

LEEDS LAW

School of Law
Alumni Magazine
— Issue Six 2020

SHAPING THE FUTURE TOGETHER



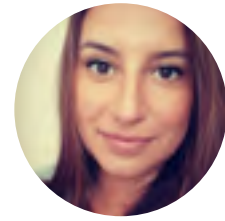
UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



School of Law
Alumni Magazine

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HEAD OF SCHOOL

Professor Alastair Mullis

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FEATURES

- | | |
|---|--|
| 03 TEACHING IN THE TIME OF COVID-19
Professor Nick Taylor | 13 MENTORING
Coming full circle |
| 03 THE POLICING OF CRIME
Advances in data analytics | 15 FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD
Food trade and food waste in a post-Brexit Britain |
| 07 PARKS IN A PANDEMIC
A glimpse into the future? | 20 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Volunteer experiences |

REGULARS

Welcome	02
School News	05
Staff News	08
Alumni in the Spotlight	11
Student News	18
Alumni Events	21
Finalists' Photographs	23

Welcome

This year was always going to involve some change for the Law School with Professor Alastair Mullis moving to take up the role of Interim Executive Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the start of January 2020.

As Deputy Head of School I was to assume the position of Interim Head of School during Alastair's term as Interim Executive Dean and it was to be a fairly straight-forward task of holding the fort until his return in January 2021.

In autumn 2019 School life continued much as normal.

We welcomed our new undergraduate students in September with an Induction Day at Headingley Stadium conference facilities, and the year settled into its established rhythm of lectures, seminars and activities that brought together our thriving School community.

Starting in October 2019 these included Head of School suppers, Law's Got Talent in December 2019, Chinese New Year celebrations in January 2020 and, throughout the year, alumni talks and dinners, and community engagement and pro bono activities, many of which you will read about in this magazine.

But then, in March 2020, the Law School and the University fell quiet. The School has seen many changes in its 121 year history, but it is unlikely that any have been more dramatic than those that have taken place in these recent months as a result of lockdown and COVID-19. In a testament to the resilience and determination of staff and students, the life of the School has continued. Almost immediately, in the space of a week, the School community went online. This was an astonishing achievement by both colleagues and students at such a time of uncertainty and challenge. Both have shown tremendous adaptability and dedication in learning new skills and approaches in order to engage with teaching and learning, research, student support and administration in the new, online world. Though the challenges of the situation cannot be under-estimated, as things have settled down new routines have established themselves.

Our colleagues have responded to this new world not only through dramatically reorienting how they teach and support students, but also through research that addresses the societal challenges posed by COVID-19. This includes considering how it will impact international trade, crime rates, the human rights implications of COVID-19 legislation and the role of parks in a pandemic. Colleagues have reached out and spoken to the media and policy makers on a number of occasions to promote public understanding of the issues society faces on a range of issues. Our students have also responded: Lauryn Graham, an undergraduate law student whose time abroad in Shanghai was cut short went to work for the NHS helping to recruit staff; Peng Wu, a student on our LLM in Corporate Law, attracted a global Twitter following by daily publishing data on the virus that predated the Government daily briefings. Further information about these contributions and others can be found on our web pages [here](#).

At a time of such pivotal change it is poignant that the theme of this magazine is that of looking to the future. There is continuity and strength in what we do. The School still ranks among the very top schools of law for student education and we continue to pursue excellence in student education and research. You will read in the following pages about some of our student successes and our research achievements. But we are not complacent. We are conscious that there is more that we can do to strengthen our community, which is at the core of what we are about. At the time of writing there are protests in many countries, including the UK, in support of Black Lives Matter. We are committed in the School to building on the work to address the awarding gap of BAME students, to decolonising the curriculum, and to supporting research agendas that engage with racism and social injustice.

As our very recent past has demonstrated we are more than capable of meeting the challenges ahead and we will continue to strive to make a real difference to the world. Whether this is through our research or through supporting our students to become graduates who will go out and make significant contributions to society. This is, after all, the year when an alumnus of the Law School became the Leader of the Opposition (Sir Keir Starmer '85).

We achieve through the efforts of our powerful community of staff, students and alumni and that is why remaining in touch with you, our alumni, is so important. You are our best ambassadors, and you support us in many ways. For this I and the School are very grateful. It has been hugely important in enabling us to push the School and our students to new heights and we will continue to involve you as we move forward into the future. I would like to end by sending, on behalf of everyone in the School, our very best wishes to you and your families.



Professor Joan Loughrey
Interim Head of School

Teaching in the time of COVID-19

When I arrived at Leeds as an undergraduate student in 1989 things seemed somewhat simpler. There were considerably fewer students, fewer modules and as a result an easier timetable. Tutorial groups were around six in size and it was always the same six of us attending tutorials across our first year modules

At the outset this seemed really good. I got to know the other five students incredibly well. In other ways, perhaps not so good. The consistency of that group perhaps militated against meeting other people and getting out of that early comfort zone. The layout of the timetable – which, bizarrely, I still have in an old diary – was simple because everything was taught in the same manner: two lectures per week for each module and a seminar every two weeks. Lectures were very traditional: they talked and I listened. Some wore gowns. There was usually a handout for lectures and I must admit that for the less interesting lectures I used to draw a clock on the handout and shade it in as time passed.

Tutorials were small but not dissimilar to the seminars most of our current students will be familiar with. Perhaps the biggest difference was that they were always in the tutor's room. I can remember quite a few occasions when several of us would squeeze onto a sofa or get the seat next to the gas fire. There was certainly less note taking – there were no real facilities for that. No laptops, no internet but definitely some rose tinted spectacles

I have held the Director of Student Education role for 10 years over two periods of time and whilst there have been changes to teaching practices Law and Criminology do remain rather conservative. There has been considerable debate in recent years about the value of lectures, particularly as they can now be recorded and watched at home. There are some clear advantages to recording but I have to say I am still a fan of a good lecture. A live lecture has the ability to inspire and enthuse where perhaps the recording can't. That the lecture still survives can't all be about its efficiency – it still does have value in the right place. However, like so much of society, the global COVID-19 pandemic may have lasting consequences for teaching practices.

Initially, as the pandemic spread in the UK universities had to react swiftly by bringing face-to-face teaching to an end. Materials were moved online and face-to-face teaching became virtual face-to-face teaching as people everywhere became familiar with the terms Microsoft Teams and Zoom. Inevitably, given the enormous impact of the pandemic, the move to teaching online was somewhat haphazard and certainly lacked the long-term planning one would like. The new term from September 2020 will be different. Whatever the field of work – industry, the professions, public service – online interaction is bound to become part of the 'new normal'.

As such, I suspect teaching is about to undergo considerable change. The need for social distancing will, certainly in the short-term, place lectures on the backburner. The success or otherwise of a digital approach may ensure they do not return. Online small group classes will present new challenges as well as opportunities. I do enjoy the rigorous interaction that virtual face-to-face classes require. Concentration is greater and there is little opportunity to zone out. There are many reading this that will have been surprised at the effort one needs to put into a successful virtual face-to-face interaction. Perhaps that will mean shorter classes but ones that are more testing, more focused. Perhaps these will be small – groups of six to fit easily on the screen. In fact, one may be sat on the sofa in front of the gas fire at the same time. Plus ça change



Professor Nick Taylor
Director of Student Education

L

As technology improves, crime and the policing of crime is changing

We spoke to our Academic Fellow in Quantitative Policing and Crime Data Analytics and Associate Professor, Dr Dan Birks, about how advances in data analytics can help us to better understand, predict and disrupt crime problems in the future.

Dr Dan Birks holds degrees in criminology, cognitive science, artificial intelligence (AI) and computer science and has previously held academic positions at University College London, Griffith University in Brisbane, and the Australian Research Council's Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security. His research interests lie at the intersection of criminology, data science and AI and he has over 15 years' experience working in applied criminal justice and public policy settings in the UK and Australia.

Dan is one of 24 researchers awarded a prestigious Alan Turing Fellowship at the University of Leeds, following the launch of a partnership announced in 2018 between the University and the UK's national institute for data science and artificial intelligence. Fellowships are awarded to individuals with proven research excellence in data science, AI, or a related field.

Dan is also part of the N8 Policing Research Partnership – a £7million research collaboration between eight research intensive universities and 11 police services across the North of England. In addition, he is principal investigator on projects exploring how data analytics can help police better understand and anticipate future demand (funded by UK Research and Innovation's Strategic Priorities Fund and administered through the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and The Alan Turing Institute).

How would you explain the area of research that you are doing?

I'd call myself a computational social scientist, so my research sits somewhere between the social and computer sciences. Broadly speaking my work looks at how advances in computational methods can help us better understand, predict and prevent crime problems. And, ultimately, how public sector agencies might use computational methods to support evidence-based, ethically sound decisions that translate into better outcomes for citizens and societies.

What is the most interesting aspect of your work?

Crime is a problem that spans many discipline areas. One of the things I find most interesting is thinking about how we can translate expertise and insights from fields outside the social sciences to study crime problems. I'm very lucky to work with colleagues from a wide array of disciplines – geographers, computer scientists, mathematicians, economists, physicists, biologists, along with criminologists, historians and lawyers. All of them have unique ideas, perspectives and methods that can be insightful in considering crime problems that have often primarily been studied from a sociological perspective.

Who would be making use of your research?

A lot of my research is done in collaboration with public sector organisations and it's really important to me that what I do is ultimately useful to those people who can produce meaningful change. To that end, my research has been used fairly extensively by police and their crime reduction partners, but I'd like to think it's also useful to other organisations whose activities influence crime – be they urban planners or product manufacturers.

What is your view on the ethics of data being captured and used to help prevent crime?

I don't need to tell you that our everyday lives now generate vast quantities of data. The advent of these data have led to big advances in techniques that try to harness that data. As with any sort of enabling technology, these advances can produce both good and bad outcomes. With recent news stories, there's understandably been worries over data collection and technologies applied both by private and public sector organisations.



What's really important here is the need to develop and maintain relationships, dialogue and knowledge exchange between those who conduct research, those who use it and those who it might impact on.



Dr Dan Birks

Considering how these approaches might be applied by the police, there are groups who oppose all applications of AI in criminal justice settings. My worry is that this type of thinking can distract from what's really needed – meaningful, problem-specific conversations about where specific technologies might help and where they're not appropriate.

It's vital that we think proactively about the ethical implications of any technology in the context in which we actually propose to use it. Those sorts of discussions require a level of specificity that simply can't be achieved with blanket statements about the advantages or disadvantages of particular technologies.

What's really important here is the need to develop and maintain relationships, for dialogue and knowledge exchange between those who conduct research, those who use it, and those who it might impact on. It's a complex challenge undoubtedly, but it's only through this sort of collaborative and inclusive working that we can ensure that technology delivers outcomes that helps rather than harms citizens and societies.

Could you give an example of your research?

Over the last decade, a lot of my research has centred on how computer simulations can help us better understand crime problems, and how one day they might let us test out potential responses to them. When a crime occurs a whole host of factors are involved – the movements, behaviours and preferences of potential offenders, victims and crime preventers, and the interactions that occur between them and the world around them. All of these things influence when and where crime occurs and by and against whom it is perpetrated. The fundamental challenge we face is that for the most part, these processes go unobserved, and instead we're left analysing their outputs – the crime event itself. That's not necessarily a bad thing: analysing crime patterns allows us to ask important questions like 'does this neighbourhood have more car thefts than others?' or 'are people of a certain age more or less likely be victims?' The answers to these questions are clearly useful for thinking about ways to reduce crime.

In an ideal world, we'd want to unpick the interplay of all the factors that lead to a crime taking place – so that hopefully we could identify and address those that would prevent that crime from happening.

But for a range of wholly understandable reasons this is simply not possible – at least not at the scales that would be desirable for real insight. One potential solution to this problem is to try to build computer simulations of crime. With advances in technology and data we can now start to build computer models of our societies, which we can observe and manipulate at will. Using these models we create virtual cities and populate them with simulated citizens, each with their own unique characteristics and behaviours drawn from the best research evidence. Using a model we can then run simulations and observe our virtual populations interacting – comparing what we observe in the simulation to what we see in reality.

Obviously a simulation will only ever be a simplification of the real world – but it can offer important insights in a number of ways. For instance, we might use a model to test how good our theories about crime actually are. If we believe people act in a particular way, we make our simulated population emulate these behaviours and then observe the patterns of crime that emerge. If they don't look anything like the crime we observe in the real world then our theories are probably wrong. Most importantly, building models forces us think carefully about what we think is happening around us – this is key for building better crime theories, but also for criminal justice practitioners who need to think about all the interconnected pieces that influence the complex systems within which they work.

