

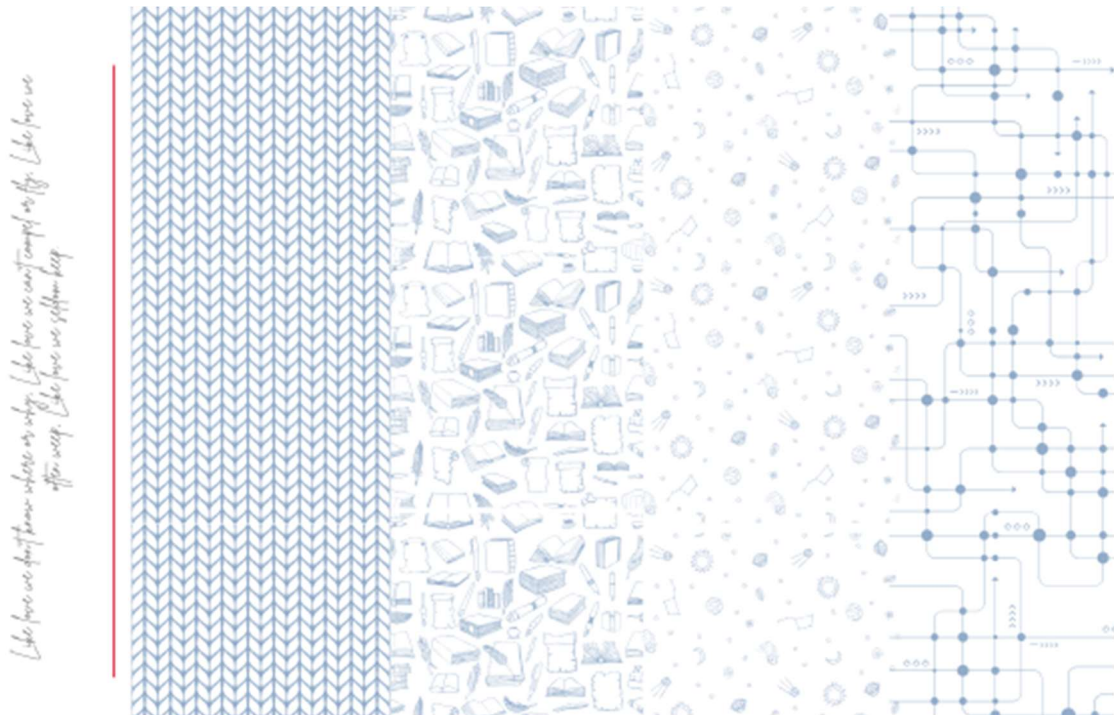
Newcastle Law School welcomes you to:

‘Law is but let me explain it once more’

Methodologies Symposium

24-25 September 2025

Frederick Douglas Centre and Urban Sciences Building, Helix Campus, Newcastle
Upon Tyne



Schedule

Day One	24 Sep
09:30	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Frederick Douglass Centre, First Floor, FDC 1.16</p>
10:00	<p>Keynote – Prof. Linda Mulcahy,</p> <p>‘Radical Lawyers? Radical Methodologies? Life stories of law centre workers’</p> <p>Frederick Douglass Centre, FDC 1.16</p>
11:00	BREAK and move to Urban Sciences Building USB G.003 Ground Floor Event Space
11:30	<p>Panel one - Legal histories, the archive and memory, USB G.003</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cris van Eijk - International Lawyers After the Archival (Re)Turn • Kay Crosby - Legal biographies of unknown jurors • Paula Nuno, Gina Heathcote - Dust/Legal Methodologies in the Archive • Paola Zichi - Decolonising Global Feminist Archives: Palestine, International Law and Abolitionist Praxis <p>Chair: Ian Ward</p>
13:00	<p>Lunch</p> <p>Foyer of USB Ground Floor</p>
13:30	Workshop: Anti-surveillance knitting with Matilde Arvidsson, USB G.003
14:00	<p>Panel two - Theorising law without law? USB G.003</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bernardo de Carvalho Mello - Decolonising Discrimination Law through Conceptual Engineering: Towards a Pluriversal Intersectionality • Richard Mullender - Deconstruction, Law and Political Philosophy • Shane Burke, Joy Twenlow - Soundings: the methodological potential of sound for legal research <p>Chair: Ebum Bamigboye</p>
16:00	<p>Panel three – Law as technology; law and technology, USB G.003</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yihengu Lu - Law as Technology: Rethinking Authorship through Generative AI Methodologies • Josephine Sangare - AI’s infinite wisdom and the challenged role of the educator

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eva Perry - Ctrl+Alt+Decolonise <p>Chair – Nifemi Adesina</p>
Day Two	25 Sep
09:30	<p>Panel four– Exploring Prefigurative Legalities and Utopia as Method, USB G.003</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nikki Godden-Rasul - Abolition Feminism and Utopian Justice: Speculative Visionary Fiction and the End of Gendered Violence Aislinn Fanning - Using utopian law-making to re-imagine feminist equality law on the island of Ireland Cristy Clark - The politics and methodology of utopian research Zoe Tongue - Reproductive Utopias <p>Chair – Ruth Houghton</p>
11:00	<p>Panel five– Research design, USB G.003</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yoriko Otomo - Lore, custom, myths and tradition as law Puja - Using oral narratives in forest governance legal research to interrogate colonial continuities and legacies Afsha – Food as legal method <p>Chair – Neha Vyas</p>
12:30	Lunch
13:00	<p>Panel six – Queer-as-method, USB G.003</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matteo Bassetti - Legal gender recognition beyond recognition - depathologisation as a challenge to States' absolute power to <i>know</i> gender Iyan Offor - Solarpunk (Legal) “Worlding”: Crafting Multispecies, Queer, and Hopeful Futures Juliana Santos de Carvalho - Category is: international law realness Dr Kay Lalor - Alternative legalities and transnational LGBTQI+ rights: Immersion and imagination in international human rights law. <p>Chair – Emily Jones</p>
15:00	<p>Keynote – Dr. Tamsin Paige, USB G.003</p> <p>Law as stories, storytelling as legal method</p>
	15 mins closing remarks
16:30	Close

