The 'Future of Plastics' Project
Andrew Burrows appointed to the Supreme Court
'Remembering Rwanda' wins award
New Law and Technology Course
Reproductive Health and Human Rights
I always expected the job to be challenging, and so it has proved, but no-one could have foreseen the turmoil of the past few weeks, as we have confronted the Coronavirus pandemic. Of course, my first thought is for the wellbeing of colleagues, students and alumni and their families and friends, and it is my sincere hope that all of you have been able to stay safe and well during these difficult times.

As I write, we have moved to online teaching and assessment for the remainder of this academic year, in order to enable our wonderful students to complete their courses. Both academic and administrative staff in the Faculty have shown great tenacity and ingenuity in solving the unprecedented challenges we have faced. Our aim is to continue to provide a great Oxford educational experience, albeit with a rather different look and feel, and to return to normal as soon as it is safe to do so. Many colleagues have started to blog or write about the various legal issues arising out of Coronavirus, and you can follow their work on the Faculty’s website.

Until the pandemic put a stop to all travel, one of the most enjoyable elements of my role as Dean was the opportunity to meet with alumni around the world, both those who read law at Oxford and those who did something else and ended up pursuing a career in law. I have loved hearing your stories about Oxford – your memories of tutorials with demanding tutors, essay crises, and (for those of a certain age) climbing back into your college late at night after the gate was locked – and hearing how your Oxford education helped to shape your career. Your loyalty to, and support of, our Law Faculty has been a constant in changing times and you are our very best and most enthusiastic ambassadors. I am sorry that I have not been able to thank you for this support in person this year, but I do so now, from the bottom of my heart.

I will be staying at Oxford as a professorial fellow of Brasenose College and I am looking forward to having more time for research and teaching. It has been a great privilege to be Dean of the best law school in the world and I am delighted to be handing over to Professor Mindy Chen-Wishart, of Merton College. I know that Mindy will do an excellent job, and I wish her every success.

Anne Davies
April 2020
Faculty launches new option in Law and Computer Science

A new option in Law and Computer Science is being offered to BCL, MJur and MSc in Law and Finance students from this year. This is the first truly interdisciplinary option and will be jointly offered by the Law Faculty and the Department of Computer Science.

As AI and digital technology permeate more of our lives, they increasingly become the source of legally significant events. This means that those who study and/or practice law increasingly need to understand the digital context. At the same time, those who study computer science and/or develop software increasingly need to understand potential legal consequences of design choices. This course will introduce students from both backgrounds to the terrain at the boundaries of their two disciplines. The overarching theme is understanding law and computer science at their intersection.

Such interdisciplinary understanding requires both lawyers and computer scientists to develop an appreciation of the way in which they typically approach problems, with very different analytic tools. A key pedagogical strategy for the course is to teach law and computer science students together, and in particular for them to collaborate on a groupwork practical exercise.

The course will be led by Professor Rebecca Williams of the Law Faculty and Professor Tom Melham from the Computer Science Department. Professor Williams is a co-Investigator on the AI for English Law project.

The course will take 12 students from each discipline and is full this year, demonstrating the demand for knowledge in this area.

Centre for Criminology launches new scholarship for BME students

The Centre for Criminology in association with Brasenose College has launched a new scholarship for UK BME students. The scholarship will provide full fees and maintenance support for a maximum of four years.

The Centre for Criminology is committed to attracting the very best candidates for research degrees, irrespective of their background or ability to pay. Highly qualified students from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) backgrounds who are ordinarily resident in the UK have been under-represented in the doctoral programme in recent years. It is hoped that the graduate scholarship will encourage more students from these backgrounds to apply for the DPhil in Criminology.

Mary Bosworth, Director of the Centre for Criminology, said ‘I am delighted that we have been able to create the first BME DPhil studentship in the Law Faculty, with support from Brasenose College. In creating this funding opportunity, we acknowledge that the student body across the University, and indeed the discipline itself, is still not sufficiently diverse, despite some recent efforts at improvement. As a teaching group committed to training the next generation of scholars, we hope this studentship will have an impact on the nature of the discipline more widely.’

The scholarship is one of several initiatives that the University is undertaking as part of its Race Equality Charter, and is a positive action measure under s.158 of the Equality Act 2010. It is also one of many offered by the University to students who have been accepted onto programmes at the Centre for Criminology.
Law library to be established at the Common Law Centre in Beijing

Over the last two years, Ewan Smith (Christ Church) has been collecting volumes to help found a new law library at the Centre for Common Law in Beijing. We are pleased to announce that the library – over three thousand volumes – is now on its way to China.

The books were shipped throughout November, and the final instalment of four tons of books recently left the Codrington Library at All Souls College. The library includes a complete set of both Hansard and the Law Reports, and a comprehensive range of journals, textbooks and supporting materials. We believe this is the first English law library to be made available to students in Beijing.

Wang Yi, Dean of Renmin Law School said: “We are very pleased to receive this new library, which will help future generations of students to explore the common law. It will prove very valuable to the Centre and to the wider legal community here.”

We are grateful to the donor libraries in Oxford: All Souls, Balliol, Corpus Christi, Christ Church, Hertford and Jesus colleges and especially to Gaye Morgan at the Codrington Library. We are particularly grateful to our partners at Renmin University, especially Dean Wang Yi, Associate Dean Cheng Lei and Deputy Director of the Centre for Common Law Wu Zhicheng.

King and Wood Mallesons Associate Professorship in Asian Law

We are thrilled to announce our new partnership with King and Wood Mallesons (KWM), a leading global law firm headquartered in Asia. KWM will be funding the inaugural Associate Professorship in Asian Law at the Law Faculty (with affiliation to St Hugh’s College) from July 2020. This new post is one of the most ambitious and significant initiatives in the Faculty’s Asia strategy to date.

For many years, the Law Faculty has been offering world-class educational opportunities to exceptional students from Asia. We have been extremely successful in growing our Asia alumni networks as well as creating strong relationships with the top law schools (where many of our Faculty members have been visitors) and law firms in the region. More recently, the Law Faculty has developed a number of China-related initiatives including a three-year Career Development Fellowship in Chinese Commercial Law (funded by Fangda Partners) and a new Chinese Law Discussion Group for graduate students (funded by Skadden).

With the generous support of KWM, this new post will take our Asia initiatives to an exciting new phase of growth. The post-holder will play a leading role in growing Oxford’s research and teaching capacities in Chinese law and laws of other jurisdictions in Asia. The post-holder will also initiate and build global collaborations between the Law Faculty, top law schools, the legal profession, law and policymakers in the region. We are very pleased that Oxford Law has found an ideal partner in KWM that has a strong Asia focus and a global perspective, and importantly, share our ambition of strengthening Oxford’s connection to Asia and Asia to Oxford.

Centre for Health, Law and Emerging Technologies (HeLEX)

In 2019 the Law Faculty welcomed the Centre for Health, Law and Emerging Technologies (HeLEX) to its portfolio of research programmes. HeLEX transferred to Law from the Nuffield Department of Population Health.

The Centre specialises in investigating the relationships between law, ethics, and practice in the area of emerging technologies in health, and honing those relationships to facilitate effective translational outcomes. It investigates areas where new technologies are having a significant impact, such as the use of next generation sequencing technologies in the clinic and big data approaches in research. To address these complex issues they carry out interdisciplinary research drawing on tools from law, philosophy and the social sciences with the aim of improving or guiding evolving practice.

Find out more at law.ox.ac.uk/helex

Oxford Women in Law Video Series

Oxford Women in Law (OWL) have launched a series of interviews with OWL advisory board members in which the women discuss their careers, their experiences at Oxford and evaluate the barriers still facing women in the legal profession. Those interviewed include Deputy High Court Judge, Alexandra Marks, and Senior Corporate Counsel at the LEGO group, Lisa Lernborg. These videos demonstrate the diverse backgrounds of Oxford Law students and the interesting and varied careers open to graduates, whilst also highlighting that work still needs to be done on gender equality within the profession.

Find out more at law.ox.ac.uk/owl
CSLS postgraduate featured at ‘First 100 Years’ commemoration of Women Lawyers

Master Victoria McCloud, Oxford alumna, current part-time DPhil student at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies and Judge, has been interviewed by First Hundred Years for their series celebrating the journey of women in law.

In 2018 Dr McCloud was chosen by the ‘First 100 Years’ project to be one of the 100 role model women in the legal field spanning the first century since women were permitted to practise law in the UK. Her life has been preserved biographically at the British Library for future generations. The project aims to help to address the lack of role models for women in the law given their historic underrepresentation in that field and especially on the Bench.

Dr McCloud sits full time in London as a judge, specifically as a Queen’s Bench Master in the High Court, the youngest person ever and only the second woman to be appointed to that position. She studied Experimental Psychology at undergraduate level and also obtained her first DPhil in that subject at Christ Church, and she is also a Chartered Psychologist of the British Psychological Society and a Chartered Psychologist of the Psychological Society of Ireland.

She is the most senior public figure to have transitioned from male to female. In the film, she talks about how positively her colleagues and clients reacted to her transition two decades ago and how her fears of her career ending were unfounded. She emphasizes how her career took off, much to her surprise, and how she thrived once she could be authentically herself. She has been hailed as a pioneer by equality campaigners and her story is both inspiring and positive.

You can watch the film on the First Hundred Years website.

Oxford Women* in Law Student Society (OWLSS)

The Oxford Women* In Law Student Society was founded in February 2019 in connection to the Oxford Women In Law network and has been growing from strength to strength ever since! The society was founded by Marina Hou (BA Jurisprudence, St Peter’s College) to coincide with the centenary of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act 1919 which marked 100 years since women have been allowed to practise law. As a society we aim to promote diversity and equality within the legal profession. This is through providing a diverse and inclusive networking community for women*, non-binary, transgender and intersex people to connect, share experiences and support each other in building ambitious careers in the legal world.

Our success isn’t just measured through our internet presence, but also through our event turnout. We have run various events focusing on different areas of the law that need to be more diverse to hopefully show everyone that, despite the problems that people may come across in a law career, we can overcome them and make the law a more equal, diverse and fulfilling career choice for all.

For the future, we are looking to expand our outlook as a society to focus on more areas in the law that need to be more diverse to hopefully show everyone that, despite the problems that people may come across in a law career, we can overcome them and make the law a more equal, diverse and fulfilling career choice for all.

Caitlin Corrigan
OWLSS President MT 2019
Water efficiency is a cornerstone of water resources management and public water supply. Yet, typical water efficiency campaigns in England and Wales are aimed at domestic customers and private businesses. In addition, existing water efficiency campaigns focus on two key drivers of water saving behaviour: technological devices such as water meters and financial incentives but leave unexplored the potential of social norms to create behavioural commitments to water saving. Water saving behaviour is influenced not just by individual decisions, but social and psychological drivers such as social norms, values, group behaviour and external factors: culture, family behaviour, infrastructure and regulations.

For the past four years Bettina Lange and I have undertaken extensive research into the regulation and governance of drought and water scarcity in England and Wales. First as part of the multidisciplinary MaRIUS Project (Managing the Risks, Impacts and Uncertainties of drought and water Scarcity), and as a follow-up, as part of the ENDOWS Project (ENGaging diverse stakeholders and publics with outputs from the UK DiOught and Water Scarcity programme). The work in the ENDOWS project focussed on public engagement with research from the very beginning. The aim was to create impact and this meant going beyond the typical water efficiency campaign in the public sector using other forms of regulation. There are also legal duties for the efficient use of water in the UK and one of our aims was to broaden the array of potential measures that water companies and public sector organisations can implement and apply in this regard.

The public sector – schools, universities, hospitals, local government – offers a huge potential given its diversity and size. And it could act as a role model for other sectors. The final product of the research is a primer ‘Water efficiency in the public sector: the role of social norms’. This is a very practical and informative document aimed at stakeholders in the public sector, regulators and water companies. It introduces the topic theoretically, provides an overview of existing water efficiency campaigns and strategies and it develops nine recommendations or building blocks for a successful water efficiency campaign in the public sector using social norms. It is followed by a practical example for a water efficiency campaign in the public sector using social norms that was co-created with stakeholders from the sector.

In order to get feedback from stakeholders for our initial research idea and hypothesis we organised a ‘Waterways Walk’ as part of a drought conference in Birmingham in 2018. One of the reasons for organising a themed walk was to bring stakeholders to places that are related to water and to discuss drought and water scarcity at the very places where it was happening. For instance, one stop along the walking route was at a canal in Birmingham where we presented an oral history of a woman who was frozen in with her boat and could not navigate further. For us it was important to stress the variety at which water scarcity can affect us and recent cold spells in the UK saw pipes burst and water companies distributing water bottles among their customers. Overall, the walk was successful and gave us useful ideas with regard to our research question and how to advance the scope of our research. The next step was to produce a draft primer document and to ask stakeholders for comments. We therefore organised a workshop and invited key stakeholders from water companies, regulators and public sector organisations and also received written comments from stakeholders who were unable to attend. Our key questions were how useful stakeholders found the document and what could be improved? Based on these comments, we revised the document before finalising it.

For the dissemination of the primer we decided to organise another walk. Again, part of a drought conference, this time we walked through St. James’s Park in London. The aim was to combine a discussion about the primer with facts about public parks and especially their water features. For example, we used a Victorian water fountain to discuss the potential role of public parks in educating the public about water efficiency. The 18 participants included PhD students, and the walk was widely shared on Twitter. Organising both walks was time intensive. It requires planning the route, testing it and on the day coping with issues such as wind and the noise of other people. However, people enjoy being outside, especially after lunch, and the novelty of disseminating research in this unusual way certainly made them listen. The overall feedback we received was very good and encouraged us to organise these walks in the future.

A further element of public engagement was the collaboration with colleagues from the University of the West of England in Bristol. Their task was to prepare teaching materials for different key stages and we were able make two contributions. First, the research presented in the primer led to the creation of a lesson plan and teachers’ notes on building a water efficiency campaign as part of the curriculum for secondary school pupils studying for GCSEs. This national impact resource was created through a collaboration with the Geographical Association. Second, we provided input and feedback to a primary school story book ‘DRIY: the diary of a water superheroe’. The book follows a child through the seasons and presents ideas on how to save water.

