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**BIRMINGHAM CITY**  
University

# FORWARD THINKING

**A CELEBRATION OF THE RESEARCH  
COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN STAFF AND  
STUDENTS IN THE SCHOOL OF LAW**



# WELCOME



## **NOTE FROM THE CO-LEADS OF STAFF AND STUDENT RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS AND JOURNAL EDITORS LAURA SMILLIE & DR. ALICE STOREY**

Welcome to the second issue of Forward Thinking, the journal that showcases the fantastic research collaborations between students and staff in the School of Law. In 2019/20, we offered a wide range of research opportunities to our students, including new initiatives, such as taking part in research seminars and international collaborations. Getting involved in these projects will not only develop your research skills, but will allow you the opportunity to work alongside active researchers and improve your time management and interpersonal skills. Although, like everything, our research activities have had to adapt due to the pandemic, we look forward to offering more opportunities to students in 2020/21!



## **NOTE FROM THE SCHOOL OF LAW'S DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH DR. SARAH COOPER**

The second issue of Forward Thinking continues to showcase the innovative suite of scholarly collaborations between staff and students at BCU's School of Law, with projects cutting across research, teaching, and practice; transcending disciplinary boundaries; and serving local and international communities. It also shares news of exciting developments, including student involvement in our growing Research Seminar Series, and our new international partnership with the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. Warmest congratulations to all involved.

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# VOLUNTARY RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS (VRA)

The Voluntary Research Assistantship Scheme (VRA) is a BLSS Faculty-wide initiative, which enables students to work alongside academics on active research projects. These projects range from traditional research, including data collection and literature reviews, to practice-led research, such as improving engagement with Moodle, and exploring the new routes into practicing as a solicitor. The VRA works on a merit-based system – you must have a 2:1 or above average grade across your modules to apply. The scheme aims to celebrate high achievement and to enable selected students to develop advanced skill-sets. In 2019/20, we had 40 students volunteering across 19 projects, which was an increase compared to 2018/19.



# EXAMINING THE DEATH PENALTY IN PAKISTAN



**Student Researcher:** Qasim Rangzeb

**Staff Lead:** Dr. Amna Nazir

This project sought student research assistance connected to the preparation of a book on Islamic law and the death penalty, which seeks to further the abolitionist discourse in the context of Islamic principles. The VRA was required to carry out two key tasks: (1) conduct a literature review on the evolution of death penalty laws in Pakistan, including identifying relevant case law, and subsequently, (2) construct a timeline of the history of the death penalty in Pakistan.



I chose to get involved in this particular project as my family background derives from Pakistan, so I wanted to find out more about the country's use of the death penalty. I enjoyed reading about the political and social factors around Pakistan's use of the death penalty as well as delving into the laws which run deep within the Pakistani society. The project enhanced my confidence with research skills, as well as improving my attention to detail.

**Qasim Rangzeb (Level 6 Student)**



"The research undertaken by Qasim for this VRA was meticulous and thorough. He was able to compile an impressive literature review on Pakistan's engagement with the death penalty, demonstrating his breadth of research skills. The findings will be used for the preparation of a monograph on Islamic law and the death penalty which is under contract with Routledge publishers. Well done Qasim!"

**Dr. Amna Nazir, Lecturer in Law and Associate Director of the Centre for Human Rights**

# EXPLORING INTERPRETATIONS OF 'VACCINE HARM'

**Student Researchers:** Weronika Wozniak and Lillie Fisher

**Staff Leads:** Dr. Sarah Cooper, Dr. Friso Jansen and Professor Maxine Lintern

With cases of vaccine-treatable diseases such as measles being increasingly reported, the UK government is exploring whether mandatory vaccination laws are a possible resolution to a potential public health crisis. Motivated by this situation, the cross-disciplinary research team designed a study to investigate how parents interpret 'vaccine harm' i.e., what drives their decision-making about whether or not to vaccinate their children. As part of this, the VRAs were asked to develop a literature base on two areas: (1) how researchers construct vignettes to explore decision-making (particularly in a medical/healthcare context); and (2) create an argument map that sets out existing knowledge about the arguments for and against vaccination.



