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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 first issue of Forward Thinking. This journal showcases the fantastic research collaborations between students and staff in our School of Law. In 2018/19, we had over 100 opportunities for students to work with staff on research projects. We hope this journal encourages you to get involved with the many research activities we have ongoing in the School of Law. Getting involved in these projects will not only develop your research skills, but will allow you to work alongside active researchers, and will improve time management and interpersonal skills. We look forward to working with you in 2019/20!



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

Birmingham's motto is 'Forward' – a reflection that the city is always looking ahead with a view to preparing for challenges and maximising opportunities. With this in mind, I am delighted to support the launch of Forward Thinking, the School of Law's first publication dedicated to student research activities. Forward Thinking showcases how – through a diverse and innovative portfolio of student and staff research collaborations – the School of Law is preparing its students for the challenges of the workplace and global market, and maximising the opportunities for the research produced by its academic staff to positively impact local, regional, and international communities. I look forward to this being the first issue of many!

Editors-in-Chief: Dr. Alice Storey & Laura Smillie

Student Editor: Melisa Oleschuk

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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 2018/19 we had 34 students volunteering across 12 projects. The next few pages showcase some of these projects, including feedback from participating students.



THE USE OF THE CIVIL GRAND JURY IN THE UNITED STATES IN GENERAL AND CALIFORNIA IN PARTICULAR



Student Researcher: Lauren Harris

Staff Lead: Dr. Anne Richardson-Oakes

Brown v. Plata, 563 U.S. 493 (2011) was a decision by the Supreme Court of the United States holding that a court-mandated population limit was necessary to remedy a violation of prisoners' Eighth Amendment constitutional rights. The Centre for American Legal Studies is currently examining the extent to which conditions in California prisons have improved. One of the research strategies employed is to examine the reports of the California civil grand juries for complaints that may have been lodged by prisoners. Previous VRA scholars have carried out research on civil grand jury prisoner complaints investigations and have come up with significant findings that need to be written up. The task for this project was to produce a literature review identifying the origins and use of the civil grand jury in England; its disappearance from English practice; and its use across the United States, with a specific focus on California.



The research I was tasked with for this project is important in contextualising and analysing the present conditions of the Civil Grand Jury in the United States. This was my first research project, and I have really enjoyed learning about something I may not have otherwise had the chance to learn about. I have gained the ability to delve deeper into a topic by asking relevant questions and following those leads. More importantly, I have gained confidence in my own academic ability.

Lauren Harris (Level 4 Student)



"Lauren has worked hard on this project. The review she has produced is being used to frame the research findings previously established in a paper for submission to a peer-reviewed journal."

Dr. Anne Richardson-Oakes, Reader in American Legal Studies and Director of the Centre for American Legal Studies

WHY MARRIAGE SHOULD DIVORCE THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



Student Researchers: Sophie Reynolds and Alia Bi

Staff Lead: Rhonda Hammond-Sharlot

Marriage began as a religious ceremony. The Church of England was established, conferring powers normally associated with the state. It has its own courts, legislative machinery and the power to marry couples. Marriage, however, has become more secular, evidenced by laws regulating the end of a marriage being a matter for the state courts, even where the marriage was carried out by the Church. The tension between a religious definition in secular law grew as discussions developed about same-sex marriage, and more recently, a heterosexual couple won their Supreme Court case to be allowed a Civil Partnership. The time to review the church's role may have arrived. The VRA scholars were asked to undertake a preliminary literature review about this subject to inform a publication being developed by the staff lead.



I chose to get involved in the VRA scheme as I had never taken part in any research schemes provided by the School of Law. I enjoyed researching the topics that came with the project proposal and I am now able to confidently research sources and competently put together source analyses.

Sophie Reynolds (Level 6 Student)

I wanted to broaden my knowledge about marriage. The project sounded interesting and I also thought it would support me when studying Family Law, as one half of the semester was based on marriage. The skills I have learnt from this VRA project include teamwork and time management.

