Newcastle Law School Newsletter

Issue: Autumn/Winter 2014

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Welcome to the latest edition of the Newcastle Law School newsletter. The School continues to develop new opportunities for its undergraduate and postgraduate students, and to develop its outward (society) facing activities as well. You can read about some of these developments in the Newsletter. The School has also seen continued investment in both staff and facilities in the last year. Eight new members of academic staff have joined us in the last 6 months: Professor Andrew Griffiths and Dr Daithi MacSithigh (from the Universities of Manchester and Edinburgh respectively) joined the School in July 2014; Professor Zheng Sophia Tang from the University of Leeds joined in August 2014; and Dr Christine Beuermann, Dr James Upcher, Sam Ryan and Dr Bronwen Jones all joined us as Lecturers in September 2014; Lida Pitsillidou also joined as a Teaching Fellow in September 2014. The University invested over £700,000 over the summer vacation 2014 in a major extension and refurbishment of our Lecture Theatre – the results, including improved acoustics, state of the art computing and AV facilities and improved seating, are really quite spectacular. We also have a new Seminar room for small group teaching – meaning that we also now have 5 bespoke seminar rooms in the School building. Our continuing efforts to provide excellent teaching support and facilities for our students are reflected in high levels of student satisfaction. In this year’s National Student Satisfaction Survey – an independent survey undertaken by all final year undergraduates across UK Universities – we scored 92% for overall student satisfaction with the LLB programme. This is the sixth year running that the School has scored above 90% and is a real achievement. We also scored 92% overall satisfaction in the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey, an independent survey undertaken each year by postgraduate students at UK Universities.

Our postgraduate community continues to thrive and has organised several prominent events over the last year. You can read in the Newsletter about the PGR Newcastle/Northumbria Postgraduate conference hosted on 7th July 2014 by the Law School, and attended by over 50 PhD students from a wide range of Universities in addition to Northumbria and Newcastle. Our students also engage in pro bono and engagement activities that benefit local society. The Street Law project continues to thrive, and we are in the second year of working with Legacare, a charity working with terminally ill patients in the north east to provide legal advice and support. Our Advisory Board has also been very active in developing new ideas for engagement activities, and also career development for students. Our very successful mentoring project with the Excelsior Academy in the West End of Newcastle gives year 10 and year 12 pupils’ opportunities to learn about University and about studying law, and will be continuing this year. In short, the School continues to provide a vibrant learning community – there is a lot going on!

I hope you will enjoy reading about these and other initiatives in the following pages. If you want further information about the school or our activities please email us or follow us on Twitter (see links on the cover page of this newsletter).

Professor Chris Rodgers
Head of School
The Summer of 2014 saw major building works take place in Newcastle Law School to improve and expand our main lecture theatre and also create an additional small group teaching room. One of the exterior walls for the Law Lecture Theatre was moved by over 4 metres to take over land formerly outside the Law School building, requiring foundations to be laid and new fire exits to be created. The seating in the new Lecture Theatre has been re-orientated 90 degrees, with the seating at the back raised a step in height, which has significantly improved the layout, visibility and audibility of lectures in the new room. The room’s capacity has also increased from 230 to 279, which has allowed us the scope to increase the number of partners in our European Legal Studies stream (which gives students the opportunity to study abroad for a year between their second and third years, in exchange for Erasmus students coming to Newcastle to study) to include the Universities of Oslo and Copenhagen. The new small group teaching room was part of the old L shaped lecture theatre, but is now a separate and fully equipped teaching room with smart screen and audio-visual technology installed. The room can be used for seminars, workshops and small events in the Law School.

The Summer also saw the completion of the project to refurbish the Law Library furniture and install new lighting and additional plug points, to respond to students’ increasing use of personal laptops when studying.
Dr Christine Beuermann

Christine was previously at the University of Tasmania and hopes one day to work somewhere warm (though clearly not yet!). Having spent time in private practice, she teaches and researches in the area of private law. Christine’s initial research was on strict liability for the wrongdoing of another in tort (her work has since been cited by the Supreme Court). She is currently undertaking a broader research project on strict liability more generally. The object of the project is to clarify the meaning of ‘strict liability’ in the modern law of torts by identifying the factual circumstances in which the term is applied and determining whether the term is being used in different senses.