This project allowed me to merge my passion for law and medicine together and explore how the two interact. This project has sparked a real interest for me regarding how vaccines are used within society, in particular the difference in public opinion regarding vaccines. This is likely to become even more relevant as the COVID-19 pandemic unfolds, if a vaccine is found.

**Lillie Fisher (Level 5 Student)**

My role consisted of developing a literature base on how researchers construct vignettes to explore decision-making; particularly in a healthcare setting. Throughout this project, I have enhanced my research and analytical skills, but additionally gained insight into a different subject area which has expanded my knowledge and understanding. I have also strengthened my collaboration and negotiation skills through effective liaison and teamwork with the staff leads of the project.



**Weronika Wozniak (Level 6 Student)**

"Lillie Fisher and Weronika Wozniak were an absolute pleasure to work with. They diligently searched relevant literature and constructed a visual representation of the range of arguments for and against vaccination, as well as outlining various applications of the vignette method within social science and medical research. This will prove instrumental for our continuing research activities in this area."

Dr. Friso Jansen, Senior Lecturer in Law and Associate Director of the Centre for Law, Science and Policy

# A REVIEW OF THE ACADEMIC LITERATURE ON EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING



**Student Researchers:** Sabbah Hussain, Natalia Matyszcuk and Sohray-Tai Allen

**Staff Lead:** Samantha Gargaro

The aim of this research project was to produce a literature review and identify themes in the literature relating to the challenges and successes of law schools that have set up their own inhouse legal clinics. There are many different ways of running an inhouse legal clinic, and students were asked to interrogate standard legal research databases and to consider educational literature on experiential learning. The intended outcome was a full literature review and overview of themes in the literature.



I have always been keen to expand my knowledge in clinical legal education. My role in this project was to locate and review the literature of academic and experiential learning. I enjoyed being able to utilise my research skills, whilst gaining specialist knowledge on the topic, and working within a team. I found that being involved in this VRA has improved my communication and team working skills.



**Natalia Matyszcuk (Level 6 Student)**

“The research carried out by the VRAs has given me an excellent basis for further research into running a university Law Clinic. The examination of some of the academic literature, by Natalia in particular provided valuable information on the student perspective reported by researchers. I intend to look further at the question of whether law schools should offer voluntary or mandatory pro bono programmes.”

Samantha Gargaro, Senior Lecturer in Law and Director of BCU Law Clinic



# THE UPR PROJECT AT BCU STAKEHOLDER REPORTS

**Student Researchers:** Samuel Miah, Zaynab Khan, Aisha Ejaz and Maria Oliveira

**Staff Leads:** Dr. Alice Storey, Dr. Amna Nazir and Professor Jon Yorke

## THE UPR PROJECT AT BCU

The UPR Project at BCU facilitates the submission of Stakeholder Reports to the United Nations' Universal Periodic Review. These reports focus on international human rights issues in the country being reviewed. This project concentrated on reports to be submitted to the UN for the UPRs of countries including Myanmar, Sudan, and The Gambia. Students were asked to collate information from the previous UPRs of these countries on particular human rights issues including, capital punishment, women's rights, freedom of assembly, children's rights etc.



I have always been interested in human rights and aspire to work in international law in the future. Being able to work on a project related to the UN was a wonderful opportunity. I have gained knowledge of women's rights in Sudan and my ability to analyse information when researching a particular issue has improved.

**Zaynab Khan (Level 5 Student)**

I chose to participate in this project as it presented the opportunity to delve deeper into current human rights issues. I particularly enjoyed the fact that I contributed towards a report that could be utilised by a respected institution, such as the United Nations.

**Samuel Miah (Level 5 Student)**



"The students did an excellent job of collating recommendations and researching international human rights issues. Their work has informed the submission of a UN report on capital punishment in Myanmar, and a report on women's rights and freedom of religion in Sudan is currently being drafted."

