

EDITORIAL

As we look back over 2021, it has again been affected by Covid-19 but to a lesser extent than the previous year. Although teaching online remained the 'new normal' until May, by September 2021 we had returned to face-to-face teaching in class, with lectures supplemented via Zoom for those who could not attend. This was a hugely positive step for all concerned, which has been maintained for the first semester and is set to continue.

The 2020 Pilgrim Fathers lecture that was cancelled due to Covid had to be postponed to 2022. I am pleased to report however that although the pandemic still features occasionally within this edition of the journal, it no longer takes centre stage. Instead, the articles cover a very wide range of topics that demonstrate the sheer diversity of staff and student interests and experiences, with an underlying theme of self-belief and resilience.

In the staff reports, Jason Lowther and Mike Williams provide a fascinating, detailed reflection on the sustainability of military heritage located in the oceans, a theme explored by international experts in a colloquium hosted by the School that was part of the ESRC Festival of Social Science. Thereafter, I have given a brief account of a project entitled, 'The Justice Files', a planned series of short film dramatisations of famous legal cases, the first of which (based on *Carlill v Carbolic Smoke Ball Company*) also featured as part of the ESRC Festival of Social Science.

For the first time this year, we are delighted to include a postgraduate article. Patrick Prestidge, who graduated from Plymouth last year and is currently studying at Oxford, offers an important and timely analysis of the Online Court Reform Programme, the problems that may arise and the ramifications for those seeking access to justice.

The graduate articles also examine a range of highly topical and controversial issues. Regan Cornell evaluates the dramatic shift in medical negligence case law from medical paternalism to patient-centred care. Ruby Forster investigates how far UK equality and anti-discrimination law has reacted to benefit the LGBTQ+ community. Rosie Holding examines the concept of environmental justice, with a focus on the inequitable distribution of environmental harm. Megan Parker challenges the 'necessity' of farm animal suffering in the farm-to-fork process, with reference to human health, the environment, and plant-based options. Joshua Randall focuses on force majeure clauses in construction contracts and argues that Covid-19 is capable of being a force majeure event in such cases.

Lastly, the student reports reflect upon: International Humanitarian Law and the impact of the Law Clinic's school teaching project in this area (Molly Bennett); student struggles with self-belief and self-confidence in the context of doubt and achievement (Hannah Dymond); student burnout, Covid and the importance of self-reflection (Lucy Metaj); UPLS and the transition from online to face-to-face learning (Mollie Pellowe); from theatre performance training in London to studying law at Plymouth (Jasmine Tottel-Clarke); transferring law studies to Plymouth University (Lodine Van Graan); and finally, the role of the Police Station Representative and the accreditation process to become one (Thomas Wilson).

Many thanks to the contributors and I wish you all the very best for 2022.

Hugo de Rijke, Editor-in Chief

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