



# Annual Highlights

2021-2022



# Contents

Click to navigate to a section



# >Welcome

From our Director

This has been a difficult year for the project of international human rights and peace and security in the world.

*Kate O'Regan*

The fall of Kabul in August 2021, Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, and the increasing pace of climate change and its implications for human rights and security, have all been deeply troubling. The consequences of these events have been felt within the Bonavero community.

From September 2021 – August 2022, we co-hosted (with the Faculty of Law and the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies) Judge Fahima Sirat as a research visitor. Judge Sirat was a judge of the Afghanistan Anti-Justice Corruption Centre, who was compelled to leave Kabul after the Taliban took over in August 2021. Our annual Price Media Moot was particularly affected by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, as the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy has been a longstanding partner of the Bonavero in hosting the North-eastern European regional rounds, and

Russian teams have regularly participated in the moot, competing in the South-eastern European rounds. The protection of human rights globally and the United Nations project of entrenching peace and security in the world thus seem imperilled. It is a sombre time.

For the first time this year, we hosted an artworks competition for Oxford students for the cover of Annual Highlights. The theme of the competition was solidarity and human rights. Aastha Prasad's striking winning entry has been used as the

cover and theme of this publication. In the view of the jury, it captures the importance of human solidarity, respect, and connection in a troubled world. Warm congratulations to Aastha on her winning work. I would also like to thank my fellow jury members: Dr Samson Kambalu from the Ruskin School of Art at Oxford, Professor Dino Kritsiotis, from Nottingham Law School, Patricia Viseur Sellers, an international criminal lawyer at the London Bar (both Dino and Patricia are longstanding faculty members of the M.St. in International Human Rights Law at Oxford), Jonathan White from Garlic Agency, the designer of the Annual Highlights Report, and Zoe Davis-Heaney, the lead administrator at the Bonavero. We look forward to further competitions for future covers.

Despite the global challenges, Bonavero Institutes's fifth year of operation has been an exciting year of new beginnings:

- We returned to working in person in September 2021 at the Bonavero Institute at Mansfield College after nearly eighteen months online.
- We welcomed two new members of our leadership team: Professor Tarun Khaitan as Head of Research and Professor Freya Baetens as Head of Programmes.
- The new BCL/M.Jur course in International Human Rights Law (led by Shreya Atrey, Martin Scheinin, and Kate O'Regan) was taught for the first time in the Gilly Leventis room at the Bonavero.

- We expanded our space – taking six new offices at St Antony’s College for our postdoctoral fellows and Martin Scheinin and Nazila Ghanea.
- We undertook our first major strategic review – resulting in a new set of Strategic Goals for 2022 – 2025 and a revised set of Fundamental Principles, as well as a Mission Statement.
- We bid farewell to our first cohort of post-doctoral fellows, who went on to excellent new appointments in Cambridge, Nottingham, Lund (Sweden) and York.
- We welcomed a new cohort of postdoctoral fellows – Halefom Abraha and Six Silberman who are working on the iMANAGE research project, Ekaterina Aristova on her Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship on climate litigation and corporations (Ekaterina has already held a postdoctoral research position at the Institute in the Oak Foundation project on Civil Liability for Gross Human Rights Violations), Lisa Hsin on the Helsby Kroll Postdoctoral fellowship in Business and Human Rights, Daniella Lock on the Symposium for Strength and Solidarity in Human Rights, Maayan Niezna on the Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre postdoctoral fellowship, and Richard Mackenzie-Gray Scott on the British Academy research project on Addressing the Digital Realm through the Grammar of Human Rights Law.
- We also welcomed back research visitors to the Bonavero, having not been able to host research visitors since March 2020. During the year, we hosted 17 visitors, some of whom were here for the year including Judge Fahima Sirat, the former judge of the Afghanistan Anti-Corruption Justice Centre, mentioned above, (you can read Judge Sirat’s reflections on her year at the Bonavero [later in this report](#)) and Professor Harold Koh from Yale Law School. We also welcomed visitors for a term supported by the Oak Foundation: Humberto Cantu Rivera, Ruwadzano Patience Makumbe, and Danielle Pamplona.

Some of our visitors were practitioners such as Tom Cross, a barrister from 11 KBW in London, Saif Mahmood, a barrister from Delhi, and Bede Sheppard from Human Rights Watch. Some were early career scholars such as Thulasi Raj and Gaurav Mukherjee. Others were more senior scholars such as Professor Patricia Wiater-Hellgardt from the Friedrich-Alexander Universitat in Erlangen-Nurnberg, Germany, and Professor Matthias Mahlmann from the University of Zurich. Our research visitors make a tremendous contribution to the collegial environment at the Bonavero, attending our regular weekly Perspectives discussions and other events, both formal and informal.

- We were once again able to host Bonavero Graduate Research Residents in the Helena Kennedy Reading Room. We hosted 14 Graduate Residents this year.
- We began work on the process of taking responsibility for both the MSc in International Human Rights Law and the Summer School in International Human Rights Law from the Department of Continuing Education – both these courses will run under the auspices of the Faculty and the Bonavero from the next academic year.
- This year too we saw a substantial array of research outputs from the Bonavero. Notably, books by Michael Molavi, Stefan Theil, and Ekaterina Aristova, all produced during their postdoctoral fellowships at the Bonavero, were published.

In closing, I would like to thank our generous donors who supported us throughout the year. I would also like to thank our administrative team for their hard work and unfailing good humour.

**Kate O’Regan**

**Oxford  
August 2022**



**High  
lights**

## Mission Statement



The purpose of the Institute is to:

Engage in and foster research and scholarship in the law of human rights across different academic disciplines in collaboration with scholars, practitioners, and members of civil society from across the world, and, as part of this purpose:

Share knowledge about the law of human rights with the aim of improving the public understanding of human rights and of linking research to practice.