**Dr. Alice Storey, Lecturer in Law and Associate Director of the Centre for Human Rights**



# OPERATION OF MEDIATION INFORMATION ASSESSMENT MEETINGS (MIAMS): LITIGANTS IN PERSON AND ATTENDANCE FIGURES

**Student Researcher:** Sophie Rostill

**Staff Lead:** Paul Maguire

As a result of the Legal Aid and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (LASPO), access to legal aid funding for parties in private family dispute cases involving children and finances is lacking. However, exemptions do apply where domestic abuse is evidenced between the parties. This has led to a high rate of litigants in person, who are not represented in court. A VRA was required to consider attendance rates of litigants in person at MIAMs, using publicly available sources including LexisNexis, Westlaw and the Ministry of Justice.



My role in this project was to research attendance figures for people attending mediation meetings, with a particular focus on attendance figures after the introduction of the Legal Aid, Punishment and Sentencing of Offenders Act (LASPO) 2012. To do this, I engaged with legal and publicly available government databases. Initially, my interest in this project came from the fact that I wish to be a mediator myself someday. It was

also exciting to know that by doing this project I would be learning about a subject I would not otherwise have studied.



**Sophie Rostill (Level 6 Student)**

“The work carried out by Sophie on this project was excellent – her literature review was thorough and Sophie remained dedicated to her task. Sophie’s work will help me to provide contemporaneous statistical information on court initiatives in relation to Mediation, which will help my teaching on the Legal Practice Course and on the final year Family Law Module.”

**Paul Maguire, Lecturer in Law**

# BUSINESS, LAW & SOCIAL SCIENCES SCHOLARS (BLSS SCHOLARS)

The BLSS Scholar projects are Faculty-wide and are attached to the VRA scheme. These projects provide an additional, paid project opportunity for the students applying to the VRA scheme who hold the highest grade-average in their year. Again, this scheme aims to celebrate and further high achievement, but also provides a paid opportunity to support students financially. This year, our BLSS Scholars have collaborated with Dr. Sarah Cooper and Dr. Scarlett McArdle (University of Lincoln) to develop materials to inform the design of the second edition of their textbook, *Preparing to Moot: A Step by Step Guide to Mooting*. The textbook is scheduled to be published by Routledge in 2021/22. Read on to find out more about the 2019/20 BLSS Scholars and the VRA and BLSS Scholar projects they have worked on.



## LEVEL 5 BLSS SCHOLAR GEORIGA ELLEN CARTWRIGHT

**VRA Project:** Capital Punishment in the United States: Tracking Engagement with the UN Treaty Bodies

**Staff Lead:** Dr. Alice Storey

I chose to get involved on this project as it is a topic I have always been interested in due to the controversy around using capital punishment, and the rise in popularity of true life crime documentaries. This project allowed me to gain more experience reading UN treaty body documents which will benefit me as I progress through my degree.

**Georgia Ellen Cartwright**

"Georgia's work on this VRA has been brilliant, as always! This is an LLM-standard project, so for Georgia to produce such fantastic results in her second year of undergraduate study is a credit to her hard work and diligence. Her work will feed into a journal article and reports to the UN."

**Dr. Alice Storey, Lecturer in Law**

**BLSS Scholar Project: Preparing to Moot 2nd Edition Textbook**  
**Staff Leads:** Dr. Sarah Cooper and Dr. Scarlett McArdle

I enjoyed working with Simran, Sarah and Scarlett and it is amazing knowing that my work will be included in a published textbook. I have always loved the idea of writing a textbook, and being able to contribute and learn about the process of creating a textbook has reinforced my desire to write my own in the future.

**Georgia Ellen Cartwright**

## LEVEL 6 BLSS SCHOLAR SIMRAN GILL

**VRA Project:** The Development of Forced Marriage Law in the UK

**Staff Lead:** Raxona Khanum

The amount I have learned from undertaking this research project enabled me to effectively educate others about this area of law, which has been incredibly satisfying. I was lucky enough to work with equally passionate and influential individuals who made undertaking the project feel like anything but work.