In addition, the work led to some non-academic speaking opportunities such as the ‘Battle of Ideas Festival’ in November 2019 in London. In a wider context the research was presented in a blog article about water governance for the University of Oxford’s Science Blog, which caught the attention of the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), and was also adopted for the University’s True Planet campaign. The campaign highlights climate change research at the University of Oxford.

In summary, engaging with the public, especially with a topic like water, which is so ubiquitous that most of us have forgotten about its value, was inspiring and also a valuable learning process. Public engagement with research requires the investment of time and good ideas to actually engage with the public in a reciprocal process. However, the instant gratification when organising a themed walk, for instance, is encouraging and worth the effort.

Kevin Grecksch is a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies. He is a social scientist who specialises in water governance and climate change adaptation.
Professor Herring is not your average law professor. His background is typical: studied Law at Hertford College, trained as a solicitor, did his BCL, then later went into education. But it’s not every solicitor or professor who ends up specialising in relationships.

He wrote a book called ‘How to Argue’, which was featured in newspapers as a guide to navigating those tricky conflicts in relationships. Late last year he hit the papers again, referenced as an argument expert in pieces about discussing Brexit and how to avoid doing the same at Christmas.

(He also gave a very entertaining talk on Can Law Be Fun, which is worth your time once you’ve finished reading this.)

He’s also written some more classic law texts, including Criminal Law: Texts, Cases and Materials and Family Law.

His most recent book almost seems to mix these two areas, looking at how law could move from protecting individual rights, to protecting and nurturing relationships.

Perhaps the first thing to consider when we look at this new book is what exactly is meant by ‘relational self’. Professor Herring elaborates: ‘The standard view of the self is individual. Our bodies, beliefs, jobs and possessions define who we are. The relational understanding instead argues that our identities emerge from our relationships.’

It’s a bit like the old John Donne quote “No man is an island”. We’re all part of a larger whole, and the things that make us are the things or people that we care about. If we try to define ourselves separate to that, then we come up short.

He continues: ‘If you are asked to describe yourselves, then they are likely to use relational terms: they are someone’s sister; they belong to this religious group; or they support this football team. The things that give our life meaning are not things that are unique to us, but our relationships.’

Well, what does this mean for the law? Professor Herring explains that the standard model of law is currently about individual rights. ‘For many lawyers, the most important legal rights are those of autonomy, bodily integrity and privacy. But these rights are about keeping people away from you. They are about preserving the individual as separate from others.’

The law, as it stands, protects independence. It sees your rights as something to be protected from other people. You use the law to look after your interests, perhaps at the expense of others. ‘Law and the Relational Self’ argues for a version of the law that looks at what’s best for people together.

‘A good law will be one that promotes caring relationships between people.’ He explains. ‘So a successful society, I argue, is not one where people are left free to pursue their own goals as “billiard balls in suits”. Rather, it’s one where there are flourishing caring relationships.’

He cites law relating to children as a good example of this. The law currently enshrines the welfare of the child alone as the criteria by which judges should make decisions. This sounds sensible enough until you think about the relationships at play. If what seems best for a child isn’t best for their relationship with their caregiver, it actually isn’t going to be very good for the child after all.

‘We imagine we can think about the interests of children as separate from their parents, but that is a fiction... It would be better to ask what order will promote good caring relationships between the child and their carers.’

Or we can look at contract law. Effectively, it sets up an ‘us vs them’, with little obligation to consider what is fair for ‘them’. Whereas Jonathan argues that a contract law designed to promote caring relationships would put obligations on contracting parties to look out for each other.

A lot of the ideas in the book are informed by his previous work, but it was becoming a parent that crystallised all those ideas into the concept for Law and the Relational Self. Not, as you might expect, because of how a child requires care of its relationships to thrive (that one was a given). Instead, what struck him was how much emotional support children give to their parents.

He describes the experience, saying: ‘Parenthood vividly showed me how false vision the ideal of the “autonomous self”-determining free man” is. That seems to be the dream that the law seeks to preserve, but to me it now looks like a nightmare. All the things in my life that give me joy are things that undermine my autonomy. But those are all good things. And I think is true for most people.’

This vulnerability is at the core of the book. We define ourselves by our relationships, and our relationships make us vulnerable, so it follows that...

‘Being vulnerable is an essential characteristic of being human. We might think that as adults we are able to “look after ourselves”, but we rely on farmers and shops for food. We rely on friends for meaning and our mental health. We need a whole array of people, from doctors to sewage workers, to maintain our wellbeing.

‘The strange thing is that society often presents it as a bad thing to be vulnerable and to need care. Carers are some of the most undervalued workers in our economy. When they should be celebrated.’

Professor Herring also highlights how that vulnerability means we sometimes need support from the law when something goes wrong. The importance of care also shows how harmful abuse within an intimate relationship is.

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Oxford Human Rights Hub: ‘Shaping the Future’

The guiding principle behind the Oxford Human Rights Hub (OxHRH) is that human rights are immeasurably strengthened by empowering diverse voices to share best practice in human rights law. In our most recent project, we have been delighted to partner with the World Health Organization and the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, to develop a video series on the best ways to use human rights to achieve the ambitious promises of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on gender equality, and particularly, reproductive rights.

Almost 300,000 women die annually during pregnancy and childbirth, and many millions of women and infants suffer major morbidity. Yet the shocking reality is that most of these deaths could be averted using simple medical technology with political commitment and social change. It is here that a human rights approach holds great promise.

Entitled ‘Shaping the Future’, the project uniquely brings together, and in conversation with each other, voices from across the globe, with a special emphasis on the Global South. It identifies the valuable work done within local contexts, and amplifies this work through a global platform. The project uses the internet as a didactic tool, recognising its power as a new mode of communication, awareness raising and education. The project thus puts together a pedagogic tool which travels far beyond the physical boundaries of Oxford, bringing in insights from and radiating to areas previously excluded from the global conversation on sexual and reproductive health rights.

‘Shaping the Future’ explores the role human rights law can play in addressing challenges relating to Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHRs), and ensuring progress towards the fulfilment of the SDGs. As many as 94% of maternal mortality deaths in 2017 occurred in low-resource settings, and most could have been prevented, highlighting inequalities in access to health services amongst nations, and groups within them. Similarly, 25 million unsafe abortions occurred globally every year between 2010 and 2014, with 97% of these occurring in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In addition, less than half of the demand for family planning is satisfied by modern methods of contraception in a majority of low- and lower-middle-income countries.

There also remains deep-seated resistance to the introduction and implementation of comprehensive maternal mortality to a third of its current rate and to provide universal access to sexual and reproductive health by 2030. But the mechanisms for achieving this have not been spelled out. If these ambitious targets are to be achieved, there is an urgent need for action. In this context, where scientific solutions have been unequivocally identified, but implementation remains the key problem, there is a need to combine the state-of-the-art medical technology with political commitment and social change. It is here that a human rights approach holds great promise.

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Thus, women still do not have adequate control over whether to get pregnant or not, and the timing of pregnancy. Yet the primary responsibility for childcare continues to rest with women, with the public sphere being designed for persons who do not have such responsibilities of care. At the same time, childcare is devalued, and is not regarded productive labour. These factors cumulatively produce a lack of power, leaving women unable to shape their own futures.

‘Shaping the Future’ begins with the recognition of the dire state of SRHR globally, and focuses on pathways to change—how do we break cycles of disadvantage in SRHR using the language of human rights and the SDGs? To explore this question, we conducted workshops in Geneva and Nairobi, with leading scholars, activists, lawyers and national and international policy makers working on SRHR, from Columbia, Brazil, India, South Africa, Poland, Philippines, United Kingdom, United States, Uganda, Mexico, and Ghana. We also conducted individual interviews with them, discussing the use of human rights within their work, whether through litigation, advocacy, or monitoring. The project thus aims to co-create, by capitalising on the unique intersection of ideas and experiences that they bring to current SRHR challenges. It ensures that key successes (which are often not well known) are built on; mistakes are not repeated, and good and effective practices are replicated or suitably adapted.

We envision the documentary series being an invaluable teaching resource for lawyers, advocates and policy-makers across contexts. The aim is to empower local actors to speak in the language of human rights with a high degree of knowledge and confidence. It will allow them to persuasively use human rights when advocating in political, legal, international and online forums for sexual and reproductive health rights, and to devise effective strategies suitable to their own local contexts. Through the vigorous exchange of ideas and resources, we therefore strive to facilitate a better understanding of human rights principles, to develop new approaches to policy, and to influence the development of human rights law and practice.

‘Shaping the Future’ consists of eight 20-minute videos exploring several SRHR issues, including maternal mortality, comprehensive sexuality education, contraception, gender based violence and SRHR at work and school. The personal interviews are our primary resource in developing these videos. These interviews will be complemented by illustrative visual content, including photographs, secondary film footage, charts and graphs. Each episode will also have a presenter who draws together the narrative threads that structure the episode. The videos will take a comparative perspective and closely examine how the strong moral and legal imperatives of human rights can be given detailed substance by grounding them in local context and making them effective in relation to individuals’ lived experiences. It will showcase leading examples of how this has been done, and highlight some of the on-going challenges, as well as new ones.

Look out for more information on the project at ohrh.law.ox.ac.uk.

Photographer: Poulomi Basu for CIFF
**BORDER CRIMINOLOGIES BLOG**

The Border Criminologies research network brings together academics, practitioners and those who have experienced border control from around the world. Showcasing original research from a range of perspectives, we hope to better understand the effect of border control and to explore alternatives.

The blog is one of the ways in which Border Criminologies facilitates the exchange of ideas as it showcases original research and first hand accounts of border control. It is widely read and attracts an international audience from more than 170 countries. This year the blog had around 100 new posts, including eight book reviews and four themed series, and was visited over 100,000 times.

**AI4LAW BLOG**

The ‘Unlocking the potential of AI in English Law’ blog covers a variety of topics and themes related to AI and its application in law. It also highlights the engagement the project has with other aspects of AI, by reporting on many of the events and workshops that take place within the project.

The blog tries to cover themes relating to each of the 6 work packages and has most recently reported back on the Launch workshop for work package 6 (Mapping the LawTech and innovation ecosystem). Followers can expect to be kept up to date with recent events as well as engaging with topics like surveillance and accountability, computer science and Law and the application of AI in Law firms.

**HOUSING AFTER GRENFELL**

The Housing After Grenfell blog was established in July 2018 to provide a forum for discussion in relation to on the legal, social, housing and fire safety issues that have emerged since the terrible tragedy at Grenfell Tower. Experts explain the complexity of building regulations, government guidance, and what went wrong with construction. Why, asks Jonathan Carrington, ‘did the Government – and their advisors, BRAC – take so long to update’ the guidance and bring England into line with international norms? Jonathan Evans explains the confusion of having two height thresholds for building regulation, both based on 1.8m but differently measured. Lawyers discuss the opportunities and difficulties in pursuing legal claims in order to pursue compensation or to get buildings made safe, as well as examining the enforcement powers of public bodies. The most read post explains limitation periods, how to work out when the clock starts to tick and when time runs out, arguing that application of these rules to dangers emerging only since Grenfell – yet created many years earlier – erodes ‘the court’s ability to remedy wrongs or to protect legitimate interests’.

Residents explain what it is like living in unsafe buildings and how they ‘feel let down at almost every point’. Other posts suggest that there has been systemic failure of both regulation and of property law, saying that it is time to ask some big questions about how we sell and own flats, and that it is time to rethink the idea of ownership in relation to multi-owned properties. The blog welcomes contributions, and has quickly become an important space to engage with practitioners, policy-makers, students and members of the public in relation to one of the most pressing social and legal problems of the day.

**CENTRE FOR CRIMINOLOGY BLOG**

The Centre is a leading site of cutting-edge social enquiry and world-class graduate education in criminology and criminal justice, with staff and students committed to understanding and addressing contemporary public policy dilemmas.

It has a vibrant programme of research that pursues a research strategy aimed principally at fostering and developing clusters of research activity around seven substantive themes: Security, rights and criminal justice, Penal culture, policy and practice, Politics, legitimacy and crime control; Crime and the family, Psychology, Criminal Justice and law; Victims and victimisation, and Criminal justice, citizenship and migration.

The blog features posts from members of the Faculty and the student body on those themes. The blog attracts over 4,000 readers each month. Recent blog posts have discussed the impact of the smoking ban in prison, policing and mental health, and the cancellation of Shamima Begum’s British Citizenship.

**THE OXFORD HUMAN RIGHTS HUB BLOG**

OxHRH publishes a daily blog showcasing cutting-edge human rights law developments from experts across the globe. We continue to expand our global reach by soliciting blog posts in places where human rights law developments receive little international attention. Each contribution is edited by experienced graduate student editors to ensure the highest standards of quality. By requiring blog posts to be fewer than 700 words and written in straightforward language, we are committed to ensuring that each blog post will be intelligently engaging and simultaneously accessible to legal and non-legal audiences.

The OxHRH blog has an enduring commitment to be an egalitarian space and to cover both well-known and overlooked global human rights developments. Contributions authors range from the most senior experts, including UN Special Rapporteurs and former judges, to early-career scholars, such as undergraduates from developing country law schools.

Over the last year, we featured pieces on trans rights in the UK, the criminalization and decriminalization of same-sex relations in Kenya and Botswana, cuts to the budgets of UN treaty bodies; the rights of workers in the gig economy, access to abortion in Kazakhstan and extending the right to vote to citizens overseas in Canada. We have published blogs from many countries including Romania, Turkey, Iran, Egypt, Zambia, Austria, India, Chile and the US.

The OxHRH blog has been archived by the British Library, and our blogs are widely used in students’ reading lists and by legal practitioners, civil society organisations, the media, and the general public. Blog posts have been referred to in the UK Supreme Court, and cited in The Guardian and Time Magazine.
Each year there is an OBLB conference in Oxford in which academics, judges, practitioners and policymakers deliver talks or papers on a topical theme in business law. These talks typically then appear as a special series of blog posts on the OBLB, and then later in published form. The OBLB conference for 2020 is entitled Fintech Startups and Incumbent Players: Policy Challenges and Opportunities. Look out for this special series on the OBLB later in 2020.

The OBLB is run by a team of academic editors and postgraduate associate editors. The vital contribution made by our associate editors is made possible by Travers Smith’s generous sponsorship of the OBLB.