Alia Bi (Level 6 Student)



"The work carried out by the VRAs has put me in an excellent position to work on a paper which is to be entitled 'Why marriage needs to divorce the Church of England.' I will be delivering the paper at the Society of Legal Scholars conference in September 2019. The paper will then be submitted for publication to a peer-reviewed journal in the Law and Religion area."

Rhonda Hammond-Sharlot, Lecturer in Law

WAITING TO DIE: CONSIDERING DELAY AS A BREACH OF LAW



Student Researchers: Sheya Bradley and Kiran Preet Multani
Staff Lead: Dr. Nkem Adeleye

With the reduction in death sentences and executions in the United States, death row inmates risk being subjected to an even longer wait prior to execution. Delay fosters violations of prisoners' rights, with inmates languishing on death row in several US states. This research examines the cases of the longest serving inmates in the states of Florida, California, and Georgia. The VRA scholars considered whether the temporal factors,

living conditions, and any psychological effects on the inmate have been raised at any stage in their capital litigation processes.

“

My role was to research a Californian death row inmate, particularly one that had waited a considerable amount of time to receive their sentence and consider whether the delay experienced constitutes a violation of their 8th Amendment right not to be subject to cruel and unusual punishment. I worked alongside a fellow student researcher, Kiran, and we both combined our research in a presentation to provide two alternative examples of how delay in the state of California's death row system constitutes a breach the 8th Amendment. I thoroughly enjoyed researching a concept which was beyond the realm of my curriculum and gaining an insight into American legal procedure, which I was previously unfamiliar with. The project has allowed me to develop my research and analysis skills, especially through the use of legal research databases. I have also further developed both my teamwork and presentation skills.

”

Sheya Bradley (Level 6 Student)

“The students conducted research on some of the longest serving death row inmates in California and Florida. This involved an analysis of appellate court decisions to identify any factors which have contributed to their lengthy stay on death row. This research has broadened the students' understanding of the practice of capital punishment in the United States and the result of their research will contribute towards a larger research project investigating the Death Row Phenomenon in retentionist States.”

Dr. Nkem Adeleye, Lecturer in Law

MAXIMISING MOODLE TO ENHANCE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION



Student Researchers: Edrissa Cham and Eleni Pavlou

Staff Lead: Jill Molloy, Pamela Thomas, and SAP

Following a funded Student Academic Partnership project to create two introductory Moodle courses to improve progression, retention, and attainment in Land Law and Public Law, student researchers were engaged via the VRA scheme to collect data to evaluate student engagement and participation with each Moodle course. The information collected will be used to:

1. **Assess student performance to determine if the Moodle courses contributed to improving progression, retention and attainment; and**
2. **Identify the types of resources that students are more likely to engage with, in order to help us make better use of Moodle as a means to support learning.**

This project was designed for students who want to build on their qualitative research skills, and who are interested in improving student experience and enrichment opportunities.



My role in the project was to collect data regarding how Level 5 Law students interacted with Moodle in two subjects, Land Law and Public Law. I created a set of questions from the data collected for a student focus group, with the aim of establishing ways to enhance Moodle participation. Being involved in this project has improved my analytical and interactive skills.

Edrissa Cham (Level 6 Student)



RETHINKING THE EUROPEAN HARMONISATION DEBATE



Student Researchers: Eleanor Burrows, Lenka Zacharenkova, Shimai Al Dala, Davide Puccini, and Samuel Miah

Staff Lead: Dr. Emilie Ghio

This project tests the conclusions reached in Dr. Ghio's doctoral thesis against a case study on another legal field. The VRA scholars assisted the lead researcher to analyse the way the term "harmonisation" is understood, helping to formulate a clear-cut definition which is lacking from the EU treaties, EU documents, and academic scholarship.