Professor Andrew Griffiths

Andrew Griffiths joined Newcastle as a Professor in July 2014 from the University of Manchester. Before entering academic life, he worked as a solicitor in commercial practice in London and Bristol. Andrew’s main teaching and research interests are in Trade Mark Law (and Branding) and Company Law and he has published widely in these areas. He has also taught on courses on general Intellectual Property Law, Corporate Governance and Law and Economics and is particularly interested in using the insights of Law and Economics analysis in his research. Andrew is the author of Contracting with Companies (Hart, 2005) and An Economic Perspective on Trade Mark Law (2011). He is currently working on projects which examine the relationship between trade marks and brands (on the one hand) and (variously) social responsibility, innovation, competition and business organisation (on the other hand).

Dr Bronwen Jones

Bronwen Jones joined Newcastle Law School as a lecturer, in September 2014. Her doctoral thesis is entitled Implementing TRIPS in Egypt: a Postcolonial Analysis. The Continuing Relevance of Egypt’s Juridical History to Understanding Developments in Egypt’s Intellectual Property Law. While writing her thesis she was a full time lecturer at Northumbria Law School where she taught Property Law and Intellectual Property Law. In an earlier incarnation she taught for ten years at the American University in Cairo (AUC), Egypt, living and working in Egypt as writer, editor and teacher over a period of twenty years. From 1994-1996 she taught Human Rights and Legal English courses to Judges and Human Rights activists in Egypt. Bronwen’s research interests are in the fields of International Intellectual Property Law, Law and Postcolonialism and Legal History.

Dr Daithí Mac Síthigh

I joined the Newcastle Law School at the start of July. I came here from the University of Edinburgh, and before that the University of East Anglia in Norwich. Before that again, I did a law degree and a doctorate at Trinity College Dublin, not far from my home county of Wicklow on the east coast of Ireland. My main involvement with undergraduate teaching will be as a member of the Public Law course team; it’s an area that has changed a lot since I first taught it in 2006, and things like the Scottish independence referendum will give us plenty to talk about this year.

More generally, much of my research and teaching is about the relationship between law and technology – which encompasses aspects of media law and intellectual property law. My PhD was on broadcasting law and the Internet, and my most recent research project is on the legal issues encountered by video game developers. It was funded by the CREATe centre for copyright and new business models in the creative industries (www.create.ac.uk). I’ll be teaching a new LLM option on “The Law of E-Commerce” from this autumn onwards here in Newcastle.

Working on these types of topics presents great opportunities for engaging with the world outside the university; in the last couple of years, I have given evidence to the Leveson Inquiry (a major public inquiry on the culture and practices of the UK media), given presentations to practicing lawyers on law and technology, and written a report on freedom of expression and the Internet for Google. On Twitter, I’m @macsithigh
Lida joined Newcastle Law School as a Teaching Fellow in September 2014. Her research interests lie primarily in the areas of Company Law, Commercial Law and Corporate Governance, particularly on the issues of minority shareholders’ protection and directors’ duties. Prior to joining Newcastle Law School, Lida had successfully completed her LLB (Hons) at the University of Sunderland and her LLM in International Business and Commercial Law at the University of Manchester. She then came to Newcastle Law School to undertake her PhD. The primary aim of her PhD research is to clarify the purpose and role of derivative actions and critically examine whether those actions can provide justice to minority shareholders. Aside from research experience, Lida has worked as a part-time teaching assistant at Newcastle Law School. She has also held the position of Managing Editor of the North East Law Review. Furthermore, she has been involved in the organisation of Newcastle Law School’s PGR Seminar Series as well as in the organisation of various postgraduate research conferences.

Samantha Ryan joined Newcastle Law School in August 2014. She will teach on the Criminal Law and Law, Gender and Sexuality Modules and act as Undergraduate Selector. She has previously taught criminal law at KCL UCL, and London Metropolitan University. From 2004 to 2009 Ryan worked as a lecturer in law at Newcastle University teaching criminal law, the law of evidence and human rights law. Her central research interest concerns the boundaries of the criminal law and setting limits as to how the state can control or limit human behavior. This has been touched on in previous research regarding criminal liability for the transmission of HIV. Her current research focus is on the issue of whether women who consume alcohol or drugs whilst pregnant should be subject to criminal sanction.

Professor Zheng Sophia Tang joined Newcastle University in 2014. Before that she taught law at the University of Leeds and the University of Aberdeen. Professor Tang read law at the Wuhan University (China) and Manchester University, and obtained her PhD degree at the University of Birmingham. She is a barrister-at-law (Middle Temple) and an accredited mediator (ADR Group). She is an associate at the Centre of Private International Law, University of Aberdeen and invited guest professor at Wuhan University and Chinese Foreign Affair University. Professor Tang is specialised in private international law (conflict of laws) and transnational commercial law, in which she published extensively. She also provides training and expert advice to judges, government officials, practitioners and NGOs in EU, UK, China and Macau.

