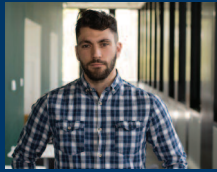
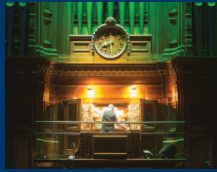




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# The Reporter

**Kent**  
Law School

Bringing you the latest news from Kent Law School at the University of Kent

Autumn Term 2018

## First year law student secures offer for Magic Circle Training Contract

Law student Tyra Ntege has achieved extraordinary career success by securing an offer for a 'Magic Circle' Training Contract at the end of only her first year of studies at Kent.

Tyra was offered an interview with Clifford Chance (one of the five leading UK law firms comprising the 'Magic Circle') after completing the firm's five-day First Year Springboard Scheme over the summer vacation. The offer for a Training Contract followed soon after, in early August.

During the Scheme, which comprised three days in Clifford Chance's London office and two days in the firm's offices in Amsterdam, Tyra participated in classroom based activities and gained in-depth insights into key practice areas such as Tax, Pensions, Employments & Incentives, and Corporate Mergers and Acquisitions (Public). Other highlights included multiple opportunities to network with trainees, associates and Partners, a skills session on how to progress from 'comfort zone' to 'stretch zone' when working in the legal corporate environment and a boat cruise in Amsterdam.

Before making a final decision about Clifford Chance's offer, Tyra plans to apply for vacation schemes with independent law firms in the UK and US: 'I am 90% certain that I will start at Clifford Chance but I want to be able to make the necessary contrasts and comparisons, for my future career trajectory. I have recently started a LawInSport mentoring scheme after being successfully chosen to be a mentee by CEO Sean Cotterell'.

*See inside for Tyra's top tips for aspiring lawyers*



Kent Law School

# News

## Celebrating 50 years

This year, Kent Law School is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the graduation of the first cohort of 14 law students at Kent with a series of special events throughout the year until July 2019.

In this special year, we're particularly delighted to be ranked amongst the top 100 law schools in the world in the 2018 Shanghai Ranking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects. It's the second consecutive year the Law School has been featured in the prestigious global league table. The Law School is also currently ranked 58th in the *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings 2019 and is among the top 150 law schools in the QS World University Rankings 2018.



## Developing research skills

An exciting new project designed to help undergraduate law students develop research skills and actively engage with Kent Law School's vibrant research culture has been launched by Professor Maria Drakopoulou. The Developing Undergraduate Research Project is designed to help students consider why university education is so strongly associated with research, how research relates to the production of knowledge and what it means to be a member of a critical law school.

## Tyra's top tips for fellow aspiring lawyers

Law student Tyra Ntege, who secured an offer for a Training Contract from Clifford Chance at the end of only her first year at Kent Law School, shares her top tips for aspiring lawyers:

- Join LinkedIn
- Read BBC Business news and the *Financial Times* to get a sense of the commercial environment and global market
- Visit the website of the top firms and see what schemes, open days, insight events they have to offer
- Selectively network – don't just bombard anybody from a firm with your questions – be courteous in your approach (try approaching staff responsible for graduate recruitment in the first instance)
- Do not underestimate the relevance of part-time jobs, voluntary opportunities/societies
- Work in a supermarket is just as valid as work experience in a bank – both involve getting to know the type of clients that law firms are instructed by
- Start to consider your answers to key competency questions – examples can be found online
- BME students should apply online to Rare – they have plenty of beneficial programmes and the organisation is run by lawyers who work for top firms

## Training Contract offer for Vikram

English and French Law student Vikram Pandit has also been offered a training contract with Clifford Chance. Vikram, who has just begun the third year of his four-year degree (and who is currently on his year abroad studying in France), secured the offer after completing the firm's Springboard (now SPARK) scheme.







## Recognition for work of Kent Law Clinic

Kent Law Clinic's 'significant contribution to the development and practice of law in Kent' has been recognised with a Kent Law Society 200th Anniversary Award. The unique award, made by the Law Society as part of its 200th anniversary celebrations, recognises work undertaken by Law Clinic solicitors, staff, students and volunteers. Law Clinic Director Professor John Fitzpatrick (who retired in September) is pictured receiving the award from Sir Brian Leveson, President of Queen's Bench Division.

More recently, the work of the Law Clinic has been recognised in the LawWorks 2018 Annual Pro Bono Awards; the Law Clinic was shortlisted for its 'Outstanding Contribution to Access to Justice' over the last ten years.



## Kent Law Clinic

Kent Law Clinic provides a legal advice and representation service to those who cannot afford to pay.

At the same time, it enhances the education of students at Kent Law School through direct experience of legal practice. Each year the Clinic provides significant legal advice in response to hundreds of enquiries and takes on the formal representation of around 130 new cases. Since 1992, the Clinic has dealt with over 20,700 legal enquiries and has helped clients gain sums of money totalling £5,664,576.00 (this includes £2,510,687.00 in employment cases, £1,245,498.00 in benefits cases and £1,908,391.00 in other cases).