What does this research aim to help with in the long term?

When our models start to produce enough outcomes that do look like reality, we can use them as a sort of virtual laboratory to explore potential crime prevention interventions. In the real world there are many challenges that come with evaluating potential crime reduction interventions. Imagine, for instance, we want to assess how redesigning street networks or new methods of dispatching policing resources might impact on crime: conducting real world experiments to explore these questions introduces a host of significant logistical and ethical challenges that restrict the speed of progress.

But using a simulation we can start to ask 'what if?' type questions – modelling the possible futures that might result under different circumstances.

We're still a long way off being able to accurately predict exactly how a particular intervention would fair in a specific real world context, but our models are already very useful in thinking about the processes that influence crime and the effectiveness of our responses to it. As our models get better we should be able to identify responses that are likely to produce the most positive or negative outcomes and, in turn, devise real world trials of those that look the most promising.

I've used these techniques to investigate a range of problems, from exploring how street network configurations influence crime risk and how illicit firearms trade networks are structured to avoid detection, to how police services can anticipate and organise their resources to respond to changes in demand. Most recently, I'm part of a project that will look at how computational models might be used to understand and anticipate the likely crime impacts of varying societal and policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.



1

NSS success – School is 2nd in the Russell Group for student satisfaction

For the 5th year running the School has been ranked in the top 6 law schools in the Russell Group (24 universities in the UK that are renowned for the quality of their research) for Student Satisfaction by the National Student Survey (NSS).

The independent annual survey is one of the key indicators of how students rate their time at university and was completed by more than 300,000 final-year students in the UK in 2019

The NSS asks final-year students about many of the factors that are most important to them, including aspects of their teaching, their subject and their community.

Professor Alastair Mullis said: “Our position in this key survey of what students think is a testament to the talent and hard work of our international body of staff and students. For me, this speaks volumes about their commitment and care.”



We are also delighted to have been ranked 4th in the UK for Criminology in the Guardian University League Table 2020.

2

Faculty of Social Sciences achieves Bronze Athena SWAN Award

This award follows an assessment by Advance HE and recognises work undertaken across the Faculty (of which the School of Law is a member) in promoting gender equality.



Speaking of the award, Professor Alastair Mullis commented:

“We are delighted to have achieved the Athena SWAN Bronze award. It is a testament to the work of colleagues across the Faculty and I express my sincere thanks to everyone who has played a part in this achievement. Our task now is to build on this. We recognise the need to ensure that gender equality remains an absolute priority for the Faculty. However, ultimately, our aim is to achieve an environment in which all can thrive and in which equality, diversity and inclusion are just a natural and central part of everything that we do.”

In May 2015 the Charter was expanded to recognise work undertaken in arts, humanities, social sciences, business and law (AHSSBL) in professional and support roles, and for trans staff and students. The Charter now recognises work undertaken to address gender equality more broadly, not just barriers to progression that may affect women.

Athena SWAN awards are available in Bronze, Silver and Gold at both institution and departmental level.

3

LUBS/Law Transformation Programme

The LUBS (Leeds University Business School) and Law Transformation Programme is a multi-million pound strategic initiative which involves the significant development of new and existing estate in the Western quarter of the University of Leeds campus, where the Liberty Building (home of our School since 2011) is situated.

It will help realise the vision of a holistic Western Campus experience for students including innovative teaching facilities of a world class standard and high-quality accommodation that will enhance the student and staff experience, supporting new academic development in both research and student education.

The second new building to be developed as part of the programme has been officially named the Esther Simpson Building, after a truly inspirational University of Leeds alumna.

Esther Simpson, who graduated from Leeds in 1924 with first class honours in French with German, spent nearly all her working life as secretary to the Academic Assistance Council (later, the Society for the Protection of Science and Learning, SPSL). She was awarded the OBE in 1956; the French Government made her Officier d’Académie, and, after her retirement in 1966, she received two honorary doctorates, including one from Leeds in 1989.

The innovative teaching centre will provide world-class facilities that support participative learning and create an inspirational setting for staff and

students – a fitting tribute to someone whose “tireless work reflects the values of the University.”

Prominent features of the building – due to open in autumn 2021 on what was the Purple Zone car park in Cloberry Street – include new Trading Rooms, flexible teaching areas and Behavioural Laboratories to enhance and innovate ways of teaching.

Professor Alastair Mullis said: “The School of Law is incredibly excited about the opening of the Esther Simpson building, which will provide a transformative teaching space close to our Liberty Building home on Western Campus and allow us to further develop our student experience. We are delighted that this building will be named after such an inspirational University of Leeds alumna, who personified the values of tolerance and inclusivity.”

The flagship building will house collaborative and inclusive learning spaces to enable the delivery of activities to support students to develop the knowledge, skills, behaviours and professional competencies to better equip them for working in a global environment.



This computer-generated image shows how the new building will look once completed

4



Sir Keir Starmer visits School

In January, the School welcomed back alumnus Sir Keir Starmer (Law ’85) to the Liberty Building to speak to students in the Moot Court Room about his career journey, how his studies at Leeds had inspired him to become a human rights lawyer and his ideas for the future of the country. Keir was subsequently elected as leader of the Labour Party in April.

“In his professional life, Keir has always sought out daunting challenges,” said Professor Emeritus Clive Walker, Keir’s former lecturer. “Whether death penalty cases in the criminal courts, the reform of policing in Northern Ireland, or the direction of public prosecutions. In that light, his manifold talents will again be put to effective use in his new and important public office.”

5

European Law Students’ Association

On 8 – 10 November 2019, the School was proud to provide the venue for the European Law Students’ Association (ELSA) UK National Council Meeting which was hosted by the local ELSA UK group from the University of Leeds.

The National Council Meeting is the forum where officers of ELSA UK receive their training and the national network sets its agenda. On the final day of the event the Organising Committee compiled an international participant programme to allow ELSA members from across the continent to explore the history and beauty of Leeds.

6

Staff/student reverse mentoring pilot



Lecturer Rachael O'Connor is involved in an ongoing project to introduce a reverse mentoring scheme, which is commonly adopted in the legal sector, into the School.

Partly supported by the Leeds Institute of Teaching Excellence (LITE) Catalyst Fund, this pilot project explores the impact of 'reverse mentoring' between international students and members of staff in the School of Law.

Reverse mentoring – what is it?

Reverse mentoring is all about finding ways to empower millennials and Gen Z in the workplace, centred on 'role reversal' and flipping traditional power dynamics on their head. For example, it has been used in the legal sector as an attempt to improve diversity in more senior roles by pairing senior male board members with junior female solicitors.

This is the first study to explore reverse mentoring between students (mentors) and staff (mentees) from a diversity and inclusion perspective. In this study, students are encouraged to take the lead, sharing their experiences of being an

international student here at Leeds and providing their mentees with information and tools that could positively influence the way their mentees teach and interact with students in the future.

The findings of the reverse mentoring project will be relevant to a number of important debates around the international student experience, student wellbeing, diversity and inclusion and staff/student relationships (ie Role of language in discipline-specific knowledge and understanding and An Evidence-Based Approach to Embedding Resilience Within the Curriculum etc).

[Find out more about the reverse mentoring scheme here.](#)

(Note: this project is also partly funded by the Association of Law Teachers.)

7

Partnership Awards

The annual Leeds Partnership Awards celebrate the achievements of staff and students who truly put The Leeds Partnership into practice.

The University of Leeds and Leeds University Union bring staff and students together to create and agree a shared set of expectations known as The Leeds Partnership.

The Leeds Partnership is made up of three core commitments relating to both students and staff:

- to be responsible, accessible and respectful
- to prepare for, engage with and contribute to learning at Leeds
- to help each other to reflect, develop and improve.

Every year, The Leeds Partnership runs an awards programme designed to recognise and celebrate staff and students who personify the values of The Leeds Partnership that are so essential to the student experience at Leeds.

Nominations for the 2020 Partnership Awards closed on Monday 17 February 2020 and over 2,700 nominations were received – each of which celebrates the work done at the University of Leeds.

Congratulations to all our Faculty winners:

- Niamh Byrne (Community Engagement Activities Co-ordinator) – Innovation award
- Dr David Churchill (Associate Professor in Criminal Justice) – Best Supervisor (PhD) award
- James Johnston (Student Support Officer) – Equality and Inclusion (staff) award
- Dr Sam Lewis (Associate Professor in Criminology and Criminal Justice), – Global (staff) award
- Dr George Zhou (Associate Professor), – Inspirational Teaching
- Ziheng Feng (Intellectual Property Law Masters student) – Wellbeing (student) award
- Student led group Women Breaking Barriers – Positive Impact (Group) award.

9

Centre for Business Law and Practice receives prestigious Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence award

The Centre for Business Law and Practice (CBLP) has been successful in its application for European Union funding to establish a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence in Digital Governance.

The Jean Monnet Centre will be a collaboration between CBLP and the Law schools of Erasmus University Rotterdam (Netherlands) and Bar Ilan University (Israel).

The CBLP will co-host the Jean Monnet Centre over the next three years with the two partner institutions. The amount of the award is €100,000 which will be used to organise workshops, host visiting scholars, create Massive Online Open Courses, and develop and disseminate joint research.

Two CBLP staff members are part of the Jean Monnet Centre: Professor Pinar Akman, who will sit on the Board of Directors of the Centre together with Professor Klaus Heine (EUR) and Professor Oren Perez (Bar Ilan), and Dr Konstantinos Stylianou.

The Jean Monnet Centre will explore the impact of advanced digitisation under three main themes:

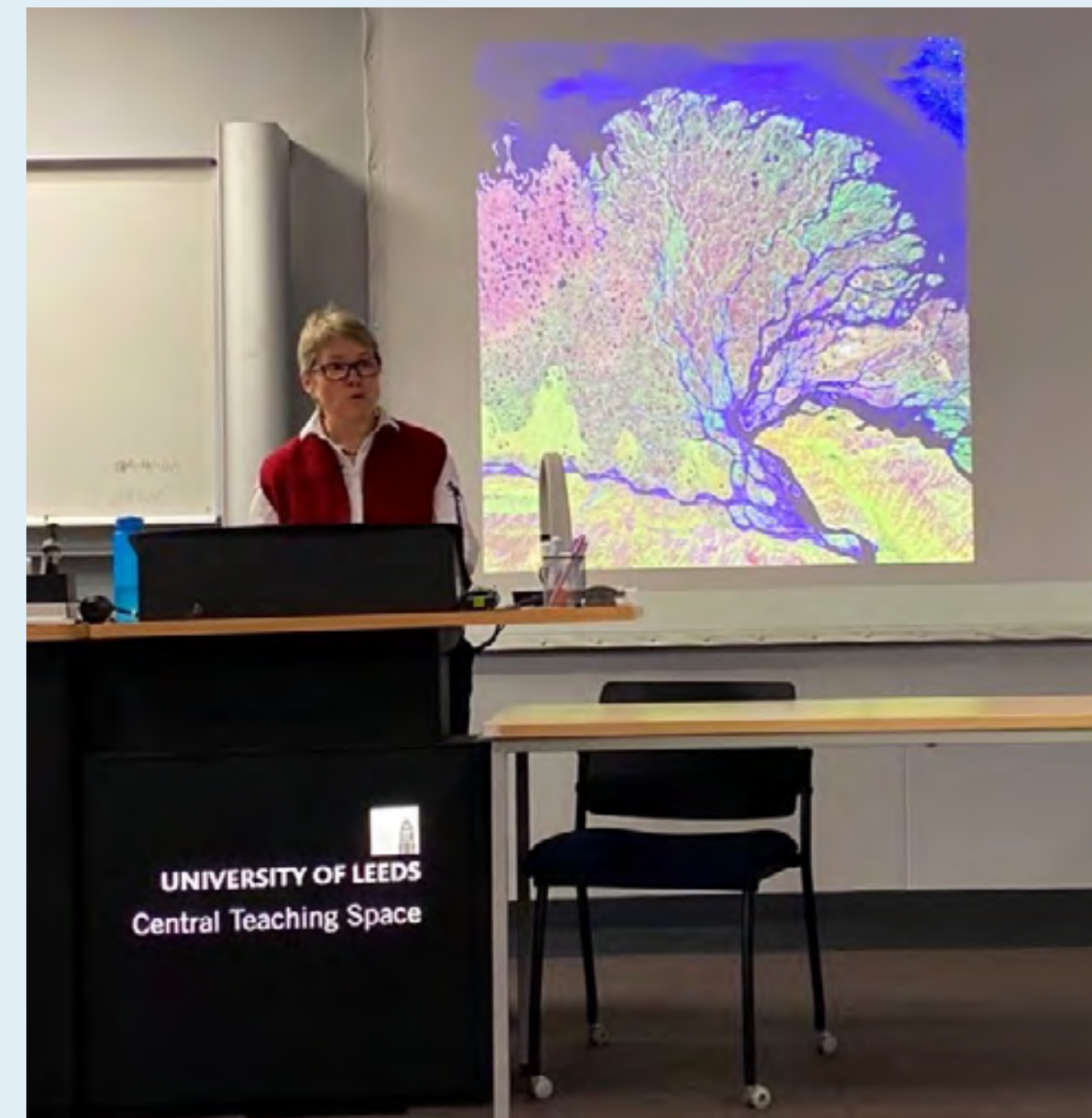
- 1) the transformation and disruption of incumbent business models and of the current market environment
- 2) the interaction between public and private modes of digital regulation
- 3) the challenges of data governance in the era of big data and advanced data analysis.

A Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence is a focal point of competence and knowledge on European Union subjects. It brings together high-level experts to create links between the various disciplines and resources in European studies and to form links with academic institutions in other countries.



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Visit our online news page here.



8

Margaret Davies gives Law and Social Justice Annual Lecture 2019/20

In October 2019 the Centre for Law and Social Justice held their Annual Lecture which launched the Centre's fifth anniversary programme of events (five in total, addressing their main research themes, with the title The Future(s) of Social Justice).

Professor Margaret Davies (Flinders University, Adelaide) spoke in the lecture entitled 'Addressing Social Fragmentation and Drift'. In the following day's roundtable there was a discussion around her most recent book, *Law Unlimited: Materialism, Pluralism, and Legal Theory* (Routledge GlassHouse 2017), which won the SLSA theory and history book prize in 2018/19.

Dr Jen Hendry, Director of the Centre for Law and Social Justice said: 'The Centre for Law & Social Justice was delighted to host Professor Davies for the Annual Lecture in our Fifth Anniversary's year. Her 2017 book *Law Unlimited: Materialism, Pluralism, and Legal Theory* is fast becoming a contemporary classic, and to have such an innovative and generous scholar with us for a few days was a pleasure and a privilege.'



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Parks in a pandemic: A glimpse into the future?

Dr Anna Barker is currently working on a collaborative project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Big Lottery and Nesta, 'The Leeds Parks Fund: Developing a Model for Charitable Giving to Parks' with Leeds City Council, Leeds Community Foundation and the Leeds Parks and Green Spaces Forum. The project forms part of the national Rethinking Parks programme.

Anna recently completed a major research project, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and supported by Leeds City Council Parks and Countryside Department, on people's experiences and expectations of urban public parks across time. The Leeds Parks Project was a two-year multi-disciplinary Arts and Humanities Research Council funded project 'The future prospects of urban parks: The life, times and social order of Victorian public parks as places of social mixing' (Grant No: AH/N001788/1, 2015–2017). It explored expectations about the social role of urban public parks in the past, the present and the future, and examined how these relate to people's everyday experiences of the park and its regulation. This was a collaborative research project with the School's Dr David Churchill and Professor Adam Crawford.



This article was first published on 2 April 2020 by Discover Society and is written by Dr Anna Barker and Dr Andrew Smith (a Reader in the School of Architecture and Cities at the University of Westminster).

It is based on a series of online discussions involving the authors and several other UK academics, including Nicola Dempsey (University of Sheffield), Jill Dickinson and Adele Doran (both Sheffield Hallam University), Helen Hoyle (University of the West of England) and Meredith Whitten (London School of Economics).

One of the more surprising aspects of the COVID-19 lockdown in the UK has been the political and media attention dedicated to parks and green spaces. There seems to be a new awareness of the importance of urban green spaces for wellbeing, particularly for citizens who do not have access to private gardens. Some people have flouted social distancing rules, provoking threats that parks might be closed if national guidance is not followed, but the government is now urging local authorities to keep them open. At the

beginning of World Parks Week (25 April – 3 May 2020), the government announced a further 340 parks and green spaces had reopened. As academics interested in parks, we welcome this renewed appreciation and visibility. It places a spotlight on the precarious position of parks following a decade of budget cuts, their lack of legal protection and status as a discretionary rather than statutory service. The impact of disinvestment was acknowledged by a parliamentary inquiry in 2016–17 which warned that Britain's "parks are at a tipping point, and failure to match their value and the contribution they make with the resources they need to be sustained could have severe consequences." Three years on, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced politicians to acknowledge the benefits of parks and to think about how public access might be sustained. The pandemic has changed the ways parks are used and managed and in this article we assess the significance of these changes and discuss their likely legacies. The coronavirus crisis will have lasting effects but we also suggest that the current situation provides a glimpse of the kinds of parks we may see in the future.

Recent research on what parks might become in the future identified six possible images of tomorrow's green spaces. However, futures are unpredictable; they constitute the unfolding of a multiplicity of factors, only some of which may be knowable. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic for parks is – to use an analogy popularised by Taleb – a 'black swan'; a highly improbable or unexpected event that has long-term ramifications and socially transformative consequences. In the UK, unlike in some other countries, public parks have generally remained open during the period of lockdown to allow people to take daily exercise. Yet there are huge variations in the availability and quality of parks across England.

This unequal access has been accentuated during the coronavirus crisis, as people have been required to 'stay local'. This is a particular problem in London where more than half of households do not live within the recommended maximum distance (400m) from a park. While we know that most people's experience of nature is close to home, local parks are not always preferred by a significant minority of park users. Nearly a third of Leeds parks users, for instance, travel beyond their immediate locality to access the attributes and facilities of another park. A lack of facilities, accessibility needs, not enough things to do, insufficient size and anti-social behaviour are all factors that can all push people to travel to non-local parks. Therefore, as the UK lockdown began, it was unsurprising that people gravitated to popular, well-resourced parks, making it difficult to maintain safe distances between users.

New regulations are enforced by a mixture of old-fashioned visible policing and social media shaming.

To allow urban green spaces to stay open, our parks have had to change. But what are the long-term legacies of the crisis for parks; will any of these changes be retained once the lockdown is over; and can the current situation be regarded as an experiment to test different ways of managing parks?

The main legacy is likely to be a serious crisis in park funding. Local authorities were already struggling to resource adequately parks following a decade of austerity, and there is likely to be even less money available in the next few



years. Around 30% of park funding comes from commercial sources – mainly from car parking charges, concessions, events and other activities that have been curtailed.

Hopefully, there may be some positive legacies too. In the context of closures to pubs, museums, cinemas, libraries and so forth, visiting parks has become a more essential, displacement activity.

Many people have adopted new exercise routines away from indoor gyms and have discovered green spaces near to where they live. Some of these new behaviours may be retained. The new visibility of parks may increase use, and the lack of commercial installations (e.g. cafés, attractions, events and other organised fun) may make people more aware of the simple joys of nature.

However, it is also possible to think of parks in the pandemic in a more negative light: as a glimpse of dystopian future. We now have parks without social interactions which cater for individuals who keep their distance and do their socialising online.

Ultimately, the crisis has reminded everyone about the social value of accessible green space. The government minister responsible for parks and green spaces from 2018-19 was an up and coming politician called Rishi Sunak.

When this crisis is over, public parks are going

to need the support of Mr Sunak in his new role as Chancellor of the Exchequer to ensure that people will still be able to enjoy accessible and convivial parks long into the future.

With physical inactivity the fourth largest cause of mortality in England, and increasing pressure on mental health services, this investment will also help to protect the NHS and save lives, even when people no longer have to stay at home.



Dr Anna Barker


**THE ARTICLE CAN BE FOUND
 IN FULL ON THE DISCOVER
 SOCIETY WEBSITE**

1

Dr Mitchell Travis was interviewed by BBC Yorkshire and Lincolnshire's Inside Out programme as part of their investigation into adults who learn of their sex characteristic variation later in life



During the filming Associate Professor in Law and Social Justice Dr Mitchell Travis presented a seminar to fourth year students currently on clinical placement at Hull Royal Infirmary as part of their MB BS Medicine programme at the University of Hull.

The programme drew upon research conducted primarily at the University of Leeds by Dr Mitchell Travis, Professor Michael Thomson and Dr Josh Warburton, along with Dr Fae Garland from the University of Manchester. This project approached NHS hospitals in England and Wales with Freedom of Information requests in order to assess whether they were following international standards of best practice.

Mitchell said: "Intersex people are so often misunderstood or culturally ignored that promoting visibility for them and their stories is vitally important. My work helps to contextualise those stories, to show the constraints upon legal and medical choices in this area, and to empower intersex people to challenge these constraints."

The programme was aired on Monday 17 February 2020 on BBC One Yorkshire and Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.

Read more about the topic in a follow up article featured on [BBC News online](#) which quotes Mitchell: "I think the most surprising thing for me was the variation in terms of who gets access to best practice in this area and who doesn't, and it is a huge regional variation."

Mitchell's work was also featured in a [Law Society podcast](#) on intersex issues and was cited by Egale, a Canadian Human Rights Charity, in their report '65 Reasons: The Rights of Intersex People in Canada'.

2

Professor Emeritus Clive Walker cited in Scottish Parliament

Professor Emeritus Clive Walker was appointed as a specialist adviser to the Select Committee which helped draft the Civil Contingencies Act in 2004.

Clive's work as a specialist adviser to the Select Committee, which helped to draft the Civil Contingencies Act, has been cited by Liam Kerr (Conservative MSP) in a Scottish Parliament debate in May 2020 on the Coronavirus (Scotland) (No. 2) Bill.

Liam Kerr said: "In 2009, a House of Lords Select Committee, the Constitution Committee, recommended a raft of measures to ensure that emergency powers are exercised appropriately. Clive Walker, who is professor of criminal justice studies at the University of Leeds, gave evidence to the inquiry. He has said that:

'The various parliamentary stages are there for good reason. Members of both houses get to properly debate and discuss the issues, while people outside ... can also lobby and make a contribution. If you have legislation that's being enacted in a week, then none of this happens. There isn't time to take evidence.'

Clearly, that is correct."

3

Professor Alastair Mullis joins Middle Temple as Honorary Bencher

Our Head of School and Interim Executive Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences Professor Alastair Mullis was elected an honorary bencher of Middle Temple.

The position of Honorary Bencher is an incredibly prestigious one and the whole School is very proud of Alastair.

4

Dr Suzanne Young has secured a Fellowship with the Leeds Institute of Teaching Excellence (LITE)

Lecturer in Criminal Justice Dr Suzanne Young's project will commence in September 2020 and is titled 'Transitions through university: Exploring expectations and motivations of undergraduate students'.



The study aims to provide an insight into what drives student decision-making when choosing an undergraduate course and whether motivations change whilst students transition through their degree. It uses the experience of Criminology students as a case study.

The study seeks to generate a better understanding of student motivations in order to feed into curriculum design and employability strategies.

Suzanne said: "I am grateful to the Leeds Institute for Teaching Excellence (LITE) for recognising the value of the study and I am excited about the impact it will have at Leeds at in other institutions nationally."

5



Professor Iyiola Solanke, Chair in EU Law and Social Justice, has been invited to join the Universities UK (UUK) Advisory Group on Racial Harassment in Universities

Professor Solanke's role within this group will see her working with university leaders, expert academics, student representatives and interested organisations to enable all higher education providers to take action in response to the report 'Tackling racial harassment: universities challenged (2019)'.

Iyiola said: "I applaud the Equality and Human Rights Commission for its study and Universities UK for its rapid response.

"Since creating the Black Female Professors Forum I have discovered how widespread and damaging racial harassment is to talented students and academics in the sector.

"In order to make racial diversity a reality in universities, we must ensure our universities are spaces in which Black and minority ethnic staff and students can thrive."

6

Dr Or Brook wins Law Faculty Prize from University of Amsterdam

Dr Or Brook, Lecturer of Competition Law, has been awarded the Law Faculty Prize of the University of Amsterdam for the Best Publication of the Academic Year 2018/19 for young researchers.



The prize was awarded for her article 'Struggling with Article 101 (3) TFEU: Diverging approaches of the Commission, EU courts, and five competition authorities', published in the Common Market Law Review.