James joined the Law School in September 2014. He was born in Hobart, Tasmania, in Australia. He graduated from the University of Tasmania with degrees in Arts and Law. After practising with a law firm in Melbourne and at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, James went on to complete his doctorate in public international law at the University of Oxford. Prior to joining the Law School, James worked as a lawyer in private practice in London, where he represented States and private clients in a wide range of international law disputes, including disputes before the International Court of Justice and the Permanent Court of Arbitration. In 2014-2015, he will be teaching public law, criminal law, international commercial arbitration and international human rights law.
Newcastle Law School has enjoyed success again this year in the National Student Satisfaction Survey 2014 which measures student feedback on the quality of their course. This year the Law School achieved an overall satisfaction rating of 92% in this survey.

The Law School has also continued to achieve excellent scores in the league table rankings going up ten places from 23rd to 13th position in the UK’s Complete University Guide 2015. It was ranked 13th in the Times/Sunday Times rankings and 12th in the Guardian University Guide 2015. Notably, it was ranked first overall for ‘satisfaction with the course’ in the Guardian table achieving a score of 96% and was ranked among the top five (second in the Russell Group) for ‘satisfaction with feedback’ scoring 80.3%. These very strong performances again demonstrate the Law School’s standing as a leading institution, which we hope to build on in the coming academic year.

Newcastle Law School has scored excellent results in the 2013/14 Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) which covered the School’s three distinguished LLM programmes. 100% of respondents rated the overall quality of the teaching on their programme as good or really good. 92% of respondents were overall satisfied with the quality of the course. 100% of respondents agreed that staff are good at explaining things, they were encouraged to ask questions or make contributions in taught sessions and the course has enhanced their academic ability. Professor Chris Rodgers, Head of School, has commented on the results:

‘These results are a testament to the enormous efforts made by our academic staff to give our postgraduate community an excellent learning experience, and to the School’s ongoing commitment to providing the best teaching and learning environment for all our students. It is very satisfying to see that our postgraduate students value what we strive to deliver for them.’

Newcastle Law School has achieved another success following the recent International Student Barometer results 2013. International students rated the overall support we provide at 100 percent. This success is consistent with the results achieved in 2011 and 2012 respectively:

The International Student Barometer 2011 places Newcastle Law School (74 percent) above the national average satisfaction (73 percent) in the integration of international students with non-international students. This means that the Law School is not only one of the strongest schools in the University for international/host Integration, but also that it beats the national average for that year. The 2012 results places Newcastle Law School as the best performing school for integration within Newcastle University at 70 percent and the national average is 72 percent.

The Law School runs the International Student Intensive Guidance and Development Programme (ISIGP) for first year undergraduate and taught postgraduate International Students to facilitate integration into the academic and social cultures within the institution (http://www.ncl.ac.uk/nuls/study/undergraduate/international/tutor.htm). The Law School also runs a very successful mentoring scheme for undergraduate international students (http://www.ncl.ac.uk/nuls/study/undergraduate/international/mentor.htm). Both programmes are designed, set-up and run by the School’s International Student Tutor, Shamini K Ragavan.
The former Head of the Law School, Mr Ashley Wilton, has recently been honoured by an Honorary Fellowship from Newcastle University for his contribution over 40 years to the University beyond that to the Law School. His additional contributions have included several terms on both Senate and Council on which bodies he took an active role. His first such election came when he was only 26. He also acted as Dean of Law for a term and then as the Dean of Social and Environmental Sciences. In addition, he has been a career-long champion of the University Library, of which the Law Library is a Division. He has played a key role in drafting and implementing regulations and procedures to ensure the fair treatment of students in matters of assessment, progress, academic appeals and issues of discipline. He sat on staff employment committees and, from 1988, was the Student Disciplinary Convenor until 2010. He has represented the University on and chaired several charitable and private trusts in which the University has an interest. Finally, he championed and contributed actively to the Partners Scheme from the outset and thus helped the University in this crucially important work.