Oxford Faculty of Law News

Erasmus+ and the Oxford Law Faculty

Our four–year undergraduate course (Law with Law Studies in Europe) is one of the Oxford Law Faculty’s flagship programmes, enabling 35 of our students every year to study at our partner Faculties in France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands or Spain, and bringing to Oxford in exchange 35 students from our European partners to study for our Diploma in Legal Studies. The four–year course is extremely attractive, admission is highly competitive, and the value added to the student experience by the breadth and depth of an additional year’s study in another jurisdiction is demonstrated by the students’ strong Finals results and their enhanced employment opportunities beyond Oxford. Our Faculty is also enriched by the incoming exchange students and institutional links between the Oxford Law Faculty and our European partner Faculties have been deepened well beyond the student exchanges. The exchange programme is administered by the Institute of European and Comparative Law (IECL)—its natural home within the Oxford Faculty.

The student exchange programme at Oxford was first established on a relatively small scale for exchanges with France, Germany and the Netherlands: the first cohort of 15 students went abroad in 1994. By 2000 the group had already doubled, and Italy had been added (in 1999), and then Spain (2008). The exchange programme has been supported throughout by the Erasmus programme, established by the European Commission in 1987 and named after the philosopher, theologian and humanist Erasmus of Rotterdam, but the acronym ERASMUS was also intended to refer to the European Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students. The Erasmus programme has changed and broadened and the financial support for our students has increased. Its current incarnation is Erasmus+, the European Union’s programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe, funded by the EU from 2014 to 2020. Funds are provided both to the institution sending the student (to allow us to charge greatly reduced fees to our own students, and to waive fees for the incoming grants to the students to cover living abroad. A watchword of Erasmus+ is mobility: for students in higher education, this is the chance to develop new skills, gain international experience and boost their employability. This is all borne out constantly by what we see in our exchange programme for the incoming students as much as for the Oxford students who spend their year abroad. Personal accounts of the benefits of the exchange, written by both incoming and outgoing students, can be read in the Annual Reports of the IECL.

The UK left the EU on 31 January 2020. However, participation in Erasmus+ is not limited to EU Member States: there are six non-EU programme countries which take part in all Erasmus+ activities, and a large number of ‘partner countries’ around the world which can take part in some activities. Our participation in the current Erasmus+ programme (to the end of 2020) is secure. A new programme is to be established by the EU for 2021–2027, but the future arrangements between the UK and the EU remain to be negotiated, and the participation of the UK— and therefore of the Oxford Law Faculty’s student exchanges—in the next Erasmus+ programme is not yet settled. In January 2020 the Government signalled that it supported the value of Erasmus, but could not guarantee participation before seeing the details of the new Erasmus+ programme. Erasmus+ is not the only financial support for our student exchange programme: we also receive very valuable funding from Clifford Chance for the administration of the four–year course and for grants to the Oxford students going abroad. However, loss of Erasmus+ would cause us real difficulties. But the Faculty remains wholly committed to our student exchanges, and we have bilateral agreements with each of our European partner Faculties which allow the exchanges to continue irrespective of the UK’s participation in Erasmus+. As long as the future is settled so as to give us renewed financial stability for the student exchange, the pressure will be for further expansion of this extremely valuable and successful exchange programme.

John Cartwright is Emeritus Professor of the Law of Contract, and a former Director of the IECL. He was the Faculty’s academic director of the Erasmus exchange programmes between 2000 and 2013.
The topic of diversity in academic admissions is controversial. From my own perspective, I start from the non-radical proposition that talent is broadly distributed amongst the population, and that unless our students look broadly like the general population, then we are unlikely to be admitting the students with the very best academic potential. For this reason, I do not believe there is a need to compromise between social mobility on the one hand and pursuit of academic excellence on the other. Of course, given the massive inequalities in society we appreciate that the students applying to us, and the students we want to encourage to apply to us, may have very starkly different educational opportunities and experiences. These differences are often, but not always, reflected in students’ attainment levels at secondary school. Any admission process targeted at finding the best students must take this complex picture into account.

Measuring academic potential is not a science. As I tell all students at interview, occasionally we will make mistakes in assessing the relative merits of the candidates who apply to us. But what I can say with total confidence is that everyone who receives an offer is worthy of a place at Oxford, and has the ability to make a brilliant contribution to society as a lawyer, or in any of the other diverse roles that an Oxford law degree can lead to. We are proud that our work on access helps us to uncover not only the very best students, but also ultimately leads to greater diversity in the legal profession and social mobility generally.

None of this work would be possible without the hard work of our Access & Outreach team, our student helpers (most of whom come from “access” backgrounds themselves) and the generous support of sponsoring law firms and barristers’ chambers. As always, a massive thanks is due to all of them!

Andrew Higgins, Access & Outreach Co-ordinator

INTRODUCTION

I was delighted to be offered the role of Access & Outreach Co-ordinator for the Law Faculty last year. Oxford has been the subject of (fair) criticism in the past for admitting students who come from predominantly privileged backgrounds. But the commitment across the University to promote greater diversity in our student intake is beyond doubt, and in the Law Faculty we have seen real successes. Oxford Law attracts a large number of applications from students from disadvantaged backgrounds, and in the last admissions round this was reflected in a large number of offers to cohorts who have been under-represented historically at Oxford. Although there is still much work to be done, our successes to date can be partly attributed to the Law Faculty’s outreach initiatives including ‘UNIQ’, ‘Experience Law’ (ExpLaw) and ‘Pathways to Law’. While ‘UNIQ’ and ‘ExpLaw’ are aimed specifically towards attracting applicants to Oxford, ‘Pathways to Law’ is more generally geared towards attracting people from a wide variety of backgrounds to the legal profession, with Oxford looking after those from Oxfordshire and surrounding counties (although we hope a number of them will end up studying here as well). Many of our students applied to Oxford because of these Outreach programmes, and most of those say that, without them, they would never have had the courage to apply. We are also in the process of developing a new initiative where Oxford law tutors will visit students from non-selective, non-free paying schools in their own regions to help familiarise students with the law admissions process.

This year Oxford has introduced a new programme, called ‘Opportunity Oxford’, which is designed to help students from disadvantaged backgrounds, who have already received an offer of a place, make a flying start to their degrees. The Law Faculty is participating in the inaugural year of ‘Opportunity Oxford, and I have had the privilege of helping design the law course along with many other dedicated colleagues.

‘Pathways to Law’ was established by the Sutton Trust to widen access to the legal profession. It aims to inspire and support academically-able students from local state schools to explore careers within the legal profession and build the skills they need to go on to higher education.

As one of the implementing partners, the Faculty of Law at the University of Oxford delivers a 2-year programme for Year 12 and 13 students from non-privileged backgrounds, who are interested in pursuing a career in law. The programme includes a varied series of free lectures, seminars, advice and guidance sessions, skills-development workshops and interaction with both undergraduate students and professionals through e-mentoring and a legal work placement.

Here ‘Pathways to Law’ student, Libby Monaghan, talks about her experience and how the programme has changed her perceptions of a career in Law.

Now I feel that the legal profession is much more accessible’ - Libby Monaghan

At the beginning of my A-level studies in Year 12, I heard about the ‘Pathways to Law’ programme through my school and applied, not expecting to be accepted. I was extremely pleased when I received the acceptance email, as this was a programme I wanted to undertake not only to gain an in-depth understanding of the law, but to make such a career more accessible.

Throughout the time on the programme, I have learnt skills such as CV and Personal Statement writing, through to university applications and participating in mock law lectures and trials. An aspect of the programme I found to be most enjoyable was the summer conference at Warwick University, which allowed me to develop several law related skills such as advocacy and negotiating, whilst providing me with networking opportunities within the legal sector. The conference brought together students across the country who shared an interest in the law, who may also be considering an application for law at university. As a result of this mutual interest, I made several friends who I remain in regular contact with. I believe that the programme has provided me with opportunities I wouldn’t have ordinarily had access to, such as my work experience placement in a Barrister’s Chambers. These opportunities allowed me to develop a competitive university application that I may have struggled with if I hadn’t had the assistance from the programme.

Overall, the ‘Pathways to Law’ programme has not only provided me with amazing opportunities, but has also changed the way in which I view the legal profession. Now, I feel it is much more accessible.”
SHREYA ATREY

Shreya Atrey is Associate Professor in International Human Rights Law at the Department of Continuing Education and the Faculty of Law, based at the Robinson Institute of Human Rights. Her research is on discrimination law, feminist theory, poverty and disability law. She completed the BCL, with distinction and a DPhil in Law as a Rhodes Scholar at Magdalen College.

JOANNA BELL

Joanna Bell is an Associate Professor and Tutorial Fellow in Law at St Edmund Hall. Joanna's main research interest is Administrative Law and its areas of overlap with other fields such as Planning Law and Environmental Law. She graduated from the BA in Law from Keele University sharing the Winner Prize for best overall performance in FHS examinations. She then read for the BCL (obtaining a distinction) and the DPhil in Administrative Law, generously funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

ROBERT BURRELL

Robert Burrell is Professor of Intellectual Property Law and Information Technology Law in association with St Peter's College. He also holds a visiting professional position at Melbourne Law School.

Robert's previous academic positions include posts at the Australian National University and King's College London. Robert teaches and researches across all areas of intellectual property law and his work has been cited by the High Court of Australia, the Federal Court of Australia, the Supreme Court of New Zealand, the Court of Appeal for England and Wales and in an Opinion of an Advocate General to the European Court of Justice.

BARBARA HAVELKOVA

Barbara Havelkova is an Associate Professor in Law in association with St Hilda’s College. She holds degrees from Charles University in Prague (Mgr., Master in Law, summa cum laude), Europe-Institut Saarland University (LL.M) and the University of Oxford (MSt in Legal Research, DPhil)

Barbaras research and teaching interests include gender, legal studies and feminist jurisprudence, equality and anti-discrimination law, constitutional law, EU law and law post-socialist transitions. She previously worked for Oxford Chance Prague, trained at the Legal Service of the European Commission and at the Chambers of AG Poaces Madura at the Court of Justice of the European Union.

TISILY DAGAN

Tilly Dagan is a Professor of Taxation Law in association with Worcester College. Professor Dagan's main fields of research and teaching are tax law and policy (both domestic and international) and the interaction of the state and the market. She has taught and researched as a scholar in residence at the University of Michigan, University of Western Ontario, and the University of Columbia, and was a member of the Group on Global Justice at the Institute of Advanced Studies, Jerusalem. She was the Raoul Wallenberg Professor of Law at Bar-Ilan University where she also served as Editor-in-Chief of the law review and Associate Dean for Research. Her book International Tax Policy, Between Competition and Co-operation (Cambridge University Press) is the winner of the 2017 Frans Vanistendael Award for International Tax Law.

HAYLEY HOOPER

Hayley Hooper is an Associate Professor in Law in association with Harris, Manchester College. She is also an academic affiliate of the Bonavero Institute for Human Rights.

Hayley holds an LL B from the University of Glasgow, and a BCL, MPhil in Law, and a D Phil in Law from the University of Oxford. Her teaching interests include European Union Law, Constitutional Law, and Administrative Law.

ESTELLE ZINSTAG

Estelle Zinstag is a one year Departmental Lecturer in Criminology. She is also a senior research assistant at the Leuven Institute of Crime and Justice. She graduated with the German First State Exam and the University of Leuven and the University of Amsterdam.

Her research focuses on the prevention of criminal law, criminal justice, and jurisprudence. In spring 2019, she was elected to the inaugural Visiting Fellowship in Law at the newly instituted Cambridge Centre for Criminal Justice.

JOHANNES UNGERER

Johannes taught and researched at the University of Bonn for five years, and also served as the Assistant Editor of the European Union Private Law Review (EUPR). He studied law in Halle and Cardiff as a Studentenfugger schüler, and graduated with the German First State Exam and an LL.M. He taught in business and economic law. He qualified for the German judiciary and bar with the Second State Exam. His research focuses on private international and comparative law.

KATRIN MUELLER-JOHNSON

Katrin Mueller-Johnson is Associate Professor of Criminology and a Research Fellow at Queen’s College. Previously she was a lecturer and senior lecturer at the Institute of Criminology at the University of Cambridge. She holds a PhD in Human Development from Cornell University, a MSt in Legal Research from the Centre of Social Legal Studies, University of Oxford, and a Dipl. Psych. Degree in Psychology from the Free University of Berlin. Her research interests are centred around victimisation, investigative interviewing and police as well as legal decision-making.

New Faculty Members

ELAINE AOKI

Elaine Aoki is a Professor of International Environmental Law and Yoga Fellow in Public International Law at St Peter’s College. She was formerly a Professor at the Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi, where she now holds a Visiting Professorship. Lavanya holds an LLM from Yale, a DPhil and BCL from Oxford, where she was a Rhodes scholar, and a B A L L. (Honours) from National Law School, Bangalore, where she graduated at the top of her class with several gold medals.

ARUNA NAIR

Aruna Nair is an Associate Professor of Law and Tutorial Fellow at Hartford College. She was previously a lecturer in law at King’s College London, and completed her undergraduate and doctoral studies at Brasenose College, Oxford. Her research focuses on English property law, broadly conceived, to include different aspects of the law of wealth and control of wealth. Her primary research interest is in the question of how English law, in different contexts, balances its respect for the private autonomy of owners with respect for other values and interests.

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JOHANNES UNGERER

Johannes is the Erich Brost Fellow in Geopolitics at the Oxford Blavatnik School of Government. Before joining the Faculty, Thom worked towards a DPhil in Law and Finance and an MSc in Law and Finance at the University of Oxford and received both a BPhil (Hons) in Law and Economics and an LLB in Dutch Law from Utrecht University. He has been a Visiting Scholar at Columbia Law School, Yale University, and Berkeley Law School, and he worked at the European Commission, Goldman Sachs, and Citi. He was a Visiting Scholar at the Blavatnik School of Government in 2018. His research examines how law and finance can enable collaboration and coordination to improve outcomes, with a particular focus on financial regulation, corporate governance, and the international financial system. He is the author of ‘Global Shapers’ by the World Economic Forum. His research examines how law and finance can enable collaboration and coordination to improve outcomes, with a particular focus on financial regulation, corporate governance, and the international financial system. He is the author of ‘Global Shapers’ by the World Economic Forum.
JOHN GARDNER (1965 – 2019)

John Gardner, FBA, who passed away in July 2019, was a Senior Administrative Law, Comparative Public Law and EU Law, and he has published widely in these areas.