Keynotes

‘Radical Lawyers? Radical Methodologies? Life stories of law centre workers’

Professor Linda Mulcahy

In this presentation Linda will talk about her uses of life story interviews in a UKRI funded project on law centres. Originally conceived of as a radical method she will discuss the many challenges and dilemmas involved in these long form interviews which take many hours to complete. These include epistemological questions about curation of narrative and ethical issues around the intrusive deep dive into sexuality, class, race and achievements.

Linda Mulcahy is the Professor of Socio-Legal Studies and the Director of the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies. She has degrees in law, legal theory, sociology and art history and her work has a strong interdisciplinary flavour. She specialises in dispute resolution and the ways in which lay users experience the legal system. Linda has undertaken a number of empirical studies of disputes between business people in the car distribution industry, divorcing couples, doctors and patients and neighbours on council estates. Linda is currently undertaking research on how rights are explained to the public and an oral history of the law centres movement. Together with Ellie Whittingdale she is also undertaking an oral history of the rape crisis movements. Both oral history projects will result in the creation of two new collections to be held and maintained for the nation by National Life Stories at the British Library, where Linda is currently an expert adviser to the Board. Linda was educated in the state sector and is the child of inspiring working class immigrants who felt passionately about others getting the education they had been denied. This has given her a lifelong interest in widening participation and the ways in which epistemic injustice manifests itself.

‘Law as stories, storytelling as legal method’

Dr Tamsin Phillipa Paige

Stories serve an integral role in society as, among other things, a meaning making tool. As a method of meaning making, stories are relational and allow the storyteller to assist their audience in understanding ideas, concepts, and experiences that lie beyond their lived experiences. Using this understanding and starting point, I ask two questions: (1) what happens if we read law as an iterative archive of stories about a society; and (2) what does approaching law as a genre of stories (rather than a discipline of study) do to legal method? I will start by exploring the meaning making function that storytelling serves in society, and then consider how law, be it legislation and similar or case law and similar, can be read as official stories of the society that produced them. Following on from this, I will set out how we can use storytelling as a method for legal research that provides us with a versatile tool for reading our source material for different insights, and that centres communication with our intended audience at the heart of our methodology.

Tamsin Phillipa Paige is an Associate Professor with Deakin Law School. Her work is interdisciplinary in nature, using qualitative sociological methods to analyse international law (with a focus on application of law and the impact it has on society). She also does law and literature research using popular fiction to understand social perceptions of the law. Her work has examined (among other things) Somali piracy, UN Security Council decision making, the impact of international law on queer lives, and conflict based sexual violence. In a former life, she was a French trained, fine dining pâtissière.

Venue Information

The symposium will be hosted on [Newcastle University's Helix Campus](#).

Our welcome and opening keynote will be in the Frederick Douglas Centre, First Floor, [Room 1.16](#). FDC1.16 is accessed via lift or stairs and is a flat floor room. There is a quiet space provided in FDC1.17.

We will then be walking across the square to the Urban Sciences Building to the Ground Floor Event Space, [G.003](#). This is also a flat floor room. Unfortunately, due to rooms being in use for teaching, we have not been able to secure a dedicated quiet space but there is the open cafe space outside the room if anybody needs to take break.

Refreshments and lunch will be served outside the room in a designated area.

Catering Information

Our university catering team will be providing the refreshments and lunches for the symposium. Gluten free, Halal, vegetarian and vegan options are provided as standard. We have soy milk as our standard alternative milk and decaf tea and coffee options are provided. If you have any other allergies or dietary requirements, please contact Helen at the below email.

All allergen information can be found here:

<https://newcastle.mysaffronportal.com/Menus>

We are currently awaiting confirmation on catering, but if anybody needs to know the menu in advance, let Helen know!

Accommodation Suggestions

- Premier Inn Newcastle City Centre
- The Holiday Inn Express Newcastle City Centre
- The County Hotel, Newcastle
- Leonardo Hotel Newcastle
- Hampton by Hilton Newcastle

Places to eat

There's loads of good places to eat around Newcastle city centre. The Law School collects recommendations from visitors, staff and students. Here are a few!

- Nudo Noodle House (54-56 Low Friar St, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 5UE):
Amazing Asian food and many vegan options.

- El Torero (Milburn House, Side, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1PR): Lovely tapas food with some vegetarian and vegan options. On the steep hill down to the Quayside and one step to enter.
- Blackfriars Restaurant (Friars St, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4XN): A fine dining restaurant in a 13th-century former friary. They also have an amazing cocktail bar/lounge.
- Dosa Kitchen (7 Osborne Rd, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 2AE): South Indian food a short walk from Newcastle University in Jesmond. The dosas are excellent and they have many vegan options.
- Chilli Padi (6-10 Leazes Park Rd, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4PF): Malaysian food with vegan and vegetarian options. We would definitely recommend the Tofu in Chilli Padi Mango Sauce if you go!
- Grainger Market (Grainger St, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 5QQ): Our Market Hall dating from 1835, you have many options for lunch. We would recommend Dumpling and Bun, Redheads Mac n Cheese and Snackwallah. Step free access.

Need anything else?

If you have any requirements that are not covered by the above information, or have further questions, please contact Helen at law.research@newcastle.ac.uk to discuss what we can do to support you.