Ashley, who retired in September 2013, said of the award of the Honorary Fellowship:

“I feel very proud to have this Honour conferred on me by my own University especially since it is highly unusual for an academic member of staff to be honoured in this way. I have enjoyed—and I do mean that it has been both serious and fun at (different) times—a unusually very varied career at Newcastle doing a lot of stimulating and satisfying work in addition to my discipline specific academic duties. A good deal of this work has been to engage beyond the University and thus perhaps, in a modest way, substantiate the notion of a civic University with responsibilities.”

Colin Murray, the Law School’s outgoing Degree Programme Director for Undergraduate Studies, was awarded a 2014 Teaching Excellence Award for the provision of excellent Pastoral Support at the University’s awards ceremony held on 13th May. The Degree Programme Director is responsible for managing the Law School’s Personal Extenuating Circumstances system, as well as transfers and withdrawals. The role is therefore an important part of the Law School’s support network for students at times of considerable stress in their studies. But it is also part of a wider team effort by the Law School, and this success reflects the commitment of all of personal tutors, stage tutors and support staff within the Law School to providing an environment in which our students can focus on their studies.

The Law School’s success was not confined to the Pastoral Support category. Fully eleven Law School staff were nominated for awards, and two were shortlisted in addition to Colin; Dr Alison Dunn (shortlisted for Innovative Teaching Methods) and Mr Richard Hogg (shortlisted for Support Staff of the Year). We aim to build on this success in 2015.
The Law School’s annual graduation ceremony took place on the 16th July, 2014. This year we were proud to see 129 students graduate, who were joined on the day by family and friends. Jessica Randall delivered the graduand’s oration remembering fond experiences of Newcastle Law School and hopes for the future. The ceremony was followed by a reception. We wish all our graduates every success!!

Professor Chris Rodgers, Student Orator Jessica Randell

On the 10th June 2014, students and staff from Newcastle University celebrated the publication of the second volume of the North East Law Review. Following on from the success of last year’s inaugural volume, the NELR Committee have worked hard to create two issues displaying excellent student work, alongside running a successful seminar series, blog competition and a series of law and film nights.

The North East Law Review formed in January 2013 with the aim of providing students, who have excellent legal writing skills, with a platform to publish their work to the legal and academic community. The Review also provides an opportunity for the student editorial board to garner a range of editing skills and to benefit from the practice of peer-review. In its second year, the Editorial Board has expanded upon its aim of encouraging a culture of research excellence by running a series of educational seminars concerning advice on legal writing, legal research, career development and publishing. Blog writing has also been encouraged with the Review’s first ever blog writing competition for the “Current Legal Issues Blog”. Finally, the Review has run a number of Law & Film nights in conjunction with staff in the Law School which has featured the showing and commentary on a number of films including: The Accused, Ghandi, and The Battle of Algiers.

Volume 2(2) of the North East Law Review has marked the start of a closer involvement of Universities within the North East, with the guest publication from Ruth Houghton of Durham University. Ruth’s paper was included in this issue as the winner of the best paper at the 2014 Newcastle Law School’s Postgraduate Research Conference. The Editorial Board aim to encourage and improve upon this relationship with North East Universities going forward.

To stay in touch with the latest developments from the North East Law Review, please ‘like’ us on facebook: https://www.facebook.com/northeastlawrev and follow us on twitter: https://twitter.com/nelr_ncl. Alternatively, if you would like further information about the Law Review or Current Legal Issues Blog, please email our General Editor, Corey Krohman, at nelr@ncl.ac.uk.
Following the success of last year’s inaugural conference, the North East PGR Law Forum, established by Newcastle Law School and Northumbria Law School in 2013, organised its second PGR conference that took place on the 7th of July 2014. The theme of this year’s conference, ‘Exploring Legal Boundaries in Modern Society’, aimed to facilitate a dialogue and exchange ideas on contemporary legal issues at the postgraduate level with other researchers and leading academics, through paper and poster presentations together with plenary sessions. The conference contained a mixture of various interesting areas of law from postgraduate research students across the UK, such as Company Law, Human Rights, Law & Society, Socio-Legal studies, Comparative Law and International Law. In this year’s conference we also had the great opportunity to have Professor Christopher Rodgers, Head of Newcastle Law School, and Professor Sue Farran, Professor at Northumbria Law School, as our plenary keynote speakers. We hope that the students have benefited vastly from engaging with the North East PGR Law Forum so far and that the forum will continue to provide a platform for the students to explore the benefits of legal research in the future. If you have any questions regarding the North East PGR Law Forum, please contact us at northeaslawforum@gmail.com.