PAUL CRAIG

Paul Craig, Professor of English Law, retired in September 2019. He was educated at Worcester College, Oxford, where he became a Fellow and Tutor in law in 1976. He was appointed to a Readership in 1990, and then became an ad hominem Professor in 1996. He was appointed to an established chair in 1998, the Professorship in English Law at St John’s College. He was made an Honorary QC in 2000, and an Honorary Bencher of Gray’s Inn in the same year. His research interests included Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, Administrative Law, Comparative Public Law and EU Law, and he has published widely in these areas.

LOUise GULLIFER

Louise Gullifer has recently left the Faculty and been appointed Rosmead Bar Professor of English Law at Cambridge University having taught at Oxford since 1991. Prior to coming to Oxford she practised at the Commercial Bar in chambers at 3 Grays Inn Place (now 3 Verulam Buildings).

Her research interests focus broadly on commercial law and corporate finance. She has co-authored books on security title financing and corporate finance. She is particularly interested in financial collateral and intermediated securities, as well as national and international reform of secured transactions law. She was the director of the Commercial Law Centre at Harris Manchester College. She is Director of the Commercial Law Centre at Harris Manchester College. She is also a member of the Commercial Bar and a fellow of the Commercial Bar.

GUENTER TREITEL (1928 – 2019)

Professor Sir Guenter Treitel QC DCL, FBA, who was for many years a Fellow of Magdalen and then a Fellow of All Souls and the Vinerian Professor of English Law, passed away in June 2019. Treitel was born in Berlin in 1928. As a young Jewish boy, he experienced Nazi persecution at first hand, and in 1939 was forced to flee to England, where he later worked on the Kindertransport. Although he found safety in the UK, his early years as a refugee were difficult and he had to fight for the chance to continue his education at a grammar school.

In 1946, Treitel won a scholarship to Magdalen, where he read for the BA and BCL. After a brief period as a lecturer at the LSE, Treitel took up a Fellowship at Magdalen in 1954, remaining there until 1979 when he was appointed to the Vinerian Professorship of English Law and moved to All Souls. Although he retired from the chair in 1996, he remained active for many more years, continuing to work in the Codrington Library on a regular basis and to have lunch at All Souls on a Wednesday and his beloved Magdalen on a Friday. He was knighted in 1997.

Treitel’s principal area of scholarly interest was the law of contract. His leading textbook on the subject was first published in 1962. Treitel himself produced 11 editions, the last in 2003, and the book continues to flourish under its new author, Edwin Peel, Lord Bowen-Wilkinson summed up Treitel’s contribution: “Few contemporary lawyers have played as big a role in developing the law, primarily because his writings are the product of careful and principled thought founded on an exact and honest analysis of the existing case law.”

Corporations as Moral Agents

‘Corporations as Moral Agents: Trade-Offs in Criminal Liability and Human Rights for Corporations’ is Nick Friedman’s forthcoming article in the Modern Law Review. Corporate criminal liability is a popular tool for the control of corporate misconduct. Proponents of this controversial doctrine commonly defend it on the theory that the corporation is a morally responsible agent in its own right, and, for that reason, deserving of (or at least eligible for) punishment. Nick argues that this theory creates an unpalatable dilemma: it provides a strong justification for giving human rights to corporations, which they use to thwart regulatory constraints on their conduct. This result follows from approaches to punishment and human rights which precipitate each on the status of moral agency. In short, if corporations are moral agents in a sufficient sense to attract criminal liability, they are eligible holders of human rights. If proponents of corporate criminal liability are dissatisfied with these conclusions, they face difficult policy trade-offs: they must abandon the doctrine, or adopt alternative approaches to punishment or human rights.

This article forms part of Nick’s broader work on the control of corporate power, which he studies from a philosophically influenced public law perspective. He adopts a holistic, interdisciplinary, and comparative analysis of the massive web of legal rules to which corporations are subject, seeking to demonstrate the conflicting or unintended ways that they interact. He also examines how corporate liability regimes can be designed most effectively, focusing in particular on the deterrent role of individual liability for corporate executives. Most fundamentally, his work tries to articulate the proper place of the corporation in public law and political philosophy.

Shona Minson’s work recognised by two awards

Shona Minson from the Centre for Criminology won the Vice Chancellor’s Public Engagement with Research Award in the Early Career Researcher Category and the ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize for Outstanding Early Career Impact last year. Both prizes were awarded for her outstanding research and work into the sentencing of mothers with dependent children.

Dr Minson’s research on how the sentencing of mothers affects children has changed practice for judges, magistrates and Probation Officers, who now consider how children will be affected by their parents’ sentence.

School Exclusion Project

Professor Rachel Condry and Associate Professor Lucinda Ferguson are members of a team of researchers awarded an ESRC grant of £2,550,850 to develop a multi-disciplinary understanding of the political economies and consequences of school exclusion across the UK.

The interdisciplinary team operates across Oxford, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Belfast and the London School of Economics (LSE). The four year project will be led by Professor Harry Daniels and Associate Professor Ian Thompson at the University of Oxford’s Department of Education and commenced on 2 October 2019. The study will lead to a greater understanding of the cost of exclusions at individual, institutional and system levels, as well as pupils’ rights, entitlements, protection and wellbeing. In comparing the landscapes of exclusion across the UK’s four jurisdictions, the study explores cross-cutting themes of: children’s rights, youth crime, values and the role of religion, geographical context, gender and ethnicity, social class, special needs and disability, and mental health.
Chatham House publishes paper by Kate Jones which examines online disinformation

Chatham House recently published a paper by Kate Jones which discusses how a human rights framework should guide regulatory and other responses to online disinformation and distortion of political debate.

‘Online Disinformation and Political Discourse: Applying a Human Rights Framework’ outlines the ways in which digital technology is increasingly being used to further political aims which can then distort our democratic processes. Techniques include the creation of disinformation and divisive content, exploiting digital platforms’ algorithms, and using bots, cyborgs and fake accounts to distribute this content; and micro-targeting on the basis of collated personal data and sophisticated psychological profiling techniques.

Regulation of these techniques has been slow to keep pace with their developments and usage. International human rights law, designed to protect individuals from abuse of power by authority, provides a framework that should underpin responses to online disinformation and distortion of political debate.

Disability in the Curriculum

As we mark ten years of the Equality Act 2010, never has the inclusion of disability in the curriculum at the Faculty of Law been more important. The United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Concluding Observations on the United Kingdom raised extensive concerns about the ‘insufficient incorporation’ of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ‘across all policy areas and levels within all regions, devolved governments and territories under its jurisdiction and/or control’ (2017). This included the ineffective implementation of the right to inclusive education under Article 24. Assertive action is also needed to secure a ‘fair’ Brexit (DRUK, 2017) for disabled people. Therefore, Dr Kira Allmann and I are working on a Brexit and Disability Podcast for the Oxford Human Rights Hub.

Diversifying our curriculum to better include issues relating to disability has an important role in providing law students the skills they need to better represent clients with disabilities in their future legal careers. Thus, I particularly enjoyed teaching a seminar on the Law and Computer Science Course on ‘Ethics - Technology, Fairness and Inequality’ in Michaelmas Term. Another highlight was working with Associate Professor in Human Rights, Dr Shreya Atrey, to teach a for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights Seminar for The Bonavero Institute of Human Rights on ‘Health Inequality and Access to Gynaecological, Obstetric and Maternity Services for Women with Disabilities’.

Improving the inclusion of disability in the curriculum can also be instrumental in influencing the necessary increase of disabled people in the legal profession and as legal academics. Whilst 19% of the working age population have a disability (Scope, 2011), only 4% of practising barristers consider themselves to have a disability (BSB/Bar Council Diversity, 2011). Indeed, the Judicial Office currently has no data on the number of the members of the judiciary with a disability (Courts and Tribunals Judiciary, 2019). In order to encourage outstanding students with disabilities to apply to Oxford and to have a strong voice in this vibrant academic community, it is necessary for them to believe that the University is a strong voice in this vibrant academic community, it is necessary for them to believe that the University is

Roxana Willis researches human rights abuses in the Cameroon

Barrister Mbinkar Caroline and Dr Roxana Willis have established a research group investigating the violent conflict that has disrupted life in the anglophone regions of Cameroon. Nominally, the conflict began in 2016: violence had erupted following a peaceful protest by lawyers and teachers against the marginalisation of the common law and anglophone education by the majority francophone state. Since then, the conflict has affected millions of people, while thousands have been killed, internally displaced, or made refugees. Although 2016 onwards saw regular atrocities, there have been underlying tensions concerning marginalisation for considerably longer; the issues date back at least to the British and French colonial division of Cameroon, and have continued from independence into the present.

In November 2019, the group published its first report, hosted by Oxford’s Human Rights Hub. The report, authored by Dr Roxana Willis, Joseph McCaulay, Ndjobi Mbuyuma, and Dr James Angove, outlines the historical context of the present conflict, arguing that any effective solutions must take a decolonial approach by appreciating the conflict’s historical threads. The report examines the long path of human rights abuses up to present day, including a detailed log of current human rights abuses observed and documented by the lead researcher. Since release, the report has been picked up by various advocates, lawyers, politicians and governments to help make better sense of the dispute and how to handle the conflict moving forwards.

In Hilary term, Barrister Mbinkar Caroline joined the Faculty as a Visiting Fellow in Law, sponsored by University College. Joining her is Dr Gilberto Algar-Faria, who has started in post as the Postdoctoral Research Fellow on the project. The group is beginning to speak with various affected parties to collect information about the heterogeneity and nuances of the anglophone cause. The research will culminate in a report and roundtable discussion at the end of Hilary 2020, the wider ambition is to produce policy recommendations in support of peacebuilding efforts.

Funding from the Global Challenges Research Fund, the John Fell Fund, the Knowledge Exchange Seed Fund and the British Academy has made this work possible.
Remembering Rwanda receives impact award

Dr Julia Viebach, African Studies Centre and Law Faculty, and Jozie Kettle, Pitt Rivers Museum, have won a Vice-Chancellor’s Public Engagement with Research Award for ‘Remembering Rwanda’ which encompasses two engagement activities ‘Kwibuka Rwanda’ (‘we remember’ in Kinyarwanda) and ‘Bearing Witness’. The project draws on Julia’s research with survivors to capture the nature, narratives and the materiality of Rwanda’s genocide commemoration.

Kwibuka Rwanda is a photographic exhibition that delves into the world of survivors working at memorials who have pledged their lives to care, clean and preserve the dead bodies of their loved ones that are often displayed at such sites.

The exhibition was displayed at the Pitt Rivers museum in 2018 and has also been displayed abroad. Bearing Witness builds on and expands the collaboration with the Rwandan community and Julia’s work on diaspora commemoration on occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Genocide against the Tutsi this year. Through a case display at the Pitt Rivers Museum co-curated by survivors, and a video installation featuring their life stories, Bearing Witness acknowledges the courage and resilience of those who bear the burden of survivor-hood.

Ensuring the benefits of AI for All: Designing a Sustainable Platform for Public and Professional Stakeholder Engagement

The Centre for Health, Law, and Emerging Technologies (HeLEX) is venturing on a new ESRC-JST funded project to advise on the best practice of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare to ensure the benefits for all in the UK and Japan.

Professor Jane Kaye, Director of HeLEX in collaboration with Professor Beverley Yamamoto of Osaka University in Japan will embark on this 3-year project from January 2020. The inter-disciplinary team includes researchers from social science, medicine, life science, and ethical and legal backgrounds.

The programme of research will adopt a mixed-methods approach and aims to investigate effective strategies to support a platform for stakeholder engagement and involvement in the development and implementation of AI technologies in healthcare settings.

New Oxford Forum for International Humanitarian Law Compliance

Elizabeth Stubbins Bates, an early career Fellow at the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, has been awarded £4,500 from the University’s knowledge exchange seed fund to establish the Oxford Forum for International Humanitarian Law Compliance.

The Oxford Forum for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Compliance is a series of workshops at which states will share their practice on IHL’s procedural norms of implementation and enforcement, and hear research findings from scholars working on the same norms.

Pioneering Women: Challenging the Democratic Deficit in the Legal Professions

This project, led by Professor Linda Mulcahy and Dr Dvora Liberman, aims to create an oral history of pioneering women lawyers which will be lodged in the sound archive of the British Library as a national resource. It aims to open up debate about the sort of work that qualifies as pioneering and to raise the profile of women whose contribution has been marginalized in public debate. The researchers are particularly interested in the experiences of women from black, Asian and minority ethnic; lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) groups; as well as from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

The project will also focus on women lawyers who work outside of the commercial sector such as those engaged in advice work and poverty law.

Research into immigration and border controls

Funds have been awarded to various projects looking into immigration and border control. A project led by Anna Tsalapatanis will examine the impact of the experiences of immigration processes on the individuals who navigate them.

A project led by Professor Mary Bosworth, Director of the Centre for Criminology, will study the processes of deportation, removal and transportation of immigration detainees at a time when such matters are high on the political agenda. This project builds on research that Professor Bosworth has been conducting inside immigration removal centres in the UK over the past decade. This new study will allow her to map the whole border control system, for the very first time, anywhere in the world.

Professor Bosworth is also leading a project which looks at the implications of the involvement of the private sector in border control and immigration for our understanding of sovereign power and citizenship.
Policy and Evidence Centre on Modern Slavery and Human Rights

Bonavero Institute of Human Rights

The Bonavero Institute is one of six partners in an ambitious new national Policy and Evidence Centre on Modern Slavery and Human Rights. The Centre will be led by the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law and in addition to the Bonavero Institute includes the Rights Lab at the University of Nottingham, the Wilberforce Institute for the study of Slavery and Emancipation at the University of Hull, the Centre for the Study of International Slavery at the University of Liverpool, and the Alan Turing Institute, the national institute for data science and artificial intelligence, in London.

The Centre’s job will be to bring about a step change in our understanding of modern slavery and to transform the effectiveness of the legal and policy framework which is designed to eradicate it. The new research centre, funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Strategic Priorities Fund and led by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), will bring together academics, policy-makers, businesses and charities to drive forward new studies, share knowledge, and improve collaboration both at home and overseas, to further strengthen our response. The purpose of the new Centre is to provide independent, impartial and authoritative insight and analysis on modern slavery, based on high quality research, of real practical utility to policymakers, legislators, international organisations, businesses, civil society and the public. It will bring together existing work and commission new and innovative research on modern slavery to enhance understanding of this complex and evolving threat and to significantly improve the evidence base which underpins legal and policy responses.

