



The Centre for Socio-Legal Studies

Graduate Research Handbook 2021–22

Dear Students,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies and Oxford. You have joined the largest group of socio-legal research students in the UK and that brings many rewards in its wake. As you will see from the layout of the Centre, we place our students at the heart of everything we do and supervision is one of the most important and fulfilling tasks we perform as academics. I am grateful to Fernanda for putting together such a wonderful course guide for you and I look forward to meeting you, discussing methodology and learning about your research. As you will soon learn there are many opportunities for us to talk about, and reflect on the nature of socio-legal studies in our methodology classes and Monday night seminar series in which well-known socio-legal scholars come to tell you about their work. We also host the socio-legal discussion forum organised by our students on Thursdays. But just as important are the informal discussions we have during Thursday afternoon or by the kettle.

The Centre is a place where disciplines and people meet. It is also a supportive community of scholars. The other students, post-doctoral fellows and senior staff all have experience of the challenges you will face in the course of your MPhil or DPhil programme and we are all here to help you. I look forward to the many discussions we will have, to seeing you develop as a scholar and to you playing an active role in our collective life.

**Linda Mulcahy
Professor of Socio-Legal Studies
Director of CSLS**

DIRECTOR OF CSLS

Professor Linda Mulcahy

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Professor Fernanda Pirie

DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Professor Fernanda Pirie

CENTRE ADMINISTRATION

Ms Nikki Macmichael, *Centre Administrator*

nicola.macmichael@csls.ox.ac.uk; tel: 01865 284222

Mrs Katie Hayward, *Administration Officer (Currently on maternity leave)*

katie.hayward@csls.ox.ac.uk; tel: 01865 284220

Mrs Alison Trinder, *Administration Officer (Covering maternity leave until end January 2022)*

alison.trinder@csls.ox.ac.uk; tel: 01865 284220

Dr Uyanga (Uka) Amarsaikhan, *ERC Projects Officer*

uyanga.amarsaikhan@csls.ox.ac.uk; tel: 01865 284225

STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVES

Caio Machado (caio.machado@wolfson.ox.ac.uk)

Aastha Prasad (aastha.prasad@law.ox.ac.uk)

Jessica Steinberg (jessica.steinberg@law.ox.ac.uk)

1 People at the Centre

RESEARCH STAFF

Dr Marie Burton, *Senior Research Fellow*

Dr Giovanni De Gregorio, *Postdoctoral Researcher*

Dr Nathan Dobson, *Postdoctoral Researcher*

Dr Florian Grisel, *Associate Professor in Socio-Legal Studies*

Law & private governance; dispute resolution; law & social norms; transnational law; international arbitration.

Dr Gianluca Iazzolino, *Postdoctoral Researcher*

Dr Marina Kurkchyan, *Emeritus Fellow*

Sociology of law; comparative legal cultures; rule of law and regulative power of law in non-Western economies

Dr Bettina Lange, *Associate Professor in Law and Regulation*

UK, German and EU environmental regulation; qualitative empirical socio-legal research methods, including discourse analysis; socio-legal theories of regulation

Dr Sonia Macleod, *Researcher, Civil Justice Programme*

Product liability, involving medicines and medical devices injuries

Professor Linda Mulcahy, *Professor of Socio-Legal Studies.*

Dispute resolution; access to justice; law, art and architecture; feminism; oral history; law and medicine

Professor Fernanda Pirie, *Professor of the Anthropology of Law*

Anthropology of law; legalism; history of law and conflict resolution in the Tibetan region

Dr Lena Rose, *Leverhulme Postdoctoral Research Fellow*

Anthropology of religion

Dr Nicole Stremlau, *Research Fellow, Head of PCMLP*

Media and development; freedom of expression; communication in war/post-war situations; strategic communication; Horn of Africa and Eastern African politics; political ideology and communication

Dr Anna Tsalapatanis, *Postdoctoral Researcher*

Anthropology; sociology; migration and globalisation studies

Dr Maximilien Zahnd, *Postdoctoral Researcher*

We also encourage you to explore the activities of Principal Investigators and their programme/project associates and collaborators, at <https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/centres-institutes/centre-socio-legal-studies/research>.

RESEARCH STUDENTS: DPHIL

Selina Abächerli, *Lincoln College*

Good Law: An Anthropological Analysis of Debates about Legislative Standards in the UK (Supervisor: Prof F Pirie)

Kara Apland, *Balliol College (part-time)*

The limits of legal protection: A study of the influence of law on adolescent sexuality in Nepal (Supervisor: Dr M Kurkchian)

Benedikt Barthelmess, *Exeter College*

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

James Campbell, *Wolfson College (part-time)*

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

Rangga Dachlan, *Exeter College*

Legally-Defined Culture: Deconstructing Indonesian Heritage (Supervisor: Dr M Kurkchian)

Marcus Dahl, *St Edmund Hall*

Indigenous political voice, the Uluru Statement and the demand for a constitutionally protected Voice to Parliament in Australia (Supervisor: Prof F Pirie)

Ana Carolina Dall'Agnol, *Wolfson College*

Foreign Direct Investment and the Role of the Law: The Cases of Angola and Mozambique (Supervisor: Dr F Grisel and Dr C Decker)

