digital Finance Masterclass series*, which in 2025 will be in its fourth edition, a series of five classes take place over the autumn term. The series is designed to provide students with a comprehensive introduction to regulatory issues arising in the sphere of FinTech and Digital Finance and incorporates classes on artificial intelligence and machine learning, crypto-assets, "datafication", value chain evolution (eg, platformisation), and operational resilience.

As a bonus, those students who attend all five classes earn a very nice certificate!

RW: Are the Masterclasses interactive?

PP: Yes. The series is intended to be engaging and highly interactive. For example, in the *FinTech and Digital Finance Masterclass series*, we actively encourage students to refer to raise questions on recent news stories, and draw on any experiences from their jurisdictions. We also benefit from hearing about Elisabeth's experiences designing policy measures against a fast-evolving market landscape – for instance, regarding the regulation of so-called global stablecoins and new challenges posed by increasingly sophisticated applications of AI. While the content does

not overlap with our curricular courses in International Financial Law or International Financial Regulation it is highly complementary to these.

RW: What do you think students get from participation?

EN: I think students enjoy the informal setting and the opportunity to correlate core constructs of regulation with "real life" news stories and experiences. For instance, many students enjoy discussing the spectrum of different types of crypto-assets and the rationales and a better understanding why a "one size fits all" approach to regulation doesn't work. BigTech is also a popular theme – we all use BigTech products and services in all aspects of our lives, but it can



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be hard to see how everything fits together and, again, to understand the rationales for possible regulation.

PP: I agree. We all benefit from the discussions and enjoy hearing students reflect on different products, services, business models, and regulatory approaches in their jurisdictions – leveraging the global community we have at LSE Law School.

RW: The FinTech and Digital Finance Masterclass series is in its 4th edition in 2025: How do you keep it current?

PP: Well, the reliance of financial institutions on innovative technologies is nothing new – eg, ATMs were used for cash withdrawals in the 1960s, and software for accounting and reconciliations for financial and compliance purposes has been around for decades. However, what differentiates this period is the very rapid evolution and adoption of increasingly sophisticated technology plus “datafication” – ie, the availability of deeper and broader digital datasets, often called “Big Data”. This raises significant new challenges for supervisors and regulators and means we are never short of something to discuss!

EN: Absolutely. The rate of change is astonishing and made even more complex and interesting by the fact that these changes are happening across all spheres of life. This means that supervisory and regulatory responses need to be calibrated not only with one sector in mind but also taking account of multi-sector implications. For instance, just think of how much data we input and produce (via observed behaviours, eg, search engine use) every day – such data can be applied for many different purposes (eg, susceptibility to advertisements, spending patterns, even creditworthiness) – and thus is very valuable within and beyond the financial sector so our policy responses can't be designed in traditional silos.

PP: And it gets even more interesting when we consider that the digital environment is “borderless” – so another dimension we reflect upon in the course is that regulatory responses need to be multi-faceted, and they may also need to be multilateral.

RW: The geopolitical environment is evolving – do you take this into account?

EN: Yes. As Philipp described, multilateral responses may appear appropriate in terms of the “borderless” nature of technological developments. But this is not always easy or possible. For instance, different jurisdictions may have different social values (eg, toward data protection) or different economic objectives, which may make common policy solutions harder to find. We reflect on these elements and the role of different international standard-setters in our Masterclass series.

RW: The FinTech and Digital Finance Masterclass series sounds great – can it also be of value when students go into practice?



PP: Absolutely. Again, the series is intended to be very practical and, consistent with other Convene Masterclasses, is intended to provide insights that bridge market developments with policy and regulatory developments. In turn, a conceptual understanding of regulatory rationales and things to look for (whether working in private practice, the public sector, or some other context) is developed, which can be extended in many different ways.

RW: Elisabeth, you are a Visiting Professor in Practice at LSE, what are your impressions?

EN: It is a real privilege to engage with students on the *FinTech and Digital Finance Masterclass series* (and in the other contexts where I teach at LSE) and to hear their questions and reflections on market and regulatory developments. In particular, I love to hear about how students perceive market and regulatory developments in their jurisdictions. Indeed, in every class, I think both Philipp and I also learn something new, which may be relevant to our teaching, research or wider professional roles, like in my case, as a Senior Policy Advisor at an agency of the European Union, the European Banking Authority).

RW: What can students expect from the 2025 edition of FinTech and Digital Finance Masterclass series?

PP: Engaging, lively and interactive discussions on relevant topics in our daily lives as FinTech and digital finance users, and digital technologies more generally; tools to navigate the key market and regulatory developments. We look forward to it!

Why the 2008 Global Financial Crisis still matters

David Murphy recently gave two masterclasses on contemporary bank regulation and its roots in the 2008 global crisis as part of the LSE Law Convene series. Here, he explains the motivation for these talks.

The financial crisis of 2008 is receding in the memory even of veteran bank watchers. Since then, we have had the Eurozone crisis of 2010, the Covid “dash for cash” in March 2020, the U.S. banking crisis of 2023 and the failure of Credit Suisse, among others. So why look so far backwards?

The answer partly lies in the financial rule-writing process. This is subject to punctuated evolution. For long periods, the policy paradigm is fixed. New rules are written, but they are mostly within the current paradigm. Occasionally, though, there is a shift. The last time this happened was after the 2008 crisis.

Before 2008, bank regulators largely believed in the theory of financial risk. International regulatory rules were based on the idea that large, sophisticated banks could measure their own risks, and that regulation would be normatively better if it were based on those measures. There were hurdles to jump before a bank was judged to be sufficiently sophisticated, and the rules did not fully recognise banks’ own estimates but this was just a modicum of caution in a broadly bank-friendly paradigm. Then there was a financial crisis.

One important cause of this was imprudent lending against residential property in the United States. Mortgages were made to increasingly less credit-worthy borrowers with less and less due diligence. Partly, this was because when house prices were rising – as they did until mid-2006 – rising equity in their houses incentivised borrowers to pay their mortgages, so risks seemed low. The splintering of the mortgage market into separate mortgage brokers, initial lenders, buyers and repackagers of blocks of mortgages, and final risk takers did



not help either, as the entity deciding to lend often did not have a stake in the consequences of that decision. They were paid based on the volume of loans they made.

Ready credit encouraged more house building and more borrowing. First-time buyers helped to inflate prices, accelerating the positive feedback loop of rising prices, fear of missing out, new borrowers and credit expansion. But eventually the flow of new borrowers and new houses slowed. House prices plateaued and then started to fall. Mortgage default rates rose and, with them, losses on repackaged mortgages. The differences between good and bad loans, previously obscured by rising prices, became starkly apparent.

Unfortunately, highly leveraged financial institutions held much of the risk of these mortgages. The risk-based paradigm in bank regulation facilitated this, making holding these packages attractive because relatively little capital was required when risks seemed to be low.

Another key ingredient for the crisis was opacity. It was unclear which institutions held which risks and which other institutions they were exposed to. Doubts arose about institutions that seemed exposed to real estate risk, and some firms found it hard to borrow. This came to a head with the failure of the investment bank Lehman Brothers. Confidence in the financial system then evaporated. It had been widely expected that Lehman would be rescued, as an earlier stressed bank, Bear, Stearns, had been. When it wasn’t, there were very few trusted institutions left. Credit dried up. Central banks and governments had to step in to lend to and recapitalise a wide range of financial institutions.

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After this, it was clear that regulation had to change and that regulators had to become much more sceptical. Financial regulation acquired political salience, at least for a while, and large changes were possible.

The call from politicians and the public that something must be done was met with vigour by financial rule writers. There was also the opportunity for well-placed and credible individuals to lobby for their favoured solutions. Some of these policy entrepreneurs, as they are termed, were successful in the years after 2008: Paul Volcker's advocacy for the rule that bears his name is a good example.

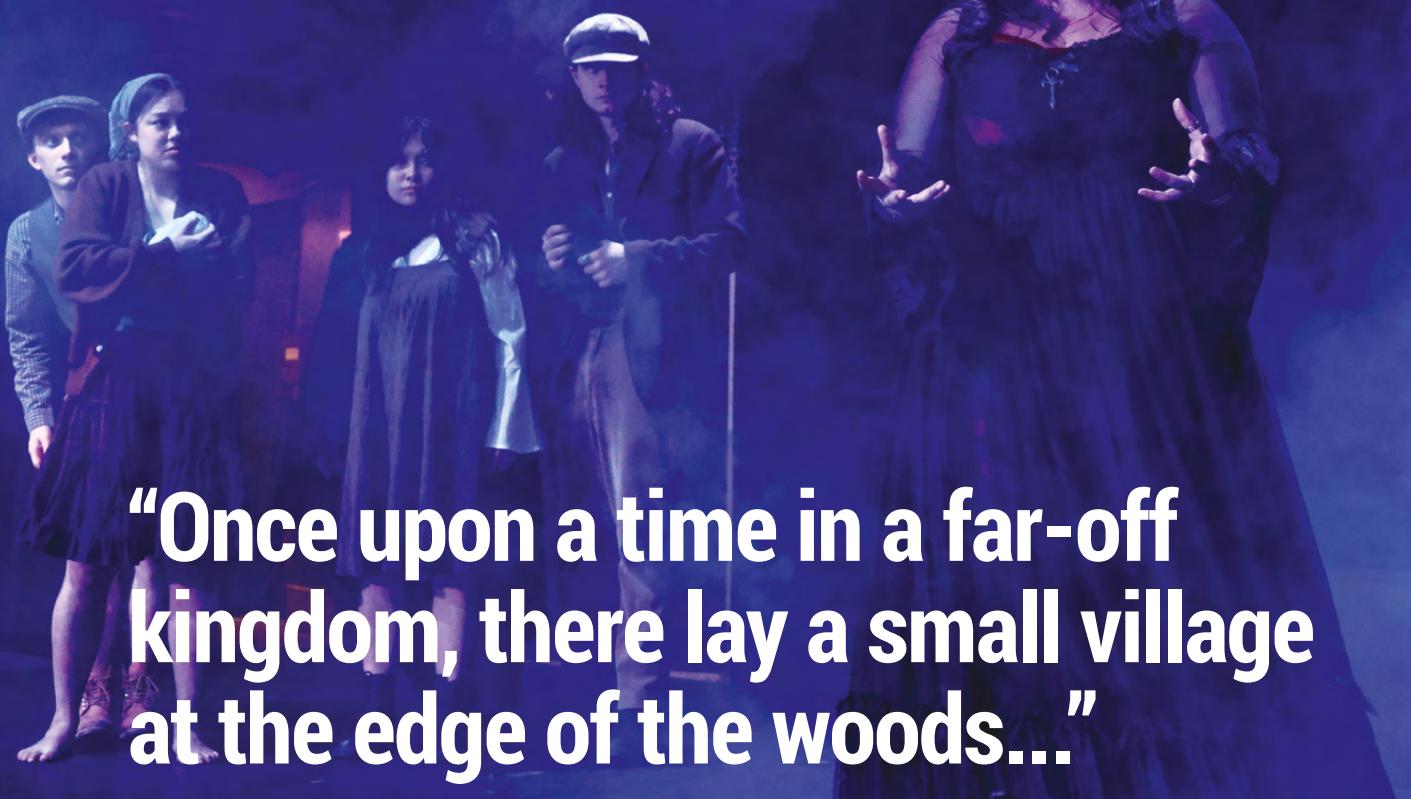
The bank regulation paradigm that emerged from the febrile policy debate after 2008 differed greatly from the prior one. Capital requirements rose, reducing bank leverage. Liquidity risk regulation was harmonised internationally. Various "guard rails" limiting the consequences of poor risk estimation were introduced, such as the leverage ratio. Policy making also focused on constructing a framework for dealing with, or resolving, troubled banks and on addressing the risks posed by global systemically important institutions, or GSIFIs.

Bank rule writing can proceed slowly. The first international bank prudential rules after the crisis appeared in 2010. But this package, known as Basel 3, was not finalised until 2017, with some elements not being fixed until 2019. Moreover, these rules require implementation in individual jurisdictions. As the memories of 2008 fade and as the modern financial system becomes increasingly unlike the one of the mid-2000s, this process has become controversial. In the United States, the proposed rules finalising Basel 3 recently came under intense scrutiny both for their conservatism and for the questionable compliance of the rule-making process with administrative law requirements. Given the change in administration in the United States, it seems likely that these rules will be materially revised before they are finally implemented.

The 2008 crisis motivated a great deal of rule writing and regulators' understandable and commendable determination to reduce the risk of bank failure. But some of the rules that were implemented have not worked as intended. The leverage ratio likely worsened the turmoil in the dash for cash episode. Credit Suisse, a GSIFI, suffered a classic bank run despite modern liquidity regulation and had to be rescued. Karin Keller-Sutter, the politician at the centre of efforts to manage this failure, told the Swiss newspaper NZZ that using the resolution framework "would have triggered an international financial crisis."

Thus, we might want to study the 2008 crisis both because it created the current regulatory paradigm and because the efficacy of the response to it remains central to the prudential policy debate. With this in mind, the first masterclass presented an account of the crisis and what regulators took from it, while the second brought the discussion up to date and gave students an opportunity to probe the varying depth of regulatory response in different areas.





“Once upon a time in a far-off kingdom, there lay a small village at the edge of the woods...”

Soryoung Han, a third-year LSE law student, directed a magical, enchanting, and hilarious *Into the Woods* performance as part of the LSE Drama Society. Drawing on talent from across the university, Soryoung created an impressive and memorable experience for all involved. In this interview with Roxana Willis, Soryoung reflected on making a special contribution to the LSE community.

RW: What is *Into the Woods* about? What inspired you to direct such an ambitious production?