The Bonavero Institute will work with an impressive multi-disciplinary team of academics within Oxford in contributing to this broader multi-disciplinary Centre. The Institute has already begun collaborating on two projects under the auspices of the Centre. The first looks at transparency and accountability for Modern Slavery in supply chains. Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act requires UK businesses earning over £36 million to disclose the steps they have taken to prevent modern slavery in their supply chains. This reporting requirement was designed to allow consumers and civil society to exercise a type of accountability over those companies that effectively control complex global production networks and commodity chains. The effectiveness of the reporting model has been called into question in various recent and ongoing studies, including during the Independent Review of the UK Modern Slavery Act, resulting in the Independent Review recommending that there is a “need for evidence on the most effective regulations and interventions in tackling modern slavery in global supply chains.” The project will take a comparative approach to measuring the effectiveness and assessing the impact of section 54 in its current form, including an analysis of how effectiveness could be defined and measured.
The Death Penalty Research Initiative

This Spring, the Law Faculty’s Centre for Criminology will launch The Death Penalty Research Initiative (DPRI), following more than three decades of scholarship and engagement on the death penalty worldwide. Professor Carolyn Hoyle will lead the Initiative, building on the work of Professor Roger Hood, who was until his retirement in 2003 the Director of the Centre and a leading death penalty scholar. Working closely with colleagues and students in Oxford and beyond, she will collaborate with partner organisations, in particular the London-based legal charity, The Death Penalty Project (The DPP), which has for 30 years engaged in litigation, capacity building and research on the death penalty in over 30 countries. The DPRI has three main aims:

(a) to develop empirical, theoretical and policy-relevant research on the death penalty worldwide,
(b) to encourage death penalty scholarship including at graduate level, through education, events, research dissemination and an active blog; and
(c) to engage in knowledge production, exchange and dissemination in cooperation with civil society, charities, legal practitioners and local academics in those countries where research is ongoing.

It will focus on the retention, administration and politics of the death penalty worldwide, aiming to understand the rationales for the death penalty, how it is used in practice, and its diverse application and impact on communities.

The DPRI team is committed to working with partner organisations and academics in various regions on collaborative production and dissemination of empirical and theoretical knowledge. While their main partner is The DPP, they will also collaborate with LBH Masyarakat, Indonesia; The Capital Punishment Impact Initiative, Monash University, Project 39A, India, the Justice Project, Pakistan; Amnesty International; and Harm Reduction International. By building on partners’ research aspirations, training ‘local’ researchers, and sharing in the production and dissemination of outputs, they will seek to ensure that their research has an impact on governments, civil society, legal practitioners and those who are subject to criminal justice systems. The DPRI is not only aimed at elucidating the law and practice of capital punishment worldwide, but at challenging it, with the explicit aim of abolition or, failing that, progressive restriction.

The aim of the DPRI team is to be international in its reach, including all jurisdictions that retain the death penalty. They will, however, pay particular attention to South and Southeast Asia and to the Commonwealth countries of Africa and the Caribbean where there are fewer due process protections and retention for crimes that are not typically thought of as the most serious. In these countries, there is little scholarship on the death penalty and their commitment to working with academic and civil society partners can help to build capacity for research and engagement that could have an impact on the retention and administration of capital punishment.

15 Years of Collaborative Death Penalty Scholarship

Professors Hood and Hoyle have for decades produced research on the death penalty. With the University of Indonesia and an Indonesian NGO, LBH Masyarakat, they have worked with The DPP on reports on the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia, addressing public opinion on the death penalty, the views of ‘opinion formers’, sentencing, and wrongful convictions. In the coming months, The DPP will publish reports by Roger Hood and Carolyn Hoyle on the views of opinion formers on the death penalty in Eastern Caribbean and Barbados, and in Zimbabwe. In the past few years, Carolyn Hoyle worked with The DPP and partner organisations on elite opinion research in India and Bangladesh, producing a comparative report (Judicial Attitudes towards the Death Penalty: Opinion Studies in India and Bangladesh) which was the focus of a public debate in Bangalore in September 2019.

Such work is aimed at ensuring the greatest possible impact, with publication of reports followed by engagement with local stakeholders, not least governments and opposition parties. Over the coming years, Carolyn Hoyle will continue her research on foreign nationals at risk of capital punishment across South and Southeast Asia, developing theoretical and empirical accounts of citizenship alongside other sites of disadvantage and discrimination. This research builds on a 12–month pilot study of Malaysia which has established the feasibility of the research and a network of partners who will be invaluable to the success of the project.

Working with Partners in Indonesia

Following feasibility studies conducted in 2019, Carolyn Hoyle and The DPP are currently working with the University of Indonesia and an Indonesian NGO, LBH Masyarakat on elite opinion research and public opinion research on the death penalty. With the University of Atma Jaya, Indonesia, Professor Jeffrey Fagan of Columbia University and Dr Claudia Stoicescu, a Research Associate of the Centre for Criminology, they are also planning a deterrence study of the death penalty.

These projects are aimed at challenging prevailing rationales for capital punishment in Indonesia, and indeed across Southeast Asia. There is an absence of rigorous empirical data to inform policy choices in Southeast Asian countries, and without evidence on efficacy, governments, including in Indonesia, justify the death penalty by reference to its supposed deterrent effect and the public appetite for harsh punishments. For the last 20 years, Indonesia’s commitment to the death penalty for drug traffickers in particular has put almost 300 people on death row, 186 of whom have been convicted for drug offenses, and produced 44 executions, 24 for drug trafficking.

The research team is committed to providing Indonesia with rigorous and independent empirical research to allow for evidence-based policies on drugs, crime and capital punishment. Engagement on these issues has already begun with the team producing newspaper editorials and presenting to audiences at a range of events, including most recently at the Human Rights Festival in Jakarta in December 2019.

While this research will speak to the key assumptions in Indonesian law on the purposes of capital punishment, it will also address specific policies that go beyond criminal punishment to include the effects of drug use and trafficking on health, education, public safety, labour markets and migration. The data will allow the team to form new perspectives on social interventions to reduce and control drug problems across the population, without recourse to the death penalty.

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A new cross-disciplinary project will examine the lifecycle of plastics and aim to restructure it to become more ‘circular’ so that plastics can be better recycled or made biodegradable to eliminate waste. The project ‘A circular plastics economy for the Sustainable Development Goals’ is a collaboration between the Faculty of Law, the Department of Chemistry, the Smith School of Enterprise and Environment and is funded by the Oxford Martin School.

The usefulness of plastic in every aspect of our lives is sadly matched by the ubiquity of discarded plastic: over 350 million tonnes are produced annually but only a fraction of these plastics are recycled and many are pervasive materials not designed for degradation.

Plastic pollution, visible around the world on land and in our oceans, is a direct result of the extraordinary durability of current plastics. Plastics, however, are also vital to meeting the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. They are used in lightweight transport for greater fuel efficiency, water purification membranes, high-performance electronics, food waste reduction, efficient insulation, and in essential medical devices like IV bags, syringes and catheters.

Restructuring the lifecycle of plastics to become more ‘circular’, i.e. eliminating waste by designing for disassembly and re-use, has the potential to solve many of these problems while maintaining plastic’s valuable contribution towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as set out by the United Nations. Solving the problems with the current manufacture, use and disposal of plastics requires thinking across deeply ingrained disciplinary boundaries as well as strong engagement with the manufacturing and end-use industries. This programme will bring together experts to work creatively on the technical, economic and legal issues around a future plastics economy that supports, rather than undermines, the SDGs.

The project will work to develop new materials for use in those plastics sectors that present particularly difficult problems. Part of this will be investigating the under-explored concept of chemical recycling where plastics are broken down to their base ingredients and those are re-used. This would allow multiple recycling loops for the same plastics without compromising their useful properties. In the long term, the aim is to develop packaging that is both recyclable and biodegradable.

As well as the new materials themselves, the project will also develop an implementation roadmap identifying how to break down the market, regulatory and social barriers to their widespread adoption. This will be developed with feedback from stakeholders including industry, NGOs, international bodies and academia.

The core objective of the project is moving to a new plastics economy, where future plastics are fully recyclable but ultimately degradable. Developing interventions to change technology, law, social policy, human behaviour and economics, as well as the prototyping of patented materials and products, will be essential to achieving this. The researchers look towards a future that limits environmental damage and pollution without losing the many benefits that plastics provide.

A major difference between this approach and conventional materials discovery programmes is the integration, from the outset, of teams with expertise well beyond science. This programme offers the opportunity to input broader societal, economic and legal questions into the scientific and technological development.
Business and Human Rights Research Programme

Bonavero Institute of Human Rights

Human rights research often focuses on the relationship between the citizen and the state. In the last few decades, however, human rights practitioners and scholars have increasingly recognised that it is necessary to focus on the role business can play in ensuring respect for human rights. The increased interest in the intersection between business and human rights led to the endorsement of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights by the United Nations Human Rights Council in June 2011.

Business and human rights is rapidly emerging as a legal discipline, and the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights has identified it as one of its key research areas. The increased interest in this area has led to a growing number of legislative responses in different countries to ensure that accountability. A leading, and early, example is the US Alien Tort Claims Act. More recently, the French duty of vigilance law provides that the largest French companies may be subject to civil liability for failure to conduct human rights due diligence in relation to their supply chains. In October 2019, the Bonavero Institute initiated a two-year project funded by the Oak Foundation to examine the ongoing developments in the field of civil liability for human rights abuses, to assess whether civil liability does provide an efficient mechanism to hold perpetrators accountable for their involvement in three specified categories of human rights violations (assault and/or unlawful arrest and detention, environmental pollution, and harmful or unfair labour conditions in the supply chains) and to provide guidance to practitioners in this area. The project is led by Professor Kate O’Regan and Dr Annelen Micus and coordinated by Dr Ekaterina Aristova.

The project involves a comparative study of the legal systems of the following jurisdictions: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China, France, India, Kenya, Netherlands, Philippines, South Africa, Switzerland, Ukraine, UK and US. The research will proceed in two stages. The first will involve the preparation of scholarly examinations of the relevant law in each jurisdiction. In October 2020, the Bonavero Institute will host an international roundtable to discuss the key trends and developments in the law of civil remedies in the identified jurisdictions. The second stage will be to develop a practical manual outlining existing rules in each of the jurisdictions which will be of use to human rights practitioners. One of the main aims of the project is to strengthen dialogue and mutual learning between human rights scholars and practitioners across a wide range of jurisdictions, as well as to deepen understanding of the key legal issues and enrich strategic thinking about litigation for civil society actors worldwide.

Monitoring of mandatory corporate due diligence on human rights

The Bonavero Institute has also been monitoring legislative initiatives that require businesses to perform human rights due diligence assessments. There is an increasing number of such initiatives, especially in Europe, which extend corporate responsibility for human rights across groups and their supply chains (for instance, the Dutch child labour due diligence law and the Swiss responsible business initiative). In Hilary term 2020, the Bonavero Institute is organising a series of events under the title ‘Human Rights Due Diligence in Law and Practice’ in collaboration with the Oxford Business and Human Rights Network (OxBHR) to discuss the recent regional and national developments with a group of leading practitioners and academics. OxBHR is co-convened by Dr Ekaterina Aristova and Lisa Hsin.

Examining the basis for regulating corporate power

The Bonavero Institute also hosts the project ‘Regulating Corporate Power’ led by Bonavero Early Career Fellow Nick Friedman. This interdisciplinary and comparative research project critiques the ways in which law both constitutes corporate power and controls the exercise of that power, focusing in particular on the applicability of public law norms typically used to restrain the state. Work in progress examines the current national and international initiatives to hold corporations accountable for human rights violations in transnational commercial contexts.

If you would like to find out more about the Business and Human Rights Research Programme at the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, visit www.law.ox.ac.uk/business-and-human-rights.
Panel Discussion: The first 100 years of Oxford Women in Law

How often do we have a chance to mark the 100th anniversary of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act 1919, which made it possible for women to qualify as barristers and solicitors for the first time? Oxford Women in Law hosted an event at the Meeting Minds weekend in Oxford in September 2019 to discuss the progress made during the first 100 years and the challenges that still exist for women entering the legal profession. The chair Judith Freedman (now Professor of Dispute Resolution Law and Policy at Oxford) studied law at Lady Margaret Hall when only five colleges admitted women and she introduced an inspirational panel of women.

Christina Blacklaws, past President of the Law Society, opened the panel by discussing the results from her recent book “Women of the Law: A Century of Change.” She made improving the gender balance one of her priorities as President and the report from the project showed that unconscious bias in recruitment and work allocation was the most widely identified barrier to equality, followed by unacceptable work-life balance.

Dame Elish Angoloni discussed how she became the first non-political Solicitor General for Scotland, the first woman, the first Procurator Fiscal and the first solicitor to hold the post.

Dame Sarah Aspin continued with her inspiring story of career progression from being called to the Bar in 1984 to her appointment both as a Master of the Bench and Queen’s Counsel in 2002. Dames Aspin and Angoloni laughed about the time they were invited to try on their robes for their ceremony to celebrate their QC appointments as “the measurements and robes were only designed for men!”

Anne Davies, the Dean of the Oxford Law Faculty, highlighted the struggles that women face when working in academia. “When we receive applications for various positions at our Faculty, it’s important to take account of career breaks when looking at lists of publications and to prioritise assessing the quality of people’s work over its quantity.” She explained that the construction of merit should not be tainted by discrimination.

The talks were followed by questions and answers which included the topic of quotas, on which there was not total agreement on the panel, and the importance of having flexible working for all.

Kate Surala (MSc Law and Finance 2016 – 2017)

Civil Procedure Rules at 20

In June 2019 the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights hosted ‘The CPR at 20′, a conference to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Civil Procedure Rules coming into force. The symposium covered five themes as to both the successes of the CPR to date and priorities for reform. Lords Neuberger and Dyson also participated in a conversation with Professor Kate O’Regan, Director of the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, reflecting on the construction of civil justice during their time as Master of the Rolls.

The conference was generously sponsored by Herbert Smith Freehills, the Law Faculty’s second Equality and Diversity Lecture, following on from Barbara Hale of Richmond DDE who delivered the inaugural lecture in 2018.

Haben Girma is the first deaf-blind graduate from Harvard Law School and a renowned disability advocate. Girma fights for equal opportunities and equal access for disabled people.