Diana Dajer, *Green Templeton College*

Routes to Conflict Prevention: An Analysis of the Influence of Medellín's Participatory Budgeting Process on Political Inclusion (Supervisor: Dr B Lange)

Fernanda Farina, *Lincoln College*

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

Mikolaj Firlej, *St Cross College*

Regulating autonomous weapons (Supervisors: Dr B Lange and Dr J Blackburn)

Zoe Hamilton, *Wolfson College (part-time)*

Regulation of misinformation in Covid-19: socio-political contexts of technology use across the digital divide (Supervisor: Dr F Grisel and Dr N Stremlau)

Etienne Hanelt, *Wolfson College*

The Costs of Judicial Authority and the Politics of Interference (Supervisors: Prof F Pirie and Dr E González Ocantos)

Jack Head, *St Catherine's College*

The Display of Art in Court Buildings in England and Wales (Supervisor: Prof L Mulcahy)

Lisa Ko-En Hsin, *Linacre College*

In Pursuit of Transparency: An Investigation into the Effectiveness and International Relevance of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (Supervisor: Prof. F. Pirie)

Hoi-Chun 'Alvin' Hung, Lady Margaret Hall

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

Shruti Iyer, St Antony's College

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

Lama Karame, Exeter College

Age and the Law: A critical approach to ageing under Legal Pluralism (Supervisor: Prof L Mulcahy and Prof J Herring))

Charlotte Kelly, Balliol College

Exploring the drivers of change of the legislative boundaries between girlhood and womanhood in Singapore and Malaysia between 1955 and 2015 (Supervisor: Dr M Kurkchiyan and Prof L Ferguson)

Israr Khan, Regent's Park College

The Belt and Road Initiative: Protecting the Unprotected through Regulations (Supervisor: Dr B Lange)

Stephen Knight, Wolfson College (part time)

Post-conflict observance of IHL in the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria: its extent, and the motivations behind it (Supervisor: Dr F Grisel)

Sarah Levy, Green Templeton College

The Conflation of Canadian Sealing Activities: Distinguishing the Inuit seal hunt from the Atlantic sealing industry in law and policy (Supervisor: Dr B Lange)

Anna Loebbert, Lincoln College

Denying the State Through Law (Supervisor: Prof F Pirie)

Amanda Lindstrom, St Antony's College (part-time)

Business, Politics and Law: Socio-Legal Aspects of Global Health Governance and Supply Chain Due Diligence (Supervisor: Prof L Mulcahy and Prof A Davies)

Junyu Liu (Loveday), Regent's Park College

Collective farming in the Chinese capital market: agrarian change as daily experience in a semi-autonomous social field (Supervisor: Dr F Grisel)

Caio Machado, Wolfson College

Scientific Disinformation and the Public Sphere in Brazil: How pseudo-science impairs democracy (Supervisor: Dr B Lange)

Angela Moore, Brasenose College (part-time)

The Impact of EU Accession on Refugee Rights in the Context of the Refugee and Migration Crisis in Europe: Raising Standards or Policing Borders? (Supervisor: Dr M Kurkchiyan)

Joao Loreto Ilhao Moreira, St Cross College

Cognitive and role biases in arbitral decision-making (Supervisor: Dr B Lange)

Pablo Peña Alegria, Green Templeton College

Property law in the margins: can a new tenure system improve farmers' livelihoods and reduce deforestation in the Peruvian Amazon? (Supervisor: Dr B Lange)

Aastha Prasad, *Green Templeton College*

From Colonialism to Late Capitalism – Trajectories of ‘Customary Law’ Among Tribes in Western India (Supervisor: Prof F Pirie)

Vidya Ramachandran, *St Peter’s College*

Gendered coercion, displacement and violence under the ‘hostile environment’: tracing women’s voluntary return from the UK to Punjab (Supervisor: Prof F Pirie)

Samuel Ruiz-Tagle, *St Cross College*

The Urban Constitution: Courts, Judgement, and Public Administration (Supervisor: Dr B Lange and Professor L Fisher)

Toby Shevlane, *Exeter College*

Regulating for the responsible development of artificial intelligence (Supervisor: Dr B Lange)

Hannah Smith, *St Cross College*

Exploring Divergences between Legal Approaches and Citizens’ Attitudes towards the Reuse of Administrative Data in Social Science Research (Supervisor: Prof J Kaye, Centre advisor: Dr B Lange)

Jessica Steinberg, *St Hilda’s College*

A global paradigm shift: the influence of commercial cannabis in the process of law reform (Supervisor: Prof F Pirie)

Sila Ulucay, *St Antony’s College*

A Comparative Study of Copyright Laws in Action in Everyday Turkey and Egypt (Supervisor: Dr M Kurkchian)

Dennis West, *Green Templeton College*

The Institutionalisation of Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance in Organisations (Supervisor: Dr B Lange)

Eleanor Whittingdale, *Lady Margaret Hall*

When law comes to life: Narratives of Sexual Violence Beyond the Courtroom (Supervisor: Prof L Mulcahy)

Philip R Williams, *Balliol College*

Radical Spectacles and Insurgent Citizenship: Destabilising the Regulatory Space of South African University Fees (Supervisor: Dr B Lange)

RESEARCH STUDENTS: MPHIL

Selwyn Coles, *St Cross College*

Removing chains from supply chains: a comparative study of global ‘Modern Slavery Act’ legislation in New Zealand (Supervisor: Dr M Kurkchian)