SH: *Into the Woods* draws together four classic fairytales (Jack and the Beanstalk, Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel, and Cinderella) and intertwines the characters around the Baker and the Baker's Wife, who must collect four things to have a child: the cow as white as milk, the cape as red as blood, the hair as yellow as corn, and the slipper as pure as gold. Thematically, it's all about making your wish come true, no matter what, and the consequences of acting as such.

I wanted to direct this show because I knew it would be next to impossible! I love a challenge, and the task of the sheer amount of work that would need to go into it was exciting to me. I also think the songs and messages in *Into the Woods* are beautiful, whilst also being a very comedic show.

RW: As you were completing your final year of law while directing this performance, did the play help you

to reflect on any ideas you were also encountering during your studies?

SH: When everything starts going wrong in Act 2, the show focuses a lot on the concept of blame. There's one song (a fan favourite) called "Your Fault", where the central characters run around trying desperately to work out who to blame and why it shouldn't be them. The song reminds me of what I studied in LL208, "Race, Class and the Law." The course invited us to consider decolonial critiques of established legal liberalism, particularly when considering the community versus the individual or the emphasis on context, culture, and history. As the characters in the play realise, the world is not black and white; "witches can be right, giants can be good, you decide what's right, you decide what's good". And no one is alone.

RW: It's wonderful to hear how the arts inspire further thinking about ideas we explore in the seminar room. What was your favourite moment while bringing this production to life?



SH: My favourite moment was seeing each cast member get more confident in their singing, acting, and overall performances! They're all so incredibly talented and the development in how they brought their characters to life, and seeing how much fun they were having with the show was special.

RW: *It was incredible being part of the audience on the opening night – thank you for inviting me and others from our course. How has the student community received the play?*

SH: I think (hope) most people enjoyed the show! As I said, the actors outdid themselves, and LSE is a community where the arts can be difficult to find, so I'd like to think

the show was a breath of fresh air. I've heard a lot of surprise that such creative talent even exists at LSE, and hopefully it inspires more people to explore similar societies and hobbies!

RW: *Thank you for making visible the important contribution of the arts to student learning and enriching the wider LSE community experience. Do you have any advice for students inspired to implement similar ambitious and creative projects such as this in the future?*

SH: Just go for it! I truly believe my experiences with the Drama Society have been just as, if not more, central to my time at LSE, and it will stick with me forever.





LLB and LLM Prizes

The Law School Dean's List and Dean's Medals were introduced in 2021/22 to recognise outstanding performance. LLB students obtain a place on the Dean's List for the year by achieving a mark of 73 or over in individual law courses, while the Dean's Medals are awarded to students for the best overall performance in the final year of study.

Dean's List for the LLB 2024/25

Mahmoud Ali Shah Dean's List for Public International Law	Mia Cho Cheng Dean's List for Feminist Legal Theory	Felicia Fong Dean's List for Race, Class, and Law	Jia Hao Koh Dean's List for Advanced Torts
Eleni Anayiotou Dean's List for Race, Class, and Law Dean's List for Dissertation	Robin Zai Cheng Dean's List for Dissertation	Dean's List for Feminist Legal Theory	Dean's List for Freedom and the Law in Britain
Dessislava Atanasova Dean's List for Commercial Law	Renee Chi Cheung Dean's List for EU Law	Harrison Frommer Dean's List for Dissertation	Dean's List for Property
Matthew Atangba Dean's List for Theories of Law	Amelie Jen Chiu Dean's List for EU Law	Muhammad Furreedun Dean's List for Theories of Law	Dean's List for Public International Law
Elyse Barg Dean's List for Dissertation	Caitlin Chiu Dean's List for Theories of Law	Antonio Gomes Rocha Fernandes do Vale Dean's List for Technology Law and Regulation	Natalie Koh Dean's List for Property
Daniel Beech Dean's List for Advanced EU Law	Taaj Chohan Dean's List for Company Law	Dean's List for Jurisprudence	Dean's List for Public International Law
Husna Binti Saiful Hakim Dean's List for Public Law	Dean's List for Tax and Tax Avoidance	Prajval Haldia Dean's List for Race, Class, and Law	Tze -Tinn Kuik Dean's List for Feminist Legal Theory
Alice Burrus Dean's List for European Legal History Dean's List for Public International Law Dean's List for Advanced EU Law	Lamisa Chowdhury Dean's List for International Protection of Human Rights	Soryoung Han Dean's List for Dissertation	Advait Kuravi Dean's List for Law and State Power
Asia Campagna Dean's List for International Protection of Human Rights	Emma Conway Dean's List for International Protection of Human Rights	Kelly Hangchi Dean's List for Freedom and the Law in Britain	Camyla Lakehal-Ayat Dean's List for Cultural Heritage and Art Law
Jenna Kwan Chan Dean's List for Intellectual Property Law	Sophia Dallimore Dean's List for Jurisprudence	Dean's List for European Human Rights Law	Zhi En Moses Lee Dean's List for Freedom and the Law in Britain
Ibrahim Chaudry Dean's List for Freedom and the Law in Britain Dean's List for Topics in Sentencing and Criminal Justice	Yestin Davies Dean's List for Dissertation	Dean's List for Family Law	Dean's List for European Human Rights Law
Alec Chen Dean's List for Dissertation	Dillon Donnelly-Trimble Dean's List for European Human Rights Law	Dean's List for Property	Dean's List for Public International Law
	Rasheed El Merheb Dean's List for Public International Law	Dean's List for Theories of Law	Dean's List for Advanced issues in Public International Law
	Dean's List for Justifying Political Authority	Zi Yuan Kang Dean's List for Tort Law	Ana Lintott Dean's List for Public International Law
	Kiera Louise Fernandes Dean's List for Dissertation	Damla Karabay Dean's List for Cultural Heritage and Art Law	Nicholas Low Dean's List for Intellectual Property Law
		Laiba Khan Dean's List for Critical Theory and Law	Laura Lu Dean's List for Dissertation
		Teniola King Dean's List for Public International Law	

Dean's List for the LLB 2024/25 (continued)

Hugo Madenokoji Dean's List for International Protection of Human Rights

Karan Mahtani Dean's List for Public International Law

Vsevolod Martseniuk Dean's List for Dissertation

Calum McIver Dean's List for Public Law

Amelia Myton Dean's List for Property

Sophie Ng Dean's List for Dissertation

Minh Ha Nguyen Dean's List for Contract Law

Sofia Occtaviani Pont Dean's List for Public International Law

Adaora Okoye Dean's List for EU Law

Zi Ong Dean's List for Global Commodities: The Rise of International Law

Anthonia Oni Dean's List for Dissertation

Phoebe Owor Dean's List for Public International Law

Dominik Pellegrinelli-Riske Dean's List for Company Law

Lula Letay Powell Dean's List for Freedom and the Law in Britain

Ethan Pritchard Dean's List for Justifying Political Authority

Lana Rabah Dean's List for Public Law

Joseph Railton Dean's List for Public Law

Dean's List for Contract Law

Caitlin Readett Dean's List for Property

Priyansh Shah Dean's List for Freedom and the Law in Britain

Dean's List for Dissertation

Louis Sheridan Dean's List for Justifying Political Authority

Eunsoo Shin Dean's List for Company Law

Dean's List for Dissertation

Javier Sim Dean's List for Dissertation

Moritz Sirringhaus Dean's List for Dissertation

Antriksh Srivastava Dean's List for Cultural Heritage and Art Law

Vanessa Tantisunthorn Dean's List for Dissertation

Momina Tanveer Dean's List for Cultural Heritage and Art Law

Catrin Thomas Dean's List for Public International Law

Dean's List for Justifying Political Authority

Anusha Thomas Dean's List for International Protection of Human Rights

Monica Song Toh Dean's List for Technology Law and Regulation

Daijah Valentine Dean's List for Dissertation

Chantal Ying Virtanen Dean's List for Law and State Power

Dean's List for Jurisprudence

William John Wale

Dean's List for Law of the European Market

Jiayi Wang Dean's List for Law and the Environment

Rosemary Wang Dean's List for Theories of Law

William Warren Dean's List for Restitution for Unjust Enrichment

Isaac Wong Dean's List for Restitution for Unjust Enrichment

Seungwon Yang Dean's List for Criminal Law

Rebecca Min Yoo Dean's List for Family Law

Dean's List for Critical Theory and Law

Dean's List for EU Law

Dean's Medals for the LLB 2024/25

Daniel Beech Dean's Medal for Best Overall Performance on the LLB

William Warren Dean's Medal for Second Best Overall Performance on the LLB

Robin Zai Cheng Dean's Medal for Third Best Overall Performance on the LLB

Daijah Valentine Dean's Medal for Best Undergraduate Dissertation

Dean's Medals for the LLM 2023/24

Beatriz Posada-Fawcett Winner of Dean's Medal for Best Overall Performance

Joseph Louis Fox Joint Winner of Dean's Medal for Second Best Overall Performance

Ignacy Drzewiecki Joint winner Dean's Medal for Second Best Overall Performance

Beatriz Posada-Fawcett Winner of Dean's Medal for Best Postgraduate Dissertation



Roxana collaborated with law students in Bamenda to provide free legal information and advice in 2010

Visiting Senior Fellow in Practice Reflects on their human rights work in Cameroon

Dr Roxana Willis interviewed Barrister Mbinkar Caroline, a Visiting Senior Fellow in Practice at the LSE Law School, to discuss their work as a human rights lawyer in Cameroon.

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RW: I'm delighted to be interviewing my dear friend and colleague, Barrister Mbinkar Caroline. Caroline is a tireless human rights lawyer in Cameroon and has kindly agreed to talk with us about the conflict in Cameroon and related legal issues that have emerged. Thank you for sharing your time with us today. Can you start by introducing yourself and how we came to know each other?

CM: Thank you for inviting me to talk. I am Barrister Mbinkar Caroline, a lawyer with the Cameroon Bar Association and a human rights activist. I have worked as a human rights activist for twenty-five years and as a lawyer for fifteen years.

It was while working as a human rights activist that I met Roxana. Our meeting was very mysterious, happening at a time when I was grieving. I had just buried my young daughter, and by chance, I met a lady on the journey home. She said she would send someone who would be interested in the work I was doing. A few weeks later, Roxana appeared in my office. From that day on, we have worked together. We co-founded a legal aid organisation, which provides legal assistance for the most marginalised, poor, and vulnerable in Cameroon. When violence broke out in Bamenda (in northwest Cameroon), we researched the crisis and documented human rights abuses.

RW: How did you become involved in the ongoing conflict in Cameroon?

CM: To understand the background of the 2016 crisis in Cameroon, one must go far back. Before independence, Cameroon was controlled by Germany, and when Germany was defeated after the First World War, Cameroon was divided into two. The French-speaking

part of Cameroon was controlled by France, while the English-speaking part of Cameroon, known as the Southern Cameroons, was controlled by Britain. In 1960, the French-speaking parts of Cameroon became independent while the English-speaking parts were granted independence in 1961. After reunification in 1961, Anglophone Cameroonians ended up being marginalised from the judiciary, the education sector, and even governmental institutions.

As a child, I grew up hating injustice. So, when I reached the university and learnt just how difficult it was for an English-speaking child to gain an education in Cameroon, I became determined to address this problem. During my law degree, I discovered that most subjects were taught in French and even in the classroom, Anglophone students were treated as inferior.

After graduating, I had to wait seven years before the government held the Bar exams required for common law lawyers to qualify. While waiting for the bar exams, I joined the Human Rights Defence Group as a Human Rights Protection Officer. As a Protection Officer, I was responsible for securing the release of people arbitrarily detained by the administration. In one case, fifty-nine Anglophones were unlawfully detained in Yaoundé (the Francophone capital). I delivered a presentation on these detentions to the Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa, which led to the detainees either being released or transferred to prisons in the Anglophone regions. The Institute advised our team that we could present a communication to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights about the marginalisation of Cameroonian Anglophones, which we did in 2003.



Caroline defends anglophone clients wrongfully arrested in Kumbo in 2011



Caroline worked with Roxana on the Cameroon conflict during Caroline's Research Fellowship in Law at the University of Oxford in 2020.



In 2009, the African Commission published a decision condemning the use of military courts to try civilians and advised that the government should engage in dialogue with Anglophone populations to address persistent marginalisation and injustices. We equally presented complaints to the UN Human Rights Committee, such as a case of an Anglophone Cameroonian who was illegally arrested, detained, tortured, and killed in prison. The Committee found multiple gross human rights violations in the case and recommended compensation for the family. The family are still waiting for the state to formally respond. This case, and many like it, reveal some of the everyday difficulties people in Cameroon face. It is these hardships that erupted into the violent troubles we see today.

RW: In the shadow of multiple decades of marginalisation, what moved the Anglophone lawyers to walk out of the courts and protest *en masse* in 2016 against the marginalisation of the common law in Cameroon?

CM: Cameroon has two legal systems. Civil law is applicable in the French-speaking part of Cameroon, and in the English-speaking part of Cameroon, the common law is operational. Consequently, lawyers are trained under different legal systems.

We have a strong common law system in the Southern Cameroons (located in northwest Cameroon). Although the legal system initially came from Britain, lawyers, judges, and all the parties that use the courts in Cameroon have nurtured a unique Cameroonian common law. This rich legal tradition has been undermined by the central administration for many years. For example, the Cameroon government has executed a harmonisation process, which essentially involves enacting new centralised laws based on the civil law only. Anglophone lawyers and academics have been excluded from the consultation processes, which has led to issues ranging from poor translations to fundamental problems such as the inadvertent erasure of the common law doctrines.