The 2004 reform of EU competition law has decentralised enforcement. Nowadays, almost 90% of the enforcement is carried out by the 28 EU national competition authorities (NCAs). Since the application of the EU competition provisions merits a wide margin of discretion, the NCAs' national, economic, and political traditions are prone to lead to a fragmented application. Despite that, the reform was based on the assumption that the obligation to apply the same Treaty provisions is sufficient to ensure a uniform administration of the law.

This paper questions that assumption. Based on a large database of over 3,100 cases it presents empirical evidence indicating that the Commission, EU courts and five NCAs have followed very different interpretations of the law. The paper uses the debate over the types of benefits that can be taken under Article 101(3) TFEU to justify an otherwise anti-competitive agreement as an illustrative example of the struggle between the different competition authorities in shaping the future of EU competition policy.

Or said: "I'm truly honored to receive this award, especially since the empirical study of EU and competition law is an unusual approach in Europe. I believe that this recognition from the University of Amsterdam is a testament that this is starting to change."

7

The University of Hull has awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, to Professor of International Law – Professor Surya P Subedi

This has been awarded in recognition of Professor Subedi's accomplishments in the field of international law and human rights.

Surya had obtained an LLM with Distinction and a prize for best LLM student of the year in 1988 at Hull.

Surya said he was honoured by the recognition of his accomplishments by his alma mater.

Upon completion of his LLM, Surya won an FCO scholarship to study for a DPhil (PhD) in Law at the University of Oxford and obtained his degree with a prize in 1993.

Last year, Oxford awarded him the highest degree – the Doctor of Civil Law (DCL) – in recognition of his contribution to international law and human rights. Oxford has also established two endowed law prizes named after Professor Subedi.

Both prizes honour outstanding performance by Oxford law students.

The first prize is the Dr Surya Subedi Prize in Human Rights Law, to be awarded to the undergraduate student attaining the highest mark in the paper in Human Rights Law in the Final Honour School of Jurisprudence each year.

The second is the Dr Surya Subedi Prize for the DPhil in Law, to be awarded to the best doctoral thesis in the Faculty of Law each year – specifically the thesis that makes the most exciting original contribution to the relevant field of scholarship and is best-crafted in terms of organisation, style and presentation. All doctoral students in the Faculty of Law, including in Criminology and Socio-Legal Studies, will be eligible for the award.

8

Dr Subhajt Basu has been awarded the prestigious Hind Rattan Award for 2020, an accolade given to Indian nationals who have made exceptional contributions to society



The Hind Rattan (a Hindi phrase, which translates to English as “Jewel of India”), is awarded by the NRI Welfare Society of India under the umbrella of the Government of India and is one of the highest Indian diasporic awards granted annually to non-resident persons of Indian origin.

The award recognises Subhajt’s “outstanding services and scholarly achievements in the field of Information Technology Law.”

Subhajt received the award at the society’s Annual Congress in New Delhi on the eve of India’s Republic Day (26 January 2020) in conjunction with the national “Pravasi Bharatiya Divas” celebrations. The ceremony was attended by senior members of India’s government and Supreme Court, international ambassadors, scholars, and other dignitaries.

Subhajt said: “I feel humbled to receive this award. I accept it with the understanding that everything I have managed to achieve is because of values my parents instilled in me, for my education both in India and in the UK and due to the brilliant teachers I had in my life again both in India and the UK. It is really a proud moment for me to accept this award for my contribution to the development of Cyberlaw.”

9

Professor Fiona Smith gives evidence to House of Commons International Trade Committee on the effects of COVID-19 on international trade



On 30 April 2020 Professor Fiona Smith gave evidence to the House of Commons International Trade Committee.

The School of Law’s Fiona Smith, Professor of International Economic Law and N8 Chair in AgriFood Regulation and Bob Doherty, Professor of Marketing and N8 AgriFood Chair at the University of York, gave evidence on the effects of COVID-19 on international trade and the impacts on the food system. Fiona spoke about a number of different issues in her testimony, including: the difficulty of diverting food away from restaurants and into supermarket supply chains; the problems some farmers in the UK are having when sourcing animal feed as it is imported from countries affected by the virus; moral responsibilities given that access to food is a human right; workers across supply chains being ill with COVID-19.

She suggested, as a potential next step, that the UK look into new supply routes and information about trends in trade could be helpful when doing this and in considering the long-term impacts. Fiona explained that it will very much depend on whether countries will attempt to increase domestic production at the expense of global supply chains.

10

Leeds academics to investigate COVID-19 crimes

The impact of COVID-19 on crime in England will be interrogated by Leeds academics, thanks to a £666,000 grant.

A team of six researchers from the University of Leeds and UCL were successfully awarded the funding from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), following a call for projects looking at the implications of COVID-19 policies on wider society.

The 18-month project will be led by Graham Farrell, Professor of Crime Science at the School of Law, and will work with the Metropolitan Police, and the Durham and Lancashire constabularies to collate information and data about the levels and types of crimes following the outbreak of COVID-19.

Graham said: “The pandemic has changed the face of crime. Some crimes such as shoplifting decreased due to shop closures, and burglary due to increased guardianship as people stayed home.

“However there is some evidence that crimes including domestic violence and various types of fraud have increased. Online crime opportunities have increased with more people working remotely and with increased online leisure activities.”

He added: “We will also try to anticipate the effects of various possible scenarios as lockdown is rolled back, hoping to increase the chances of maintaining any gains in reduced crime and trying to avoid offenders ‘making up for lost crime’.”

The researchers will work with a national advisory group from the Home Office, the College of Policing and the National Police Chiefs’ Council, and draw on expertise from around the world through an international advisory group of scholars from Australia, the Netherlands and the USA.

The team of researchers includes Dr Dan Birks from the School of Law, Professor Nick Malleon from the School of Geography and three academics from UCL. Two post-doctoral research fellows will also work on the project, one at Leeds and one at UCL.

11



Professor Anna Lawson delivered the keynote presentation ‘International Consultation on Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities’ at the Indian Social Institute, Delhi (17 January 2020)

In January 2020, Professor Anna Lawson (accompanied by Dr Liz Andrews, who manages her project on Inclusive Public Space) took part in two events on disability and human rights in India.

The first was hosted by the Indian Social Institute in New Delhi. While the Institute is well-known for its human rights work with other marginalised groups, this was its first engagement with work in the disability field. The three-day event brought together hundreds of disabled people, academics and advocates from across India and beyond. It culminated in a moot court, in which Anna sat on the judges bench, presided over by Justice Madan B Lokur, (a retired judge from the Supreme Court of India), alongside Justice Anand Mohan Bhattarai (a judge in the Supreme Court of Nepal), Justice AP Shah (former Chief Justice of the High Court of Delhi) and Justice Prabha Sridevan (a retired judge from the High Court of Chennai). The moot problem was based on a recent case in the Indian Supreme Court which ruled that blind people could not become judges. With Anna (herself blind) on the bench, it is perhaps not surprising that the outcome of the moot proceedings took a different approach.

The second event was an academic conference held at the Indian Law Society Law College at Pune and co-hosted by that organisation and the Centre for Disability Studies at the University of Leeds (of which Anna is a joint director). This dynamic and thought-provoking event, which attracted an impressive number of excellent papers from students as well as from academics, lawyers and activists, was organised by Prof Sanjay Jain. Shortly after the event, Sanjay was elected as the Principal of ILS Law College – becoming the first blind person to occupy such a role in India.

12

Dr Konstantinos Stylianou among winners of Facebook’s content policy research awards

In June 2019, Facebook launched a request for proposals focused on content policies, inviting project bids from all disciplines and countries in the world. Proposals were evaluated through a competitive process, and Konstantinos and his co-investigator at FGV Brazil project on the ‘Co-evolution of Facebook’s Content Policies & International Instruments’ was one of the 11 projects selected.

The project was awarded \$63,000 with a full economic cost of £100,000, and it was the first time that the University of Leeds was awarded Facebook Research funds. The project will track the evolution of Facebook’s content policies since the beginning and examine how they respond to freedom of speech standards as they themselves have evolved through the emergence on numerous international instruments.



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Visit our online news page here.

L

Alumni in the Spotlight

The School has many interesting and inspirational alumni who have been successful in a variety of roles.



Mark Hughes with Professor Alastair Mullis and a group of students from the School of Law in February 2020.

Mark Hughes ('79)

The evening of Thursday 13 February the School welcomed back 1979 alumnus and former Group Chief Risk Officer for Royal Bank of Canada, Mark Hughes, to speak to current students about his career.

Mark Hughes graduated in 1979. After receiving his MBA from Manchester Business School, Mark joined the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC). He recently retired after 37 years with RBC. His last role was the Group Chief Risk Officer based in Toronto. Over his career, he has worked in London, Amsterdam, Curacao, Montreal and New York. He is currently the chair of the Global Risk Institute, on the board of ParticipACTION, on the advisory council for the IACPM and on the audit committee of the Toronto District School Board.

Mark and his wife Anne, also a Leeds graduate, are active with the Toronto alumni of Leeds, have assisted with undergraduate student scholarships. Mark has also participated in the Leeds leadership programme in NY and delivered a number of guest lectures at Leeds.

President of the Law Society (2019/20) Quinton McAndrews said of the event: "It was wonderful to spend the evening with Mr Hughes. The stories and experiences he shared with us throughout the night were motivating and insightful. I'm extremely grateful to have such alumni at the School of Law who are generous in their time and caring in nature!"



Leon Collins ('52)

Leon is one of our oldest alumni, graduating in 1952. Leon lives in Leeds where he has been a successful solicitor all his working life.

1. Leon with Professor Alastair Mullis at the 120 year reunion.
2. This photo of the Class of 1952 was most kindly gifted to us by Leon (third from the right on the second from bottom row) who found it in a box of old belongings. The picture also features three Student Union presidents: Barrington Black; former Supreme Court Judge in Gibraltar, prominent QC Gilbert Gray and Edward de Graft Johnson who was the first Black President of the Student Union.



What advice would you give to yourself as an undergraduate?

To get a good degree and realise that entry into the law profession is not the only future. With a good degree from a faculty like the one at Leeds so many interesting and varied career paths are now open.

Why did you choose Law and why Leeds?

No reason other than a belief that becoming a lawyer would be the only way I could repay parents for the sacrifice they made in sending me to university. Being at University was only possible by my going to the one in my home town, living with parents and taking on weekend and vacation work.

Do you have any funny memories from your time at Leeds?

We had a professor who absolutely loved fishing. He went so far as to turn up to give a lecture in his retirement year in his waders and full fishing gear.

What is your career highlight?

After I graduated I started on my own as a sole practitioner initially working from my bedroom and after nine years merged with the oldest firm in Leeds which was started in 1850 and consisted of an unbroken chain of father and son solicitors. The highlight being that I only took nine years to build up a firm to the same size that had taken them over a hundred.

Have you been back to the University?

Often. Quite apart from how the University as a whole has developed, it is unbelievably impressive that the Law School transformed itself from one extreme to the other; from Lyddon Terrace to the Liberty Building. I hope the present day students realise how fortunate they are.



TO FIND OUT MORE
PLEASE CONTACT

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Hafsah Hussain ('18)

Hafsah was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in November 2019 and, as a newly-called barrister, asked a question on Question Time in December 2019. Hafsah asked the panel about legal aid cuts and access to justice which have affected the most vulnerable in society. This was a particularly important topic to address as it was the last televised cross party debate before the election polls.

Hafsah on the day she was called to the Bar in November 2019.



Hafsah's question and the response was covered in the national press, given the importance of the topic it addressed. Hafsah is currently shadowing Harriet Johnson, led by fellow former School of Law graduate Katy Thorne QC ('92) on a murder trial in Manchester led by Doughty Street Chambers.

Why did you choose the topic of legal aid cuts?

As a newly-called barrister, I chose to ask the panel about the cuts to legal aid as it is often the most vulnerable in society that are denied access to justice. Legal aid does not get much coverage during election campaigning. The BBC Question Time 'under 30s election special' was the last cross-party televised debate before the polls took place. The discussion from the panel was a rare opportunity to put legal aid and Young Legal Aid Lawyers' #3PledgesforJustice on the national agenda. It was important to ask the Government for firm commitment to legal aid spending, to ensure access to justice.

What change would you like to see in this area – what are your hopes for the future of legal aid?

I would like to see a firm commitment to the pledges outlined by Young Legal Aid Lawyers (YLAL):

1. Make legal aid available to ordinary people.
2. Bring back legal aid for social welfare law.
3. Pay legal aid lawyers fairly for the vital work they do.