Integral to this provision is the support of local solicitors and barristers who advise clients pro bono at Monday evening outreach sessions in local community centres. These sessions are run by Kent law students who observe and assist the volunteer lawyers and report back to a weekly Clinic Meeting the following day.

## 'Global Showcase' visit to China

The Deputy Head of Kent Law School, Lisa Dickson, and Professor of Environmental Law William Howarth joined a delegation from the University of Kent on a Think Kent Global Showcase visit to the Chaoyang District in Beijing and the Jing'an District in Shanghai.

During the visit in November, they met with colleagues at KoGuan Law School in Shanghai to discuss new partnerships and collaborations. They also met up with a Kent Law School student currently spending their year abroad (as part of their four-year International Legal Studies degree) studying (in English) at Renmin University in Beijing.

Lisa led a workshop on the benefits of a critical legal education at Kent Law School and participated in panel events with agents and partner institutions from across China, answering questions about the law degrees offered at Kent Law School and promoting the work of staff and students at Kent Law Clinic. Evening reception events offered an excellent opportunity to meet alumni and applicants.

The Global Showcase is a series of events and academic activities showcasing current internationalisation and global engagement at Kent.



# News

## Prestigious Inns of Court scholarships

Kent Law School students Andreas Malekos and Paige Hudson moved one step closer to achieving their ambition of becoming barristers after each being awarded a prestigious scholarship by an Inn of Court.

Andreas was awarded £19,700 by the Inner Temple and Paige was awarded the Jules Thorn Scholarship, worth £10,750, by Middle Temple. The awards will help support Andreas and Paige during the year of vocational training as they undertake the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC). The BPTC is designed to equip students with the skills, knowledge, attitudes and competence to prepare for pupillage, the next stage in their professional training. Inner Temple and Middle Temple are two of the four Inns of Court that aspiring barristers are required to join.



### Honorary Bencher

Kent Law School Professor Diamond Ashiagbor has been elected as an Honorary Bencher of the Middle Temple, one of the four Inns of Court. Honorary Masters of the Bench are recognised by the Inn's members as distinguished individuals from other walks of life who have excelled in their respective professions. Professor Ashiagbor, who was elected at a 'Bench Call' ceremony in October, joins a group of 141 Honorary Benchers who are responsible for the governance of the Inn. They are elected by their peers from among the Inn's members who have been Called to the Bar; the majority are Queen's Counsel or senior members of the judiciary.



### Senior Fellow

Professor Nick Grief has been recognised as a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA). The award of a Senior Fellowship reflects his considerable leadership experience and sustained effectiveness in teaching and support for learning, both as Dean for Kent's Medway Campus, where the University has over 3000 students, and as a senior academic at Kent Law School teaching International Law and EU Law.



### Networking at Law Fair

Kent's annual Law Fair in October offered an excellent opportunity for law students and non-law students to network with leading local, national and international law firms. Among the local, national and international law firms attending the event were Brachers LLP, Clifford Chance, Cripps LLP, Dentons, DGB Solicitors, Furley Page Solicitors, Hatten Wyatt, Herbert Smith Freehills, Martin Tolhurst Solicitors, Thomson Snell & Passmore and Trowers and Hamblins. The Fair is organised each year by members of Kent Student Law Society and hosted on Kent's Canterbury campus. It is open to all Kent students with an interest in pursuing a legal career.



His Honour Judge David Griffith-Jones (centre) is pictured with Kent Law School Professor Nick Grief (left), and Richard Atkinson, President of Kent Law Society (right).

## Cathedral graduations

Just under 500 undergraduate and postgraduate law students graduated in the vaulted nave of Canterbury Cathedral this summer. An Honorary Doctor of Laws degree was awarded by the University to Master of the Rolls, The Rt Hon Sir Terence Etherton in recognition of his 'exceptional contribution to law and public life'.

The final cohort of three undergraduate law students to be taught at Kent's campus at Medway were conferred their degrees in a ceremony at Rochester Cathedral in July. Josephine Palmer, Roxanne Silverton and Xanthe Harris each completed their Law LLB studies at Medway on a part-time basis over six years, successfully juggling the demands of family, work and studies.

Following the conclusion of Kent Law School's provision at Medway, all undergraduate Law School students (including part-time students) now study at Kent's Canterbury campus. Postgraduate Law School students at Kent study at Canterbury but also have the option to complete all or part of their studies at Kent's centre in Brussels.