I decided to take part in the project to enhance my research skills and to gain a better understanding of European Law. My role was to research into history, changes, and reforms since the Treaty of Rome in EU Employment Law. I also researched into flexicurity and how countries had introduced this into their legal system. I have enjoyed researching and learning about how EU employment laws are incorporated into each country's jurisdiction. I also feel like taking part in this research project has enabled me to understand my core module EU Law much better.

Eleanor Burrows (Level 6 Student)



"The project was divided into two streams: EU Labour Law and theories of harmonisation. In the EU Labour Law stream, one student looked at the Open Method of Coordination while another one looked at flexicurity and harmonisation in the labour law field. For theories of harmonisation, one student looked at the concept of minimum harmonisation while another one looked at the use of directives to achieve harmonisation. Following the students' findings, I will compare how the harmonisation process is taking place in labour law compared to insolvency law at EU level, with the view to determining what the concept of harmonisation entails. This exercise has broadened the students' understanding of the concept of harmonisation. They were all new to research and honed their reading and writing skills."

Dr. Emilie Ghio, 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 Scholar projects have focused on building the School of Law's Research Excellence Framework 2021 (REF 2021) profile. The purpose of REF is to "secure the continuation of world-class, dynamic and responsive research base across the full academic spectrum within higher education." Students play a very important role in helping us to shape our REF submission. Read on to find out more about the 2018/19 BLSS Scholars and the VRA and BLSS Scholar projects they have worked on.





GEORGIA ELLEN CARTWRIGHT LEVEL 4 BLSS SCHOLAR

VRA Project: Preventing Domestic Violence in the United Kingdom: The Role of the UN Universal Periodic Review

Staff Lead: Dr. Alice Storey

I found this topic interesting and yet shocking when I carried out my own research into the impact of domestic abuse. My experience as a researcher has now confirmed that I would like to pursue a PhD.

Georgia Ellen Cartwright

"The work Georgia carried out on this project was excellent – she went above and beyond to ensure the presentation of her findings was clear. Georgia's work will feed into The UPR Project at BCU's Stakeholder Submission to the UK's UN Universal Periodic Review."

Dr. Alice Storey, Lecturer in Law



DENISA BUCIOACA LEVEL 5 BLSS SCHOLAR

VRA Project: A Legal History of Sanctuary Cities
Staff Lead: Dr. Ilaria Di Gioia

The project investigating the sanctuary cities movement allowed me to explore my interest into the topic of federalism beyond the scope of my modules and develop my understanding of this vast area of law. It also challenged me to think "outside the box" and go beyond the usual learning process of sitting in lecture halls and attending seminars. It allowed me to explore different areas of law and think critically.

Denisa Bucioaca

Denisa has been researching and tracking US lawsuits at district and circuit court level. This research will feed into a journal article where Denisa will be recognised as an assistant researcher. Also, the research fed into a presentation I delivered at the Library of Congress, Washington D.C., on 4th June 2019.

Dr. Ilaria Di Gioia, Lecturer in Law

BLSS Scholar Project: REF Impact
Staff Lead: Dr. Sarah Cooper

I tracked the work of Dr. Anne Richardson-Oakes, recording how it was referenced in other sources such as journal articles, cases, and books. I have improved my knowledge of legal databases and my time management and organisation skills, which will help me greatly as I continue on my LLB and into further study.

Georgia Ellen Cartwright

BLSS Scholar Project: REF Impact
Staff Lead: Dr. Sarah Cooper

Both projects have helped with my research and analytical skills, problem solving, and time management and organisation.

Denisa Bucioaca

"Our Level 4 and 5 BLSS Scholars undertook research projects tracking engagement with research published by academics in the School of Law, exploring, for example, how scholars, courts, and practicing lawyers utilise their research. The students' research will be used to inform the School of Law's submission to the Research Excellence Framework 2021."

