

# CENTRE FOR SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES REPORT 2021-2022

A place where disciplines and  
socio-legal scholars meet



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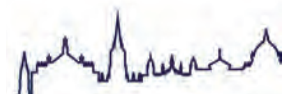
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# WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR

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This report summarises the many achievements of the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies (CSLS) from January 2021 to December 2022. The last year has been particularly special for us as the Centre has celebrated its 50th birthday. The highlight of the year was the conference we hosted to mark half a century of producing cutting-edge socio-legal research and building capacity in the field.



It continues to be a privilege to be at the helm of the Centre and to work alongside so many talented people from a range of disciplines. I see my role as nurturing new talent and projects, supporting the ongoing development of established programmes of work and helping to identify the new areas and debates with which we should be engaging. I am supported in these efforts by an outstanding senior team, a cohort of nine Postdoctoral Fellows and over forty research students. The recent reorganisation and expansion of our visitors' programme also means that a regular stream of socio-legal scholars from outside of Oxford has been contributing to our debate and research culture.

Since our last report was published in 2021, there have been a number of new developments at the Oxford Centre. The launch of our new blog, **Frontiers of Socio-Legal Studies**, has provided us with a new short-format medium through which to influence debate about the nature of our subdiscipline and build capacity through our reflections on the scope of socio-legal methodologies. This initiative is also an attempt to bring a global audience of socio-legal scholars into conversation with each other.

We continue to be successful in securing external support from competitive funding schemes and are currently in receipt of grants from a range of major funders such as the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the British Academy, the European Research Council, the Leverhulme Trust and the National Institute for Health Research. This externally funded research includes two grants which are devoted to understanding justice systems in the post-Covid era.

Finally, as the global pandemic which has affected us all retreats, it is a joy for us all to be able to gather together again in person to discuss ideas, play with new concepts and laugh with each other. The idea of community has never been so highly valued. I urge you to read the report and to get involved with us by taking part in the many events we organise each year, by visiting the Centre or by collaborating with us!

LINDA MULCAHY  
PROFESSOR OF SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES  
CSLS DIRECTOR





# STAFF AT THE CENTRE







## OUR STAFF

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### KIRA ALLMANN RESEARCH FELLOW



Kira was a Career Development Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Media Law and Policy until September 2021. Her research explores the thorny debate around a human right to internet access by

studying grassroots solutions to closing the digital divide. Kira brings an anthropological perspective and ethnographic methods to the question of how to achieve digital inclusion. She left the Centre in 2021 to join the Ada Lovelace Institute and has since moved to work as a Senior Digital Strategy Officer at Manchester City Council where she is working with a small team to implement the city's ambitious agenda for a responsible, ethical, community-centred and zero-carbon digital future. [Profile](#)

### UYANGA AMARSAIKHAN PROJECT OFFICER



Uyanga joined CSLS in 2018. She conducts legal research for ConflictNET – the Politics and Practice of Social Media in Conflict. She obtained her PhD from the University of Vienna in 2004, where her dissertation

focused on global human rights protection mechanisms. [Profile](#)

### MARIE BURTON SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW



Marie joined the Centre in April 2021. She is a Postdoctoral Researcher working on the project 'Enhancing Democratic Habits: An Oral History of the Law Centres Movement'. A

former Law Centre solicitor and senior policy analyst, Marie has over 30 years' experience of working in and around the civil and criminal justice system. Marie specialises in access to justice, legal aid, the legal profession and social welfare law. [Profile](#)

### NAFAY CHOUDHURY RESEARCH FELLOW



Nafay is a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow whose work sits at the intersection of socio-legal studies, legal pluralism, economic development and the rule of law. He explores

the fragmented and plural forms of order that exist within the state, alongside the state and beyond the state. His current research looks at the role of market associations in providing normative order in fragile settings. He has conducted extended ethnographic fieldwork on market dynamics in Afghanistan. [Profile](#)



### CHARMAINE COLE RESEARCH OFFICER



Charmaine was a researcher on the Civil Justice programme overseen by Professor Hodges. She works on regulation and dispute resolution across a range of sectors

drawing on her experience working at Clifford Chance in London and Brussels as a public policy lawyer. Charmaine left the Centre in April 2022.

### GIOVANNI DE GREGORIO RESEARCH FELLOW



Giovanni is interested in law, policy and digital technologies. His research focuses on digital constitutionalism, particularly addressing the challenges raised by digital capitalism to constitutional

democracies. Working on the ConflictNET project on the Programme in Comparative Media Law and Policy, he has enriched his research on freedom of expression and content moderation with a specific focus on disinformation and hate speech. Giovanni's work also examines digital policies, particularly on artificial intelligence (AI), privacy and data protection. Giovanni left the Centre in September 2022 to take up a permanent post at the Católica Global School of Law, Universidade Católica Portuguesa. He continues his connection with the Centre as one of its Associates.

[\*\*Profile\*\*](#)

### CHRISTOPHER DECKER ASSOCIATE FELLOW



Christopher's research interests include economic regulation, industrial economics, behavioural economics and the law and economics of development. Recent research

has focused on: competition policy and inequality; the economic impacts of climate change in the water and energy sectors; and the future regulation of digital markets, payment systems and legal services. His research has been funded by the ESRC, United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI), the Leverhulme Trust and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). [\*\*Profile\*\*](#)

### NATHAN DOBSON RESEARCH FELLOW



Nathan is an anthropologist who has long-term experience of undertaking fieldwork in Nairobi, Kenya. His research looks at everyday constructions of publicness as processes that shape political,

legal and economic conditions globally. While at the Centre, Nathan worked with Nicole Stremlau on the use of internet shutdowns in Africa. Nathan left in July 2022 to take up a post at the University of Birmingham. [\*\*Profile\*\*](#)





**FLORIAN GRISEL**  
**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**



Florian is the Deputy Director of the Centre. His main research areas are dispute resolution and globalisation. Florian has written two books on international arbitration, and a third

one on the management of a fishery in the French Mediterranean. Florian was awarded the Alexandre Varenne Prize (Legal Theory) in 2011 and the Médaille de Bronze of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in 2018. [Profile](#)

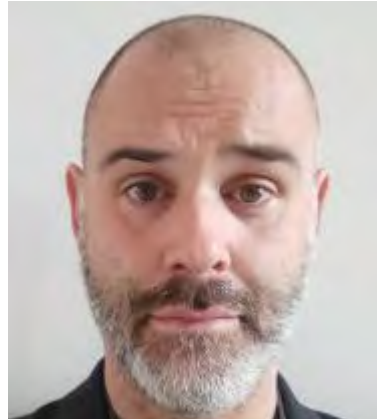
**CHRISTOPHER HODGES**  
**EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF JUSTICE SYSTEMS**



Christopher was the head of the Swiss Re Research Programme on Civil Justice Systems and a founder of the International Network for the Delivery of Regulation. His expertise

is in regulatory, enforcement and dispute resolution systems, and he advises many governments and businesses. He has held Visiting Chairs at Erasmus University, the China University of Political Sciences and Law, Beijing, Leuven University and the Australian National University. He was appointed by HM Government to the Chair of the Regulatory Horizons Council from 1 August 2022 for three years. [Profile](#)

**GIANLUCA IAZZOLINO**  
**RESEARCH FELLOW**



Before starting a lectureship position at the University of Manchester in September 2022, Gianluca was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow on the Programme in Comparative Media Law and

Policy. His research focused on how AI and digital platforms are reshaping governance in Africa for the European Research Council-funded project ConflictNET. His work lies at the intersection of political economy, socio-legal studies and digital geography, with a geographic focus on East Africa. [Profile](#)

**MARINA KURKCHIYAN**  
**EMERITUS RESEARCH FELLOW**



Marina is a sociologist who specialises in comparative legal cultures, the post-communist transition, and the impact of development issues on the rule of law. She has conducted

research in many European and Central Asian countries. As a consultant to the World Bank, the EU, the Department for International Development, the Open Society Institute and the United Nations Development Programme she has completed a number of official reports on the interaction between law and society in relation to development. Marina leads the Law in Societies research cluster at Wolfson College. [Profile](#)







**BETTINA LANGE**  
**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW AND**  
**REGULATION**



Bettina's research addresses interactions between nature and society in environmental law 'in action', building on systems theory and discourse analysis. She is particularly interested in how

the knowledge practices of environmental science and economics organise the regulation of water resources in the context of a changing climate. She currently leads the 'Regulation and Governance' cluster for the Centre. During 2021–2022 she served as Assessor for the University, a senior officer role concerned with student welfare. [Profile](#)

**SONIA MACLEOD**  
**SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW**



Sonia is a specialist in clinical negligence and no-fault compensation schemes. She is currently working with Francesca Uberti on an international comparative

project which is looking at no-fault compensation schemes for adverse events following Covid vaccination. Alongside her academic interests, Sonia has a strong focus on policy work, including the follow-up to her role as a researcher for the Independent Medicines and Medical Device Safety Review, which was set up to examine safety concerns raised by Primodos and other hormonal pregnancy tests, sodium valproate and vaginal mesh. [Profile](#)

**JOHANNAH LATCHEM**  
**RESEARCH FELLOW**



Johannah is an artist and producer based in the UK. Her works address themes of law, the legal space, punishment and power. Johannah has shown her work in museum collections where she has

responded to difficult historic artefacts and reimagined them for today's audiences when sometimes very little is known of, or questioned about, their histories. She has also worked in heritage sites, archives, galleries and the street and is the creator of installations using mixed media, drawing, sculpture, sound, performance, film and photography. The creation of new artworks and their role in courtroom performativities challenges the validity of existing courthouse rituals and exposes the need for new ones to convey revised messages to the public. While at the Centre she worked with Linda Mulcahy on a project looking at archives relating to the punishment of prostitutes on University of Oxford premises from the sixteenth century onwards.

**NIKKI MACMICHAEL**  
**ADMINISTRATOR**

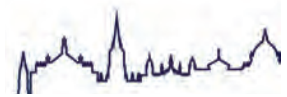


Nikki has been Centre Administrator since April 2020. She has worked in administration at the University for over 12 years. She oversees the smooth running of the Centre's finances, research administration

and facilitation, and governance at the Centre, as well as other ad hoc projects.

[Profile](#)





### JOSEPH MCAULAY RESEARCH FELLOW



Joseph is a Postdoctoral Researcher working with Professor Linda Mulcahy on a project which examines the experiences of complaint-making by patients in the National Health

Service (NHS). The project examines how patients navigate multiple overlapping systems of advice and complaint, and how and why they utilise both formal and informal sources of support during these processes. Joseph is also currently completing his DPhil at the University of Oxford's Centre for Criminology where he is studying the experiences of queer men who encounter intimate partner violence from male romantic partners. Joseph has a general interest in victimology, cultural criminology, phenomenological research and online digital methods. [Profile](#)

### CAITLYN MCGEER RESEARCH FELLOW



Caitlyn is a postdoctoral researcher working on a European Research Council-funded project called ConflictNET. She focuses on the use of AI and social media in conflict settings in Africa. Caitlyn

specialises in anticipatory action for conflict prevention, hate speech and disinformation in conflicts. She is a strategic development and impact assessment specialist. Caitlyn's research interests deal with gender and technology, human rights, and security.

