

ESSEX LAW SCHOOL MAGAZINE

July 2025



University of Essex

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ESSEX LAW SCHOOL MAGAZINE

A Welcome Message from the Dean



It is my pleasure to introduce to you the Essex Law School Magazine.

At Essex Law School, we are very fortunate to be surrounded by green spaces. Some of our offices have views on to our secret garden, a beautiful courtyard where staff and students often gather for lunch. Other offices, like mine, overlook our parklands and lake. At this time of year, my view is even better as the parkland serves as the backdrop to our graduation ceremonies. For me, this is one of the best times of year when students return with their families and friends to celebrate their time at Essex.

As I look out of my window, I am acutely aware of our students' next steps and the world in which they are going on to work. It is a world of immense challenge, uncertainty, conflict, and political upheaval. I firmly believe that they are leaving not only with a world class legal education but with the analytical, critical, practical and interpersonal skills to equip them fully to make a difference in the world as it is today.

At Essex, we place as much emphasis on pastoral support as we do on learning, analysing and critiquing the law and even after our students leave, we are always here to celebrate their successes as well as talk through career experiences and options. If you haven't been in touch for a while, please do reconnect - we would love to hear about what you are doing!

As Dean, I am lucky to hear about student, staff, alumni and partner success every day. In this magazine, we only have the space to share some of the highlights of the year - but there are so many more! Reading through the magazine, I was reminded not only of the groundbreaking and international nature of our education and research but also how collaborative our School is with so many examples of students, staff and alumni working together to address global challenges.

I hope you enjoy reading as much as I have.

Professor Onyeka Osuji
Dean
Essex Law School
July 2025

Summer Graduation

PhD Spotlight on Christina

Congratulations on your graduation! How does it feel to be back at Essex for this celebration?

It's incredibly meaningful to return. Essex was not only the place where I deepened my knowledge of human rights, but also where I found a strong community. Being back to celebrate this milestone feels like coming full circle.

Can you tell us what your PhD focused on? How did you develop an interest in this topic and what brought you to Essex to pursue this PhD?

My PhD explored how Indigenous peoples in the Amazon use international human rights mechanisms to defend their lands and territories. The topic grew out of earlier work with grassroots organisations and a deep concern with the colonial legacies embedded in legal systems. I chose Essex because of its strong interdisciplinary approach and its long-standing commitment to human rights scholarship.

Do you have plans to publish your PhD?

Yes, I am currently working on turning the thesis into a book. A piece related to the research has already been published in the



↑ Christina Blanco (left) pictured with her PhD Supervisor, Dr Anil Yilmaz Vastardis.

Leiden Journal of International Law, which was an exciting opportunity to engage with broader academic debates on human rights and decoloniality.

You are currently working for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The human rights system is currently under huge financial and political pressure as the result of pushback by certain states. In your view, why is it so critical that we protect these institutions?

Human rights institutions play a vital role in upholding the rule of law and offering a pathway to justice when domestic systems fail. Despite their limitations, they are one of the few spaces where

historically marginalised voices can challenge state power. Defending them is about defending the very possibility of accountability.

Can you give us a flavour of the types of issues you have worked on at the Commission and their importance for the protection of human rights?

I have worked on a range of issues - from the rights of Indigenous peoples and women's rights to democratic erosion and state violence. These are not abstract problems; they involve people whose lives have been profoundly affected by injustice. Being part of a process that seeks truth, and reparation is both a responsibility and a privilege.

Meet Mackenzie: The Final-Year Law Student Shaping the Essex Law Clinic

Mackenzie Wilkinson-Rouse, a final year LLB student from Colchester, is making a remarkable impact at Essex. As a Student Director at the Essex Law Clinic, he plays a key leadership role, supporting both his peers and the wider community. We had a chance to catch up with him to talk about his experience at Essex and his future plans.

What do you want to do once you finish your degree?

Upon completing my degree, I plan to attend BPP University in London to pursue an LLM (Master of Laws) alongside a Solicitors Qualifying Examination preparation course.

Why did you choose Essex Law School?

I chose the University of Essex

for its strong research reputation as well as the opportunity to gain practical legal experience through the Essex Law Clinic. The Clinic allows students to develop essential skills by working on real client-facing cases, which was particularly appealing to me as I prepare for a legal career. Additionally, having lived in Colchester my entire life, I wanted to balance affordability with attending a well-respected university, especially in light of rising living costs.

Tell us about your extracurricular activities.

My primary extracurricular involvement has been with the Essex Law Clinic, where I have progressively taken on greater responsibilities each year:

- In my first year, I was a Bronze member (find out more about **memberships**). I joined the Homelessness and Housing Project, attending a Colchester outreach centre weekly to provide support to clients. Where necessary, I referred guests to the Clinic for further legal assistance.
- As a Silver Member, in my second year, I began handling



cases, working alongside another student and a supervisor to conduct client interviews. Depending on the case, we either provided immediate in-person advice or followed up with a formal letter of advice within twenty working days.

- In my final year, I joined the Clinic as a Platinum Member and I currently serve as Student Director alongside Urszula Nitecka. In this role, I assist in training new students, act as a representative for all student members, and help enhance the overall student experience within the Clinic. My progression to Gold and subsequently Platinum membership reflects my commitment and contributions to the Clinic.



↑ Essex Law Clinic Team 2024–25. Front row (L–R): Lucy Davies, Urszula Nitecka, Dr Olayinka Lewis. Back row (L–R): Liz Fisher-Frank, Mackenzie Wilkinson-Rouse, and Michele Stephens.

What have you enjoyed most about your time here?

During my time at Essex, I have enjoyed the opportunity to truly be myself without feeling the need to conform to expectations. This has allowed me to build meaningful friendships and enjoy my university experience in a way I hadn't in previous stages of my life. I have also embraced the diverse and inclusive environment at Essex, which has given me the chance to learn from my peers and gain a deeper understanding of different cultures and backgrounds.

Can you tell us about your work experience?

Throughout my studies, I have worked part-time at Tesco, primarily in customer service roles, including Self-Service and the Customer Service Desk. My

responsibilities include assisting customers with self-service checkouts and ensuring a smooth shopping experience. This role has significantly strengthened my customer service skills, which are highly transferable to my legal work, particularly in client communication and problem-solving.

Since December 2024, as part of my studies, I began volunteering with Support Through Court, a charity that assists individuals who cannot afford legal representation. This experience has provided valuable insight into the day-to-day responsibilities of solicitors and barristers. My role includes assisting clients with completing court forms and understanding the judicial process; attending court hearings, taking notes, and helping clients stay focused during

proceedings; explaining case outcomes and next steps to clients post-hearing. This opportunity has allowed me to develop practical legal skills while making a meaningful impact on individuals navigating the justice system.

If you could go back in time to give one piece of advice to your younger self as you started your degree (or to new students starting their degrees), what would it be?

Get involved in events and social activities early on. I waited until my final year to engage more because I already had friends from school nearby, but building connections within your course is invaluable. These relationships can provide support during university and may prove beneficial in the future!

Empowering Change: Raksha's Journey at Essex Law School

Raksha Sunder is a final-year LLB student and the Vice President of the Essex Law Society for the 2024–2025 academic year. As a dedicated Law Star, she has played a pivotal role in mentoring peers, organising academic events, and championing student engagement across Essex Law School. Driven by a passion for creating meaningful connections and a more inclusive student experience, Raksha has helped transform the Law Society into a thriving community where students feel supported both academically and socially.

We sat down with Raksha to hear more about her journey, her leadership in revitalising the Law Society, and the moments that made her time at Essex truly unforgettable.

Tell us a bit about yourself.

Hi! My name is Raksha. I'm a final-year Law student and the Vice President of the Essex Law Society for the year 2024-2025. I've also been a Law Star, involved in mentoring, academic events, and everything in between. I'm passionate about making law school not just about lectures and deadlines, but about creating a community where students genuinely enjoy learning and growing together.

What is your favourite thing about Essex Law School/Essex Law Clinic?

What I love most is how involved the staff and SU reps are in shaping the student experience. As a rep myself, I attended several Student Voice Group meetings and saw firsthand how much effort the professors put into listening to student feedback and making real improvements. It makes you feel like your voice actually matters.



Another amazing part of Essex Law School is the Essex Law Clinic. It's such a valuable way to gain practical legal experience while studying, and at the same time, give back to the local community. I was able to build my confidence in legal research and advice, especially in family law, which paid off in my final year when I got a family law placement through the Clinical Legal Education module. Thanks to my Law Clinic experience, I felt well-prepared and really excelled in it.

How did you get involved in the Law Society?

In my first year, the Law Society was one of the biggest and most



↑ Essex Law Ball 2025 – The Essex Law Society Executive Team. Raksha is third from the right.

active groups on campus, full of events, socials, and opportunities to connect. It's where I met a lot of my closest friends. My friends and I joined the exec team and we grew the society from around 60 members in 2023-24 to over 200 members in 2024-25.

What did you enjoy most about being VP of Essex Law Society?

Without a doubt, it was seeing students make new connections through the events we organised. Our very first event was a pizza party. We expected maybe 25 people, but 90 turned up! It was chaotic in the best way. That level of participation continued throughout the year, even in our academic sessions like the CV-building workshop and the commercial awareness event. There's something special about learning law and making friends at the same time. Being part of that

vibrant community and knowing that I helped create it made the experience incredibly rewarding.

As VP, I planned most of the society's events, managed our exec meetings, delegated weekly tasks to the exec members, liaised with the SU, and even organised the annual Law Ball, which is the biggest society event of the year. I also used my role as a Law Star to connect with first and second years in different settings and encouraged them to get involved, which helped widen our reach and impact.

What do you hope to do once you graduate?

I'm graduating in July 2025 and heading to UCL to pursue a Master's in Law, something I've always dreamed of. It's going to be intense, but I'm excited to explore new challenges and hopefully get

involved in student life there too, just like I did here.

How can students get involved with the Law Society?

Get involved from your first year! Whether you're looking to meet people, learn about different legal careers, or improve your commercial awareness, the Law Society has something for everyone. You don't have to know everything about law, just be open to new experiences. It's one of the best ways to make the most out of your time at Essex Law School.

Connecting at the UN Forum on Business & Human Rights

In November 2024, LLM and MA students from Essex, specialising in Business and Human Rights, participated in the 13th United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland, where they took notes during the sessions to contribute to the Forum's final report.

The annual event serves as a multi-stakeholder platform for exploring key trends and challenges in the implementation and advancement of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the leading international instrument on businesses' human rights responsibilities. The theme this time round was 'Realizing the "Smart Mix of Measures" to protect human rights in the context of business activities.'

Our students found the experience deeply enriching. As one explained,

'Being a note-taker meant you were able to sit in the sessions and truly immerse yourself in the discussions.

'As there were a variety of topics on the agenda for the conference and enough other volunteers, we were able to choose the topics that we were interested in and attend those sessions. This meant that the experience was a great opportunity to learn from and meet practitioners in the field and deepen your knowledge of the areas in BHR that you are interested in.'

Not everyone who applies to volunteer at the Forum is selected, as there is understandably strong interest and a competitive selection process. However, based on years of impressive contributions, from both academic staff and students, ELS volunteers are well-regarded by the Geneva-based human rights community, including the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which organises the volunteers.

'With the exception of the Covid years, when the Forum was fully online, we've been able to consistently arrange for students to serve as volunteers at the Forum,' explained Dr Anil Yilmaz Vastardis,

one of the world's leading experts in Business and Human Rights and a Senior Lecturer at ELS. 'They always report back that they've had a wonderful time and have learned more about the field of Business and Human Rights than they expected.'

At the Forum, students are also given an opportunity to connect with our alumni. 'We probably boast the largest alumni delegation at the Forum every year,' Dr Tara Van Ho, Honorary Senior Lecturer at ELS, explained. 'Our alumni attend as part of every stakeholder group at the Forum--civil society, government representatives, businesses, and academia. We catch up with them in between meetings and ensure our students get to connect with the broader family they are joining by becoming an Essex alumnus. This also shows them the variety of career paths they can take.'

This year, our students also had the opportunity to listen to Dr Van Ho speak on a panel about the human rights responsibilities of the arms trade while Dr Yilmaz Vastardis spoke on a panel about business and human rights education.

Event Highlights

Public Law Lecture with Professor Alison L. Young

On 19 March 2025, the University of Essex hosted a distinguished lecture by Professor Alison L. Young, Sir David Williams Professor of Public Law at the University of Cambridge. Sponsored by Thomson Reuters and Sweet & Maxwell, the event explored the nuanced distinction between parliamentary legislative supremacy and sovereignty in the UK constitution.

Professor Young argued that while Parliament holds legislative supremacy, it is not sovereign—a distinction that strengthens democratic accountability. The lecture was introduced by Professors Onyeka Osuji and Aileen McHarg, and moderated by Professor Maurice Sunkin KC.



↑ Professor Alison L. Young (pictured) delivering the Public Law Lecture.

Spotlight on Visiting Lecturer Lecture: Professor Ulla Gläßer



↑ Professor Ulla Gläßer (left) with Dr Tara Van Ho.

On 18 November 2024, Essex Law School welcomed Professor Ulla Gläßer, LL.M., as a visiting lecturer for a thought-provoking session titled 'A Long Way from Home...'

Her lecture explored the challenges of protecting human rights and the environment in transnational supply chains, offering a critical look at current

regulatory frameworks and enforcement practices.

The event was chaired by Dr Tara Van Ho, co-leader of the Essex Business and Human Rights Project, and drew an engaged audience from across the university. Professor Gläßer's insights sparked lively discussion and left attendees with much to reflect on.

Spotlight on Professor Geoff Gilbert's Work

The Independent Declaration on the Meaningful Participation of Refugees

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as at the end of 2024, there were 39.4 million refugees and asylum seekers, plus 5.9 million Palestinian people in the United Nations Relief and Works Agency's (UNRWA) mandate.