On 24th September 2014 Newcastle Law School hosted a symposium dedicated to the most recent research papers of a distinguished legal scholar and philosopher Professor David Dyzenhaus (Toronto Law School). In his work Professor Dyzenhaus examines the general questions of justice, the relationship between law and morality as well as procedural and substantive aspects of law. He is internationally renowned for his books including *Hard Cases in Wicked Legal Systems: South African Law in the Perspective of Legal Philosophy* and *Legality and Legitimacy: Carl Schmitt, Hans Kelsen, and Herman Heller in Weimar*. He is currently the Arthur Goodhart Visiting Professor in Legal Science in Cambridge.

In two plenary sessions Professor Dyzenhaus discussed his papers on ‘Dreaming the Rule of Law’ and ‘Towards a Formal Theory of Law’ with several invited respondents. The respondents were Mariano Croce from the University of Antwerp, Tom Frost from the University of Sussex, Aoife O’Donoghue from Durham Law School, and TT Arvind, Richard Mullender, Colin Murray, Kevin Crosby, Tom Bennett, Ole Pedersen and Emilia Mickiewicz, all from Newcastle Law School.
Students decide to undertake a taught LL.M. for many different reasons such as to study a specialised or new area of law, to improve job prospects, to move into law from e.g. economics, agriculture or political sciences, or in preparation for a research career.

Newcastle Law School currently offers three LL.M. part-time or full-time programmes with specialisation in:

- International Business Law
- International Legal Studies
- Environmental Regulation and Sustainable Development

Each programme consists of 180 credit modules, both compulsory and optional, including a dissertation on a chosen subject.

More information about the programmes and entry requirements can be found here: [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/nuls/study/postgraduate/taught/index.htm](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/nuls/study/postgraduate/taught/index.htm) and [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/nuls/study/postgraduate/taught/requirements.htm](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/nuls/study/postgraduate/taught/requirements.htm)

For further information please contact [a.k.aldohni@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:a.k.aldohni@ncl.ac.uk) or [gemma.hayton@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:gemma.hayton@ncl.ac.uk)

Newcastle Law School prides itself for its strong and diverse post-graduate LL.M. and research student community. Such community is the Law School’s bridge to the rest of the world and a reflection of its impact on local, regional and global societies.

Through our research-incentive teaching and learning environment, with a fully dedicated LLM workroom, we prepare the world’s next generation of critical thinkers who will make their own positive contributions to contemporary challenges. We accomplish this through the provision of education of the highest standards, as evident from our consistent high rankings. In this respect, the Law School ranked in 13th position in both the UK’s Complete University Guide 2015 and the Times/Sunday Times rankings, and was ranked 12th in the Guardian University Guide 2015. We also achieved excellent results in the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) with 100% of respondents rating the overall quality of the teaching on their programme as good or really good. 100% of respondents also agreed that staff are good at explaining things, they were encouraged to ask questions or make contributions in taught sessions and the course has enhanced their academic ability. Further details on the School’s recent successes in this context are provided at page 6 above.

Moreover, our graduates’ professional successes, some of who are employed by the United Nations and other governmental as well as non-governmental international organisations, and some of who have taken up positions in the financial, business and environmental sectors, are a living testimony of Newcastle Law School’s excellent employment credentials.
The three LL.M. degree programmes offered by Newcastle Law School are supported by a number of scholarships and bursaries for suitably qualified candidates as outlined below.

1. Sir Mark Waller Post-graduate Law Scholarships

Newcastle Law School has up to 5 scholarships available to international students and up to 2 scholarships available to home / EU students intending to pursue studies at Newcastle University in one of the LL.M. programmes. These scholarships range from £2,500 to £3,000 each and they are payable towards the tuition fees.

Newcastle Law School also has 1 scholarship which covers full tuition fees for an international student.

All LL.M. applications will be automatically considered for these scholarships and no separate scholarship application is necessary.

For the eligibility criteria please see: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/nuls/study/postgraduate/taught/funding/

2. Newcastle University International Postgraduate Scholarship

The Newcastle University International Postgraduate Scholarship (NUIPS) awards are for international students from outside of the EU who enrol on any taught programme at Newcastle. Each scholarship is for £1,500 per year, payable towards tuition fees.

For more information on application process and deadlines please visit http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/funding/search/list/nuips

3. Scholarships to Students from Jilin University, China

Newcastle Law School offers partial tuition fee scholarships of £2,000 to the top five students from Jilin University. Candidates must have successfully completed either a four-year Bachelors programme or a Masters programme at Jilin University School of Law with a minimum average score of 85%.

