

CONFERENCE REPORT
British Conference of Undergraduate Research
Manchester Metropolitan University 22-23 March 2016
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The [British Conference of Undergraduate Research](#) (BCUR) is a two day event where undergraduate students from across the country gather to give various presentations or posters on a range of topics to other Undergraduates. The event took place at Manchester Metropolitan University on the 22-23 March 2016. The BCUR was set up in 2010 and held their first conference in 2011. In 2013 it was held at Plymouth and ever since then our university has had a significant presence at the conferences including representation from the Law School.¹ This year, our proposal, which was a joint submission from the Law School and the University's Peer Assisted Learning Scheme (PALS), was accepted and as a result eight of us were able to work on a project and produce a poster which three of us then presented at the conference.²



¹ See previous reports published in the Plymouth Law and Criminal Justice Review
<http://www.plymouthlawreview.org/vol6/stevenson%20and%20debalsio.pdf>

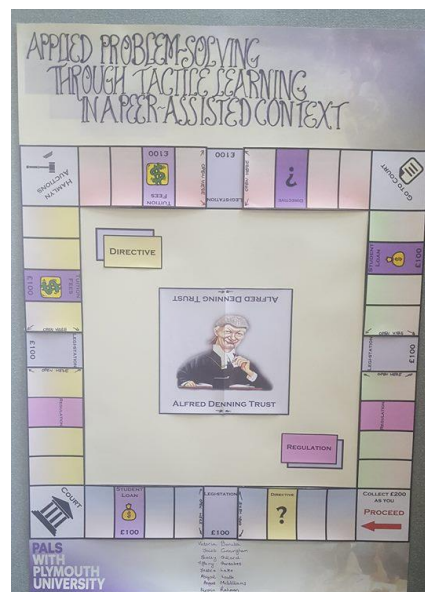
² Jessica Lake, Tiffany Gonsalves and Jacob Cunningham attended the BURC, the rest of the PALS team were Abigail Louth, Angus McWilliams, Nursrin Rahman, Stacey-Jade Gillard, Victoria Boruta.

2 Presenting at Manchester

Jacob Cunningham, Tiffany Gonsalves and myself attended the conference to present the poster. We travelled up to Manchester taking all our hard work with us but at this point we had not finished making the poster as to ensure that it did not get damaged on the journey we were going to attach all the various parts on the day we presented it. The conference was unique and insightful, Manchester Metropolitan University were great hosts. Over the two days we were able to see various presentations and read multiple posters many on topics that were the very opposite to our presentation. We were scheduled for the second day of the event and so during the first day we went to listen to some of the presentations that were being given as well as being able to view the posters. There were so many different presentations that we could have gone to see, it was hard to decide which ones especially being able to learn about subjects that normally we would not have the chance to.



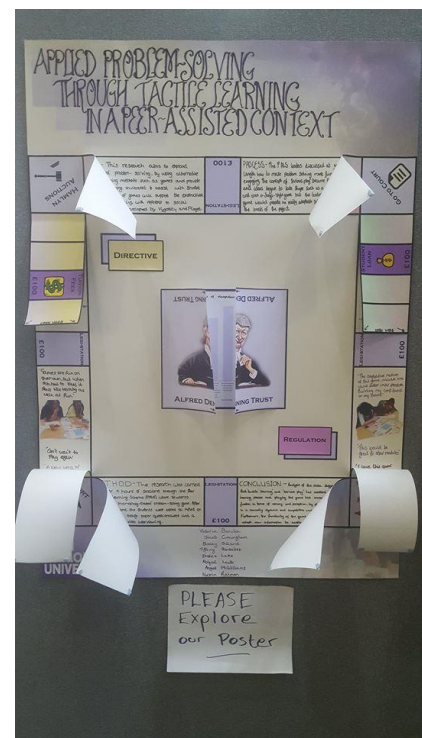
By being selected to go to this conference we were given the opportunity to learn about things that we never would have considered before. However certain presentations peaked our interest. One in particular was a presentation given by Andrei Czolak titled 'Legal Disclosure in Rape cases 1800-1900'. His presentation is one that I will not forget. He was confident in what he was saying, he was informative and he also made reference to some of the work done by Professor Kim Stevenson, which made us all the more eager to hear what he had to say.³ I have to say it was rather strange to hear someone talking about one of our lecturers like that and it just shows how fortunate we are. We also heard about modern economics in Sub-Saharan Africa, not something we would have learned about if we had not participated in this opportunity. It was amazing to learn about different subjects that we would not have previously considered and which were so different from our own reasons for attending.



³ Note from the Editor: I think he is referring to K Stevenson 'Outrageous Violations: Enabling Students to Interpret Nineteenth Century Newspaper Reports of Sexual Assault and Rape', *Law Crime and History* (2014) 1 36-61.

At the end of the first day we were invited to an event by the mayor of Manchester. By this point we had met other people from Plymouth and found out about their presentations and posters. It was great to see how well represented Plymouth University was at the event. We also met people from other Universities and it was great way of talking to other students and seeing how respected the conference is and how there were representatives from universities up and down the country.