In recognition of her work, Girma was declared a White House Champion of Change by President Obama, she has received the Helen Keller Achievement Award, and secured a spot on the Forbes 30 under 30 list.

The symposium opened with three presentations covering the assessment of retail mergers by competition authorities (including the CMA’s three-step approach and the GUPPI formula), a perspective of the recent Asda/Sainsbury merger decision and an assessment of the competition effects of European buying alliances and where the boundaries are likely to lie.

2019 Symposium on Trends in Retail Competition

The Fifteenth Annual Symposium on competition amongst retailers took place last year at St Catherine’s College in Oxford. The symposium covered five themes relevant to competition involving branded producers and distributors: buyer power, unfair trading practices, the Vertical Block Exemption Regulation, territorial supply constraints and competition policy.

The full report is available to download from the Law Faculty website, just search 2019 Symposium.

Annual Equality and Diversity Lecture

“We should have access and inclusion for everyone”: In Conservation with Haben Girma.

In November last year, the Law Faculty, in collaboration with Oxford Student Union’s Disabilities Campaign (DisCam), and Oxford Law Society, were delighted to host Haben Girma. Girma delivered the Law Faculty’s second Equality and Diversity Lecture, following on from Baroness Hale of Richmond DDE who delivered the inaugural lecture in 2018.

Haben Girma is the first deaf-blind graduate from Harvard Law School and a renowned disability advocate. Girma fights for equal opportunities and equal access for disabled people.

In recognition of her work, Girma was declared a White House Champion of Change by President Obama, she has received the Helen Keller Achievement Award, and secured a spot on the Forbes 30 under 30 list.

Questions were posed to Girma by DisCam Co-Chair and Law Student, Rahul Bajaj, and the audience. As questions were asked, Girma’s typist entered them into a keyboard, which was connected via Bluetooth to a braille machine held by Girma. This allowed Girma to read the questions and provide a response. Girma’s replies were given verbally, as she has some hearing in high frequencies and has thus trained herself to speak in a higher voice.

The questions asked generated exceptionally interesting responses from Girma, with themes explored in greater depth within her memoir: “Haben: The Deafblind Woman Who Conquered Harvard Law.”

When asked about her experience of education she said: “It’s a sighted, hearing classroom, in a sighted, hearing school, in a sighted hearing society. They place the burden on me to step out of my world and reach into theirs.” Girma explained that environments, in both schools and society, are designed for a specific type of person and people in our society usually treat others in accordance with their own needs and abilities. Consequently, disabled people are forced to assume the burden, often from a very young age, of becoming their own instructors and advocates. This is a reality that clearly resonated with disabled members of the audience, myself included.

During the event, Girma also highlightedabinism – assumptions about and prejudice towards disabled people – as one of the largest barriers disabled people face. She spoke of her experiences of asbinism however, when asked if she was optimistic about the future, Girma claimed she was. “We can change systems” she announced, highlighting how education is key. Girma believes society should learn about the different ways we are human and that it is a community’s responsibility to ensure that all spaces and programmes are accessible to all people.

A video and full transcript of the 2019 Equality Lecture can be viewed on the Law Faculty website.

Haben Girma, Deafblind Woman Who Conquered Harvard Law Lecture, delivered the inaugural lecture in 2018.

Annual Equality and Diversity Lecture

“We should have access and inclusion for everyone”: In Conservation with Haben Girma.
MLF alumna featured in Management Today’s ‘35 Under 35’ list

Congratulations to MLF alumna Kate Surala, who was recently featured on Management Today’s 35 Women Under 35 list. Now in its 19th year, the list spotlights the country’s top businesswomen, with alumni including Stella McCartney and Martha Lane Fox.

After completing her MSc in Law and Finance in Oxford in 2017, Kate joined The Analyst Research LLP. She was promoted to COO after four months, and was made partner last year. She is working on her PhD thesis on the unbundling requirements introduced by MiFID II at Radboud University Nijmegen, supervised by Professor Dr Danny Busch. Kate is also a member of the Oxford Women in Law advisory board and her latest project is a book on how to succeed as a young woman in the workplace.

Law Faculty alumnus elected Vice-President of the European Court of Human Rights

Judge Robert R. Spanó has been elected Vice-President of the European Court of Human Rights.

Robert achieved an MJur with distinction in European and Comparative law (University College) in 2000. He won the Clifford Chance Prize (proxime accessit) and the Civil Procedure Prize. He went on to serve as a judge in Reykjavik, a Parliamentary Ombudsman of Iceland, a dean at the Faculty of Law at The University of Iceland and his nine-year term as a judge of the European Court of Human Rights began in 2013. Robert was elected President of Section of the Court in May 2017.

Robert recently gave the inaugural Annual Bonavero Human Rights Lecture on ‘The Democratic Virtues of Human Rights. A Response to Lord Sumption’s Reith Lectures’, a transcript of which can be found on the Law Faculty website.

Tobias Lutzi wins 2019 ICC Institute Prize

Tobias Lutzi’s doctoral thesis has been awarded the International Chamber of Commerce prize. He received the prize, along with prize money of €10,000, at a ceremony following the 39th Annual Conference of the ICC Institute.

The thesis, titled ‘Regulating the Internet through Private International Law’, addresses the question of how rules of private international law shape the legal framework for online activities in the European Union and how these rules can contribute to their effective regulation.

Commenting on his win, Tobias thanked his supervisor, college and Faculty in Oxford for their unending support. He came to Oxford to study for the MJur, matriculating in 2014, and then continued at the Faculty to do his MPhil and DPhil. He is now a research assistant at the Institute for Private Law at the University of Cologne and has also been a legal trainee at the Cologne Higher Regional Court since December 2018.

Andrew Bell appointed President of the NSW Court of Appeal

Prominent Sydney barrister the Honorable Justice Andrew Scott Bell was last year sworn in as a Justice of the NSW Supreme Court and appointed President of the NSW Court of Appeal.

Andrew was a Rhodes Scholar in 1990 and read for the BCL. He was awarded the Vinerian scholarship for first place in the BCL and took silk in 2006.

He is the Senior Vice President of the NSW Bar Association and a past Chairman of a Professional Conduct Committee. For the past decade, he has been an Adjunct Professor of Law at Sydney University.

He was twice chairman of Eleven Wentworth, one of Australia’s leading chambers in commercial and constitutional law. In 1990–1991, he was the Associate to Sir Anthony Mason AC KBE QC, the ninth Chief Justice of Australia.

Celebrating 10 years of the MSc in Law and Finance

During the 2019 Meeting Minds Alumni Weekend, the city of Oxford came to life as people from all over the world gathered to celebrate different disciplines and perspectives, and reminisce about the time they spent at Oxford. During the weekend, the MSc in Law and Finance (MLF) kicked off its 10 year anniversary celebrations with an alumni dinner and panel. The MLF is a ten-month programme offering students with a prior background in law the chance to develop an advanced interdisciplinary understanding of relevant economic and financial contexts. It was a pleasure to see unique minds come together and we hope that the 2020 Meeting Minds Weekend is going to be even better! The weekend’s essence was captured on film and can be viewed on the Law Faculty’s YouTube channel.

Meeting Minds

The annual University alumni weekend ‘Meeting Minds’ will take place from 11 – 13 September 2020. Professor Linda Mulcahy, Director of the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, will be speaking during the event about her recently published book ‘The Democratic Courthouse: A Modern History of Design, Due Process and Dignity.’
Professor Subedi awarded the degree of Doctor of Civil Law (DCL) by the University of Oxford

An alumnus of the University of Oxford, Professor Surya P. Subedi, QC, OBE, has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Civil Law (DCL) by the University. The award was granted in recognition of his exceptionally insightful and distinctive publications that contain significant and original contributions to the study of international law, whilst his knowledge of specialist areas of law has permitted him to make specific suggestions for reform. They went on to add that “Professor Subedi’s academic achievements, combined with his substantial body of publications and engagement with governmental and intergovernmental organizations, demonstrate work of the highest quality sustained over time.”

The judges of the higher doctorate award praised Professor Subedi as “a scholar of uncommon breadth of knowledge and depth of thinking. His work is substantial in scale. He is a legal philosopher whose work has had an undoubted impact on the theory of international law, whilst his knowledge of specialist areas of law has permitted him to make specific suggestions for reform.” They went on to add that “Professor Subedi’s academic achievements, combined with his substantial body of publications and engagement with governmental and intergovernmental organizations, demonstrate work of the highest quality sustained over time.”

The Oxford DCL is awarded rarely and only in exceptional cases. Commenting on his award, Professor Subedi said that it was an immense honour and privilege to be awarded the highest degree of Oxford. Professor Subedi had obtained his DPhil in Law at Oxford in 1993 and his thesis was awarded the Dasturzada Pavy Memorial Prize for an outstanding thesis of the year. He currently is Professor of International Law at the University of Leeds and a practising barrister at Three Stone Chambers, Lincoln’s Inn, London. From 2009 to 2015 he was the UN Special Rapporteur for human rights in Cambodia and from 2010 to 2015 served as a member of a high-level Advisory Group on Human Rights to the British Foreign Secretary. He was elected a member of a high-level Advisory Group on Human Rights to the British Foreign Secretary. He was elected a member of a high-level Advisory Group on Human Rights to the British Foreign Secretary.

Professor Subedi has a nostalgic feeling about his time at Oxford as a student. Both of his children, Pranay and Anita, were born in Oxford during his DPhil studies and one of them followed in his footsteps and came up to Oxford to read law. Prior to coming to Oxford, Professor Subedi was working as a legal advisor to King Birendra of Nepal and was about to start a family in Kathmandu. But when he was offered a place to undertake his doctoral research and awarded a Foreign and Commonwealth Office Scholarship, he could not resist such a once in a life time opportunity to study at Oxford.

Upon hearing that his legal advisor had been offered a place to study for a DPhil, King Birendra granted him permission to travel to Oxford. Professor Subedi then travelled to Oxford in September 1989 with his wife who was six months pregnant with their first child. He reminisces about the wonderful welcome and generous support rendered to him and his wife by Sir Richard Norman, the then Rector of his College, Exeter, and the college Bursar. He remembers with gratitude the kindness of the Bursar of his college who had supplied enough woolen blankets made in Witney and other household items needed by the young Nepalese family in Oxford to get through the winter when residing in the Summertown House in north Oxford.

Professor Subedi became the first Nepali to obtain a DPhil from Oxford and went on to receive an OBE in 2004 for services to international law and the title of Queen’s Counsel honors causa in 2017 for his contribution to the advancement of human rights. The award of Honorary Queen’s Counsel is made to distinguished qualified lawyers and legal academics who have made a major contribution to the law of England & Wales outside practice in the courts. A press release issued by the Government on 12 January 2017 stated that Professor Subedi had made “an exceptional contribution over a sustained period at the international level to develop international law and to advance human rights.”

Born into an academic family in Lamjung Khudi, a picturesque village in the foothills of the Annapurna mountain range of the Himalayas, Nepal and inspired by the teachings of Hindu/Buddhist philosophy of peace, non-violence, equality, tolerance, and a sense of duty to others, Professor Subedi took to law for his university education believing that it was a discipline in the service of others. His father was a great educationalist and a scholar of Sanskrit, and public service ethos were strong in the Subedi family. He continues in his mission through his publications in international law in general and international human rights law in particular. He attributes his success in international law to the stimulating environment offered by Oxford during his DPhil studies and the advice and guidance rendered by his supervisor Professor Christine Gray. He also is grateful to his wife Kokila for supporting him throughout his studies at Oxford while bringing up their two young children in a new country.
Stefanie Wilkins

A summary of your career so far:
I completed my undergraduate studies – a double-degree in civil engineering and law – at the University of Adelaide. I then spent two years working as an Associate (clerk) to a judge in the Supreme Court of South Australia. I came to Oxford to do the BCL, and then returned to Australia to work at a leading firm specialising in insolvency and commercial litigation. I spent about five years in practice before deciding I was ready for a different challenge, and I returned to Oxford in 2014 to commence a DPhil on the topic of third party litigation funding. Since then, I have qualified as a barrister in England and Wales, completed pupillage and joined chambers in London. I now practice at South Square, in insolvency and commercial litigation. I co-authored ‘Zuckerman on Australian Civil Procedure’ with my supervisor and others. I have also had periods of maternity leave when my two daughters were born.

What attracted you to a career in Law?
I enjoy the intellectual challenge. Every day is different, and it is very rare to be bored. It is a job where the first and last days of your career can be very different. This is what drew me to a career in law, and I am pleased to say that it has proved to be accurate. I have done a variety of things in my career.

What aspects of your law degree have proved to be the most useful in your career so far?
The BCL really challenged me to think about the law in a different way, and to question the assumptions or beliefs I had held previously. When addressing difficult problems, I still find myself applying the same techniques of thinking through the challenges which I learnt during my studies.

More practically, I have found that the volume and quality of work which was required during the BCL was good preparation for practice.

Wande McCunn

A brief biography of yourself and summary of your career so far:
I was born in Nigeria but grew up in Australia. I matriculated in 2011 as a student of Keble College and in 2013 I moved to New College. I graduated with an MSc in Law and Finance, Masters of Philosophy of Law, and a Doctor of Philosophy of Law. I joined the Bank of England in 2017 and worked in the Resolution Directorate. In late 2018, I joined an investment management company called Carmignac. Today, I am a Credit & Equity Financials Analyst.

What led you to decide to undertake the MSc in Law and Finance?
I studied the MSc in Law and Finance (MLF) because it bridged two subject areas that I studied separately as an undergraduate. I had always considered that Law and Finance could and perhaps should be studied together. The MLF was an opportunity to study the two subjects together.

How has your time in Oxford influenced your career path? Have you had the career you planned or has it evolved over time?
Yes. My time in Oxford was transformational. The frameworks that I learnt have allowed me to chart a course in financial markets. My career was not fully planned and indeed I considered several paths. My objective has been to continue the journey of understanding how Law and Finance interact. So far, I believe that I have been able to work at that intersection. I believe that Oxford opened my eyes and the doors that have been necessary for this objective.

What advice would you give to someone considering coming to Oxford to study in the Law Faculty?
Take the time to understand in detail what interests you the most. Academically, the reading lists are long and unless you are extraordinary I do not think that you can internalise the importance of the many seminal papers that make up the reading lists. However, I suspect that this is by design. The value of the reading lists is to introduce the ideas and to be a reference list that can be returned to in the future. More generally, take the time to get to know and learn from your peers. Oxford attracts unique minds and you should make the most of the opportunity to interact with and learn from them.