4. Country Specific Scholarships

Newcastle University offers partial scholarship awards to assist international students with good qualifications to study for a postgraduate degree. For more information please visit: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/funding/search/list/css

5. Other Funding

In addition, the University is offering a 20% reduction in postgraduate tuition fees for all Alumni who are self-funding their study.

Also, to see the University postgraduate pages with a wealth of information on other sources of funding, visit http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/funding/

Scholarship Recipients 2014-2015

Sir Mark Waller Scholarship Recipients 2014-2015

The recipients of the Mark Waller scholarships in 2014-2015 were:

- Luciana Da Silva Castro Souto
- Adi Arbel
- Melanie Lai
- Andrea Valera
- Chrystalla Olymbiou
- Rachel Wright
Summer 2013 saw work completed on the new Eldon Cluster in the Law Library and a new dedicated workspace for the exclusive use of LLM Students. The recently refurbished Eldon Cluster housed in the Law School’s own Law Library, has been equipped with 24 brand new computers and two printers for use by both undergraduate and postgraduate students. The LLM work room has just been renovated and equipped with 14 brand new computers and one printer and is provided by the Law School in recognition of the LL.M.

Recognising the significance of obtaining first hand experience on international criminal trials in the context of teaching and learning, Newcastle Law School has incorporated a fieldtrip as part of the International Criminal Law module.

Such fieldtrip will provide interested students with a unique opportunity to travel to The Hague, The Netherlands, in order to attend trials scheduled before the International Criminal Court, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and/or the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. As known, these courts have been set up with the purpose of trying individuals suspected of committing or being involved in serious atrocities such as war crimes and crimes against humanity among others.

The fieldtrip, which is optional, will take place in Semester 2, in spring 2016 after the completion of the teaching and assessment of International Criminal Law. Please note that students who wish to attend this optional fieldtrip will have to pay full costs and make appropriate visa and travel arrangements.

For more information about the fieldtrip please contact Dr Elena Katselli at elena.katselli@ncl.ac.uk
Newcastle Law School offers the following postgraduate research degrees in law: PhD, MPhil, LLM by research, and LLM in Environmental Law and Policy (Research). These courses involve independent research under supervision to produce a thesis. We offer intensive subject-specific supervision, training in legal research methodologies and core skills, and opportunities to participate in research seminars and an annual postgraduate conference. We also provide a stimulating international academic environment that brings together staff and students from a variety of backgrounds.

For further details on these programmes, please visit [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/law-llm-by-research-mphil-phd.html#profile](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/law-llm-by-research-mphil-phd.html#profile)

For information on the formal application process at Newcastle please visit: [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply) This link will provide details of the criteria and full details of how to apply. We encourage applicants to apply online via the following link: [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply/form](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply/form)

Information for International students, where relevant, can be found at: [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/international/index.htm](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/international/index.htm)

For the areas in which we can offer research supervision for PhD study please see our Law School Website - staff web pages can be found at: [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/nuls/study/postgraduate/research/index.htm](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/nuls/study/postgraduate/research/index.htm)

For questions on the application process and entry criteria, the PG admissions team will be happy to help and can be contacted directly on: pgadmissions@ncl.ac.uk

### PhD Scholarship Opportunities for Study in Newcastle Law School

**North East Doctoral Training Centre (NEDTC) Studentships**
North East Doctoral Training Centre (NEDTC) Studentships available for the 2015/2016 academic year. Applications are invited from applicants with an interest in pursuing a PhD in any area of Law in which the School is able to offer supervision. Please see further: [http://www.nedtc.ac.uk/](http://www.nedtc.ac.uk/)

For full details on the scheme and information on funding, eligibility and how to apply see: [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/funding/search/list/esr15](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/funding/search/list/esr15)

**Northern Bridge Doctoral Training Partnership (NBDTP) Studentships**
Northern Bridge Doctoral Training Partnership (NBDTP) Studentships available for the 2015/2016 academic year Applications are invited from applicants with an interest in pursuing a PhD in any area of Law in which the School is able to offer supervision. Please see further: [http://www.northernbridge.ac.uk/](http://www.northernbridge.ac.uk/)

For full details on the scheme and information on funding, eligibility and how to apply see: [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/funding/search/list/ah15](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/funding/search/list/ah15)
The new academic year is set to be an exciting one for the Eldon Society. With the arrival of our new first years to the Law School, and with Fresher’s Week now passed, the Committee has been hard at work signing up new members. We recently surpassed 400 members, making the Society one of the largest at Newcastle University; an achievement the Committee was very proud of.