On top of that, there were 73.5 million persons facing internal displacement and another 5.9 million people in need of international protection from UNHCR – 123.2 million people in UNHCR's mandate, 1 in 8 of the world's population... and that does not include the 4.4 million stateless persons who are equally in UNHCR's mandate. Of those displaced across an international border, 67% were in "protracted situations, ... defined as those where more than 25,000 refugees from the same country of origin have been in exile in a given low- or middle-income host country for at least five consecutive years".^[1] The humanitarian and human rights needs have never been greater.

To start, many UNHCR field offices have been including the refugee voice for many years and not in some tokenistic way. Since the Global Compact on Refugees, 2018, the refugee voice provided by refugee-led organizations (RLOs) has been core to UNHCR

and protection initiatives. However, it still was not a right, it was not always respected. For over a year now, an international Working Group composed of experts with lived experience of displacement and statelessness, alongside scholars, practitioners, and legal professionals have been meeting regularly through workshops and monthly virtual meetings that are inclusive, participatory and multidisciplinary to establish a right to participate. In May 2025, 10 of us met in Jakarta, Indonesia, for three days to review and revise the draft Declaration.

The group had five lawyers and five non-lawyers, and there were five with lived experience of forced displacement or statelessness. The Independent Declaration is the outcome of that meeting and the subsequent consultations with the wider Working Group who could not make it to Jakarta. As an international refugee lawyer with over 30-years' experience working with UNHCR in the field

and in Geneva, I had the privilege to work as part of that mixed team in Jakarta.

The Independent Declaration, launched on World Refugee Day, 20th June 2025, consists of just five articles, but they are underpinned by a 28-page Commentary to justify this proposed development of international protection through human rights. Article 1 provides the fundamental core obligation for all actors who in some way are responsible for decisions affecting refugees and others experiencing forced displacement or statelessness: "All refugees and others experiencing forced displacement or statelessness have the right to participate in all decisions that directly or indirectly affect them". As such, the Independent Declaration will have a direct impact for the 127.6 million persons within UNHCR's mandate. To quote the Working Group, "Our goal is to provide clear, actionable guidance and

framework for States, UN bodies, NGOs, and other stakeholders to support and facilitate meaningful refugee participation. By doing so, we aim to contribute to a global displacement response that is accountable, transparent, sustainable, and grounded in the lived experiences of displaced individuals".

Going forward, working with like-minded governments, UNHCR and other humanitarian actors, and civil society organisations, the plan is to have it adopted at a range of international fora and build towards its global acceptance so that refugees and others living with the experience of forced displacement and statelessness are part of all decisions that affect them.

GS Gilbert, Sérgio Vieira de Mello Professor of International Human Rights & Humanitarian Law, Senior Adviser to PPLA, Division of International Protection, UNHCR.



↑ Professor Gilbert pictured right, during the roundtable.



↑ Working Group Members at a drafting roundtable in Indonesia. From left to right: Mohammad Baqir Bayani, Basma Alawee, Stephanie Lopez, Nicholas McMurtry, Brian Barbour, Najeeba Wazefadost, Noor Azizah, Geoff Gilbert, Tristan Harley and Keyvan Dorostkar. Image credits: Ali Haider Sultani and Janbaz Salehi 2025.

^[1] UNHCR Global Trends, June 2025.

Partnership News

Advancing Cooperation Between Essex and Ain Shams

From 6 to 8 May 2025, Professor Osuji (Dean of the Law School) and Dr Matthew Gillett (Director of Partnerships) travelled to Egypt to further the University of Essex's partnership with Ain Shams University in Cairo.

In accordance with the overarching Cooperation Agreement signed between the two universities, Essex Law School and the Faculty of Law at Ain Shams University signed a memorandum of understanding designed to further their collaboration.

During the visit, Professor Osuji and Dr Gillett also presented at a conference on dispute resolution and convention drafting, which was extremely well attended, and Professor Osuji provided a focused class on PhD proposal drafting.

Essex Law School looks forward to further engagement with Ain Shams, through research visits, collaborative teaching, and joint conferences.

Specifically, to implement the inter-departmental MoU, three main tracks are now being developed. These are: visits of Ain Shams teaching assistants (who are also PhD students) to Essex; Joint conferences and seminars; and Joint teaching involving one or more ELS academics travelling to Ain Shams periodically to co-teach a part of a module there.



↑ Professor Osuji and Dr Matthew Gillett whilst on a tour.



↑ Professor Osuji during his PhD class.

Essex and BIC's Growing Partnership

Professor Karen Hulme was delighted to visit our new partner, Beaconhouse International College (BIC) in Pakistan, for a week in April. Beaconhouse International College's School of Laws is a prestigious institution known for its commitment to academic excellence and innovation in legal education.



↑ Professor Karen Hulme (pictured centre) during her visit at BIC.

This year has seen the first cohorts on our new transnational education partnership between Essex Law School and BIC, where our LLB Law and LLM in International Commercial and Business Law degrees are taught in Pakistan.

During her visit, Karen was given a very warm welcome by the Directors of the two campuses in Islamabad and Lahore and their excellent teaching staff. Strong emphasis is placed on instilling in their students the benefits of strong academic inquiry as well

as professional legal skills. Karen delivered an interactive class on the law of evidence.

Karen said, "both campuses felt very friendly and well-resourced, staff were clearly experts in their fields and students were very engaged and enthusiastic for their studies. Islamabad, in particular, struck me as a beautiful place to study, surrounded by green spaces and immersed in the majesty of the Himalayas".

BIC is adding a new campus in Karachi for 2025 entry.

Student Competitions

Our Double Degree Students Completed a Unique Challenge

On 24 and 25 March 2025, students from Essex Law School's English and French Law Double Degree programme showcased their legal expertise in a unique internal competition. This event replicated a pivotal stage of the French concours d'agrégation, a rigorous examination that aspiring academics must pass to attain full professorship.

Over 24 hours, four teams tackled complex legal topics inspired by pop culture and philosophy, preparing a 45-minute lecture to present the next day. Themes ranged from Spider-Man's "With great power comes great responsibility" to Seneca's reflections on vulnerability.

Each team's candidate delivered their lecture to a jury of legal academics, showcasing deep legal insight, critical thinking, and cross-jurisdictional knowledge. After intense deliberation, Caroline Rifaux and her team were named winners of the Essex French Law Competition 2025.



↑ The judges and Dean with the winning team.

The event concluded with a closing ceremony featuring Professor John Bell (Cambridge), Ed Poulton (Baker & McKenzie), and Professor Onyeka Osuji (Dean of Essex Law School), who celebrated the value of multiculturalism in legal education.

Read the full blog post here: essex.ac.uk/blog/posts/2025/03/27/essex-french-law-comp



↑ Emily Hogan and Finutanoluwa Ade-Onanuga pictured centre, with this year's Judges.

Team Essex Shines at National Client Interviewing Competition

A team of Essex Law School students proudly clinched third place at the 2025 Client Interviewing Competition, held on Saturday 8 March at Swansea University. Representing the University of Essex, law students Emily Hogan and Finutanoluwa Ade-Onanuga impressed judges with their professionalism, insight, legal knowledge, and communication skills in three different interviewing simulations with clients facing consumer law issues.

Students were guided by the mentorship of Dr Julia Constantino Chagas Lessa, whose support was instrumental throughout the competition journey.

The two students were selected to represent the University at the national competition from an internal client interviewing competition held at Essex Law School. The internal competition enables students to practice their communication skills, professionalism, quick thinking, research skills and improve their legal knowledge. Developing these skills supports students in preparing for their future careers.

Emily and Finutanoluwa's achievement at the national Client Interviewing Competition highlights the strength of Essex Law School's legal education and the talent of its students.

Congratulations to the team for making us proud!



The Law of the Sea at Essex

CURE Magazine 2025 Spotlight

The law of the sea is one of the oldest branches of public international law. It serves two main functions: the spatial distribution of state jurisdictions over the ocean and the common management of marine ecosystems.

As the ocean is a connected space which concerns all States and humankind, the common regulation of the ocean has always been important for the international community. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), concluded in 1982, serves as a comprehensive "Constitution for the Ocean," with 320 Articles and nine Annexes. Under Annex VI of UNCLOS, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) was established as a permanent tribunal for law of the sea disputes. Since its establishment, ITLOS has contributed to the development of international jurisprudence in the law of the sea, including but not limited to prompt release cases, maritime delimitation, and the management of marine resources.

Essex Law School is one of the few institutions in the world offering a module on the International Law of the Sea, taught and researched by Dr Antonio Coco, Dr Meagan Wong, and Dr So Yeon Kim. To ensure that students benefit from our research, we have hosted various law of the sea-related events, including the Modern Law Review Seminar on the newly adopted Marine Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement in December 2024. This event provided students with the opportunity to meet ITLOS Judge Ida Caracciolo and discuss what they had learned in the International Law of the Sea module.

In terms of research, Dr So Yeon Kim has published extensively on the law of the sea, particularly in the areas of the protection of the marine environment, maritime security and territorial and maritime disputes. She recently published an article on requests for advisory opinions from the International Court of Justice and ITLOS regarding climate change. The recent requests for advisory opinions have been groundbreaking in addressing the challenges of climate change under the traditional framework of the law of the sea.

As part of this ongoing academic work, on 24 March 2025, Judge Tomas Heidar (President of ITLOS)

visited Essex Law School to deliver a special guest lecture. The event was moderated by Dr So Yeon Kim. During his talk, Judge Heidar discussed the landmark advisory opinion delivered by ITLOS on climate change, which recognised greenhouse gas emissions as a form of marine pollution that must be prevented, reduced, and controlled under UNCLOS. While efforts to encourage state participation in addressing climate change have traditionally fallen within the framework of climate change law, the ITLOS advisory opinion opened a new avenue for regulating greenhouse gas emissions under the law of the sea.

The event provided an invaluable opportunity for our students to engage with a leading legal expert directly involved in this landmark decision on the pressing issue of climate change and its impact on the ocean. The lecture also bridged various fields of law, including public international law, the law of the sea, and environmental law. As one of the few institutions offering comprehensive undergraduate and postgraduate modules in these areas, Essex Law School showcased its strengths in both teaching and research, with active participation from staff and students.

Essex Law School's Interdisciplinary Impact on EDI

Essex Law School was out in force at an interdisciplinary Cross University Research Event held at the University of Essex on 30 April 2025.

The School's participation in the event not only demonstrates our commitment to cross-discipline engagement, but also to the promotion of the values of equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI), which was the theme of the event. There were four speakers from Essex Law School, presenting on a wide range of equality-related topics, including on behalf of wider research teams both within and beyond the University.

Dr Giulia Gentile presented her preliminary findings for the collaborative project 'EXPRESS2' which runs from 2024-2027, funded by the EU Commission. As part of her work on this project, she is exploring the impact of digitisation on the EU social contract with the view to make the EU more resilient through and against digital tools.

Dr Niall O'Connor also discussed his Horizon Europe/Innovate UK-funded project, EU-CIEMBLy which is a large interdisciplinary project with partners from across Europe and the wider world and which aims to integrate intersectional equality considerations into the design and delivery of citizens' assemblies. Niall presented the project on behalf of the wider team which includes Essex Law School colleagues Dr Anastasia Karatzia and Dr Samantha Woodward.

Dr Comfort Tioluwani spoke about the importance of including marginalised communities in sustainability discourse and practice. Her talk explored how structural inequalities shape environmental outcomes and emphasised the need for inclusive, community-led approaches to achieving equitable sustainability. The presentation highlighted the importance and practical benefits of ensuring that sustainability initiatives are informed by diverse voices, particularly those historically excluded from decision-making spaces.

Finally, Dr Tom Flynn presented on the work he has been doing on 'Parity of Esteem as a Constitutional

Principle in Northern Ireland and Beyond'. Dr Flynn organised a conference held at the Mitchel Institute at Queen's University Belfast in April that brought together a wide range of international scholars to discuss the understudied concept of parity of esteem. States are generally jealous things and demand the loyalty of their citizens. However, parity of esteem requires the state to respect and valorise both the desire to remain a part of the state (British unionism) and the desire to join another state (Irish nationalism). Secessionism is rarely treated this way in constitutional law, and participants in the conference discussed the idea of parity of esteem in the context of Northern Ireland, Spain, Switzerland, pre-partition India, and in the contexts of feminist constitutionalism and the deprivation of citizenship.

The range of presentations offered gives a taste of the breadth and depth of research being conducted at Essex Law School, our commitment to engagement between disciplines, and our continued success at obtaining research funding for collaborative projects.

Combating Ecocide: Workshop Summary



↑ Ecocide workshop participants, with Dr Gillett (blue tie), Dr Lostal (white shirt) and Sungeon Choi (first right).

On Thursday 26 June, Essex Law School hosted a hybrid workshop - Combating Ecocide - bringing together experts from around the world. The event was led by Dr Matthew Gillett, Dr Marina Lostal, and Research Assistant, Sungeon Choi, and was made possible through an International Impact Grant from the University of Essex.

Ecocide broadly refers to serious human-caused harm to the environment. At present, the international community is attempting to adopt a specific legal definition of ecocide as a crime. To this end, ecocide has been proposed by Vanuatu, Fiji and Samoa as the fifth crime before the International Criminal Court and its definition is currently being debated. The Combating Ecocide Workshop was designed to contribute to these efforts, by examining key aspects of ecocide and its repression and proposing guidance for the formulation of ecocide. During its four sessions, the Workshop brought together participants including members of the Independent Expert Panel

which proposed the most well-known definition of ecocide and ICC prosecutors, who have experience applying legal formulations. UN Special Rapporteurs on Toxics and on the Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment, also participated, providing insights regarding the human rights implications of defining ecocide. A representative from the Wildlife Justice Commission, emphasised the importance of protecting not just entire species of animals but also smaller populations. Additionally, a speaker from the Ukraine Registry of Damage, added views on identifying and quantifying environmental damage. The inputs were produced across four sessions:



↑ During the workshop at Essex.

