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Mr Aris Christidis

Aris joined Newcastle Law School as a full-time teaching fellow in January 2018, having previously taught at the University of Nottingham. He holds a BA in Sociology, an LLB and an LLM. Aris is in the process of completing his PhD at the University of Nottingham in the Law School for which he was awarded a generous scholarship by the same school. He currently teaches EU Law and Introduction to Business Law at the undergraduate level.

Recognition for Excellence in Teaching

Congratulations to Dr Hélène Tyrell and Josh Jowitt. Their paper 'Let Them Eat Cases: Bridging the Skills Gap between High School and Degree Level Learning' won the Chris Gale Prize for Collaboration at the Association of Law Teachers' conference at Keele.

Congratulations as well to all staff nominated for the NUSU Teaching Excellence Awards (TEAs):

Outstanding Contribution to Teaching - Dr Christine Beuermann, Elliot Winter, Dr Francesco De-Cecco, Dr Hélène Tyrell and Professor Richard Mullender.

Outstanding Contribution to Pastoral Support - Hélène Tyrell.

Dr Hélène Tyrell and Dr Jennifer Stephens have both been shortlisted as finalists for the Northern Law Awards Law Teacher of the Year.

Research News

Funding for research into anxiety in the legal professions
Professor Richard Collier has received funding from the charity Anxiety UK to undertake research into anxiety in the legal professions. This award complements Richard’s ongoing Leverhulme Trust funded study (6/11/17 - 5/11/18) Wellbeing, Law and Society: Politics, Policy and Practice - A Socio-Legal Study.

North East Law Forum comes to Newcastle Law School
This year’s North East Law Forum, the joint Newcastle-Northumbria PGR Conference, will take place on Thursday 18th June 2018 at Newcastle Law School. This year’s theme is: ‘Impact: Law and Research.’

This conference will facilitate a dialogue and exchange of ideas on contemporary legal and research issues with other researchers and leading academics, through presentation of research together with plenary sessions.

Professor Chris Newman from Northumbria will provide a keynote about research and impact, a speaker from the research thinktank IPPI North will also provide a keynote. Dr Ruth Houghton from Newcastle University is offering a lunchtime session on Impact for PGRs and Early Career Academics.
**Books**


**Articles**


C Beuermann, ‘Do hospitals owe a so-called 'non-delegable duty of care' to their patients?’ (2017) Medical Law Review.


CP Rodgers (with D Mackay), ‘Creating 'new' commons for the twenty-first century: innovative legal models for 'green space” (2017) Journal of Environmental Planning and Management.


I Turkmendag Brunsnes, ‘It is just a 'battery': 'Right' to know in mitochondrial replacement’ (2017) Science, Technology and Human Values.

I Turkmendag Brunsnes (with M Hewiit and R Dingwall), ‘Squeeze on academics poses threats to learned societies’ (2017) Research Fortnight.

D Whayman, ‘Equitable allowances or restitutionary measures for dishonest assistance and knowing receipt’ (2017) Northern Ireland Legal Quarterly.


**Book Chapters**

R Collier, ‘Rethinking Men, Masculinities and the Legal Academy: Or, Whatever Happened to the ‘Nutty Professor?’ in *Gender and Careers in the Legal Academy* (Hart 2018).

## Research News

### Recent Staff Publications — Continued

#### Book Chapters

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<td>C Murray</td>
<td>‘Shifting Emergencies from the Political to the Legal Sphere: Placing the United Kingdom’s Derogations from the ECHR in Historical Context’</td>
<td><em>The International Human Rights Judiciary and National Parliaments: Europe and Beyond</em> (Cambridge University Press 2017).</td>
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#### Reports

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<td>C Mallory (with S Musa and B Shiner)</td>
<td>‘Response to MoD Consultation on Better Combat Compensation’</td>
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### Staff Appointments

**Sylvia de Mars:** As of 1 February 2018, Sylvia will be working for the House of Commons Library as a Senior Researcher in EU and International Law and Policy in addition to her lectureship at Newcastle Law School. The Commons Library provides an expert, impartial research service for MPs and their staff, consisting of a confidential enquiry service and the preparation of research briefings and debate packs in light of Parliamentary business.

**Colin Murray:** In December 2017, Colin was commissioned by the Joint Committee of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission and the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission to produce a High Level Policy Paper on the impact of Brexit upon human rights in Ireland. Working alongside Aoife O'Donoghue (Durham) and Ben Warwick (Birmingham), Colin presented this paper to the Joint Committee in January 2018, providing a basis for the activities of Ireland and Northern Ireland’s statutory human rights bodies in response to Brexit.
Biotechnology and advances in AI promise the advent of new forms of life, maybe even ‘conscious’, reasoning creatures as intelligent and as sapient as *Homo sapiens*. This symposium seeks to highlight the difficulties in the interplay between consciousness, responsibility, and liability, and attempt to provide a basis for developing workable legal definitions that may be applicable in many fields of law.