## Fundamental Principles



The Institute will pursue its mission based on the following principles:

The Institute approaches human rights in a broad manner, including its various formulations in moral and political theory, social and political practice, and international, regional, and domestic law, as well as the institutional frameworks and conditions conducive to their realisation.

The Institute is committed to building and enhancing human rights expertise in early career scholars, practitioners (including judges, lawyers, governmental and non-governmental organisations, and politicians) and members of civil society, with a particular focus on scholars and practitioners working in understudied regions outside North America and Western Europe.

The Institute is committed to academic freedom and welcomes debates on the foundations, scope, and mechanisms for realising human rights.

# Strategic Goals



**Between 2022 and 2026, the Institute will pursue its mission through a focus on the following strategic goals:**

**A. The Institute will** seek to establish a vibrant, collegial, global community of human rights law scholars and practitioners (including judges, lawyers, governmental and non-governmental organisations, and politicians) to foster partnership, collaboration, engagement, and knowledge exchange.

**B. The Institute will** foster the publication of collaborative, rigorous, multidisciplinary, and innovative world-class research on human rights (including allied norms such as democracy and the rule of law) and disseminate research findings in a clear and accessible way to policy-makers, practitioners, and the broader public.

**C. In relation to students, the Institute will:**

Introduce students both at the University of Oxford and other universities to current issues in human rights.

Seek to secure external funding to support graduate students to undertake human rights research at the Faculty of Law at the University of Oxford.

Enhance the experience of graduate research students working in the broad field of human rights in the University of Oxford by providing some of them with a collegial working space,

access to Institute events, internships, and exposure to a range of other opportunities.

Provide opportunities to students who wish to develop careers in human rights practice or scholarship.

Promote the teaching of human rights law within the University of Oxford.

**D. The Institute will:**

Build capacity for early career scholars through its research posts, visitors' programme, career guidance, mentoring, and workshops and conferences.

Build capacity for human rights practitioners through partnerships, knowledge exchange, and context-sensitive symposia and training programmes.

Especially direct its capacity-building efforts to practitioners and scholars working in understudied regions outside North America and Western Europe.

**E. The Institute will** seek to foster public understanding of and engagement with human rights in multiple ways, including through public events, meetings and symposia, Open Online Courses, and (legacy and online) media.

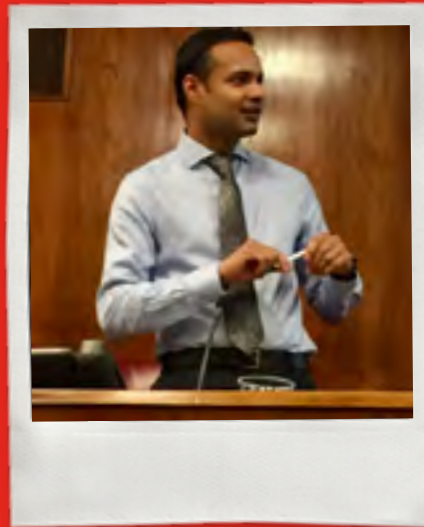
# New Faces



## Freya Baetens

I'm the incoming Head of Programmes at the Bonavero Institute, Professor of Public International Law at the Law Faculty, and a governing body fellow at Mansfield college. Somewhat to my frustration, my start had to be delayed several times due to post-Brexit red tape and amidst ever-changing COVID rules – which I only managed to navigate thanks to the help and patience of Kate, Tarun, Zoe, Sarah and Christos (that fantastic handover document!).

So, my first impression of the Institute was through its informative website and online events which truly demonstrated its unique character and objectives: aiming to create a bridge between academia and practice, familiarising students with findings from top-level scholarly research as well as offering them in-depth insights that cannot be learned 'from the books'. I hugely appreciate the Institute's open-mindedness in offering a position to a general international lawyer (and one from 'the other place' at that) as part of its out-of-the-box thinking. I am very much looking forward to working with the entire Bonavero team and contributing to the Institute's valuable work!



## Tarun Khaitan

I started as Head of Research at the Bonavero at the very beginning of the last academic year, but having been associated with the Institute in so many different ways over many years (as co-organiser of three international workshops, as an author and discussant in its workshops), I hardly feel like a new incumbent. Seeing the magic being done from the inside, however, has been a privilege.

I have especially enjoyed working with the early career researchers at the Bonavero who are an extraordinarily talented group. Highlights of the year for me have been seeing the Perspectives research seminar go from strength to strength, and the South Asian workshop in June, where brilliant young researchers presented their work.



## Richard Mackenzie-Gray Scott

I joined the Bonavero Institute as a postdoctoral fellow in January 2022 from the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law, where I was a research fellow and a member of its equality, diversity, and inclusion committee. My research is funded by the British Academy and focuses on the challenges posed to human rights by digital technologies. Since starting I have undertaken research on how to manage misinformation on social media, examining the use of targeted behavioural interventions on newsfeeds and analysing the associated impact on the right to freedom of thought. My first book, 'State Responsibility for Non-State Actors: Past, Present and Prospects for the Future', is due to be published this year.

The Bonavero Institute sits almost unassumingly within Mansfield College. Upon arriving you are met with a warm welcome. It is a place where ideas are drawn from engaging discourse or exposed through friendly challenge. Everyone in the team also has a bit of banter to throw around. I am enjoying professional life here, and part of this feeling is owed to the collegial atmosphere at the Institute.