**Simran Gill**

"Simran and her co-VRA, Shakiba, conducted an examination of documentary research of legislation, case law, and journal articles on forced marriages in the UK. Simran's enthusiasm and passion for this project went beyond pure research, it was a personal journey of discovery from start to finish. The work culminated in a final presentation at the Law School Student Conference in which they were awarded a prize. The work will contribute to future research law enforcement in practice."

**Raxona Khanum, Lecturer in Law**

**BLSS Scholar Project: Preparing to Moot 2nd Edition Textbook**  
**Staff Leads:** Dr. Sarah Cooper and Dr. Scarlett McArdle

I was fortunate enough to work with elite individuals who upheld an intellectually stimulating project, even through a global pandemic! Their continuous guidance, support and flexibility allowed me to be a part of a genuinely unparalleled team. The project was new and unique, setting me up for an exciting challenge that allowed me to reinforce and develop my legal knowledge.

**Simran Gill**

"Georgia and Simran have been excellent co-creators! Through carefully recording their preparation steps (analysis, research, and argument construction) for a series of moot problem questions, they have produced a rich set of materials that will inform the second edition of our textbook, 'Preparing to Moot: A Step by Step Guide to Mooting', which is scheduled to be published by Routledge in 2021/2022. They will also be invited to co-author the Foreword for the textbook."

**Dr. Sarah Cooper, Reader in Law & Director of Research**

# SCHOOL OF LAW RESEARCH SEMINARS

The School of Law's Research Seminar Series allows staff and students to attend research seminars delivered by internal and external academics on their area of expertise. This year, students were also invited to participate. Led by Dr. Emilie Ghio, Lecturer in Law, there were 25 research seminars in 2019/20, starting the year as in-person sessions but moving online following COVID-19. Read on to see examples of our brilliant students leading this year's research seminars.



# HUMAN RIGHTS DAY: WHAT HUMAN RIGHTS MEANS TO ME



**Student Researchers:** Sainey Barrow, Selma Ankambo and Saira Khan  
**Staff Lead:** Chipo Mwale

To celebrate Human Rights Day, on 10th December 2019, a group of LLM International Human Rights students delivered a research seminar focused specifically on their individual journeys in exercising their right to education.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY DOMESTIC ABUSE AND MIGRANT WOMEN



**Student Researchers:** Sainey Barrow, Brigid Wiles and Aleena Raza  
**Staff Lead:** Chipo Mwale

In commemoration of International Women's Day 2020, and in alignment with this year's theme 'An Equal World is an Enabled World', International Human Rights and International Law LLM students delivered a research seminar on the experience of domestic violence by migrant women in the UK.

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I really enjoyed sharing my personal experiences of inequalities in education as a female African child, along with discussing the challenges facing migrant women who experience domestic violence. This enhanced my presentation skills and I received fantastic feedback from the audience!

**Sainey Barrow (LLM International Human Rights Student)**

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“Both events were beneficial to students, giving them an opportunity to not only analyse the law, but also to draw on their own journeys and experiences, in order to reflect on what human rights means to them. Some of their personal narratives of overcoming adversities really helped the audience to understand that the struggle to secure “all human rights for all people” is far from over. I’m really proud of the students’ achievements!”

**Chipo Mwale, Senior Lecturer in Law and LLM International Human Rights Course Director**

# RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN STAFF AND STUDENTS IN PRACTICE: HIV, DOMESTIC ABUSE, AND THE UNITED NATIONS

**Student Researcher:** Melisa Oleschuk

**Staff Lead:** Dr. Alice Storey

This research seminar was based upon the very premise of this journal: staff and student research collaborations. Alice and Melisa have worked together on two large-scale research projects on the UN Human Rights Council, focusing on HIV medicines in African states and domestic abuse in the UK. This seminar was delivered by Melisa, as a research assistant, and Alice, as the supervisor, to share their experiences of working in collaboration with each other. They both shared their experiences, along with the positives and challenges, of working together on an active research project.