In the years leading up to 2016, common law lawyers discovered that judges trained only under the civil law tradition were increasingly appointed to the common law courts. These civil law judges did not understand the common law, and many could not understand English. This moved Anglophone lawyers to complain to the Minister about the deep injustices this was causing clients and the judiciary. Teachers equally discovered that French-speaking educators, who could not communicate in English, were being appointed to schools in the English-speaking regions. This is why the lawyers protested, and why the teachers joined them shortly after.

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During the protest marches, several lawyers and teachers were arrested and detained by the Cameroon government. This led civilians and students to join the protests. In 2017, the President declared war, not only against the protestors but against English-speaking Cameroonians as a whole. In response, some of the English-speaking peoples formed armed defence groups.

RW: How has the conflict affected your work and the types of legal cases you've been dealing with?

CM: I have long defended people imprisoned without representation. It is currently difficult to settle many of these cases because the Anglophone courts are only operational in the urban centres, while many witnesses in the villages cannot travel due to insecurity. This is resulting in cases being adjourned indefinitely.

A new type of problem that I have been responding to is the unlawful imprisonment of wives of suspected armed fighters. They are simply accused of being the wife of a defendant. An especially troubling case involved a young mother who was unable to breastfeed her infant while detained. We eventually managed to locate the mother and after a legal struggle, she was eventually released without charge and reunited with her baby.

We are currently following a high-profile case involving six Anglophone academics who were unlawfully repatriated from Nigeria to Cameroon, and who now face life sentences for alleged terrorism offences that stem from their political beliefs. The case raises major concerns about academic freedom in Cameroon and the wider Sahel region. In collaboration with other lawyers, my team contributed to a communication filed at the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. The Group advised that the Cameroonian academics were illegally repatriated to Cameroon and that Nigeria should help to facilitate their release. To date, the academics remain imprisoned. For this reason, it is especially important that the international community raises an alarm.

RW: Thank you for sharing your knowledge, experiences, and concerns with us. Hopefully during your time as a Visiting Senior Fellow in Practice at LSE, we'll have a chance to learn more about these pressing issues.

CM: I am very willing and ready to work together.



Impact in Policy on International IP Collaboration: Dr Luke McDonagh's Contribution to a Ukrainian Government Round Table

On January 9, 2025, Dr Luke McDonagh played a pivotal role in a Ukrainian government roundtable event focused on "Property and Title in Intellectual Property Rights." This significant policy gathering was jointly organised by the Ukrainian National Office of Intellectual Property and Innovation and the Institute of Law-making and Scientific-Legal Expertise of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, highlighting the increasing importance of intellectual property frameworks in Eastern Europe.

The roundtable addressed the growing importance of trade secrets protection in an increasingly digital economy, where data has become a critical asset. Dr McDonagh's analysis of how trade secrets are conceptualised as property under European legal frameworks offers important insights for Ukrainian efforts to strengthen confidential information protection while maintaining appropriate transparency and accountability mechanisms.

Dr McDonagh's presentation delivered crucial insights on the complex relationship between intellectual property rights – specifically patents and trade secrets – and their status as property under two foundational European legal frameworks: the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the (non-EU) European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). His analysis delved into how intellectual property, as a qualified right of property, must be proportionately balanced against other fundamental rights, including freedom of expression and the right to health – a particularly relevant consideration in post-conflict reconstruction and development contexts.

This roundtable represented a critical step in Ukraine's ongoing efforts to align its intellectual

property frameworks with European standards while addressing unique national challenges. Following the Russian invasion and subsequent conflict, Ukraine has been actively rebuilding its legal and economic infrastructure, including reassessing its protection of intellectual property. Dr McDonagh's contribution is especially timely as Ukraine continues its path toward the goal of European integration, with intellectual property harmonisation being a key component of the EU Association. His expertise in the intersection of intellectual property and human rights provides valuable guidance for Ukrainian policymakers navigating the complex balance between protecting innovation and ensuring public access to essential technologies and information.

The event brought together an impressive array of Ukrainian and international intellectual property experts and government officials. Notable participants included Professor Olena Orliuk, the Director of the Ukrainian National Office of Intellectual Property, whose leadership has been instrumental in advancing IP protection in Ukraine during challenging times. Professor Nataliia Kuznietsova from the prestigious Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv contributed valuable academic perspectives on

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Ukrainian property law. Professor Oleksii Kot, Director of the Institute of Law-Making and Scientific-Legal Expertise of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, brought essential insights on legislative reform processes related to intellectual property.

The government perspective was represented by Dmytro Huzii, Acting Head of the Department of Intellectual Property and Innovations of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, whose role in implementing IP policy is crucial for Ukraine's economic development strategy. Of particular significance was the participation of Illya Kostin, Head of the Department for Intellectual Property of the Main Military Justice Directorate of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine, underscoring the strategic importance of intellectual property in defence and security contexts.

As Ukraine continues to reform its intellectual property framework, events like this roundtable provide crucial platforms for dialogue between policymakers, academics, and practitioners. The insights shared by Dr McDonagh and other participants will likely inform future legislative and regulatory developments in Ukrainian intellectual property law, potentially influencing how patents and trade secrets are protected and balanced against other rights.

This engagement reflects Dr McDonagh's broader commitment to international academic cooperation and the practical application of legal scholarship to address real-world challenges. His willingness to share expertise with Ukrainian stakeholders during a period of significant institutional transformation demonstrates the value of international academic networks in supporting legal development in transitional contexts.

Dr McDonagh participated alongside Dr Olga Gurgula from Brunel University, whose work on IP law provided complementary expertise to Dr McDonagh's presentation. Since 2022, Dr McDonagh and Dr Gurgula have pursued impact through their joint research on IP and access to medicines, presenting a report on the topic entitled "Access Denied", commissioned by the charity STOPAIDS at the UK Parliament in February 2023. Dr McDonagh and Dr Gurgula have also collaborated on an academic article: "On the Compulsory Licensing of Trade Secrets to Safeguard Public Health" is forthcoming in the *Cambridge Law Journal*. The collaboration between Ukrainian institutions and international experts like Dr McDonagh exemplifies the knowledge exchange essential for developing robust and balanced intellectual property systems.

Launch of CenTax, a new Centre for Analysis of Taxation bringing together research concerning the design of better tax systems

Dr Nafay Choudhury interviewed Dr Andy Summers on LSE's newly launched Centre for Analysis of Taxation (CenTax).

NC: Could you give me an overview of CenTax and the work that it does?

AS: CenTax, or the Centre for Analysis of Taxation, is a new research Centre, co-hosted by LSE and the University of Warwick, dedicated to improving public understanding of the tax system and helping design a better tax system. It is an evolution of work I have been doing for several years in collaboration with an economist at the University of Warwick, Arun Advani. We've been working together on a series of academic projects, mostly relating to taxes at the bottom affecting top earners and the wealthy using data that we access via HMRC, the UK tax authority. CenTax may be seen as a formalisation or institutionalisation of work, which has been ongoing for several years. Previously, those specific projects were funded by academic research councils, which fund specific research outputs. But they're all related to this theme of taxes at the top. And we thought it would be a good idea to combine these into something more coherent. We were very fortunate to get quite a large grant from two charitable foundations.

What has surprised me – and this is particularly welcomed – is how having a brand has transformed how our work is received. The Centre for Analysis of Taxation, rather than assorted research projects of Dr Andy Summers and Dr Arun Advani (at the University of Warwick), has significantly changed how the government and other external organisations engage with us. They now view us as a part of the institutional landscape.



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NC: Why is the Centre so important right now? What gap is it filling in tax policy discussions?

AS: I think there's a huge amount of topicality or even turmoil in the tax because of how public finances are currently stretched in the UK. Obviously, this isn't just a UK phenomenon – many developed economies face this challenge. And the perennial question is: how much revenue can you raise from taxes at the top? Is this an easy answer to our public finance troubles? And we felt that to answer that question, that is, to understand the options for reforming taxes at the top and the impacts on the wider economy, you need to have an interdisciplinary approach that draws on the expertise of lawyers as well as economists, and other disciplines. We also work with sociologists and others since the tax affairs of the individuals at the top are very complicated.

But I think historically, economists have tended to treat the tax affairs of those individuals at the top as a black box. We think it is important to unpack what's going on in a much more precise way. So that's kind of what originally inspired this collaboration. And we are the first team in the UK – and I would say anywhere in the world – that involves collaboration between lawyers and economists to work with tax data.

NC: CenTax is led by academics, including yourself. What is the significance of having academics leading research and policy discussions about tax?

AS: We strongly believe that academics have deep expertise that policymakers should value in terms of the rigour with which we answer the research questions and our unique skill sets. Being a civil servant, even if you're working in a particular area like tax policy analysis, you don't always have as much time to develop the necessary technical skills. And thus we strongly think that the government should be taking academic expertise on board since academics are often researching at the cutting edge. I think the other thing we can do as academics, which inevitably

the government can't, is provide an independent view. And that also means we can take an interest in topics before they become politically salient.

NC: I know that you had the launch for CenTax on November 11, 2024, in Parliament. What was the significance of the event?

AS: We wanted to create an event to draw together our existing contacts within academia, third sector organisations, government and the tax profession. And for an event like that, Parliament symbolically seemed like the right location from a practical perspective as the centre of gravity for a lot of these groups. And we also wanted to use the event to expand our network and put CenTax straight on the map with groups we wanted to engage with in the future. And I think that we did that quite successfully.

NC: What's in the works now, and what do you have, in the works coming up?

AS: At the moment, CenTax is still focused on projects about taxes affecting top earners and the wealthy. That's kind of the niche that we had carved out before we set up the Centre, and where I think there is particular value added to lawyers working closely together with economists. But it's definitely not the only area of tax policy that would benefit from that kind of engagement. In the longer run, and part of the reason for giving CenTax this broader title in terms of analysis of taxation, is that we don't ultimately want to be confined to taxes at the top of the income and wealth distribution. We want to think about other areas of the tax system. The areas that we will focus on will be driven by this question of where we can provide meaningful policy insights through interdisciplinary collaboration. In other words, where can we add most value compared with efforts where economists work on their own or lawyers work on their own? The key strength of CenTax is its interdisciplinary and collaborative approach.



Arun Advani; James Murray MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury; Andy Summers

Sports: Law and Governance

Another new course added to the LLB and LLM options this year was *Sports: Law and Governance*. The course creator and convenor, Dr Jan Zglinski, shares further information about how and why such a unique law option was brought into existence.

Sport has increasingly been in the public limelight over the past years. Events such as the announcement of the European Super League, the sanctions imposed against Russian athletes in the wake of the Ukraine invasion, and the human rights breaches committed in the context of the FIFA World Cup in Qatar have raised important political, ethical, economic, as well as, growingly, legal questions. There has been great interest among our students to explore these questions academically, yet no forum for doing so. LSE has never had a dedicated course on sports in the 130 years of its existence. The time was ripe to change that. Enter Sports: Law and Governance, or LL244 and LL4GG, our new courses on the undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum.

The course aims to introduce students to how sport governing bodies are organised, which regulatory constraints they are under, and how the sports justice system is structured. In addition, it zooms in on the most pressing contemporary issues in the field, including the role of human rights, the protection of racial and



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gender equality, as well as the economic sustainability of professional sports.

Sports law, in many ways, differs from traditional areas of law, making its study more challenging but also more exciting. It combines substantive questions pertaining to a variety of domains, ranging from labour law, to financial regulation, to public health. Moreover, it spans a variety of jurisdictions and legal sources. The course covers different national, European, and international laws governing sporting activity – the hijab ban for athletes imposed by the French government, the rulings of the European Court of Justice on football transfers, and the UN Principles on Business and Human Rights all feature on the syllabus. It also looks at the so-called “lex sportiva”, a transnational body of rules which are created by sports federations and implemented by institutions such as the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

The ambition behind creating the course was to examine the legal foundations of sports, while exploring their political, economic, and socio-cultural significance. In good LSE tradition, it is, thus, not (just) about law, but law in context. Each session aims to understand and critically interrogate the status quo – and the discussions that arose during the first year of running these courses were truly captivating. Is LIV Golf a case of sportswashing? Is the Court of Arbitration for sport sufficiently independent? Do we need an independent football regulator? And are eSports even a sport? These are just some of the thought-provoking questions we discussed and debated in our lively seminars. Students from the LLB and LLM programme, but also those enrolled in finance, philosophy, and geography degrees, offered fascinating insights on what sport is and should

be. These insights are ripe for students to contribute to and advance during future reiterations of the course.

Skye Slatcher, who was in the first undergraduate cohort of the course, offers the following reflection:

“Sports Law has been probably my favourite module this year. When I saw it on the options list, I knew it was one I had to take. Very few institutions offer undergraduates an opportunity to study this area and Jan’s course works brilliantly. We covered a breadth of issues in the sports space, from the organisation of sports (including topics like the ESL and LIV Golf), to financial fair play or human rights discussions. Varied readings each week meant the preparation for seminars was digestible and interesting, ranging from newspaper articles to adjudicatory decisions. Unsurprisingly given the popularity and reach of the sport, many case studies were based around football, but we explored almost every major sport I can think of. I would absolutely recommend this module for anyone with an interest in the sports industry – it has since inspired the topic of the dissertation I’m hoping to pursue next year!”





Impact in the Global South

While the mainstay of legal academics normally entails scholarly contributions to legal developments in one's domestic jurisdiction, members of the LSE Law community are known to venture well beyond the gated closures of the familiar and into new intellectual and geographic territories. To this end, members of the Law School have been actively using their legal knowledge to drive change globally, including within the global South. Whether relating to judicial decisions, the legislature, institutional legal reform, or legal innovation, LSE Law academics stand at the forefront of driving legal change by facilitating knowledge transfers between the global North and South. In this note, we at *Ratio* highlight the impact made by three LSE Law colleagues in the global South.