I would also like to see a collective effort between lawyers and the public on the issue of legal aid, which can only happen once misconceptions of spending are disproved. I would encourage everyone to read The Secret Barrister's book 'Stories of the Law and How It's Broken', which provides a comprehensive insight into the justice system and access to justice. Additionally, there is a misconception that lawyers are in a homogenous group and are 'fat cats.' There is a difference between earnings in Commercial and Corporate Law and in areas such as Family Law and Crime. By extension, the extent of cuts to legal aid is not always fully understood. There is still more work to do and it is an ongoing challenge.

What are you personally doing to improve access to justice?

I became a member of Young Legal Aid Lawyers (YLAL) and support their access work. YLAL hosted a post-election meeting in Leeds where the next steps in the campaign were discussed. I volunteered in drafting part of YLAL's response to the Civil Justice Committee Rapid Consultation on Remote Justice during COVID-19 and I would encourage everyone to read the [comprehensive report](#). It raises valuable perspectives on the positives and difficulties of remote hearings in different practice areas, face to face impact, open justice, vulnerable clients and lack of access to technology. I am a Contributor for the Human Rights Pulse platform and [wrote about justice for vulnerable individuals in an age of technology](#). It is important to raise awareness of all forms of injustice.

I will also be supporting the upcoming Legal Walks and the Yorkshire Legal Support Trust (YLST) to raise money for access to justice for the most vulnerable in society. Alongside access to justice, I am also keen to ensure there is access to the profession and that lawyers are representative of society. Recent Bar Council diversity statistics reflect that more work needs to be done and I am currently working on a few projects around this. It was great to return to the School of Law to host an application advice session with Marika Hildebrandova (Senior Employability and Placements Officer) and a mock scholarship session with Professor Oliver Lewis. I started a blog called '[Leeds to the Bar](#)' which focuses on access to justice, social mobility and my journey to the Bar. Access to justice work is ongoing and is a collective effort: I will continue to share my ongoing work in this area and hope to get current students and fellow alumni involved!

Nadia Kerr ('92)

Nadia is a Partner at JMW Solicitors in Manchester. She qualified as a solicitor in 1995 since which time she has acted for and secured compensation for hundreds of injured claimants, many of whom have sustained injuries on bikes and motorbikes. Formerly Head of Cycling and Motorbike claims at Pannone LLP, where she was also a Partner, Nadia is also a founding member and chair of [Team Glow](#), a women's cycling group based in South Manchester. Nadia campaigns for road safety and is a steering group member of Walk Ride Greater Manchester. Nadia also gave evidence to MPs at the House of Commons Transport Committee Active Travel Inquiry in March 2019.

What advice would you give your past self who was entering the School of Law in their first year?

If I had my time again I would spend more time socialising, making memories and lasting connections with likeminded people. I would also want to spend more time productively... doing more sport, being creative and helping people. I think I was too focussed on studying back in those days.

Why did you chose to study Law at Leeds?

The city centre location with a campus feel suited me and was a big draw for me. I am a Northerner and I wanted to stay in the North. I knew others who were going to Leeds and the law course was held in high esteem and it offered me the options I wanted.

What is your favourite memory from your time at Leeds?

Heading off in the car for days on the beach at weekends with my friends and a BBQ.

Were you involved in any societies/clubs/volunteering etc?

I played sport and was in the women's cricket club, the squash club and I swam. I had a go at rowing but the law course was demanding of time and I didn't stick with that (I wish I had).

Who was your favourite lecturer/professor?

Of course, the Welsh man, Professor Howard Davies who taught me tort. He was very amusing and entertaining.

Where has your career taken you?

I graduated from Leeds in 1992 and moved to York where I studied my Law Society finals at the College of Law. I then started my career training

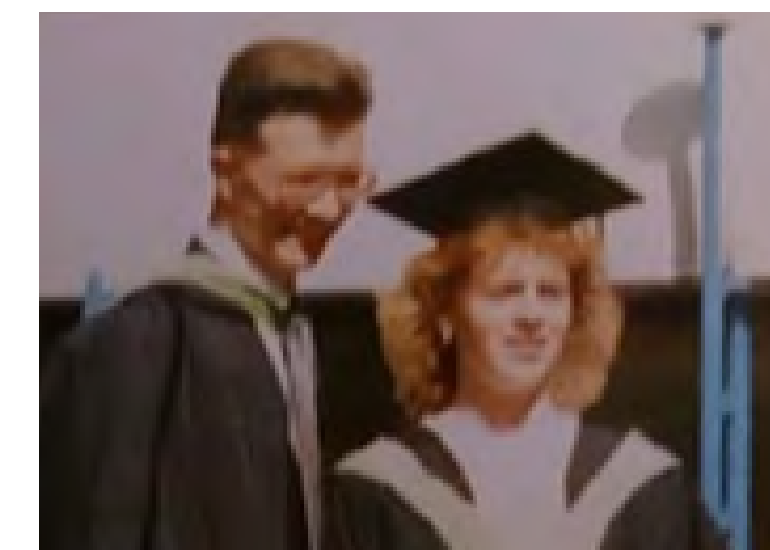
at Farleys in Blackburn (and later my home town, Burnley) where I qualified and practised in Claimant personal injury for five years. In 2000 I moved to Pannone LLP in Manchester where I worked alongside some of the best Claimant Personal Injury (PI) practitioners in the country. I became a Partner at Pannone LLP in 2003. For a time I pursued actions against the police and prisons and dealt with death in custody cases, often appearing at jury inquests. I then moved my focus and became Head of Cycling and Motorbike claims and dealt with serious and catastrophic injury cases together with, inevitably, fatal cases.

What is your current role and where do you live?

I live in Manchester and I am a Partner at JMW LLP. I head the cycling claims team which is a unit within the Claimant PI department. I run a niche unit representing vulnerable road users and I campaign for road safety improvements so that accident numbers can be reduced and so that I can plan to retire!

What has been your career highlight to date?

I enjoy the campaigning work that I do and the media coverage that is generated from that work. I regularly appear on TV, radio and in the press commenting on road safety issues, particularly on potholes which are a very real danger to the cyclists and the motorcyclists I represent. In 2019 I gave evidence to the House of Commons Transport Select Committee on active travel issues which was broadcast live. Active travel addresses the main crises of our time – poor air quality, inactivity and climate change. It will also help us manage the current COVID-19 pandemic as we need to move to more and more social distancing and isolation.



Nadia with Professor Nick Taylor on their graduation day in 1992.

How did you first become interested in road safety and how long have you been a keen cyclist?

I cycled as a child. I returned to regular cycling when I started working. In 2011 I co-founded a women's cycling network in Manchester called Team Glow and I have since cycled around 5,000 miles each year in the UK and abroad. My personal injury work informed me about road safety issues in acute detail. My cycling gave me first-hand knowledge of the dangers and I resolved to try to make a difference. In 2018 I began active campaigning aligned with Chris Boardman's work across Greater Manchester as the cycling and walking commissioner. Road deaths and injuries are too readily accepted as a fact of life when the reality is they are shocking and we can do better.

Are there any friends from your time at Leeds that you lost touch with and would like to know what they are doing?

Luckily, Facebook has helped me keep in contact with my core group of friends but I would relish a law course reunion because I am sure there were lots of people I spent time with who have gone on to enjoy interesting and varied lives – it would be great to meet up with them again. Those leaving the law course to become practising solicitors and barristers can be traced online but others are more difficult to find

Have you returned to Leeds/the University often/at all since you graduated?

I have been back to Leeds several times since I left and the city has moved on and evolved impressively since I graduated. I miss the place, even though it is in Yorkshire!

David Ansbro ('66)

David graduated from the School in 1966, was chief executive of York City Council before taking the job at Kirklees Metropolitan Council in 1985. He remained in the position until 1987, when he went on to become Chief Executive at Leeds City Council. In 1991 he joined law firm Eversheds and was Managing Partner of the company from 2000 until he retired in 2003. David was Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leeds from 2000–2007.



“
My favourite memory from my time at Leeds – getting engaged to my wife Vron in 1966. 54 years later we are still together.
 ”

What made you chose Law and why Leeds?

Law – fascination, interest and a professional ‘base’ in terms of a career and some family history of solicitors. Leeds – my sister was a Leeds alumna ('63) so I already knew the place. It also wasn't too far from my home (Manchester) and as my Father had died in my last year at school and my Mother was on her own I wanted to be somewhere which was relatively easy to get home from.

What advice would you give your past self who was entering the School of Law in their first year?

With due modesty don't undervalue yourself. I was a bit 'lucky' to get in and therefore felt that I wasn't as deserving as others so I was possibly a bit overawed and introspective to begin with.

What is your favourite memory from your time at Leeds?

Getting engaged to my wife, Vron, outside Waterman's jewellers on Upper Briggate opposite the Grand Theatre in 1966. 54 years later we are still together.

Were you involved in any societies or clubs?

I was a member of the Law Society (of course!). I played cricket for the University and soccer for Lyddon Hall and one term I scored a record number of goals... all own goals!

Where has your career taken you?

I had two careers in reality. One as a lawyer and then as a Chief Executive of three local authorities including Leeds City Council. When I was in my mid-forties I went into private practice with Hepworth & Chadwick in Leeds. Hepworth & Chadwick then became part of Eversheds.

What was your last role before retirement?

I was the first Managing Partner of the integrated Eversheds which became a leading national and international firm.

What has been your career highlight?

Being in a position to help others develop, reach and fulfil their potential.

Have you kept in touch with the University since you graduated?

Yes, I was for a while the President of the University Cricket Club and from 2000 to 2007 I was the University's Pro-Vice Chancellor, which was a very special privilege.

L

Mentoring – coming full circle

In 2014 the School launched our 'Career Mentoring Scheme' – an initiative designed to help our undergraduate students forge valuable relationships with professionals and organisations in the legal and criminal justice sectors.

In the past six years nearly 600 students and over 250 mentors have taken part in the scheme and hundreds of successful working relationships, connections and even friendships have been borne.



Paul Kelly

We spoke to one of our longest serving mentors, Paul Kelly ('00 LLB), Partner and Head of the Employment team at Blacks Solicitors in Leeds, who is in his fifth year of mentoring

What is your stand out memory from being at Leeds as a student?

Being at Leeds at the end of the '90s when the city was really coming into its own was fantastic. The music and club scene exploded and it was a really exciting time to be in the city. The North was beginning to challenge London and big law firms were opening up here.

Were there any kind of mentoring opportunities like this when you were a student?

No, not at all. The careers service was good but there was no practical help for going through the interview process. There was help available for drafting of CVs but you weren't able to actually practise interviews with people from the industry.

Did you have any lecturers/professors who you still remember fondly?

Nick Taylor and Ben Fitzpatrick were both legends and were a bit of a double act back in the day. I'll always remember an occasion where Nick had to assess one of Ben's lectures and they must have had some kind of challenge where Ben had to get as many ABBA quotes as possible into his lecture and Nick was cracking up on the back row.

How did you first get involved in our Mentoring Scheme?

I had been helping out for a few years with a mentoring scheme at the University of Law where students would get paired up with a solicitor for a year, and from there I then started to appear on employment panels at the University of Leeds and talk about what it was like to work in a firm like Blacks. Following one of these panels I had a conversation with Marika (Senior Employability and Placements Officer at the School) and she asked if I would be interested in being part of the School's new mentoring scheme.

Why have you kept mentoring each year?

A few things. Firstly, I enjoy it! It certainly keeps you grounded, (and I say this cautiously!) it is nice to give back and it keeps my interviewing skills up to speed! I don't think I knew how to conduct myself in an interview when I was a student so I am happy to be able to impart that knowledge.

In law you do come across people who are not ready for practice and it is much harder now than it was when I was coming through University to find a job. The competition is so fierce and supply is out stripping demand.

I also think people can go very blindly into the practice of law and you can get yourself into a lot of debt with no guarantee of a job. Because of this I think that it is important that people already in the profession explain to students what the hardships of working in this sector are and do as much as possible to make sure they are prepared for this.

How do you approach your first meeting with your mentee?

I will arrange to meet them somewhere, definitely away from the University, either at my office or in a coffee shop. I think making it informal is a good approach. I get to know what their aspirations are; some people have very set ideas about what they want to do and others really have no idea!

Have you had any great mentors in your life?

I would say I've had two. The first is a criminal solicitor based in Liverpool called Eric Williams who I did work experience with during high school and university – it was a fascinating introduction to the gritty side of law, drug importation, murders, and then later financial crime.