[Profile](#)

### LINDA MULCAHY STATUTORY PROFESSOR OF SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES



Linda's work focuses on dispute resolution and lay experiences of the justice system. She has undertaken a number of empirical projects on disputes in the car

distribution industry, between divorcing couples, doctors and patients and on social housing estates. Her publications span a range of topics including the design of justice facilities, feminist and relational perspectives on contract law, visual representations of law, online justice and socio-legal methodologies. She is currently working on an oral history of radical lawyers and digital poverty. Linda is a Trustee of the US Law and Society Association, the co-chair of the Administrative Justice Council's academic panel and an expert adviser to National Life Stories at the British Library.

[Profile](#)

### BRONWEN PHILLIPS ADMINISTRATION OFFICER



Bronwen joined CSLS as the Administration Officer in February 2022. She takes responsibility for events, student on-course administration, and supporting both the visitors' programme and admissions process. [Profile](#)



**FERNANDA PIRIE**  
**PROFESSOR OF THE ANTHROPOLOGY**  
**OF LAW**



Fernanda is an anthropologist and legal historian who specialises in Tibetan societies. She has conducted ethnographies of contemporary legal practices and carried out textual analysis

of historic legal traditions. Placing this work in comparative perspective, she has written monographs on *The Anthropology of Law* (Oxford University Press, 2013) and on global legal history: *The Rule of Laws: A 4,000-Year Quest to Order the World* (Profile Books/Basic Books 2021). Fernanda is currently Director of Graduate Studies. [Profile](#)

**LENA ROSE**  
**RESEARCH FELLOW**



Lena held a Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellow at the Centre from 2019–2022. She is currently a lecturer and researcher at the University of Konstanz in Germany but remains an

Associate of the Centre. Her research areas are migration and refugee studies, legal and political anthropology, religion, conversion, and globalisation. From 2017 to 2019, Lena was the co-founder and convener of the interdisciplinary Oxford Migration and Mobility Network, which draws together researchers of migration and mobility from across the University. The network has grown to combine the expertise of more than one hundred researchers from more than twenty different departments from across the University of Oxford. [Profile](#)

**NICOLE STREMLAU**  
**SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW**



Nicole is head of the Programme in Comparative Media Law and Policy at CSLS and is also a Research Professor in the Humanities at the University of Johannesburg. She currently leads a European Research Council project on Social

Media and Conflict with a focus on Africa. Her current research focuses on online hate speech and mis/disinformation, particularly in areas of conflict and insecurity. She has also been leading a comparative study around the rise of internet shutdowns, particularly around elections and in response to protests and conflict. She continues her long-standing research on law and technology in areas of limited statehood and how governments attempt to engage citizens and communicate law-making processes, particularly constitution-making. [Profile](#)

**WEND TEEDER**  
**RESEARCHER**



Wend conducts her research in the field of administrative justice and public law and specialises in quantitative research. She was part of a team at the Centre looking into the lay

experiences of complaints procedures in the NHS and also worked with Linda Mulcahy on a study of the Traffic Penalty Tribunal.



## ALISON TRINDER ADMINISTRATION OFFICER



Alison worked at the Centre from January to October 2021, covering maternity leave. She had worked previously for the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences (MPLS) Division, managing the

Division's Career Development and Training programme for DPhil students. She likes getting to grips with systems and enjoyed supporting the work of the Centre. She has since re-joined the training team in the MPLS Division.

## ANNA TSALAPATANIS RESEARCH FELLOW



Anna is working with Professor Linda Mulcahy on Designing for Inclusion, an impact acceleration project aimed at developing a design guide for the advice sector. Previously, she has worked on

Supporting Online Justice, research which won a 2022 Vice Chancellor's Innovation and Engagement Award. Anna is a sociologist who received her PhD from the Australian National University. Her research interests include access to justice, migration, digital disadvantage, bureaucracy and identity.

[Profile](#)

## FRANCESCA UBERTI RESEARCH FELLOW



Francesca is a researcher working on the Covid-19 No-Fault Compensation Schemes project at CSLS with Dr Sonia Macleod. She completed her PhD in socio-legal theory at the LSE in 2022,

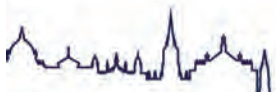
with a thesis titled 'Vaccine Opposition in the Information Age: A Study on Online Activism and DIY Citizenship'. This explored the phenomenon of mediated vaccine-critical activism. Her research interests span from mediated participation and its impact on citizenship in the information age, media and social theory, qualitative methodologies, digital activism, healthcare law and policy, and the interconnections between accountability, trust and expertise in late-modern social contexts. [Profile](#)

## MAX ZAHND RESEARCH FELLOW



Max was a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Centre from May 2021 to May 2022. He worked with Dr Marie Burton and Professor Linda Mulcahy on the AHRC project 'Enhancing Democratic

Habits: An Oral History of the Law Centres Movement.' His research interests include law and society, legal history, and tax law and policy. Maximilien received his JSD from Berkeley Law. His doctoral research examined the relationship between tax law and settler colonialism in Alaska. Max left the Centre to take up a post at New York University. [Profile](#)



## BENEDETTA ZOCCHI RESEARCH FELLOW



Benedetta is an interdisciplinary researcher interested in forced migration, frontiers, and connections between local and mobile agencies across borders. She conducted extensive ethnographic fieldwork on European Union (EU) frontiers in North Africa and in the Western Balkans where she investigated cases of forced and prolonged immobilisation of migrants deported from EU borders. On joining the ConflictNET project, she turns her gaze to African frontiers, exploring how social media and information and communications technology innovation transform migrants' agencies and transnational justice. [Profile](#)

## NEW ADDITIONS

### DOMINIK KRELL RESEARCH FELLOW



Before studying law and legal theory at Freie Universität Berlin and later at Humboldt Universität of Berlin, Dominik undertook intensive Arabic study at the University of Damascus. He completed his German legal education in March 2016 with the First State Examination (*erste juristische Prüfung*). In addition to his training in law, he holds a bachelor's degree in the History and Culture of the Middle East from Freie Universität Berlin and an MSc in Social Anthropology from the University of Oxford. His doctoral thesis, entitled 'Islamic Law in Saudi Arabia: Concepts, Practices and Developments' (Universität Hamburg 2021), explores the ways Islamic law is understood and applied by Saudi courts. Dominik will be joining the Centre in May 2023 to work as a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow on Saudi Arabia and the Globalisation of Islamic Law.

### THOMPSON KWARKYE RESEARCH FELLOW



Thompson is a postdoctoral researcher working on the Politics and Practice of Social Media in Conflict project, where he focuses on the politics of AI governance and technology in Africa. Thompson holds a PhD in Anthropology from Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany, and a Master's in Human Security from Aarhus University, Denmark. His research interests include digitisation, new technologies, migration, gender and conflict studies. He also possesses a background in decolonial studies, African history, politics and religion. Thompson joined the Centre in January 2023. [Profile](#)

**Thanks to the following for their research assistance during 2021–2022:**

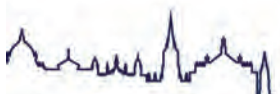
**JACK HEAD, LARA MACLACHLAN, ROWAN SIEMENS & PHILIP WILLIAMS.**



# RESEARCH AT THE CENTRE







## OUR RESEARCH

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**Since the Centre was first established in 1972, the field of socio-legal studies has expanded considerably and now encompasses a wide range of disciplinary intersections, theories and approaches.**

Against this broad backdrop, the Centre has developed an identity and reputation grounded in five key characteristics which run across all our research projects. These are:

- 1** theoretically informed empirical research
- 2** bottom-up perspectives to the study of law and legal phenomena
- 3** a range of disciplines including law, anthropology, sociology, economics, political science, art history and European studies
- 4** methodological approaches that sit at the interface of law and social sciences
- 5** regional specialisms, most notably Asia and East Africa

These interests manifest themselves in the fieldwork we undertake, the scholarly publications we produce and the research grants we acquire. This section of the report provides more details on each of these aspects of our research.





## SCOPE AND REACH

Our research considers some of the most important global issues of the day, including the impact of technology on lived experiences of law, the global environmental crisis, access to justice and migration. It is also international in its scope. Research conducted at the Centre by students and staff focuses on all the countries in blue in the image below.

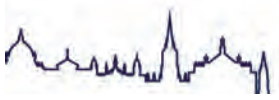


This map demonstrates the genuinely global location and reach of our scholarly activity from Afghanistan, Australia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, England, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malaysia, Morocco, Mozambique, New Zealand, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Pakistan, Poland, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Scotland, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Syria, Tibet, Turkey, Uganda, USA to Wales.

In addition to the focus of our research, our student body is also international. Many of our students spend a year in the field away from the UK. The knowledge and experience they return with enriches our research culture and helps to broaden everyone's horizons.

We regularly present our research at conferences around the world including the Socio-Legal Studies Association Annual Conference and the American Law and Society Association Annual Meeting. In the last two years, colleagues have presented their work in Australia, Belgium, China, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland and the USA.





# RESEARCH CLUSTERS

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**Individual researchers and research teams at the Centre do work that tends to cluster around our five key themes.**

We keep these research clusters under regular review as our work evolves and we begin new programmes, but organising our work in this way helps the Centre to communicate its research interests and strengths to the outside world. Significantly, most staff and students undertake work which is relevant to more than one cluster.

Each cluster organises at least one event a year which provides us with an informal forum in which to workshop new ideas, present papers or discuss important work undertaken by others in our field. These meetings are an invaluable opportunity to think about the links between projects and to discuss the possibility of collaborative research.

Please visit the [\*\*CSLS website\*\*](#) and follow the link on the homepage to 'Our Research' to discover more about the clusters.

The five research clusters at the Centre are:

- [\*\*Access to Civil and administrative justice\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Law beyond the State\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Regulation and governance\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Law in a digital world\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Lived experiences of human rights\*\*](#)

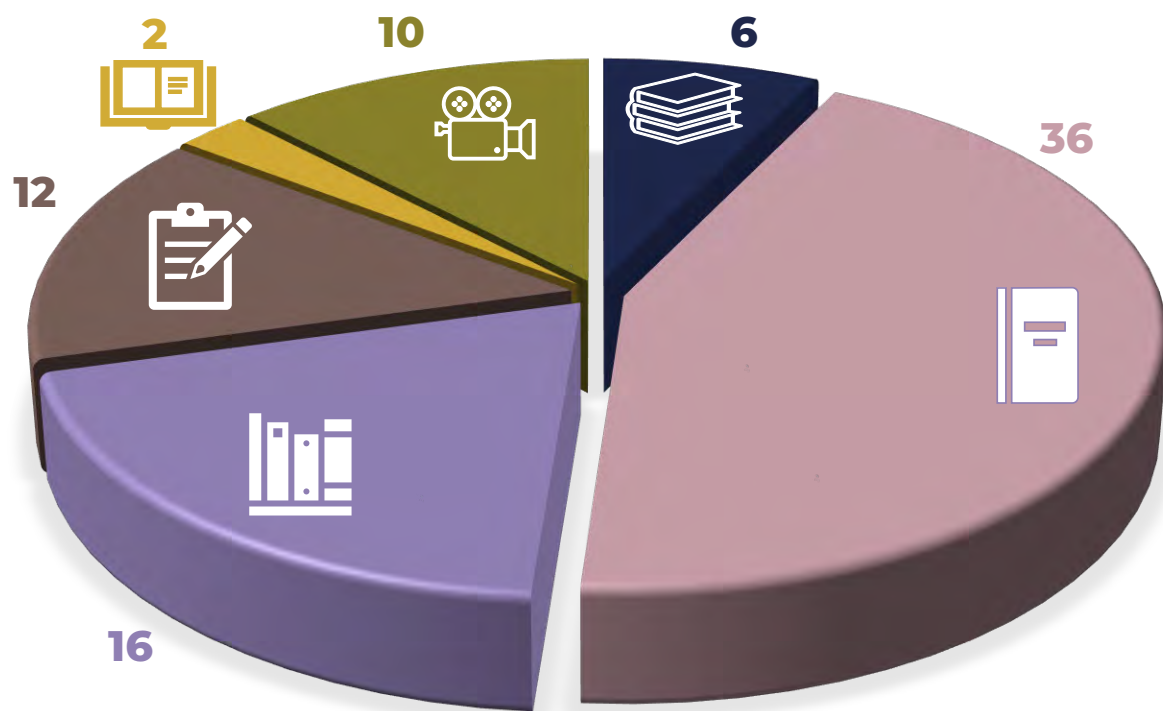






# RESEARCH OUTPUTS PUBLISHED JANUARY 2021–DECEMBER 2022

Staff at the Centre have published in a number of top socio-legal and generalist journals during the last two years including the *Journal of Law and Society*, the *Law and Society Review*, *Law and Social Inquiry*, the *Asian Journal of Law and Society* and the *Modern Law Review*.