Session 1: Contextualising Ecocide

This session explored the theoretical and normative foundations of ecocide. Discussions included ecocentric and anthropocentric perspectives, and how ecocide relates to international criminal, environmental, humanitarian, and human rights law.

Session 2: Animals and Ecocide

Participants examined the potential inclusion of animals within legal definitions of ecocide. The session raised questions about legal personhood and the scope of protection for non-human life.

Session 3: Defining Ecocide

This session focused on legal definitions of ecocide, including recent proposals and the elements of actus reus and mens rea. Debates addressed whether ecocide should be defined by

conduct or result, and how to consider environmental, social, and economic factors.

Session 4: Victims and Reparations

The final session discussed justice for victims of ecocide, including critiques of the current ICC victim framework. Innovative approaches to reparations were considered, such as recognising nature as a rights-holder.

The Workshop was intended to sensitise key actors in the struggle to define and adopt ecocide to major inflection points in the definition as well as ecocide's role in the broader context of international law. It was an opportunity to inform all participants about the research produced by University of Essex scholars in this domain, including Drs. Gillett and Lostal among others. Key challenges that remain are: ensuring that a human rights compliant definition of ecocide is adopted; ensuring that ecocide is formulated with due regard for the

protection of animals; clarifying who and what can be victims of ecocide; and strengthening the implementation of ecocide in domestic jurisdictions around the World.

The Combating Ecocide impact project is an excellent platform from which to pursue these goals, which the grant recipients will continue to do, through a policy paper and scholarly publication drawing together their insights on the definition and implementation of ecocide.



Funding Secured

Drs Uchechukwu Nwoke, Godswill Agbaitoro, and Comfort Tioluwani have been awarded a British Academy/Leverhulme Small Research Grant for their study titled, “The Role of Local Informal Institutions in Implementing Effective Corporate Social Responsibility Policies in Nigeria”.

The project, spanning 20 months, explores how local informal institutions – such as culture, values, philosophies, languages, family, religion, and art – play a role in shaping effective corporate social responsibility (CSR) frameworks in Nigeria.

The research seeks to uncover how these informal institutions shape corporate governance and help develop more effective CSR strategies. There are gaps in our knowledge of the usefulness of these institutions and how they can be integrated into the CSR regime of corporations in a developing economy like Nigeria.

While previous studies have mainly concentrated on the contributions of formal national institutions to sustainable community development, the role of informal institutions has been largely overlooked. By focusing on informal structures, the project intends to enhance the effectiveness of CSR initiatives by incorporating these local elements into corporate governance practices.

The main goal is to foster a sense of ownership among community members, thereby strengthening CSR projects and supporting sustainable development.

In addition to reviewing available documents on CSR policies/practices, we will be conducting interviews and focus group discussions with stakeholders in five communities in Nigeria. We plan to publish academic articles with the results of our research but also hope that this unique and groundbreaking project will help to shape CSR frameworks in Nigeria as well as serve as a model in other countries.

Interview

Class of 2025: Zeynep Baysar



↑ Zeynep Baysar.

For Zeynep Baysar, Essex’s “outstanding” reputation in human rights law meant there was no doubt about where she should study her masters.

After completing an undergraduate degree in Law, Zeynep was keen to apply her knowledge alongside further studying. Essex’s Human Rights Centre Clinic offered the perfect platform for her to gain real-world experience.

“It wasn’t just about learning human rights law in theory”, Zeynep says of the Clinic, which allows students to work on real-world human rights issues alongside academics.

“It was about engaging with real cases, conducting impactful research, and making meaningful contributions. Witnessing the real-world impact of our work has been

incredibly fulfilling. The friendships I built along the way also made my time really special.”

“From late-night studying to the conversations that challenged my perspectives – and somehow still finding time to laugh – it was all part of the journey.”

Zeynep has been working with Professor Ahmed Shaheed on his Countering Islamophobia research project. Her responsibilities include conducting legal research, organising conferences and events, and analysing how different legal systems address Islamophobia.

She said: “Given the increasing global concerns about Islamophobia, being part of this initiative has been both deeply insightful and incredibly rewarding”.

“Working with Professor Shaheed – one of the kindest and most knowledgeable and experienced Human Rights lawyers I’ve met – has been an absolute honour.”

Zeynep says her time studying an LLM in International Human Rights Law taught her to approach human rights issues with both legal precision and empathy.

She has also strengthened her research skills, as well as gained valuable knowledge in planning and executing academic events. Zeynep, who is originally from Ankara, Turkey, is currently working as a Research Officer on the Countering Islamophobia project and hopes to study a PhD in Human Rights in the years to come.

Reflecting on her time at Essex, Zeynep said: “If you’re looking for a university where you’ll be challenged intellectually, supported by world-class academics, and given the opportunity to engage with real-world human rights issues, Essex is the place to be”.

“The international atmosphere, strong research opportunities, and beautiful campus all add to the experience”.

Alumnus Interview

Reflections from Ricardo Villalobos at the 2025 Human Rights Centre Clinic Annual Conference



↑ Ricardo Villalobos.

This year's Annual Human Rights Centre Clinic Conference "On the Frontlines of Global Justice" brought together students, alumni, and global partners who've worked on urgent issues as part of Human Rights Centre Clinic projects. Alumni who have gone on to successful careers in the human rights field reflected on their time in the Clinic, and how their experience of studying at Essex prepared them for their careers.

One of those speakers was Ricardo Villalobos – a Venezuelan lawyer, scholar, and alumnus of the University of Essex (LLM International Human Rights Law, 2020-21). Ricardo delivered a powerful account of his human rights work in Latin America, focusing particularly on the defence of academic freedom. Currently a board member and the Coordinator of the Research and International Advocacy Department at Aula Abierta, an NGO working on issues of academic freedom across Latin America, Ricardo detailed his journey from grassroots documentation efforts in Venezuela to high-level advocacy before international human rights bodies.

Ricardo began his human rights career in 2016, focusing on violations against students, lecturers, and researchers. While his initial work centred on Venezuela, it soon became clear that these patterns were not isolated. Similar threats to academic freedom were

emerging in countries such as Nicaragua, Colombia, Bolivia, Costa Rica, and Argentina, among others. This regional pattern led his organisation to expand its monitoring and advocacy efforts throughout the Americas.

He described three pillars of his work over the past nine years: human rights research, international advocacy, and strategic litigation.

One landmark achievement was his co-coordination of the first public hearing on academic freedom in the history of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in 2019 – an event that marked a turning point in recognising academic freedom as a legitimate human rights concern. Building on this milestone, he also took part in the second public hearing on academic freedom in the Americas, held in November 2024, further reinforcing the issue's relevance within the regional human rights framework.

Ricardo also played a key role in the drafting of the 2021 Inter-American Principles on Academic Freedom and University Autonomy. He noted the significance of this document as the first of its kind to formally recognise academic freedom as a standalone human right within the international human rights system. His LLM dissertation at Essex, supervised by Professor Ahmed Shaheed, provided a legal argument for recognising academic freedom as a human right, directly informing civil society submissions and the development of the Inter-American Principles.

In a particularly moving section of his talk, Ricardo explained how the University of Essex impacted his work even before he enrolled as a student. During the 2017 protests in Venezuela, while facing an overwhelming volume of cases and little technical guidance, he discovered the University's Torture Reporting Handbook. This resource became the foundation

for his documentation methods and helped produce reports later cited by bodies such as the OAS Panel of Independent International Experts on the Possible Commission of Crimes Against Humanity in Venezuela and the UN Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela.

Once at Essex, Ricardo deepened his engagement through the Human Rights Centre Clinic. He praised the Clinic's holistic approach, noting how it trained students not just in law but in the deeper structural and ethical questions that shape real-world human rights work: "In all my advocacy activities, I always remember the conversations we used to have in the Clinic on the importance of being aware about the potential pitfalls of certain strategies, the role of victims, and of wisely assessing all these elements".

As universities and scholars around the world come under

increasing pressure, Ricardo's work is a powerful reminder of why academic freedom matters – and how one person, backed by the right tools and values, can help drive real change. Ricardo's story is a brilliant example of how Essex helps shape human rights defenders – not just through teaching, but by giving them the support, resources, and space to grow as practitioners. We're proud that the Clinic has played a part in his journey.

Dr Sabina Garahan, Human Rights Centre Clinic Director, commented: "it was inspiring to hear about Ricardo's path, experience at Essex, and unwavering commitment to human rights. The Clinic is proud of its alumni and everything they continue to do to defend rights and challenge injustice across the globe".

From Research to Reform

Dr Andrea Fejos' Work on Loan Affordability in Credit Unions

Dr Andrea Fejos, Senior Lecturer at Essex Law School, recently completed a two-year project, funded by the University of Essex and the Socio-Legal Studies Association, to create a Guide on Affordability Assessment for British Credit Unions and to follow this up with training for relevant stakeholders. We speak to Dr Fejos about the project.

Congratulations on your grant and research! Can you tell us about the role of credit unions in society and the gap in regulation that you have identified?

The approximately 240 credit unions in British society play an essential role by offering loans to individuals who may not have access to traditional bank lending, often due to low income or high levels of debt. Therefore, their financial inclusion role is vital for populations that traditional banking institutions underserve.

Most lenders are subject to the Financial Conduct Authority's Consumer Credit Sourcebook (CONC) in its Handbook of Rules and Guidance. But this does not apply to credit unions. This means that, while committed to principles of responsible lending, credit unions have historically operated without guidance on how to assess loan affordability in practice. This means that some members might have

been given loans they could not afford, whereas others might have been refused loans even if they could have afforded them. It depended on the internal policy of a particular credit union and their risk appetite. The problem became apparent with increased complaints of credit unions members to the Financial Ombudsman Service, the out-of-court dispute resolution body for consumer financial services.

Does your project help to fill this gap?

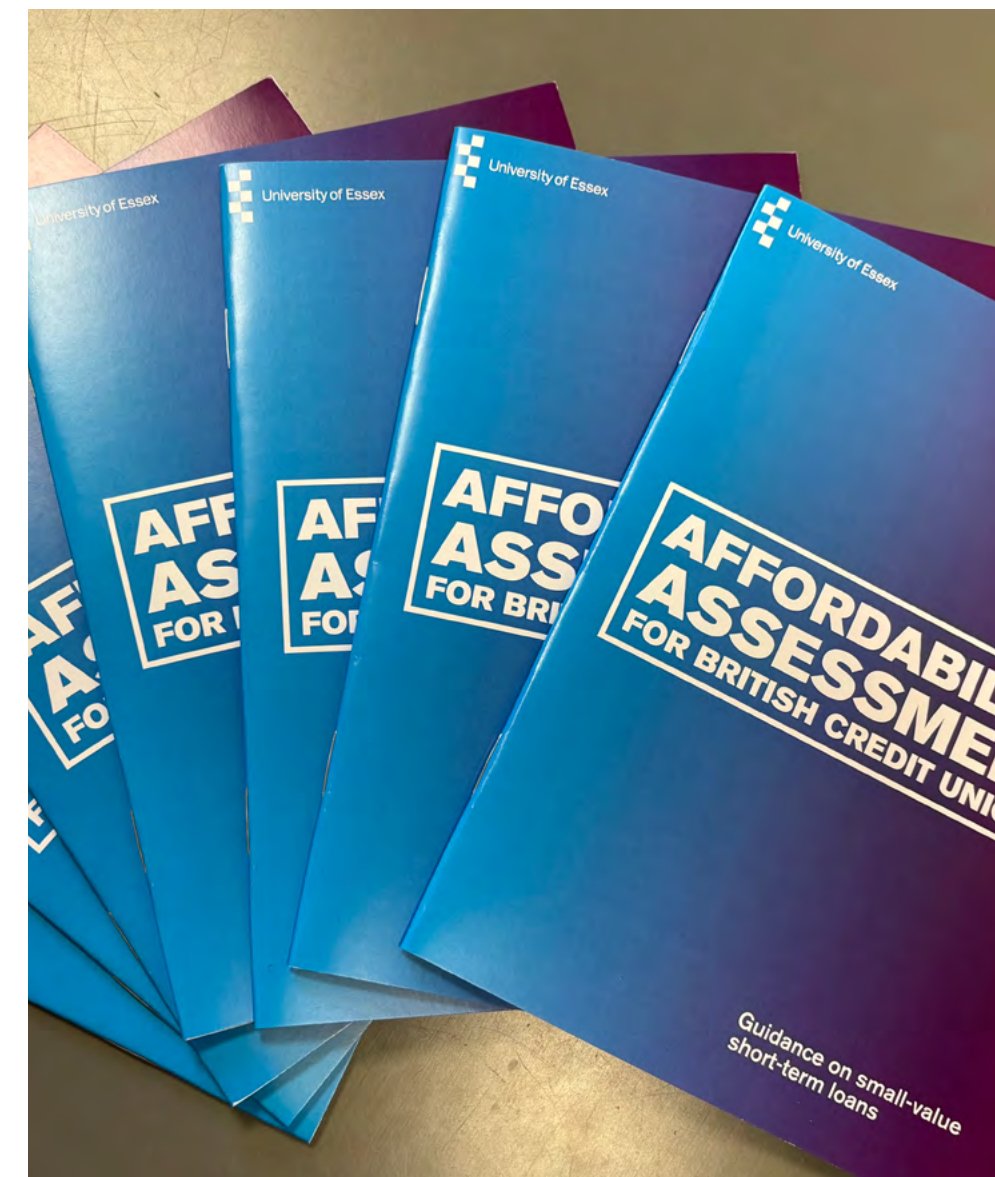
Yes, I led a two-year project involving comprehensive research and collaborative dialogue with relevant stakeholders. I have worked with representatives of the credit union sector, the Financial Ombudsman Service and the Financial Conduct Authority.