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

FUTURE LEGAL SCHOLARS SCHEME (FLSS)

The Future Legal Scholars Scheme (FLSS) was established in 2018/19. The scheme is a cross-collaboration between the School of Law's three research centres, namely the Centre for American Legal Studies, Centre for Human Rights, and Centre for Law, Science and Policy. Each Centre offers one project, which provides selected students with a paid opportunity to work with academics in the Centres to undertake interdisciplinary research projects and to engage with and/or learn about the work of the Centres' external partners around the world. Three exciting FLSS projects took place in 2018/19, engaging six students.



CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

THE UPR PROJECT AT BCU: THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Student Researchers: Holly Jordan,
Maira Tariq, and Helen Rowland
Staff Lead: Dr. Alice Storey

THE UPR PROJECT AT BCU

Led by Dr. Alice Storey, the Centre for Human Rights established 'The UPR Project at BCU' in 2018. One focus of its work is to facilitate the submission of Stakeholder Reports directly to the United Nations' Universal Periodic Review ('UPR'). In September 2019, the UPR Project at BCU will be submitting its first Stakeholder Report to the United States of America's UPR, which will take place in the UN Human Rights Council in May 2020. This submission has been jointly compiled with The Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University, New York. It focuses on three areas of expertise with the School of Law, namely, (1) capital punishment, (2) compassionate release, and, (3) climate change. The FLSS students gathered information from the 2010 and 2015 US UPRs on the selected areas of human rights, along with researching the relevant international human rights standards.

"The work carried out by the students has been directly used by the academic staff writing the Stakeholder Report. This report will be submitted to the United Nations in order to inform the international community of the human rights situation in the US."

Dr. Alice Storey, Lecturer in Law

CENTRE FOR LAW, SCIENCE AND POLICY

PROFESSOR HUGH KOCH LAW & PSYCHOLOGY PRACTICE PRIZE



Student Researcher: Katie Lockhart

Staff Lead: Professor Hugh Koch and Centre for Law, Science and Policy

Professor Hugh Koch is a Visiting Professor in Law and Psychology at BCU's School of Law. He is a clinical psychologist and pioneer in civil litigation, developing the interface between psychology and law in civil cases. Professor Koch is both a Fellow of the British Psychological Society and the Expert Witness Institute. Professor Koch is collaborating with the

Centre for Law, Science and Policy to further interdisciplinary research and teaching in the School of Law, offering students the opportunity to see how law interacts with the discipline of psychology.



I travelled to Harley Street, London to shadow Professor Koch at his Clinical Practice. I primarily sat in on medical-legal meetings. From spending the day with Prof. Koch, I learnt a range of skills including developing my networking ability. Going forward, this experience has made me confident in reaching out and networking with professionals.

Katie Lockhart (Level 5 Student)



CENTRE FOR AMERICAN LEGAL STUDIES

PROJECT: EXPLORING LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY AND COMPASSIONATE RELEASE IN ARIZONA



Students: Thomas Nicklin and Luca Prisciandaro

Staff Lead: Dr. Sarah Cooper

In 2017, Dr. Cooper was awarded funding by the Leverhulme Trust/ British Academy to partner with the Arizona Justice Project and Arizona State University's Post-conviction Clinic to undertake a national study of state compassionate release mechanisms in the USA. Using the data collected, this FLSS project sought to explore attempts to legislate for compassionate release in Arizona. Students

researched the Arizona legislative process; identified bills, seeking to establish laws concerning compassionate release; and developed a summary profile of the content and legislative journey of the bills identified.



Collaborating on this project with Dr. Sarah Cooper was one of most significant experiences during my university career. Not only did I get the chance to learn more about compassionate release and to understand its process, but it also prompted me to improve my research skills in a completely new area of law, tracking legislative bills.

Luca Prisciandaro (Level 6 Student)

FLSS and collaborating with Dr. Cooper was an amazing experience. I had the opportunity to explore areas of law that were entirely new to me, and issues that are the forefront of compassionate release legislation in the US. It has really helped guide my future career aspirations, and it opened my eyes to an entirely different world.