What is the one word that sums up Oxford to you, and why?
Home. Academically and emotionally, I connected with Oxford; the place, my fellow students, and the academics.
Laura Hoyano
Laura Hoyano, Associate Professor of Law, has been appointed to support the Ministry of Justice and Home Office to serve on a subgroup of the Criminal Justice Board, to conduct a review of the criminal justice response to rape and serious sexual offences, as part of the renewal of the Violence against Women and Girls Strategy. Laura will be formally representing the Criminal Bar Association, but is also the only academic to be appointed to the review following the publication of her major empirical study of cross-examination of sexual assault complainants on their previous sexual behaviour, in December 2018.

Suzanne Chiodo
Suzanne Chiodo, a DPhil student and Stipendiary Lecturer in Law at Oriel College, won the 2019 Peter Oliver Prize in Canadian Legal History awarded by The Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History for her book The Class Actions Controversy: The Origins and Development of the Ontario Class Proceedings Act, published by Irwin Law.

Shona Minson
Dr Shona Minson of the Centre for Criminology, whose work on mothers facing prison has changed how judges, magistrates and probation officers hand down sentences has won a prestigious Celebrating Impact Prize. She was awarded the ERSC Celebrating Impact Prize for Outstanding Early Career Impact at a ceremony in July.

Tarunabh Khaitan
Tarunabh Khaitan, Professor of Public Law and Legal Theory, has been awarded the 2019 Woodward Medal in Humanities & Social Sciences by the University of Melbourne for his 2015 monograph A Theory of Discrimination Law published in 2018. The book was praised for making “a significant contribution to knowledge in a field of humanities and social sciences.”

Dapo Akande
Dapo Akande, Professor of Public International Law, has been appointed international law adviser to a public inquiry established by the New Zealand Government. The inquiry is examining the conduct of New Zealand Defence Forces (NZDF) during the conflict in Afghanistan, and in particular, the actions of the New Zealand SAS during a particular operation (Operation Burnham) carried out in 2010.
Honours

Who was Martin Wronker, founder of the prestigious annual prize?

The Martin Wronker Prize is awarded to undergraduate students with the best performance in their final exams. Martin Wronker died 70 years ago on 2 March 1950 leaving an enduring legacy in Oxford in the form of his prizes, which still benefit students to this day.

Martin Wronker was born in Kammin, Germany (now Kamien Pomorski in Poland), in 1895, but left Germany in the 1930s. He established a film distribution business, International Film Renters, with an office in Wardour Street, and was successful enough to own a flat in Upper Grosvenor Street. His work in London was interrupted only for a short period in 1939 when, like almost all those of German origin, he was interned. He was, however, released in December of that year, having been classified as a ‘Refugee from Nazi Oppression’. Ill-health forced him to sell his company in the late 1940s.

In December 1949, Martin Wronker approached the University of Oxford through his solicitor, Mr Race, offering to fund prizes for medicine, law, and architecture. The university replied asking about the testator’s intentions, and were informed that the prize should be for ‘proficiency by undergraduates’, but also that the recipient must not be ‘a fascist or a communist’.

The University, through the person of Dr Douglas Veale, agreed to meet the solicitors. First, he pointed out that the University did not have a school of architecture. There was a discussion about defining whether or not a person did have particular political opinions, but Mr Wronker agreed that the conditions would be met if the candidates had to produce a statement from the Heads of their colleges, certifying that there were ‘well qualified by intention, and were informed that the prize should be for proficiency by undergraduates’. There was a discussion about the difficulty of defining whether or not a person did have particular political opinions, but Mr Wronker agreed that the conditions would be met if the candidates had to produce a statement from the Heads of their colleges, certifying that there were ‘well qualified by intention, and were informed that the prize should be for proficiency by undergraduates’. There was a discussion about defining whether or not a person did have particular political opinions, but Mr Wronker agreed that the conditions would be met if the candidates had to produce a statement from the Heads of their colleges, certifying that there were ‘well qualified by intention, and were informed that the prize should be for proficiency by undergraduates’.

The Martin Wronker Prize is awarded to undergraduate students with the best performance in their final exams. Martin Wronker died 70 years ago on 2 March 1950 leaving an enduring legacy in Oxford in the form of his prizes, which still benefit students to this day.

On 3 March, Mr Race informed Dr Veale that Mr Wronker died the previous day.

There follow several years of discussions. One of the main reasons it took a long time to confirm the arrangements was that it was difficult to separate Martin Wronker’s personal affairs from those for his company. He had been in poor health for a number of years, and had sold his company, but because of the value of that company depended in part on past complex and poorly documented business agreements, the company’s new owners and others made claims against the estate. Consequently, the estimated value of the estate varied between £15,000 and £60,000.

During this period, Dr Veale explored a number of different options. This included asking the Keeper of the Ashmolean to assess the value of Mr Wronker’s art collection. The keeper responded that ‘there is nothing, absolutely nothing, which it would be worth taking any action about’.

The other reason for the delay in the establishment of the prizes was that Martin Wronker made two codicils to his will. The first entitled Mrs Wronker to an annuity of £500, and the second, which was being drafted at the time of Martin Wronker’s death, and therefore was never executed, entitled Mrs Wronker to an annuity of £750, together with the sum of £2,500 for the purchase of a house.

Dr Veale remains courteous to all correspondents throughout, but writing a note to the file in January 1951, Dr Veale notes that ‘The Wardour Street confraternity are not too delicate in their notions’. Also, as the estimated value fluctuated, he and others expressed the concern that there may be insufficient funds to establish the prizes and pay the annuity.

By 1956, however, the matter was settled. The University invested the funds in several different Companies. When the Inspector of Taxes asked to see a copy of the will, Veale asked the Executor, asking for a photostat copy. If you do not have a spare copy in your possession, we shall of course be willing to pay for one to be made’.

The first prizes were awarded in 1957.
Scholarships & Prizes

Graduate Scholarships

Fountain Court Scholarship  Alex Ivory
3 Verulam Buildings Scholarship  Taylor Briggs
Des Voeux Chambers Scholarship  Hansheng Lim
Des Voeux Chambers Scholarship  Charlie Liu
4 New Square Scholarship  Tomas Rees
One Essex Court Scholarship  Sarah O’Keefe
Pump Court Tax Scholarship  Oliver Carr
Gabriel Moss QC Insolvency & Restructuring Scholarship  Julia Glukhikh
Peter Birks Memorial Scholarship  Oskar Sherry
Allan Myers Scholarship  Minh-Quan Nguyen
Allan Myers Scholarship  Anastis Petridis
James Bullock Scholarship  Zubair Chaudry
Winter Williams Scholarship  Hannah Bogaert
Fietta Scholarship  Tsvetelina Van Benthem
Criminology Scholarships  Kalisher Trust Alice Flett

MSc in Taxation Scholarships

Benjamin Malek  (Field Court Tax Chambers Scholarship)
Emanuel Benning  (Field Court Tax Chambers Scholarship)
Peter Denk  (Field Court Tax Chambers Scholarship)

Law Faculty Final Honour School Prize Winners 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prize</th>
<th>Candidate Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winner Prize (Overall Best Performance)</td>
<td>Xue Tai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winner Prize (Second Best Performance (shared)</td>
<td>Oliver Chen, Helen Gill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prize for Civil Dispute Resolution</td>
<td>Rhian Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibbs Prize Winner (shared)</td>
<td>Sarah Simpson, Chiara Hovgaard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibbs Prize Winner</td>
<td>Chiara Hovgaard, Helen Gill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibbs Prize Winner</td>
<td>Xue Tai, Chiara Hovgaard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winner Prize for Administrative Law</td>
<td>Lucy Sahil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winner Prize for Tax</td>
<td>Helen Gill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibbs Prize Winner for Civil Dispute Resolution</td>
<td>Rhian Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Verulam Buildings Prize for Commercial Law</td>
<td>Helen Gill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winner &amp; Case Prize for Comparative Private Law</td>
<td>Zoe, San Pajung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beckett Rose in Constitutional Law</td>
<td>Dominique Francis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize for Copyright, Patents, Trade Marks and Allied Rights (shared)</td>
<td>Benjamin Atkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize for Copyrigh, Trade Marks and Allied Rights</td>
<td>Benjamin Atkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well Law Chambers Prize for Commercial Law</td>
<td>Grant McAvoy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobias, Taylor Building Prize for Environmental Law</td>
<td>Alex Roe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remington’s Match by Low Prize (shared)</td>
<td>Daniel Gatt, Sophie Bingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slaughter and May Prize for History of English Law</td>
<td>Katherine Pope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize for Human Rights Law</td>
<td>Oliver Chen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goldstein Prize for International Trade</td>
<td>Walter Yang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Littlermuch’s Prize in Labour Law</td>
<td>Yusuf Rezaiee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize for Media Law (shared)</td>
<td>David Cornwell, Alex Roe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize for Medical Law and Ethics</td>
<td>Alastair Steward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize for Ethics and Political Philosophy</td>
<td>Yamparika Jairam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Souls Prize for Public International Law</td>
<td>Owen Self</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize for Roman Law (Second)</td>
<td>Nozomi Nakayama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present Wilson Prize for Taxation Law</td>
<td>Rachel Huynh, Walter Yang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize for Competition Law</td>
<td>Stephanie Murthy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter &amp; Case Prize: Company Law</td>
<td>Hannah Bogaert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize for Religious Property</td>
<td>Charmaine Hwang</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Postgraduate prize winners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prize</th>
<th>Candidate Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Verulam Buildings Prize for Large Concepts in Financial Law</td>
<td>Liangxiao Huang, Raphael</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/the &amp; Chong Prize in Corporate Finance Law</td>
<td>Olivia Philip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offord Chance Prize for the Second Best Performance in the M/A</td>
<td>Liangxiao Huang, Raphael</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offord Chance Prize for the Best Performance in the M/A</td>
<td>Silva, Roman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offord Chance Prize in Principles of Civil Procedure (shared in 2019)</td>
<td>Vicent, Milen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herbert Hart Prize in Jurisprudence and Political Theory</td>
<td>Richardon, Alistair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/the &amp; Chong Prize in Conflict of Law</td>
<td>Hannah Bogaert, Rinat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize in Children, Families and the State</td>
<td>Alex, Rinat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize in Certain Foundations of Contract Law</td>
<td>Chen, Chen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize in Comparative Corporate Law</td>
<td>Chen, Chen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize in Comparative Equality Law</td>
<td>Baga, Alex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize in Comparative and Global Environmental Law</td>
<td>Chen, Chen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize in Constitutional Principles of the EU</td>
<td>Chin, Chen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize in Constitutional Theory</td>
<td>Upinder, Joshua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize in Criminal Justice, Security and Human Rights</td>
<td>Schusscher, Gritte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize in Comparative Contract Law in Europe</td>
<td>Tim, Rinat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize in Human Rights at Work</td>
<td>Moolman, Jacques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize in Intellectual Property Law</td>
<td>Bag, Ralph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize in International Commercial Arbitration</td>
<td>Tim, Jing, Jing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize in International Law and Armed Conflict</td>
<td>Kelly, Thaddeus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize in International Law of the Sea</td>
<td>Mar, Samuel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize in Law and Society in Medieval England</td>
<td>Molenkamp, Jacques</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize in Medical Law and Ethics</td>
<td>Barnes, Andrew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize in Philosophical Foundations of the Common Law</td>
<td>Ralph, Aditya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize in Private Law and Fundamental Rights</td>
<td>Aydoot, Anan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize in Regulation</td>
<td>Liu, Ken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize in Roman Law (Second) (shared in 2019)</td>
<td>Robert, Charles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Prize in Trusts and Global Wealth Taxation</td>
<td>Strange, Harry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leftwich Prize for Principles of Financial Regulation</td>
<td>Crooks, Riok</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manderson Chambers Prize in Competition Law (shared in 2019)</td>
<td>Hussein Jones, Samantha, Melina, Sebastian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Birch Prize for Enforcement of Vietnamese Law</td>
<td>Monnet, Luca</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monnet Prize for Principles of International Criminal Law</td>
<td>Alex, Alex</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ralph Cohn Prize in Comparative Human Rights</td>
<td>Choo, Darsh Thakoo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vinerian Scholarship (Prize for Academic) for the Second Best Performance in the M/A</td>
<td>Underwood, Joshua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vinerian Scholarship for Best Performance in the M/A (shared in 2019)</td>
<td>Choo, Darsh Thakoo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vinerian Scholarship for Best Performance in the M/A (shared in 2019)</td>
<td>Underwood, Joshua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vinerian Scholarship for Best Performance in the M/A (shared in 2019)</td>
<td>Monnet, Luca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vinerian Scholarship for Best Performance in the M/A (shared in 2019)</td>
<td>Underwood, Joshua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winner Williams Prize in European Business Regulation (Review of the ECs Internal Market)</td>
<td>Kevin, Christopher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winner Williams Prize in International Economic Law (shared in 2019)</td>
<td>Farmer, Keith, Karl, Khatiz, Thomas, Garth, Gaye, Declan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cahiers d’Extrême-Asie 26 (2017) Droit et Bouddhisme Principe et pratique dans le Tibet prémoderne / Law and Buddhism Principle and Practice in Pre-modern Tibet by Fernanda Pirie has been published by École française d’Extrême-Orient.

Maris Köpcke’s book Legal Validity: The Fabric of Justice has been published by Hart Publishing.

Intersectional Discrimination by Shreya Atrey has been published by Oxford University Press.

Christopher Hodges’ book Delivering Dispute Resolution: A Holistic Review of Models in England and Wales has been published by Hart Publishing.

This ambitious book by Professor Christopher Hodges reviews the numerous dispute resolution pathways that exist for the major types of disputes in England and Wales whether they concern consumers or SMEs, family matters, employment issues or complaints against the State. He provides a truly holistic overview of the current dispute resolution system. He finds that the present system is not working and proposes a series of reforms.

Scholars of Tort Law edited by Donal Nolan and James Goudkamp has been published by Hart Publishing.