## Tucker Millward Guest Lecture

The secret to great advocacy? Preparation, preparation, preparation. And knowing where you are going! So said His Honour Judge David Griffith-Jones QC as he delivered the Tucker Millward Guest Lecture in November. HHJ David Griffith-Jones, a Circuit Judge at Maidstone Crown Court, shared personal insights into his career in law for the annual lecture hosted jointly by Kent Law School and Kent Law Society. This year's Lecture fell within the year in which Kent Law Society is celebrating its 200th anniversary and in which Kent Law School is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the graduation of the first cohort of law students at Kent.



## Mooting award in Cambodia

Law student Aaron Patrick won the Spirit of LAWASIA Team Award at the 13th LAWASIA International Moot Competition held in Cambodia in November.

Recipients of this award are chosen each year by fellow competitors in recognition of being the team that best reflects the ideals, values, virtues of fair play, camaraderie, magnanimity and generosity in a competition environment. Aaron was selected for his advocacy skills and also for his tenacity in taking part in unusually challenging circumstances – he was the only team member from Kent able to travel to Siem Reap for the competition after another team member fell ill.

Aaron was granted permission to participate as a 'non-competitor' and spoke for more than 40 minutes in each round covering all the designated issues for both the claimant and the respondent.





# Feature

## Research at Kent Law School: collaboration and impact

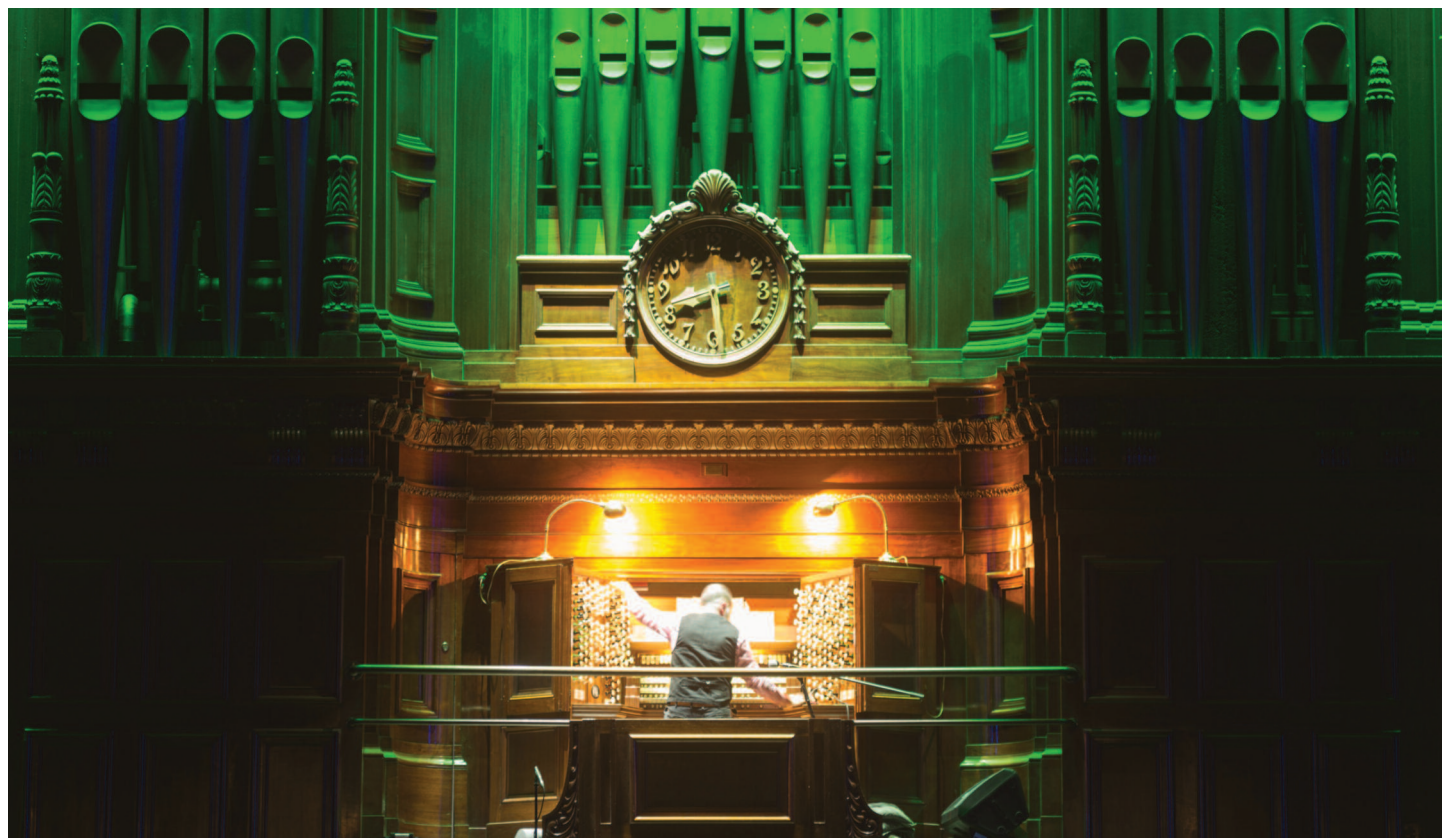


Image: Keelán O'Hehir

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**Kent Law School academics engage in a rich and vibrant variety of critical interdisciplinary and socio-legal research projects and collaborations that aim to make meaningful contributions to all aspects of life – including the social, political, economic, environmental and cultural.**