Thomas Nicklin (Level 7 Student)



"Tom and Luca did a fantastic job mining the Arizona state legislature's database to find relevant bills and piece together the legislative process. They found 8 bills particularly relevant to my research, far more than I and my research partners expected! They were diligent and systematic in their research. Their work is presently informing my efforts to draft a model compassionate release bill for Arizona."

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

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 2018/19 Student Editors:

Matthew Hill

Simran Juss

Thomas Nicklin

Eleni Pavlou

Luca Prisciandaro

Maira Tariq

Mercedes Cooling (Team
Leader)



I was selected to be a BJALS Student Editor in 2018/19. Initially, I didn't know anything about being a Student Editor, but when I started to work on the journal papers, I realised that it would be an amazing opportunity to reinforce my Bluebook skills and boost my CV. I really liked the challenges of this project, it is not just about referencing in the proper way, it is about finding the right rule for every single citation. Sometimes it is challenging and sometimes even frustrating, but it's definitely worth it. The skills I gained include patience, teamwork, and the ability to pay more attention to detail.

Luca Prisciandaro (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

CONNECT MENTORS

Staff Lead: Pamela Thomas, Jill Molloy, and SAP

The School of Law's Connect transition project at Birmingham City University originated as a Student Academic Mentoring Partnership, funded by the university's Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT). The name for the project developed from our desire to help students to 'connect' with their mentors, fellow students, academics, and support services, thereby helping them to feel part of the learning community within the School of Law, and more confident in seeking advice and guidance from the mentors. Staff and student partners (Connect Mentors) work together in planning, designing, and delivering the sessions, and to provide on-going support to ensure that students gain and develop the skills they need to successfully transition into more independent learners.

Our 2018/19 Connect Mentors:

Matthew Roberts	Corina Breahna	Melisa Oleschuk
Annika Hanif	Tasnim Noor	Aisha Ejaz
Zanub Matloob	Matilda Rendall	Usman Amir
Arooj Tahir	Hanah Sadiq (PG)	Kiran Multani
Oyinola Alaka	Mehnoor Khalid	
Alia Bi	Nikita Sakhare	



I chose to be part of connect mentoring because I am passionate to see other people thrive in their studies. As a mentor I have been responsible for providing one-to-one mentoring sessions for new first year students. I have helped organise and deliver sessions independently to encourage the students to achieve their academic goals. Being a Connect Mentor has improved my confidence and enhanced my speaking, listening, and leadership skills. I have particularly enjoyed working collaboratively with students and tutors, as it has enabled me to gain valuable insight into both sides of the classroom.

Zanub Matloob (Level 6 Student)

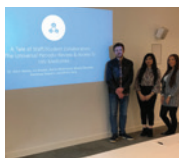


SPECIALLY FUNDED PROJECTS (SFP)

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. We also have students working in the Faculty-wide Student Researcher Scheme (SRS). For the SRS, students are interviewed to be placed in a 'pool of researchers' who can then be selected to work on paid projects. In 2019/20, there will be the opportunity for students to work alongside the BCU Law Clinic as part of the SRS. Read on to find out more about three of the SFPs students worked on in 2018/19.



ANTIRETROVIRALS AND THE RIGHT TO HEALTH: AN EXAMINATION OF THE UN UPR'S EFFECTIVENESS IN IMPROVING ACCESS TO AZT IN HIV-PREVALENT STATES



Student Researchers: Lia Brooks, Amina Mehmood, Melisa Oleschuk, Matthew Roberts, and Maira Tariq

Staff Leads: Dr. Alice Storey & Dr. Mark Eccleston-Turner (Keele University)

This was a BLSS Small Development Grant-funded project, which supported five BCU law students to be paid for their research assistance. The research examines the effectiveness of the UN Universal Periodic Review on improving access to antiretrovirals in the top five states where HIV prevalence is highest: eSwatini (formerly Swaziland), Lesotho, Botswana, South Africa, and Namibia. The student Research Assistants collected data for this project from the UPR documentation, presented their research to staff and students, and created research posters.