We have already started the year with the launch of the rebranded Eldon Society. The Committee spent a lot of time over the Summer Vacation trying to update the logo to match the professionalism of our sponsors and future employers. We are hoping this will contribute to strengthening the brand of the Society and raise its profile for the benefit of our members.

On Thursday 2nd October, we hosted the first event in a busy social calendar for the Eldon Society this year; the famous annual Fresher’s Quiz! This was a chance for new members of the Society to meet their mentors and fellow students. Looking ahead, we will be hosting our legal competitions as normal this year. All members will have the chance to compete in the mooting and negotiating competitions - and complete client interviewing as part of the LIM module, as well as competing.

We are hoping to continue the tradition of an annual trip abroad this year. Last term, 50 of our members spent the weekend in Amsterdam, with fantastic feedback. We will be having discussions in the next few weeks as to where our next destination might be!

It’s an exciting time for our sports teams in these first few weeks of terms. All teams will be looking to recruit new players/members. If any students are interested in playing for an Eldon Sport team – even if you’ve never played the sport before – get in touch with our new Sports Secretary, Chris Duddy, at eldon.sports@ncl.ac.uk

Any students interested in signing up the Eldon Society can visit http://bit.ly/eldon-society to register and pay online. All new members will receive a customised Society hoodie included in their membership. Any questions can be sent to Calum at eldon.president@ncl.ac.uk.
Wellbeing in the legal Profession—Professor Richard Collier

Professor Richard Collier has recently presented papers drawing on his Society of Legal Scholars funded research on wellbeing in the legal profession to the 2014 Research Committee of the Sociology of Law Working Group on the Legal Professions, Germany and at the 2014 W.G.Hart Workshop, Legal Education and Training and the Professions. His article on wellbeing in law “Love Law, Love Life’: Neo-Liberalism, Wellbeing and Gender in the Legal Profession’ has recently been published in *Legal Ethics* (2014) Vol 17 (2) 202-230 and in October Richard will be an invited speaker at the Colloquium on The Challenge of Equity and Inclusion in the Legal Profession: An International and Comparative Perspective in Fordham Law School, New York. He has been appointed to the Advisory Board of NORMA: International Journal for Masculinity Studies and invited to join the steering group for the ESRC funded project ‘Beyond Male Role Models: Gender Identities and Work with Young Men’.

Inspirical Women of Law: Conference and Portraits - Professor Kathryn Hollingsworth and Dr Nikki Godden

Professor Kathryn Hollingsworth and Dr Nikki Godden have been awarded £3600 from the Catherine Cookson Foundation to support the ‘Inspirational Women of the Law’ portrait exhibition which will be launched in the University’s Long Gallery on 5th March 2015. The exhibition - which will have its permanent home in the Law School - aims to raise awareness about women’s legal achievements by showcasing a number of inspirational women, including those who have used the law to achieve social change. The exhibition will be accompanied by a half day of lectures and workshops with contributions from women in the judiciary, legal profession, NGOs and campaigning sectors. The event will be supported by funding from Newcastle Law School, the Newcastle Institute of Social Renewal and the Newcastle Gender Research Group. For more information please contact Professor Kathryn Hollingsworth or Dr Nikki Godden.

Official Responses to Juror Misconduct in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century England - Dr Kevin Crosby

Kevin Crosby was recently awarded £1,100 funding from the Society of Legal Scholars for a project entitled 'Official Responses to Juror Misconduct in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century England'.

Over the past decade, the management of juries has become an increasingly important problem. As internet usage has grown, judges have been regularly faced with the problem of jurors seeking "evidence" beyond that presented at trial. Initial responses focused on correcting irregularities and educating jurors; but over the past few years several jurors have been imprisoned for their misconduct. The Criminal Justice and Courts Bill, currently going through parliament, seeks to create several new indictable offences relating to juror misconduct. And so although means to better manage juries are still being explored, the debate’s tone has become increasingly punitive. This project seeks to put the recent debate on juror misconduct and juror punishment into a historical context, focusing in particular on records held at the National Archives for the period between the 1825 abolition of the attainder and today.