## Halefom Abraha

I joined the Institute in October 2021 as a postdoctoral researcher, currently working on the iMANAGE Project along with Prof. Jeremias Adams-Prassl, Aislinn Kelly-Lyth, Rakshita Sangh, and Six Silberman. My research focuses on the interplay between algorithmic management and data protection law in the employment context.

The Bonavero Institute of Human Rights has provided me with a perfect working environment to engage and collaborate with dynamic and multidisciplinary scholars. It is a privilege to work alongside such brilliant colleagues.



## Daniella Lock

I started at the Bonavero Institute in April 2022 as the Postdoctoral Fellow of Global Human Rights. My main role is to develop curriculum materials for the Symposium on Strength and Solidarity, a project which aims to support human rights leaders and build greater strength and resilience across the sector.

I have loved being at the Bonavero Institute so far. It is an environment where people are deeply engaged with human rights protections while also maintaining a critical approach to human rights law and its institutions. The community here is wonderful for discussing both legal theory and doctrine, as well as considering the real-life impact of law and state discourses around human rights. The range of topics being researched at the Institute, and its many visitors from jurisdictions all over the world, means there are always stimulating conversations and events to be involved in. I have also felt very well supported to continue my own research and to be able to respond to new legal developments related to human rights.



## Mayaan Niezna

I am a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Modern Slavery and Human Rights at the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, and a Fellow of the Modern Slavery Policy and Evidence Centre (PEC), alongside a small group of postdoctoral research fellows working on similar issues in other universities. My research project focuses on precarious migrant workers and work as a site of agency and a site of exploitation.

It's been a few months since I moved to Oxford, and I'm very happy to be here. The people I have met so far were kind, supportive, and generous in sharing time, ideas, and suggestions for how to get the most out of my time here. I particularly enjoyed the insightful Bonavero Perspectives sessions, and the wonderful cohort of early career researchers.



## Six Silberman

I am a new postdoctoral researcher in the iManage Project, working with Jeremias Adams-Prassl, Aislinn Kelly-Lyth, Halefom Abraha, and Rakshita Sangh to explore possibilities for the regulation of algorithmic decision-making systems in the workplace.

I previously worked as a software engineer and policy advocate in trade unions and worker rights organisations; my formal training is in 'human-centred computing'. It's a joy to work with such a dynamic and generous team in a context like the Bonavero Institute, which hosts such a diversity of scholars and practitioners working on a broad range of pressing human rights questions.



# New Places



As the Bonavero Institute has continued to grow, so has our need for office space. We are both grateful and delighted that St Antony's College has been able, and continues, to accommodate some of our staff and to give us access to meeting space.

Our thanks go to all the team at St Antony's for their warm welcome, and in particular to the Warden, Roger Goodman, and the Domestic Bursar, Matthew Morgan

St Antony's College is Oxford's most international college and a world-renowned hub for research and teaching in global and regional issues. It is a cosmopolitan, vibrant community of 500 international graduate students specialising in the social sciences and humanities, known globally for its stimulating intellectual life and rich cultural environment.

The college is a leading centre for the study of modern history, international relations, economics, development studies, politics, and anthropology of different regions of the world. It houses seven research centres focused on Africa, Asia, Europe, Japan, Latin America, the Middle East, and Russia and Eurasia. The work done at the College helps to inform public debate and public policy.

Each year, the College hosts a large number of visiting experts from the world's leading universities, international organizations, and think tanks and from such fields as diplomacy, journalism, business, and politics. These College Members include leading experts on the regions of the world and issues of global and transnational importance.

Alumni occupy leading positions in many governments, universities, businesses, NGOs, think tanks, and international organisations.

Photography by Hufton+Crow



Ever growing, our research programmes focus on Human Rights from many different perspectives, from Human Rights in the Digital World, to the Environment and Human Rights, Business and Human Rights, to Armed Conflict, Security, and Human Rights. With five published reports, our Bonavero Reports series continued to grow, contributing to policy debates and consultation processes. Our Research Visitor, Early Career Fellow, and Graduate Research Residency programmes continue to provide a strong foundation for collegial engagement at the Bonavero.

Bonavero

# Research



# iManage Project

Funded by the European Research Council, **iManage** is a five-year research project focused on rethinking the regulation of 'algorithmic management' – the increasingly pervasive use of monitoring technology and automated decision making systems to measure, control, and discipline workers in workplaces across the socio-economic spectrum.

The iManage team – Professor Jeremias Adams-Prassl, researcher Aislinn Kelly-Lyth, and postdoctoral researchers Halefom Abraha and Six Silberman explore how algorithmic management challenges not only employment law and labour market institutions - but potentially the entire legal framework governing work, including anti-discrimination law and data protection law.

We convene a weekly **Reading Group on Algorithms at Work** to discuss international, interdisciplinary, and cross-sectoral dialogue on the practice and regulation of algorithmic management. This year, the reading group welcomed presentations from early-career as well as established legal scholars, computer scientists, philosophers, and civil society practitioners from jurisdictions across the world.

On 26 April 2022, the team co-hosted, with Dr Michael Veale, the inaugural **UCL-Oxford Colloquium on Law, Technology, and Fundamental Rights**, an interdisciplinary forum that brought together doctoral students from Oxford and UCL to discuss ongoing research at the intersection of technology and law. Contributions considered, among other topics, the proposed UK Online Safety Bill; the implementation and interpretation of EU data protection law; collective data access rights; and the legal analysis of employers' surveillance of employees working from home.