I have received great support from the Association of British Credit Unions Limited (ABCUL) - the largest trade association of credit unions, gathering around 70% of

the sector in England, Scotland and Wales. This work culminated in the publication of Guide on Affordability Assessment for British Credit Unions. The Guide provides voluntary principles and standards of affordability for credit unions taking into account their unique nature and the specific challenges they face in assessing loan affordability.

The Guide is focused on small-value, short-term loans, the type of loans provided to financially vulnerable or less resilient consumers. The Guide represents a significant step toward strengthening lending standards within credit unions while preserving their role to serve financially vulnerable populations.

To read the guide: **Affordability Assessment for British Credit Unions: Guidance on small-value short-term loans** by **Andrea Fejos :: SSRN**



Tribute to Professor Françoise Hampson

Professor Françoise Jane Hampson (1948–2025)

Françoise Hampson was a towering figure at the Human Rights Centre and Essex Law School at the University of Essex. She began her academic career at the University of Dundee in Scotland.

Her father's experience in World War II, and the emergence of legal protections for civilians thereafter, sparked her interest in the protection of human rights in conflict, an interest later deepened by the conflict in Northern Ireland.

She joined the University of Essex in 1983 to develop teaching and research on the international law of armed conflict. She taught International Law of Armed Conflict and International Human Rights Law on the LLM and MA programmes, and supervised generations of doctoral researchers. She also played a full role in the life of the School of Law, inspiring undergraduates in Constitutional Law and serving as Dean for three years.

She was deeply supportive of early-career academics, guiding their research and generously involving them in her projects. She will be remembered by students and colleagues alike for a teaching

style that was uniquely her own, taking students on a rollercoaster journey of eye-opening insights, and training them to challenge their preconceptions on their way to becoming effective advocates.

Throughout her distinguished career, Professor Hampson made outstanding contributions to scholarship at the intersection of international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and public international law.

Beyond the university, her work had real-world impact. She represented hundreds of applicants and submitted third-party interventions to the European Court of Human Rights, notably in cases arising from armed conflict.

For her work on cases concerning the Turkish Kurds, she was named Human Rights Lawyer of the Year in 1998 by Liberty, alongside her late colleague, Professor Kevin



↑ Professor Françoise Hampson, © UN Photo by Violaine Martin.

Boyle. Their litigation on the actions of the security forces in Turkey helped secure truth and justice for affected families and communities.

From 1998 to 2007, she served as the UK-nominated independent expert on the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, and from 2017 to 2021, she was a member of the UN Commission of Inquiry on Burundi.

Her emphasis on translating theory into practice made her one of the most influential figures in the fields of International Humanitarian Law and the protection of human rights during armed conflict.

She supported numerous projects with leading organisations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, playing a key role in the development of law and policy to better protect victims of war. She engaged regularly with military

forces worldwide, delivering legal training in military courses.

She was deeply respected across NGOs, governments, and militaries alike, and her work frequently shaped practice in ways that advanced the aims of humanitarian law.

Her legacy endures in the human rights and humanitarian laws she helped strengthen, the students, colleagues, and practitioners she inspired, and the standards of excellence, integrity, and commitment she set in the pursuit of accountability for human rights violations in both peace and war, and for the rule of law during armed conflict.

Françoise was a close friend to many colleagues, and all who crossed her path were inspired by her integrity, passion, courage, curiosity, and warmth. She is irreplaceable and will be sorely missed.

This tribute was prepared by members of the Human Rights Centre at Essex.

Last year we were fortunate to have Professor Hampson deliver the 2024 Annual Law Lecture, you can view the lecture in its entirety on our **YouTube channel**.

Expressions of Trauma

Art, Loss, and the Power of Storytelling – Highlighting the work of Dr Stella Bolaki and Dr Samantha Davey

In November 2024, the Minorities, an art gallery based in Colchester, hosted an evocative exhibition on “Expressions of trauma” run by Healthwatch Essex and led by Sharon Westfield de Cortez and Kate Mahoney.

This exhibition delved deep into the complex layers of trauma, with a range of exhibits exploring themes such as pain, illness, abuse, grief and loss through art. One of the exhibits – also later exhibited at the Martello Tower in Jaywick – is the result of an innovative research collaboration between Dr Stella Bolaki from the University of Kent and Dr Samantha Davey from Essex

Law School and funded and supported by both researchers’ institutions via awards designed for knowledge exchange, impact activities and public engagement.

The works included in the ‘Expressions of Trauma’ exhibition from this project are artists’ books created during specialised workshops led by Dr Bolaki. These workshops provided a safe, creative space for mothers who have suffered the painful experience of child loss via adoption proceedings. Many participants shared their personal narratives, crafting their stories into tangible art forms that speak to their emotional journeys through care and/or adoption proceedings and in the aftermath of those legal processes.

The artists’ books featured are a powerful reflection of each of these mothers’ experiences. Each page contains raw emotions and displays feelings of love, grief, sadness, anger, frustration and,

ultimately, resilience. Through art, these mothers have found a way to express pain and connect with others facing similar struggles. This powerful element of storytelling through art is what made the ‘Expressions of Trauma’ exhibition not just an art display but a shared space for dialogue between mothers, professionals and the wider public – as well as a space for reflection, healing and social justice.

One of the books included showed an image from the Disney film, Dumbo, the elephant who was separated from his mother. This image is accompanied by the haunting lyrics of ‘Baby Mine’, highlighting the raw grief and loss experienced because of the separation of mother and child. Diana Defries, spokesperson at Movement for an Adoption Apology, has a book titled ‘An Ocean Between Us’, poignantly representing the gulf between a mother and child over many years.



↑ Dr Samantha Davey (centre) and Dr Stella Bolaki (second from right) at the exhibition.

This exhibit also highlights the importance of the roles played by professionals who support these mothers. Barrister Sneha Shrestha, local art therapist Chloe Sparrow, and Kent-based counsellor Amanda Swan contributed their insights and expertise, showing how the artist’s book can assist professionals as well, as a tool in processing trauma. Chloe Sparrow’s emotive painting of a mother and child features prominently in the exhibition, capturing the essence of the bond that endures even in loss.

This exhibit demonstrates acutely that healing is not a solitary journey; it is often facilitated by the connections we make with others personally and professionally. The inclusion of professionals in this dialogue makes the narrative of the exhibit more powerful, adding layers of understanding and compassion, showing how professionals themselves connect with the raw grief experienced by mothers.

Each artist’s book is a book of emotion, inviting reflection and empathy from anyone who encounters it. The exhibition encouraged a sense of community and shared experience, helping attendees to understand and empathise with those who have experienced loss in a range of contexts – loss of love, loss of one’s autonomy and loss of identity.

Samantha Davey emphasised the importance of lawyers’ involvement in interdisciplinary projects, reflecting that,

‘The artist’s book offers a powerful platform for mothers who have suffered loss via adoption to share their experiences. This approach challenges conventional legal discourse but also showcases the value of interdisciplinary research in unveiling the mothers’ complex experiences and in promoting more nuanced understandings of justice.’

Dr Bolaki and Dr Davey have now launched a website where you can view the artists’ book and read more about the project including personal testimonies: **The Artist’s Book: Mothers Experiences of Post-Adoption Loss**



Litigation on the Progressive Realisation of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Under What Conditions May It be Strategic?

Dr Koldo Casla, Senior Lecturer at Essex Law School, has been awarded a Socio-Legal Studies Association grant to support a 9-month project to develop a working paper on conditions for strategic litigation on the progressive realisation of economic social and cultural rights (ESCR).

Co-coordinated by Dr Koldo Casla (University of Essex) and Prof Juli Ponce and Antonio Madrid-Pérez (University of Barcelona), the team includes representatives from FEANTSA (European anti-homelessness network based in Brussels), Gentium (strategic litigation NGO based in Madrid), Observatori DESCA (ESCR NGO based in Barcelona), and Marion Sandner (PhD candidate at Hasselt and Antwerp Universities, Belgium). The team also includes an advisory group of 10 academics and practitioners from India, UK, South Africa, Mexico and Argentina.

ESCR – including housing, health,

food, education, water, social security and work – are recognised as human rights in international law and multiple constitutions and laws around the world. However, when individuals and civil society organisations originally tried to enforce these rights in courts, they often encountered claims that they were not justiciable – meaning that courts could not hear the claims.

Since the 1990s, national and international law have moved away from this position with national courts in countries including South Africa, Colombia, Brazil, India, Portugal, Italy, Latvia, and Germany alongside international and regional human rights bodies hearing and issuing important judgment on ESCR.

However, by and large, most of the comparative case-law focuses on the negative dimensions of ESCR, meaning, the obligation to respect – in the sense of not actively interfering with the actual enjoyment of rights – rather than requiring public authorities to take proactive measures to deliver the services necessary to ensure the satisfaction of ESCR. The prohibition of forced evictions is a clear expression of this in relation to the right to housing.

In recent years, there have been cases invoking the doctrine

of non-retrogression as well, meaning the presumption that States should not take measures that would deliberately result in steps backwards in the protection of ESCR.

As important as these cases are, there is no systematic analysis of claims in front of national or international courts and quasi-judicial bodies in relation to the obligation to advance progressively towards the full satisfaction of ESCR. Progressive realisation is a general principle of ESCR and is also a legal requirement in international human rights law (Article 2(1) of the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ICESCR). However, scholars and practitioners simply do not have a good understanding of what sort of cases, rights and duties may work or not work when seeking to advocate for States' obligation to advance towards the progressive realisation of ESCR.

That is precisely the purpose of this project: To begin to identify the legal principles, strategic arguments, jurisdictions and, in general, the conditions under which it may be fitting to explore and push the limits of judicial enforceability of the progressive realisation of ESCR.

Securing a notable victory with immediate and wider benefit.

Essex Law Clinic has recently assisted a client facing homelessness to achieve a notable victory which will have wider implications for others in her situation.

The client was a mother who approached the Clinic for advice in January 2024 after receiving a notice for eviction from her privately rented property. Unable to find affordable alternative accommodation and facing homelessness, she needed help with applying for homelessness assistance to the local council.

Working under supervisor Lucy Davies, Clinic students advised her on the eviction process and helped her challenge the delays and information provided by the Council regarding their statutory duties to provide homelessness assistance. When the Council only accepted a duty to prevent homelessness and failed to provide emergency rehousing, the Clinic prepared a statutory review which led to the

original decision being withdrawn. However, the client was then left in limbo in an unaffordable property and facing homelessness with her young child when no new Council decision was made and no formal review decision was provided, thus denying her right to a statutory review.

When the client could not find a legal aid provider for a county court appeal, the Clinic prepared a complaint to the Council and later escalated her complaint to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman. She was eventually offered emergency rehousing by the Council on the day of her eviction by bailiffs, despite having applied for assistance over 14 months previously and despite multiple challenges to the Council regarding their statutory duties.

The Ombudsman decision which was issued in February 2025 highlights the delays and failings in the Council's response to our client's request for homelessness assistance. The Ombudsman found the Council at fault and that it had caused the client a "significant injustice". The Council has agreed to apologise to the client and pay financial compensation for the distress caused as well as reimbursing her for the court costs incurred

through the eviction. More broadly, it has agreed to review its policies and practices and provide training to its housing officers. This decision will be a useful tool in holding the Council to account in the proper execution of its statutory duties, and can be used to remind local authorities of good practice in homelessness cases to avoid tenants being left in their property until bailiff eviction, causing distress and incurring unaffordable legal costs in the possession process.

While official complaints and the Ombudsman process are an alternative way to address the issues faced in challenging failures in the provision of statutory rights from local authorities, the length of time it takes to go through the local authority's internal complaint process and for the Ombudsman investigation show the urgent need for legal aid services in enforcing statutory rights on an urgent basis, particularly in homeless cases. The Essex Law Clinic operates in an area which faces a housing "legal aid desert" (lawsociety.org.uk/campaigns/civil-justice/legal-aid-deserts/housing) and until such services become available, the Essex Law Clinic will do all it can to help those most urgently in need and ensure that their legal rights are upheld.

Spotlight on...

The Skills Hub

A successful career in practice starts with developing the right kinds of skills while in university. Though courtroom dramas might convince us otherwise, the practice of law is heavily based on reading and writing. But it's not just any kind of reading and writing – **legal research and writing** have their own linguistic flair, requiring students to adapt to a new set of terms, structure, referencing style, and general expectations.

To facilitate student development and ensure our students are ready for their traineeships, ELS has launched a new **"Skills Hub"** – a space built for students, shaped by students.

It builds on the Law School's academic skills support and development opportunities available to both UG and PGT students.

The drop-in sessions run daily and are staffed by a small team of lecturers. The environment is student-driven and student-centred: they set the agenda.

Whether they need guidance on structuring an essay, decoding feedback, or refining their writing, this is the place to be!

The Hub – often referred to as our **"Skills Café"** – gives our students the chance to work with a lecturer one-to-one or in small groups on academic skills they want to strengthen. It provides a practical, low-pressure route to improve their grades and overall university experience. Since launching the Hub, we've seen strong engagement, especially when coursework questions are released and around coursework deadlines.

"Success in your degree comes from deliberate and intentional practice, effective time management and planning, and a discipline and commitment to keep going even when things get tough. This means achieving excellence is within everyone's reach—it's simply about showing up, doing the work, and pivoting your approach along the way if necessary."

Dr Rees Johnson, café team member

The Hub also benefits from the support of our Essex **"Law Stars"** – some of our exceptional 2nd and final year students – who attend some sessions to share their first-hand experience and help students develop academic skills and get the best out of University life. Working alongside our academic staff, they support new students or others who need help adjusting to the rigours of legal education.

The Law Skills Hub helps students learn to manage their time and practice the skills necessary to ensure success both in school and in the practice of law.