Genki Kimura *Wolfson College*

Socio-legal research on the backgrounds of the employment law cases in the ECtHR (Supervisor: Dr F Grisel)

Anna Wong

Practical and perceptual implications of fully remote court hearings (Supervisor: Prof L Mulcahy)

Details of all research students enrolled in the Centre’s programmes can be found at

<https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/centres-institutes/centre-socio-legal-studies/current-students>

CENTRE ASSOCIATES

Senior Associates

Denis Galligan
Chris Hodges OBE
Doreen McBarnet CBE
Monroe Price
Sir Ernest Ryder
David Sugarman
William Twining

University Associates

Abigail Adams
Christopher Decker
Matthew S. Erie
Barbara Havelkova
Natalie Mrockova
Gabrielle Watson

CSLS Postdoctoral Associates

Kira Allmann
Kevin Grecksch
Roxana Willis

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT VISITORS

The Visitors' Programme is an important and dynamic part of the Centre's activities. Visitors are welcomed for all or part of the academic year. Please feel free to contact any of our visitors; they are part of the Centre's academic community and you may share similar research interests.

Details of current visitors and their research interests can be found at our website at

<https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/centres-institutes/centre-socio-legal-studies/centre-socio-legal-studies-visitor-programme/centre>.

STUDENTS' COMMUNITY

You are joining a vibrant and supportive community of students. We hope that you will enjoy being part of it and that you will choose to become actively involved in the activities initiated and run by the students. Each year the Centre nominates student representatives, who this year are Caio Machado, Aastha Prasad and Jessica Steinberg. Please feel free to approach them whenever you have any concern or question or if you would like to put forward an idea on how to make life at the Centre even better. The student representatives will convene the Socio-Legal Discussion Group, initiate a number of academic and social events to which you will be invited, and generally do their best to support you. Naturally they will also need your support in return if they are to make things happen and to make life at the Centre something to relish.

One of the students' representatives will attend the meetings of the CSLS General Purposes Committee (GPC) held twice each term, and will be encouraged to communicate your views to Centre staff. Please use this opportunity in full. Feedback will be provided on whatever items are brought to the meetings. Where suggestions for change are agreed, every effort will be made to implement them as soon as possible. As a part of the wider Law Faculty, DPhil students also have the opportunity after the first year of study to elect a student representative from the CSLS to attend the Law Faculty's Board meetings and sit on its Graduate Studies Committee. The Centre strongly encourages students to get involved in this way. The person nominated can either be the same person as the student representative on the Centre's General Purposes Committee, or someone else.

FRONTIERS OF SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES BLOG

The Centre's blog, launched in 2021, is very active and promotes debates about methods in the socio-legal community. Its editors are recruited from the student body, overseen by Professor Linda Mulcahy as the senior editor. You can see the blog here: <http://frontiers.csls.ox.ac.uk/>

RESIDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

The University takes residence requirements very seriously. You must be resident for at least six weeks in each term of your programme. Research students may be granted dispensation from the requirements to keep residence if it is necessary for you to carry out your academic work elsewhere. Permission must be sought. Full-time students must reside within a specified distance of the University (with reference to the centre of the City, at Carfax Tower); for graduate students this is set at 25 miles. This is to enable you to be fully supported throughout your studies and to benefit from the Centre and University's research environments. Further detail is available at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/student-handbook>.

2 Centre Facilities

COVID-19

With the relaxing of some COVID restrictions, may we direct you to the University's key messaging:

Be responsible. Be considerate. Be safe.

You are strongly encouraged to:

- **Get vaccinated** as soon as possible if you have not already done so
- **Wear face coverings** where indicated (unless exempt)
- **Test regularly**, and if you have symptoms
- **Stay at home** if you are unwell
- **Wash your hands** regularly with soap or sanitiser
- **Be considerate of other people's space**

There will be an online induction session (timing tbc) for new students prior to term beginning to outline the measures we have in place to ensure your safety while you are in the Centre and the Manor Road Building. As you can appreciate, the measures we have in place may change over time in response to government and University guidance.

Centre access

You will have access to the Centre during normal building open times (which follow the [Social Sciences Library opening times](#)). Access to the Building Out of Hours (OOH) will also be covered in the online induction session, as will Fire and Emergency procedures. If you need OOH access, please be advised that you will be responsible for ensuring the Centre is secure as you enter and leave – doors should be shut behind you throughout the building and do not leave any valuables unattended.

Desk space

The Centre allocates a desk and PC to all new research students for their first year, and makes them available to continuing students depending on the availability of the space.

The communal areas of the Centre should be treated as a quiet working space for both students and researchers, so please keep long conversations to a minimum. Please also respect your working space by ensuring that any unwashed mugs, plates etc. are not left at your desk and keeping your space tidy.

IT

The Centre will automatically arrange an email account for you on the University's Nexus system: <http://help.it.ox.ac.uk/nexus/index>. It will take the form firstname.secondname@law.ox.ac.uk and will be in addition to your college email address. A letter telling you your username and password for Nexus will be sent out to you, normally via your College.

Once you have activated your email account, remember to check regularly for messages. It is expected that you check your email on a daily basis for Centre and Faculty messages. Your Oxford Single Sign-On (SSO) gives you access to a range of Oxford-based systems which require login access, such as Graduate Supervision Reporting (GSR). A Manor Road Building computer account will also be set up for you automatically and details will be emailed to you.