On 30 June the team hosted **The Race to Regulate AI: Global Comparative Perspectives**, a day-long hybrid conference considering different approaches to regulating artificial intelligence. Scholars, policy makers, and civil society practitioners from Europe, North and South America, Africa, and Asia discussed experiences with, and prospects for, regulating AI through data protection law, labour law, international treaties and standards, and omnibus legislation. The conference was followed by a workshop on 1 July focused specifically on **Regulating Algorithmic Management**, which will be the topic of a 2023 special issue of the *European Labour Law Journal* edited by the team.

**Research Highlights** recently accepted publications include:

Aislinn Kelly-Lyth, Reuben Binns, and Jeremias Adams-Prassl, 'Directly Discriminatory Algorithms,' forthcoming in the *Modern Law Review*.

Halefom Abraha, 'A Pragmatic Compromise? The Role of Article 88 GDPR in Upholding Privacy in the Workplace,' forthcoming in *International Data Privacy Law*.

Jeremias Adams-Prassl, Aislinn Kelly-Lyth, and Halefom Abraha, 'From "Code" to "Guidance": Revising the Instrument on Data and Employment,' forthcoming in the *Industrial Law Journal*.



UCL-Oxford Colloquium on Law, Technology, and Fundamental Rights, 26 April 2022.



The Race to Regulate AI: Global Comparative Perspectives, 30 June 2022.

# Global Professorship Project



## The Digital Realm and the Grammar of Human Rights Law British Academy Global Professorship Project

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Since August 2020, Professor Martin Scheinin has been based at Bonavero Institute as British Academy Global Professor. His project, on which Richard Mackenzie-Gray Scott is working as a post-doctoral fellow, is exploring the multiple challenges that rapid developments in the digital realm now present to the enjoyment of human rights.

Martin is a world-renowned scholar in human rights law. Over the course of his long career, he has served both as a member of the UN Human Rights Committee and as a UN Special Rapporteur, and he is thus well placed to conduct and lead research into the question of whether the challenges presented by the digital realm can be addressed by what he calls 'the grammar of international human rights law'.

**A first project workshop was convened on 21 April 2022**, with Keri Grieman and Damian Tambini as external keynote speakers, while Martin and other members of the wider project team presented their work in progress. **The specific theme of Workshop One was digital realm challenges to freedom of expression.** Two journal articles have since been prepared, one with Tarik Gherbaoui on orders to remove online terrorist content, and another with Tanya Krupiy on the capacity of United Nations human rights treaties to address algorithmic discrimination.

### **Algorithmic discrimination will also be the focus theme of Workshop Two, to take place on 1 November 2022.**

Parallel to the production of academic outputs, Martin's project has a policy interface with international organizations. So far, expert workshops or side events have been organized with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (the Representative on Freedom of the Media), the United Nations Human Rights Council (a side event with human rights NGOs) and the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (Scientific Committee workshop and reviews). Martin has also appeared as speaker in a number of international events, most of them so far in online or hybrid format. He appeared as a guest in the Rights Track podcast, speaking about his project.

At the Bonavero Institute, Martin teaches in the new BCL/MJur course in 'International Human Rights Law: Theory, Practice and Critique' and has served as speaker, discussant, or moderator at a number of Bonavero events.



# Bonavero Perspectives

Our weekly paper workshop - Perspectives - has become the mainstay of intellectual life at the Bonavero Institute. We implemented a series of changes this year. First, we have done away with presentations by the author of the paper to be discussed.

In the limited time (one hour) we can afford to do this weekly, authorial presentations would take a big chunk, leaving very little time for feedback. The papers are therefore now assumed to be read, and we have managed to inculcate a culture where all participants read the circulated draft before attendance. This has not only saved us time for more meaningful feedback, but the depth of the discussions has also increased since the nuances that are frequently lost in a presentation are easier to grapple with now. Second, we have introduced a convention of allocating authorial slots to good citizens

of perspectives, and only to discuss work-in-progress (rather than published work). As the demand for these slots rose up sharply over the year, the fairest way to prioritise was to prefer those who tend to attend and comment regularly on drafts by colleagues. This change has also ensured that the Institute is evolving into a community of scholars, where most of us know what everyone else is working on, even if it is somewhat left-field to our own research interests. And sometimes, the most helpful comments for authors come from those who know very little about the field. The hope is that this culture will

**Convenors: Prof Tarun Khaitan; Dr Christos Kypraios**

help break down some of the intellectual silos that have been built around human rights scholarship. Finally, we are trying to inculcate specific ethical norms about workshop participation. This includes a motivational check for participants to ensure that their questions are meant to help the author rather than to prove their own cleverness. The author is encouraged to treat criticism as service, and aim to maximise feedback during the hour. The chair seeks to ensure that the time spent on defensive authorial responses is limited, with the sole goal being to help them make the paper as good as it can be. These modest changes have resulted in excellent gains - both intellectual and collegiate - over the first year. We continue to be mindful about how best to serve our cohort of early career scholars, and hope to build upon the gains next year.

MICHAELMAS TERM 2021	
Week 1 (14 October)	Tarun Khaitan – ‘Soft skills seminar: “Dealing with criticism in academia”’
Week 2 (21 October)	Ngoc Son Bui – ‘We, the Humans: The Quest for Universal Rights in Vietnam’
Week 3 (28 October)	Katie Boyle – ‘Access to (Social) Justice: Effective Remedies for Violations of Social Rights in the UK’
Week 4 (4 November)	Hayley J. Hooper – ‘The Justiciability of Prerogative Powers’
Week 5 (11 November)	Damian Cueni – ‘The Contexts of Proportionality’
Week 6 (18 November)	Katya Aristova and Ugljesa Grusic – ‘Civil Remedies and Human Rights in Flux: Key Legal Developments in Selected Jurisdictions’
Week 7 (25 November)	Mishana Hosseinioun – ‘Towards a Just Peace - A Social Contract for the Middle East?’