The second would be our managing Partner here at Blacks, Chris who I've worked with throughout my career and learnt so much from, not least developing my networks and the importance of bringing in business.

What advice would you give to a new mentor?

You have got to be honest with your mentees and make it clear that whilst going into the Law is very rewarding it is also tough and there is a lot of competition.

Lois Dale

In the past two years we have also been delighted to witness the scheme come full circle. Students who were mentees during their time at Leeds are now becoming mentors themselves. We spoke to Lois Dale who has done just that.

Lois Dale ('16 LLB) is a solicitor for Pinsent Masons LLP.



What made you choose Law and why Leeds?

Studying law at college was something I enjoyed and excelled at. I liked the prospect of pursuing a professional career and working in a fast-paced environment together with other like-minded individuals. Law and business is ever-evolving so a career in law is exciting and forward-thinking. Studying and practising law has given me a platform to be creative and think innovatively about problem-solving to help clients achieve their commercial goals.

The vibrancy of Leeds and the University stood out to me. I had never been to Leeds before, other than a week's work experience when I was 17. I liked the buzz of the city and the greenery made it feel like a 'home away from home'. When I was applying to study law, the new Law School building had not long been built and was very impressive to say the least, but it was the friendly and approachable people that I had met at the open day that confirmed it was the right place for me.

What role did your mentor play in any career decisions you made?

Claire gave me further insight into law in practice and what it was like to work for a commercial firm. From our discussions I was better able to understand the types of skills that firms, like Shulmans, were looking for in a future trainee and how my experiences might demonstrate those skills. Claire helped guide me through the vacation scheme application process in terms of the type of firm, how many firms to apply for and how to approach the application questions.

What made you decide to become a mentor?

When the opportunity arose, I was keen to participate in the scheme to try to help students with the application process by sharing my own experiences of it. It can be a very daunting time and I wanted to be able to support others in the way I was supported by my family and my mentor.

I have really enjoyed seeing my mentee grow in confidence and start to believe in herself and her abilities. Sometimes all we need is a bit of reassurance to feel confident that we can achieve what we set out to do.

What would you say to any School of Law alumni who are considering becoming a mentor?

Being a mentor is really fulfilling and something I can easily do alongside my usual working commitments. It's great to be able to be able share with your mentee your own personal experiences of joining the legal profession and help guide them through similar processes. It's also quite a nice reminder of how far you have come and gives you the opportunity to reflect upon what you have managed to achieve since graduating from University.

Mentoring is a powerful tool

A mentor works with a mentee to manage their own learning and personal career development.

We are running the scheme to:

- Improve our students' employability.
- Increase our students' employer and commercial awareness.
- Build Law School links with alumni and employers.
- Give our students an opportunity to develop valuable skills such as reflection, goal setting and time management, and to improve their career knowledge and confidence

Mentors benefit too:

- Gain the satisfaction of helping a young person with career planning.
- Develop your relationship with the School.
- Expand your own perspective and enhance your own professional development.
- Make contact with potential employees of the future.
- Enhance the reputation of your own organisation by building strong links with the School.

Do you fit the bill?

- Are you a professional in graduate employment?
- Would you be willing to offer constructive guidance and support to a current second year undergraduate?
- Do you want to see others develop and succeed?


IF YOU ARE INTERESTING
IN MENTORING WITH THE
SCHOOL PLEASE GET IN TOUCH

Marika Hildebrandova
m.hildebrandova@leeds.ac.uk

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Food, glorious food: Food trade and food waste in a post-Brexit Britain

The University of Leeds has a number of interdisciplinary research themes which include Food, Health, Water, Energy, Culture, Cities and High Value Engineering.

The Food Theme addresses the urgency to create solutions to the linked global challenges of food security, environmental sustainability, economic development and the effect of diet on health.



Food trade

Our Professor in International Economic Law Fiona Smith's research focuses on international trade law in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), with a specialist interest in international agricultural trade.

What first sparked your interest in the area of food trade?

I studied International Trade during my Masters degree in 1994 and discovered that it was not the sophisticated system that we have now. The World Trade Organisation (the WTO deals with the global rules of trade between nations; its main function is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible) did not exist and I was particularly struck by the fact that there was no meaningful regulation of agriculture. While I was studying trade a WTO was negotiated which had agriculture in it for the first time and I thought, well, this is very exciting! Agriculture is not a big percentage of trade but yet it has remained incredibly difficult to regulate, and this question 'why is agriculture so difficult to regulate?' has been a lifelong obsession. It is only recently that I have started to think of agriculture and food as two separate things, which bring different issues and problems, and I am currently focusing more on food.

You have recently spoken at the Oxford Farming Conference (among others) – when you speak at these events, what is the main message you want to get across to your audience?

The area of trade is extremely complicated, many of the rules are very technical and as such are beyond the interests of most people, but it does have very real impact on everyone. So my objective is to be clear and make people understand why what I'm talking about is relevant to them. You don't take away from the complexity of your subject by making it simple but it is a real skill to try and simplify it! It all boils down to how easy will it be for UK farmers and food manufacturers to export UK produced food to the European Union and elsewhere in the world after 31 December 2020 (when the transition period for Brexit ends and the UK is no longer part of the EU in terms of the way we trade with the EU and the rest of the world).

What will happen to UK farmers when we leave the EU trade agreement?

Currently we do not know for sure but a good example of a problem which will arise is that of British lamb. A significant proportion of the lamb that is produced by our farmers in the UK currently goes to France and, as the EU import tax is very high, when we leave the EU it will become very expensive for our farmers to export their lamb to France. If we had left the EU in March 2019 with a 'Hard Brexit' (no deal with the EU), our farmers would have struggled to get markets for their lamb. We do not yet know if they will be able to get markets for the lambs being born this year. Some of it will be absorbed by the UK market and a lot will depend on what the UK's import taxes are and what the UK sets as standards for imported food.

Food standards are something which have been talked about a lot in the press – who will set these standards and what will they be based on?

Currently the EU bans (for instance) imports of US chlorine washed chicken. Chlorine washed chicken itself is safe to eat, but the reason that the EU bans it is because the EU feels the process by which the chicken has got to the point that it needs to be washed in chlorine in order to be safe for human consumption means that the animal's welfare is not checked throughout the rearing process (something which the EU refer to as 'Farm to Fork' quality assessment where at every stage the animal is checked and there are animal welfare requirements including what food the animals is given, the amount of antibiotics the animal can be given, what the process of slaughter is). The US has a completely different system for managing risks to human and animal health and in the UK we have yet to work out where we sit. We know that we are moving away from an EU system but we are not yet sure which way we are going.



Professor Fiona Smith spoke at the Oxford Farming Conference in January 2020 alongside Theresa Villiers (Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs), Craig Bennett (CEO of Friends of the Earth) and Minette Batters (President of the National Farmers Union). She also gave evidence to the House of Commons International Trade Committee in April 2020 on the effects of COVID-19

What does this mean for any potential trade deals with the EU?

It makes any trade deals with the EU very difficult as they do not want to get any US chicken through by accident because it has come through the UK, but the US are desperate to get a foothold in a new market and as such influence the food standards that the UK has

What is your main worry for the future of UK food trade?

The problem is we are currently getting rid of all the EU legislation and bringing in our own rules, so we know that our farming practices have to change, but there is yet to be any decision made on what those changes will be.

Who will be making the decisions about what the UK's new approach to food trade will be?

That is a really good question. There are two bills going through Parliament currently – an Agriculture Bill and an Environment Bill. There are some provisions in the Agriculture Bill on food in terms of food security. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs must report every five years on the food security state of the UK: are we food secure – do we have enough food? But other than that, in the Agriculture Bill there are no real indication of what the food standards and quality will be. In the Environment Bill it says that we are going to move to net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and to do this our farming practices have to change, but this is really all we know.

We also know that the UK is currently negotiating multiple trade agreements around the world and all the countries that want to trade with us all have different standards. So the fear at the moment is that the trade agreements will drive the food standards because we don't have any of our own, other than the ones we got from the EU. So, although it should be the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs it is highly likely to be driven by what happens with the trade policy. The Department for International Trade, the Foreign Office and possibly the Treasury and No. 10 will be pushing for their own interests.

Because the Government has announced that we have to have a trade deal with the EU by the end of the transition period, then the trade agreement will be in place before we have put any food legislation in place. We do have a National Food Strategy

which is currently being conducted by Henry Dimbleby (co-founder of Leon restaurants, the lead non-executive director at Defra and co-author of The School Food Plan) for England specifically, but this report is not due until Christmas 2020, by which time it will be too late to impact on our food standards because the US is pushing for a trade deal before our EU deal comes in.

What advice would you give to regular people who can't impact these decision?

I would say to really look at where your food is coming from. A lot of people have lost touch with what we eat and a lot of us are very busy, we often have no idea where the meat in our local takeaway or pub has come from and it can be very difficult to find out where our food has come from. Buy from farmers markets and your local butchers and greengrocers and check for the food with the highest nutrient content.

“

I would say to really look at where your food is coming from. A lot of people have lost touch with what we eat and ...we often have no idea where the meat in our local takeaway or pub has come from.

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Food waste

Dr Carrie Bradshaw's research examines food waste as a distinct legal and policy problem. As part of this work, she is an Economic and Social Sciences (ESRC) Parliamentary Academic Fellow, working with the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST) to support scrutiny of government interventions to manage food waste in the context of broader food security challenges, particularly against the backdrop of the UK's forthcoming departure from the EU.



When did you first start to become interested in the problem of food waste?

I came to the issue of food waste in the same way most people do (and certainly before I had studied Environmental Law or considered myself an Environmental lawyer): I was confronted with food waste on a daily basis, and was wasting more food than I would like to (and indeed I still do!). But I was an undergraduate in London and was always skint, so I also made ample use of the discount aisle of the supermarket! When I started my PhD, I began to study supermarket power and their role in food waste.

Do you think that individuals should be blamed for the amount of food they waste?

I think it is important for individuals to be mindful of the way they use food. But actually, a lot of my research looks at how food waste is a much bigger problem than just the end 'user' and more how we organise our food supply, rather than blaming individuals.

What does the most recent government policy advise on the issue of food waste?

In December 2018 our government published a new waste policy, The Resources and Waste Strategy, the first major statement on waste for five years. While the Strategy describes supposedly 'new' approaches to addressing food waste, it is actually cleverly using rhetoric and misleading diagrams to distract from the big problems with food waste that start on our farms: overproduction. As I explain in my recent [article](#), the Strategy proposes a number of legislative interventions and policy initiatives to redistribute surplus food, but ignores the fundamental issue that we are producing more food than we need (even allowing for a bit extra for food security). Remarkably, the Strategy does acknowledge the problem of overproduction, but falls short of proposing measures to deal with it. The Government doesn't prescribe cures for its own diagnosis of the problem, it prescribes sticking plasters.

Why are we producing so much more food than we need?

We have a culture of food abundance. Supermarkets will say: people like to see full shelves, they don't like it when the product they want is not available. Now there's a debate to be had about whether that preference starts with us or the supermarkets: either way, this requires a surplus.

And this makes its way up the chain, so that farmers have to produce more. But often, they bear the costs of this surplus: because there are a small number of large supermarkets and a very large number of small suppliers, there are significant power imbalances in the supply chain. Farmers are fearful that they will be 'delisted' if they're unable to meet an order from a supermarket and so they will routinely overproduce, anywhere between 10% and 40%.

Having produced more than a supermarket needs, they then often have to bear the costs of this. Supermarkets may not buy the surplus and some will prohibit farmers from selling this produce elsewhere. In addition, supermarkets sometimes reduce orders at the last minute, leaving farmers with an even larger surplus. The other thing that drives overproduction is supermarkets manipulating cosmetic standards. They will up the cosmetic standard if there is a surplus of a product and only the most 'perfect' products will be accepted. But if a product is in high demand, they will relax the standards.

As a result of all these factors, sometimes overproduced food isn't even harvested, or it's just thrown away: possibly as much as 5 million tonnes a year in the UK alone, not accounting for the overproduction that UK retailers drive abroad.

There is also a challenge at the other end, with consumers. If retailers can get consumers to buy more than we need (through '3-for-2' offers and the like) then this is profitable for a retailer but probably leads to household food waste. This overconsumption encourages overproduction on farms and waste in homes.

So overproduction, overconsumption and waste are routine and systematic, and retailers profit from it.

Has this been helped with the idea of 'wonky veg'?