This year, some of our most popular topics include:

- Approaching assessments: structuring essays, working with sources, case notes, etc.
- Answering problem questions using the IRAC structure, common in legal education and practice
- Essay writing
- Reading and note-taking
- Reading cases
- Research and referencing
- Improving time management
- Understanding and acting on feedback
- Exam revision techniques and strategies

- Exam day strategies and tips

Of course, the Skills Hub doesn't operate in a vacuum. We're proud to also offer students career development opportunities, and experiential, practice-focused experience in our Law Clinic and other experiential opportunities.

As Karen Hulme, our **Director of Education**, explains:

"At Essex, we are committed to a holistic approach to student support that prepares our students for long-term success."



↑ Dr Rees Johnson, pictured with students.

Spotlight on...

Bev Jackson, Director of Student Support and Engagement

While everyone comes to ELS with a good foundation in reading and writing, studying and practicing law involves learning the unique terms, structure, and approaches that legal research and writing requires. At ELS, we believe in supporting students' skills development so they can succeed in their degrees and in real life. We are fortunate to have staff dedicated to this pursuit, and our leader of this support team is the incredible **Bev Jackson**.

We sat down with Bev to learn a little more about her and her work.

Could you please tell us what brought you to ELS and why you have chosen to work with student support?

I was drawn to ELS because of its strong reputation for academic excellence and its inclusive community. I've always been passionate about education and I love the opportunity that student support provides to really empower students – helping them grow, build confidence and develop skills that will stay with them long after they leave university.

I chose to work in this area because I believe that supporting students' wellbeing and personal development is just as important as their academic success. No two days are ever the same, and I love getting to know and support students from so many different backgrounds. Being able to help them navigate challenges, make the most of their time here, and see them reach their full potential and achieve their goals is incredibly rewarding.

We will soon start a new academic year in October – how do you go about planning for the next cohort of incoming students?

The start of a new academic year is a very exciting time – both for us and our new students. We know that coming to university is a big step, and it's so important that new students feel comfortable, welcomed, and confident that the right support is in place to help them navigate this transition. Over the summer, we dedicate time to carefully planning and refining our approach: we review the previous year's initiatives, consider student and staff feedback, analyse student data, and, crucially, collaborate closely with our Law Star Peer Mentors to ensure that the support we offer truly reflects what students need. Each year brings new challenges and opportunities; for example, this year we're focusing on providing extra support for students who commute or live off campus. We believe that support should be flexible and responsive to each cohort's unique needs. That's why we also gather feedback from new students at the start of the year to understand what they feel they



↑ Bev Jackson with student.

need most, allowing us to adapt and put relevant support in place as quickly as possible.

How early can incoming students reach out to you? Do you have any advice on when and how they might contact you?

Students can contact me any time – if it's before the start of the academic year, email is the best way to get in touch. From October, students can call by my office, email me or have a chat with me at any of the events during our Welcome Programme.

In addition to one-to-one consultations with staff, are there other ways and opportunities for students to enhance their academic skills via services provided by the skills hub?

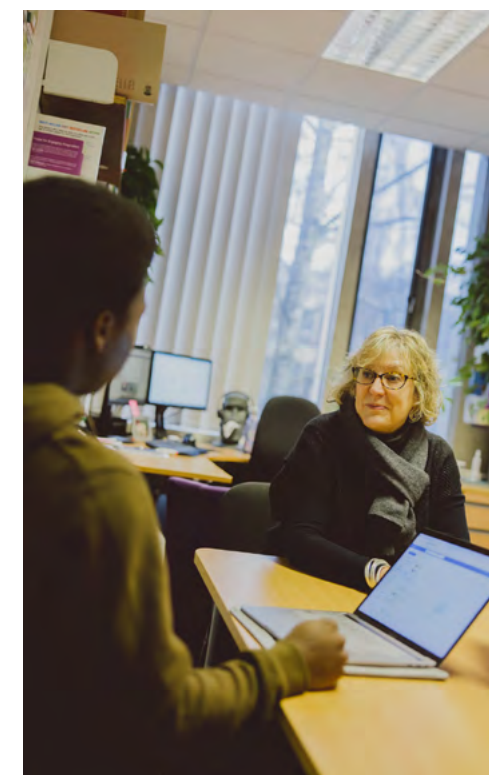
This year we're excited to introduce "How to Study Law" drop-ins run by our Law Star Peer Mentors along with themed "Study Zone" sessions where students can work on popular topics they suggest each week, with support from staff and the Law Star team. The Law Stars are also hosting informal "Chat to Us" meet-ups

in the Skills Hub and other social spaces on campus, giving students a friendly and relaxed way to connect and ask questions. The Hub itself is a fantastic study space – students can use it to collaborate with their peers in study groups, with a member of staff on hand to answer questions, offer guidance, or simply have a friendly chat. We hope these new initiatives create a welcoming, supportive environment where students feel encouraged to learn, share ideas, and build confidence together.

What you like most about your work in the skills hub? What's been most rewarding in your work with students? What feedback have you received from students?

What I enjoy most about working with students to help them develop their academic skills is being able to make a real difference in students' academic journeys. I love helping students build their confidence, develop new skills, and find strategies that work best for them. It's incredibly rewarding to see their progress and to watch them grow more independent and motivated. The most rewarding

part is when students tell me that the support they received helped them achieve something they didn't think was possible, whether that's finishing an assignment, improving their grades, or simply feeling more confident about their studies or about their life experiences. It's a great feeling to know that the support we provide has impact and being part of this transformative university journey is a real privilege.



Sustainable Transitions

2025 PGR Colloquium

Leverhulme Doctoral Training Programme

In October 2024, we were delighted to welcome the first cohort of 'Sustainable Transitions' Leverhulme DTP Scholars. The Sustainable Transitions – Leverhulme Doctoral Training Programme is the result of a £2.3m Leverhulme Trust Award for which Dr Stephen Turner (Essex Law School) is the Principal Investigator and Programme Director. This prestigious award will fund 18 scholarship students, with the University additionally funding a further 3 scholarships.

This interdisciplinary programme draws on world leading environmental and sustainability related expertise in five Schools and Departments (Essex Law School, Essex Business School, the Department of Government, the Department of Sociology and the School of Life Sciences.) Each doctoral project is supervised by colleagues from two different Schools and Departments, which enables the students to integrate interdisciplinary approaches, methods and data into their analysis.

Dr Turner says, 'we realised that there was huge potential to bring together Schools and Departments to provide unique and innovative PhD scholarship projects. We have to thank the many colleagues from across the University for coming together to make this bid and project a success.'

The programme has the purpose of training the next generation of interdisciplinary doctoral scholars with the skills and expertise necessary to contribute to 'sustainable transitions' at

all levels. Our first cohort of students are tackling a range of critical challenges in this space: Jocelyn Bell (Sami Land Rights); Jacob Cook (Marine vessel anti-fouling); Charles Mensah (Ocean plastics); James Rice (Climate misinformation); Sian Posy (De-Growth theory and practice).

The programme has two more recruitment rounds scheduled for October 2025 and October 2026 entry, so we look forward to welcoming more doctoral scholars.

Dr Turner says that 'the programme provides us with the opportunity to further develop our interdisciplinary work in the sustainability space and to continue to play our part in working towards practical solutions at the local, national and international levels.'

More information is available at: essex.ac.uk/postgraduate/research/doctoral-training-partnerships/sustainable-transitions--governance-ecological-management-and-society

Highlights

On Tuesday 24 June 2025, Essex Law School hosted our 3rd annual Eastern Arc Postgraduate Research Colloquium, organised together with Kent, and UEA law schools. The Colloquium brought together emerging legal scholars from across the region.

The event opened with a warm welcome from Professor Onyeka Osuji, Dean of Essex Law School, setting the tone for a day of rich academic exchange. The Colloquium concluded with a compelling keynote panel on interdisciplinarity in legal research, featuring insightful perspectives from Judith Bueno De Mesquita and Dr Katya Alkhateeb.

Throughout the day, participants engaged with a wide range of critical legal themes, including:

- Consumer protection in the digital age
- Governance of social networks
- Constitutional law and theory
- Civilian data protection during armed conflict
- Cross-border criminal evidence

The annual PGR colloquium presented a great opportunity for our PGR students to showcase their research, gain confidence in presenting their research to a diverse audience, receive feedback on their work and build connections across institutions.

The enthusiasm displayed by all participants in the colloquium is a testament to the wonderful support provided by their supervisors and to our strong research environment in the School.

A heartfelt thank you to all the speakers, attendees, and organisers who made the day such a success!



↑ During the Colloquium.

Multilateralism and the Making of International Law

Governing marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction.

On 4 December 2024, Dr Meagan Wong from Essex Law School convened at the Colchester campus a workshop funded by the Modern Law Review Seminar fund, entitled 'Multilateralism and the making of international law: marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.' The workshop engaged with one of the most cutting-edge and monumental achievements in modern international law-making:



↑ First panel with Dr Wong (right).

the adoption at the United Nations ("UN") on 19th June 2023 of an internationally binding agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 ("BBNJ Agreement"). With this landmark Agreement, which had been 20 years in the making, States have sought for the first time to establish an international legal framework in areas outside their national jurisdiction, with the objective to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond their sovereignty, for the present and in the long term. Heralded as a historical breakthrough and victory for multilateralism in the making of international law, the significance of the BBNJ Agreement has far-reaching implications.

For the workshop, six authors were selected through an open call for abstracts issued to scholars, practitioners, and experts in international law and the law of the sea. In particular, early career scholars and government advisors

were encouraged to submit an abstract. Each author was paired with a Discussant to provide substantive feedback on their work in progress and facilitate broader discussion within the workshop.

The selected authors were Carol Dyck (Western University), Danai-Fani Georgoula (Utrecht University), Dr Manfredi Marciante (LUISS Guido Carli University), Murtaza Mohiqi (University of Agder), José Manuel Pacheco Castillo (World Maritime University), and Dr Sam Varvastian (Cardiff University).

In the first panel, chaired by Dr Wong, José Manuel Pacheco Castillo, presented the paper entitled "Navigating Cumulative Impacts: Operationalizing the BBNJ Agreement in the Southeast Pacific." The paper explored inter alia the cumulative impact provisions of the BBNJ Agreement and assessed their feasibility within regional governance frameworks in the Southeast Pacific, with a focus on relevant regional organizations. Eleni Methymaki (University of Glasgow) served as the discussant.

Carol Dyck presented the paper on "The Case for a High Seas Marine Protected Area in the Central Arctic Ocean," in the second panel which was chaired by Dr Antonio Coco (ELS). This paper examined, highlighted the urgent need for robust governance in the rapidly changing Arctic environment, driven by climate change. Dr So Yeon Kim (ELS), was the discussant for this paper.

Judge Ida Caracciolo chaired the third panel, where Dr Manfredi Marciante presented the paper on "Bridging Global Aspirations and Regional Realities: Intergenerational Equity in the BBNJ Agreement." The paper explored inter alia the concept of intergenerational equity within international law and its application in both UNCLOS and the BBNJ Agreement, while assessing the alignment of regional instruments and organizations with these principles. The discussion was led by Dr Meagan Wong, who served as the discussant.

Chaired by Dr So Yeon Kim, the fourth paper was authored by Dr Samvel Varvastian and entitled

"The Contribution of the BBNJ Agreement to Tackling the Triple Planetary Crisis." The paper addressed inter alia the urgent need for a holistic regulatory response to the triple planetary crisis—climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss—highlighting the role of the BBNJ Agreement in mitigating their cumulative impacts. The discussion was led by Judge Ida Caracciolo, who served as the discussant.

The fifth panel was dedicated to paper, "The Impact of the BBNJ Agreement on the Imaginary Foundations of the Law of the Sea", presented by Danai-Fani Georgoula. The paper examined inter alia how the BBNJ Agreement addresses limitations within the existing international law of the sea framework by promoting a broader and more inclusive understanding of equity. Dr Christiane Ahlborn, served as the discussant while Eleni Methymaki chaired the panel.

Finally, in a sixth panel, which was Chaired by Dr Christiane Ahlborn, Murtaza Mohiqi presented a paper on "Enhancing Monitoring

and Compliance Mechanisms in the BBNJ Agreement Through Legal Technology." It explored inter alia how emerging legal technologies—such as blockchain, artificial intelligence, and data analytics—can strengthen monitoring and compliance under the BBNJ Agreement. The discussion was led by Dr Antonio Coco, who served as the discussant.

Collectively, the contributions underscored the multifaceted challenges and opportunities inherent in implementing the BBNJ Agreement within diverse regional contexts. Modern Law Review Seminar provided a conducive and intellectually enriching space for scholars to present their works-in-progress and engage in discussion with other experts.

As States work towards the ratification and entry-into-force of the newly adopted BBNJ Agreement, the aforementioned research outputs on this topic would make an original and timely contribution to scholarship – and practice.



↑ Workshop participants at Wivenhoe House Hotel.

From Detention to Digital Surveillance

Professor Lorna McGregor's Call for Stronger Human Rights Scrutiny of States' Use of Electronic Monitoring as an Alternative to Detention

International human rights law provides that states should only detain people where they have lawful grounds to do so, and where they can demonstrate that it is necessary and proportionate as a measure of last resort. In a recent book, **Detention and its Alternatives under International Law**, published by Oxford University Press, Professor Lorna McGregor examines a range of areas in which states use detention as a central policy tool, including within criminal law, migration, mental health, public health, and conflict. She maps a growing practice to use alternatives to detention alongside, or instead of, detention but without sufficient scrutiny of the human rights implications for the person subject to the alternative as well as their families and communities.

Building on the findings in her book, Lorna has been working with long-standing partner, Penal Reform International (PRI), to examine the use of electronic monitoring as a non-custodial measure within criminal law and policy. In some cases, electronic monitoring can be discriminatory, result in net-widening and create pathways (back) to prison rather helping to address challenges such as overcrowding in prisons, as is often claimed.