If you need to contact the IT Team directly (itsupport@manor-road.ox.ac.uk) please do so through your @ox.ac.uk account; emails from external providers are automatically bounced back.

Photocopier

All students can gain access to the Centre's photocopier by using their university card, and the Centre allows a reasonable number of copies to be made per year. Please see the Centre Administration Officer for details.

Refreshments

You are welcome to use the Centre's kitchen, including the supplies of tea, coffee, milk and sugar. A microwave is available for heating up drinks, but is not to be used for cooking food during normal office hours. There is a cafeteria on the first floor (due to reopen at the start of MT) as well as a shared Common Room (used by all the academic departments in the building, and the Social Science Library and currently repurposed as teaching space). Vending machines for hot drinks and snacks are located on the first floor near the cafeteria. Please feel free to make use of the CSLS roof terrace to consume refreshments.

Afternoon tea

There is an informal afternoon tea at the Centre on Thursdays at 4.00pm throughout the year. You are encouraged to attend and take this opportunity to interact with other Centre members.

Tidiness

Centre members are obliged to keep the Centre tidy and as they would wish to find it. This includes the sofa areas and the kitchenette. After Centre events—seminars, coffee mornings—please help to wash and tidy away items you have used.

Fire Information

In the event of the fire alarm sounding, evacuate Manor Road Building immediately via the nearest staircase (not via the building's main stairwell) and assemble on the pavement at Manor Place (the small road opposite Manor Road Building reception). Please read fire notices within the building, and take the time to explore your exit routes in case of an emergency.

Disabled Facilities

There is a disabled access door at reception. Disabled toilets are on each floor. An infrared hearing loop is available by request in each of the teaching rooms. A disabled evacuation chair is located at reception. Should you need any special assistance, please alert the Centre Administrator or building facilities staff via reception.

First Aid

First Aid can be administered by one of the Facilities Management team trained in first aid. There is a first aid box in the CSLS post room, at reception and in the locker room. Please contact reception to request first aid.

Accident reporting

Please report any accidents, incidents or near misses to the Centre Administrator.

3 Research

Research Supervision

Your research will be supported by your supervisor at the CSLS. A second supervisor might be arranged if there is a need to supplement the area of expertise required for your project. This would be done in consultation with you and your main supervisor.

At Oxford, the primary educational emphasis is on the one-to-one relationship with your supervisor(s), who will provide you with feedback on your progress. It is generally expected that you will meet your supervisor(s) three times per term. However, the number of meetings can vary, depending on the stage you have reached in the research and what is needed to ensure your progress. We advise you to contact your supervisor as soon as you arrive and discuss the work schedule.

At the end of each term, your supervisor(s) will submit a report on your academic progress. To facilitate this reporting, the University operates an online Graduate Supervision Reporting System (GSR). Within this system, you have the opportunity to contribute to your termly supervision reports yourself, contributing a review and commentary on your own progress. You are strongly encouraged to take this opportunity.

If you have any concerns about the supervision you are receiving, you should discuss them in the first instance with the supervisor. The Director of Graduate Studies will also be available to discuss any concerns with you.

Research Pathway

In the course of the DPhil you will need to pass through three formal assessments:

- a. The Qualification Test (QT), which marks the move from probationary status to full DPhil status. During the probationary phase you are expected to develop a clear proposal, demonstrate your familiarity with the relevant scholarly literature, suggest a thought-through methodology, and show in your writing your ability to develop an argument. A submission for this assessment is expected in Trinity Term of your first year.
- b. The Confirmation of Status Test (CoS), expected by the end of the third year. At this stage it is expected that your research is completed, at least two chapters are completed, and that there is a clear structure overall which implies the arguments for the remaining chapters. The CoS viva is usually an opportunity for a candidate to benefit from both critical and constructive comments from two examiners about how to bring your work to completion.
- c. The Final DPhil Viva, which will be conducted by two experts in the field of your research. They will determine whether the thesis is satisfactory in all respects and whether it makes a contribution to the knowledge base of its subject-matter. For many students it takes about four years to complete a doctoral thesis. Your supervisor will guide you through your study in order to bring your work to its completion.

MPhil students will work directly towards a single Viva, expected by the end of one academic year. We require the same academic rigour for MPhil theses as for DPhil theses, although the MPhil is smaller in scale. Considering the time restriction, MPhil students may consider the use of secondary source materials to support their argument, rather than undertaking extensive fieldwork.

For technical details on these major assessments including submission requirements, timing and procedure, please consult <https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/centres-institutes/centre-socio-legal-studies/current-students-0>.

Your supervisor will always be there to help with any academic question that you might have. For questions about the formal processes of your MPhil or DPhil please contact:

Mrs Geraldine Malloy, Law Faculty Graduate Studies Officer
geraldine.malloy@law.ox.ac.uk, 01865 271496

Research Funding

There are a few schemes available at the Centre and the Faculty to support your research. Further information on the sources of funding is available at <https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/content/funding-research>.

