Newcastle Law School Newsletter
Spring 19

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Professor Edwards joined Newcastle Law School earlier this month and leads the School’s new [Law, Innovation and Society] research group. She is a leading expert on legal matters relating to artificial intelligence, information technology, privacy, e-commerce and the internet, and was co-founder of the Arts and Humanities Research Council’s Centre for IP and Technology Law.

Professor Kathryn Hollingsworth was recently awarded the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Staff Award by Vice Chancellor Professor Chris Day. This award recognises Kathryn’s working leading Newcastle University’s NU Women project, and also her work in co-directing Newcastle Law School’s Inspirational Women of the Law events.

Dr Hélène Tyrrell was awarded the Law Teacher of the Year award for 2018 at the Northern Law Awards. This award recognises Hélène’s work in providing excellent teaching.
Andrew Carnegie is the Head of Real Estate Finance and Partner at Clifford Chance
London

My role on the Advisory Board

About 10 years ago I made contact with the law school for the first time since I left in 1983 as a new
graduate. I am a partner in one of the big London law firms and, when I made my approach, I wanted to
offer my help to the law school, being aware of what employers want and that the university market is
very competitive in the modern world. I was and remain very conscious that things have changed a lot
since I was at university and I wanted to offer back the benefit of my experience since leaving Newcastle.
I was spurred by the thought that I was never the best student during my time at Newcastle and in the
knowledge that I could have made more of my time whilst a student.

After a few discussions with Ashley Wilton, who was then dean and a lecturer in my time, and Chris
Rodgers I was very pleased to be offered the opportunity to chair the advisory board to the law school
which was being established at the time. The main function of the advisory board is to act as a sounding
board for the law school. The board is made up of people from a number of different walks of life, many
of whom are alumni and most representing the types of working environments which Newcastle students
move on to after university or gaining professional qualifications. Members include representatives from
North East law firms, national law firms, international law firms, the Bar, social services, banks and
business more generally. The board also includes representatives from local schools and the chair of the
Eldon Society.

Some reflections on what the law school has been doing

At the annual meeting the board listens to presentations about many different aspects of university life
both from staff and students. Topics include: competitive pressures, which have particularly come about
since the introduction of tuition fees; the approach to teaching and research; making the student
experience a good one; pro-bono and extra-curricular activities; maintaining contact with alumni;
international tie-ups so that students can spend a year abroad on an exchange basis; the impact of
technology on the legal profession; opportunities for law students outside the legal profession; entry
requirements to the various branches of the legal profession; the need for the modern lawyer to have
business skills; links to local schools; and diversity/equal opportunities. The board covers a lot of ground!
It is not all about presentations from students and lecturers. There are lively discussions on what
different types of employers want, what alumni wish they had done at university in the context of their
careers now, what courses should be on offer, the value of tie-ups with other universities and so on. The
board members are there because they want to be there. They are very keen to help contribute to the
success of the university and the law school in particular.
Internationalisation

I touched on internationalisation. This is a key topic. Employers want people with good academics and experience of life. Many employers place particular value on students who have had a spell abroad. Studying or working abroad broadens perspective, helps with language learning, helps one learn to be culturally sensitive and accelerates the acquisition of life skills - for example, try opening a bank account, getting a mobile phone or a gas supply in a foreign language! Specifically, learning a different legal system helps one take a critical look at the English system and learns that there are different ways of achieving the same or similar goals eg civil law versus common law. Personally, I think the time and resources invested by the law school in recent years to broaden student opportunities through student exchanges is time very well spent. It is an opportunity that I wish I had had!

Pro bono

I mentioned pro bono. Most big companies and many small ones too now expect their people to do some pro bono work over and above their day job. Aside from doing good for the community, it gives employees a sense of reality, an opportunity to learn new skills and an opportunity to network with clients and colleagues. It is the same for students. Some of the presentations I have heard over the years about students helping people with domestic violence problems, writing wills and teaching under privileged kids about the useful role of the law in society have been really inspiring. It is a great distraction from study.

Changes in legal profession.

Finally, I would like to touch on changes in the legal profession. When I first started the main choice was should I send the letter by first or second class post (or DX)? Occasionally we would use a courier for really urgent, really important things. We had a telex machine for long distance urgent communications and a fax machine arrived just as I qualified. There were no computers. Secretaries had to listen to a dictaphone and type page after page without making a mistake - and they did. Then word processors arrived - they filled a room, faxes became prevalent, desktop computers started to make their way onto desks (mainly ornamental initially) and then in the late 1990s email and Blackberry (by which time fax machines had just about become redundant). Everything changed after that. Now we have mobile lawyers available to clients, with access to every piece of information they need from their laptop. We do not yet know what impact AI will have on the legal profession but, for sure, it will have a big one. We need to learn to live with and prosper from these changes.