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*Dr Joe Spooner**Dr Siva Thambisetty*

Dr Joseph Spooner has provided technical expertise to the World Bank on multiple national law reform projects. In March 2025, Dr Spooner spoke from London at a joint World Bank/Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) workshop. Dr Spooner's talk discussed the potential for insolvency law to support small businesses – and the entrepreneurs behind them – through debt relief and restructuring; as well as the unique challenges in designing accessible and effective procedures for MSEs. In April 2025, Dr Spooner contributed to a number of World Bank stakeholder workshops in Fiji. These events aimed to provide training and knowledge sharing on the country's Personal Insolvency Bill, as well as to undertake consultation and to seek feedback on the new legislation.

One of the most effective ways for a scholar to have an impact in the global South is by influencing judicial reasoning and legislative discussions. Professor Tarun Khaitan's scholarship on political parties and "guarantor institutions" was cited in a landmark judgment delivered by the Pakistani Supreme Court on the 23rd of September 2024. The Court cited Professor Khaitan's work on the constitutional importance of political parties and on independent constitutional guarantor bodies like electoral commissions. Furthermore, On 13th December 2024, Ms Mahua Moitra, member of the lower house of India's Parliament – the Lok Sabha (House of the People) – cited and drew upon a paper by Dr Khaitan titled "Killing a Constitution with a Thousand Cuts" in her speech in a debate on the state of the Indian Constitution.

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Finally, Dr Siva Thambisetty has been involved in supporting global biodiversity governance and finance to aid developing state parties in the global South. In the lead up to the Sixteenth Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP16), in October 2024 in Cali, Colombia, Dr Thambisetty co-led a team of academics from the LSE under the auspices of her LSE funded knowledge exchange and impact initiative – The Ocean Biodiversity Collective (lse.ac.uk/law/Assets/Documents/siva-thambisetty/Oceans-Biodiversity-Collective-v2.pdf). The group played a critical role during the negotiations by proposing operational criteria and a text-based proposal on a multilateral Global Fund for the use of genetic sequence data (known as digital sequence information or DSI). The fund, now known as the “Cali Fund,” sets out a mechanism for large entities that use DSI to contribute a percentage of their turnover as a cost of doing business based on nature. Fifty per cent of these funds will go directly to indigenous peoples and local communities who act as stewards

of biodiversity. In the lead up to COP16, Dr Thambisetty helped spearhead a two-day Global Roundtable on Biodiversity Finance and DSI (papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=5038854) at the LSE that included expert stakeholders from industry, indigenous people and many developing and developed state party negotiators, organised with substantive funding from Norway. Based on the discussions over the Roundtable, a text proposal, which came to be known as the “LSE Model,” was presented by Dr Thambisetty at a side-event of COP16. From here, it was picked up by state parties and gained consensus status over the course of the two-week negotiations in Cali. It is now part of the operative provision of Decision 16/2 under the Convention (cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-16/cop-16-dec-02-en.pdf). This project follows on from Dr Thambisetty’s work on the Ocean Treaty in 2023, and collectively, these efforts help to usher in a fairer and more equitable era in the global governance of biodiversity.



Updates: public appointments/public engagement (2025)

Chaloka Beyani

Was appointed as Special Adviser on Prevention of Genocide at the United Nations

Chaloka Beyani

Received an invitation from the UN Human Rights to be part of their International Commission to Investigate violation of human rights and international humanitarian law in the South and North Kivu regions of the DRC

Julia Black (Visiting Professor at LSE Law School)

Was appointed Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) for services to Research in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Nafay Choudhury

Was appointed as an Executive Board member of the Asian Law & Society Association (ALSA)

Jonathan Fisher KC

Was elected Master of the Bench of the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn. Jonathan also began work on part 2 of his Independent Review of Disclosure and Fraud Offences, as appointed by the UK Government

Oliver Hailes

Was appointed by the Academic Forum on Investor-State Dispute Settlement to draft a guide to foundational principles of treaty law

Devika Hovell

Was appointed as a Fixed Term Member of Matrix Chambers

Elizabeth Howell

Has been working with the Financial Conduct Authority regarding proposed reforms to the short selling regime

Martin Husovec

Was appointed General Rapporteur for the International Federation of European Lawyers (FIDE) on the Digital Services Act/Digital Markets Act

Nicola Lacey

Won Oxford University Press's Law Teacher of the Year

Giulia Leonelli

Was appointed to the UK Government Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism Joint Working Group

Timothy Liau

Won the Peter Birks Prizewith his book, *Standing in Private Law*

Niamh Moloney

Was appointed as an external member of the Bank of England's Prudential Regulation Committee

Mona Paulsen

Was appointed Co-Chair of the Academic Challenge Panel at the UK Department for Business & Trade

Joseph Spooner

Has been instrumental in the UK Insolvency Service's Personal Insolvency Review, acting as independent academic chair in a series of workshops and publishing a report on the workshop proceedings

Andy Summers

Was appointed to Economic and Social Research Council's Peer Review College

Siva Thambisetty

Was nominated as Expert Observer to the Steering Committee of the Multilateral Mechanism of the Cali Fund, under the Convention on Biological Diversity

Sarah Trotter

Was appointed an Academic Fellow of the Middle Temple

Roxana Willis

Was appointed as Country Expert on Cameroon for the European Union Agency for Asylum

“Its Own Kind of Idyll”: Executive LLM alum Mark Mossey appointed to the bench

Earlier this year, colleagues at the LSE Law School were elated to hear that Mark Mossey, an early alumnus of the Executive LLM programme, had been appointed as a justice of the Nunavut Court of Justice. Nunavut is Canada’s largest and most northern territory. It includes much of the Arctic Archipelago and is about the size of Western Europe. It is also the least populated territory in the country. Andrew Scott sat down with Mark to learn more about what drew him to this far-northern land, about his roles there, and his recollections of the Executive LLM.

AS: You did your undergraduate programme in Edmonton, Alberta, your postgraduate training at Queen’s in Kingston, Ontario, and your professional training in Toronto. So, what was it that first brought you to Nunavut? Quite a change of scene!

MM: Yes, I articled with a big Bay Street law firm in Toronto. And then I happened across an opportunity in Nunavut in 2006, and fell in love with it as soon as I got off the airplane. The timing didn’t work out as Amber, my wife, needed to finish her medical training, but another opportunity with the law clinic arose a few years later, and we moved here in 2010. But there has always been something special about this place for us.

Amber, always more adventurous than I am, had done a rotation in central Nunavut during her medical training. And I remember thinking, wow, that’s a far, remote northern place when I had my eyes set on working in downtown Toronto. When the chance came up, she was all for going back. And since coming here, we’ve never thought of going elsewhere. For us, it very quickly became home. We have four kids now who have grown up here, and it’s just been amazing for us. Amber has had a great career in paediatrics; in fact, she has just won a major award. She was named the “Wise Woman of Nunavut” for this year, an award for outstanding contribution to the territory, a huge honour for her, for her work with kids who have suffered from abuse.

Community/ Environment

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AS: What was your role with the clinic?

MM: I started off working in legal aid, focused on poverty and civil law, employment, housing human rights, and eventually got into some inquest work as well; basically, a portfolio that was dedicated to anyone who had non-criminal, poverty-related legal issues. It was amazing. I miss that job. You can imagine in a remote, northern rural location, housing is everything, employment is everything. It was a very rewarding experience. It was kind of like that "field of dreams – if you build it, they will come" scenario, and they did. You'd end up helping people with all stages of things that they were having difficulty with. It was very "people law": you'd go to work every day and you'd interact with people who really needed your services. I've always loved the law, but in bigger city firms you are a little disconnected, and I just found it tremendously rewarding to be able to take a bit of stress away from people every day, and help them out a little bit, and know their day was a little better.

AS: That's excellent. At the LSE Law School, we just this year launched a law clinic, and it's quite remarkable the number of areas into which its building, and also to hear from students the shift in their perspectives that doing this sort of work on the ground can engender. So, you had developed a strong record in public service before you started to work for the court. What was your role there?

MM: Yes, so then I moved over to the court as the Executive Legal Officer about ten years ago. That role is essentially like a general counsel to the court, to the Chief Justice and the judges; performing a real array of functions for the court. It's the best legal job in the world; every day was different. It was exciting. You are interacting with everyone from the Government to the head of the Crown. You are the liaison for the Chief, making sure the court is operating as efficiently as possible. And we do everything, the Nunavut Court of Justice is unusual in Canada in that we are the only Superior court with unified trial jurisdictions. We do everything from small claims to first degree murder.

AS: You were appointed to the Bench in February of this year. You were talking about the court being ecumenical in its focus, does that mean that day by day you can be doing very different things? What is a typical week like? Do you focus on cases of a particular type while other justices deal with disputes of a different character?

MM: No, we'll all do everything. We'll have trials weeks in Iqaluit (the capital of Nunavut), criminal trial weeks, one week a month is wholly civil, the rest of the time we might be doing docket appearances making sure that criminal matters are processing through the courts, but then in addition we are also doing up to three circuits a week in communities outside of Iqaluit. We fly to different communities and hold court, largely criminal matters, but also family matters, child welfare matters, estate matters, so we do everything.

AS: I suppose its unavoidable in a territory such as yours, but that must mean you are doing a lot of travel.

MM: A lot of travel! You wouldn't believe how many miles I tot up. The last month I've been to Whitehorse, Yukon, close to the Alaskan border. When you are appointed to one of the three superior courts in the North, you actually also hold an ex officio appointment in the other two courts, so we are also court of appeal justices in Yukon and the Northwest Territory. Whitehorse is a two-day trip: it's easier to get to London. And then three or four other recent trips: Cambridge Bay in the far-western Arctic, Pond Inlet on the Northern tip of Baffin Island, Clyde River last week. I get to see amazingly beautiful places and people, it's interesting work. I find it the most beautiful place in the world. You are away from home and you miss your wife and family, but it works out probably once every four to five weeks.

AS: That sounds manageable and so rewarding. A sidestep then: what do you think you gained from taking the Executive LLM programme at the LSE?

MM: My first course was December 2015, and I did eight classes straight through, never missed a session. We had a great class. We had John Hunter, a brilliant lawyer and preeminent litigator, he went on to be appointed to the Court of Appeal in British Columbia, and Judy Hall, and Michelle Hughes, she's brilliant. The All-Star of everyone who's graduated so far! I use what we learned all the time. So, from your courses, we talked a lot about open justice, and how every court has to be focused on transparency, making sure all records are as accessible as possible, making sure that everything that is done in the court is seen to be done so people can have confidence in the administration of justice. So, when I moved to the court, we wanted to make sure that when people



came to us they knew they had the right to sit in on the court and to see the court documents. The court is only as strong as the confidence it enjoys with the public, and so I was able to play out and apply some of the ideas that were so strongly emphasised in your classes. And you may not remember, but I wrote a paper for you on the broadcasting and streaming of trial proceedings and how that was the way for the future, and – talk about timing! – we then walk straight into the pandemic in 2020 and that's how justice had to be done everywhere...

So, the utility and the value – and I don't want to sound like a cheerleader for LSE – but the value I got out of the programme was immense. A crazy return on investment for me.

AS: That's fantastic. And I'm sure that's true of your other courses...

MM: Yes, absolutely. So, my last course was Cultural Property and Heritage with Tatiana Flessas, and I took it because I thought it would be a nice, fun way to end the course, but again I took so much out of it.

I'll tell you a story: so, you may know that Nunavut was created only in 1999 as a carve-off from the Northwest Territories. Before then, the first superior court judge to circuit in Nunavut in the 1950 and 60s was a man named Justice Sissons. And he started a collection of these beautiful soapstone and limestone carvings that come out of the Inuit territories. He was presented with these carvings by people who had been through proceedings, depicting their understanding of the processes they had gone through. These carvings are beautiful. There are some 26 pieces in the collection.

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But Justice Sissons died before Nunavut became a territory and he left a document indicating that the collection should go to the senior judge of the Northern Court. But Nunavut didn't exist back then and so his bequest saw the collection go to the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories in Yellowknife. So, I was able to use what I learned on Tatianna's course to draft a request letter, and the court helped us repatriate the collection for a period. We had the carvings on display. It was very special. And we hope that we may see them back again in future.

I also did courses on comparative constitutional law, terrorism, international human rights and labour

law. They were all fantastic. And I've been very fortunate. I've been able to go back to most alumni dinners. It gives me an opportunity to head over to the UK every December, and it's just a great community to be a part of.

AS: That's fascinating! Mark, it has been lovely to catch up with you after such a break, and it's great to have seen your career develop in the way that it has. It's wonderful to see someone marry a vocation with their professional commitment, and to do so in a place that looks to be its own sort of idyll. I'll hope to see you again soon at the annual alumni dinner in London in December!



Northern lights from Mark's front porch



Decrypting the world of international arbitration: Sara D'Sousa on her award-winning LLM dissertation

In October 2024, LSE alumna Sara Nicola D'Sousa won First Prize and Best Oralist in the 10-year anniversary edition of the Nappert Prize in International Arbitration, comprising \$5,000 in prize money and a trip to Montreal, Canada. Sara completed her LLM in International Business Law with Distinction in 2023. She has since published her award-winning dissertation in the leading peer-reviewed journal on international investment law and arbitration. Dr Oliver Hailes caught up with Sara to discuss her recent successes, which are sure to inspire LSE students who are selecting their dissertation topics.

OH: Congratulations, Sara. Can you start by telling us a bit about the Nappert Prize?

SD: Thank you! I first heard about the Nappert Prize six years ago, when I was still an undergraduate student in India, so it's a dream come true to have received it. The prize is a biennial competition administered by McGill University, which encourages junior scholars and practitioners from around the world to submit their essays on international investment or commercial arbitration. It was founded by Sophie Nappert, an eminent arbitrator based in London.