The Law and Finance of Related Party Transactions edited by Luca Enriques and Tobias H. Tröger has been published by Cambridge University Press. A globe-spanning group of leading law and finance scholars bring together cutting-edge research to comprehensively examine the challenges legislators face in regulating related party transactions in a socially beneficial way. Combining theoretical analysis of the foundations of efficient regulation with empirical and comparative studies, readers are invited to draw their own conclusions on which regulatory responses work best under differing circumstances.

A Short History of Legal Validity and Invalidity by Maris Köpcke has been published by Intersentia.

The Confusion Test in European Trade Mark Law by Ilanah Fhima and Dev S. Jogee has been published by OUP.

Contributory Negligence in the Twenty-First Century by James Goudkamp and Donal Nolan has been published by Oxford University Press.

The 4th edition of Tiley’s Revenue Law by Glen Loutzenhiser has been published by Hart Publishing.

The ninth edition of Remedies for Torts, Breach of Contract, and Equitable Wrongs by Andrew Burrows has been published by OUP.

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The fourth edition of Remedies for Torts, Breach of Contract, and Equitable Wrongs by Andrew Burrows has been published by OUP.

French Civil Liability in Comparative Perspective edited by Jean-Sébastien Borghetti and Simon Whittaker has been published by Hart Publishing. It contains a chapter on ‘Crime, Breach of Legislative Duties and Fault’ by Matt Dyson.

Accessorial Liability after Rodgers edited by Beatrice Krebs has been published by Hart Publishing. The book contains chapters by Jonathan Herring, Matt Dyson and Rebecca Williams. The editor, Beatrice Krebs, completed her DPhil at Oxford.
Ewan Smith

A little over ten years ago, I went to China to study the Communist Party and the constitution at Peking University Law School, and in the British Embassy. I did not know it when I arrived, but 2008 was a high-water mark for legal and constitutional development in China. The Chinese constitution had recently been amended to attest to the newfound importance of human rights, private property and the rule of law. A few years earlier, the Supreme People's Court first countenanced the judicial enforcement of that constitution. Shortly after I arrived, the liberal wave broke. In December of 2008, a constitutional referendum, another wave broke. Since then, I have engaged in a study of authoritarian constitutional orders, and to defend, a more liberal one.

Broadly speaking, my work considers how rules govern powerful institutions. It explains the nature of legal and political order and shows how constitutions can establish and nurture order. It explores arbitrary power and says what can be done to contain it. I am particularly interested by areas of impunity, their boundaries and the reasons for them. My thesis explored the relationship between the written and unwritten constitutions in Britain and China. It looks at how non-legal rules bend legal rules out of shape, and asks if this is a malign phenomenon, a benign one, or neither. It considers the way political parties inhabit constitutional institutions, how bureaucratic rules can supplant legal rules, and why British constitutional conventions are more durable than Chinese ones, among other questions.

I have two further active research projects, both based in the Bonavera Institute for Human Rights and supported by the Programme for the Foundations of Law and Constitutional Government. ‘Treaties, Brexit and the Constitution’, (which I run together with Professor Eirik Bjorge, and Arabella Lang from the House of Commons Library) considers the role of treaties after Brexit. It examines the constitutional debates that was the EU Withdrawal Agreement, and asks how future treaties, including trade agreements, ought to be scrutinised. This work requires regular interaction with Parliament, and government.

‘Partisanship and the Constitution’ (which I run together with Udit Bhatia and Leah Trueblood) considers how political parties govern, and are governed by, the constitutional order. Parties can be private subjects, with private rights. They can be public utilities, bearing public duties. They can have privileged access to the state. They can be insulated from state organs like the judiciary. Yet, they are only intermittently assigned formal constitutional powers and duties, and they are often overlooked altogether. The project addresses issues such as these, bringing together philosophers, political scientists and constitutional lawyers and confronting trends such populism and plebiscitary politics.

My doctoral research was generously supported by a scholarship from the Faculty’s Programme for the Foundations of Law and Constitutional Government, by a Senior Holme Scholarship at Brasenose College, and, latterly by a Junior Research Fellowship at Jesus College. I am sincerely grateful to all of them.

DPhil Student Profiles

Clara Martins Pereira

The last three decades have witnessed radical change in stock markets around the world. The picture of loud brokers and screaming phone calls ingrained in the collective imagination no longer reflects the reality of most trading arenas: nowadays, most secondary trading in shares is conducted exclusively through automated computer algorithms in fully electronic trading floors.

In recent years, the growing transformative power held by this ‘algorithmic trading’ has triggered an intense debate over its impact on the financial markets—and not just amongst academics, regulators and industry representatives. Following the 2010 Flash Crash and the publication of Michael Lewis’s ‘Flash Boys,’ many of us fear that the stock markets have turned into a rigged game, and one which human traders are destined to lose.

Ultimately, even though definitive answers are still lacking as to whether the impact of algorithmic trading on the financial markets has been overall positive or negative, regulators around the world have already targeted this type of trading with various legislative proposals. The European Union, in particular, has recently introduced what, in its own words, is the ‘toughest’ algorithmic trading regime in the world.

My research explores the nature of the change brought by algorithmic trading to the EU secondary equity markets, creates a framework for evaluating that change and, finally, builds on that framework to determine whether the EU’s ‘toughest’ algorithmic trading regime is an adequate response to this type of trading.

The first part of my work is dedicated to defining the essential elements of algorithmic trading, as well to pinpointing the exact nature of the change that this type of trading brought to the EU secondary equity markets. The challenge in exploring these two issues lies in the fact that they are often glossed over by the existing—essentially financial—literature on algorithmic trading. But addressing them is important.

Identifying the exact elements that define algorithmic trading is an essential first step before evaluating its impact on the EU secondary equity markets, and a helpful tool for determining whether the objective scope of a particular algorithmic trading regime—such as the EU’s—actually covers all the sub-types of trading that are worth regulating in this context. It is also a useful starting point for understanding how algorithmic trading might evolve in the coming years and what the rules proposed to algorithmic trading today are able to adapt to that evolution.

Pinpointing the exact nature of the change brought by algorithmic trading to the EU secondary equity markets is equally important. At first sight, these markets appear to have transformed beyond recognition, but identifying the numerous ways in which they have actually stayed the same allows for the use of familiar concepts and ideas to create a framework capable of rigorously assessing the impact of the change actually resulting from algorithmic trading.

The second part of my thesis builds on that framework to evaluate the principles and provisions that comprise the EU algorithmic trading regime—and ultimately puts forward some proposals for reform.

Undertaking this project at Oxford—under the generous supervision of Professor Jennifer Payne—has been equal parts challenging and rewarding. Since coming to Oxford, I have enjoyed numerous opportunities to learn from some of the most brilliant and kind academics I have ever met; I have been challenged on my views about algorithmic trading regulation and I have been frequently encouraged to explore paths I had not considered before. Writing a thesis is always hard work, but, thanks to being here, it has never stopped being interesting.

My research is currently funded by the FCT – Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia. In the past, I benefited from the generous support offered by the Foundation for International Law, the Oxford Law Faculty (Winter Williams Scholarship and Graduate Assistance Fund) and St. Anne’s College (Graduate Development Scholarship and Sarah McCabe Bursary). During my DPhil, I was a visiting scholar at the Universitat de Barcelona, at the Max Planck Institute in Hamburg, at the Sapenzi Università di Roma and, most recently, at Columbia Law School. I have also taught Company Law and Tort Law at Oxford—and, for a little under two years, I was a proud Associate Editor of the Oxford Business Law Blog. Before starting my DPhil, I completed an MPhil and an MLit at the University of Oxford, as well as a Master’s in Law and Business and a BA at Católica Lisbon School of Law (where I also lectured in Company Law).
Oxford Law Students win Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition 2019

The Oxonian team comprising Gayathree Devi Kalliyat Thazhathuveetil (BCL, Somerville) and Ayushi Agarwal (BCL, Exeter) have won the 11th edition of the Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition 2019.

The team was coached by Ms Raghavi Viswanath (BCL, St Anne’s).

The Moot was organized by the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, in partnership with the Office of the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law of the Washington College of Law, American University, Washington DC. Oral pleadings were held in the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 15-19 July, 2019.

Gayathree and Ayushi finished as the highest scoring team in the preliminary rounds, and went on to plead in the finals, against Macquarie University from Sydney. They won fully-funded fellowships to attend the Summer School of the Lucerne Academy for Human Rights Implementation in Switzerland. In addition, Gayathree won the Best Oralist award, while Ayushi was the third best oralist.

The team’s participation in the competition was made possible by the generous support of the Law Faculty and the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights. The team would also like to especially thank the Bonavero Institute and Oxford Lawyers without Borders for having organised the Blackstone Human Rights Moot Court Competition and selected the team to represent the University.

Oxford Law Students win the European Human Rights Moot Court Competition

The Oxonian team of three law students, Ms Emily Van Heerden (MPhil in Law, Balliol), Mr Alan Eustace (BCL, St Cross) and Ms Francesca Parkes (BA in Law with French Law, Corpus) have won the 7th edition of the European Human Rights Moot Court Competition (EHRMCC) in Strasbourg.

The team was supported by Ms Emilie McDonnell (DPhil in Law, University) who was the team coach.

The Competition is jointly organised by the Council of Europe and the European Law Students Association (ELSA), with the oral pleadings taking place in Strasbourg at the Council of Europe and European Court of Human Rights from 14-18 April 2019.

The team won the ‘Council of Europe Award’ which provides each member with a one-month traineeship at the European Court of Human Rights. Ms Parkes also won Best Orator of the Semi-Finals. ‘We met some inspirational people among the other teams and at the Court; I can’t wait to go back for the internship this summer.’

University of Oxford Maitland Chambers Inter-Collegiate Mooting Competition 2019

The Grand Final of the University of Oxford Maitland Chambers Inter-Collegiate mooting competition (Cuppers) 2019, between Pembroke and Harris Manchester took place at Keble College on in February 2019.

The Grand Final was judged by Edwin Johnson QC, Michael Gibbon QC and Benjamin John, all barristers at Maitland Chambers.

Pembroke College (Appellants) was represented by Mr Tilman Koops and Ms Alice Campbell Davis and Harris Manchester College (Respondents) was represented by Mr Jordan Briggs and Mr Timothy Foot.

The winners of this challenging Grand Final were the Applicants, Pembroke College.

University of Oxford 7 King’s Bench Walk Commercial Law Moot Competition 2019

The Sixth HSF - NLU Delhi International Negotiation Competition

The Sixth HSF - NLU Delhi International Negotiation Competition took place from 6 – 8 September 2019 at National Law University Delhi, India.

Thirty-eight teams from eleven countries spent the weekend negotiating simulated cross-border commercial deals. Ee Hsiun Chong (St John’s College) and Chaitanya Kodiyal (Exeter College) represented the Oxford Law Faculty at the competition. The team prevailed over Macquarie University, Australia, to win the closely fought Grand Final.

The Moot was generously sponsored by 7 King’s Bench Walk.

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The Moot was generously sponsored by 7 King’s Bench Walk.
The UK National Rounds of the Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court Competition were held between 15-17 February 2019 at Gray’s Inn, London. University of Oxford’s Jessup team for this year comprised five undergraduate law students: Celine Leong (St Anne’s), Marina Hoo (St Peter’s), Charles Redmond (Meggenlen), Ee Hsuan Chong (St John’s), and Liam McKenna (Merton). The team was coached by Benjamin Nussberger (PhD, University of Cologne, visiting student, Brasenose), Katie Johnston (DPhil, St Edmund Hall) and Tsvetelina van Bentham (DPhil, Merton).

The team was able to continue Oxford’s long tradition of successful participation in the competition, advancing to the semi-finals where they encountered the team of King’s College London, who later in the day won the competition. Members of the Oxford team won individual prizes. Charles Redmond was awarded the prize for the best Oralist in the Preliminary Rounds, with Liam McKenna and Celine Leong both sharing the second place, and Ee Hsuan Chong following only marginally behind.

Mooting

The Grand Final of the inaugural Herbert Smith Freehills Disability Mooting Championship, Oxford v Cambridge, was held at Worcester College to mark the beginning of Disability History Month 2019. The scintillating head to head between the two historic Universities was won by students from the University of Oxford, Liam McKenna and Stephanie Bruce-Smith of Merton College. Alice Defriend and Cara Donegan of Murray Edwards College, Cambridge, were the very capable runners-up. The Grand Final of the inaugural Herbert Smith Freehills Mooting Competition on Disability at the Intersections: A “hostile environment” for BAME people with disabilities, which focussed on the impact of the UK government’s immigration policy on BAME disabled people after the Windrush Scandal.

The success of the event gained coverage in The Times, the Global Legal Post and the Oxford Mail.

Faculty of Law Launches First Oxford v Cambridge Mooting Competition on Disability

The Grand Final of the inaugural Herbert Smith Freehills Disability Mooting Championship, Oxford v Cambridge, was held at Worcester College to mark the beginning of Disability History Month 2019. The scintillating head to head between the two historic Universities was won by students from the University of Oxford, Liam McKenna and Stephanie Bruce-Smith of Merton College. Alice Defriend and Cara Donegan of Murray Edwards College, Cambridge, were the very capable runners-up. The Grand Finalists had to get through two days of mooting to reach the final stage of the competition. Eighteen teams of two students, nine teams from Oxford and nine from Cambridge, took part. Preliminary rounds took place at Jesus and Exeter College, Cambridge. The most problem centred on disability discrimination, in an employment context for an employee with mental health problems.

The quality of mooting was so high that the judges decided to award two honourable mention prizes, for being the best mooters not going forward to the finals and semi-finals, to Oxford’s Charlie Liu and Alyssa Glass. This exciting mock court case competition aimed to promote the study of disability and the law. This year’s competition saw a record 74 students apply to take part and the Grand Final was watched by an audience of over 100 people. The moot is one of the flagship events of the Oxford University Disability Law and Policy Project. Its Director, Dr Marie Tidball, said: “We are delighted the mooters gained so much from the event and are eager to take their learning about disability law into their future careers. This is exactly what we wanted to achieve and were thrilled to work with the University of Cambridge and Herbert Smith Freehills on this varsity edition of our successful Disability Mooting Championship.”

A panel discussion followed the Grand Final on the theme of Disability at the intersections: A “hostile environment” for BAME people with disabilities, which focussed on the impact of the UK government’s immigration policy on BAME disabled people after the Windrush Scandal. The success of the event gained coverage in The Times, the Global Legal Post and the Oxford Mail.
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