### Cultural collaborations

Interdisciplinary cultural collaborations may, perhaps, be less expected at a Law School but a few examples of the exciting projects happening at Kent include collaborations with arts and humanities organisations across Australia, the Americas, Europe and Kent:

#### Dr Rose Parfitt: fascism and anti-fascist resistance

Dr Parfitt has worked with Mexican art museums and Australian arts organisations. Earlier this year she worked with Liquid Architecture, a Melbourne-based sound art collective, and the Italian Cultural Institute to organise a series of concerts with Luciano Chessa, an internationally acclaimed composer, conductor, audiovisual and performance artist, and pianist.

Luciano has a longstanding interest in Futurism, an art movement closely associated with the early Fascist movement. Dr Parfitt invited him to speak about the relationship between Futurism and Fascism at her workshop entitled 'Speeches Punctuated with Resounding Slaps: Law, Expansion, Hierarchy, Resistance'. The workshop, hosted at a contemporary art gallery in downtown Melbourne, was part of a collaborative project called 'Fascism and the International'. This project is itself part of a larger three-year research project on 'International Law and the Legacies of Fascist Internationalism' funded by a DECRA (Discovery Early Career Research Award) from the Australian Research Council and Melbourne Law School.

At the workshop, during an evening event open to the public, Luciano performed Futurist sound poetry and discussed the work and politics of Luigi Russolo, one of the pioneers of noise music. He also performed at Melbourne Town Hall (co-organised with Melbourne City Council) playing to an audience of 2,200 members of the public before embarking on a tour of Australia and New Zealand.



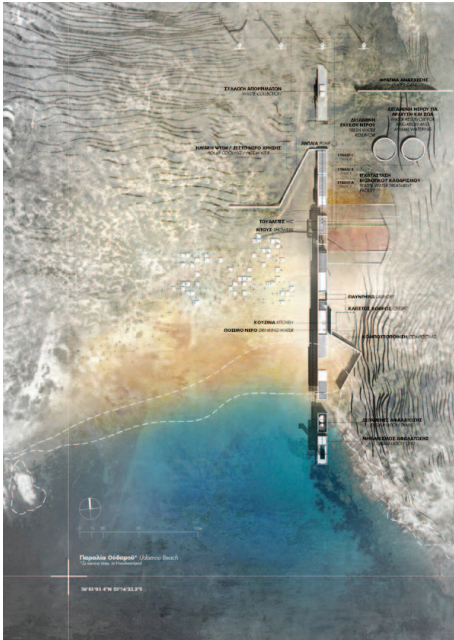
Image: Anthony Rodriguez @Black Note Photography

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Dr Parfitt has been invited by Matilda Arvidsson, Hjalmar Falk and other colleagues at Gothenburg University to run another workshop at the Valand Art Academy in June 2019 and hopes to be working with Luciano once again as well as with historian Mónica Jimenez, poet Roger Reeves, artists Charles Williams and Alicja Rogalska and curator/critical theorist Helena Chávez Mac Gregor, among others.

- 1 International composer Luciano Chessa performing at Melbourne Town Hall
- 2 Dr Rose Parfitt (right) with participants at her workshop in Melbourne
- 3&4 Mechanism of Suspension
- 5 Topics in Critical Thought at Open School East

\*Images: A Youglia, T Issaias, P Issaias, A Avlonitis, C Korovesi, I Matsas, S Milonas, Prelab, Prototyping and Reverse Engineering – Athens



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**Dr Thanos Zartaloudis: architectural projects**

Dr Zartaloudis’s architectural project, Mechanism of Suspension, combines his expertise in Greek and common law with the architectural design of a ‘coastal machine’ – a machine designed to expose the commercial exploitation of land and present alternative visions of land use. This project was competitively commissioned and exhibited at the Venice Biannual to represent the Greek State, as well as in the new Acropolis Museum in Athens.

More recently in his most extensive collaboration, Dr Zartaloudis has worked closely with Berlin based architect, author and philosopher Aristide Antonas on an ongoing project called Urban Protocols, that was published by DPR in Barcelona. The work has received many awards, including at the Thinking Space Competition, Croatia. This project invents a new series of protocols for the social use of public and private spaces.

**Professor Maria Drakopoulou and Dr Connal Parsley: Open School East**

Professor Drakopoulou and Dr Parsley have been involved with Open School East, an arts space in Margate. As part of an initiative of Kent’s Centre for Critical Thought, they have delivered sessions on the relationship between the artist and political authority, and on the art of law, justice and technique. This initiative creates an interface between a leading local arts organisation and the interdisciplinary research in law, philosophy and critical thought being conducted at Kent Law School.