## THE UPR PROJECT AT BCU

“Taking part in this research seminar meant I was able to discuss my work on two separate projects, offer my own critical evaluation of aspects of the mechanisms I was tasked with researching, and help build my confidence in public speaking. I am keen to pursue studies at doctoral level and therefore, would need to be confident with discussing my research and experience on any project I worked on. I enjoyed explaining my work and discussing my findings.

Often, after a project ends, you only get to discuss your findings on one occasion (with the supervising researcher) but here, I was able to share my knowledge and experience with more people as well as develop my own understanding.

**Melisa Oleschuk (Level 6 Student)**

“Working with Melisa on two large-scale research projects has been brilliant. Melisa produced some excellent work that I am currently using to draft academic articles and reports to the UN Human Rights Council. It has been brilliant to see Melisa develop from a first year undergraduate to a confident and talented LLM student.”

**Dr. Alice Storey, Lecturer in Law and Associate Director of the Centre for Human Rights**

# BRITISH JOURNAL OF AMERICAN LEGAL STUDIES STUDENT EDITORS



The British Journal of American Legal Studies (BJALS) is a peer-reviewed academic journal within the Centre for American Legal Studies. The Editor-in-Chief is Dr. Anne Richardson-Oakes. Each year, BJALS recruits students to work as Student Editors on the papers accepted for publication in BJALS. The Student Editors edit the footnotes of journal articles, to ensure that the requirements of the Bluebook citation manual have been complied with, just as law students in the US do.

## The 2019/20 Student Editors:

Emily Mouland

Thomas Kidney

Denisa Bucioaca

Melisa Oleschuk

Kate Waterfield

Shena Briscoe

Turan Avkesen

Tom Nicklin (Team Leader)



I was selected to be a BJALS Student Editor in 2019/20, following positive feedback on my performance in the American Legal Practice Module. I enjoyed the methodical nature of footnote editing; it was enjoyable to have a task that had to be approached in such an organised manner. When challenges were encountered, having the set guidance of the Bluebook to consult meant that the task could be tackled independently on the whole, which led to a greater sense of achievement at the final piece of work. I think this ability to communicate and problem-solve effectively with regards to these issues will be my biggest takeaway from this experience.

Emily Mouland (Level 6 Student)



"I have been hugely impressed with the way in which the students have worked this year. In particular, students have painstakingly researched the formatting requirements for a variety of non-standard material ranging from blog posts and other online media material to really arcane historical records, taking in Congressional materials at both state and federal level. It is clear that a great deal of effort and research has gone into their work and that they have applied themselves with considerable professionalism. The work that these students do is modelled on the pattern of US law school student edited law reviews. However, the US students who undertake this work have usually spent a whole year learning the requirements of Bluebook formatting. I have worked with some of these students in the past and I am pleased to say that our student teams have performed to an equivalent high standard."

Dr. Anne Richardson-Oakes, Editor-in-Chief of the British Journal of American Legal Studies



# ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

## EXTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR JURIS DOCTOR CANDIDATES

**Staff Leads:** Dr. Sarah Cooper, Dr. Anne Richardson Oakes and Dr. Alice Storey

In 2019/20 the School of Law launched a new research partnership with the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University (ASU), which will see ASU law students join BCU as Visiting Scholars to collaborate on centre based research projects. In 2020, we welcomed Zachary Cooper and Nourin Abourahma. Nourin worked with the UPR Project at BCU to research for its stakeholder report to the UK's upcoming UPR, and Zachary supported CALS and the CfLSP to design and deliver a project with the School of English, which aims to assess the language of equality in Supreme Court case law through corpus linguistics.



I worked with Dr. Storey on the UPR Project at BCU's UK Stakeholder Report, compiling and synthesizing data from past UPR reports. It was an incredible, pedagogically valuable experience. My involvement in the project not only enabled me to apply what I learned in law school, but it also gave me insight into how other countries engaged in international law.