HILARY TERM 2022	
Week 1 (20 January)	Research Grants Applications workshop with Jeremias Adams-Prassl, Naomi Lott, John Zerilli, Zoe Davis-Heaney, Sarah Norman and Bharat Shivan
Week 2 (27 January)	Tom Cross – ‘UK law on compelled speech in education’
Week 3 (3 February)	Tarun Khaitan – ‘Aversive Constitutionalism: The Constitutional ‘Other’ as a Framing Device in Judgments’
Week 4 (10 February)	Ewan Smith – ‘Common Law Constitutional Treaties’
Week 5 (17 February)	Caroline Rausch – ‘Compensatory mechanisms in the case of legislative omission’
Week 6 (24 February)	Pedro Arcain Riccetto, Nicola Tommasini – ‘Self-Empowerment, Political Fragmentation and the Politics of Unconstitutional Constitutional Amendments’
Week 7 (3 March)	Dr. Saif Mahmood – ‘Free Speech in Mughal Courts and Modern India: A Comparison of the State’s Treatment of Dissenting Poets and Artists’
Week 8 (10 March)	Prof Yossi Nehushtan – ‘Lockdowns and Intergenerational Justice’

TRINITY TERM 2022	
Week 1 (28 April)	Gaurav Mukherjee – ‘Judicial Pathologies and the Legitimacy of Transformative Constitutionalism’
Week 2 (5 May)	Gautam Bhatia – ‘Studying the Indian Constitution under the Framework of Power’
Week 3 (12 May)	Jan Petrov – ‘Building and Dismantling Judicial Partnership: East-Central European Constitutional Courts and the ECHR’
Week 4 (19 May)	John Adenitire – ‘Religion as Liberal Politics’
Week 5 (26 May)	Kate O’ Regan – ‘Gender equality and custom: Courts’ wavering navigation of legal pluralism in southern Africa’
Week 6 (2 June)	Cancelled due to bank holiday
Week 7 (9 June)	Particia Wiater – ‘Human Rights Governance of Non-Human Subjects: How to Test Underlying Assumptions?’
Week 8 (18 June)	Soft skills workshop on book proposals with Prof Tarun Khaitan, Dr Signe Larsen, Dr Richard Mackenzie-Gray Scott, and Prof Particia Wiater

# Strength and Solidarity Symposium



STRENGTH  
& SOLIDARITY

The Bonavero Institute has partnered with the Fund for Global Human Rights to run [The Symposium on Strength and Solidarity](#) for Human Rights, which aims to support human rights leaders and build greater strength and resilience across the sector. We held our fifth Symposium in February, bringing together activists from around the world. Participants share and learn from one another through discussion of cases and review of past experience. You can learn more about their work on our podcast series, Strength and Solidarity.

In 2020, the Bonavero Institute announced a new partnership with the Fund for Global Human Rights to establish and administer The Symposium on Strength and Solidarity for Human Rights. The Symposium is intended to support those who lead organisations and movements committed to the promotion and defence of human rights to build greater strength and resilience across the sector. We held our fifth Symposium in February, bringing together activists from around the world. Our first in-person Symposium since 2020 will take place in Cape Town in September, before the second in-person Symposium in Wales in October.

A number of 'Dialogues' have been held in between Symposia, in which participants interrogate evolving perceptions of human rights, reflect on diverse forms of governance and organizational health, and consider how best to entrench sustained solidarity among those defending and advancing rights. These have included discussions on human rights leadership in exile and the role of international human rights treaties in helping disability rights movements in South America.

Daniella Lock is the recently appointed Postdoctoral Fellow supporting Symposium work at the Bonavero Institute.

She works with participants to develop new case studies on relationships of solidarity and resilience in the human rights movement. Daniella has recently returned from Mexico, where she was working with activists to write a case study on anti-corruption movements. Earlier this year, Daniella wrote a post for the Symposium on Strength and Solidarity blog, on 'Alliances for Abortion Rights'. The post sets out an interview with Victoria Tesoriero from the Marea Verde movement in Argentina, which helped to secure legal abortion rights in Argentina in 2020.

The Strength and Solidarity podcast has continued into its third series. Hosted by Program Director Akwe Amosu, the podcast invites human rights activists to talk about the challenges and dilemmas that they are facing, as well as the tactics that their movements or organizations are using to fight back. The most recent series included conversations with Wai Wai Nu on the roots of Burmese protest and determination and Roman Romanov on accountability for Russia's aggression in Ukraine. The podcast also includes discussions with Shaharзад Akbar on whether the Taliban will be able to enforce its regressive authoritarian values and what's next in the struggle for rights and Anna Alboth on building solidarity with migrants and refugees in Europe.

## Selected podcasts

### [Episode 21](#)

Rohingya organiser Wai Wai Nu considers the roots of Burmese protest and determination since the military coup in Myanmar in 2021, particularly as attention from international actors has been slow to build.

### [Episode 20](#)

Three weeks into Russia's war of aggression, Roman Romanov, Human Rights and Justice Program Director at the International Renaissance Foundation in Kiev, Ukraine, discusses why accountability for Russia is critical and calls for new thinking and better results.

### [Episode 24](#)

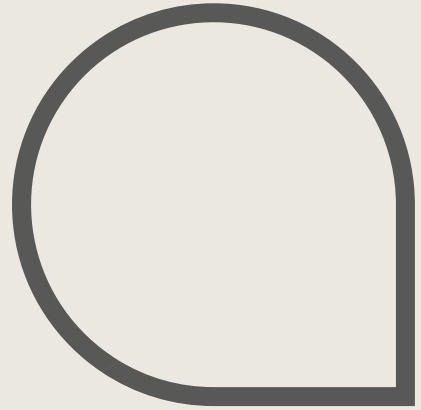
Former head of Afghanistan's Human Rights Commission Shaharзад Akbar, now exiled, reflects on whether the Taliban will be able to enforce its regressive authoritarian values and what's next in the struggle for rights.