My keen interest in international law inspired me to be a part of this project and particularly the impact that the findings from this research would have, as one of the central aims of this research was to tackle the barriers associated with the lack of access to antiretrovirals, in countries where HIV is widespread.

Amina Mehmood (Level 6 Student)

I enjoyed getting an insight into the UPR mechanism as well as gathering the information. It was fascinating to explore the human rights situation in a country I did not know about (eSwatini). Furthermore, it was incredible to see how human rights are promoted internationally, and this confirmed my aspiration to specialise in the field by undertaking a PhD.

Melisa Oleschuk (Level 5 Student)

I have gained and developed many valuable skills. For example, collecting and critically analysing United Nations data, which is an opportunity not many LLB students have. Also being able to collate and present my findings, not only to my supervisors, but at a staff research seminar and at a student conference enhanced my professional skills.

Lia Brooks (Level 6 Student)



"Dr. Eccleston-Turner and I were blown away by the work the five LLB students produced. The students not only collated the UPR data for us, but they also critically analysed engagement with the UPR, detailing pros and cons of the human rights mechanism. Their work fed into a paper I delivered at the University of Leiden's Global Human Rights at Risk conference in June 2019, and will form the basis of two papers Mark and I are co-authoring. It will also add to my growing body of research on the UPR, which will inform external funding applications aimed at facilitating me to connect with key UPR actors."

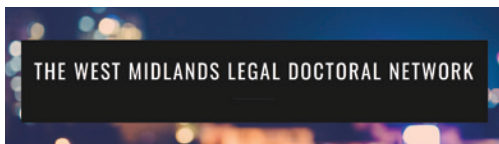
Dr. Alice Storey, Lecturer in Law

WEST MIDLANDS LEGAL DOCTORAL NETWORK EVENT

Student Researchers: Hannah Mambu and Magdelin Agyaman

Staff Lead: Laura Smillie

This SFP (funded by the Research Community Fund at BCU) is part of the School of Law's on-going partnership with the West Midlands Legal Doctoral Network (WMLDN). The partnering institutions include Aston University, Wolverhampton University, Birmingham City University, Coventry University, and University of Birmingham. The WMLDN is a cross-institutional network of doctoral students and academic staff. The aim of the network is to provide a community of support for PhD researchers. The event hosted at BCU is one of three events that have taken place throughout the academic year. The theme of the event was 'Community & Well-being' and involved doctoral students and staff from the partnering institutions to come together to discuss researcher well-being. Magdelin and Hannah were tasked with helping organise this event and were invited to attend a talk by Professor Hugh Koch. Professor Hugh Koch spoke about managing well-being during a PhD and beyond. His talk was extremely valuable not only to PhD students and student researchers, but also academic staff.



Overall, I really enjoyed taking part in the event. Even though the event was pitched at doctoral students, I spoke to students and staff about the process of completing a PhD and they gave me amazing advice. I had never thought about doing a PhD before taking part in this event, however, I now have a better idea about what a PhD involves and I am interested to carry on learning more.

Hannah Mambu (Level 6 Student)



"The students took a very proactive part in the day. They registered members of the WMLDN, helped them find the room, and took part in the main agenda of the day. They made sure the day ran smoothly and I am very grateful to have had their assistance. I hope to see them again at future research events and seminars!"

Laura Smillie, Lecturer in Law

ON THE RECORD



Student Researcher: Mercedes Cooling, Sheya Bradley, Manaar Dayoub, Rose Tempowski, Geraint Evans, Dominic Giles, Khalila Darrell, and Craig Aldous

Staff Leads: Dr. Sarah Cooper, Bernie St Aubyn, and Amanda Andrews

'On the Record' is a collaborative project between academics in the School of Law and School of Nursing and Midwifery. The project - funded by the BCU STEAM Initiative - funded an interdisciplinary team to design and produce a simulation activity highlighting poor and strong examples of record-keeping by nurses. The simulation follows Patient A, who has died following complications with diabetes. Nurses X, Y, and Z (played by nursing students) provided care for Patient A, and kept varying quality records. Following Patient A's death, the nurses must account for their practice in a Fitness to Practice Tribunal before the Nursing and Midwifery Council, where they are cross-examined by Counsel (played by three law students). The simulation was filmed and produced by a student from the faculty of Art, Media and Design, and, at present is being built into a VLE teaching resource to be shared with academics, students, and practitioners.