Research Training

Theory and Methods

Mondays 2.00-4.00pm, Seminar Room A

The Centre offers training required for all new graduate students. Attendance is mandatory. However, to ensure a sufficient link between the course and your project, you may substitute relevant sessions provided elsewhere at the University for up to two sessions in Michaelmas Term and up to two sessions in Hilary Term. This should be discussed and agreed with your supervisor, and the Centre's Director of Graduate Studies should be informed.

In order for a student to meet the requirements of both the Centre and the Law Faculty, satisfactory completion of all elements of this research training must be certified. Therefore students will be asked to sign an attendance sheet at each session to confirm their participation.

Details of the Theory and Methods course is included in this handbook and also can be found on our website at <https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/centres-institutes/centre-socio-legal-studies/theory-methods-course>.

Weekly Seminar Series

Mondays 4:30-6.00pm

The Centre convenes a weekly Research Seminar in which papers are presented by research staff, members of other institutions within the University and speakers from other universities. There will be seminars in Michaelmas and Hilary terms. Additional activities for Trinity term will be announced during the year. Attendance at termly seminars is compulsory for first year students. The seminars may not directly address the topic of your research but they will help you to gain an understanding of what constitutes a socio-legal approach to research and how different types of theoretical and methodological frameworks can be applied. The series is, moreover, an important opportunity for students and staff in the Centre to meet and discuss issues of common interest and maintain the research community. Many students find informal conversations an invaluable source of advice and ideas.

Students' Socio-Legal Discussion Group

Thursdays 12.45-2.15pm

This Discussion Group is organised by students to discuss the progress of their research. It also includes seminars led by external speakers. Attendance is highly recommended and information will be widely distributed.

Conferences and Seminars

All conferences and seminars organised by the Centre are open to students. In addition to the weekly seminars, various events are held throughout the year. Details will be widely circulated.

Doctoral Training Partnership

The Centre for Socio-Legal Studies' socio-legal research training pathway is part of Oxford University's [Grand Union Doctoral Training Partnership](#). If you are funded by the UK Economic and Social Science Research Council (ESRC) you are automatically a member of this Doctoral Training Partnership and are eligible to attend methodology courses arranged by DTC.

Social Sciences Division

In addition to the basic course in 'Theory and Methods of Socio-Legal Research' outlined above, we recommend that you consider – in discussion with your supervisor - attending relevant methodology classes for the social sciences offered by other departments, such as [Politics and International Relations](#), the [Said Business School](#), the [Centre for Criminology](#) and the [Department of Sociology](#).

Information about the training opportunities available within the Social Sciences Division and across the University is available [on the Division's website](#).

Useful portals and websites

New Students: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/new?wssl=1>

Oxford Transition Support: Helping you make the most of Oxford
<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/oxford-transition-support>

CSLS website for Graduate Programme
<https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/centres-institutes/centre-socio-legal-studies/current-students-0>

Research Ethics: <https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/governance/ethics>

University Policy on Research Degrees:
<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/edc/policiesandguidance/policyonresearchdegrees/>

University Student Handbook:
<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/student-handbook?wssl=1>

Research Degree Stages:
<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/graduate/research?wssl=1>

Graduate Studies Office (GSO) Progression Forms:
<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/graduate/progression?wssl=1>

Changes in Student Status: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/graduate/status?wssl=1>

Health and Welfare:
<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare?wssl=1>

Training and checklists to help you abide by good practice
<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/rso/integrity/>

An online course to help to acquire skills and judgement to apply to your academic work and is available at https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/access/content/group/a96f2e22-3941-49d9-9dae-12d9212d2494/avoiding_plagiarism_int_imsdp/index.html

Theory and Methods Course in Socio-Legal Research: Sessions for probationary research students

The aims of these sessions are to:

1. Help students understand the intellectual origins of socio-legal studies and how the field relates to doctrinal scholarship and critical legal studies.
2. Introduce students from both law and social science backgrounds to the contributions of sociology, politics, anthropology and economics to understanding the role of law in society.
3. Familiarise students with seminal and contemporary debates in socio-legal studies.
4. Enable students to situate their own research projects within the context of these debates and to identify its contribution to wider socio-legal debates.
5. Allow students to critically assess and compare key empirical methods for the collection and analysis of data.

Seminars take place – *unless otherwise stated* – on Mondays, 2.00-4.00pm in Seminar Room A.

MICHAELMAS TERM

Sessions in Michaelmas Term provide an introduction to key approaches and debates in contemporary socio-legal studies. The discussions will explore the nature of law, the various forms it takes, and the different roles it plays in a variety of social settings and relationships.

The readings listed here are essential preparation for the seminars. Please see the [Readings on theory and methods in socio-legal research](#) for key general texts and additional resources.

WEEK 1: Monday 11th October, Professor Linda Mulcahy Histories of socio-legal studies

Socio-legal study has many histories. This seminar will open with a consideration of the notion of a discipline and consider the extent to which law is distinguishable from other fields of study. It will go on to consider how socio-legal approaches to the study of law can be distinguished from other schools of thought within the legal academy. This will involve us looking at doctrinal, critical and socio-legal traditions and the extent to which the 'othering' of doctrinal law is essential to law and society scholarship. We will also consider the extent to which socio-legal approaches are accurately treated as being synonymous with empirical approaches to the study of law. You are asked to read a seminal text by Pound in which he coins what has since become a term of art; law in the books and law in action." The American legal realism movement, of which Pound was a part, is often taken as the starting point in histories of 'socio-legal,' 'law and society' or 'law in context' scholarship. The deliberately provocative article by Bradney brings the history more up to date by considering the limitations of leaving law and society scholarship to lawyers.