States typically use GPS tagging devices as a monitoring tool which, depending on the nature of the device and the conditions of use, can be stigmatising, harm people's mental and physical health, privacy, family life and access to education and work. These risks are heightened where states integrate artificial intelligence into the practice.

Lorna and PRI have established an international network of civil society, academics, experts by experience, international organisations and people working in probation to reflect on current state practice and assess whether updated international standards are needed to address the human rights

implications of electronic monitoring. As part of this work, Lorna and PRI's Jérôme Mangelinckx recently presented their respective work to the UN Human Rights Committee in Geneva.

Two Essex Law School LLM students, Oliver Goldsmith and Leandra Toska, played a leading role in the organisation of the most recent meeting of the network in addition to analysing the practice of UN treaty monitoring bodies. They reflected that,

"This was a valuable opportunity for us to apply the research and analytical skills developed during our studies to such an important project. We were struck by how significant the human rights implications of EM are, and yet how little attention is given to assessing its compatibility with human rights standards. Hearing from experts across regions and backgrounds was particularly insightful, and we appreciated the chance to engage with human rights practice in such a meaningful way."

To learn more about this work, please feel free to email Lorna: lmcgreg@essex.ac.uk

Criminal Litigation: Practice & Procedure

What happens in criminal proceedings? How does criminal litigation work in practice? What is the role of the legal representative and what procedures do the parties have to follow?



This year, we introduced a new module, Criminal Litigation: Practice and Procedure, to complement our existing offerings on criminal law within our undergraduate degree. In this module, we explore the nature of criminal proceedings, from stop and search to arrest, from the police station to the first court appearance all the way through to trial and sentencing.

Our focus is on the role of a criminal law practitioner. The

module builds upon knowledge already gained in several other substantive law modules, in particular criminal law. It incorporates experiential learning through practical learning activities and through direct observations from court visits.

Aspiring lawyers who took the module this year have found it very useful to gain real insights on what it is like to be a criminal lawyer and also in preparation for sitting the SQE exams.

Seventeen Years of Human Rights Dialogue

Professor Carla Ferstman



Asia at the Heart of Global Discourse

Launched in 2008 by a group of passionate Human Rights postgraduate students, the Human Rights in Asia Conference Series has grown into a leading platform for amplifying Asian perspectives in global human rights discussions.

Now in its 17th year, the conference hosted by the Essex Human Rights Centre, brings together students, scholars, activists, and practitioners to address urgent issues such as sectarian violence, environmental disasters, corporate accountability, and indigenous rights.

Recent Themes Have Included:

- **Democracy & Colonial Legacies:** From Burma to Hong Kong, and West Papua to Xinjiang, the conference has

explored how historical and political systems shape rights struggles.

- **Economic Rights & Development:** Panels have exposed abuses in the garment industry and the human cost of unchecked development.
- **Climate & Displacement:** Asia's vulnerability to climate change has driven discussions on environmental justice and forced migration.
- **Freedom of Expression & Civil Society:** The series continues to champion press freedom and the protection of human rights defenders.
- **Marginalised Voices:** Dalits, Uyghurs, LGBTQ+ communities, and indigenous peoples have shared their stories and demands for justice.

What makes this series unique is its student-led model, empowering future human rights leaders through hands-on experience in organising and shaping the dialogue.

With a growing archive and a hybrid format that expands global

reach, the conference remains a vital space for critical inquiry and collaboration.

You can access the full report here: essex.ac.uk/-/media/2025/5/hrcinasia17yearsreport.pdf

To explore previous conference themes and access full reports, visit: essex.ac.uk/centres-and-institutes/human-rights/events



I was delighted though somewhat daunted to take over the Directorship of the Centre this academic year.

With all that is happening globally and locally, there could not be a more important and exciting moment to lead this very special, world-renowned and long-standing centre of excellence. The goal we have is to foster and support an exceptionally vibrant human rights community comprised of academic members, doctoral affiliates, fellows, students and alumni to contribute effectively to the seismic challenges facing the human rights movement.

This year, we've updated our strategies and strengthened our cross-disciplinary collaborations. We engaged in cutting-edge research on diverse topics including poverty; access to healthcare; online safety; the human rights implications of big data; freedom of expression and association; religious freedom; cumulative civilian harm in war; impunity for international crimes; transitional justice; the human rights of non-state actors including corporations; arbitrary detention;

the rights of migrants and refugees; harms to indigenous peoples; human rights protections for people who use drugs; gender equality; sexual exploitation and abuse; sexual and reproductive rights; the right to a healthy environment, the rights of animals, and rights of nature; the crime of ecocide; climate change adaptation and mitigation and decolonising human rights.

We promoted human rights in the United Kingdom and in collaboration with partners in countries like Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Iran, Japan, Libya, Pakistan, Spain, South Africa, Syria, Ukraine, USA. We've hosted a keynote lecture with Judge Iulia Motoc of the International Criminal Court, hosted numerous seminars and workshops to advance thinking on key topics, often in conjunction with specialist arms of the Human Rights Centre like the Essex Transitional Justice Network, the Armed Conflict and Crisis Hub and the International Centre on Human Rights and Drug Policy, and with other University centres like the Centre for Global Health and Intersectional Equity Research and the Centre for Global South Studies. Together with the Armed Conflict and Crisis Hub, we initiated a new series on contemporary conflicts and international law, which has so far hosted discussions on Israel-

Palestine, Ethiopia, Syria, Sudan and South Sudan. We also initiated a new doctoral student seminar series which is student-led and provides space to discuss and obtain feedback on new research.

We delivered specialist modules on every facet of human rights protection to a global cohort of students. We provided crucial opportunities for students to participate in moot competitions and to learn from experience, with a range of clinical opportunities for students to work with human rights organisations, apply cutting-edge digital techniques to investigate massive human rights violations and support specialist bodies like the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the Council of Europe Expert Council on NGO Law.

Come join us! Study with us on degree programmes, doctoral research or an increasing array of specialist short courses like the Human Rights Leadership Lab, the Human Rights Summer School, and courses on International Law in Armed Conflict and Human Rights in the Digital Age. You can also follow us on LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook, and on our website or contact us at humanrightscentre@essex.ac.uk.

Alumnus Interview

From Law to Impactful Diplomacy

Andrea De Bono Sant Cassia, an Essex alumnus excelling in international diplomacy, shares how his experiences at Essex paved the way for his impactful career. Following a term in New York as Malta's Deputy Political Coordinator during Malta's recent tenure on the UN Security Council, Andrea is currently based in Accra, serving as Deputy Head of the Maltese High Commission.

Why did you choose Essex for your postgraduate studies?

I returned to Essex for my LLM at the start of my career, after gaining a few years of experience in human rights advocacy, international criminal law, and diplomacy. I wanted to consolidate my knowledge of both international human rights law and international humanitarian law. Essex's well-known, and well-regarded, reputation in these fields was a decisive factor.

Another aspect that played a key role in my decision was the Human Rights Clinic, and the opportunity to continue acquiring work experience that mirrored the type of work I had performed and would continue to perform in my subsequent career. Essex's strong emphasis on practical experience, and producing work with real-world impact, alongside academic study was a perfect combination.

What do you remember most from your time in Essex?

I have particularly fond memories of my time at the Essex. I particularly recall the openness and genuinely collaborative environment, both

amongst the student body and with faculty. Access to leading academics who were consistently available and willing to engage made a significant difference. I equally cherished being challenged — a regular occurrence! — to test assumptions and refine my thinking.

How useful has your time in Essex been for you in your subsequent career?

It has been invaluable. My studies at Essex equipped me to approach complex issues through a multifaceted lens, which has proven essential in my diplomatic work. The critical thinking skills developed there continue to underpin my approach to diplomacy, particularly in the field of negotiations and policy formulation.

You worked on the Human Rights Centre Clinic projects. How useful was that work for you?

Extremely useful. The Clinic strengthened my ability to work collaboratively across disciplines, manage external expectations, and engage creatively with advocacy and policy issues. Equally, it developed my research and

drafting skills, and seeing that work cited in official UN documents was particularly rewarding.

A particular point of pride was addressing Prof Ahmed Shaheed, then UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, whose mandate I had contributed to through the Clinic, in my professional capacity as a Maltese diplomat within the UN system.

Since you graduated from Essex, you have held very senior diplomatic roles. Were your experiences at Essex useful?

Very much so. The core principles and skills I developed at Essex continue to guide my work — whether drafting statements to be delivered within various UN fora, coordinating a team of diplomats working on humanitarian issues, or navigating complex negotiations on UN Security Council products seeking to respond to developments in the Middle East.

What does a typical day look like for you now?

There is rarely a typical day. During my recent 4.5 year term at Malta's



↑ Andrea Debono Sant Cassia.

Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York, where I formed part of the core team that guided Malta's 2023-2024 term on the UN Security Council, my work involved coordinating teams covering developments in the Middle East, preparing statements for senior officials, attending negotiations, and managing high-level diplomatic communications. Each day demands careful prioritisation, adaptability, and sound judgment.

Did any staff members or the Human Rights Centre have a lasting impact on your journey?

Yes. The staff members who supervised my Clinic project - Senior Lecturer Judith Bueno De Mesquita and Dr Xavier Aurey - were exceptionally supportive and generous with their guidance. Others working on different projects were equally approachable, which fostered a strong sense of community.

Our project was in support of Prof Shaheed, and he has meaningfully contributed to my development — both personally and professionally — in a variety of ways whilst

continuing to serve as a mentor.

Have you stayed connected with Essex since graduating?

Although my networking skills need some sharpening, I have remained connected through alumni networks, occasional collaboration and by encouraging prospective students to consider Essex. On a personal note, I was pleased that several former classmates attended my wedding celebrations recently — a testament to the enduring friendships formed there.

What advice would you give to students starting out at Essex Law School today?

Make the most of every opportunity the university offers. Do not hesitate to test ideas and challenge assumptions — this is essential for growth. Most importantly, do not be intimidated by the expertise around you; see it as an invitation to engage and learn.

Alumnus Interview

From Essex Law School to Championing Human Rights

Lola Sánchez Arcos, a University of Essex alumna making an impact in the human rights field, reflects on how her time at Essex Law School shaped her journey—and shares thoughtful advice for students following in her footsteps. She currently works at the Geneva-based Universal Rights Group, focusing on the intersection of human rights law and policy.

Tell us about your time at Essex Law School. What drew you to Essex Law School?

I chose Essex because it came highly recommended by everyone I spoke to in the human rights field. It was consistently described as **the best place** to study human rights law—where I'd get a solid academic foundation and be part of a community led by inspiring professors and peers from all over the world. That mix created an incredibly rich and supportive learning environment.

Once I arrived at Essex, I quickly discovered what really makes it special: the way it connects theory with real-world practice. From the very beginning, we were encouraged to think critically, ask questions, and apply what we were learning to real cases and current global challenges. It made everything feel relevant and alive.

What stands out as your most memorable thing about your time at Essex and why?

One of my most memorable experiences—though simple—was

studying in the library with my cohort. We each had our usual spots, and there was something really comforting about that shared routine: doing our readings, working through assignments, and supporting each other. After studying, we'd wander around campus and often end up at Top Bar. Those everyday moments built a real sense of solidarity and friendship—something I'll always look back on with a smile.

Which skills or experiences from Essex have been most valuable in your career so far?

Essex gave me a very practical and critical understanding of the international human rights system. The program did not just focus on theory — it encouraged us to examine the impact of the international human rights system.

This approach has been essential in shaping the way I work today. Much of my role involves navigating that space between the global and the national—assessing how the outputs of UN human rights mechanisms are actually contributing to real change at the

national level, whether through shifts in law or policy. The ability to critically analyse these dynamics and connect the global with the national is something I started building at Essex, and it continues to guide me every day.

How was the transition from university to your current professional role? What does a typical day look like for you now?

The transition from Essex to my professional role was exciting, but it definitely came with a learning curve. Essex gave me a strong foundation—but then came the real test: taking all that knowledge and applying it in complex, fast-moving, real-world settings.

Especially in a time marked by multiple, overlapping crises and growing backlash against human rights, the stakes felt high from the start.

Much of my work now focuses on organising and facilitating high-level policy dialogues, retreats, seminars, and strategic events with UN agencies, diplomats, UN experts, and civil society actors.



↑ Lola Sánchez Arcos.

It's a role that requires constant coordination, sensitivity to political dynamics, and the ability to create space for meaningful exchange across different perspectives.

Through it all, I constantly draw on what I learned at Essex—particularly the ability to think critically, work across disciplines, and bridge theory with practice. That mindset continues to guide how I approach each challenge.

Did any staff members or the Human Rights Centre have a lasting impact on your journey?

Absolutely. It was truly an honour to learn from professors like Geoff Gilbert and Ahmed Shaheed.

Their depth of knowledge, combined with the way in which they mentored students, left a lasting impression on me. I felt very fortunate to have had the opportunity to learn from them.

The Human Rights Centre opened doors to key opportunities and created a space where we were consistently encouraged to think critically.

Have you stayed connected with Essex since graduating?

Yes, I've tried to stay in touch with former professors and peers. The Essex community extends far beyond graduation.

What advice would you give to students starting out at Essex Law School today?

Take every opportunity that comes your way—whether it's academic, professional, or social. Attend events, network actively, get to know your professors, and don't hesitate to ask questions. The Essex Law School and Human Rights Centre offer a wealth of knowledge and connections — make the most of them while you're there.

Alumnus Interview

From Fieldwork to Legal Advocacy: Noura Shawki's Journey from Essex to the ICRC

This year's Annual Human Rights Centre Clinic Conference "On the Frontlines of Global Justice" brought together students, alumni, and global partners who've worked on urgent issues as part of **Human Rights Centre Clinic** projects.

Alumni who have gone on to impactful work in the human rights field reflected on their time in the Clinic, and how their experience of studying at Essex prepared them for their careers. Among the inspiring voices was Noura Shawki, Regional Legal Advisor for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Cairo and Essex alumna (**LLM International Human Rights Law**, 2020-21).