Confirmed speakers include:

- Professor Paula Boddington (Oxford)
- Dr Miranda Mowbray (Bristol)
- Professor Richard Mullender
- Dr Nathan Emmerich (Dublin)
- Dr Ilke Turkmendag
- Dr Nicola Williams (Lancaster)
- Mr Daniel Tigard (Tulane, USA)

Biotechnology and advances in AI promise the advent of new forms of life, maybe even ‘conscious’, reasoning creatures as intelligent and as sapient as *Homo sapiens*. It seems likely that these products will be created by public companies and in particular multinational corporations. At present no regulation exists which addresses the responsibility of companies in the development, operation, and disposal of these technologies. This symposium seeks to ask how we approach regulation for companies producing and possessing conscious technology.

Speakers include:

- Professor Daithí Mac Síthigh (Belfast)
- Professor Colin Gavaghan (Otago, NZ)
- Dr Aisling Mcahon (Durham)
- Mr Chris Riley (Durham)
- Dr Daniel Attenborough (Durham)
- Mr Gary Wilson (Nottingham Trent)
- Professor TT Arvind (Newcastle)
- Professor Alan Dignam (Queen Marys, London)
Constitutionalism, Scale and Tyranny seminar

Dr Ruth Houghton, along Professor Aoife O'Donoghue and Dr Alan Greene at Durham University, organised a one-day seminar on Constitutionalism and Tyranny. Funded by the Institute of Advanced Study at Durham, the seminar brought together lawyers, historians, classicists and political scientists to investigate constitutionalism and tyranny both within and beyond the state as well as through the ages.

The seminar investigated: modernising of tyranny and dictatorship; conceptual approaches to tyranny, dictatorship, authoritarianism; locating, preventing, eliminating tyranny (e.g. Tyrannicide, Revolution, Resistance); and, influences of scale on tyranny.

Newcastle’s Dr Conall Mallory and Dr Emilia Mickiewicz participated in the seminar.

UKELA Annual Garner Lecture

The UKELA Annual Garner lecture was held on Wednesday 29 November at Newcastle Law School. The speaker was Julie Hirigoyen, CEO of the UK Green Building Council, and her talk was titled: “The role of law in ensuring that our built environment protects and enhances our natural environment.” The lecture was chaired by Maria Adebowale-Schwarte, Director of Living Space Project and UKELA Patron.

UKELA NE Student Ambassador

An alumni of the Newcastle LLM, George Bonomini, was appointed as the UKELA NE Student Ambassador. We interviewed George to find out more about UKELA and his new role.

What does your current role as UKELA Student Ambassador entail?

As it was a new role it really was up to myself to decide the extent to which I was to be involved with the organisation. At any one time UKELA has two Student Advisors, to improve connectivity between students and the organisation. It was clear that it was difficult for the Advisors to really network and meet students, so I became the first Ambassador. I currently study and reside in the North East, so I cover this area. There are now Ambassadors for the South West, South East, Midlands and London.

I try and get around to as many events as possible, whether they are law based or not. Networking with professionals and students is really the best way to spread the word about UKELA, as it is an organisation with a multitude of opportunities. I also organise events, I have so far convened a screening of UKELA’s annual keynote event – The Garner Lecture – at Newcastle Law School, and am currently working towards an event co-organised with a local environmentalist on the merits of Rewilding at Durham Wildlife Trust. The Ambassador role is passed on annually.
Eldon Society—Update

Eldon Society Social Activities

It has been a hectic social calendar for the Eldon Society in 2017. We began term with the first ever Freshers’ Welcome Event at Revolution. This was a great opportunity for the first years to meet and greet outside of the law school. We then carried the success of this event on into the Eldon Boat Party. Both events sold out and were proudly supported by our many sponsors.

Before Christmas we held the first Eldon Christmas Party at Pitcher and Piano which allowed everyone to let their hair down after a busy term. The event was also attended by trainees from our sponsors, Ward Hadaway.

In February, we had our annual Law Ball at a brand-new venue of the Hilton Hotel on the Quayside. This year we had a circus theme which involved performers and a lot of decoration, and our official after party at Aveika. Eldon is also involved in planning the law trip abroad, and this year we went to Amsterdam! There is always lots to get involved with and with wide-ranging activities which are open to all members.