Essential reading

Pound, R., 1910. Law in books and law in action. *Am. L. Rev.*, 44, p.12.

Bradney, A. 1998. 'Law as a parasitic discipline', *Journal of Law and Society*, 25(1): 71–84

WEEK 2: Monday 18th October, Dr Florian Grisel
The social basis of law: theoretical approaches

This session will explore the theoretical foundations of socio-legal approaches by examining the work of leading sociologists such as Max Weber and Emile Durkheim. We will analyse the ways in which a socio-legal approach differs from the doctrinal analysis of the law, and highlight the empirical dimension of this approach. We will critically analyse these theories and link their interpretations of what law is to the larger viewpoints of social philosophy. We will then discuss whether the models have relevance to empirical reality.

Essential reading

Durkheim, Emile. 1982. *The Rules of Sociological Method*. New York: The Free Press [Ch II]

Weber, Max. 1978. *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology*. Vol. 1. Berkeley: University of California Press [Ch VIII.i.]

WEEK 3: Monday 25th October, Professor Fernanda Pirie
Law and social order

The maintenance of order and resolution of disputes are often regarded as central functions of law. But, as Roberts demonstrates, different societies assess and approach conflict in very different ways, tolerating different levels and types of conflict. Order is not everywhere defined by an absence of conflict, as studies of feuding societies make clear. Moreover, many societies maintain a form of order perfectly well without resorting to law, even turning their backs on state law. These case studies will give us the chance to question the role that law is commonly assumed to play in societies and the relationship between state law and other forms of social ordering

Essential reading

Roberts, Simon. 1983. The study of dispute: anthropological perspectives. In J. Bossy (ed.) *Disputes and Settlements*. CUP

Moore, Sally Falk. 1973. 'Law and Social Change: the Semi-Autonomous Social Field as an Appropriate Subject of Study', *Law & Society Review* 7: 719–46.

WEEK 4: Monday 1st November, Dr Florian Grisel
Judges and courts

This session will introduce the ways in which socio-legal scholars analyse the functioning of courts, focusing on two case studies: the UK Supreme Court and the French *Conseil d'Etat*. This material will be used to identify and contrast the key methodologies that are at the core of the socio-legal approach. We will pay particular attention to the practical dimension of socio-legal research, and the key role that it can play in the understanding of key legal institutions such as courts.

Essential reading

Paterson, Alan. 2013. *Final Judgment: The Last Law Lords and the Supreme Court*. Oxford: Hart Publishing [Ch 2]

Latour, Bruno. 2010. *The Making of Law: An Ethnography of the Conseil d'Etat*. London: Polity Press [Ch 1 and (if you find the time) 4]

WEEK 5: Monday 8th November, Professor Fernanda Pirie
Legal pluralism

How is law to be identified outside the formal legal systems of the nation state? What does it even mean to talk of 'non-state law'? Should it be identified by its sources, its functions, or its form? This seminar discusses debates about the nature of law generated by anthropological examples from around the world, including what is promoted as 'legal pluralism', and the ways in which they can be used to reflect upon what law is.

Essential reading

Merry, Sally Engle. 1988. 'Legal pluralism'. *Law and Society Review*, 22:869–96.
Roberts, Simon. 2005. 'After government: on representing law without the state', *Modern Law Review* 68: 1–24.

WEEK 6: Monday 15th November, Professor Linda Mulcahy
Feminism in socio-legal research

Socio-legal studies has long drawn on feminist discourse and the notion of marginalized legal lives. Like post-colonial theory, feminist legal scholarship compels us to examine the ways in which formal law has been complicit in the production of hierarchy and inequality. It has also drawn attention to the ways in which gendered thinking about law and authority, and the very notion of an 'impartial' judge, are constantly constructed and re-constructed. In this seminar we will examine a vivid account of what it means to be a feminist empirical researcher. We will go on to look at the work done by the Feminist Judgements project, whose members took it upon themselves to re-write the 'missing' feminist judgement in leading decisions. In contrast to the majority of legal scholarship, this project imagined how the law could have been decided differently if seen from a feminist perspective. The project threw up numerous questions about what it means for a judgment to be feminist, which we will explore in the course of discussion. We will also begin to look at the impact that being a feminist has on how you behave as a socio-legal scholar.

Essential reading

Bano, S. 2005. 'Standpoint, difference and feminist research', in R. Banaker R. and M. Travers (eds), *Theory and Method in Socio-Legal Research*. Oxford: Hart.
Hunter, R. 2019. 'Feminist approaches to socio-legal studies', in *Routledge Handbook of Socio-Legal Theory and Methods*, London: Routledge.
Adjin-Tettey, E. et al. 2008. 'Postcard from the edge (of empire)', *Social & Legal Studies*, 17: 5–38.

WEEK 7: Monday 22nd November: Professor Linda Mulcahy
Race and Law

This seminar will continue some of the discussions on structural inequality that were covered in week six. Race has long been of interest to socio-legal scholars in the sense that they are interested in different legal cultures and legal pluralism. In this session we will be looking at the ways in which law, legal education and legal research have been complicit in the production of particular ways of seeing others cultures and thinking about race, hierarchy and discrimination. The articles we will read begin to reveal the ways in which people of colour are 'othered' or marginalised through academic and societal practice.