Free Movement and Access to Healthcare—Dr. Sylvia de Mars

Dr. Sylvia de Mars is currently exploring the consequences of EU free movement of persons as guaranteed by Directive 2004/38/EC on the legal structuring of national health care systems. She is first working on a project that compares the compatibility of healthcare regulation in England, Ireland, Belgium and the Netherlands with EU free movement law. For this project, she in 2014 was awarded £865 by the Society for Legal Scholars to conduct research in Ireland, and £1536 by Newcastle University’s HaSS Faculty Research Fund to conduct research in Belgium and the Netherlands.

The above project has raised more general questions about the functionality and appropriateness of the current coordination regime of EU social security benefits, particularly as it coordinates access and entitlement to healthcare. To consider how the EU might respond to the pressures of a mobile, possibly economically inactive citizenry on domestic healthcare regulation, Dr. de Mars has obtained a Small Research Grant of £3380 from the British Academy and Leverhulme Trust that will enable her to travel to the United States for in-depth research on the functioning of federal regulation of healthcare in the Affordable Care
Games and Transmedia—Dr Daithí Mac Síthigh

Daithí Mac Síthigh presented the results of a research project on ‘Games and Transmedia’ at CREATE’s All Hands conference in Glasgow on 15-16 September 2014. CREATE is the Research Councils UK-funded interdisciplinary centre for copyright and new business models in the creative economy, and the games project was one of 40 included in its successful bid for funding in 2012.

The project findings were presented to an audience of academics, industry and the public sector in the Sectoral Working Group (Games), and to the full CREATE team the following day. The project poster designed by researcher Tom Phillips (see below), was the winner of the Best Poster prize. Daithí was principal investigator on this project, and worked closely with co-investigator Dr Keith M. Johnston (School of Art, Media & American Studies, University of East Anglia). Daithí and Tom also presented at the first Develop Live conference in Edinburgh on 1 October, where they discussed the legal position of game ‘clones’ before an industry audience, in a talk entitled “From pocket money to Flappy Bird and beyond: Things to know about copyright and games”.

‘Displacement, the Interplay of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and the European Court of Human Rights’ - Dr. Elena Katselli

Dr Elena Katselli recently presented a paper at the annual conference of the Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI) which was held in Copenhagen on 29 & 30 September 2014. The conference attracted over 180 participants from different parts of the world.

Dr Katselli’s paper focused on how protections afforded under international humanitarian law on the right to property restitution and to return home have been put into question by more recent jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights. To this effect it was argued that the Court not only widens the gap between the protections afforded under international human rights and humanitarian law, but importantly, by doing so makes any protection to the individual fragmented and erratic, and as a consequence, significantly weakened.

AHRI is a research network of academic institutes and centres working on the area of human rights to which the Newcastle Forum for Human Rights & Social Justice has been a member since 2010.

UK Private International Law Group—Professor Sophia Tang

In collaboration with Lorna Gillies at the University of Leicester, Professor Sophia Tang has established the UK Private International Law Group in 2014, which is the first UK-wide group focusing specifically on private international law. The purpose of the group is to organise meetings and events for group members to exchange ideas, to build inter-institutional collaboration and to promote UK research and teaching on private international law.

Sophia also presented her recent article entitled ‘Consumer contracts and the Internet in EU private international law’ at the EU Internet Law Conference on the 9th and 10th October in Copenhagen.
Recent Staff Publications include:


OW Pedersen “The Limits of Interdisciplinarity and the Practice of Environmental Law Scholarship” (2014) 26 (3) Journal of Environmental Law


Z. Tang, Jurisdiction and Arbitration Agreements in International Commercial Law ( Routledge, Feb 2014)


Forthcoming Events

Human Rights and Social Justice Forum Seminar Series

Dr Emilie Cloatre (Kent Law School), “Regulation, disobedience and the socio-legal construction of condoms in Ireland 1935-1993” 1pm, Wednesday 26th November, Seminar Room 5, Newcastle Law School

Dr Emilie Cloatre from Kent Law School will join us to discuss her research on contraception regulation in Ireland 1930s-90s, as an examination of social movements and law.

Dr Jane Ball, “Ghosts: A short history of the thinning of tenure rights in the European space”, 1pm Wednesday 10th December, Seminar Room 5, Newcastle Law School

Other seminars later in the year will be delivered by a range of internal and external speakers, including Professor Therese Murphy (Nottingham), Professor David Mead (UEA), Professor Richard Collier (Newcastle), and Dr Lars Waldorf (York).

For further information on the seminar series please contact Professor Kathryn Hollingsworth Kathryn.hollingsworth@newcastle.ac.uk.