### [Episode 25](#)

Anna Alboth works for the Minority Rights Group in several European countries and has long experience of supporting migrants and refugees. She considers the possibility of building deeper empathy and more support to protect refugees from all countries coming into Europe.

# Programmes

Bonavero



Over the past year, our programmes offering students insights into human rights research and practice have continued to thrive. We continued our Collaborative Legal Aid Clinic at HMP Huntercombe and ran Strategising Seminars on Health & Human Rights as well as Business & Human Rights. The global Price Media Law Moot and the Oxford Blackstone Human Rights Moot offered opportunities for students to engage with human rights through mooting. 13 students were awarded fellowships to pursue internships in human rights organisations, research institutions, and courts around the world.

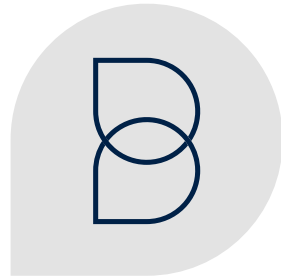


# Student Fellowships

The aim of the Bonavero Institute Student Summer Fellowship programme is to provide opportunities for students to apply their knowledge of human rights law to obtain a valuable platform to develop careers in this field.

Students have the opportunity to work with a range of organisations working in the broad field of human rights law, including the rule of law. These include senior appellate courts, world-leading NGOs, and research institutions. The Student Fellowship Programme gives our

students a chance to explore their professional options in a variety of placements, for which they receive a stipend, both within the UK and abroad. This programme is generously supported by Eric Lewis, Lisbet Rausing, Peter Baldwin and Yves and Anne Bonavero.

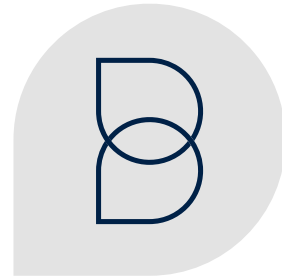


**Amna Ali**  
DPhil in Law Candidate

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UNRWA Field Legal Office, Jordan

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**Petra Stojnic**  
DPhil in Law Candidate

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AIRE Centre

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**Emma Rowland**  
DPhil in Law Candidate

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JUSTICE

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**Anjali Rawat**  
DPhil in Law Candidate

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Dejusticia

[READ FULL REPORT](#)



# Research Visitors

The Research Visitor Programme encourages mid-career and senior scholars, judges, practitioners, post-doctoral researchers, and policy-makers engaged in the field of human rights law to visit the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights. We were delighted to welcome Research Visitors to the Bonavero Institute in person once again from Michaelmas Term 2021.



**Tom Cross**  
Leading human rights barrister

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Michaelmas Term 2021

[READ PROFILE](#)



**Fahima Sirat**  
Former judge at the Afghan Anti-Corruption Justice Center

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Full Academic Year 2021 - 2022

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**Ruwadzano Makumbe**  
Zimbabwean human rights lawyer

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Trinity Term 2022

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**Dr Saif Mahmood**  
Advocate, Supreme Court of India

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Hilary and Trinity Terms 2022

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**Harold Hongju Koh**  
George Eastman Visiting Professor

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Full Academic Year 2021 - 2022

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# My Time at Oxford: A Miraculous Interlude



## Fahima Sirat

A year ago, I was engulfed in fear and anxiety about the year ahead. How would I rebuild myself? How would I manage as a stranger in a strange land?

It is hard to believe that a year has gone by since I first arrived as a refugee, traumatized by the fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban. At that point, disappointment, sadness, setbacks, loss, and pain overwhelmed my life. Yet in the wake of the anxiety ridden evacuation of last August, a miracle changed my life – a most wonderful Oxford opportunity.

Oxford was always a dream of mine, yet it would have been impossible without magic. This past year's Oxford opportunity was like being granted wings and the ability to fly toward a previously unattainable goal – or was it reaching for the stars? Frankly, there are no words to express my happiness and gratitude at being granted this opportunity.

My year at Oxford provided me the opportunity to meet the scholars of my dreams, to go further in my career. Oxford helped me break free of the inevitable depression brought on by last August's events and find a restorative new beginning.

Once I arrived at Oxford, I felt safe immediately. I found the entire team at Oxford extraordinarily supportive. They all made an effort to encourage me and ensure I was happy, comfortable, and relaxed. My time at the Bonavero Institute was

defined by the wonderful support system of professors, administrative staff, and other scholars. For their kindness and guidance, I am eternally thankful.

This time has been a hugely transforming journey for me. The Bonavero team helped give nuance to my perception of my homeland. With seminars, debates, and discussions of global issues, they have demonstrated their care for the present and desire to introduce improvements for the future, not just for the next generation in the UK, but across the world. The Bonavero Institute draws many international researchers and academic visitors who exemplify this attention towards a better future.

We have shared a depth of knowledge and experience together over lunches, dinners, and coffee chats. Those interactions have been

unforgettable. We have created something far stronger than a network. We have created a bond of respect, friendship, and gratitude.

Now that I am leaving, I will miss you all, my Oxford family.

As a Visiting Scholar at Oxford, I pursued research on corruption crimes. My experience as a judge in anti-corruption cases in Afghanistan was carved out in very difficult circumstances. I drew from my experiences and court cases for my research paper, so that others could benefit from my knowledge of Afghanistan's struggle to address this societal ill. Corruption is endemic and corrosive in all countries. At Oxford, I have learned how to join forces with judges and academics across the world to address this scourge.