The next day was the big one, the reason why we were there, our poster was on display and all of our work had led to this and to say I wasn't a bit nervous would be an understatement. And we still hadn't even finished putting the poster together. We decided that doing it at the conference venue would be best. The organisers were very helpful and when we arrived having informed them that we needed to put some finishing touches to our poster they allowed us a room where no one would disturb us. The poster session took place in the middle of the day and we were ready, prepared to talk to anyone who had any questions about the poster, we wanted to encourage others to ask questions and to get involved. We were slightly concerned that no one would be brave enough to open the flaps so just to be sure we put up a note underneath asking for delegates to explore it. And they did. The fact that you had to find the information intrigued people and many asked us what it was about and how we had come up with the idea. We informed them about our role as PALS leaders within the Law School and how we had been interested in learning about different ways to problem solve as law students other than the straight forward IRAC method. We talked about how due to people learning in different ways, we wanted to be able to create something that would help law students problem solve through tactile learning. All the feedback that we received from others at the conference was positive, which after all the work we had all put in was great to hear.



of the Law school and PALS we had achieved something great and unique. This was not an opportunity that many will get while at university. We are all truly grateful that we were the ones to work on this project which started with eight students sat in a room trying to work out what we could do in our next PALS session.

HOW TO PLAY MONOPOLAW by Jacob Cunningham

Rulebook and concept

The game is based on a standard Monopoly board which has a total of 24 property spaces (including the utility spaces). The spaces are populated with contract cases (authorities). The stations on the board are populated with legislation (or 'legistations'). The Chance and Community Chest cards are 'directives' and 'regulations' and follow a similar structure to the original game (bonuses, fines and movement directions). The game can be played by two 'teams' in order to reduce the playing time, encourage competition and mix the ability of the players.

The general gameplay is much the same as the original – if a player lands on an authority they may buy it and if it is owned by the other team they must pay rent. Before play begins each team receives a sheet of 8 mini-problem questions- MPQ's (the same for each team with 10 minutes allowed to discuss solutions before the game begins). Each MBQ requires 3 game authorities to solve which can all be found somewhere on the board and each MPQ has its own exclusive set of authorities unique to it; this means that every board space is used totalling the 24 authorities contained in the game and making the gameplay more dynamic (reducing stalemate situations - teams do not have to go after the same authorities, although in theory they could).

The aim is similar to Monopoly where teams try to buy a 'set' of authorities, which in turn will solve one of the 8 MPQs. Once a team feels they have purchased the correct set of authorities (3) they shout 'solved' (or something equally banal) and submit the authorities to 'Portland City Council' – PCC (us) for review. If the team is correct, then the team will acquire a freehold interest in that MPQ and PCC will issue them with planning permission to build 1 house on each authority in that particular set; this will result in the rent for those spaces being doubled. If the team is incorrect, then planning permission will be refused and a Compulsory Purchase Order under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 will be issued – this means that the team will be forced to sell back one of the authorities they submitted to PCC (making it available to be bought by the other team if they land on it). The team are free to choose which of the three must be sold.

The teams can continue to buy authorities to make sets and by solving more MPQ's they can be issued with further planning permission, resulting in increased rents proportionate to MPQ's solved. For example, 1 MPQ = 1 house; 2 MPQ's = 2 houses; 3 MPQ's 3 houses; 4 MPQ's = 4 houses; 5 MPQ's = HOTEL! (the rent will increase accordingly; doubled; trebled; quadrupled... etc). Once the teams have the planning permission, they can build on every authority they have acquired an interest in. For example, if a team has solved 2 MPQs, they can build 2 houses on all 6 authorities used to solve those two problems. The winner is the first team to bankrupt the other.

The legistations are a simpler spinoff of this which does not involve any problem solving element. For example, the rent for 1 legistation owned will be £25; 2 legistations = £50; 3

legistations = £100; 4 legistations = £200 – in effect the rent doubles for every legistation bought. The purchase price for each legistation is £100

Money

Teams are issued with £1000 to begin with) and upon passing Go receive £200. Any fines (income tax, super tax, chance and community chest) must be paid to PCC and will be invested into 'The Denning Trust' and placed into the middle of the game board. The 'free parking' space is "Hamlyn Auctions" and if a team lands on this space, the trust money will be overreached and the team will receive the proceeds (the money in the middle).

The purchase price of the spaces is £100-150 on the first side; 150-200 on the second; 200-250 on the third; 250-300 on the last straight – the standard rent for these spaces is half the purchase price.

Mortgaging will not be a feature (to reduce playing time), but teams can negotiate the sale of authorities (if they have no money) at the discretion of the other team demanding the rent, but this must be equitable (PCC can have some judicial discretion if the teams cannot agree terms).

Jail

If a team is 'sent to jail' they must pay £100 to PCC to come out (this will be invested into The Denning Trust); or try to throw a double (3 tries) – if the team fails to throw a double, they must pay the fine (or if broke, sell an authority to the other team to raise the cash).

Timing

A limit of 75 minutes will put on the playing time. If there is no winner at this point, then play will be stopped and the teams' assets will be valued to determine the winners. This will allow time for video reflections post-game.

Other Spaces:

Income Tax = Tuition Fees = £200

Super Tax = Student Loan Repayment = £100

Legistations:

Kings Cross = Consumer Rights Act 2015 = £100

Marylebone = Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977 = £100

Fenchurch = Sale of Goods Act 1979 = £100

Liverpool St = Misrepresentation Act 1967 = £100

(rents see above)