Eldon Society Sports

This term has seen a successful start for the sporting season for all three sports teams. With the school’s football team sitting top of the Wednesday leagues with a faultless record so far. The Law Netball team has followed suit going into the Christmas break top of their league with another faultless record. The Law Rugby team have had a respectable start to the season, with good progress in the cup competitions. All three teams hope to build on this early success, and hope to bring even more silverware back to the Law school come the end of the season. This year’s annual sports trip is to Leeds University in April, where all three teams will be competing against Leeds University law school’s respective teams.

Eldon Society Careers

This year we have had lots of law firms attend Newcastle Law School, including Slaughter and May, who have given talks to our students on the opportunities they present. We have also had firms such as Addleshaw and Goddard visit campus to hold mock assessment days for our students, which has helped them prepare for future assessment days. The Eldon Society has also organised visits to Durham University to attend talks by firms such as Jones Day. We have held career workshop events which have been aimed at improving CV’s and writing cover letters. There have also been a range of talks provided by University of Law and BPP Law School on next steps after their completed degree. We have also been lucky to have talks in the lecture theatre on how to become a barrister from leading professionals.
Undergraduate News

Scholarship Success—Ward Hadaway

Two of our undergraduate students have been awarded scholarships by Ward Hadaway, which provide students with two-weeks of work experience with the firm. Ward Hadaway is a leading law firm, with offices in Newcastle, Leeds and Manchester offering a wide variety of commercial advice.

We asked the students to tell us about the application process and their experiences at the firm:

**Naoise Webster**

*When I was invited to submit an application for the Ward Hadaway scholarship during summer I didn’t think for one minute that I would be successful. Following my application, I was selected to interview at the firm. This was a lot less intimidating than I expected it to be. The Partner and Associate who conducted the interview made a real effort to put me at my ease. I was delighted when the Partner rang me to say I had been successful. Through the scholarship I am gaining outstanding legal work experience and financial support. As my ambition is to pursue such a career as a solicitor this is invaluable. Ward Hadaway have been so supportive and give you a real insight into the type of work they do. I am so glad I cast my doubts aside and applied.*

**Sam Burgess**

*Following our first year of study, a number of students encouraged to apply to Ward Hadaway’s bursary scheme. The application process required students to provide a CV and covering letter to the firm, who then invited a smaller group of students to attend individual interviews at the Newcastle Office. This experience alone provided valuable exposure to the law beyond studying for a degree. Fortunately, I was one of the two students from Newcastle University Law School to be selected for the scholarship. I completed my first week in December 2017 and will start my second week of work experience in April 2018.*

*My first week’s experience was both exciting and extremely valuable to my progression. I spent each day in a different seat, or department, within the firm experiencing differing aspects of the law. This challenged me in unfamiliar territory, yet every colleague was approachable and supportive. During my day in private client I wrote two wills and completed two Lasting Power of Attorneys before meeting with clients to witness three wills. Conversely, my day in Family involved summarising a complex case. Being afforded the opportunity to make a valuable contribution to the firm during my first week was extremely rewarding. I am very much looking forward to my second week of experience at Ward Hadaway in April.*

Scholarship Success—BPTC Courses

Financing the Bar Professional Training Course is notoriously difficult. The four Inns of Court in London provide a series of scholarships for excellent candidates that show potential for a career at the Bar. We are pleased to report that three of our former students have been awarded Scholarships.

**Rachel Butt** has been awarded a Lord Denning Scholarship from Lincoln’s Inn. She graduated from Newcastle Law School with a first and won the inaugural Witness Examination Competition, a purely student run initiative, hosted by the newly formed Newcastle Bar Society.

**Shoshana Mitchell** been awarded the Lord Denning Scholarship from Lincoln’s Inn. Shoshana graduated from Newcastle Law School in 16/17. She was one of the PASS leaders for Equity, who assist students in developing their approach to Equity. Shoshana went on to study for a masters at Durham University.

**Louise Thomson** has been awarded a scholarship from the Inner Temple.

Congratulations to them all!
Ben Leach has been selected to present his research at the British Conference of Undergraduate Research to be held at Sheffield University in April 2018.

The British Conference of Undergraduate Research meets every Spring in a different UK university. This year, the University of Sheffield will be hosting the Conference from 12-13 April. Abstracts are peer-reviewed and research may be presented in the form of presentations or posters.