At Oxford, I felt hospitality and kindness and your sense of hard work in this historical place, this safe place. I appreciated the fact that I could easily go to governmental offices. These are aspects I do not take for granted. I value the sense of human freedom and women's rights that I have found here. I hope that one day, my country can become free, safe, and peaceful, a place where girls can grow and develop without threat, so that I can return with newfound skills and insight from the UK legal system and help eliminate the gender gap in Afghanistan's legal and judicial system. I would like to represent women at the highest levels of the judicial system, to continue my struggle to improve the rule of law in my country, to make Afghanistan more just.

This dream of attending Oxford only took place because of your amazing support. With the faculty's guidance, in particular Professors Mindy Chen-Wishart, Kate O'Regan, Liz Fisher, Sandy Fredman, Professor Tarunabh Khaitan, and Linda Mulcahy, I have been able to complete my article on Afghanistan's anti-corruption efforts, which the Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law will be publishing. I also want to acknowledge the administrative section of the Law Faculty, Corpus Christi College, and particularly Zoe and Sarah. All of you have impressed me with your gentle care for one another and your attention toward me. The loving support you continue to give me has meant a lot.

I will forever be indebted to the Law Faculty at Oxford, Corpus Christi College, the Bonavero Institute, and all those kind-hearted individuals who have helped me throughout my time here. I am deeply grateful for all the support, hospitality, guidance, and kindness.

I would finish with the poem by **Sadi Shirazi** called **Bani Adam**, which translates as follows:

*All human beings are members of one frame,  
Since all, at first, from the same essence came.  
When time afflicts a limb with pain,  
The other limbs at rest cannot remain.  
If thou feel not for other's misery,  
A human being is no name for thee.*

# HMP Huntercombe

For the past ten months, the Bonavero Institute and the Centre for Criminology at the University of Oxford, in partnership with the Oxford-based law firm Turpin & Miller, have successfully supported over 182 prisoners at high risk of deportation.

Since 2018, our legal aid clinic at HMP Huntercombe has run on a fortnightly basis through collaborative efforts with [Turpin & Miller solicitors](#) and Graduate law and criminology students. Generously funded by the [AB Charitable Trust](#), the legal clinic meets urgent local human rights needs in a time of declining legal aid access. Through the collaborative efforts of the Bonavero, Turpin & Miller, and the [Centre for Criminology](#), prisoners gain free access to comprehensive legal consultations, paralegal advice, and representation for cases ranging from human rights appeals and asylum claims, to bail and judicial review. Prisoners are first assisted in applying for legal aid, and the effective work of solicitors and students has meant nearly all of the applications for legal aid have been successful. Graduate and law students support the clinic in taking initial instructions by consulting with prisoners and gathering critical case history information in preparation for their interview and advising meeting with solicitors. Graduate law and criminology students also assist at the Turpin & Miller office to provide necessary case follow-up and other forms of client and Home Office correspondence. Prisoners' cases are urgent and complex, making the legal clinic at Huntercombe an essential part of meeting local human rights needs and increasing access to justice.

Each year, the Bonavero Institute together with Centre for Criminology and Turpin and Miller select a cohort of high-performing graduate students to support the HMP Huntercombe clinic. As interns, students gain valuable experience working alongside solicitors to provide legal aid to vulnerable prisoners who are subject to deportation. Since the founding of the clinic, over 20 Oxford graduate students have assisted in providing valuable legal aid to hundreds of prisoners during the

academic year. This year, 6 graduate students across the Law Faculty attended the HMP Huntercombe clinic on 19 occasions, providing assistance to prisoners from more than 36 countries. In addition to the fortnightly clinics, students spent up to 8 hours a month at training sessions, termly review sessions, and on-site shifts at Turpin and Miller. During the summer, two Bonavero Summer Student Fellows were placed at Turpin and Miller to continue support for the clinic.

The work of the clinic is innovative. This extensive collaboration between a private human rights law firm, university-based researchers, and graduate students supports highly complex deportation cases from initial advice to litigation, including appeals to the Upper Tribunal, where necessary. The clinic has successfully represented hundreds of clients in deportation appeals, human rights claims, and other legal proceedings, providing invaluable support that that would otherwise probably have been inaccessible to Huntercombe prisoners. Due to the success of the clinic over the past four years, the AB Charitable Trust has offered an additional three years of funding to continue meeting this local human rights need.

## Student account 2021 - 2022

This year, six post-graduate students from across the Law Faculty - two DPhil and four MSc students - participated in the clinic, travelling every fortnight with the legal team at Turpin and Miller to the prison in order to take initial assessments with potential clients. They also had the opportunity to support follow up work in the Turpin and Miller offices in Cowley.



Turpin and Miller's clients are diverse, and every single visit to Huntercombe has been different. The visits offered a critical opportunity to experience the justice system first hand and understand how the complex nexus of criminal and immigration law plays out in practice. The experience, knowledge, and skills of the T&M legal team were invaluable in mentoring and guiding students to understand how the law in this space operates.

The students would like to express their huge gratitude to Tom Giles and his team for their guidance and support. Thank you also to the [Bonavero Institute of Human Rights](#) and to the Centre for Criminology for supporting the project.

# Bonavero Graduate Student Research Forum

The Bonavero Graduate Research Forum (BGRF) launched in 2021 with the aim of building a strong and supportive community of graduate students (MPhil/DPhil) working in the broad fields of human rights, constitutionalism, and the rule of law at Oxford.