**Nourin Abourahma, JD Candidate, Arizona State University**



I worked with Dr. Cooper and Dr. Oakes on the "The First Ten Years of the UK Supreme Court: Understanding the Language of Equality" project. I developed a dataset and library of the first decade of UK Supreme Court rulings to be used for later analysis of the data by corpus linguistics software. I enjoyed the intellectual challenge and innovation necessary to the project, as well as the chance to travel abroad from the United States. I greatly expanded my research capabilities, refined my interdisciplinary collaboration skills, and developed basic necessary office and communication etiquette skills.

**Zachary Cooper, JD Candidate, Arizona State University**



# SPECIALLY FUNDED PROJECTS (SFP)

Students are also provided with the opportunity to engage in Specially Funded Projects (SFPs). These are paid roles, funded either internally or externally. The projects usually involve interdisciplinary or cross-institution work, opening up further opportunities for our students. Read on to find out more about three of the SFPs students worked on in 2019/20.



# LAW AND HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS: MEDICAL TRIBUNAL SIMULATIONS



**Student Researchers:** Kara Meah (Level 6 Student) and Bethany Hipwell (MSc Physiotherapy Student)

**Staff Leads:** Dr. Friso Janson, Dr. Sarah Cooper and Jodie Bryant

The School of Law's Centre for Law, Science and Policy provides a platform for investigating law's relationship with other disciplines, including medicine, psychology, and healthcare. As part of an established stream of work in the Centre, this project provided students with the opportunity to collaborate

with academics from law, psychology, dietetics, physiotherapy, radiography, and operating department practice.

The cross-disciplinary team have worked together to design 3 case studies and use those case studies to shape 3 medical tribunal simulations, as follows:

**Case Study 1: Operating Practice**

**Case Study 2: Physiotherapy and Dietetics**

**Case Study 3: Radiography/Ultrasound**

The resources produced will enable healthcare profession students to develop experiences of good and poor professional practice, problem-solve, and experience the legal frameworks within which their professions operate. Law students have gained experience in case file analysis, cross-disciplinary working, cross-examination planning, and advocacy. The over-arching aim of the project was to increase the legal literacy of healthcare professionals, and to increase the scientific literacy of legal professionals.



My involvement in this project has meant I have been able to develop my Medical Law knowledge, both in theory and in practice. I have also even able to gain further experience with academic legal research. I have enjoyed being able to work with other students and staff members that I would not usually work with if I was not involved with this project.



**Kara Meah (Level 6 Student)**

"The team worked productively on developing an innovative teaching resource: a real life medical malpractice scenario that can be used to train medical and legal students on the importance of professional regulation. Bethany and Kara collaboratively shaped a great deal of this scenario and this work will feed into a real life simulation of a Tribunal Hearing that (COVID permitting) will take place next year in the Court Room at BCU. If this is successful a version of this will be turned into a fully interactive online resource for use throughout the UK."

Dr. Friso Jansen, Senior Lecturer in Law and Associate Director of the Centre for Law, Science and Policy

# RESEARCH MATTERS



**Student Researchers:** Oluwatimilehin Adeyanju and Katrin Von Der Goltz King

**Staff Leads:** Dr. Sarah Cooper, Laura Smillie, Lauren Haddock and Sharon Stevens

As part of increasing the visibility of research resources available in the School of Law, promoting scholarship produced and/or taught by our community, and supporting students across all programmes to develop high quality research skills, the School of Law (in collaboration with Library Services) is working to design and launch a Moodle resource called Research Matters. This resource will support students to access and interrogate online legal research databases with efficiency and sophistication. The students involved in this project were asked to work with the academic team to develop short screencasts (computer screen recordings) that show students how to access and interrogate specialist legal research databases; and to problem-solve in the context of their courses.



I initially applied for this project to improve my research skills, and also to help law students by creating an easy and efficient guide for legal research. I enjoyed becoming more competent with using different legal databases, and working within a team.

**Oluwatimilehin Adeyanju (LLM International Business Law Student)**

The concept of creating short informational videos on how to enhance your research by using legal databases particularly appealed to me as I have created short “how to” videos on IT technologies previously. This project combined legal scholarship with teaching, an area that I’d like to work in in the future. I really enjoyed working with the team and learning more about the law. It also made me realise that I had only touched on a tiny proportion of the resources that the library has to offer and how valuable it is to the heart of BCU.