- Peer-reviewed articles
- Book chapters
- Research reports
- Books
- Edited collections
- Other, films, podcasts, practitioner journals etc





# A SELECTION OF OUR FAVOURITE OUTPUTS

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## MARIE BURTON

Marie Burton, 'Remote hearings in the social security tribunal: should we be worried?' (2021) 28(1) *Journal of Social Security Law* 36–53

This article considers the implications of remote (telephone and video) hearings for social security appellants adopted as an emergency measure in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The paper attempts to highlight the potential issues for claimants should the switch to remote hearings become permanent. To date, there has been very limited research into telephone or video hearings in social security tribunals. This article draws on evidence gathered elsewhere in the civil and family justice systems to consider the possible challenges of remote social security hearings for appellants and finds that, taken together, the evidence suggests that remote hearings are likely to have an adverse effect on the appeals process to the detriment of social security appellants.



## NAFAY CHOUDHURY

Nafay Choudhury, 'Order in the bazaar: the transformation of non-state law in Afghanistan's premier money exchange market' (2022) February 47(1) *Law and Social Inquiry* 292–330

Based on 14 months of ethnographic research on the central money exchange bazaar in Kabul, Afghanistan – Sarai Shahzada – this article examines the micro-dynamics of legal change within a close-knit community in a fragile setting. For most of its history, the bazaar has been governed by informal legal norms. New state-building measures after 2001 led to increased efforts by the state to regulate the bazaar, causing money exchangers to initiate internal transformations to protect their autonomy. While scholarship generally argues that state coercion substitutes for private legal norms, this study shows the centrality of the state in consolidating the bazaar legal system. Exchangers have cast their non-state legal system in the image of the state by formalising new operating rules that have introduced a management structure and dispute resolution forum. New state licences have also helped to safeguard the boundaries of the bazaar. This article contributes to private governance and legal pluralism scholarship by revealing that a private community, even in a fragile state, may be capable of maintaining an autonomous non-state legal system not in spite of, but rather by depending on, the state.



This article won the Socio-Legal Studies Association Article Prize 2022, the Asian Law and Society Association Article Prize 2022 and the Law and Society Association Graduate Student Paper Prize 2021.

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**CHRIS DECKER**

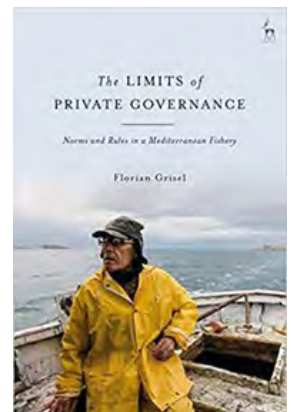
Christopher Decker, Amit Zac, Carola Casti, Amédée von Moltke and Ariel Ezrachi, 'Competition law enforcement and household inequality in the United Kingdom' (2022) *Journal of Competition Law and Economics*

This article uses a unique dataset of all EU and UK competition law decisions to estimate the overall savings (in terms of avoided price increases) generated for UK households. It also examines how those savings were distributed across consumers in the lowest, average and highest income households. The authors found that competition law enforcement has generally had a progressive impact over the entire period examined; it saved poorer households more money as a proportion of their household budgets than richer households. This suggests that competition law can be deployed effectively alongside other policy tools – such as Central Bank inflation targets – in protecting consumers, particularly lower-income consumers, from higher prices of goods and services.

**FLORIAN GRISEL**

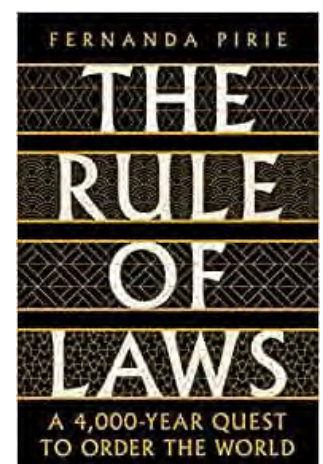
Florian Grisel, *The Limits of Private Governance: Norms and Rules in a Mediterranean Fishery* (Hart 2021)

Since the 1980s, scholars have argued that governance based on social norms (or 'private governance') can offer an alternative to regulation by the law. *The Limits of Private Governance* supplements this optimistic analysis of private governance by assessing the long-term evolution of a private order in the fishery of Marseille. In the last eight centuries, the fishers of Marseille have regulated their community without apparent means of legal support from the French state. The book examines the evolution of their private order and argues that the strong social norms in which it is embedded are not only powerful tools of governance, but also forces of inertia that have constrained its regulatory action.

**FERNANDA PIRIE**

Fernanda Pirie, *The Rule of Laws: A 4,000-Year Quest to Order the World* (Profile Books, Basic Books 2021)

Anthropology is nothing if not comparative, and for two decades the author has been considering Tibetan legal texts and practices alongside anthropological and historical studies from around the world. The culmination has been a book that takes a global perspective and traces the rise and fall of the world's major legal systems. Firmly rooted in historical detail, the book describes the great variety of people who have put pen to paper, or chipped legal rules onto granite slabs, from ancient Mesopotamia to today's human rights campaigners. Whether the laws were promising justice, imposing discipline, or revealing God's path for the world, it turns out that what unites these projects has been the promise of a more civilised world. The book is forthcoming in eight translations.





## CHRISTOPHER HODGES

### Christopher Hodges, *Outcome-Based Cooperation: in Communities, Organisations, Regulation and Dispute Resolution* (Hart 2022)

This book proposes an outcome-based cooperative model to regulation and dispute resolution in which all stakeholders work together on the basis of trust and respect to achieve shared aims and outcomes. The model is built up from an extensive analysis of behavioural and social psychology, genetic anthropology, research into behaviour and culture in societies, organisations, regulation, and enforcement. The starting point is acceptance that humanity is facing ever larger risks, which are now systemic and even existential. To overcome the challenges, humans need to cooperate more, rather than compete, alienate, or draw apart. Answering how we do that requires basing ourselves, our institutions, and systems on relationships that are built on trust. Trust is based on evidence that we can be trusted to behave well (ethically), built up over time. The book argues that we should aim to agree common goals and outcomes, moderating those that conflict, produce evidence that can be trusted, and examine our performance in achieving the right outcomes, rather than harmful ones. The implications are that we need to do more in rebasing our relationships in local groupings, business organisations, regulation, and dispute resolution. The book examines recent systems and developments in all these areas and makes proposals of profound importance for reform. This is a new blueprint for liberty, solidarity, performance and achievement.

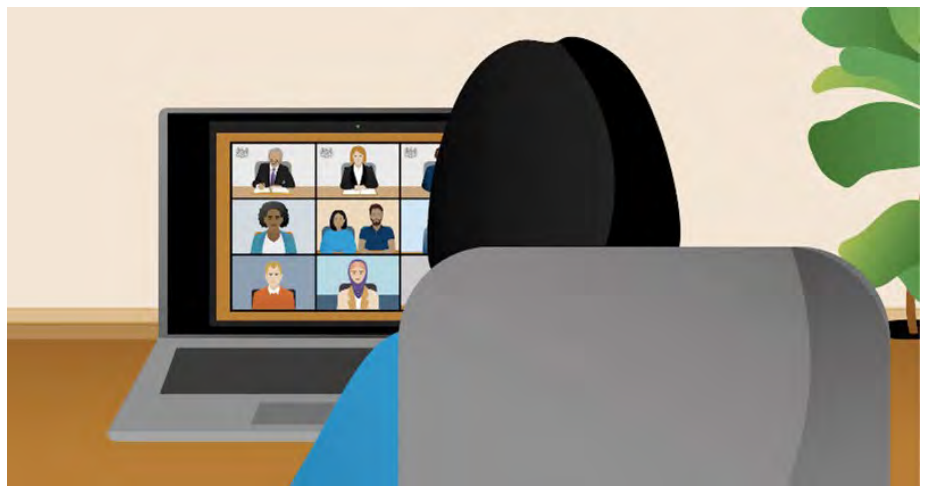


## ANNA TSALAPATANIS & LINDA MULCAHY

### Linda Mulcahy and Anna Tsalapatani (2022) 'Exclusion in the interests of inclusion: who should stay offline in the emerging world of online justice?' *Journal of Social Welfare and Family Law*

This article explores the pressing issue of the impact of digital disadvantage on the operation and legitimacy of online hearings. This is an issue which formed a core theme in the authors' Supporting Online Justice Project. The article makes apparent the limited understanding of digital disadvantage amongst professionals in the justice system.

Drawing on a large survey and interviews with the disadvantaged, it makes clear how complicated and widespread digital disadvantage is, as well as the complex ways in which it intersects with other forms of disadvantage.





**NICOLE STREMLAU, GIOVANNI DE GREGORIO & NATHAN DOBSON**

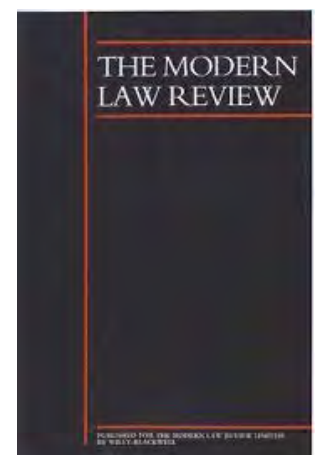
Nicole Stremlau, Giovanni De Gregorio and Nathan Dobson, 'Information interventions and social media' (2021) 10(2) *Internet Policy Review* and 'Information controls and internet shutdowns in African elections' (2022) 21(2) *Journal of African Elections*

There are two pieces we have produced that are in conversation with each other. The first, 'Information interventions and social media', is about information interventions in the era of social media. This built upon work that had previously been conducted at the Centre nearly two decades ago which examined when, and whether, international actors (such as the United Nations or North Atlantic Treaty Organization) should intervene to shut down media when it has a role in encouraging mass atrocities. This question continues to be relevant as we witness the inability of companies to address dangerous content online, particularly in the global south. However, it is more complex today to determine who can intervene and how, which is why we also see a rise in internet shutdowns (the total or partial closing of the internet in a country or region) as a response. 'Information controls and internet shutdowns in African elections' looks at this issue of information controls from another angle; the growing response of internet shutdowns to online interference in elections. There have long been information controls around elections, many of which are considered to be legitimate and reasonable, from restrictions around who can announce results, and when, to bans around the publishing of public opinion polls in the run-up to elections. We argue that social media has transformed information environments around elections, and we have sought to bring nuance to the debate around internet shutdowns by situating this trend in the historical context of information controls around elections.