Ben will be presenting his research, which is an exploration of the relationship between legal underdeterminacy and the rule of law. For a taste of the paper, see his abstract:

**‘The Fact of Flux and the Rule of Law: Reconciling Linguistic Underdeterminacy and Legal Certainty’**

We live in a society strongly committed to the ideal of the rule of law. This requires, among other things, that the law be clear, certain and predictable. In this way, the law should supposedly be determinative, enabling it to adequately fulfil its mode of subjecting human conduct to rules, by providing citizens with normative guidance. However, it is clear that not all disputes will fall squarely under existing legal rules; this is, in part, due to the fact of flux—which may be broadly characterised as social change or contingency. An urge to fashion the law in such a way that it may be responsive to such flux encourages judicial reliance on broad, indeterminate—or, more specifically, underdeterminate—standards, inviting (or, indeed, compelling) judges to exercise judicial discretion. This, in turn, invites sceptical responses to the law, which argue that such discretion is subversive of the rule of law’s central demands. Considering the example of reliance on the standard of ‘reasonableness’ in negligence law (an area where sceptical accounts of this kind are prevalent), this paper seeks to critically respond to such accounts by (i) shifting our conception of the rule of law (to one which nevertheless recognises the normative weight of those values typically associated with the rule of law and, thus, the importance of fostering conditions within which citizens are likely to develop and maintain a disposition to engage with law), and (ii) providing an account of the ‘practice of discretion’ which directly opposes arbitrariness. This will lead to an account of law which is sufficiently sensitive to the fact of flux while recognising the important (yet nuanced) nature of legal certainty. This is vital if the law is to maintain its legitimacy and, thus, control over the wide areas of society it claims to regulate.

**Alternative Careers: TeachFirst**

In 2018, two of our Law School students have been accepted onto the TeachFirst Leadership Development Programme. During their time on the programme they will become fully qualified teachers as well as gaining a leadership qualification on the job through the scope of tackling educational inequality. Melissa Livingstone and Emily Milner will be teaching Secondary English as their core subject, one in the North East, and one in the Midlands. We wish them both the very best of luck.
We interviewed George Bonomini, a former LLM student, to find out more about taking an LLM in environmental law at Newcastle Law School.

George Bonomini

BSc(Hons) Zoology and Ecology Newcastle University
LLM Environmental Regulation & Sustainable Development Newcastle University
GDL Graduate Diploma in Law Northumbria University

Which LLM stream did you take and were there any particular modules that you found exciting or interesting?

I enrolled on the LLM in Environmental Regulation and Sustainable Development following my undergraduate degree with the School of Biology at Newcastle. I enjoyed the legal and policy aspects of my undergraduate degree so the environmental LLM seemed like a natural choice for development.

Whilst the switch from science to law was challenging, many aspects of the LLM were very interesting so I really engaged with the work. I even found that I could apply a lot of the knowledge gained on my BSc on modules such as Science, Climate Change and Environmental Justice, as well as Introduction to Planning Law and Foundations of Environmental Law and Policy. I found that each module had its merits, although the ones that stand out as being the most interesting were definitely International Environmental Law and Environmental Impact Assessment: Law and Practice, based not only on their content, but also the exceptional teaching from Ole Pederson and Jennifer Stephens. I conducted further research on Environmental Impact Assessment for my dissertation supervised by Jennifer Stephens, looking at how a negligible amount of developments in the UK are subject to environmental assessments.

How did you become interested in Environmental Law, and how has Newcastle Law School furthered this interest?

Following my BSc at Newcastle I really wanted to explore the law and policy behind nature conservation and environmental protections, having touched briefly on this during my undergraduate studies. I approached the Law School at this point to learn more about the environmental LLM, and decided soon after to apply. I really hadn’t had much experience of Environmental Law before this point, but I found the Law School to be a really welcoming environment and soon found my feet after brushing up on the English legal system.

Starting my LLM was really my first introduction to the world of law, following which I have taken many opportunities and learned a great deal thanks to Newcastle Law School. Jennifer Stephens is currently on the North-East Committee for the UK Environmental Law Association (UKELA), who I was really keen to get involved with as it is such a well-recognised organisation. With Jennifer’s help I contacted UKELA’s CEO Linda Farrow who introduced a new Student Ambassador role for me to explore and mould for future students. I have also decided to pursue law as a career; with the intention of legal practice followed by a return to academia and a cross-disciplinary PhD.

What are your plans going forward?

I am currently studying at Northumbria University on the GDL, with the ultimate aim of practicing as an environmental, energy and natural resources lawyer, either in private practice or with a Governmental body such as Defra or Natural England. I am going to continue my membership and Ambassador role with UKELA, as well as trying to attend and curate as many events as possible.