My OTR experience was extremely enjoyable, a lot of laughs were had, as well as being very informative from a legal aspect of drafting my first examination in chief and getting to role-play a hearing in the NMC which I may have to do one day.

Mercedes Cooling (Level 7 Student)

Regardless of disciplines, we were all after the same results; a film that satisfied the brief, a film that represented both the law and medical profession accurately, and one that we could all be proud to say we were a part of.

Craig Aldous (MA Fine Art Student)



"I love this project! It is a perfect example of how research, teaching, policy and practice can intersect to inform the creation of high quality outputs, and is a wonderful example of the benefits of interdisciplinary working."

Professor Maxine Lintern, Associate Dean for Research, Faculty of Business, Law and Social Sciences

2018/19 STAFF AND STUDENT RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

VRAS

Preventing Domestic Violence in the United Kingdom: The Role of the UN Universal Periodic Review
Staff Lead: Dr. Alice Storey | Student Researcher: Georgia Ellen Cartwright

Mapping Out the Judicial Mind
Staff Lead: Dr. Liviu Damsa | Student Researcher: Jamie Langley

The Use of the Civil Grand Jury in the United States in General and California in Particular
Staff Lead: Dr. Anne Richardson-Oakes | Student Researcher: Lauren Harris

California v. Trump: Pushing Back on Environmental Deregulation
Staff Lead: Dr. Anne Richardson-Oakes | Student Researchers: Junayed Naim & Simran Juss

The Centre for American Legal Studies Controversies Series: An Impact Study
Dr. Anne Richardson-Oakes and Dr. Sarah Cooper | Student Researchers: Luca Prisciandaro, Sabah Akhtar, & Georgia Birch

Why Marriage Needs to Divorce the Church of England
Staff Lead: Rhonda Hammond-Sharlot | Student Researchers: Sophie Reynolds & Alia Bi

Investigation into How Regulatory Intervention Affects the Growth of Digital Financial Services
Staff Lead: Dr. Nwanneka Ezechukwu | Student Researchers: Sabrina Badrunin & Annika Hanif

The Pathway to the Profession (SQE)
Lauren Haddock and Helen Munro | Student Researchers: Holly Jordan, Amy Harker, & Jodie Horne

A Legal History of Sanctuary Cities
Staff Lead: Dr. Ilaria Di Gioia | Student Researchers: Denisa Catalina Bucioaca & Robyn Barnett

Time-lining a Wrongful Conviction
Staff Lead: Dr. Sarah Cooper and External Partner | Student Researchers: Mehnoor Khalid & Shanita Manhertz

Maximising Moodle to Enhance Student Engagement and Participation
Staff Lead: Jill Molloy, Pamela Thomas, & SAP | Student Researchers: Eleni Pavlou & Edrissa Cham

Rethinking the European Harmonisation Debate
Staff Lead: Dr. Emilie Ghio | Eleanor Burrows, Lenka Zacharenkova, Shimai Al Dala, Davide Puccini, & Samuel Miah

Paying the Penalty: The Impact of Lethal Injection on Access to Essential Medicines
Dr. Alice Storey and External Partner | Tamanna Nishat, Zainab Khalil, & Amina Mehmood

Waiting to Die: Considering Delay as a Breach of Law
Dr. Nkem Adeleye | Kiran Preet Multani & Sheya Bradley.