**LINDA MULCAHY & WEND TEEDER**

Linda Mulcahy and Wend Teeder, 'Vanishing litigants, vanishing trials and vanishing precedent: an analysis of civil litigation trends in England and Wales and the socio-legal dynamics of norm creation' (2022) 85(2) *Modern Law Review* 326–367

This article reacts to suggestions that the decline in the number of cases that enter the court system inevitably leads to a decline in the amount of precedent produced by the superior courts. The data presented suggest that the opposite is true but that use of the appellate courts has changed significantly over a seventy-year period. The data reported in this publication took two years to compile, clean and collate. Though the dataset remains imperfect it presents the only data available on the use of the courts, and the appellate courts in particular, over time. In many ways, this article is the first stage in a much larger programme of research which needs to be done around the issue of who uses the courts and why?



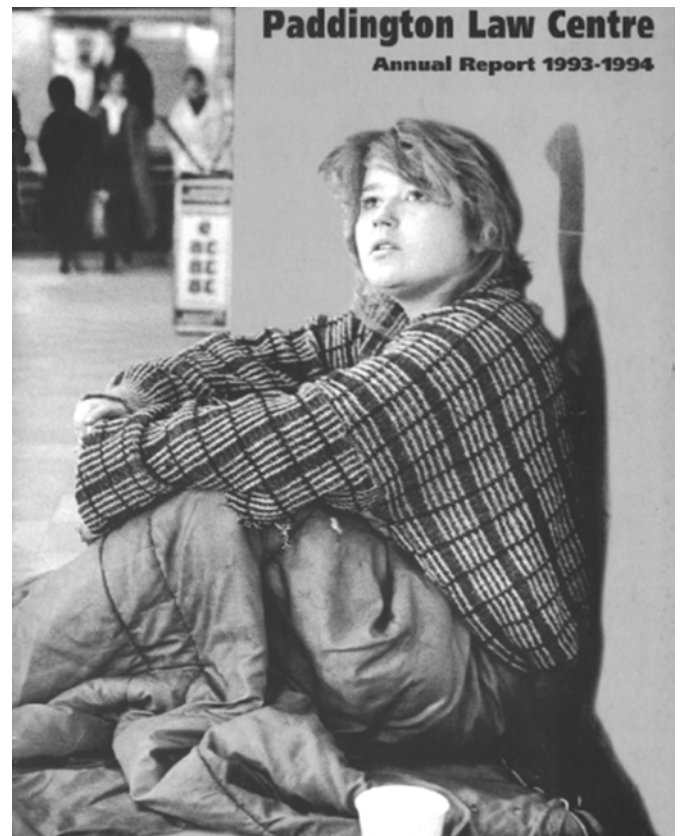


## MAJOR GRANTS AWARDED

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS: LINDA MULCAHY & MARIE BURTON**

### Enhancing Democratic Habits: An Oral History of the Law Centres Movement, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council 2021–2025

This project is a four-year collaboration between the Centre, the Law Centres Network, the British Library and Queen's University Belfast in which CSLS is the lead. The purpose of the project is to produce an in-depth history of radical lawyering in Law Centres from 1970 to the present day. This will result in the creation of an extensive sound archive of long life-story interviews and a comprehensive collection of Law Centre annual reports, both of which will be deposited at the British Library. In the first stage of the project we are focusing on the early years of the Law Centres movement and the 'pioneers'. As the project develops, we will be engaging in a number of regional case studies of particular Law Centres including those in Northern Ireland. A key goal of the project is to understand the ways in which Law Centres prompted democratic participation in the justice system, campaigns for reform and local politics.



**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR FOR THE OXFORD WORK PACKAGE: NICOLE STREMLAU**

### Resilient Media for Democracy in the Digital Age (ReMeD), a consortium led by the University of Navarra, funded by the European Commission Horizon scheme, 2022–2025

The Centre has recently been awarded a new EU Horizon project on Resilient Media for Democracy in the Digital Age (ReMed). This large EU grant is being coordinated by the University of Navarra (Spain) and involves partners from across Europe. Oxford is leading the work package on Media Law and Regulation for Diversity and Pluralism. This part of the larger grant will focus on the responsibilities and regulation of content creators and algorithmic pluralism in an increasingly hybrid media environment. We will have a particular focus on how to better regulate diversity, including the role algorithms may have in both undermining the relationship between media and democracy but also as a potential tool for enacting democratic values. The Oxford team will also be in conversation with the research of other partners in the consortium who are examining the vast changes to more traditional media markets, ethics and journalistic practices.





**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: CHRIS HODGES; CO-INVESTIGATORS: SONIA MACLEOD & CHARMAINE COLE**

## **Research Programme on Civil Justice Systems, funded by Swiss Re and European Justice Forum 2018–2021**

This programme examined systems for dispute resolution, regulation and enforcement in European states with a view to proposing new frameworks and solutions for the problems identified. The outputs of the programme have been widely relied on by governments, regulators, ombudsmen, and consumer and business organisations across the world. Major highlights include a holistic review of all major dispute types in England, an EU-wide analysis of consumer alternative dispute resolution and ombuds mechanisms, an analysis of administrative redress schemes for personal injuries, a comparison of different forms of delivering collective redress in Europe, research on enforcement and redress by regulatory authorities, an exploration of regulatory systems from the perspectives of behavioural science and organisational culture, and a report on the many types of claims made to the General Regulatory Chamber of the First Tier Tribunal. These numerous outputs have led to a range of policy discussions on reform of dispute resolution and regulatory systems across the world.

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: LINDA MULCAHY; CO-INVESTIGATORS: ANNA TSALAPATANIS & EMMA ROWDEN MCAULAY**

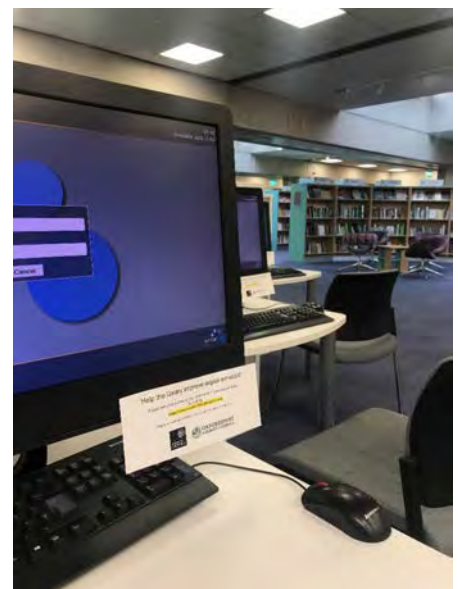
## **Virtual Justice: Enhancing Accessibility, Participation and Procedural Justice in Courts and Tribunals during the Covid-19 Pandemic, funded by the ESRC 2020–2022**

The move towards online hearings in courts and tribunals has generated a host of questions about how prepared the general public are for this innovation. Particular concerns have been raised about the possibility that access to justice will be severely undermined because many users of the legal system may be ill prepared, or lack the equipment, bandwidth or skills required to engage effectively.

These claims were tested during the pandemic when there was often no alternative but to conduct hearings online with participants appearing 'in' court from their homes. The Supporting Online Justice Project explored ways to support lay users in online hearings by providing technical, legal and emotional support to them in a series of open access evidence-based films.

Funded by the UKRI Ideas to Address Covid-19 initiative the project engaged in a cycle of consultation, research and design involving widespread engagement with national stakeholders, research on legal process, design and best practice, the production of prototypes and their testing with lay and disadvantaged users of the justice system. The project team worked closely with HM Courts and Tribunals Service as a project partner, as well as with members of the judiciary and the advice sector. Our evidence base was created by a multidisciplinary team through two national surveys and a series of focus groups.

The five films produced were launched in March 2022.





**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: NICOLE STREMLAU; CO-INVESTIGATOR: NATHAN DOBSON**

## **When Online Speech Meets Offline Harm: The Implications of Internet Shutdowns in Africa (2021–2022), funded by Facebook’s Foundational Integrity Research Competition 2020–2022**

Internet shutdowns are an increasingly normalised response to concerns about the offline consequences of misinformation and dangerous speech online, particularly in the global south. The focus of this project has been on shutdowns around election periods and in times of protest or violence. Working with a team of researchers in Ethiopia, Uganda, Chad and Cameroon, the investigators have explored government decision-making around shutdowns and the difficult balance between freedom of expression and the responsibility to protect during conflicts. This project was one of 25 projects selected out of more than 1000 submissions from around the world.

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: SONIA MACLEOD; CO-INVESTIGATOR: FRANCESCA UBERTI**

## **Covid Vaccines – No Fault Compensation schemes, funded by the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations 2021–2022**

International vaccination programmes established during the Covid pandemic were unprecedented in their scope and the speed with which they were established. In January 2020 just 26 jurisdictions had no-fault compensation schemes that would cover Covid vaccine injuries, just 18 months later there were over 140 such schemes. These schemes raise a number of socio-legal issues related to product liability and compensation for adverse events.

Sonia Macleod was approached by the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations which wanted to commission research into the scope and nature of no-fault compensations schemes for adverse events following Covid vaccination. During the first phase of this project the investigators are mapping these no-fault compensation schemes to allow for international comparisons on a number of key metrics.

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR FOR OXFORD: LINDA MULCAHY; CO-INVESTIGATOR JOSEPH MCAULAY**

## **Pathways to Complaints, Quality Safety and Outcomes of Care Policy Research Unit, funded by National Institute for Health and Care Research 2019–2023**

This project forms part of an interdisciplinary and multi-institution-based consortium which focuses on research on improving safety and the quality of health care provision in the NHS and social care settings. Within the consortium, the Centre takes the lead on understanding what formal grievances can reveal about adverse events and safety. The current focus of the work is on understanding the journeys that patients, carers and their proxies make to the large number of dispute resolution systems which exist in the NHS. Rather than focusing on one grievance system, the researchers are exploring how people navigate the dispute resolution landscape, the signposts and support networks that are available for them and their use of multiple grievance resolution systems.





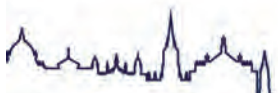
**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: NICOLE STREMLAU; CO-INVESTIGATORS: GIOVANNI DE GREGORIO, GIANLUCA IAZZOLINO, CAITLYN MCGEER, BENEDETTA ZOCCHI & THOMPSON KWARKYE**



## **The Politics and Practice of Social Media in Conflict (ConflictNET), funded by the European Commission 2017–2024**

ConflictNET focuses on Africa as an entry point to understand the complex relationship between new media, human rights and conflict. The project considers issues such as internet shutdowns, online hate speech, social media and migration, and the intersection between new technologies and non-state governance in regions where the state has limited reach. The team has been approaching this issue through a variety of research streams. These include inequalities and online content moderation in the global south, and the private ordering of factchecking organisations that seek to address the challenges tech companies face in managing hateful content or misinformation. The research team has also been researching the growing ethical and legal implications of Anticipatory Humanitarian Action. This involves an examination of the use of AI in humanitarian interventions and the ways in which new technologies are changing how disputes are resolved in refugee communities. Over the last two years, these research projects have involved the team in extensive empirical research in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, and South Africa. The project team includes Oxford-based Postdoctoral Fellows as well as a number of researchers in Africa.





# POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

**NAFAY CHOUDHURY, BRITISH ACADEMY POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW 2022–2023**

## Order at the End of the World: Neoliberal Orthodoxy, Economic Regulation, and Market Associations in Fragile Settings

This project explores the modes of governance that exist outside and alongside the state, particularly in fragile settings characterised by weak state institutions. It examines the role of market associations – non-state groups of businesses sharing a common set of interests – in defining the scope of rights possessed



by their members. Associations are crucial for understanding the nature of rights and the operation of law in fragile settings, despite receiving scant attention in existing scholarship. Through an empirical study of four associations – two in Afghanistan and two in the Democratic Republic of Congo – this project considers the intermediary role played by associations between market actors and the state. By focusing on non-state legal ordering, governance becomes a dispersed project accomplished by both state and non-state actors and institutions; consequently, understanding legal order requires understanding the role of market associations in mediating the rights of individuals and businesses.

**DOMINIK KRELL, LEVERHULME TRUST EARLY CAREER FELLOW 2023–2026**

## Saudi Arabia and the Globalisation of Islamic Law

The project investigates Saudi Arabia's role in the global development of Islamic law in the twenty-first century. Saudi Islamic scholars (*ulamā*) have developed a unique understanding of Islamic law, which questions traditional doctrines and authorities. By providing free Islamic education and judicial training programmes, Saudi Arabia has established a transnational network of jurists, through which Saudi *ulamā* spread their understanding of Islam.

The project explores this transnational network and its various actors for the first time in order to understand how Saudi Arabia globalises its version of Islamic law. It examines the kingdom's influence on the application of Islamic law in the Gambia, the Comoros Islands, and Singapore and thereby seeks to shed light on how Saudi Arabia uses Islamic law to establish itself as the leading political and cultural power in the Muslim world.







**KEVIN GRECKSCH, BRITISH ACADEMY POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW 2018–2021**

## **Out of Sight – Out of Regulation? Ensuring Sustainable Underground Governance in the UK**

This project advanced theoretical and practical perspectives on underground governance in the UK. It bridged scholarly perspectives and practitioners' experiences to develop new governance modes for underground space use including increased recognition in land use planning. In the light of increasing claims on the underground space for fracking, transport, geothermal energy or carbon capture and storage, this research assessed the question of how an improved and sustainable governance of underground spaces can be ensured to protect natural resources. One of the main conclusions is that a coordinated, interdisciplinary and integral approach is needed for underground space governance. At the moment, the field, especially urban underground space, is dominated by engineers, architects and urban planners. However, an 'underground dialogue' is necessary that includes a larger and more diverse range of researchers, stakeholders and the public. As such, the exploration and use of underground space is nothing new in human history, however, the renewed interest is a chance to design and use underground space based on the ideas of sustainability. For example, shifting large infrastructure facilities such as wastewater treatment works or refuse collection underground could free up necessary space above ground, space that could be used for social housing or parks.

**LENA ROSE, LEVERHULME TRUST EARLY CAREER FELLOW 2019–2022**

## **Christianity on Trial**

Christianity on Trial examined the negotiation of 'Christianity' through the lens of asylum adjudications of claimants based on religious conversion. Among recent migrations to Europe, asylum claims on the basis of fear of religious persecution following a religious conversion are frequent. Secular judges have to assess the genuineness of the conversion, and risks of practising Christianity in the country of origin of the applicants. This study of case law and ethnographic fieldwork at courts in Germany explored the tensions between culture, religion, and power in the negotiation of what 'Christianity' is.





## SMALL GRANTS

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**CSLS staff have attracted seedcorn funding from a number of sources to pump-prime new research projects and programmes.**

**JOHANNA LATCHEM & LINDA MULCAHY**

### **Sex Workers in the University Archive, funded by the John Fell Fund, 2021–2022**

This research project explored the untapped research potential of the records of the University's Chancellor's Court, which are held in the Bodleian Library. Johanna examined the scope of a rich dataset of information about the lives of sex workers in nineteenth and twentieth-century Oxford and how cases in which they were involved were adjudicated. In doing so, the project charted changing attitudes to managing the sex lives of the University's workers, students and unwanted visitors to University premises.

**NICOLE STREMLAU, GIOVANNI DE GREGORIO & MARTIN EMMER (FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN)**

### **Governing the Governors: Hate Speech and Disinformation in Comparative Perspective, funded by the Oxford–Berlin Research Partnership (OxBer) 2019–2021**

This project examined the ways in which disinformation is threatening our societies. The project team organised a vibrant and international seminar series on AI, Hate Speech and Online Content Moderation that critically examined the inequalities of content moderation in the global south.

**KIRA ALLMANN & TIMOTHY ALLSOP**

### **Rural Connections: Mediating Rural Queer Identity through Technology, Theatre and Film, funded by The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH) 2020–2021**

This project is spearheaded by Timothy Allsop and Dr Kira Allmann alongside the theatre and education company, Turn of Phrase. The research examined how rural LGBTQIA+ communities engage with technology and social media. The research looks at their impact on queer rural spaces, generational divides, social life, coming-out experiences, and support service access and explores how our partners engage with their archives to uncover queer rural histories and how to make these stories available to local communities. Through partnerships with the Museum of English Rural Life, the Museum of East Anglian Life, Pride in Suffolk's Past, SupportU, and several other arts and heritage organisations, the initiative created a documentary and live theatre piece exploring queer rural lives. One of the key objectives was to decentre urban perspectives and presentations of queer lives and identities.







**KIRA ALLMANN**

## **Oxfordshire Digital Inclusion Project, funded by the Knowledge Exchange Seed Fund, 2019–2021**

The impetus for this project grew out of observing the realities of the day-to-day digital offering in libraries. With more and more essential services going online, many people are turning to libraries to help them access e-government platforms, banking and employment opportunities, among other daily activities. This is a critical time to revisit and re-evaluate how to deliver digital inclusion and assess digital skills because we are entering an era of compulsory computing. This research project examined the role and potential of libraries as resource hubs. The report of the project has been published as [\*\*The Oxfordshire Digital Inclusion Project Report | Faculty of Law\*\*](#).

**ANNA TSALAPATANIS & LINDA MULCAHY**

## **An Evidence-Based Design Toolkit for the Advice Sector, funded by the ESRC Impact Acceleration Award, 2022**

This impact award draws on insights gleaned in the Supporting Online Justice project and extends the researchers' work into supporting the financially pressed legal advice sector. Anna and Linda are working in collaboration with HM Courts and Tribunals Service, Advice UK, the Advice Services Alliance and the Law Centres Network to develop an evidence-based design guide for the advice sector. The resources will provide much-needed support to service providers whose work has become increasingly important in the aftermath of severe legal aid cuts and digital-by-default policies which often serve to exacerbate existing social, economic and digital divides.

**NICOLE STREMLAU**

## **The Technopolitics of Non-Invasive Prenatal Tests, funded by the Returning Carers' Fund, 2021–2022**

Non-Invasive Prenatal Tests (NIPT) are new blood tests that can assess the likelihood of a baby having a genetic condition. NIPT is an example of a case in which technology has advanced faster than ethical, legal and societal debates about what implications these tests have on pregnancy and disability. This project examines two angles of this practice: the technopolitics of NIPT (where the increasing availability of technological innovation sets the parameters about prenatal management and in effect defines norms, laws and regulations) and the intersection between NIPT and disability rights (which explores how the ease of prenatal testing is defining the parameters of how different societies engage with the ethics of having children with disabilities).

**BETTINA LANGE**

## **Law in Society (LISY) – An Oxford–Berlin Socio-Legal Partnership, funded by the Oxford–Berlin Research Partnership (OxBer) 2018–2021**

Four successful workshops were organised as part of this Oxford–Berlin research partnership. These events enabled participants to get to know each other's research and facilitated further collaboration. Themes discussed included 'Courts and Regulation in Action: from Activism to Innovation?' and 'The Laws and Politics of (In)Security and Social Cohesion'.

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**LINDA MULCAHY, CSLS LEAD****Adverse Medical Outcomes: Understanding the Decision-Making Journey of those Harmed by Healthcare who Choose not to make a Claim, funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research, 2021–2023**

This is an initiative led by Helen Hogan at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and made up of a consortium involving the University of Oxford, Picker Institute and the Royal College of Surgeons. The project focuses on the need to better understand the experiences and actions of people using the NHS who have experienced an adverse medical event, including those who do not complain formally or litigate. The research team, led by Helen, has undertaken a survey of 20,000 adults, which is being followed up with in-depth qualitative interviews with patients and their proxies.

**KEVIN GRECKSCH****Reflecting about ‘Swimming Camels’ on the North-East Coast of England: Knowledge, Translation and Global Challenges, funded by the British Academy Small Grant Scheme, 2020–2021**

Together with Shilpi Srivastava (Institute of Development Studies), Patrick Cadwell (Dublin City University) and Andrea Ciribuco (National University of Ireland Galway), Kevin Grecksch used British Academy/Royal Irish Academy seed-funding to explore whether it is possible to build a conversation about global phenomena such as development, migration or climate change that involves a consideration of the ways in which local communities understand, interpret and experience these phenomena.

**BETTINA LANGE & KATIE PENTNEY****Freedom of Speech Training Materials, funded by the University of Oxford Van Houten Fund, 2022**

The issue of how best to reconcile free speech and equalities obligations continues to be a controversial issue in university life and democratic politics more widely. Linked to the Assessor role Bettina Lange undertook, she and Katie Pentney, from the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, have produced training materials which illustrate on the basis of three topical case studies how to reason through key legal obligations arising from UK statutes, as well as UK and European Convention on Human Rights case law.

**LINDA MULCAHY****Digital Justice: Stories from below the Radar: The Traffic Penalty Tribunal, funded by the John Fell Fund, 2020–2022**

This project involves an analysis of the Traffic Penalty Tribunal's online appeal system, focusing on three main aspects of the system. First, its user-centric design. Second, the ability for appellants and local authorities to negotiate in ‘continuous hearings’ with each other in judicially regulated settlement negotiations. And, third, the radiating effect of the process and the publication of data relating to all local authorities in terms of promoting good practice.

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# MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD AROUND US

Scholars at the Centre focus on undertaking theoretically informed empirical work and generating theory from data gathered during fieldwork. We commonly find ourselves mingling with practitioners, policymakers and legal subjects as we consider how law or legal phenomena might be reimagined. This means that, although our research is not policy-led, it is often policy relevant and can make a difference in the world around us. In this section we provide some examples of successful knowledge exchange and impact activities over the last two years.

## CSLS team wins a University of Oxford inaugural Innovation and Engagement Award



In the middle of the pandemic, a multidisciplinary team of researchers based at CSLS was awarded a grant by UKRI to support the Government in its attempts to manage the impact of Covid-19 on public services. Drawing on their previous understandings of lay experiences of the legal systems and bureaucracies, Linda Mulcahy, Anna Tsalapatanis and Emma Rowden's project sought to support lay and vulnerable users of the justice system whose hearings were forced to go online

because of social-distancing measures. The key outputs of the project are five public information films with optional subtitles translated into six different languages. These are available on the HM Courts and Tribunals Service YouTube channel and reference to them is now being made in the materials that courts and tribunals send to litigants. Judge McConnell from the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Tribunal, one of the judges who took part in the project, has said of the project:

*The Oxford team chose our tribunal as the subject of their prototype film and we have worked closely with them over a period of 18 months. The team had undertaken extensive research into the SEND tribunal when they first approached us but listened closely as we informed them of the culture of the tribunal and regional variations in style. This attention to detail shows in the films produced. We were absolutely delighted by the films which we are busy promoting. The advice given to litigants and the way in which it is given have raised the bar for films of this kind.*

Further details of this award are available on the University [website](#).