Through this project, early career artists and cultural practitioners—as well as community members—are introduced to current topics of pressing cultural concern that have received innovative handling in today’s interdisciplinary humanities-based legal scholarship. In this way, Kent Law School research is contributing directly to the formation and training of today’s arts practitioners, and increasing awareness about law and legal themes in the broader community.



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## Impact: influencing the life of law beyond academia

In addition to the innovative cultural impact of our work, research at Kent Law School has a wide-ranging impact on all aspects of life. Our research has influence on policy, activism, and judicial decision-making in relation to some of the most deeply contested and life-defining issues of our times. Some examples include:

- Research by Professor Helen Carr and Dr Ed Kirton-Darling is influencing local government and civil society practice in the relation to housing provision for vulnerable communities, including homeless veterans. Their post-Grenfell Tower report, commissioned by Shelter, was relied upon in Parliament to inform the Homes (Fitness for Human Habitation) Bill
- Lawyers, civil society actors, government bodies and judges in Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina have been provoked and

facilitated by the research of Professor Rosemary Hunter to understand, embrace and engage in feminist legal practice

- Peers, MPs, Surrogacy UK, the Law Commission, the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service, and the Department of Health have all actively sought and acted upon Dr Kirsty Horsey’s research-led myth-busting advice on surrogacy law and policy
- Professor Sally Sheldon’s research is supporting two Ten Minute Rule Bills to decriminalise consensual abortion performed before 24 weeks, and in so doing is fundamentally shifting the parliamentary and broader public conversation about abortion law
- Dr Sinead Ring’s research on legal responses to sexual violence is raising public scrutiny

and changing institutional practice on topics such as ‘stealthling’, rape-related abortion, historic child sex abuse and sexual violence in universities

- Dr Luis Eslava’s research collaboration with Lina Buchley of Universidad Icesi into local government responses to petty criminality in the progressive city of Cali, Colombia, has triggered invitations to engage in judicial training as well as to inform policy platforms for the upcoming local election
- A 29-country study by Professor Anneli Albi exploring the impact of EU law on national constitutional values is facilitating systematic and informed attention from across the EU member states to issues such as Euro-scepticism and the role of the courts in post-totalitarian states.



# Research

## Analysis of legislative drafters

Professor Emily Grabham has been awarded £2,917.70 from the University's Faculty Research Fund for an innovative research project to analyse the legal and technical expertise of legislative drafters in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. It's the first systematic empirical study of its kind to consider how the legal and technical expertise of legislative drafters impacts the effectiveness of legislative texts. Her work will inform scholarly debates and will enable a better understanding of how law is shaped in the UK.

## Final workshop for 'Inclusionary Practices'

A workshop exploring policies of inclusion, in jurisdictions around the world, was hosted in Brussels in September by academics from Kent Law School and the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG). It was the final workshop for 'Inclusionary Practices', a three-year research project exploring social and economic inclusion policies in Europe, Latin America and the digital domain. The project, funded by a £26k grant from the British Academy's International Partnership and Mobility Scheme, is led by Kent Law School Professor Toni Williams and Professor Fabricio Polido from the UFMG in Brazil.

The workshop, 'Constituting Inclusion through Law and Regulation: What do we now know? And where do we go from here?', critically examined the methodologies, legal and regulatory techniques and theoretical debates involved in the implementation of social and economic inclusion policies.

## Africa Security Summit

A one-day conference critically examining the ways in which African nations are tackling the evolving threat of global terrorism was held at Kent in September. The 'Africa Security Summit' was co-hosted by Kent Law School's Centre for Critical International Law (CeCIL) and the Africa Security Forum (UK) with Dr Gbenga Oduntan helping to lead two of the workshops.

## The Airspace Tribunal

Professor Nick Grief shared his expertise in international airspace law and human rights at the inaugural hearing of the Airspace Tribunal in September. The Airspace Tribunal is an innovative research collaboration between Professor Grief and visual artist Shona Illingworth (a Reader in Fine Art at Kent's School of Music and Fine Art). Its aim is to consider a new human right to protect peoples' freedom to exist without physical or psychological threat from above. The event, supported by the University of Kent, The Wapping Project and Doughty Street Chambers, was held in London.

## Award for Kent PhD scholar

A paper examining bankruptcy law in Africa, within the context of global bankruptcy reforms and development, earned PhD legal scholar Damilola Odetola a Silver Award from the International Insolvency Institute (III). The prestigious 2018 III Prize in International Insolvency Studies includes publication of Damilola's essay paper 'Contesting the Trend Towards the Globalization of Laws in Corporate Bankruptcy: The Experience in Africa' on the III website, an award cheque for \$2000 and complimentary registration to the annual III Conference in New York.