Towards a Globalised Common Law: Evidence from the UK Supreme Court
Dr. Anne Richardson-Oakes | Gurcharn Singh & Klaudia Chlebos

BLOSS SCHOLARS

Constitutional Reasoning and Labour Law in Europe: A Project for the Constitutional Council of the French Republic | Staff Lead: Dr. Luke Mason | Amy Harker

REF Impact Project | Staff Lead: Dr. Sarah Cooper | Student Researchers: Denisa Catalina Bucioaca & Georgia Ellen Cartwright

FUTURE LEGAL SCHOLARS SCHEME

Centre for Human Rights | The UPR Project at BCU: The United States of America | Staff Lead: Dr. Alice Storey | Student Researchers: Holly Jordan, Maira Tariq, & Helen Rowland

Centre for American Legal Studies | Exploring Legislative Activity and Compassionate Release in Arizona | Staff Lead: Dr. Sarah Cooper | Student Researchers: Luca Prisciandaro & Thomas Nicklin

Centre for Law, Science & Policy | Professor Hugh Koch Law and Psychology Practice Prize | Staff Lead: Dr. Sarah Cooper & Professor Hugh Koch (Visiting Professor at BCU) | Student Researcher: Katie Lockhart

SPECIALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

Antiretrovirals and the Right to Health: An Examination of the UN UPR's Effectiveness in Improving Access to AZT in HIV-Prevalent States | Staff Lead: Dr. Alice Storey & Dr. Mark Eccleston-Turner | Student Researchers: Melisa Oleschuk, Matthew Roberts, Lia Brooks, Amina Mehmood, & Maira Tariq

West Midlands Legal Doctoral Network Event | Staff Lead: Laura Smillie | Student Researchers: Hannah Mambu and Magdelin Agyamanh

Preventing Domestic Violence in the UK: The Role of the UN Universal Periodic Review | Staff Lead: Dr. Alice Storey | Student Researcher: Melisa Oleschuk

Impact Tracking (REF) | Staff Lead: Dr. Sarah Cooper | Student Researchers: Sophie Reynolds, Melisa Oleschuk, Denisa Bucioaca, & Thomas Nicklin

Examining the Effect of Cross Examination and Expert Testimony on Jurors' Certainty Levels (Law and Psychology) | Staff Lead: Dr. Sarah Cooper & Dr. Paraic Scanlon | Student Researcher: Ellis Hart

STUDENT RESEARCHER SCHEME

Our current SRS students are: Magdelin Agyamanh; Mariam Ali; Nafisa Alom; Jessica Bennett; Alia Bi; Denisa Bucioaca; Georgia Ellen Cartwright; Nikita Sakhare; Jaswinder Singh; Lauren Tyrell.

Congratulations to all students who have been involved in research collaborations with staff in the School of Law and beyond this year. We have particularly enjoyed showcasing all of the students' fantastic contributions to research at our Celebration Event back in May 2019. We hope to continue putting on more of these types of events and welcoming more students to join our portfolio of research opportunities in 2019/20!

Alice & Laura

@BCU_Law @myBCUresearch

INDICATIVE SCHEDULE OF 2019/20 STUDENT RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SCHOOL OF LAW

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY	WHO CAN APPLY?	WHEN TO APPLY?
Voluntary Research Assistantships (VRA)	Open to Level 4, 5, and 6 students with a 2:1 overall average for that academic year.	Level 4 callouts = February. Level 5 callouts = September/October. Level 6 callouts = September/October.
BLSS Scholar	Levels 4, 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 4 callouts = February. Level 5 callouts = September/October. Level 6 callouts = September/October.
Future Legal Scholars Scheme (FLSS)	Each research centre in the School of Law will put out a yearly call for FLSS Scholars. Levels 4, 5, 6, and 7 students can apply.	The Director of Research will communicate this to students via Moodle.
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
Connect Mentors	Levels 5, 6, and 7 can apply to be Connect Mentors.	Please contact pamela.thomas@bcu.ac.uk and jill.molloy@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.




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