

Oxford Transitional Justice Research (OTJR)

Vision for 2020-21

As a network dedicated to the study of transitional justice, OTJR aims to provide avenues for the student and academic community at Oxford to learn more about issues of conflict and transition across the globe. At the same time, we also recognise that, as a network based at the University of Oxford, we are suitably placed to contribute our capacities more meaningfully to civil society efforts furthering transitional justice. While we are living in difficult and unpredictable times, the pandemic has opened many new opportunities for bringing us together, and we will work towards enhancing both the access and representation of our initiatives. With these objectives in mind, we hope to work on the following projects this academic year.

Seminar Series

At the core of our activities is the Weekly Seminar Series, which brings leading practitioners and academics working on practical and policy questions related to transitional justice to Oxford (whether in person or virtually). We hope to continue this initiative this academic year, and particularly work on platforming more diverse perspectives, in terms of both geography and intersectional experiences. We are also conscious that virtual platforms help us reach a more global audience, and we are committed to ensuring a continued engagement with this broader audience even after we resume in-person seminars.

Editorial Work

OTJR has been involved for the past four years in a collaborative project with Fondation Hironnelle - the online platform JusticeInfo.net. The latter is a major media outlet focusing on journalistic content produced by specialists working on transitional justice for the general public. OTJR will continue to source and edit journalistic and opinion pieces for JusticeInfo.net dealing with ongoing developments in conflict and post-conflict countries.

Research Work

We hope to revive OTJR's research agenda and provide opportunities to both OTJR's members as well as the wider student community at the University of Oxford to undertake quality research on issues of transitional justice. We aim to put the richness of the inter-disciplinary expertise of the group to use, and to start producing our own research output in the form of academic collections of papers, policy briefs and consultancy projects. We hope to solicit research project proposals from civil society organisations working on issues of transition globally and give an opportunity to Oxford students to engage with these issues more closely and meaningfully.

OTJR Blog

We hope to unveil a new initiative, the OTJR Blog, to feature high-quality scholarship and discourse on current issues or themes in transitional justice in relation to any region and through the lens of any relevant discipline. We want to particularly encourage pieces from early career researchers and research students who may want to share their preliminary work for comments. In this sense, this effort will focus more on academic pieces, as opposed to journalistic or opinion pieces which are featured by our partner Justiceinfo.net.

Workshops and Conferences

OTJR annually organises conferences and workshops for researchers and practitioners working on issues of transitional justice. We hope to continue this practice this academic year.

'Stories from the Field' Series

We will initiate a new strand of seminar conversations entitled 'Stories from the Field', featuring the incredible work done by practitioners, academics and activists in the field of transitional justice.