Essential reading

Harrington, J. and Manji, A. 2017. 'The limits of socio-legal radicalism: social and legal studies and third world scholarship', *Social & Legal Studies*, 26(6): 700–15.

Crenshaw, K. 1990. 'Mapping the margins: intersectionality, identity politics, and violence against women of color', *Stanford Law Review*, 43: 1241–.

Kennedy, D. 1982. Legal education and the reproduction of hierarchy, *Journal of Legal Education*, 32(4): 591–615.

WEEK 8: Monday 29th November: Dr Florian Grisel

Introduction to socio-legal methodology: the qualitative-quantitative spectrum

The session will provide a general survey of the social and philosophical roots of the various techniques available for data collection and analysis. Particular attention will be paid to the contested issues in social science research, such as: What are we trying to achieve when we are engaged in research activities? Do qualitative and quantitative approaches have equal claims to be considered 'scientific'? When we decide on which methods to use in collecting the information we need, what assumptions are we making and what do they imply? What philosophical approaches do these assumptions rest upon? What do the differences between the various approaches entail for the interpretation of the nature of knowledge and truth? Finally, having surveyed the dynamic interplay between theoretical concepts and empirical data, the discussion will stress the importance of constructing a conceptual framework that will ensure the consistency and integrity of a research project.

Essential reading

Lawless, Robert M. Jennifer K. Robbennolt and Thomas S. Ulen. 2016. *Empirical Methods in Law*. Wolters Kluwer [Chs 1 and 2]

Silverman, David. 2020. *Interpreting Qualitative Data*. Sage Publications [Ch. 1]

HILARY TERM

These seminars will build on the last session of Michaelmas term to discuss the practical techniques available to carry out socio-legal research and the ways in which they relate to the theoretical approaches you might take. We will consider which questions you can ask and what methods can help you to answer them.

WEEK 1: Monday 17th January, Professor Linda Mulcahy

Sampling

This session offers a basic introduction to sampling. Many of us begin with a list of all the people it would be useful to interview or survey, or an aspiration to conduct lengthy ethnographic work in multiple fieldwork sites. In reality we rarely have the time or resources to collect all the data we would like. In other instances, it may be very difficult to get access to raw data. This means that we often have to make choices, and is where sampling comes in. It is important to develop a sampling frame that justifies the choices we have made and how we have prioritised the different characteristics of those you want to research. This often helps us to narrow down our research question and to prioritise certain issues. Choices about who or what we include in our sample are critical as they can have a large impact on the data we generate, its credibility and its generalisability. This is equally true of a comparative study of two distinct legal cultures or the types of legal judgements we choose to analyse as it is of a large-scale study. Students should come prepared to discuss how the sources of data they use will impact on what they can write about a given topic.

Essential Reading

Most people who write about sampling tend to discuss it as a method rather than approaching it from a more theoretical standpoint. The following online resource gives as good an account as any:

<https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-hccc-research-methods/chapter/chapter-8-sampling>.

Reza Banakar, Power, culture and method in comparative law *International Journal of Law in Context*, Vol 5, Issue 1, 2009 pp69-85

Becker, Howard S. 2014. *What About Mozart? What About Murder? Reasoning From Cases*. Chicago: University Press.

WEEK 2: Monday, 24th January, Professor Linda Mulcahy **Interviewing**

In this seminar we will be looking at one of the most popular forms of data collection, the interview. We will consider a broad range of approaches to interviewing as well as the different ethical and practical issues around interviewing 'elites' and 'everyday' people. The term interview covers a range of very different methods including administered surveys, structured, semi-structured and unstructured interviews and oral history.

Essential Reading

Both the readings for this week will be distributed by Linda in advance of the class.

Anna Bryson, 2021, The Politics of Preservation: Oral History, Socio-Legal Studies and Praxis, *Journal of Law and Society*, (forthcoming).

Linda Mulcahy, Meredith Rossner and Anna Tsalaptanis, 2021, 'It's About Time: Investigating the Temporal in Socio-Legal Studies Through Unstructured Interviews' *Journal of Law and Society* (forthcoming)

WEEK 3: Monday 31st January, Professor Fernanda Pirie **Ethnographic Methods**

Participant observation is a key technique of ethnographic socio-legal research methods. It is a type of research that could be regarded as diametrically opposed to the collection of quantitative data. This relates not only to the methods but to the types of questions that can be answered, the research design and the subsequent analysis of data. In the seminar we will discuss the practical issues of undertaking participant observation, but we will start by considering the how participant observation relates to other types of research and the continuum between quantitative and qualitative methods that were discussed in the first week. To this end you should do some reading on the nature of ethnography and participant observation and consider how your own project may be placed on the scale between quantitative and ethnographic methodologies. You should also read a case study about participant observation and anticipate whether you might encounter any similar practical issues in your own research.

Essential reading

Nader, Laura. 1986. 'From anguish to exultation', in P. Golde (ed.) *Women in the field*.

For theories of research methods, including participant observation, the following have reasonably good summaries:

Punch, K. F. 2005. *Introduction to Social Research: quantitative and qualitative approaches*.