OH: And you won another prize for best presentation?

SD: Yes, the top three essays were presented in a symposium at McGill, which tested the advocacy skills of the authors. I was very lucky to be awarded the prize for Best Oralist.

OH: Would you remind us of your essay topic?

SD: The essay was entitled *The Protection of Crypto-Assets in International Investment Law*, based on my LLM dissertation. It used a hypothetical case study to consider which kinds of crypto-assets may be protected by investment treaties.

OH: For our readers, what exactly are crypto-assets? And, for that matter, what even is international investment law?

SD: Crypto-assets are digital representations of value, recorded on decentralised virtual ledgers in the form of a blockchain. There are several kinds: some resemble securities, while others are virtual "things" with a price tag but no intrinsic value. I had to dig into the scholarly literature on how these assets might be treated as property in private international law.

On the other hand, international investment law is a subfield of public international law, which sets minimum standards on how a State may treat foreign investors in its territory, such as paying compensation for expropriation. Bilateral investment treaties typically include each State's consent to arbitration in the event of any dispute with an injured investor.

OH: What inspired you to bring together these seemingly disparate areas of law?

SD: Crypto-assets are said to exist nowhere and everywhere simultaneously. I found this puzzling. The delocalised character of crypto-assets is at odds with international investment law, which is largely tethered to a State's territory. But, if things go wrong, foreign investors would be sure to claim that their crypto-assets must be protected under investment treaties.

Additionally, the collapse of FTX had occurred around when I was ideating the dissertation. FTX was a crypto hedge fund and one of the world's largest crypto-currency



exchanges. Its collapse prompted me to consider a hypothetical case study: what if regulatory intervention by a State had caused such a massive collapse, leading foreign investors, such as traders on the exchange, to seek compensation for the loss in value of their crypto holdings?

Your LLM course on international arbitration and the co-curricular Fintech and Digital Finance Masterclass were pivotal in shaping these ideas. As I began researching this nascent area, I discovered that I disagreed with most of the academic literature out there, which assumed that crypto-assets could be analogised to some arbitral decisions arising from sovereign bonds. So, I thought, why not use my LLM dissertation to examine this puzzle? Of course, I was incredibly lucky to have you as my dissertation supervisor, to help shape the process.

OH: And now you've solved that puzzle! Or, at least, you've mapped a pathway to navigate some tricky issues of jurisdiction and substantive protection. What were your main conclusions?

SD: In essence, I found that the proprietary character of crypto-assets may not be enough for them to fall within the scope of an investment tribunal's subject matter jurisdiction. Crypto-assets must also possess economic characteristics, such as the ability to contribute to a valuable underlying enterprise. Even so, an asset's proprietary character could be decisive on the merits: government interference with an investor's right to transact on the blockchain may well qualify as an expropriation,

whereas interference with the right to trade on a crypto-exchange would not. However, the "location" of a crypto-asset is usually the place of residence or domicile of its owner or issuer, which means that a prospective claimant would likely need to be living in the host State's territory. Together, these challenges significantly narrow the chances of a successful claim.

OH: You have since published your essay in the field's leading journal. How does that feel? And what was the process?

SD: It's an honour to be published in the *ICSID Review* for my first academic article. Meg Kinnear, the former Secretary-General of ICSID [International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes], was one of the judges for the Nappert Prize. Until recently, she was also the co-Editor-in-Chief of the *ICSID Review*. Ms Kinnear was particularly impressed with the three winning essays, all of which addressed investment arbitration, so she encouraged us to submit them to the *ICSID Review*. My article is now available online for other scholars and practitioners to read!

OH: How have you otherwise kept busy since completing your LLM?

SD: It's been a whirlwind few years. Following an internship with the World Bank's Legal Vice Presidency, I started preparations to qualify as a Solicitor of England & Wales. I've just passed SQE1, with SQE2 soon to follow. I'm excited to be delivering a lecture on crypto-assets at the ELSA Summer School on International Investment Law in Athens this July. Then, in September 2025, I will finally commence my training contract with Ropes & Gray in London.

OH: Certainly, that's an inspiring track record for our current students. Do you have any final words of advice for anyone who is choosing a dissertation topic?

SD: Your dissertation is a great opportunity to experiment with underexplored topics. Treat it as a chance to be creative! It's valuable to combine distinct areas of law. In my case, I combined international investment law with studies on securities law and the situs of intangible property in the conflict of laws. In my experience, novel solutions to legal problems often lie beyond a single field.

The LSE LLB Gardener – how Fiona Thomas helps the Law School grow and flourish

Fiona Thomas is the lead contact for all things to do with the LLB team. As a vital part of our community, Alexandra Klegg sat down with Fiona to reflect upon the recent reforms to the LLB programme, how her career has evolved, and how her team will continue to support students in their undergraduate journey.

AK: Could you give me some background on your role in the Law School and your journey to the position?

FT: I've been in the workplace a long time! I began my journey at Cambridge Assessment. I worked in the Cambridge English stream and then subsequently in International Education. From there, I moved to another exam board, Pearson, where I worked for many years with the GCSE maths team. I then worked in a secondary school as an exams officer, and after that, joined LSE in 2017 in the LLM assessment role. That led to where I am today – Service Delivery Manager for the LLB.

I love my job! I lead on ensuring the LLB programme runs as smoothly as possible and delivers the best possible experience for our students. It includes overseeing the running of large-scale processes such as course selection and Welcome, supporting and leading the administrative side of assessment, digesting changes and policies at big School level and bringing these to the Law School, leading the LLB team and working more widely with senior PSS and academic colleagues on strategic implementations.

AK: What are your particular interests and passions within the role?

FT: I love the mix of being able to help steer the LLB programme, feed into strategic decision-making, as well as still being "at the coalface" supporting and advising students. Seeing students graduate after working with them and knowing the challenges they have faced is incredibly rewarding. Making changes or highlighting problematic areas and being involved in the work to improve the students' experiences is also rewarding.

AK: What does a typical day look like?

FT: In the world of hybrid working, days can look very different. Being on campus brings lots of chats with colleagues, catch-ups and chance conversations. Being at home can allow for more focused work, relevant reading, training and gathering my thoughts. The job can get quite intense at times, and stepping away to regroup is equally important.

AK: How do you keep yourself organised? Any tips for working in a shared office?

FT: Hmm. Keeping myself organised can be quite a challenge! I feel the pace of the workplace has changed – there are more platforms to be across, and increased demands and responsibilities within our roles.

Being in a shared office, of course, has its pros and cons. I'm quite good at blocking out background chat if I want to get something done, and in fact, like the background noise. I once worked in a large open plan office that was very quiet, and having a conversation that over 50 people could hear was quite disconcerting!

I enjoy working in the programmes room. Everyone is lovely and there is a nice atmosphere which allows for a bit of banter!

AK: You have been at the centre of the LLB reform. What are the main changes/challenges you have faced with the new structure, new courses and new skills programme introduced?

FT: I think the LLB curriculum reform has fundamentally changed the programme. It allowed more optionality and the chance for students to experience and learn about more niche areas of law, whilst still ensuring the key foundational areas are taught, and an opportunity to explore these in more detail. There will always be a few



teething problems with rolling out such a reform; however, I think the overall changes benefit our students greatly and keep the programme fresh, competitive and world-leading.

AK: You know our LLB students very well, what do you think they value most about studying with us?

FT: I certainly think there is a definite prestige to studying at LSE and many students feel a strong sense of pride in getting a place on our LLB programme. I think faculty and PSS work incredibly hard to provide a caring and supportive environment for our students, enabling them to grow and develop throughout their studies to face the world of employment once they've graduated.

AK: It would be great to learn about your free time and your hobbies. What do you enjoy doing?

FT: If I have some free time I love nothing more than to sit down with a cup of tea and read my book. I love reading and always have a book on the go (currently Hilary Mantel, *Wolf Hall*). I'm also enjoying reading Dickens, and my next book is *Bleak House*.

I have two teenage sons and although developing their own independence, still need a lot of guidance and steering (and a bit of nagging too). They play football and the clarinet so quite a lot of my weekends is taken up with standing on a football sideline (I have been told to stay quiet) or listening to them playing in their band. I'm very proud of them.

I also love food and good conversation, so I will always find an excuse to go out for dinner and catch up with friends. I enjoy a bit of cooking, and vegetarian cooking is my favourite. It does generate some complaints from my sons, however. I get feedback that there is a vital ingredient missing.

I'm trying to get to more classical music concerts and go to the Thursday lunchtime concerts in the Shaw Library if my day allows. They are a wonderful tonic for a busy or pressurised day.

AK: Do you like to travel? If so, what places would you definitely recommend visiting?

FT: I love to travel! My husband's roots are Grenadian, and we are lucky enough to be able to holiday there fairly regularly. It's a beautiful place – less touristy than other Caribbean Islands and with the advantage of having family there, we know the best beaches and restaurants! It's very important for my sons to understand their heritage too.

I'm also lucky enough to have friends dotted around and regularly take advantage of them for a holiday.

In my younger years, I filled my backpack and headed off to spend time in Indonesia, New Zealand and Australia. I saw some beautiful places, and being completely out of your comfort zone and seeing so much that challenges you, is a great life experience. I spent three months in Indonesia and was lucky enough to go to places completely off the beaten track, where few westerners had been. I was there during Ramadan, so if I hear the call to prayer it evokes vivid memories of my travelling days.

AK: What is your favourite thing about working at LSE?

FT: It's got to be the people. The people make a place, and LSE's people really do. Even after being at LSE for a number of years, I'm still enjoying meeting new people and catching up with existing friends and connections. It's a great place to work!

AK: Thank you so much for your time, Fiona. That was really interesting!

The Way to a Person's Heart...: Aga Basza and the superlative LSE Catering



For this first part of a series of notes recognising and celebrating the roles and contribution of support services and colleagues around the LSE, Andrew Scott sat down with Aga Basza, Manager in LSE Catering and an International Women's Day 2025 nominee as an "LSE Real Role Model".

AS: Hi Aga, and thanks so much for taking the time to speak with us today. How long have you been working at the LSE? What is your wider background, and how did you come to be working here?

AB: I've been working at the London School of Economics since 2008, starting as a General Assistant. Prior to that, I had an extensive background in hospitality and catering, spanning over 17 years across various roles in both the private and education sectors. My journey began in customer-facing positions, and then progressed into management roles within LSE's Residential and Catering Services Division. I've supported the senior dining and hospitality functions for over a decade now.

What initially drew me to LSE was its dynamic environment and the opportunity to work within a community that values quality, service, and continuous improvement. Over the years, I've developed a passion for leading teams, refining operations, and enhancing customer experience. Stepping up as a full-time Catering Manager felt like a natural progression, allowing me to apply my industry experience in a setting that balances professionalism with a strong sense of purpose and community.

AS: Can you give us a sense of a "routine" day working in catering at the LSE?

AB: Fast-paced, varied, and highly people-focused. I usually start the day early, checking emails and reviewing the day's schedule to ensure all planned services – whether

it's breakfast, lunch, coffee breaks, or events – are properly staffed and resourced. I meet with the team for a morning briefing to go over any updates, special dietary needs, or VIP bookings.

Throughout the day, I'm on the floor supervising operations in both the staff dining room and coffee bar, making sure service runs smoothly, standards are maintained, and any issues are dealt with quickly. I liaise with chefs to ensure food quality and presentation align with expectations, and I often speak with customers directly to gather feedback or handle special requests.

Behind the scenes, I manage stock levels, place orders through our procurement system, and follow up with suppliers to ensure timely deliveries. There's also a lot of coordination involved – whether it's scheduling staff shifts, reviewing health and safety compliance, or preparing for upcoming events.

No two days are exactly alike, and that's what I enjoy most. The role combines hands-on service, team leadership, and strategic planning, all within a dynamic academic environment that values professionalism and collaboration.

AS: That sounds stimulating, but a lot of pressure! LSE Catering offers an incredible range of menus and options for people hosting events around the School. Who is responsible for putting these menus together, and who actually prepares the food? Is this done by LSE staff or is that role outsourced?

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AB: The menus for LSE Catering events are developed in-house by our professional culinary team, led by our Executive Chef in close collaboration with the Catering Management team. We take into account seasonal ingredients, dietary requirements, client preferences, and event formats to ensure the options are both diverse and high quality.

The actual food preparation is carried out entirely by LSE's own catering staff. We have a skilled team of chefs and kitchen personnel who work on-site to prepare all meals freshly, whether it's for a formal sit-down dinner, a working lunch, or a large-scale reception. Nothing is outsourced in terms of cooking – we take great pride in maintaining quality and consistency through our internal team.

This in-house approach gives us greater flexibility and control over what we serve, allows for quicker customisation based on client needs, and ensures we can uphold the high standards expected at the School.

AS: That you certainly achieve! On the sustainability front, what happens with any excess food that is prepared and not consumed for guests at the LSE?

AB: Sustainability is a key focus for LSE Catering, and we take food waste very seriously. Wherever possible, we work proactively to minimise overproduction through careful planning and portion control, based on historical data and expected attendance.

When there is surplus food that is still safe and suitable for consumption, we follow LSE's sustainability policies by redistributing it through approved channels. For example, we collaborate with local charities or food redistribution platforms where possible, ensuring the food goes to those in need rather than to waste.

Any food that can't be reused is disposed of responsibly through food waste recycling systems. LSE has clear guidelines in place to ensure that food waste is separated and processed in an environmentally responsible way.

We're also constantly reviewing our practices to reduce waste at the source – whether that's through smarter ordering, seasonal menu design, or better communication with event organisers about attendance numbers and dietary needs.