Over the last academic year, we met fortnightly as a group during term time to discuss students' research, offer constructive feedback, and foster links between students working within human rights law (broadly defined). There were also several socials throughout the year and a writing workshop during Trinity Term 2022 where students discussed longer works-in-progress and received substantive comments on their work.

The BGRF has been an enormous success to date, owing in no small part to the tireless efforts of its founder and convener, Dr Shreya Atrey; the generous contributions of the Institute's Director, Kate O'Regan; and the behind-the-scenes support of Dr. Christos Kypraios, Zoe Davis-Heaney, and Sarah Norman. As the new Co-Conveners of the BGRF for the upcoming academic year, we will do our best to build on these foundations and continue to foster a collegiate community of graduate researchers in the broad field of human rights at Oxford. We look forward to welcoming new researchers into the fold and we encourage all interested to join us.

Katie Pentney, Angélica Cocoma Ricourt, Chelsea Wallis, and Konrad Ksiazek



Kate O'Regan, the Director of the Institute, commented that "I am delighted that the Bonavero Graduate Research Forum has had such a successful first year. There can be little doubt that one of the great strengths of the graduate research degree programmes in the Law Faculty in Oxford is the extraordinary calibre of the research students themselves. The Forum creates a valuable opportunity for peer learning for students engaged on research degrees. The Bonavero thanks the student committee, Katie, Angelica, Chelsea, and Konrad for their work to make the Forum a success."

# Bonavero Resident Students

The Bonavero Institute is keen to provide opportunities for graduate research students in order to build a supportive peer community engaged in research associated with the broad fields of human rights, the rule of law, and democracy.



Mónica Arango Olaya  
DPhil Candidate



Danilo B. Garrido Alves  
DPhil Candidate



Titiksha Mohanty  
DPhil Candidate



Ashleigh Barnes  
DPhil Candidate



Gayathree Kalliyat  
Thazhathuveetil  
DPhil Candidate



Katie Pentney  
DPhil Candidate



Sameer Rashid Bhat  
DPhil Candidate



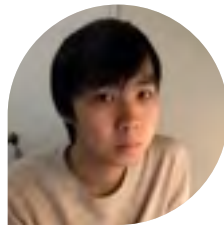
Ayako Hatano  
DPhil Candidate



Nicola Tommasini  
DPhil Candidate



Beril Boz  
DPhil Candidate



Edward Lui  
DPhil Candidate



Chelsea Wallis  
DPhil Candidate

We hosted more than 80 events during the course of the year. Events included conferences, roundtables, public lectures, book launches, law moots, the weekly Bonavero Discussion Group and Bonavero Perspectives research seminars, films, cultural events, career events, and our hosted network discussion groups.



# Bonavero Events

# Book launches

The Bonavero Institute hosted a range of excellent book launches again this year. Each book launch involves a panel of scholars, and sometimes practitioners, who have read the new book and who present their analysis. The author then responds. Book panel discussions are always well attended and lively.

A particular pleasure this year was the number of books launched by members of the Bonavero team. Congratulations to all the authors, and thanks to all the panel members who engaged thoughtfully with these new works.

<a href="#">Click book jackets to learn more</a>	Author	Publication
<a href="#">Towards the Environmental Minimum</a>	Dr Stefan Theil	13-Oct-21
<a href="#">A Theory of African Constitutionalism</a>	Berihun Gebeye	03-Nov-21
<a href="#">Equality in Kenya's 2010 Constitution: Understanding the Competing and Interrelated Concepts</a>	Victoria Miyandazi	10-Nov-21
<a href="#">Human Rights Litigation against Multinationals in Practice</a>	Richard Meeran	11-Nov-21
<a href="#">Collective Access to Justice: Assessing the Potential of Class Actions in England and Wales</a>	Michael Molavi	24-Nov-21
<a href="#">The United Kingdom Constitution: An Introduction</a>	Prof Nick Barber	09-Feb-22
<a href="#">Fundamental Rights and the Legal Obligations of Business</a>	Professor David Bilchitz	16-Feb-22
<a href="#">Achieving Access to Justice in a Business and Human Rights Context</a>	Dr Viginie Rouas	02-Mar-22
<a href="#">Civil Remedies and Human Rights in Flux: Key Legal Developments in Selected Jurisdictions</a>	Dr Ekaterina Aristova and Dr Uglješa Grušić	11-May-22

# Annual Highlights

## Art Competition



'Migration' and 'Household' are artworks created by drawing on my fieldwork. The artworks reflect on yearly seasonal migration occurring in the Dangs District of Gujarat, India. Adivasi households from the Dangs migrate to neighbouring districts to work as agricultural labourers for sugarcane cutting for up to eight months of the year.

The two pieces show the contrast between the longing for a home with dignity of labour and the liminal physical spaces occupied by the Adivasi families living in precarious conditions when their households move between the sugarcane fields to work day and night. The artworks highlight the work that remains to be done in the field of human rights with the hope that renewed solidarities can lead to change towards the dignity of labour for migrant workers.



### Aastha Prasad

Aastha Prasad is a DPhil candidate at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, University of Oxford. She has an inter-disciplinary background in law and anthropology. Her ethnographic research looks at the codification and formulation of customary laws in relation to kinship and land of Adivasi (tribal) communities through written constitutions, oral traditions, and lived actualities. Aastha works with two Adivasi groups, the Chaudhari and Dangi, in the South Gujarat region of India. Aastha is active as a visual artist and is committed to art as a form of intercultural communication.





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Since all, at first, from the same essence came.  
When time afflicts a limb with pain,  
The other limbs at rest cannot remain.  
If thou feel not for other’s misery,  
A human being is no name for thee.”**

Bani Adam by Sadi Shirazi