Other examples of our ongoing commitment to making a difference include:

### Sonia Macleod

Sonia's work on no-fault compensation led to her being called to give evidence before the Health and Social Care Select Committee at its Maternity Safety and NHS Litigation Reform Inquiries. She was also appointed as a special advisor to the committee for its NHS Litigation Reform Inquiry. Both of the inquiry reports recommended a shift away from litigation and the adoption of an administrative alternative that is not based on individual fault.

### Chris Hodges

Chris's regulatory work has impacted on the public policy decisions of several governments (especially in the UK: the Prime Minister's Office and various departments, such as Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Department for Transport, Department of Health and Social Care) and the regulatory practice of many regulators across the globe. His work on dispute resolution has influenced the policy of UK Government (Ministry of Justice and DLUHC) the architecture of the justice system, and the development of the operations of numerous ombudsmen.

### Bettina Lange

Bettina's empirical research about the governance of water resources has involved engagement with a number of third-sector organisations. This has led to the co-production of *Guidelines for the Integrated Management of Drought* with the Rivers Trust and a contribution to a Panel Discussion of the Public Sector Executive Conference on 'Decarbonisation and Water Efficiencies' in September 2021. The latter involved representatives of local government, industry and consultants.

### Nicole Stremlau

Nicole has been invited to brief the US Senate Majority Foreign Affairs Committee on her team's research, and the team has also been engaging with election monitoring organisations about how they might respond to shutdowns around elections and what technologies are available to circumvent total shutdowns.

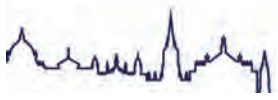




# CAPACITY BUILDING







## CAPACITY BUILDING AND BEYOND

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**The Centre has a longstanding reputation for capacity-building in the field of socio-legal studies.**

This encompasses a range of activities involving our own Postdoctoral Fellows and research students, as well as the broader socio-legal community in the UK and beyond. In pursuit of this our staff host a number of capacity-building events and are also represented on the board of trustees of both the Socio-Legal Studies Association and the Law and Society Association.

### Postdoctoral Fellows

We actively support applications for postdoctoral researchers seeking funding to undertake independent programmes of work from organisations such as the ESRC, British Academy and Leverhulme Trust. Other Postdoctoral Fellows are recruited to work on externally funded project grants secured by established Centre staff. Continuing to support early career academics in this way is a top priority. Postdoctoral Fellows are all mentored by a senior member of staff. Many go on to pursue academic careers elsewhere, but in other instances we also work with them in crafting research grant applications in the hope that they will remain at the Centre. Working at the Centre can be an important staging-post for early career academics to gain experience in undertaking new research and publishing. We are always delighted when our Postdoctoral Fellows are able to take up permanent posts in other universities.



*CSLS is first of all a community. The time I spent at the Centre gave me a sense of participating in an academic environment that values research and its impact on society. It has been an incredible source of inspiration for my research on constitutionalism, law and technology. The Centre is a wonderful place to develop interdisciplinary research and a critical socio-legal approach while also enjoying informal moments with a brilliant academic community.*

**Giovanni De Gregorio**



# LAUNCH OF THE CSLS BLOG: *FRONTIERS OF SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES*

Since our last report we have established a new blog called ***Frontiers of Socio-Legal Studies***. This provides a discussion space for socio-legal scholars from around the world at all stages of their career. The mission of the blog is to provoke new debates, provide a space for reflection and imagine new socio-legal futures. The blog has a number of sections.



## Methodological Musings ...

... is dedicated to discussion of methodologies and methods used in the production of empirical studies of law and legal phenomena. Contributions take the form of a reflection on work already undertaken or at the design stage. This might include posts on the value of a particular approach to the collection of data, problems encountered in the design or implementation of a methodology, ethical dilemmas, or unanticipated problems that have occurred in the field.

## Borderlands ...

... focuses on new directions in socio-legal studies. These might include discussion of new interdisciplinary interfaces and previously unexplored subjects, resources or archives, new research programmes or projects, networks and initiatives. It also includes pieces on key findings from recently completed empirical research projects that reference longer publications. In 2023 we will be exploring how studies of law and society have emerged across the globe.

## A Good Read ...

... features reviews of recent, theoretically informed empirical socio-legal publications. Whilst this section is mainly dedicated to book reviews, reviews of recent socio-legal articles are also welcomed. As methods are a core focus of the blog, we encourage authors to reflect upon methodology in the texts under review..

## Talking about Methods ...

... is a podcast series in which Linda Mulcahy interviews leading socio-legal scholars about a particular method they have used and their experiences of that method in the field. In time, the aim of this section is to put together integrated introductory courses in qualitative and quantitative methods.






# Frontiers of Socio-Legal Studies

CENTRE FOR  
SOCIO-LEGAL  
STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF  
OXFORD

Borderlands
Methodological Musings
A Good Read
Talking about Methods
Ask the Author



TALKING ABOUT METHODS

## Decolonising Research Questions

In this episode of Talking about Methods, Professor Linda Mulcahy talks to Professor Sarah Radcliffe (Department of Geography, University of Cambridge) about decolonising research questions.


*by Sarah Radcliffe* | 18 January 2023

METHODOLOGICAL MUSINGS

## First Impressions Count: Self-Presentation in Qualitative Interviews

In this post for Methodological Musings, John Taggart reflects on the importance of first impressions and self-presentation in Socio-Legal interviews.


*by John Taggart* | 11 January 2023



BORDERLANDS

## Contractual Relations: A Contribution to the Critique of the Classical Law of Contract

In this post for Borderlands, Professor David Campbell explains why we need to rethink the notion of contractual relations.



The editorial team is made up of two senior academics at the Centre, Linda Mulcahy and Florian Grisel. They are supported by an energetic team of four student editors: Ellie Whittingdale, Monica Arango Olaya, Urania Chiu and James Campbell. Working on the blog provides students with an excellent opportunity to hone their editorial and writing skills. We are also fortunate to have been supported by three of our Postdoctoral Fellows in developing a presence on social media.



## ESRC MASTERCLASS 2022

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**Using a four-year grant provided by the ESRC and match-funding provided by the *Journal of Law and Society*, the Welsh ESRC Doctoral Training partnership, the Centre for Law and Society at Cardiff and the Socio-Legal Studies Association, Linda Mulcahy runs an annual methodology Masterclass for research students from across the UK.**

This two-day event allows 20 students, selected through a national competition, to work with established socio-legal empiricists for 48 hours. Students are asked to read a series of publications dealing with complex methodological issues which they get the chance to discuss and debate. The particular focus of the Masterclass is the discussion of methodological experiences, problems and dilemmas. Reflecting on her experience of the 2022 Masterclass a student said:

*The people made this masterclass a joy to be at! I liked hearing from leading socio-legal academics about their experiences, approaches and their honesty in reflecting on previous projects. The presenters were generous with their time. I received some really helpful pointers for my research project. The focus on reflective practice made the masterclass very open and the group came together to create a welcoming and supportive space for the sharing of methodological issues.*

The next Masterclass hosted by the Centre will be held in September 2023. The consortium of Masterclass sponsors is currently seeking long-term funding for this initiative.







## RESEARCH STUDENTS

Research students are at the heart of much of what we do at the Centre. Admission to the Centre is highly competitive with upwards of 20 applications for each place, and the number has now been on the increase for four years.



We operate a rigorous admissions process in which there is an initial screening followed by an interview with two senior members of staff. Students enrol on one of two programmes run by the Centre: the DPhil in Socio-Legal Studies or the MPhil in Socio-Legal Studies. We currently have more than 40 students on these programmes. Students can study full-time or part-time.

Once enrolled at the Centre, our first-year students undertake a compulsory training programme which includes a dedicated course in Theory and Methods which is taught by senior members of staff in the Faculty. This is an important link in our training programme which is recognised as an ESRC training pathway. In addition to taught courses, our students are exposed to a series of lively debates about law and society through our

cluster events and regular seminar series. In the run-up to the Centre's Annual Lecture, they are also given the opportunity to discuss the theme of the lecture with the speaker in a small group seminar planned around them. In the course of the research programme we also offer specialist researcher development seminars on issues such as getting published, writing-up and preparing for fieldwork. Our students also run their own socio-legal discussion group where advanced research students are able to present their ideas to a group of peers.

### Research students studying on the DPhil programme

#### **SELINA ABÄCHERLI, LINCOLN COLLEGE**

Making 'Good' Law: A Socio-Legal Analysis of debates about the Quality of Legislative Standards in the UK (Supervisor: Prof Pirie)

#### **ROXANE AGON, WOLFSON COLLEGE**

Private Norms, Public Laws: The Italian-American Mafia's Resilience and its Relationship with the State (Supervisor: Dr Grisel)

#### **NOUF ALBINHASSAN, LINACRE COLLEGE**

Corporate Governance and the Sovereign: What Corporate Governance Role Do Sovereign Wealth Funds Play? (Supervisor: Dr Grisel)

#### **KARA APLAND, BALLIOL COLLEGE**

The Limits of Legal Protection: The Use of Deprivation of Liberty in the Sri Lankan Child Justice System (part-time) (Supervisor: Prof Pirie)

#### **MUHAMMAD ATCHA, KEBLE COLLEGE**

Analysing the Informal Justice System Created by the Rohingya, for the Rohingya (Supervisor: Prof Pirie)

#### **BENEDIKT BARTHELMESS, EXETER COLLEGE**

Compliance with Financial Crime Regulation: The Impact of Banks' Risk-Based Approaches on Access to Finance for Groups on the Margins (Supervisor: Dr Lange)

#### **JAMES CAMPBELL, WOLFSON COLLEGE**

The Laws of Motion: Towards a Sensational Jurisprudence of Movement within the Court (part-time) (Supervisor: Prof Mulcahy)



**URANIA CHIU, EXETER COLLEGE**

Psy, Law and the State: A Socio-Legal Analysis of Mental Disorder and Disability in Criminal Sentencing in Hong Kong (Supervisors: Prof Mulcahy, Charles Foster and Michael Dunn)

**RANGGA DACHLAN, EXETER COLLEGE**

Cultural Heritage and the Conjuring of the Indonesian Nation (Supervisor: Dr Kurkchian)

**MARCUS DAHL, ST EDMUND HALL**

Indigenous Political Voice, the Uluru Statement and the Demand for a Constitutionally Protected Voice to Parliament in Australia (Supervisors: Prof Pirie and Prof Wood)

**ANA CAROLINA DALL'AGNOL, WOLFSON COLLEGE**

Extracting Natural Gas in the Rovuma Basin, Mozambique: The Role and Place of the Law (Supervisors: Dr Grisel and Dr Decker)

**ANN-MARIE DEBRAH, EXETER COLLEGE**

Phenotype, Scientific Racism and Colonialism: The Reintroduction of Colonial Categories of Race in Affirmative Action Tribunals in Brazil (Supervisor: Professor Mulcahy)

**MIKOLAJ FIRLEJ, ST CROSS COLLEGE**

The Problematisation of Human Control over Lethal Autonomous Weapons – A Case Study (Supervisors: Dr Lange and Dr Blackburn)

**ZOE HAMILTON, WOLFSON COLLEGE**

Regulation of Misinformation in Covid-19: Socio-Political Contexts of Technology Use across the Digital Divide (part-time) (Supervisors: Dr Grisel and Dr Stremlau)

**IRENE HAN, ST ANTHONY'S COLLEGE**

The Impact of Lawyer Behaviour on the Cost of Civil Litigation (Supervisor: Prof Mulcahy)

**ETIENNE HANELT, WOLFSON COLLEGE**

Supranational Tug of War: European Union and the Future of the Authoritarian Equilibrium (Supervisors: Prof Pirie and Dr González Ocantos)