Noura's current role at the ICRC spans a wide region including Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Iraq, and Syria. Her work focuses on providing technical assistance to governments to implement international humanitarian law (IHL) domestically. This includes advocating for the ratification of key treaties, drafting model laws, and supporting national IHL committees. She also contributes to the development of IHL through legal research and thematic position papers – an essential part of the ICRC's mandate as guardians of IHL.

Before joining the ICRC, Noura worked in child protection with Save the Children, supporting unaccompanied and separated refugee minors. Her early humanitarian work gave her valuable field experience, but she felt the need for a stronger academic foundation in law. That's where Essex came in.

"I didn't study law in my undergraduate degree – I studied economics," she shared. "Essex gave me the opportunity to pursue an LLM based on my field experience, and that changed everything". At Essex, Noura found the academic grounding she had been missing. She praised the inclusive and supportive environment, where academic staff ensured that students from diverse backgrounds could thrive. Her dissertation, supervised by Professor Geoff Gilbert, focused on responsibility-sharing in refugee protection under the Global Compact on Refugees – an area that continues to inform her work today.

Noura also reflected on the transformative impact of the **Human Rights Centre Clinic**. She was a team member of a project which helped the **European Network of National Human Rights Institutions** to enhance victim participation in national human rights institutions across Europe. This allowed her to gain hands-on experience in ethical human rights research, stakeholder engagement, and professional advocacy. The team's recommendations were eventually published and presented to the Network's Economic and Social Rights Working Group – an experience she described as a career milestone.

Nina Pániková, former Human Rights Officer at the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions, previously described Noura's team as "an inspiration", noting that they "have given European National Human Rights Institutions fresh insight into how they can support the participation



↑ Noura Shawki.

of people affected by human rights abuses, and ensure that this participation is meaningful. Their report will serve as a springboard for our future work in this area, while helping National Human Rights Institutions to empower rights-holders across Europe".

Beyond the technical skills gained, Noura emphasised how the Clinic shaped her thinking going forward in her career: "It's not just about criticising the system. It's about having the tools to analyse challenges and find ways to advocate for the law – even when it's under pressure, as it often is in the Middle East". She credited the Clinic's lectures and discussions for equipping her with the tools to navigate complex legal and ethical dilemmas: "Sometimes, when traditional advocacy isn't possible, you need to find unconventional ways to make an impact".

As she concluded her talk, Noura reflected on the enduring strength of the Essex network:

"Even years after graduating, you keep bumping into fellow alumni at events around the world. The network never stops growing – and I'm very grateful for that".

Noura's story is a testament to the power of combining practical experience with academic rigour – an aim the Human Rights Centre Clinic strives to achieve. The influence her LLM studies have had on her wide-ranging experiences, from humanitarian work to high-level legal advocacy, show the importance of empowering students to become the most effective human rights practitioners they can be.

Dr Sabina Garahan, Director of the Human Rights Centre Clinic, remarked: "Noura's journey is a powerful example of how the Clinic helps shape global human rights leaders. We're proud to have been part of her path."

Countering Islamophobia

Building a Multi-Stakeholder Coalition to Combat all Forms of Hate

At a time of intensifying hate globally, the Countering Islamophobia Project (CIP) has been building a multistakeholder coalition to combat all forms of hate, drawing on the work done since 2015 by the Essex Human Rights, Big Data and Technology Project (HRBDT) and by the Religion and Equality Unit (REU) of the Human Rights Centre since 2016.

Both projects supported the UN mandate on freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) during Professor Ahmed Shaheed's term as Special Rapporteur (2016–2022), with Shaheed also serving as a core member of both projects.

HRBDT's research on the reconceptualization of human rights for the digital age, including on the freedom of thought, digital authoritarianism, and online hate speech made landmark contributions to that mandate. Building on this work, CIP promotes a human-rights centred, multi-stakeholder collaborative approach to address the urgent challenges posed globally by securitization, religious nationalism, and advocacy of all forms of hatred online and offline.

While CIP has convened numerous consultations and meetings online and in-person since 2023, including a major on-campus workshop in September 2024, following the UK riots in July-August, listed below are

global milestones from 2025:

- **Tirana, January** – The Human Rights 30 (HR30) Forum Inaugural Conference brought together over 120 participants from 35 countries. The conference highlighted the central importance of developing multistakeholder collaboration to combat hate speech using a human rights framework – the **HR30 Tirana Framework**. Turn to page 58.
- **Geneva, March** – Together with the government of Albania, CIP presented the Tirana Framework to the **International Contact Group** on Freedom of Religion or Belief—an intergovernmental organisation of 30 countries committed to promoting, through **multilateral diplomacy**, a human rights-centred approach to FoRB.
- **Vevey, March** – Building on the **Essex Workshop on Countering Islamophobia**

held in September 2024 and the HR30 conference, CIP organised a session on **collaborative and inclusive approaches** to combatting Antisemitism and Islamophobia, in the Spring Meeting of the **International Religious Freedom and Belief Alliance** ('The Article 18 Alliance')—an intergovernmental organisation of 38 countries.

- **New York, March** – Co-hosted with the Government of Canada and the UN Office for Genocide Prevention, the CIP organised first-ever panel on **gendered Islamophobia** to coincide with 69th session of **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69)**, highlighting the intersection of Islamophobia and gender equality.
- **Granada, May** – A High-Level Policy Panel on **Countering Islamophobia in Multilateral Spaces**

was co-organised with the International Islamophobia Studies and Research Association (IISRA) for the 4th annual meeting of IISRA.

- **New York, June** – The University of Essex joined the UN Office for Genocide Prevention, Government of Morocco, and Gardens of the Righteous Worldwide to co-organise the UN's programme to mark this year's **International Day for Countering Hate Speech**, with panels on impacts of AI on hate and partnership-building.
- **New York, June** – In collaboration with the UN Office for Genocide Prevention and New Ground Research Foundation, the CIP presented the **Granada Declaration: A Unified Framework to Combat Antisemitism and Islamophobia** to UN system-stakeholders. The GD identifies a set of 10 principles

to ground a collaborative approach to combat both these forms of hatred.

- **Geneva, July** – A side-event to the 59th session of the UN Human Rights Council (**HRC59**), co-organised with the Government of Albania, where CIP presented the outcomes of the Tirana Conference to Geneva-based the human rights stakeholders and participants of HRC59.
- **Oslo, October** – Upcoming events include a **convening of national level bodies**, especially National Human Rights Institutions, to identify gaps and good practices in combatting hate.

Through these global initiatives, ELS continues to turn bold research into global action, uniting global voices to stand firmly against hate and promote human rights.

Karen Hulme

Leads Global Push

At Essex, our academics are at the forefront of global efforts to strengthen legal protections for environmental protection in all situations, including in crises and conflict.

Professor Karen Hulme is Chair of the Specialist Group on Environmental Security and Conflict Law of the World Commission on Environmental Law at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). As part of her role, Karen leads on responses in the area of conflict and security law, including leading a submission to the International Criminal Court's draft policy on environmental crimes with the Rome Statute, and advocated for the inclusion of an environmental crime against humanity within the UN discussions on a crimes against humanity treaty.

On June 30th to July 2nd, Karen represented IUCN at the Open-ended intergovernmental expert group on crimes that affect the environment falling within the scope of the 2000 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC).

The UN Convention is specifically tasked with detecting and prosecuting cases of organised crime across borders, and has three existing areas of expertise (three additional protocols) on the trafficking of persons and weapons and the smuggling of

migrants. Parties are considering the gaps in current regulation of transnational organised crimes in relation to the environment.

Karen made an intervention during the three days of discussions on several gaps including a criminalization gap created where environmental crimes are often set at a low level of criminal behaviour in domestic legal systems, thus impeding Article 3's applicability and frustrating global efforts to protect the environment, that current penalties are not sufficiently attuned to the needs of nature and the environment, for example restoration is not always available as remedies for environmental crimes; current tools, including transnational cooperation, information sharing, and technological tools for detection and tracing of crimes, are often absent or lacking from other relevant legal regimes, and that overall, there is no global body tasked with advancing cooperative efforts to combat and prevent environmental crime, or for reviewing the progress being made.

Insights

From the Frontlines

Dr Zhenbin Zuo on China's Automated Law Enforcement

Dr Zhenbin Zuo, Lecturer in Law at Essex Law School recently participated in an event hosted by The Law and Technology Centre at The University of Hong Kong. Dr Zuo presented findings from his field study, "Automated Law Enforcement: An Assessment of Shanghai's Social Credit System," offering a rare, evidence-based look at how automation is reshaping legal enforcement in China.

Drawing on interviews with judges, officials, and corporate actors, Dr Zuo unpacked how court verdicts now can trigger automated sanctions, such as travel limitations - via a nationwide digital enforcement system. His research highlights both the system's efficiency and its risks, especially when algorithms replace human judgment.

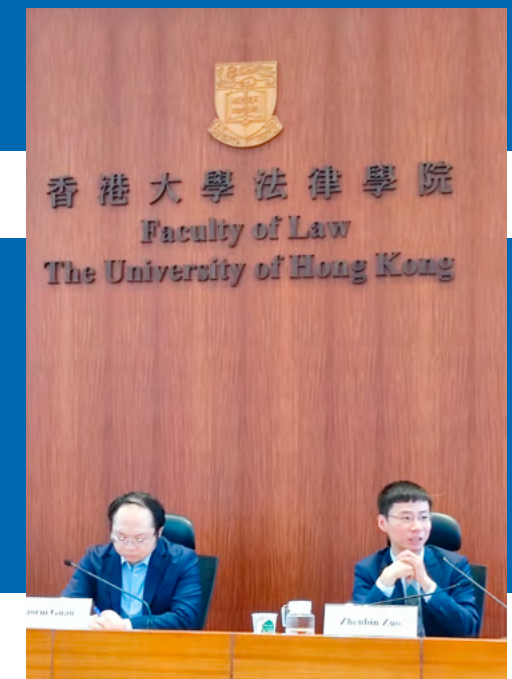
Key Insights:

- **Automation at Scale:** A 2013 directive has evolved into a tech-driven network capable of enforcing court rulings in seconds.
- **Local Voices Matter:** Judges and officials value speed but warn of rigidity and institutional overload.

- **Human Discretion Still Counts:** A Hangzhou pilot shows courts can reintroduce flexibility, allowing sanctioned firms to keep operating while repaying debts.
- **Governance Through Code:** Data management, auditability, and appeal mechanisms are now central to rule-of-law debates.

Dr Zuo's work underscores the importance of balancing technological innovation with legal safeguards.

His research continues to position Essex Law School at the forefront of global conversations on law and technology.



↑ Dr Zhenbin Zuo, pictured on the right.



↑ During the event at The Law and Technology Centre, The University of Hong Kong.

Staff Awards

Dr Eugénie Duval

On 19 June 2025, the Animal Law, Ethics and Sciences Foundation (LFDA) presented its 6th Law Prize to Dr Eugénie Duval, Lecturer in Public Law at the University of Essex.

Dr Duval was recognised for her outstanding research on the legal protection of farm animals, particularly during transport, slaughter, and within organic farming. Her work offers timely and practical legal proposals as the European Union prepares to revise its animal welfare regulations.

The jury unanimously praised her rigorous legal analysis and commitment to advancing animal welfare. Her unique background—growing up on a family farm—adds a powerful personal dimension to her academic work. Her story was also recently featured in *Le Monde*.

The award ceremony took place at Université Paris II Panthéon-Assas, in the presence of LFDA partners and jury members.



Dr Sophie Duroy

Intelligence Under Scrutiny: Dr Sophie Duroy Wins Polly Corrigan Book Prize

Can states spy lawfully? That is what Dr Sophie Duroy, a Lecturer in ELS, sought to answer with her book, *The Regulation of Intelligence Activities under International Law* (Edward Elgar 2023). For her work, Dr Duroy was recently awarded the prestigious Polly Corrigan Book Prize by the King's Centre for the Study of Intelligence (KCI).

The book presents a thorough examination of modern intelligence practices within the framework of human rights, international law and national security, focusing on the post-9/11 shift in intelligence practice and governance.

It argues that, while the legal framework governing intelligence remained largely unchanged after 9/11, state responses to terrorism triggered a regulatory shift. Through an analysis of intelligence operations, legal norms, and accountability mechanisms, the book demonstrates that international law can effectively regulate intelligence, even in the absence of specific treaties on the subject.

The KCI award committee praised the book's significance, calling it "a considerable achievement. In it, Sophie Duroy deftly undertakes a forensic examination of contemporary intelligence practices through the lenses of human rights, international law, and national security."

Dr Duroy's findings contend that compliance with international law serves national security interests by ensuring the effectiveness of intelligence while safeguarding human rights and the rule of law.

As the award committee explained, the work is "Based on exemplary research, rich in evidence and argument, and addressing an intelligence issue of enduring importance."

Ultimately, the book argues that the prevailing notion is that intelligence must operate outside legal constraints to be effective at protecting national security. Instead, effective regulation strengthens both national security and the rule of law. According to the committee, "This book challenges our understanding of how best to respond to evolving national security threats and remain on the right side of the law."

We at ELS are particularly proud of Dr Duroy, who is not just our colleague but also an alumna. She received her LLB Licence English and French Law degree from Essex in 2014.



Addressing Global Challenges

Continuing the Essex Tradition on Combatting Hate Speech

Essex has a long tradition in breaking new ground in combatting hate speech—starting with the first ever global conference on addressing hate speech, back in 1991, under the guidance of the late Professor Kevin Boyle.

Fast forward to digital age, the ground-breaking Essex Human Rights and Big Data Project (HRBDT), examining ways to reconceptualise human rights in the digital age, launched, in partnership with the UN Office on Genocide Prevention, a multi-year consultation with social media platforms and human rights advocate on addressing online hate. It produced **'Countering and Addressing Online Hate Speech: A Guide for policy makers and practitioners'** in 2023.