AS: That's brilliant, and so important. Providing catering to the types of guests that regularly attend the LSE must have afforded you some opportunities to meet some very prominent individuals. For good reason or ill, do any guests to the LSE stand out in your reminiscences?

AB: Absolutely – working at the LSE has given me the opportunity to cater for a wide range of distinguished guests, from high-profile academics and world leaders to visiting diplomats, alumni, and influential figures in politics and business. While confidentiality and professionalism are central to our work, I can say that it's always a privilege to be part of events that have a global or intellectual impact.

What stands out most to me isn't always the fame of the guest, but the atmosphere that surrounds certain events – the buzz of anticipation, the elevated standards expected, and the sense of being part of something significant. Whether it's a Nobel laureate giving a talk or a head of state attending a conference, the experience reinforces the importance of precision, discretion, and service excellence in our role.

Of course, there have been a few surprising or even humorous moments behind the scenes, but overall, it's the professionalism of the team and the prestige of the institution that shape those standout memories

AS: How have you found dealing with the Law School and Law School events over time?

AB: Working with the Law School has been a very positive experience. Their events are often intellectually engaging, well-organised, and held to a high standard, which aligns well with the way we approach catering services. There's a strong sense of professionalism and attention to detail from the Law School's staff and organisers, which makes collaboration smooth and efficient.

Over time, we've built a solid working relationship based on clear communication and mutual respect. We understand their expectations – whether it's for formal dinners, academic conferences, or more casual receptions – and we've been able to tailor our service to meet their specific needs.

Of course, like with any department, there can occasionally be last-minute changes or unique requirements, but we're used to working under pressure and always aim to respond flexibly and effectively. Overall, we really value the relationship with the Law School and look forward to continuing to support their diverse range of events

AS: How do you fill your time away from the job?

AB: Outside of work, I really value time spent with family and friends – it helps me recharge and keep a healthy work-life balance. I also enjoy exploring London's food scene, whether it's trying out new restaurants, markets, or experimenting with recipes at home. Cooking has always been a passion of mine, not just professionally but personally as well.

When I have time, I like travelling – especially discovering new cultures through their cuisine – and I enjoy walks in nature or the countryside to unwind. I'm also interested in personal development, so I occasionally take part in courses or workshops related to leadership, wellbeing, or hospitality trends. It's a nice way to stay inspired and bring fresh ideas back into my role.

AS: "Inspiring" is a nice note to end on. Thanks so much for your time today Aga, you've made things so easy – which also reflects our experiences with LSE Catering over time – and every time!!

Securing Academic Freedoms: Aleks Urosevic, Richard Mulcahy and the LSE Security team

For this second part of a series of notes recognising and celebrating the roles and contribution of support services and colleagues around the LSE, Andrew Scott spoke with Aleksandar Urosevic and Richard Mulcahy of the LSE Security team on their role in securing a safe environment for academic life.

AS: How long have you been working at the LSE? What is your wider background, and how did you come to be working here?

AU: I joined LSE in 2014, but have been working in security for almost 30 years in various positions and levels of responsibility. For example, at the UN Office of the High Representative established under the Dayton Peace Agreement ending the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, I led a team that was responsible for the security of a few American ambassadors. I worked as a Close Protection Unit officer for the United Nations office and a few other organisations. I will tell you a short story. When I finished my university studies in economics, I started a new job at a bank. After spending the day in front of the computer entering numbers, I went to my supervisor, handed him my ID card, and politely thanked him for the job offer. I needed something more dynamic and challenging, so I returned to the security business. My mother probably wasn't happy with my decision, but I was satisfied and I didn't regret it. This job has really given me a lot.

RM: It's been quite a long time: I'm fast approaching 30 years at the school. However, I did have an earlier life. I trained and worked for several years as a mechanic and as a PVC and aluminium window and door fabricator, but then switched tracks to work in the private security sector – mostly in hospitals – all before joining the LSE in 1995.

AS: Can you give us a sense of a "routine" day working in security at the LSE?

AU: It is difficult to describe a typical day for security at LSE. It is a very dynamic environment with many

things happening every day. I usually start my morning with checking security logs, incident reports, and alerts from the previous day or night. This is followed by a morning briefing with the Head of Security to discuss the day's priorities, any ongoing incidents, and review the day's schedule, upcoming events, or special security arrangements. The "routine day" also includes security training sessions or emergency drills for staff, preparations for events, briefing security staff on current issues, ongoing investigations or special instructions. Our primary mission is to make LSE a safe place for students, staff and visitors.

RM: Yes, I agree. It's an old cliché, but every day takes its own course. We have a team of approximately 75 security and front-of-house personnel to manage, so a significant portion of time is spent on administrative work, dealing with all the nuances that come with managing a large blue-collar workforce. Our teams work around the clock, 365 days a year. The role in security management is both administrative and operational.

We also manage CCTV and the Maxcess and Salto access systems, so the ability to troubleshoot issues with these complex systems is essential. We operate an open-door policy in the security office because we want to remain accessible to the school's population, picking up on issues that might otherwise go unnoticed, while helping, supporting, and responding to all manner of requests from staff and students throughout the day, every day.

We care deeply for the people of LSE and the campus estate. A former Director's description of the LSE as a "global village" rings very true, and anything that can happen in a community of 12,500–13,000 people has the real potential to happen here.

COMMUNITY/ENVIRONMENT



Aleks Urosevic (left),
Richard Mulcahy (right)

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AS: The LSE hosts a wide-ranging and eclectic mix of events almost every day of the year. Some of these events are contentious and generate a lot of "heat" among participants. How do you predict which events might play out in that fashion, and what sort of measures would you take to minimise disruption and/or manage difficult circumstances? Can you give us examples?

AU: Yes, LSE has one of the largest Public Lecture Programmes in the UK. Many of these events are high-risk and preparations tend to start many weeks before the event itself. Predicting how events might unfold and effectively managing potential disruptions involves a combination of proactive analysis, strategic planning, and adaptive measures. I would highlight some key things such as scenario planning and risk assessment, preventive measures, contingency planning and measures to minimize disruption and manage difficult situations. The key factor is security staff, and we always try to have a team that is trained and ready to respond to any situation.

RM: Compliance obligations are becoming increasingly exacting. Our in-house security team is well-trained and capable of meeting the challenges posed by evolving risks. At the same time, expectations around nuanced decision-making – particularly in complex areas such as free speech and hate crime – continue to rise. Navigating these difficult issues is a constant and careful effort for the Security team.

I believe there is a robust system in place for event screening, underpinned by clear rules and comprehensive risk assessments governing events and meetings held on LSE premises. This framework includes the Higher Education Act, the School's Code of Practice on Free Speech, chairing guidelines, and event ground rules. In addition, the Security team follows its own internal procedures, such as team briefings where we walk staff through key event details. These briefings cover topics including the nature of the event, areas of concern, reputational risks, identified threats, relevant support groups, our mission, our operational approach, and our responsibilities under Human Rights, Ethics, and Legal Compliance.

Managing high-profile events requires significant time and preparation. For example, visits from Heads of State often involve multiple site visits by their security teams, enabling them to familiarise themselves with the venue, review our plans and contingencies, and align expectations. This collaborative preparation helps ensure a coherent and coordinated approach on the day of the event.

AS: Providing security to the types of guests that regularly attend the LSE must have afforded you some opportunities to meet some very prominent individuals. For good reason or ill, do any guests to the LSE stand out in your reminiscences?

AU: It's really difficult to answer this question. So many prominent and famous people visit LSE that it's hard to single out anyone. If you visit the Green Room in the Old Building, you will see pictures on the wall with so many incredible people who have visited LSE and had some of the most memorable events at the school. What I can tell you is that most people pleasantly surprise me with how kind and pleasant they are irrespective of what their title is.

RM: For me, having worked here for so long, there have been countless high-profile events, among them the visits of Nelson Mandela, the Dalai Lama, Imran Khan, Bill Clinton, and the then-President of Russia, Dmitry Medvedev. All were incredible events to be part of. However, there are a couple of standout occasions that I vividly remember.

One such event was the visit of the Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in 2003, a true socialist leader, riding a wave of popularity and hope with great expectations for what he might achieve for Brazil and beyond. It was also the final event chaired by then-Director of LSE, Professor Anthony Giddens, at the end of his term in office. Lula's popularity at the time was off the scale. The Peacock Theatre was filled to capacity (1,000 people), with almost as many gathered outside. It was the build-up, the event itself, and the aftermath that made it so memorable. Traffic on Kingsway came to a halt, with crowds stretching as far as the eye could see. People stood on the wall overlooking the Kingsway tunnel just to catch a glimpse of Lula as he departed.

Another unforgettable event for me was the first visit of Benazir Bhutto in 1999. She delivered a lecture in the New Theatre in the East Building, where the CBG now stands. She returned again in 2007, the same year she was tragically assassinated. The New Theatre, to me, was a true gem – a throwback venue, tiered and intimate, with a capacity of just over 200. The atmosphere was electric. The theatre was filled more than an hour before she arrived – an hour late – and hundreds more packed Houghton Street and the surrounding area just hoping to see her.

Unexpectedly, after the event concluded she asked to speak with a group of undergraduate students from Pakistan. This request was accommodated amid the raucous, exuberant atmosphere. Truly, one to remember.

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AS: How have you found dealing with the Law School and Law School events over time?

AU: The Law School probably has the most challenging events. It organises so many events that attract a lot of attention, on account of both the guests and the topics. I usually don't like to mention individual names, but working with the fantastic Law events team (Alexandra, Giuseppe, Saiful, Beth and Karla) makes our work much easier and less stressful. Several Law School professors have done truly impressive work in chairing particular events: David Kershaw, Conor Gearty and Peter Ramsay come to mind – I'm sorry if I missed someone. There is a high level of cooperation and coordination between our departments. Working with the Law School has been a great experience.

RM: It's an absolute pleasure to support the Law School Events team with their ambitious programme of events. We are, as we're often told, the crucible of free speech, so upholding free speech and academic freedom, all within the boundaries of the law and in accordance with our Free Speech Code, is something we are committed to helping deliver – and doing so in a safe environment.

Isn't that what it's all about for our students? The chance to engage critically, challenge ideas through academic rigour, raise concerns, and offer rebuttals to the speakers' policies or viewpoints. Ultimately, it's the successful delivery of these events in a safe and respectful setting -regardless of which side of the debate you're on -that creates lasting, meaningful experiences.

AS: I have been at the LSE for quite some time and can recall some fairly outlandish tales of what people will get up to around the LSE – for example, the perhaps apocryphal story of a guy who set up camp and lived for a time in the Old Building. Are such stories true? What are the most unusual things you have come across in your time at the school?

AU: Although I could write a book about this, after 30 years of work for the LSE, Richard Mulcahy has a far better story than me.

RM: Plenty of stories are tucked away in my sealed satchel that I'll have to take with me, I'm afraid – not all of them are suitable for print! But a few I'm happy to share.

It's true that some years ago, we had a PhD student who set up camp in a vacant office. He was eventually moved on, only to find somewhere else to settle. He was in year 15 of his PhD: perhaps that says something in itself! It became a bit of a journey with him, a game of whack-a-mole: every time he found a new space to occupy, we had to close it down.

Then there's the story of the stolen Penguin. Back in 2008, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, President of Argentina, gave a lecture at the School. Prior to the event, her administrative and security team paid an advance visit and were pleasantly surprised to see the Penguin sculpture – a much-loved LSE character – sitting proudly in Clare Market, just outside the Waterstones bookstore (now the Gen Den). The Penguin had first appeared on campus in 2005 as part of the Odette sculpture series (which included Equus and Baby Tembo), donated by Canadian alumnus Louis Odette.

We learned from the visit that the President had a great affinity for penguins, as they were native to the region where she grew up. There was genuine excitement among her team that she would arrive at LSE to be greeted by the Penguin. Unfortunately, on the night before the event, in a daring overnight raid, the Penguin was stolen; uprooted and never seen again! It was quite embarrassing and awkward to explain to the speaker and her delegation the next day when the Penguin was conspicuously absent. One of the few unsolved crimes!

Then there was the maiden visit to LSE by Saif Gaddafi, flanked by a burly security detail. He had arrived to discuss the possibility of entering a PhD programme. I recall chatting with the academic who would go on to become his mentor, as he walked across campus to meet Saif in the Old Building's main reception. It was an interesting conversation on the way – and the rest, as they say, is history.

AS: How do you fill your time away from the job?

AU: I have an amazing family, my wife and a ten-year-old daughter. They are making every moment together special and meaningful. We enjoy traveling, we explore new places, and all my free time is dedicated to them.

RM: I was brought up playing all sorts of sports, so I have a strong interest in almost every kind of sport. I also enjoy listening to podcasts, particularly those focused on crime and politics. My wife comes from a large farming family in a very rural part of Ireland, which makes for the perfect retreat whenever I get the chance to visit. These days, I'm also helping my daughters as they raise young families – so I don't have much trouble keeping busy.

AS: Thank you both so much for taking the time and for the conversation – it's been truly fascinating, and an important reminder of the energy and commitment it takes to bolster academic freedoms.



Pathways into Law (and Other Things): Elizabeth Holden and enhanced career support at LSE Law School

One of the most significant stressors for many of our students is always the challenge of identifying, pursuing and securing appropriate next steps on their career pathway, whether that is practice in the City, at the Bar, in other legal avenues, or in some other field entirely. Elizabeth Holden joined the LSE Law School as a Careers Consultant in Autumn 2024 as the first holder of a new brief: to provide tailored career support for our students, to help them understand the various processes of securing employment, and to help them explore different areas of legal practice and other career paths. It was an inspired appointment to a vital role. Andrew Scott sat down with Elizabeth to reflect on her time in post to date, how the LSE Law careers support offer has developed, and the challenges she sees going forward in the role.