The problem with the idea of 'wonky veg' is that it is still perfectly nutritious food but we have been conditioned to expect potatoes of a certain colour, carrots of a certain shape, peppers that are bright red. This 'wonky veg' is just as edible and we should instead be normalising the consumption of a variety of 'weird' looking food that is just as nutritious.

What do you think needs to be done in order to decrease food waste in the future?

We need to tackle the role of retailers using law and policy. There are limited ways that individuals can influence retailers but one way is to fill out their surveys. Asda and Sainsbury for example have been big on food waste because they have collected information that their consumers care about food waste. If their consumers don't care about food waste, or don't tell them that they care, then that slides down their priorities and they will stop doing anything about it.

But as I said, we need to stop blaming individuals and expecting too much of them: what we really need is governmental action to address the issue of food waste at the root.

How is your research helping to improve the issue of food waste in the future?

Some recommendations I made in an earlier article are reflected in the recently published Strategy, which now treats food waste as a special case and is beginning to incorporate food waste within agricultural law and policy. But there is still more to be done. The landmark Agriculture Bill going through Parliament includes opportunities to embed food waste prevention both within government obligations around food security, as well as within the contractual relations in the food supply chain. I will continue to feed into the processes around the Bill and relevant enabling powers, in the hope that these opportunities are not lost. I am also writing a report for the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology about food waste reduction and the food system, and that report will continue to support scrutiny of government.



Dr Carrie Bradshaw

1

Law's Got Talent



December 2019 saw the return of the ever popular annual Law's Got Talent competition for its 6th year in Leeds University Union's Stylus.

Students performed before a sell-out audience of their peers and staff. As has fast become tradition, there was another 'surprise' performance by the Head of School, Alastair Mullis, Director of Student Education, Nick Taylor, and School SES Manager, Rachael Taylor, who executed a medley of hits including ones by ZZ Top, Bill Withers and Take That, along with third year LLB students Quinton McAndrews (2019/20 Law Soc President) and Harry Hughes.

The winner, as decided by a democratic vote, was incredibly talented singer Veenea Nair who performed Kehlani's Bright.



Law's Got Talent is a joint collaboration organised by the School, CrimSoc and LawSoc, with sponsorship from BPP and is famous for bringing together the School of Law community for an evening of talent, music and laughter. The event raised a total of £1,078.27 for this year's chosen charity, Leeds Children's Charity.

2

Head of School Suppers

The School continued its Head of School suppers, this year, which are a vital part of our thriving School community.

The first Supper involved a quiz put together by the students on our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee. What better way to break the ice with a new person than try to answer 'Find someone who knows what animal represents the city of Leeds and how they know this?' when you are balancing a plate of food and a drink? Amongst the usual favourites of burgers, pizza and fajitas this year we tried a roast dinner with traditional Yorkshire pudding much to the bemusement of some of our non-Yorkshire students. We discovered very quickly why gravy is not a popular buffet choice. These informal events are popular with both staff and students.



3

Alumni Evenings

Every year the School brings together alumni and students in a series of events and activities that highlight the importance of our alumni as part of the School's community. This year we welcomed back alumni including:

Jonathan Brownson ('90) – a Partner at the Magic Circle law firm Allen & Overy in their Banking Department in London, and is also Global Head of its Leveraged Finance Practice. He advises lenders and borrowers on a range of domestic and international financings, with particular focus on leveraged and investment grade acquisition financings

Sarah Clarke ('96) – Director of Legal and Commercial Affairs at ITV, Sarah joined ITV in 2009 having previously worked as a Senior Associate for Reed Smith LLP and an Associate at Theodore Goddard.

Helen Grantham ('86) – Group Secretary and General Counsel for the Co-op, Helen joined as its Group Secretary in January 2016. Helen qualified as a solicitor in 1989 and for the last 20 years has practised as both a General Counsel and Company Secretary for listed companies working at Board level, most recently for Dixons Carphone PLC.

Sarah Henchoz ('97) – a Partner at Magic Circle law firm Allen & Over. Sarah has considerable experience advising clients on the full range of both contentious and non-contentious employment matters. Prior to working at Allen & Overy, Sarah spent two years as an in-house employment lawyer.

Gill McGreevy ('90) – a Partner in the Real Estate Group of international law firm Hogan Lovells. Gill's practice spans all aspects of commercial real estate, with particular knowledge of, and skills in, development and regeneration projects, retail and leisure asset management and strategy and property investment.

Kama Melly QC ('96) – is widely recognised as one of the foremost female advocates in the North East, known for her technical ability and as a powerful advocate. For the past 10 of her 18 years as a barrister, Kama has specialised in criminal law.

Sophie Mitchell ('09) – a barrister at St Pauls Chamber in Leeds, Sophie has gained a reputation for being the Northern go-to defamation junior. She regularly acts for high profile individuals, companies and the press. As Treasury Counsel, Sophie regularly acts for the Government in sensitive privacy matters.

Typical alumni events include 'Alumni Evenings' each year, which feature a talk and Q&A session with alumni and a drinks reception, all held in the School's Liberty Building. Students who sign up to the talks are also able to give a brief explanation of why they would be particularly interested in speaking to specific alumni and those who provide the most impressive answers join the alumni and our Head of School for dinner.

If you are interested in getting involved with the School in any capacity please contact Beth Hastings-Trew (b.hastings-trew@leeds.ac.uk).

4

Northern Chancery Bar Association

On the evening of Monday 9 March, the School of Law welcomed representatives from the Northern Chancery Bar Association to speak to our students.

The Northern Chancery Bar Association seeks to promote the administration of justice and the interests of professional practice in the field of Chancery law in the North of England.

Mr Justice Richard Snowden, Vice Chancellor, Mark Cawson QC, Chair, and Eleanor Temple, a barrister of Kings Chambers, Leeds, spoke about their careers and the opportunities at the Chancery Bar in the North.

The event was enjoyed by students and guests alike. Rachel Carter (3rd Year LLB) said: "The evening was absolutely fantastic. This was my final talk as an undergraduate and it was probably the best one I have attended. All the speakers gave honest, real and personable advice that has been a great help when considering my future career"

Meanwhile, Eleanor Temple QC said: "It was a great pleasure to meet your very committed students. They were impressive. I have been incredibly fortunate to have been blessed with such an interesting and varied career at the Chancery Bar in the North of England and I very much value the opportunity to give others the same assistance and encouragement that I was given at their early stage."

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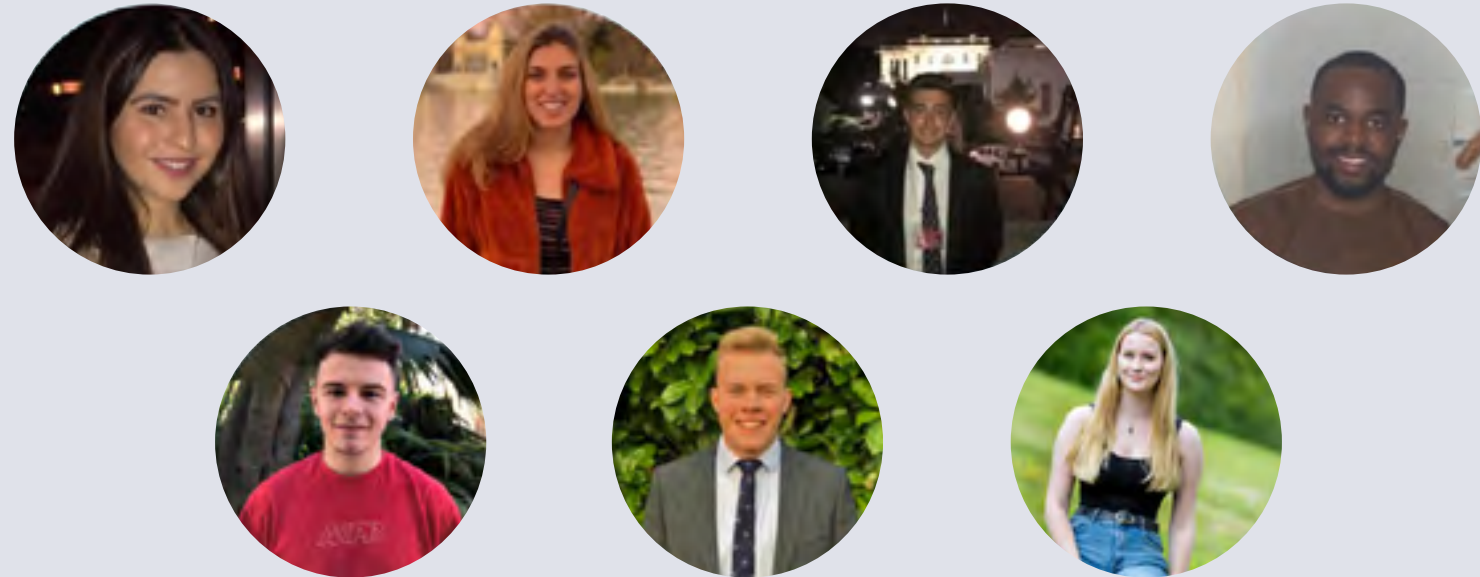


Chinese New Year buffet

On 28 January the School celebrated Chinese New Year with decorations and a buffet in the Liberty Building at lunchtime (although the delicious smell from the food lasted all day!).

6

The Legal Line Up



A group of seven School of Law students and recent graduates (who have all secured vacation schemes or training contracts) have started a blog called [The Legal Line Up](#).

It contains advice on applying to law firms and commercial awareness updates, to help aspiring lawyers secure their dream jobs.

We spoke to one of the founders, Gemma Shohet, a penultimate year Law with Hispanic Law student who recently completed her study abroad at Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

How did the group come together/ where did the idea come from?

In early May 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, a group of seven University of Leeds students and graduates who had secured training contracts and vacation schemes at top international law firms came together and founded The Legal Line Up.

The Legal Line Up is a platform aimed at helping aspiring lawyers from all backgrounds break into the legal profession by providing them with legal and business insights, advice and mentorship. We are also running a commercial awareness competition to win free material to help prepare for interviews.

Each of our co-founders has an interesting journey to commercial law. Some studied law and some didn't, some are from across the UK while others are international. One thing we all have in common is our passion and dedication to making the legal industry more accessible to people from all backgrounds. Since launching in May 2020, we have reached 3000+ readers over 38 countries. We hope that our unique and diverse experiences will help as many aspiring lawyers as possible, from across the world, in reaching their potential!

Do you have any specific aims or goals for the blog?

Since our main goal is to help aspiring lawyers worldwide, we aim to create a variety of content relevant to all stages in students' legal careers. In addition to blog posts and webinars, we plan to venture to podcasts and videos, expanding our network using LinkedIn, Instagram and Twitter.

We also hope to build upon our global outreach. We feel that there is a gap in the market for international candidates; a gap we want to fill. The application process is daunting for international students, as it is difficult to decide which jurisdiction to qualify into and there is a lack of accessible information regarding which firms sponsor international visas. Our co-founder Leen Kayali also highlighted the lack of resources available to help students in the Middle East develop their network, transferrable skills and commercial awareness. We believe that Leen's international network, work experience and training contract will aid us in supporting students worldwide.

7

Three students from the School of Law have been awarded Scholarships from London's Inner Temple

Matthew Lawrenson and Sam Magee have both won Exhibition Awards and Kelsey Marron has won one of only five Princess Royal Scholarships awarded each year.

Kelsey said of her Scholarship: "I simply couldn't be happier. The Scholarship makes starting my journey to the Bar this year possible. Without it, my plans to study the Bar course would be on hold. I've achieved more than I ever thought possible, and I owe a great deal of thanks to the Law School for that. The School has supported me every step of the way. Staff have supported my application with references, they have put me in touch with alumni who have been through the process themselves, they have reviewed my application and have dedicated time to running interview preparation sessions. Most importantly, the School has always believed in me. Without all of that, I truly feel that my success would not have been possible."

School of Law Professor and practising barrister at Inner Temple, Professor Oliver Lewis, had been working with a group of students on interview tips and techniques and was delighted by the news.



WANT TO KEEP UP WITH STUDENT NEWS ACROSS THE YEAR?

Visit our online news page here.

8

Women Breaking Barriers Leeds

As their final speaker event of the year, they hosted Dr Funke Abimbola who spoke of 'climbing mountains' in both the literal and metaphorical sense.

Most recently, they held a breakfast in the School's Liberty Building in celebration of International Women's Day where they raised money for Freedom4Girls, a charity fighting to end period poverty.