Hammersley, M. and P. Atkinson. 1995. *Ethnography: principles in practice*. [Ch 1]

WEEK 4: Monday 7th February, Professor Linda Mulcahy
Surveys

Content and reading to be confirmed.

WEEK 5: Monday 14th February, Speaker to be confirmed
Archives and content analysis

Content and reading to be confirmed

WEEK 6: Monday 21st February, Dr Florian Grisel
Analysing qualitative data

How do socio-legal scholars approach the data they have gathered through ethnography and other qualitative methods? Much of the analysis and writing will demand engagement with the academic literature and wider themes and debates, which you will need to discuss directly with your supervisor, and during work-in-progress and other seminars. Here, we consider the initial task of sorting what often seems to be a mass of disorganized and unconnected notes, interviews, and observations. Is it useful to 'code' data? How is this best done and to what ends? Or are there other ways of beginning to analyse and write?

Essential reading

Silverman, David. 2020. *Interpreting Qualitative Data*. Sage Publications [Ch. 5 and 16]

WEEK 7: Monday 28th February, Dr Chris Decker
The dilemmas of working with quantitative data

In the course of our research most of us rely on quantitative data, published statistics or attempt to count things even if we are doing qualitative research. In a world in which 'big data' is increasingly being discussed, it is important for us to understand the provenance of large data sets and to be able to judge the credibility of published data sets or those made available for secondary analysis. Without a basis knowledge of statistical significance, univariate, bivariate and multivariate analysis we cannot attempt to judge the credibility of published research. In this session we will look at some of the terms and models that are commonly used by statisticians and go on to consider the ways in which 'big data' impacts on the world of socio-legal studies.

Essential Reading

Bryman, A. 2015. 'Secondary analysis and official statistics' (ch. 10) and 'Quantitative data analysis' (ch. 11), in *Social Research Methods*, Oxford: OUP.

Gandomi, A. and Haider, M. 2015. 'Beyond the hype: big data concepts, methods, and analytics'. *International journal of information management*, 35(2): 137–144.

Posner, E., & De Figueiredo, M. (2005). Is the International Court of Justice Biased? *The Journal of Legal Studies*, 34(2), 599-630.

Background Viewing:

Dancing statistics: 'Correlation' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFjaBh12C6s>

Dancing statistics: 'Frequency' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dr1DynUzjq0>

Dancing Statistics: 'Variance' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGfwj4GrUIA>

WEEK 8: Monday 7th March, Dr Anna Tsalapatanis
Ethical issues and CUREC procedures

While every researcher looks forward to finalising the often-complicated institutional ethics processes for their study, ethical questions do not simply end with ethics approval. Drawing insights from a chapter of Lareau's *Unequal Childhoods* (2011), along with Mark Israel's introduction to ethics in socio-legal research, this session will reflect on the on-going moral and ethical considerations that take place before, during, and after undertaking empirical research. It will include guidance on how to identify possible ethical issues and negotiate institutional ethics requirements, including questions of anonymity, privacy, research data management as well as power relationships in the field.

Essential Reading

Israel, Mark. 2017. 'research ethics and integrity in socio-legal studies and legal research', *Research Methods for Law*, 180.

Lareau, Annette. 2011. 'Reflections on longitudinal ethnography and the families. Reactions to unequal childhoods', in *Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life*, 312–60. University of California Press.

TRINITY TERM

WEEK 1, Monday 25th April, Dr Lena Rose and others
Experiences of doing field research

In this session two or three of the Centre's senior doctoral students will be invited to share with the group their experience of conducting empirical research and discuss the problems that they have encountered in the final process of writing a full thesis draft. They will reflect upon the challenges that they have faced at the various stages of advanced research, how they have overcome them, and what lessons they have learned during the implementation of the project that they envisioned at the outset three years before.

WEEK 2, Monday 2nd May
WEEK 3, Monday 9th May
[WEEK 4, Monday 16th May]

During the next two (or three) weeks of the Trinity Term each student will be given an opportunity to make a presentation of her or his project before the Centre Fellows and other students and to receive constructive feedback. We expect the occasion to be an account of 'work-in-progress' in a congenial setting. You are also expected to attend the presentations of your fellow students and participate in the discussions. They are designed to help everyone to focus their research project and to prepare for the QT assessment.

Additional session for MPhil students

Hilary term, date tbc

MPhil theses often rely upon archives, surveys, and other secondary datasets. Using and analysing these as sources of empirical information presents its own challenges, which we will explore in this session. It is primarily intended for first-year MPhil students, but some DPhil students may also find it useful.

Sessions for advanced students

The Centre will organize a series of ad hoc sessions for students writing up their theses. The aim of these sessions is to discuss the difficulties and challenges of the later stages of the thesis-writing process and to allow students to share ideas and learn from the experiences of both other students and fellows.

Michaelmas term, date tbc

The final stages

This session will discuss the later stages of thesis preparation, up to and including submission and viva exam. We will discuss how you plan the final shape of your thesis and how you present the relationship between your empirical data and broader theoretical themes and debates. It is primarily intended for students who have already passed through their Confirmation of Status or who are close to submission for Confirmation.

Hilary term, date tbc

Writing up and analysing data

How do you start organizing your data and writing it up? This session will discuss the early stages of writing up. It is primarily intended for students in their third year, who have recently returned from fieldwork or who have almost finished gathering their data.