## PhD graduate awarded ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship

PhD graduate Dr Aravinda Kosaraju has been awarded a ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship for socio-legal research into crimes of child sexual exploitation. The 12-month Fellowship, which began at Kent in October, is funded by a £115k grant from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). Dr Kosaraju, who completed her PhD at Kent in 2017, will be working with Senior Lecturer Dr Julie McCandless on a project promoting effective approaches to investigation and prosecution for crimes of child sexual exploitation in England.

- 1 Professor Emily Grabham
- 2 Professor Toni Williams
- 3 Dr Gbenga Oduntan
- 4 Professor Nick Grief
- 5 Damilola Odetola
- 6 Dr Aravinda Kosaraju
- 7 Panel members speaking at workshop on interdisciplinarity

## Books by Law School academics

Books authored and edited by Kent Law School academics since March 2018 include:

- *Law and the Precarious Home: Socio Legal Perspectives on the Home in Insecure Times* (Hart Publishing) co-edited by Professor Helen Carr, Professor Brendan Edgeworth (University of New South Wales) and Professor Caroline Hunter (University of York)
- *Ownership, Narrative, Things* (Palgrave Socio-Legal Studies) co-authored by Professor Helen Carr, Professor Dave Cowan (University of Bristol) and Dr Alison Wallace (University of York)
- *Comparative Legal Reasoning: Essays in Honour of Geoffrey Samuel* (Wildy, Simmonds and Hill Publishing) edited by Dr Simone Glanert
- *Law and Time* (Routledge) co-edited by Professor Emily Grabham and Dr Siân Beynon-Jones (University of York)
- *Enforcement of International Environmental Law: Challenges and Responses at the International Level* (Routledge) by Dr Martin Hedemann-Robinson
- *Women's Legal Landmarks Celebrating the History of Women and Law in the UK and Ireland* (Bloomsbury Publishing) co-edited by Professor Erika Rackley and Professor Rosemary Auchmuty (University of Reading)
- *Rethinking Legal Reasoning* (Edward Elgar) by Professor Geoffrey Samuel
- *Law and Philosophical Theory Critical Intersections* (Rowman) by Dr Thanos Zartaloudis
- *The Birth of Nomos* (Edinburgh University Press) by Dr Thanos Zartaloudis

## Innovative workshop on interdisciplinarity

An innovative workshop on interdisciplinarity at Kent Law School highlighted the extent to which academics 'stretch and perforate the boundaries of Law as a discipline'. The workshop, entitled 'At the crossroads of humanities and social sciences: methodological questions and conversations,' showcased the diverse methods and processes that academics adopt when approaching research questions.



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# Staff News

- 1 Professor Donatella Alessandrini
- 2 Professor Amanda Perry-Kessaris



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A panel of academics from the Law School, comprising Professor Helen Carr, Professor Emilie Cloatre, Dr Hyo Kang, Dr Emily Haslam, Dr Connal Parsley and Professor Amanda Perry-Kessaris, were each asked to speak for ten minutes on how they might approach the task of writing a paper for an edited collection entitled 'Bodies'. Their responses revealed how academics were either 'task' focused, 'problem' focused or 'concept' focused. Several admitted to finding the process of research 'painful' but all agreed on the importance of self-awareness (and that they were conscious of their own 'place' in the process.) Some academics said they were concerned with how law impacts on people (and on tracing that concern historically) whilst others said they were concerned with the question of how do we know what law is (or how do we know what we think we know about law or people).

Professor Didi Herman, the Research Excellence Framework (REF) Co-ordinator for the School, devised the workshop as a focus on the process rather than the content of research undertaken at Kent Law School. She said: 'We hoped to highlight how Kent Law School is a leading centre of critical interdisciplinarity, meaning that we don't just add a discipline 'to law' (ie Law and ...). Many of our scholars exist at the crossroads of various humanities and social science disciplines, and are re-imagining and creating new approaches to research'. The workshop succeeded in stimulating engaging debate and discussion which Professor Herman said revealed 'just how far our colleagues stretch and perforate the boundaries of Law as a discipline'.



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## Article prize

A prize recognising outstanding socio-legal scholarship has been awarded to Kent Law School Professor Emily Grabham. The 2018 Socio-Legal Article Prize, awarded annually by the Socio-Legal Studies Association (SLSA), was presented to Professor Grabham in March for 'Time and technique: the legal lives of the 26-week qualifying period' (published in Volume 45 of *Economy and Society*).

## School Director of Graduate Studies prize

Professor Donatella Alessandrini was awarded the £500 Graduate School Prize for School Director of Graduate Studies 2018 in June. The award recognises Professor Alessandrini's work in creating a supportive, stimulating and inspirational research environment for doctoral students at the Law School.