It is not just IT which has changed our profession. Over the years, I have seen a change in the people who come through the doors. Things are much more open and meritocratic than they once were - working life in the early 1980s tended to be much more stuffy and hierarchical than it is today. In the early 1980s the career path was typically become a solicitor or barrister and that would be your life career. Now many law students and qualified lawyers move on to other walks of life, including business and public service. Yes, life is now very competitive but there are also many more opportunities out there than there once were.
Professor Chris Rodgers has been given an AHRC award for his project “Wastes and Strays: The Past, Present and Future of English Urban Commons. This project is in collaboration with Dr Rachel Hammersley (History, Classics and Archaeology, Newcastle University), Dr Alessandro Zambelli (Architecture and Design, Brighton University), Dr Emma Cheatle (Architecture, Sheffield University) and Dr John Clarke (English, Exeter University).

Colin Murray and Dr Sylvia de Mars have received an award as part of their ESRC’s Governance After Brexit funding stream for their project ‘Performing Identities: Post-Brexit Northern Ireland and the reshaping of 21st-Century Governance. This is in collaboration with Professor Aiofe O’Donoghue (Law, Durham University) and Dr Ben Warwick (Law, Birmingham University).

Research News

Recent Staff Publications

Books

- de Mars S, Murray C, (with A O'Donoghue and B Warwick) Bordering two unions: Northern Ireland and Brexit (Policy Press 2018)
- Murray C (and R Masterman) Constitutional and Administrative Law (Longman 2018)
- Pedersen OW Perspectives on Environmental Law Scholarship: Essays on Purpose, Shape and Direction (Cambridge University Press 2018)
- Tyrrell H Human Rights in the UK and the Influence of Foreign Jurisprudence (Routledge 2018)
- Ward I Writing the Victorian Constitution (Palgrave 2018)

Articles


**Book Chapters**


Murray C (with T Frost) ‘The Chagossians’ Struggle and the Last Bastions of Imperial Constitutionalism’ in *Fifty Years of the British Indian Ocean Territory: Legal Perspectives* (Springer 2018)


Smith R ‘UN Special Procedures: System Puppets or User’s Saviours?’ in *Human Rights Tectonics: Global Dynamics of Integration and Fragmentation* (Intersentia 2018)
Scholarship Success for Stage One Student

First year student Samaha Jama Khatib has been awarded a prestigious INTO Newcastle University Vice Chancellor’s Scholarship for 2018-19. The competitive award – one of a limited number available – is worth £3000 and is awarded to students about to undertake their first year of study at Newcastle.

Born in Somalia and having grown up in the UK, Tanzania and South Africa, this is Samaha’s second year in the North East. She spent last year studying a foundation year at INTO Newcastle University, attracted to the Centre by the transferability of its programmes. She came to Newcastle with the intention of pursuing a degree in journalism but, following a visit to INTO by Dr Jowitt to talk about the Law programme and advice from INTO staff, she decided to pursue her LLB.

She admits that her initial expectations that Law School would be all ‘Harvey Specter’ have not come to light – instead, she has been surprised by the breadth of study in her first year. This has introduced her to the ‘black letter law’ (which she feels more comfortable with), but also issues within public law and human rights. These are her real interest. She told the newsletter that, having moved around so much, she has seen the levels of inequality which exists in societies around the world and would like to do what she can to address this in her career.

The Law School would like to congratulate Samaha on her achievements, and wish her all the best for her time at Newcastle and beyond.

Womble Bond Dickinson Scholarships Announced

Newcastle Law School is pleased to announce the winners of the 2018 Womble Bond Dickinson Partners Scholarship.

Thomas Yau and Olivia Hutchinson, both in their second year study, have each been awarded a £500 cash prize and a week’s work experience at the Quayside offices of the prestigious transatlantic firm.

The scholarship, awarded annually, is open to stage two students at Newcastle Law School who have successfully completed the University’s Partners Summer School. The competitive award, judged by representatives from the firm and the Law School, is given on an aggregate assessment of performance in stage one and a short essay submitted to the panel. This year, applicants were invited to build on the legacy of the Great Exhibition of the North and discuss what they thought would be the biggest opportunities in the North-East Legal Sector in the next three years.

The Law School would like to thank Womble Bond Dickinson for their continued support of our students, and offer our congratulations to this year’s winners. We hope they find their time with the firm beneficial, and wish them all the best for their continued studies.
Congratulations to our Street Law student volunteers who won the Pro Bono/Community Initiative award at the 2018 Northern Law Awards!