AS: Hi Elizabeth. You joined the LSE Law School just ahead of the Autumn term this year as our first “in-house” Careers Consultant, with a brief to augment and enhance the support offered to students by the general LSE Careers Office. What in your background meant you were well-placed to undertake this new role?

EH: A primary qualification is that I have a strong understanding of a range of the roles that many of our students aspire to take-up. I worked for several years as a partner in corporate finance in a “Magic Circle” law firm, and was directly involved in the recruitment and supervision of many trainee and junior solicitors.

I am still involved in the recruitment and mentoring of trainees for several niche legal firms, in areas such as family law, extradition, corporate crime, and for a range of organisations in the cultural sector (an arts auction house, film financiers, a performing rights society, a restaurant chain). And I have also undertaken many other roles, for example acting as a non-executive director for a broad range of organisations – a leading

drama school, a major city property developer, the largest UK housing association, a tech start-up, among others. So, I have understood the needs of those – sometimes very different – organisations and the roles that young lawyers play within them.

More recently, and this is a bit of a side-wind, I have been advising career lawyers on how to exit legal practice and transition into other roles. I have become well-versed in helping people understand their strengths and appreciate the dimensions of new roles. I am well-positioned to advise our students, yes, obviously on access to commercial law, but also on other areas in which many are already interested.

AS: As an academic adviser for students, one often gets a sense of the real pressure involved in the making of career choices, and the stress that the search for a conducive position exacts on our students. Why have things become so tough in the legal employment market?



EH: Yes, the process can be very burdensome, time-consuming and stressful for students. There are spring weeks, open days, vacation schemes, and traditional applications, all coming at times in the year when students might already be busy with deadlines for their courses.

And the market for employment opportunities is very tight, it's highly competitive. You only need to understand the sheer numbers of graduates entering the marketplace to appreciate the difficulty. But other factors – the normal fluctuation of the economy and new challenges such as AI – also have a bearing.

In recent years, there have been around 7,000 solicitors qualifying per annum. Of those, around 1,000 are lawyers from other jurisdictions transferring their qualifications,

while about half the remainder are law graduates and half non-law graduates. Within those numbers, of the 1,000 solicitors who qualify in the City, around 500 are law graduates. You can then add in around 300 law graduates who obtain a pupillage place with chambers or elsewhere.

Yet, around 20,000 students are graduating with law degrees each year, with that number growing significantly. That includes around 5,000 students per annum from Russell Group universities. And of course, those who aren't successful will often still compete for positions in subsequent years.

So, the upshot is that today's graduates, today's students, need more assistance in navigating this very difficult terrain. "Merely" achieving a first-class degree may not be

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enough. Those wanting to go into the City need help. But so do those who want to do something else!

AS: How can you assist our students in this challenging task?

EH: My role is helping students explore and understand their options, and then to assist them in tailoring their approach to the employment search. They must be able to communicate how they meet the needs of prospective employers. It's about being prepared and being smart.

Of course, one difficulty they face is that employers might emphasise different things in the recruitment process. In addition, employers deploy a broad range of assessment tasks, each of which students have to understand to perform well. It might be that they face assessments on situational judgement, of their logic, and of their personality. And this is all done through various methods: presentations, pre-recorded interviews, group

work, written assessments, case studies, commercial articles, negotiation, or prioritisation tasks. Therefore, besides being excellent candidates on paper, we must prepare students for the interview and assessment phases of job searching. Experience, exposure and good guidance make it easier. For many, it's a new ball game, and it doesn't always come naturally to students.

AS: What does this mean on a day-to-day basis?
Passing your office, it seems that you always have a student speaking with you...

EH: Well, yes. Last year I had almost 600 appointments with more than 280 students. I also ran courses for students aimed more about exploring their career options and understanding what they need to know and how to prepare. There are workshops on preparing CVs, on interviewing, and on the many assessment centre tasks. We've run drop-in coffee corner meetings in the student common room, brought in many guest





speakers, usually from non-commercial backgrounds, and conducted an array of practice interviews, focused on preparing students for interviews as solicitors, barristers, for Masters and PhD programmes, for roles in journalism, in policy and elsewhere.

AS: That all sounds tremendous, and likely a real benefit in familiarising students with what they will face, and demystifying in some measure what might otherwise be very challenging processes. Is there anything that you would like to expand or do differently going forward?

EH: Yes, there are already plans in motion. I'd like to build in more career-related opportunities and exposure in all areas of the LLB programme, to develop a more structured approach to exploring non-City law

opportunities. It is sometimes thought that most of our students are set on careers in the City. The truth is – as we've discovered by asking them – at the outset of their studies with us, two-thirds of students who state an expectation are not firmly set on becoming a solicitor in England at all. And two-thirds say they are interested in working in something other than commercial law. Too many then quickly forget these alternatives. We have done a lot already, but we want to make sure we do as good a job for those who do not want commercial law, as we have started to do for the rest.

AS: Thanks so much for taking the time to speak with me Elizabeth. Perhaps, we can invite any friends and alums of the LSE Law School to assist with this work where they can!



There's Always a Warm Welcome at Mike's Table: the socialising social enterprise

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It is almost exactly ten years since the untimely passing of our much-esteemed colleague, Professor Mike Redmayne. In the aftermath of his death, Mike's wife – Louise Holstein – established an inspiring social enterprise in his honour. "Mike's Table" is the non-profit, socialising social enterprise that puts on supper clubs for paying customers and non-paying guests. In advance of the hosting of a forthcoming Mike's Table event at the LSE, Louise spoke with Andrew Scott to reflect on this aspect of Mike's legacy, her experiences in establishing and running the social enterprise, and the nature of the anticipated event being hosted by the LSE Law School.

AS: Hi Louise, can you tell us a little more about the Mike's Table organisation and events?

LH: I established Mike's Table in 2016 in the aftermath of Mike's illness and passing, and the way we operate has been through different iterations over time. We are a volunteer-led social enterprise that runs occasional supper clubs for paying and non-paying guests, at which the emphasis is very much on the warmth of welcome and convivial conversation. We try to make that experience available to people who might not otherwise have such opportunities.

We offer a fantastic 3-course meal in a great venue where you can meet amazing people. But this is a supper club with a key difference. A ticket funds someone else to enjoy the same experience, but for free on another night. The food we serve is prepared by professional volunteer chefs. It is surplus, donated food provided by some of our partner organisations, but it's never past its use-by date and would otherwise go to waste.

AS: Obviously, the eponymous "Mike" of Mike's Table is our much-loved former colleague, Mike Redmayne. Was this an idea that you worked on together, perhaps started together, or was he the inspiration for what you do in another way? What was the genesis of the idea for Mike's Table?

LH: I'd always had an idea that I'd talked with him about which was setting up a kind of canteen to serve office workers. A simple proposition: it would be non-profit, and then we'd do a soup kitchen in the same premises in the evening. I used to work in central London, and I'd often sit in the squares near my work and the amount of discarded rubbish and wasted food from fast-food outlets disgusted me. I thought we could just do something really simple, but high quality: a soup of the day, some beautiful bread, fruit, simple, and people would pay a small, fair amount and they'd know we would then use the profit to fund others to have the same thing as a soup kitchen that night. It was an idea, we often talked about it, and he liked it, but we had our work and obligations and nothing happened.

Then about 6 months after Mike passed away, I was sitting at our beautiful dining table in our kitchen, thinking about all the times we'd had fantastic meals, with good friends and the idea came back to me, and I thought I'd just love to do something concrete in his memory. And my skill is, I can throw a party!

So, I got in touch with friends who worked in hospitality and said I had the germ of an idea. At the time, supper clubs were really popular, trendy. And I thought, let's do supper clubs, but let's do them for people who wouldn't normally have access to them.

AS: Isn't it striking how a traumatic life event for many of us can galvanise, crystallise an idea, and give us the impetus to act. Do you have a background yourself in the community and voluntary sector, or was this a new departure for you? What is your own background?

LH: Not at all. I am absolutely from a hospitality background. I've worked in restaurants all my life with a very big focus on wine. I was a sommelier, and then moved to work for a wine merchant, and then two years after Mike died I set up my own company with a business partner. We import wine, servicing the restaurant sector, from all over the world, although mainly Europe. So, no background in community work, but lots of great contacts in hospitality which has allowed us to build Mike's Table.

AS: Who are the "clients" or "guests" of Mike's Table? How do they learn about what you do? You mentioned working with other partner organisations: with whom do you collaborate?

LH: There are two sets. We have built up a network of charities and other organisations that engage with a wide variety of people with differing needs, but the common denominator is that most of these people have become socially isolated for some reason. They may be people who are caring for others who seldom have the time to go out anywhere, or refugees or migrants who have limited resources but who are desperate to make social connections in the community, or ex-prisoners, ex-addicts, ex-alcoholics who all need to socialise but need a safe space to do that. These are all people who maybe don't have the family or social networks that many of us take for granted.



Emily Jackson, Louise Holstein, Diana Kirsch

So, when we are running an event we send out an invitation to our partners and ask them to refer three guests for the given evening.

AS: You'd imagine that for many people the socialising aspect of the evenings with people they don't know at all must be a challenging prospect. Are your guests sometimes nervous, even intimidated, by this aspect of the evenings? How do you manage the engagements?

LH: Over the years, we've learned with our partners how to do this, our volunteers are well-versed in facilitating the evenings, reassuring our guests, and bringing them in. But at the start, even to persuade these partner organisations to engage with us was a task. We are asking them to put time in to bring their clients to us, at a time when they are themselves very resource-limited in what they can offer in their core roles. But now they see what we can do for their clients, and we have become part of what they can offer.

And our feedback from our guests and from our partner organisations is really gratifying. They say their clients report a real increase in their social confidence and sense of belonging. They feel more part of the community. They've made friends. It makes it easy for us to measure our impact through them.

AS: How many such events do you run in a given month or year? Are you based across London, or in one location? Do you have any plans to expand your operation?

LH: We do at least six events per year, one every couple of months, but we also do other collaborations as well. We catered for a wedding recently, and then the bride and groom subsequently came to one of our evenings, knowing that the profit we had generated from their day was being used to host that event.

We started off being entirely self-funding, but we've been very lucky to receive some funding from the National Lottery Community Fund. We previously ran events in different places, but we have recently found a home at a great venue in Dalston. It is small, it seats around 18 people, but it is really conducive. Perfect for the sorts of events we want to put on.

But the point about scale is a really good question. We are volunteers, and everyone has their own work, so it's a challenge but we've thought a lot about whether and how we might roll out the Mike's Table concept to other places. We've this year developed a "tool-kit" that we are calling "Our Table", to help other people to create inclusive

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community dinners nationwide. We have a pilot running soon in the North of England, and are really excited to see how that goes.

AS: You are soon to host a Mike's Table event at the LSE. Is this one of the collaborations that you mentioned, or is it a normal Mike's Table event? Is there anything different or particular about the LSE occasion?

LH: It is a slightly different event, and one we are really looking forward to. We are running it together with Diana Kirsch, the Director of the new Legal Advice Centre at the LSE Law School. We have invited colleagues from all of our partner organisations along, on one hand to say thank you, but also to introduce them to the work of the Clinic and help them assess how far it may offer something of value to them and their clients. Quite apart from anything else, we expect it will be a great networking event for people who may find some real synergies in what they all are doing. And it will be nice for me to be able to put some faces to names when I've not yet even been able to meet some of them in person.

AS: Thanks so much for taking the time to speak with me today, Louise. It has been fascinating to hear about all your work with this inspirational social enterprise, and great to learn about this aspect of Mike's legacy. I'm sure he would have truly enjoyed the Mike's Table experience, whether as a guest or mucking-in with the cooking and clearing.