## Prize for excellence in teaching

Professor Amanda Perry-Kessaris was awarded a Faculty of Social Sciences Teaching Prize in June for excellence in teaching. The £1,500 runner-up prize recognises the innovative implementation of design-driven teaching, learning and research methods by Professor Perry-Kessaris at Kent Law School.



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## Postgraduate research success

Congratulations to postgraduate research students who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis in 2018, including: Abdulaziz Alsheikh; Margo Bernelin; Gian Fusco; Leila Hanafi; Starla Hargita; Priya Joy; Lejda Koka; Aravinda Kosaraju; Katia Neofytou; Jeremmy Okonjo; Laura Scaife; Salahudin Shariff; Jacob Slosser; Emma Topham. And congratulations to Master of Laws in Law (by research) student Graham Colley.

## Leavers and Joiners 2018

This academic year we bid farewell to retirees: Professor John Fitzpatrick (now Emeritus Professor); Professor Robin Mackenzie (now Emeritus Professor); and Nick Jackson (Honorary Fellow). We have also said goodbye to: Dr John Ackerman; Dr Jastine Barrett; Dr Darren Dinsmore; Professor Judy Fudge; Ismet Morshed; and Dr Joanne Pearman.

We have welcomed three new professors: Diamond Ashiagbor; Rosemary Hunter; and Erika Rackley. We also welcome: Henrique Carvalho; Laura Charleton; Lucinda Griffiths; Kerry Love; Dr Will Mbioh; Olga Palevich; Margarita Prieto-Acosta; Darren Weir.

## Promotions 2018

Our congratulations to the following colleagues on their promotion: Emilie Cloatre (Professor); Lisa Dickson (Reader); Connal Parsley (Senior Lecturer); Nick Piska (Senior Lecturer); Johanne Thompson (Senior Lecturer); Sophie Vigneron (Reader).

# Student Society News



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## Kent Law Temple Society

**Aaron Patrick, President 2018-2019**

Kent Law Temple Society (KLTS) is the oldest law society on campus, established in 1990. This year, the society has taken a more active role in facilitating mooting for first-timers. We have started our first ever Moot Mentorship scheme which has gathered an overwhelming number of participants (70+) and continues to do so. We have also started planning our annual mooting tournament, beginning in February. Additionally, we have begun preparations for our Annual Law Dinner on Friday 22 March, 2019 in Darwin College, with tickets available on the Kent Union website. KLTS has been proactive in its approach this year so as to ensure that our members receive all that the society can offer.

## Kent Student Law Society

**Natalie Cottrell, President 2018-2019**

Kent Student Law Society (KSLS) is best known as 'the society for aspiring solicitors'. We are an academic society focussed on bridging the gap between the Kent Law School curriculum and the professional legal careers of our members. We work with both law and non-law students, at all stages of their degree, to help improve soft skills, such as interview technique, commercial awareness and networking ability. We do this in many ways. First, our connections are diverse and long-standing. Not only do we work with post graduate providers, we work with a number of large law firms such as Herbert Smith Freehills, CMS, Linklaters, Norton Rose Fulbright and Pinsent Masons, and organisations such as Aspiring Solicitors. Secondly, we deliver regular talks, for example, on how to improve your commercial awareness, how to get a training contract, and which path to take to qualify as a legal professional.



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To put into practice researching and networking skills, KSLS holds an annual Law Fair in Eliot College. We invite firms with local, regional, and city backgrounds. This year, we invited a range of firms, from Clifford Chance, Trowers and Hamlins, and Dentons, to Cripps, Furley Page and Martin Tolhurst Solicitors. We have received excellent feedback on this very successful event and are proud as a society to keep this opportunity open to Kent Law School students.

This year, KSLS has decided to go digital to help students improve their commercial awareness, by setting up an online forum, where we post very regular commercial, political, and financial news updates and analysis.

We have many more events planned; trips to London with BPP and the University of Law, a number of on-campus events, and our 1 March Annual Law Dinner, with key speaker Sir Geoffrey Nice QC, to look forward to!

## Kent Critical Law Society

**Peteche Bethell, President and Conference Coordinator, 2018-2019**

Kent Critical Law Society (KCLS) is a student led law group that specialises in hosting engaging lectures, networking events and conferences that encompass the values of critical legal studies. We place emphasis on historic and current social, political and economic issues, and their continued affects upon the law.

Our lectures and events are led by academics and professionals who are respected specialists in their field of expertise. However, we also provide a safe forum for budding legal minds to express their opinions, theories and research.



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This year, the Society has altered the traditional approach of solely hosting evening lectures. Some of our events now take the form of interactive luncheons and dinners. Thus far, we have hosted a society introduction event, which informed new members of our aims, and gave them an opportunity to practice debating critical issues. We have had a 'Business and Brunch' event on the Sectioning and the Mental Health Act by Dr Ruth Cain, and a 'Dinner and Debate' event on Criminal Justice by Lecturer Lisa Dickson.