WBB President and third year School of Law student Bex Barclay spoke about why she became involved in the network and what she hopes for its future:

"I took on the role of President after joining the committee as a Year Group Representative in my second year of university. One of my main focuses has been on creating an online presence for WBB. With the help of our Social Media Representative, Georgia Brizell, we have been able to increase our online engagement and use social media as an additional platform to inspire and empower students.

"We introduced an online series in September using the hashtag #femalefocusfridays where, every Friday, we have shed light on the journey of a successful woman and the barriers she has overcome."

After a very successful year Bex has said that being President of WBB has been a privilege and that she has loved every moment.

The Interim Head of School, Professor Joan Loughrey, who has been involved in supporting the group from the outset, is delighted at their success.

The future of WBB is bright and in extremely capable hands. The role of President will be taken by Imogen Haywood, a second year Law student who has been involved with the committee since her first year of study. In the next academic year, the students would like to see an increase in male engagement with WBB, as equality for the sexes cannot be achieved without men and women working together, and they also hope to connect more with the WBB network in person or online.

We are delighted that our student group Women Breaking Barriers (WBB) won the University of Leeds Union Partnership Award this year for Positive Impact (Group).

WBB was established in 2015 by students with the support from the School of Law. Its goal is to inspire our women students and encourage them to achieve their potential by providing them with role models of women who have succeeded in all walks of life. Within all professions, there are challenges which every woman will face – from a lack of female leaders and the gender pay gap to issues faced by working mothers. No woman is immune. WBB was created with this in mind, in the hope that a group of School of Law students could work to provide women with the confidence to bring about change. The development of a wider WBB Network was launched in February 2018 with 11 universities. Currently the WBB Network is made up of universities from the North of England including Liverpool, Manchester and Northumbria.

WBB talks and events explore the challenges that women face in the course of their careers, and provide examples of how very successful women role models met and overcame them to rise to the top of their careers.

The students are themselves fantastic role models with their enthusiasm and dedication which has had a tremendously positive impact in the School.

The programme of events began this year in October 2019 with a talk from Professor Aileen McColgan QC, a leading expert in discrimination law, about women in the legal profession.

This was followed by a Confidence Workshop in November, which provided first and second year students with practical advice for tackling confidence issues and avoiding 'imposter syndrome'.

In February, the students welcomed the Scottish Feminist Judgments Project for an interactive afternoon where students rewrote important legal judgments from a feminist perspective.



From left to right: Jordan Denney (Secretary), Bex Barclay (President), Veenea Nair (International Rep), Dr Funke Abimbola, Imogen Haywood (Events Coordinator), Mercy Yap (UG Rep), Ayesha Kuwari (UG Rep), Jessica Kelly (Events Coordinator), Georgia Brizell (Social Media Rep). Not pictured is Gopalika Sreekumar (Network Ambassador).

Community Engagement volunteer experiences

The School's Community Engagement Team has had another hugely busy and successful year. The outstanding work of the staff and students received well-deserved recognition when they were shortlisted in the national LawWorks and Attorney General Student Pro Bono Awards 2020 in the 'Best Contribution by a Law School' category and announced as runners up, coming second only to BPP.



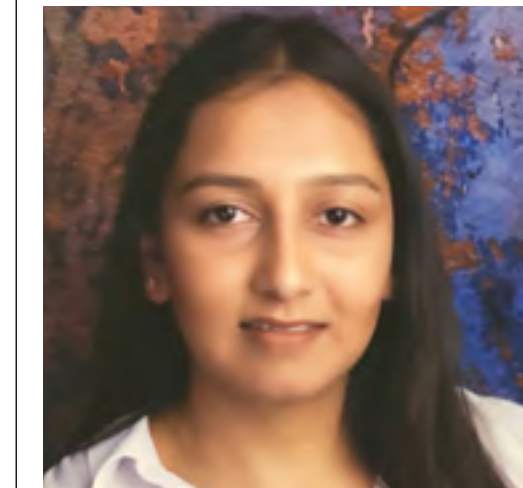
The School supports over 270 students each year in voluntary Community Engagement activities which involve gaining hands-on experience working with clients, community groups, charities and legal professionals in the local community. The activities students get involved in vary widely: they may find themselves giving welfare rights and appeals clinic client support, assisting litigants in person, delivering workshops and presentations to local schools and community groups, or contributing to research reports and supporting the police.

Each project is aimed at enabling students to develop insights into legal and criminal justice work, whilst helping make an impact in the local community. One of the biggest drivers for students getting involved is an enthusiasm to help others, but these opportunities also support student development by fostering a learning-by-doing approach through which student volunteers can develop key employability skills that will equip them for life post-university.

The School's Community Engagement Team is run by Director Lydia Bleasdale, Activities Coordinator Niamh Byrne, and supervisor of StreetLaw and Prison Law Rachael O'Connor.

Welfare Appeals and Tribunal Clinic

This project, which began in September 2018, is an opportunity to work directly with clients, in collaboration with Chapeltown Citizens Advice. Students work with a Welfare Rights Appeals Worker to support their clients who are navigating the Welfare Benefits system and appealing a decision that has been made about their Welfare Benefits application.



Nandini Patel,
Law LLB

I chose to participate in community engagement projects because I wanted to enhance my research, interpersonal, and problem-solving skills. Furthermore, I thought that this was an excellent opportunity for me, as a first year student, to interact with law students from different years and backgrounds. One of the most beneficial aspects is that students get to learn about current legal and social justice initiatives within the wider community. This is a great opportunity for us to learn about the application of law, which can give direction to our career ambitions.

PrisonLaw

Student volunteers research, prepare and deliver a presentation on a legal issue to serving prisoners in a prison, ex-offenders or prison staff. The aim is to equip these individuals with some legal knowledge that will facilitate their reintegration into society upon/following their release or provide staff with more knowledge to support their work in/with prisons. The project is collaborative with St Giles Trust and Jigsaw, both of which are charities that work with prisoners.



Thekla Homata,
Law LLB

I consider this opportunity a once in a lifetime experience as it is unlike anything I have done before. The fact that my research, presentation and overall contribution will have a positive impact on a vulnerable individual's life drew me into participating. Being able to offer back to the community is not a lesson taught in a classroom which is why I am really grateful to our School for providing us with this opportunity to strengthen our empathy and sympathy skills. In addition, as a firm believer that every individual should be aware of their legal rights, I am really excited to be able to contribute.

StreetLaw

StreetLaw aims to promote understanding about legal rights and responsibilities to individuals who may not otherwise have access to such knowledge.

Students work in small groups to research, design and deliver two interactive workshops covering a series of legal related topics with the support of the University's Educational Engagement team and a practising lawyer. The workshops take place in local schools and colleges. Previous topics have included the gender pay gap, social media data protection, smishing (the fraudulent practice of sending text messages purporting to be from reputable companies in order to induce individuals to reveal personal information, such as passwords or credit card numbers) and employment rights.



Megan Polese,
Law LLB

StreetLaw gave me new found confidence and reassurance in my aspirations to teach or be involved in education as a career. I applied for Streetlaw not really knowing the true extent of the value and experience it would provide. I have enjoyed every stage from meeting solicitors and teachers and engaging with students, and this is why I am continuing to volunteer for a second semester. It has genuinely been my favourite part of my university career so far.

Burglary and Robbery Prevention Champion

Introduced in September 2018, this project offers students in their second year and above the opportunity to work as a student crime prevention champion alongside the West Yorkshire Police's Leeds District Crime Team.

Focusing on burglary and robbery, volunteers promote crime prevention advice to students in a variety of ways. Student volunteers have the chance to learn more about the team's work by shadowing officers in a range of duties across the city and contribute to crime reduction problem-solving activities.



Sarah Butters,
BA Criminal Justice & Criminology

I'm volunteering on the Burglary and Robbery Community Engagement project and the access to West Yorkshire Police is fantastic. We've joined Criminal Investigation Department officers for a ride along. I've taken part in role play scenarios for trainee officers and have been out with the Safer Leeds team. I'm a (very) mature student and I thought my long-held ambition of joining the police was in the rear view mirror but this project has inspired me to apply to be a Special Constable!

Support Through Court

This is an opportunity to work directly with clients. Based in Leeds Combined Court Centre, Support Through Court volunteers provide practical and emotional support to litigants in person (ie people representing themselves) in civil and family court proceedings.

Ellie Dales,
Law LLB

Support Through Court has allowed me to meet a diverse range of people, each with their own story. The most rewarding part is working as a team to overcome problems you never thought you could have an effect on!

Welfare Rights Clinic

Working with Leeds City Council's Welfare Rights Unit, students are trained to assist clients to complete Personal Independent Payment forms on a one-to-one basis, ensuring that clients can submit the best possible case for welfare support.

Jason Sinclair,
Law LLB

Volunteering on the Welfare Rights Clinic and on the Appeals team means I have seen both sides of the process. I have seen people get the support they need first time but also through appealing the decision, fighting for a much needed improvement to their standard of living which is often successful. Knowing I have made even a small contribution to that is greatly rewarding and is an experience I will carry through in my personal and professional life.

Reunions



2019 saw 120 years since the School of Law first welcomed students and we celebrated with a reunion in the Student Union's Terrace Bar in July.



**120
YEARS**





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1969
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The Class of 1969 met for a drinks reception and meal at University House on the University of Leeds Campus in November 2019 to celebrate 50 years since their graduation.

We especially remembered Her Honour Judge Jackie Clark (formerly Jackie Davies) who sadly passed away in early 2019, who championed these reunions and was the driving force behind the 30 and 40 year reunion of her graduating class.

HONG KONG

In November 2019, our Head and Deputy Head of School travelled to Hong Kong to meet with alumni who live in the city.

Our Deputy Head of School, Professor Joan Loughrey, said of the occasion: "It is always a real pleasure to host the annual Hong Kong alumni gathering, now in its sixth year. It's an informal, friendly occasion for old and new alumni to meet and share experiences and it has been wonderful to see friendships being renewed or forged at these reunions."



Future reunions

2020 should have seen two reunions, both of which have unfortunately been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They will be reorganised for 2021.

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1980
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The Class of 1980's reunion, organised by Charlie Middleton and a group of friends, was due to be held on the weekend of 4 – 5 September 2020 but has a new provisional date of 4 – 5 September 2021.

This reunion has been years in the planning and was to celebrate 40 years since our Class of 1980 graduated. We are sure the celebrations will be just as joyous (if not more so) in 2021!

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2013
2014
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Jack Kenny and Annie McElwain, who both started at the School in 2010, contacted the School in early 2020 to ask for support with their reunion for fellow 2010 starters to celebrate 10 years since they began their University journey, whether they graduated in 2013 or 2014.

Jack and Annie met with Professor Nick Taylor in February to make arrangements which were to include a drinks reception in the Liberty Building on Friday 16 October 2020. The new date for this reunion is still to be confirmed but we very much look forward to welcoming back all those who began their studies in 2010.

LONDON



Featuring (from left to right) **Sam Hill** – Paralegal in Capital Markets at Allen & Overy, **Millie Bailey** – Future Trainee Solicitor at DAC Beachcroft, **Angharad Roberts** – Trainee Solicitor at TLT, **Samantha Patel** – Future Trainee Solicitor at Weightmans, **Brittany Sprawson** – Trainee Solicitor at Allen & Overy, **Lucy Cinnamond** – Future Trainee Solicitor at Pinsent Masons, **Caitlin Healey** – Future Trainee Solicitor at Irwin Mitchell, **Anna Ward** – Trainee Solicitor at DLA Piper, **Imogen Hutton-Potts** – Module Assistant at the School of Law, **Eleanor Dive** – Future Trainee Solicitor at Baker Mackenzie.

Meanwhile, pre-COVID, a group of 2018 alumni, many of whom now work at London law firms, organised an informal reunion in London. We spoke to Imogen Hutton-Potts about this lovely photo:

"Having all known each other since first year, as a group we became really close during our final year studying at Leeds having returned from study abroad years across the globe. Since graduating in 2018 we've remained friends and finally managed to find a date in our busy schedules where we could all meet up, in September 2019.

What we have achieved since our first day in the Law School in September 2014 is incredible and we are all proud to be members of the University of Leeds School of Law community. The photo was taken at Bar Elba, London (after many, many cocktails)."

Finalists' Photographs

— Here is a selection of your finalist photographs from the last 40 years.

1980



1990



2000



2010



2020



Click the photo to see our 2020 Finalists' Video



LIKE A COPY?

We have almost every class photograph dating back to the early 1960s on display in the School – if you would like a digital copy of the photograph from your year of graduation please email:

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