**JACK HEAD, ST CATHERINE'S COLLEGE**

The Creation and Consumption of Legal Images on the Midland Circuit (Supervisor: Prof Mulcahy)

**DANIEL HERSZBERG, ST CROSS COLLEGE**

Revolution and National Security: Socio-Legal Heritage at the Limit in Hong Kong (Supervisor: Dr Grisel)

**SHRUTI IYER, ST ANTHONY'S COLLEGE**

Silicosis and the State: Reframing Contestations between Capital and Labour in Contemporary India (Supervisor: Prof Mulcahy)

**LAMA KARAME, EXETER COLLEGE**

Age and the Law: A Critical Approach to Ageing under Legal Pluralism (Supervisors: Prof Mulcahy and Prof Herring)

**CHARLOTTE KELLY, BALLIOL COLLEGE**

How Has Law and Regulation, Both Formal and Informal, Regulated Key Issues of Female Bodily Autonomy in the Transition from Childhood to Adulthood in Singapore from 1955 to 2018? (Supervisors: Dr Kurkchian and Prof Ferguson)

**ISRAR KHAN, REGENT'S PARK COLLEGE**

The Belt and Road Initiative: Is There a Chinese Approach to Dispute Resolution? (Supervisor: Dr Lange)

**STEPHEN KNIGHT, WOLFSON COLLEGE**

Post-Conflict Observance of International Humanitarian Law by the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (part-time) (Supervisor: Dr Grisel)

**JADE KOSCHE, WOLFSON COLLEGE**

Non-Legal Labour Governance as an Instrument of Social Change? A Study of how the Gender Justice Program in Lesotho Affects Women's Perceptions of Gender-Based Violence in the Public and Private Spheres (Supervisor: Prof Pirie)

**SARAH LEVY, GREEN TEMPLETON COLLEGE**

A Tale of Two Seal Hunts: Contesting the Conflation of Canadian Sealing Activities in Law and Policy (Supervisor: Dr Lange)

**AMANDA LINDSTROM, ST ANTHONY'S COLLEGE**

Business, Politics and law: Socio-Legal Aspects of Global Health Governance and Supply Chain Due Diligence (part-time) (Supervisors: Prof Mulcahy and Prof Davies)

**JUNYU LIU (LOVEDAY), REGENT'S PARK COLLEGE**

Living the Rurality: The Radiating Effects of Law on the Corporate–Peasant Relationship in a Chinese Agricultural Enterprise (Supervisor: Dr Grisel)



#### **ANNA LÖBBERT, LINCOLN COLLEGE**

Denying the State through Law (Supervisor: Prof Pirie)

#### **CAIO MACHADO, WOLFSON COLLEGE**

Disinformation Driving Brazil's Covid-19 Response: A Networked Mobilisation against Evidence-Based Policy-Making (Supervisor: Dr Lange)

#### **ANGELA MOORE, BRASENOSE COLLEGE**

The Impact of EU Accession on Refugee Rights in the Context of the Refugee and Migration Crisis in Europe: Raising Standards or Policing Borders? (part-time) (Supervisor: Dr Kurkchian and Dr Grisel)

#### **AYESHA PATTNAIK, ST ANTONY'S COLLEGE**

Concealed Claims, Contested Citizens: A Study of India's Informal Internal Migrant Workers (Supervisor: Prof Pirie)

#### **PABLO PEÑA ALEGRIA, GREEN TEMPLETON COLLEGE**

Property Law and Deforestation in the Agricultural Frontier of the Peruvian Amazon? (Supervisor: Dr Lange)

#### **AASTHA PRASAD, GREEN TEMPLETON COLLEGE**

From Colonialism to Late Capitalism: Trajectories of 'Customary Law' among Tribes in Western India (Supervisor: Prof Pirie)

#### **VIDYA RAMACHANDRAN, ST PETER'S COLLEGE**

(En)Gendering Removal: Exploring Women's Return Migration to India Amid Gendered Violence (Supervisor: Prof Pirie)

#### **ELSA SAVOUREY, EXETER COLLEGE**

Advancing the Respect of Human Rights in Global Value Chains: Assessing the Effectiveness of Mandatory Human Rights Due Diligence (part-time) (Supervisor: Dr Grisel)

#### **TOBY SHEVLANE, EXETER COLLEGE**

Regulating for the Responsible Development of Artificial Intelligence (Supervisor: Dr Lange)

#### **SILA ULUCAY, ST ANTONY'S COLLEGE**

Governing Dissent through Generating Precariousness: The Case of Turkey (Supervisor: Dr Kurkchian)

#### **DENNIS WEST, GREEN TEMPLETON COLLEGE**

The Standardisation of Social-Environmental Metrics across Organisational Networks (Supervisor: Dr Lange)

#### **ELEANOR WHITTINGDALE, LADY MARGARET HALL**

When Law Comes to Life: Narratives of Sexual Violence beyond the Courtroom (Supervisor: Prof Mulcahy)

### **And studying on the MPhil programme**

#### **FREYA COLE NORTON, LINCOLN COLLEGE**

The Local Welfare Safety Net: Fit for Purpose? (Supervisor: Prof Mulcahy)

## **2021–2022 GRADUATES**

### **DPhil in Socio-Legal Research**

#### **STERGIOS AIDINLIS, ST CROSS COLLEGE**

Regulating Administrative Data Sharing for Research Purposes in the United Kingdom (Supervisor: Dr Lange)

#### **TERESA BÜCHSEL, WOLFSON COLLEGE**

De-Mystifying Asylum Adjudication – Judicial Perspectives on Law and Experience in German Administrative Courts (Supervisor: Dr Kurkchian)

#### **DIANA DAJER, GREEN TEMPLETON COLLEGE**

Pathways to Inclusion and Exclusion: An Analysis of Medellín's Participatory Budgeting Process (Supervisor: Dr Lange)

#### **FERNANDA FARINA, LINCOLN COLLEGE**

Trusting Judges: A Socio-Legal Inquiry about Access to Health Care via Litigation in Brazil (Supervisor: Prof Pirie)

**MATILDA GAWRONSKI, NUFFIELD COLLEGE**

From Justice de Jure to Justice de Facto: An Analysis of the Rome Statute System in Action in the Situation of Uganda (Supervisor: Dr Kurkchian)

**IVO GRUEV, MERTON COLLEGE**

The Protection of Fundamental Rights in Bulgaria: Revisiting the Kelsenian Model for Constitutional Adjudication (Supervisor: Prof Mulcahy)

**MARK HASKEW, WOLFSON COLLEGE**

Following Libor: Financial Benchmarks, Law, and the Government of Economic Life (Supervisor: Dr Lange)

**ANNELOES HOFF, ST ANTONY'S COLLEGE**

Power, Fragility and Corporate Social Responsibility: An Ethnography of a Mining Corporation in Colombia (Supervisor: Prof Pirie)

**LISA KO-EN HSIN, LINACRE COLLEGE**

Beyond Compliance? The Socio-Legal Consequences of Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (Supervisor: Prof Pirie)

**HOI-CHUN 'ALVIN' HUNG, LADY MARGARET HALL**

Exploring Intercultural Disputes through the Lens of Legal Culture: A Case Study of Chinese Private Enterprises in Myanmar (Supervisor: Dr Kurkchian)

**HANNAH SMITH, ST CROSS COLLEGE**

A Socio-Legal Exploration of Approaches towards Secondary Uses of administrative Data in Social Science Research (Supervisors: Dr Lange and Prof Kaye)

**JESSICA STEINBERG, ST HILDA'S COLLEGE**

Cannabis Legalization: An Ethnography of the Global Movement and Market Forces (Supervisor: Prof Pirie)

**STANISLAVA TOPOUZOVA, ST CROSS COLLEGE**

Refugee Status Determination: De Facto Practices in Semi-Autonomous Sites of Adjudication (Supervisors: Prof Mulcahy and Dr Kubal)

**MPhil in Socio-Legal Research****BENEDIKT BARTHELMESS, ST ANTONY'S COLLEGE**

Regulating Access to Finance: Transnational Anti-Money Laundering Governance and Financial Inclusion in Zambia (Supervisor: Dr Lange)

**KELSEA JEON, WOLFSON COLLEGE**

Legal Aid without Lawyers: How Boston's Nonlawyers Delivered and Shaped Justice for the Poor, 1878–1921 (Supervisors: Dr Florian Grisel and Prof Mulcahy)

**DEBORAH RABINOVICH, REGENT'S PARK COLLEGE**

Negotiating Redress: Japanese American Survivor Testimonies of Incarceration at the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (Supervisor: Dr Kurkchian)

**ZHANNA TER-ZAKARYAN, ST ANTONY'S COLLEGE**

Decolonising Collections? The Benin Artefacts in British Museums (Supervisor: Prof Mulcahy)

**NÍNA THORKELSDÓTTIR, KEBLE COLLEGE**

The Role of Social Media as Evidence in Asylum Procedures in Iceland (Supervisor: Dr Kurkchian)

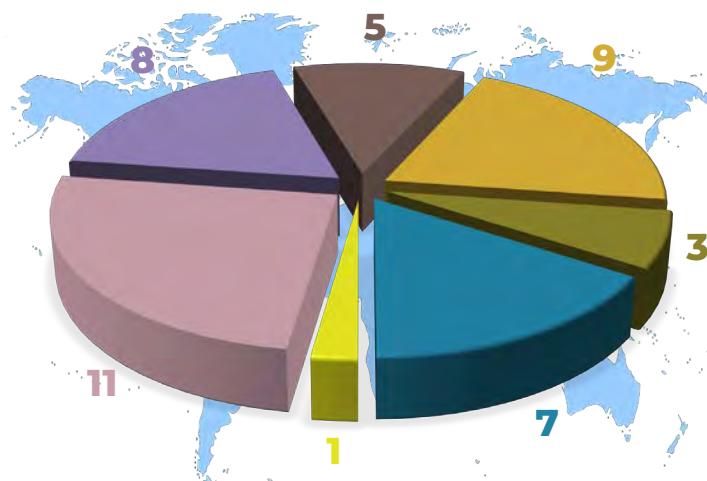
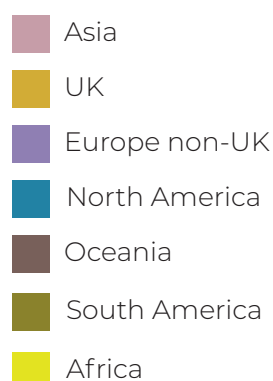






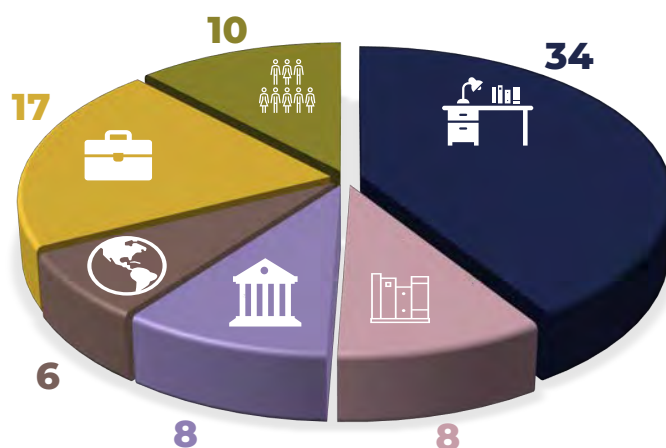
## WHERE DO OUR STUDENTS COME FROM?