If you are interested in supporting Mike's Table, whether as a volunteer, a guest or in some other way, or if you might be interested in rolling out a similar event in a different location with the guidance of the "Our Table" toolkit, please contact Louise on info@mikes-table.org



A list of some of our LSE Law School events 2024/25:

Convene

In Conversation with Mr Ronald Lamola, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa
3 October 2024

Leadership Workshop
7 October 2024

Masterclass in Sustainable Finance
9 October 2024

LSE Law Film Festival
12 October 2024

Fintech and Digital Finance Masterclass – 5 Sessions
17 October 2024

Arbitration Masterclass – 5 Sessions
29 October 2024

Climate Justice: Legal Challenges and Pathways forward
18 November 2024

Masterclass on the 2008 Financial Crisis – 2 Sessions
20 November 2024

Private Equity Credit Funds – 2 Sessions
21 November 2024

Live broadcast of the ICJ's Advisory proceedings on climate change
2 December 2024

Corporate Governance Masterclasses – 2 Sessions
4 December 2024

Standard-setting in wholesale financial markets
5 December 2024

Trump and the Law: Insights from Five Legal Fields
21 January 2025

Sanctions in Practice Masterclass – 2 Sessions
22 January 2025

The Value of Online Dispute Resolution
6 February 2025

"Exploring Modern Abuses of Public Power I: Hands off the Regulator" – 2 sessions
12 February 2025

Exploring the role of the Non-Executive Director
17 February 2025

The General Counsel as CEO: Providing Legal Services in a Time of Digital Transformation – 2 Sessions
20 February 2025

How culture becomes a weapon?: Lessons from Russia's War on Ukraine
6 March 2025

An Introduction to state-of-the-art AI for Curious Lawyers
10 March 2025

Migration Masterclass – 3 Sessions
25 March 2025

In Conversation with David Lock KC – From the Courtroom to the House of Commons: A Career in Politics after Law – 2 Sessions
27 March 2025

LSE Legal Advice Clinic Launch
6 May 2025



In Conversation with Mr Ronald Ozzy Lamola, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa

Chair: Professor Susan Marks

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Public Lectures

Popular Constitutionalism in an Age of Populism:
Martin Loughlin and Larry Kramer in Conversation
8 October 2024

The Future of Football:
The Independent Regulator (with Dame Tracey Crouch)
10 October 2024

Inaugural Lecture of
LSE President and Vice
Chancellor Larry Kramer
14 October 2024

Trade, Geopolitics and
Climate: Fireside Chat with
Ignacio Bercero
15 October 2024

International Courts
after Gaza
16 October 2024

Book Launch – Homeland
Insecurity: The Rise and
Rise of Global Anti-
Terrorism Law
24 October 2024

Pluralism and the Pursuit
of Knowledge: what's at
stake in the threatened
cancellation of the Higher
Education (Freedom of
Speech) Act 2023
28 October 2024

Antisemitism Today

7 November 2024

European Platform
Regulation after Two Years
11 November 2024

Ratio Launch 2024/25
12 November 2024

Truth as a Constitutional
Value: Liberal
Constitutionalism, Private
Capital, and Media
Regulation

13 November 2024

London Review of
International Law Annual
Lecture: Professor Susan
Marks, "Trucanini's Stare"
21 November 2024

Leaking Justice: From oil
spills in the Niger Delta to
the High Court in London
– A conversation with
King Okpabi on the
Shell Trial

26 February 2025

Trump 2.0 and U.S.
Foreign Economic Policy
3 March 2025



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Artificial Intelligence,
Intellectual Property and
the Creative Industries
4 March 2025

The Possibilities of
Constitutional Imaginaries
– organised in partnership
with The British Academy
19 March 2025

Varieties of
Constitutionalism:
Susanne Baer and Larry
Kramer in Conversation
20 March 2025

Democracy and the Right
to Protest in the UK
24 March 2025

Climate Liability on Trial:
Lessons from Luciano
Lliuya v RWE
25 March 2025

Seminars

Artificial Intelligence and
Copyright Law Seminar
7 October 2024

LSE Taxation Seminar
Series – Re-imagining
Global Tax Governance:
A Two-sided Platform
Perspective

9 October 2024

Golem Seminar Series
– “The Imaginary
Factory: Constitutional
Scholars and Europe’s
Constitutionalism”

10 October 2024

Criminal Justice
Forum Seminar Series –
“A Theory of the Criminal
Law’s Person”
15 October 2024





Legal and Political Theory Forum – “The King’s Plunder, the King’s Bodies: The British Empire and Modern Legal Order”
16 October 2024

The Significant Origins of the Modern Company
23 October 2024

PIL Hub Seminar – International Trade Law and Global Data
24 October 2024

Algorithmic Transparency as a Regulatory Panacea?
30 October 2024

Corporations: Where Have the Shareholders Gone?
31 October 2024

Legal and Political Theory Forum – “The Reasonable Person: A Legal Biography”
6 November 2024

LSE Taxation Seminar Series – “The UN and International Tax Cooperation: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow”
13 November 2024

PIL Hub Seminar – The Informers
14 November 2024

LSE Taxation Seminar Series – “The Effectiveness of GloBE Rules: Legal Issues”
26 November 2024

LSE Law and Anthropology Seminar Series
3 December 2024

LSE Taxation Seminar Series – “Transforming Personal Income Tax in Developing Countries”
9 December

Decoding DSA Risk Assessments and Audits
22 January 2025

Socio-Legal Hub Seminar Series: Law, Registration, and the State: Making Identities through Space, Place, and Movement
28 January 2025

Book Launch – Andy Summers, *Mitigation in the Law of Damages*
29 January 2025



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LTS Research Seminar

- “Privacy’s Social Dimensions”

30 January 2025

Criminal Justice Forum Seminar Series –

- “Epistemic Justification and the Legal Standard of Proof”

11 February 2025

LSE Taxation Seminar Series – “Tax and

- Human Rights”

12 February 2025

Legal and Political Theory Forum – “The Travel of

- Functionalism: China 1930–1999”

12 February 2025

PIL Hub Seminar –

- Futurism: Neglected Histories of International Law

13 February 2025

Socio-Legal Hub Seminar Series – Fragile Hope:

- Seeking Justice for Hate Crimes in India

18 February 2025



LSE Taxation Seminar Series – “From Zero to Hero: The Invention of VAT as the World’s Consumption Tax”

19 February 2025

LTS Research Seminar – Patents Used in Patent Office Rejections as Indicators of Value

20 February 2025

PIL Hub Seminar – The Violence of the Law

20 February 2025

Conference – Making Climate Law Work: Moving from Commitments to Results

28 February 2025

LTS Book Launch: Jorge Contreras, *Sub-Patent Innovation Rights: Utility Models, Petty Patents and Innovation Patents Around the World* (CUP, 2025)

4 March 2025

Socio-Legal Hub Seminar Series – Terror and Technicalities: Looking for Life in Delhi’s Courts

6 March

PIL Hub Seminar – Economic Nationalism as the Fourth Era of International Trade Law

11 March 2025

Golem Seminar – Reimagining Prosperity

19 March 2025



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LSE Taxation Seminar Series – Making Tax Law: the role of HMRC Legal Group in legislation, litigation and international treaties

20 March 2025

LTS Book Launch – Madhavi Sunder and Haochen Sun, *Intellectual Property, Covid-19, and the Next Pandemic* (CUP, 2024)

21 March 2025

International Law and the Art of the Deal: Ukraine, Russia and the United States

24 March 2025

Legal and Political Theory Forum – “Political Parties and State Power”

26 March 2025

PIL Hub Seminar – Imperialism, Inequality and Human Rights

27 March 2025

LSE Taxation Seminar Series – “Micro vs Macro Corporate Tax Incidence”

2 April 2025

International Society of Public Law British-Irish Chapter PGR/ECR Workshop

30 April 2025

Two-day Conference on Polycritical Law

8-9 May 2025

The Digital Markets Act before the European Union’s Courts

16 May 2025

Book Launch – Robert Graig, *Royal Law: Prerogative Foundations* with commentary by Lord Sales

3 June 2025

Two-day Conference on The Law and Finance of Private Equity and Venture Capital

11-12 June 2025



Social

Brighton Getaway

25 October 2024

Capstone Bootcamp

6 November 2024

Undergraduate Dean’s Lunch

12 November 2024

Postgraduate Dean’s Lunch

19 November 2024

Festive Event

27 November 2024

COMMUNITY/ENVIRONMENT



LLB Cumberland Lodge
Residential Weekend

24-26 January 2025

LLM Welcome Back Event:
Fairground Games

4 February 2025

LLB 3rd Year
Annual Dinner

5 March 2025

LLM Cumberland Lodge
Residential Weekend

14-16 March 2025

LLM Annual Dinner

19 March 2025

LLM Boat Party – End of
Exams Celebrations

19 June 2025



Staff Updates

We warmly welcome Professor Andrew Murray as the new Dean of the Law School. As he begins his 25th year at LSE, Andrew could not be more qualified to take on this position, having previously served as Deputy Head of Department and as Director of LSE Online, where he headed up the School's offering of executive and extended education programmes.

Through his research in AI regulation and human autonomy, cyberlaw, and online platform governance, his career has driven forward the exploration of legal issues raised by emerging technologies. He established LSE's first Information Technology law course, authored *Information Technology Law: The Law and Society* (the go-to text for law undergraduates across the country), founded the thriving LSE Law, Technology and Society research hub, and has advised governments at home and abroad on internet and e-commerce regulation.

At a time where technological advances provide both challenges and opportunities for higher education and the legal profession, Andrew is uniquely equipped to guide us with insight. We can't wait to see how Andrew's leadership will energize teaching, research and collaboration across the School.



New starters

Marisol Alarcon – LLM Service Delivery Manager
Dr Damian Clifford – Assistant Professor
Lucy File – Receptionist and Team Administrator
Dr Neli Frost – Assistant Professor
Beth Glover – Events Coordinator
Dr Ashfaq Khalfan – Director of the Sustainability Regulation Observatory
Dr Lee Mager – Digital Innovation Lead
Behnia Naemi – Legal Advice Clinic Coordinator
Saher Osman – Legal Advice Clinic Deputy Director

Lucy Rickman – LLB Programme Administrator (our former Receptionist and Team Administrator)
Alison Sze – Exams and Assessment Administrator
Kenta Tsuda – LSE Fellow
Dr Eleanor Whittingdale – LSE Fellow
Dr Elisabeth Widmer – Erwin Schrödinger Postdoctoral Fellow
Alexandra Zaleski – Communications and Marketing Manager

Incoming new starters

Professor Carsten Gerner-Beuerle – Professor (Starting Jan 2026)

Leavers

Dr Chaloka Beyani – began his appointment as UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and UN Under Secretary General
Dr Alex Evans – concluded fellowship
Dr Lora Izvorova – concluded fellowship
Praise Olawanle – started her training contract at law firm
Dr Szymon Osmola – took up a lectureship at Edinburgh University
Mohid Malik Rehman – moved to US
Mike Twyman – took on a new role in the Admissions team

Dr Ayse-Gizem Yasar – took up a role at École Normale Supérieure (Paris)

Promotions

Jacco Bomhoff – promoted to Professor
Giuseppe Capillo – promoted to Events Officer
Devika Hovell – promoted to Professor
Richard Martin – promoted to Associate Professor



EXECUTIVE LLM

THE LLM FOR WORKING LAWYERS

The Executive LLM at LSE Law School offers experienced lawyers the opportunity to earn a master's degree of equal standing to the full-time LLM, without putting their careers on hold.

This flexible, part-time programme is delivered in intensive week-long teaching sessions in central London, enabling participants to study while they work. Taught by world-leading academics, the Executive LLM attracts a truly international cohort of senior legal professionals, creating a dynamic environment for learning, networking and exchange.

Participants can tailor their studies by choosing from a wide range of courses across seven specialisms:

- Corporate and Commercial Law
- Financial Law and Regulation
- Competition and Innovation
- Human Rights and Constitutional Law
- International Law
- European, Comparative and Transnational Law
- Law, Politics and Social Change

Join a global community of legal professionals and advance your expertise with a degree from one of the world's leading law schools. Begin your studies in April, September, or December.

Visit lse.ac.uk/law/study/ellm for more information.

SHORT COURSES

WORLD-CLASS LEGAL EDUCATION DESIGNED FOR WORKING PROFESSIONALS

LSE Law School's executive short courses offer intensive, week-long learning experiences for legal and industry professionals seeking to deepen their expertise while working. Delivered online and in person in London, these courses combine academic excellence with practical insight and global perspectives.

Current courses:

- Regulating the Digitalisation of the Financial Services Market (Fintech)
- State Aid and Subsidies Regulation
- Global Financial Regulation
- Advanced EU Competition Law
- Specialist Course on the EU Digital Services Act (+ Certificate)

New for 2026:

- Update on the Digital Services Act
- Legal Aspects of Private Equity and Venture Capital
- Legal Aspects of Sustainable Finance

Visit lse.ac.uk/law/study/short-course for more information.





ONLINE CERTIFICATE COURSES

6 – 8 WEEK ONLINE COURSES FOR WORKING PROFESSIONALS

LSE Law School is one of the world's top law schools with an international reputation for the quality of its teaching and legal research and is one of LSE's largest and most pre-eminent departments with over 60 scholars. It enjoys a uniquely diverse academic community with staff, students, and alumni from all over the world. They all bring an unparalleled international and interdisciplinary outlook in teaching and researching law.

Data: Law, Policy and Regulation online certificate course from LSE explores the role of law in the digital space by contextualising legal principles and concepts related to data and technology regulation. Developed by leading academics from LSE Law School, the content draws on the strengths of the school's innovative research and academic excellence to immerse you in pressing legal debates in data protection and algorithmic regulation. By the end of this online course, you will have gained the skills to think critically about the relationship between technology, policy, and the law, and a better understanding of the issues of digital data ownership and exploitation.

getsmarter.com/products/lse-law-gdpr-and-data-protection-online-certificate-course

The Regulation Strategy online certificate course from LSE is designed to provide both regulators and those in regulated industries with a firm grounding in the key features and processes of regulatory strategy, and offers the tools to help you think critically about how regulation should be designed and evaluated. You will

learn to identify risks affecting regulatory compliance and understand how to perform risk management. Using cross-sectoral and cross-national examples, this course allows participants from a range of backgrounds to gain highly transferable skills and remain up to date in an increasingly dynamic field.

getsmarter.com/products/lse-regulation-strategy-online-certificate-course

The Law and Economics of Mergers and Acquisitions online certificate course will provide you with a toolkit for navigating the structures and legal issues of corporate transactions. Designed by experts from LSE Law School, the course gives you the knowledge, insight, and confidence to play an active role in managing deals. You will examine the different types of corporate transactions, including hedge fund attacks, private mergers and acquisitions (M&A) deals, and hostile takeovers. Drawing on case studies and modern finance and economic contract theory, which has significant practical relevance, you will become equipped to approach corporate transactions holistically. You will also examine the jurisdictional discrepancies across the UK, US, and EU Member States, and learn to navigate the drafting and negotiating requirements.

getsmarter.com/products/lse-the-law-and-economics-of-mergers-and-acquisitions-online-certificate-course

Explore the portfolio:

lse.ac.uk/certificatecourses

LAW RATIO



LISTEN TO LSE LAW SCHOOL'S PODCAST, *RATIO*:



lse.ac.uk/ratio-podcast-spotify



lse.ac.uk/ratio-podcast-apple



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RATIO Law Podcast

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