As we head towards the 30th anniversary of the first conference in 2026, the Essex Law School has launched a new international initiative on a road less travelled: a multi-stakeholder framework to combat hate. Led by Professor Ahmed Shaheed, the framework builds directly on the work done by two on-going projects at the Human Rights Centre: the Religion and Equality Project (REP) and HRBDT.

REP was established in 2016 to support the work of the UN Special Procedures mandate on freedom of religion or belief—a mandate

held by Ahmed from 2016-22—and supported global consultations that led to the first-ever standalone UN reports on antisemitism, Islamophobia, gender equality in the context of religious freedom, and Indigenous Peoples' rights.

HRBDT, founded and led by Professor Lorna McGregor and working with a team of interdisciplinary scholars from Essex and around the world, has not only made pioneering contributions on the intersection between digitalisation and hate speech, but also on digital authoritarianism, and influenced standard setting in regard to algorithmic accountability and the right to privacy in the digital age.

Building on this work, ELS convened the Conference **"Empower Talk!: Standing Against Hate & Embracing Human Rights"** in Tirana, from 15-17 January 2025. Co-hosted by ELS and the **Government of Albania**, the conference was co-sponsored by the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief.



↑ Empower Talk!: Standing Against Hate & Embracing Human Rights, Tirana, Albania.

Bringing together over 120 participants from 35 countries—including national and international policymakers, parliamentarians, ombudspersons, diplomats, civil society leaders, interfaith actors, scholars, educators, advocates, legal experts, communications experts, and technological innovators—the conference produced a ground-breaking, human rights-centred, multistakeholder framework to combat hate in all its forms. It created a dynamic platform for open dialogue, moving beyond mere statements to real conversations across diverse actors and regions. The conference showcased good practice, reflected on lessons learned, examined difficult challenges and interrogated potential responses in inclusive roundtables joined by rights-holders, duty-bearers and other stakeholders.

The culmination of these efforts was the launch of the **HR30 Tirana Framework**—a shared pledge to unite in addressing all forms of hate speech and advancing human rights globally. Grounded in a human rights-centred, multistakeholder approach, the Tirana Framework

promotes inclusive partnerships among governments, CSOs, academia, and the private enterprises. It calls for joint action to address the root causes of hate, assess effective interventions, and drive policy reform and community-led initiatives. Crucially, the outcome document reaffirmed the commitment to equality that was stressed in the 1991 conference.

Since its launch, the Framework has driven significant action, influencing the Granada Declaration and serving as a partnership model at an official UN event to mark International Day for Countering Hate Speech. It now guides state-led efforts to address challenges in implementing Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18 by linking global policy with local action through National Human Rights Institutions, reporting mechanisms, UN Country Teams, and parliamentary bodies.

For ELS, the conference exemplifies the vital role legal scholarship and advocacy play in tackling contemporary human rights challenges. In addition, it also highlights the important

contributions our graduates make to affirm human rights even in the most challenging times. ELS graduate Zeynep Baysar was the chief co-ordinator of all the logistics while contributions from other recent graduates Siân Posy, Emma Appleby and Lola Sanchez Arcos were critical for the success of the conference. Zeynep and Siân now form the ELS research team supporting the project.

Commenting the conference outcome, Ahmed said: "I was delighted by the outcome document of the Tirana Conference, finding common ground in a multistakeholder setting with participants from diverse backgrounds at a time of intense global polarisation. However, what is equally remarkable is the outstanding contribution made by Zeynep and the team of our recent graduates in ensuring that we assembled relevant participants, drew up and implemented an effective programme, and co-ordinated post-conference responses to distil the consensus document. The process was clearly crucial for the successful outcome!"

New Books & Publications

Mutual Funds, ESG and Gatekeeper Responsibility: Challenges and Resolution of Agency Conflicts

Alshaleel M, Osuji O

European Business Law Review
36(1):75-102 31 Jan 2025

Capacity to Consent to Sex in the Civil and Criminal Law: Blurring the Boundaries

Lindsey J, Brennan K

In Mental Capacity Law, Sexual Relationships, and Intimacy. Clough B, Pritchard-Jones L. 60-84. Bristol University Press 19 Oct 2024

Grandparents and Kinship Carers Act or Granny 'Annex'? Waiting for the Government

Davey S

In Family Law Reform Now Proposals and Critique. **Bendall C**, Parveen R. 107-129. Bloomsbury Publishing 14 Nov 2024

La sécurité d'approvisionnement énergétique contre le droit

Durand E

In Le droit de la sécurité d'approvisionnement énergétique dans l'Union européenne. Le Baut-Ferrarese B. 93-163. Bruylant 07 Nov 2024

The Treadmill of Production, Sustainable Development Goals and International Investment Law: The Irreducibility of Growth and Environmental Regulation

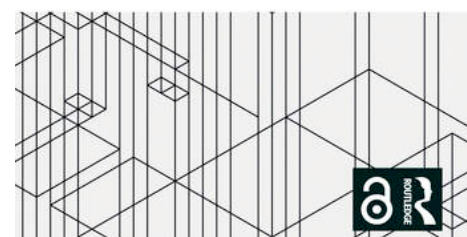
Fyock C

Berkeley Journal of International Law 43 03 Feb 2025



DETENTION AND THE RIGHT TO LIBERTY
ADDRESSING GAPS IN PROTECTION AT THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Sabina Garahan



Detention and the Right to Liberty Addressing Gaps in Protection at the European Court of Human Rights

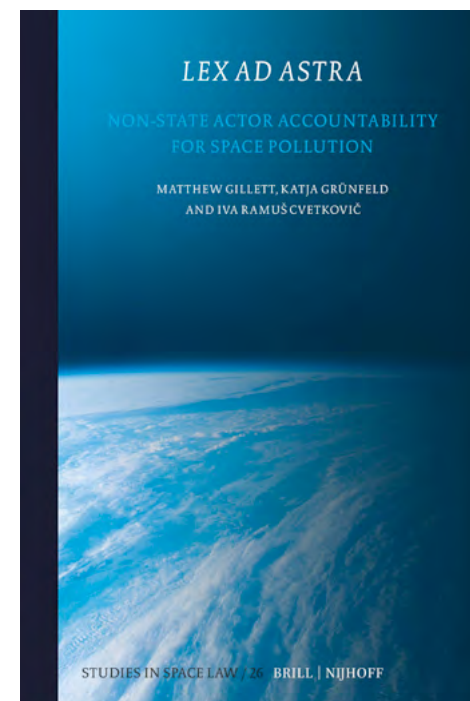
Garahan S

240 pages. Routledge 26 Mar 2025

Artificial Intelligence and the Crises of Judicial Power: (Not) Cutting the Gordian Knot?

Gentile G

In Oxford Handbook on Digital Constitutionalism. Oxford University Press, Nov 2024



Lex Ad Astra: Non-State Actor Accountability for Space Pollution

Gillett M, Grünfeld K, Ramuš Cvetković I

26. Brill 18 Mar 2025

Online harm, free speech, and the 'legal but harmful' debate: an interest-based approach

Kalliris K

Journal of Media Law 16(2):390-416 02 Dec 2024

Copyright content as data: from human creativity to artificial intelligence generated innovation

Karapapa S

In A Research Agenda on EU Copyright Law. Bonadio E, Sganga C. 89-104. Edward Elgar 27 Mar 2025

Courting Controversy? The Constitutional Implications of the Court of Justice of the European Union's Involvement in the Resolution of Disputes After Brexit

O'Connor N, Konstadinides T, Karatzia A

Yearbook of European Law, Jan 2025

A Laboratory of Constitutional Development: Domestic Differentiation and the Effective Application of EU Law in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Konstadinides T, Sterck J, Masson A

In Shaping a Genuine Area of Freedom, Security, and Justice. Lenaerts K, Regan E, Neergaard U, Sørensen KE. 71-82. Hart Publishing 31 Oct 2024

Privacy and data protection in the UK and in the EU: a long history of divergence even during the UK'S EU membership. Brexit should not bring a divorce with the EU privacy regulatory regime so as to protect trade and human rights in the UK

Koutsias M

European Business Law Review 36(1):103-132 Feb 2025

01 Feb 2025

Legitimacy and the Misguided Quest for a Representative Constitutional Court

Kyritsis D

In Political Representation and Constitutional Adjudication. Coutinho LP. Springer 27 May 2025

27 May 2025

Finally, separation of powers in Jersey?

Le Sueur A

Blog post. United Kingdom. Publication date: 28 Nov 2024

Strengthening the Human Rights (Jersey) Law 2000: a consultation report

Le Sueur A

Strengthening the Human Rights (Jersey) Law 2000: a consultation report. 10 Dec 2024. Jersey Law Commission, Jersey. 1-49

Is the Human Rights (Jersey) Law 2000 delivering on its promise?

Le Sueur A

Is the Human Rights (Jersey) Law 2000 delivering on its promise?. 03 Mar 2025. Jersey Law Commission, Jersey. 1-28

Strengthening the Human Rights (Jersey) Law 2000 (10 December 2024)

New Books & Publications

Repairing “historical” wrongs: The Church of Sweden’s approach to redressing colonial abuses against the Sami

Lekvall E

In Netherlands Yearbook of International Law 2022 - Reparations in International Law: A Critical Reflection. Spijkers O, Fraser J, Giakoumakis E. 53. T.M.C. Asser Press (Springer), The Hague 04 Jan 2025

One-Dimensional Law: A Critique of the Human Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment

Lostal M

The International Journal of Human Rights 25 Nov 2024

‘Budget Conditionality Judgments – A Virtuous Circle of Solidarity to Overcome Moral Hazard?’

Marique Y

Maastricht Journal of European and Comparative Law (MJ) 02 Feb 2025

Social and Legal Barriers to a Socially-Focussed Corporate Purpose: A Luhmannian Systems Analysis

Moore CR

European Company and Financial Law Review 2025
01 Jan 2025

Regulating Corporate Social Responsibility in Nigeria: An evaluation through the Lens of the Old Institutional Economic Theory

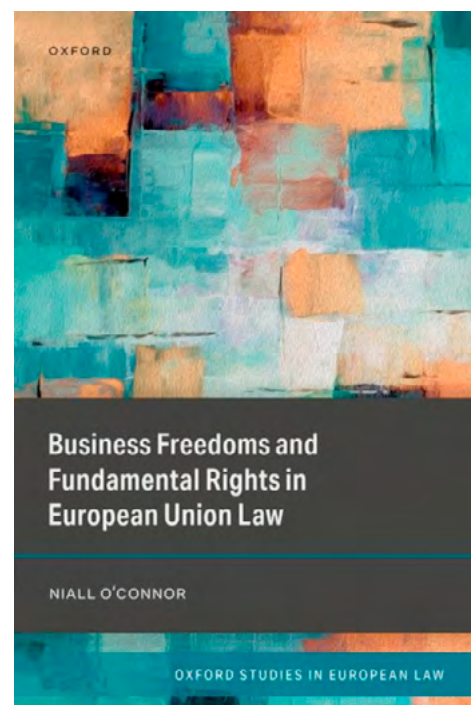
Nwoke U

Journal of Developing Societies 41(1):143-177 Mar 2025

Neoliberal Paradigm and Structural Injustice: Re-evaluating Private Property Rights in Company Ownership in Nigeria

Nwoke U

Journal of African Law
15 Apr 2025



Business Freedoms and Fundamental Rights in European Union Law

O'Connor N

Oxford University Press 12 Dec 2024

O'Mahony, D., & Butler, M. (Accepted/In press, 2025). Restorative Justice in Northern Ireland: empowering victims, offenders and communities? In F. Dünkel, M. Lehmkuhl, & I. Pruin (Eds.), Restorative Justice in Penal Matters in Europe: A stock-taking of legal issues, implementation strategies and outcomes in Europe Taylor and Francis

Famous at five: risk assessing digital child labour

Rees F

Information and Communications Technology Law 17 Jan 2025

Algorithms on Trial: Does Evaluative Probabilistic Reporting of Forensic Evidence Infringe the Presumption of Innocence?

Sallavaci O

Forensic Science International: Synergy. June 2025

Towards a National Forensic Science Strategy for Albania: Analysis, Options and Recommendations for Consideration

Sallavaci O, Tully G, Lewis D

03 Mar 2025, Report/Paper

“The minor’s healthcare in French law”: Paper to be published in 2025, in Ethics, Medicine and Public Health, Elsevier-Masson (ed),(already submitted for publication) App. 6500 wds. This paper aims to explain the provisions regulating the minor’s healthcare in France. It examines successively the parental prerogatives in relation to the child’s healthcare, the key notion of the “child’s interest”, and the rights granted to the child in this context.

Chilling Effect and Fake News Laws: Lessons from East and Southeast Asia

Sherstoboeva E, Pavlenko V

In Handbook of Chilling Effect. Springer 01 Dec 2024

Charting a Functionalist Business-Centred Approach to Sustainable Development Goal 16.3 through Business-to-Business Arbitration

Taiwo D

Law and Development Review 14 Feb 2025

The inherent incompatibility of international investment law with a just green transition

Yilmaz Vastardis A

In Global Corporations and Sustainability. Choudhury B. Edward Elgar, Forthcoming
17 Sep 2024

Automated Law Enforcement: An assessment of China’s Social Credit System (SCS) using interview evidence from Shanghai

Zuo Z

Journal of Cross-disciplinary Research in Computational Law 2(1) 17 Sep 2024

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↑ View of the lake, University of Essex, Colchester Campus.

EDITORS

Zeynep Basar

Visibility Team Member

Catherine Freeman

Events & Communications
Executive Officer

Professor Lorna McGregor

Deputy Dean,
External Relations

Dr Niall O'Connor

Director of Student
Recruitment

Professor Ahmed Shaheed

Director of Marketing,
Visibility and Alumni Relations

Dr Tara Van Ho

Visibility Team Member

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