The Final of the Client Negotiation competition (sponsored by DWF) took place in March 2019. The winners were Stage One Students Harry Holder and Tomas Bliss. Runners up were Stage Three (year abroad) students Georgia Drew and Alice Manners. All four students received £50 in vouchers and will take part in work experience with DWF.

Christel Querton was invited to deliver a keynote lecture 'In Flight from Conflict and Generalised Violence' at the European Legal Network on Asylum Advanced Course in December 2018. Christel presented parts of her PhD research, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, on international protection and judicial approaches to armed conflict in the EU to more than 100 lawyers from Europe.

There's a new collection of books in the Law Library - Law in Literature.

Here you can find novels, short stories, plays, graphic novels and films on the LAW LIT shelves in the Reference Room. We're also promoting Box of Broadcasts as a way of watching films (it's like Netflix, but free with your Library login). Search for our playlist: Law in Literature Newcastle University

We really encourage you to get involved! Is there a book that you think should be on our shelves? Do you want to recommend a book or film and feature as one of our 'Law School Picks'? Want to review a book or film for our blog? Then get in touch here.

Come in and take a look, grab a special Law in Literature postcard, browse the collection via LibSearch, and don't forget to check out the Law in Literature guide on the Library website.

Happy reading!
Can there ever be a more despondent time that the return to work after Christmas and New Year – well, yes, returning to work after any holiday might not be as good as leaving work for holidays, but no matter…..there are advantages, of course. Getting paid is one, doing what you love, another. What DID you do over Christmas? Specifically - what did you read over Christmas?

Well…..Herring’s *Family Law* was in there for me, and a new edition from Gilmore and Glennon on the joys of family life, plus a neat book on Contract Law which we told the students to acquire – I needed to make sure my familiarity with them didn’t wane over the two weeks less/more and there is that marking…..

Who am I kidding? What I mean is what did you read?

A gift from my daughter (a signed copy of *Red Fire*, the latest in the series) got me started on the crime series ‘Shetland’ from Ann Cleeves, a (relatively) local author whose work many will have seen on television (yes, ‘Shetland’ – dark scenery and that lovely lead actor - and ‘Vera’, the slightly off-beat not to say off-the-wall senior police officer from the mythical City Police – I bet they love her in Northumbria Constabulary). Reading crime novels is a relatively new phenomenon for me which started with Henning Mankel’s series based in Sweden a decade and more ago now. What a loss to Nordic noire his death was. Frankly, I’ve always wanted to be more ‘Nordic’, but I put it down to Celt/Viking genes, with me coming from the North-East.

Then there was Ian Rankin’s latest that I read – that was a saved gem (middle class deferred gratification) from a purchase couple of months ago. This was another signed copy, only I bought a second copy because I always leave a book with my English-speaking host in Novi Sad after the conference, and simply could not bear to part with my signed one. I saved this for the journey to Serbia in December because I like something to read whilst waiting for and being transported, particularly by plane. It takes my mind off the essential idiocy of moving through air at hundreds of miles an hour whilst being thousands of feet off the ground, in a metal tube, and when you put it like that a distraction seems a good idea….. . Rankin’s latest Rebus novel is worth reading for the clear steer on how Rebus really is as flawed a character as are we all. I recommend ‘In a House of Lies’ – and no, it is not absolutely essential for you to have read the preceding ones to ‘get’ the most recent.

I uploaded onto my Kindle a small book on the Cyrillic alphabet in preparation for a modest foray into the Serbian language. How is it going? Well, if you know the language, keep to ‘yes’, ‘no’ and ‘Do you want a drink?’ I’m still learning the alphabet (literally).

What did I read and not like? L J Ross *Holy Island* went down badly – too much romance for me. *History of Things to Come* by Duncan Simpson just has not been my ‘cup of tea’ which is surprising as I often enjoy this type of story. I am still reading slowly through *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris but perhaps it is the memory of visits there that slows the reading of it.

The thing with Christmas is that the Icelandic people have got it right – give a book (to another, to yourself) at Christmas and read it. Give yourself permission to learn about others whether in a novel or via non-fiction, whatever the genre, do it. It’s practice and pleasure, it keeps the mind active whilst providing relaxation. It helps us to see others in their glorious reality, and ourselves more technicolour than the expected drab.

‘We read to know we’re not alone’ is something C S Lewis is supposed to have said. Well, I agree with him. For what it’s worth.

*Penny Booth is a Teaching Fellow at Newcastle Law School*