The Centre is proud to be able to recruit a diverse and international group of students to its research degree programme. The infographic below shows the country of origin of our student body.



## CAREER DESTINATIONS OF OUR STUDENTS 2010–2022

Since 2010 over 80 research students who came to study on the DPhil or MPhil programmes have graduated from the Centre. On completion of their research degrees, around half our alumni decide to stay in academia and progress to study for a doctorate. Those students who graduated from our DPhil and MPhil programmes were most likely to progress to academic jobs with a smaller proportion embarking on careers in government, the private sector and non-governmental organisations. Graduates can now be found pursuing careers in Europe, Australia, South America, North America, Asia and Africa.



The MPhil is an increasingly attractive standalone qualification with overseas students, and many leave the Centre to train as lawyers or to work in management consultancy and other private-sector practice.

# PROFILE OF AN ALUMNA: CARSON SMITH



'While at CSLS, I researched the structures and strategies of community mediation centres that navigate conflict across ethnic groups. Upon finishing my MPhil at the Centre, I moved back to the United States and began a Conflict Resolution Fellowship at Stanford University. During this fellowship, I focused on the teaching, design and implementation of alternative dispute resolution strategies on Stanford's campus. Throughout the autumn of 2021, I taught two courses for undergraduate and graduate students – an Indigenous Peacemaking course and a course on grievance structures used by academic institutions. Simultaneously, I partnered with campus administrators, faculty and students to map and redesign conflict resolution practices at the University. Finally, I helped lead mediation and restorative justice events for campus students, faculty and staff in need of support.

I have also continued to sit on the Advisory Board for the Native American Rights Fund's Indigenous Peacemaking Initiative. Through

this organisation and in partnership with Indigenous organisations across the country, I co-chaired the 2021 Annual Peacemaking Colloquium, a gathering of alternative dispute resolution professionals as well as judges and community leaders from tribes in the United States.

Currently, I am studying for my Juris Doctorate at Stanford Law School and was awarded the Knight-Hennessy Scholarship. My main area of focus is mediation and tribal law, and, in the future, I hope to use my skills and career to design community-based and culturally informed peacemaking processes in collaboration with Indigenous and tribal communities. I am so grateful for the mentors and peers I encountered while at CSLS. My time and research there have been critical to my career and further educational opportunities!

## CALLING ALL ALUMNI

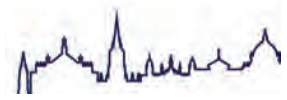
One of our recent activities has been updating our alumni mailing list. If you have received this annual report, then you are probably already on it, but if you studied with someone else who would like to stay in touch with us, please ask them to contact us at [admin@csls.ox.ac.uk](mailto:admin@csls.ox.ac.uk).



# EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS







## OUR 2021–2022 EVENTS

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Each year the Centre organises in excess of 25 events. Many of our events are available for people to join online or in person, and the hybrid nature of our recent events has almost doubled our weekly audience at our Monday-night seminars which regularly attract 40 people. A range of scholars from the UK and beyond take part in our [events programme](#) which attracts speakers from across the social sciences.

## CSLS 50TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

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In September 2022, 90 former staff and students came together at Wolfson College to celebrate the Centre's 50th anniversary. The Centre was the third specialist centre of its kind in the world, following in the footsteps of the American Bar Foundation in Chicago and the Center for Law and Society in Berkeley. It was the first socio-legal centre in the UK and remains the largest of its kind with 16 members of staff and over 40 students. The celebrations took the form of a series of conversations between the founding members, mid-career and early career researchers. In the course of the day we talked about the Centre's longstanding relationship with Wolfson College, its early beginnings as an experiment that was looked on with some suspicion by the Law Faculty, the many rich research programmes conceived of by Centre pioneers and the ways in which some of those programmes continue to be nurtured or reflect a break with the past. The day was made complete with a display of poster presentations created by our students and by wine and cake!

The birthday celebrations gave us a long overdue opportunity to celebrate the achievements of Don Harris whose vision of an interdisciplinary research centre led to the establishment of the Oxford Centre for Socio-Legal Studies in 1972. Following his death, we were honoured to welcome his daughter Caroline to our birthday conference.

*See page 47 for a selection of photos from a memorable day!*

## ANNUAL LECTURES

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### **2022: Professor Rebecca L Sandefur, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Arizona State University: A Monopoly on the Law? Access to Justice and Legal Services Regulatory Reform**

Around the world, people face hundreds of millions of potentially life-altering civil justice problems every year. Traditional lawyer-centric approaches to this so-called 'justice gap' have been robustly ineffective at scaling up to meet widespread unmet need. A range of jurisdictions are exploring and permitting lawyerless legal services, changing who can make money from the practice of law, who can engage in it, and who can direct and control it. A growing body of evidence suggests promise for increasing access to justice through such lawyerless services. In this lecture Rebecca argued that opening up the practice of law is not just a service delivery imperative, it is a democratic imperative: it is a critical step to make law and justice accessible to the people to whom they are supposed to be accountable.

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## 2021: Marina Kurkchiyan, Emeritus Senior Fellow: Is Russia an 'Illegitimate Child in the Family of Roman Law'? An Exploration of Challenges and Benefits in the Study of Legal Cultures

In this lecture Marina argued that legal culture is a frequently contested concept in socio-legal studies, but at the same time it is also one that is frequently used. This talk engaged with the challenges of framing it conceptually and turning it into a meaningful line of empirical enquiry. Can such an all-inclusive and fuzzy concept have any empirical value? How can we accommodate the intrinsically conflicting qualities of legal cultures, such as historical inertia versus social dynamism? What intellectual traps are to be expected and what advantages can be gained by employing a legal culture approach? To illustrate the various issues thrown up by this exercise Marina drew upon her years of research on Russian legal culture. She contended that the use of the 'legal culture' lens has helped her to step away from the tendency of mainstream scholars to assert that law does not work in Russia because it is manipulated by the political elite there. Instead, she argued that the right question to ask is not whether it works or not, but how it works, what law means to the people of Russia and how deeply it is embedded in the fabric of their social relationships? In conclusion she suggested that the use of a legal culture approach can not only yield insights into Russian law and society today but also encourage an appropriately nuanced comparison of the legal traditions.

## THE OXFORD MEDIA POLICY SUMMER INSTITUTE

After a two-year break due to Covid-19, the Oxford Media Policy Summer Institute resumed in 2022. The response to the programme was overwhelming – more than fifty participants from around the world gathered at Jesus College for two weeks of intensive discussions on cutting-edge issues of media policy. The 2022 theme focused on 'Technology and Policy in Times of Crisis'. Special attention was given to information disorder in Ukraine and the conflict in Afghanistan, including media policy under the Taliban. Participants also explored issues such as AI and online content moderation of extreme speech, internet shutdowns during elections, and big data and humanitarian interventions. The Institute was established over 20 years



ago and, during this time, it has built a strong global network of alumni and faculty who are leaders within the international freedom of expression community, particularly across the global south.

And finally we are delighted to announce that our Annual Lecture in the summer of 2023 will be delivered by Professor Des Manderson from the Australian National University.





## CSLS 50TH BIRTHDAY IN PICTURES



# OUR WIDER FAMILY







## OUR ASSOCIATES

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The intellectual life of the Centre is also enhanced by those who participate as **Associates** of the Centre. These include Senior and University Associates who take part in events, chair advisory groups or contribute to our events programme. In the period covered by this report we were delighted to be able to add Professor Antonia Layard and Professor Shazia Choudhry to our list of Associates.

## OUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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The Centre is also grateful for the input of the Centre Management Committee whose members oversee our activity and act as critical friends: Professor Sue Bright (Chair), Professor Nick Barber, Professor Kate O'Regan, Professor Abi Adams-Prassl, Professor Peter Kemp and Professor Ian Loader.

## OUR VISITORS

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The Centre has a vibrant **visitors' programme** which provides opportunities for research students and established academics to spend time at the Centre and engage in our activities.

The Centre is able to make office space available for our visitors so that they can be exposed to the full range of daily activities. Visitors commonly contribute to the intellectual life of the Centre by giving presentations, joining in the discussion at our events or just chatting about research and fieldwork over a cup of tea and piece of cake at our weekly Thursday afternoon sessions.

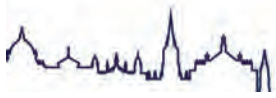
### Jinan Bastaki

Jinan is Associate Professor of Legal Studies, New York University Abu Dhabi and CSLS Visitor.

*I came to CSLS as a Visiting Scholar for the Michaelmas Semester in 2022 to work on my project on the content and practice of female citizenship in the United Arab Emirates. It has been an incredibly enriching experience, with welcoming colleagues and an intellectually stimulating environment. My colleagues at the Centre were always ready to help me think through my ideas and develop my research, and their feedback has been invaluable. The Monday seminars were thought-provoking and introduced me to scholars and different bodies of scholarship that both helped and challenged me to think of my own research in a different way. I especially appreciated the Thursday afternoon tea as it gave us an opportunity to step back from our desks and get to know each other and each other's work. It really fostered a sense of community at the Centre. I am grateful for my time at the Centre and hope to continue to be engaged with my colleagues and their scholarship.*







## Mark Fathi Massoud, Visiting Professor

In the period covered by this report the Centre was fortunate in being able to host Professor Mark Fathi Massoud during his term as a Visiting Professor at the University of Oxford Faculty of Law. Mark is Professor of Politics and Legal Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz (United States of America).

Mark will act as a Visiting Professor until 2024 and, during that period, will be visiting the Centre on an annual basis. During his first visit in the summer of 2022 he delivered the annual Evans-Pritchard lectures at All Souls College on the subject of 'A Legal Politics of Religion: Building an Islamic Rule of Law in the Horn of Africa'. Mark also ran a professional development seminar for students at the Centre. We look forward to his next visit in 2023.



## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

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Staff and students at CSLS value this opportunity to reassert our commitment to confronting racism, sexism and all forms of unfair discrimination through education, research, discussion, and peaceful protest. Interrogating the interface between the rhetoric of formal rights and the lived reality of legal process is at the heart of everything we do. Issues around race, sexism and law are currently being explored in a number of projects at CSLS.

Staff and students at the Centre acknowledge that we can and should do more. In the spirit of taking time to listen to, and amplify, the voices of a diverse community we have:

- committed to inviting a broad range of speakers to present in our seminar series;
- sought funding to collaborate with colleagues in Africa in the hosting of a methodology seminar series focusing on undertaking research from the global south;
- engaged in a review of our curriculum to ensure that students are asked to read the work of a diverse range of authors;
- introduced sessions on feminist methodology and decolonising research questions into our compulsory Theory and Methods course;
- used the *Frontiers of Socio-Legal Studies* blog to foreground the voices of those who have traditionally been marginalised in the Western academy; and
- produced **[a list of socio-legal materials](#)** from a diverse range of authors for use by colleagues when compiling reading lists.

We are committed to ongoing debate to ensure that we are not complicit in the silencing of marginalised voices. We encourage you to engage in debate with us and to critique our efforts to facilitate inclusivity.



*Our thanks go to Anna Tsalapatani, Nicole Stremlau and Steve Allen for producing the photographs of our community included in this report. Cover photograph by Eleanor Marchant. World Map image (section pages) designed by [Freepik.com](https://www.freepik.com). Interactive World Map (page 15) designed by [Mapchart.net](https://www.mapchart.net). Copyediting and production by Marie Selwood. Printed by Grammer & Co Ltd, Maidstone, Kent.*

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A place where disciplines and  
socio-legal scholars meet