**Katrin von der Goltz King (PGD/LLM Student)**

“Timi and Katya have helped us to kick-start this really important project, which aims to develop a suite of online resources that support students across all levels to develop their online legal research skills. Timi and Katya have developed a series of model screencast videos guiding students on how to access legal research databases and carry out information retrieval and problem-solving tasks. We will use these to start to build an online Moodle course. They have shown great team-working and innovation skills!”

**Dr. Sarah Cooper, Reader in Law and Director of Research**

# ARIZONA ABORTION LAWS



**Student Researchers:** Melisa Oleschuk and Denisa Bucioaca

**Staff Leads:** Dr. Ilaria Di Gioia and Dr. Anne Richardson Oakes

This project required two student researchers to conduct initial research into the detail and legal history of provisions regulating sex education in Arizona. Furthermore, research was required regarding the recent attempts to secure the passage of laws restricting access to abortion.



I applied to work on this project because I am very passionate about US law and women's reproductive health, and this opportunity was the perfect blend of the topics. I mostly enjoyed seeing the process of analysing data and attempting to find unspoken/unaddressed trends and correlations. From this, I gained further analytical skills and learned how to be resourceful in my research.



Melisa Oleschuk (Level 6 Student)

"Both research students performed very well. They demonstrated stellar research skills and we are planning to use the data they collected for a research paper."

Dr. Ilaria Di Gioia, Lecturer in Law and Associate Director Centre for American Legal Studies

# 2019/20 STAFF AND STUDENT RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

## VRAS

**Examining the Death Penalty in Pakistan** | Staff Lead: Dr. Amna Nazir | Student Researcher: Qasim Rangzeb

**Law[ying] and Science** | Staff Lead: Dr. Sarah Cooper and Professor Lissa Griffin (Pace University, New York) | Student Researcher: Shimai Al Dala

**Law and Custom Book Project** | Staff Lead: Professor Luke Mason | Student Researchers: Asha Abbas, Zeynep Feyza Goktepe, and Rachel Williams

**Through the Lens of the Universal Periodic Review: Pakistan and the Death Penalty** | Staff Lead: Dr. Amna Nazir | Student Researcher: Mily Elamkunnapuzha Paul

**Reforming Access to Justice and the Protection of Human Rights in The Gambia** | Staff Leads: Professor Jon Yorke, Mr Lamin Daffeh, Dr. Amna Nazir and Dr. Alice Storey | Student Researchers: Melisa Oleschuk, Denisa Bucioaca, Jana Trkulja, and James Southwick

**The UPR Project at BCU Teaching Materials** | Staff Leads: Dr. Alice Storey and Dr. Ilaria Di Gioia | Student Researcher: Shena Briscoe

**Exploring Interpretations of 'Vaccine Harm'** | Staff Leads: Dr. Sarah Cooper, Dr. Friso Jansen, and Professor Maxine Lintern | Student Researchers: Weronika Wozniak and Lillie Fisher

**The UPR Project at BCU Stakeholder Reports** | Staff Leads: Dr. Alice Storey, Dr. Amna Nazir, and Professor Jon Yorke | Student Researchers: Aisha Ejaz, Maria Oliveira, Samuel Miah, Zaynab Khan

**The Great California-Trump Car Wars** | Staff Leads: Dr. Anne Richardson Oakes and Dr. Ilaria Di Gioia | Student Researcher: Kate Waterfield

**Operation of Mediation Information Assessment Meetings (MIAMS): Litigants in Person and Attendance Figures** | Staff Lead: Paul Maguire | Student Researcher: Sophie Rostill

**The UPR Project at BCU & Access to HIV Medicines** | Staff Lead: Dr. Alice Storey | Student Researchers: Jennifer Purser and Clarisse Balbastro

**The Development of Forced Marriage Law in the UK** | Staff Lead: Raxona Khanum | Student Researchers: Simran Gill and Shakiba Alizada

**What is the SQE?** | Staff Lead: Lauren Haddock | Student Researchers: Lexie-Chanel Gowie and Helina Tutt

**Impeachment in the US and UK** | Staff Leads: Dr. Anne Richardson Oakes and Dr. Ilaria Di Gioia | Student Researchers: Emily Moulard, Jessica Holloway, and Natasha Whitehouse

**The Last Public Executions in the United States** | Staff Lead: Dr. Anne Richardson Oakes | Student Researcher Nicole Bingham

**A Review of the Academic Literature On Experiential Learning** | Staff Lead: Samantha Gargaro | Student Researchers: Sabbah Hussain, Natalia Matyszczyk, and Sohray-Tai Allen

**Examining why Overriding Interests were deemed necessary in Registered titles from 1925 and any related rationale** | Staff Lead: Keith Gompertz | Student Researchers: Adeola Adenugba and Lydia Larose

**Exploring Law & Regulation of the Rag Markets in Britain** | Staff Lead: Dr. Liviu Damsa | Student Researcher: Kara Meah

**Capital Punishment in the United States: Tracking Engagement with the UN Treaty Bodies** | Staff Lead: Dr. Alice Storey | Student Researchers: Georgia Ellen Cartwright and Reece Hunt

## BLSS SCHOLARS

**Assisting with the Second Edition of Preparing to Moot** | Staff Leads: Dr. Sarah Cooper and Dr. Scarlett McArdle | BLSS Scholars: Georgia Ellen Cartwright and Simran Gill

## SPECIALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

**Law and Healthcare Professionals: Medical Tribunal Simulations** | Staff Leads: Dr. Sarah Cooper, Dr. Friso Jansen, and Jodie Bryant | Student Researchers: Kara Meah and Bethany Hipwell

**Research Matters** | Staff Leads: Dr. Sarah Cooper, Laura Smillie, Lauren Haddock, and Sharon Stevens | Student Researchers: Oluwatimilehin Adeyanju and Katrin Von Der Goltz King

**Arizona Abortion Laws** | Staff Leads: Dr. Ilaria Di Gioia and Dr. Anne Richardson Oakes | Student Researchers: Melisa Oleschuk and Denisa Bucioaca

Congratulations to all students who have been involved in research collaborations with staff in the School of Law and beyond in this particularly challenging academic year. We wish all the very best to those who graduated this year and look forward to welcoming more students to join our research opportunities in 2020/21!



# INDICATIVE SCHEDULE OF 2020/21 STUDENT RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SCHOOL OF LAW

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY	WHO CAN APPLY?	WHEN TO APPLY?
Voluntary Research Assistantships (VRA)	Open to Levels 5 and 6 students with a 2:1 overall average in their previous academic year.	Level 5 callouts = September/October. Level 6 callouts = September/October.
BLSS Scholar	Levels 5 and 6 can apply to be a BLSS Scholar through the VRA scheme. The successful student will have the highest grade average from their level.	Level 5 callouts = September/October. Level 6 callouts = September/October.
School of Law Research Seminars	Students working on research projects can discuss this with their supervisor.	Ongoing.
British Journal of American Legal Studies Student Editors (BJALS)	Applicants from Level 5, 6, and 7 can apply to be a BJALS student editor.	Applicants should express interest to the Editor-in-Chief: anne.oakes@bcu.ac.uk
Specially Funded Projects (SFPs)	Applications for SFPs are usually ongoing throughout the year. If a member of staff obtains funding for a research project, they may wish to employ student researchers to assist them.	Staff will communicate this to students via email/ Moodle.




**BIRMINGHAM CITY**  
University

Birmingham City University

T: 0121 331 5000

E: [Alice.Storey@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:Alice.Storey@bcu.ac.uk)  
[Laura.Smillie@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:Laura.Smillie@bcu.ac.uk)

W: [www.bcu.ac.uk/law](http://www.bcu.ac.uk/law)

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