In celebration of the Law School's 50th Anniversary, we embraced the traditional and treasured form of a law lecture. For this event, KCLS collaborated with Dr Hayley Gibson to provide a lecture on the critical legal movement and its development at Kent.

KCLS has also hosted several socials for our members. These included the Joint Law Society Pub Crawl, Halloween Pub Quiz, and Christmas Tea Party. We have managed to secure a loyal following of society members at all respective events, as well as on our newly developed Facebook, Instagram and Twitter platforms.

Next term, we look forward to hosting a number of exciting and distinct events. These include our annual Critical Legal Conference under the theme of Division, Difference & Democracy, a talk on legal career diversity by barristers and academics from various social sciences, and a volunteering opportunity.



- 1 Kent Law Temple Society
- 2 Kent Student Law Society
- 3 Kent Critical Law Society
- 4 Kent International Law Society
- 5 European Law Student Association (ELSA) Kent
- 6 Kent Canadian Law Society



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### Kent International Law Society

**Aisha Estey, President 2018-2019**

Kent International Law Society is in its second year at the University and we strive to provide our members with the chance to interact with various aspects of international law. Our upcoming trips to the International Criminal Court in the Hague, and the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, are amazing opportunities to engage in human rights law. Further, we hope to bring in guest speakers from City law firms to help our members garner a stronger understanding of international commercial and financial law. Next spring, we will be hosting an internal arbitration moot with LawAsia, another opportunity to engage with international public and private law. On the social side, we are hosting a Festive Ball in collaboration with other law societies on 8 December, and hope to host more casual social events in the new year.

### European Law Student Association (ELSA) Kent

**Abigail Simpson, President 2018-2019**

Since September, the ELSA Kent committee has been hard at work organising trips and events to compliment students' studies. We take pride in hosting events such as a river boat tour of Canterbury, a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament, a trip to the Supreme Court, as well as an institutional visit abroad. The beginning of 2018 saw ELSA Kent bring students on a three-day trip to Strasbourg, visiting the European Court of Human Rights and having an interactive Q&A session with Judge Robert Spano of Iceland, with an overnight stop-off in Paris where students were free to explore for the day.



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ELSA is an international non-governmental organisation run by and for law students which has established itself in many different countries and universities across the world. Due to the extensive global network, we have the ability to connect students by offering desirable traineeships in another country through our STEP programme. We pride ourselves on our international outreach which gives students a chance to discover diverse cultures and different legal systems around the globe.

This year we are very much looking forward to the launch of the inaugural ELSA UK Commercial Law Moot Court Competition, an international mooting competition which will be held at Kent in March 2019, to mark the ten-year anniversary of the Lehman Brothers. In addition, we will also be compiling a team to represent ELSA Kent at the London Human Rights Moot Court Competition held at the London School of Economics, as well as the creation of an ELSA Negotiation competition. One of our biggest projects to end the year will be our third year of the ELSA Kent Summer Law School on Migration Law which is a brilliant opportunity to learn more whilst having fun.

### Kent Canadian Law Society

**Margo Sabbah, President 2018-2019**

**Meagan D'Mello, Vice President 2018-2019**

The Canadian Law Society (CLS) is a unique student law organization as it aims to foster a community among the growing Canadian population at the University, aiding in both the transition to Kent and the professional transition into the Canadian work force. The CLS seeks to provide opportunities for all Kent Law students to get involved and works closely with the other law societies to bring students the best experience possible.



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In the 2018/2019 academic year, we have and plan to provide essential information to transition into a Canadian legal practice or if you are continuing your education. These include meetings such as Skype information sessions with Osgoode, UBC, and the NCA. Additionally, we are fortunate to welcome a Canadian alumni from Kent, Jasmine Sivekumar. Jasmine will be at Kent in March to join us as we host the annual key event, Alumni Week. As well, in February we have a representative from the University of Alberta coming to Kent to provide information for those looking for pursue their LLM.

We are also pleased to have successfully once again implemented the second CLS Mentorship Scheme, teaming upper year students with first years to support the transition to Kent and promote academic success.

We are excited for the continued growth of the CLS and the great events and opportunities that 2018/2019 has in store!

# Staff in the spotlight

## Graham Tegg, Director of Kent Law Clinic

**You have recently taken over as Director of Kent Law Clinic – can you please tell us what this role entails?**

Everyday there's a new twist – I'm learning, gradually, what the role involves. It's a tremendous honour to follow in the footsteps of Professor John Fitzpatrick. Kent Law Clinic is the longest established Clinic in the country. We have thrived with the support of the University and the Law School – the magnificent Wigoder Law Building at the heart of the Campus is testament to that. It would be easy to be cowed by the weight of expectations. Luckily, I enjoy a challenge.

**How long have you worked at Kent Law School? What work were you involved in before you joined the Clinic?**

I've worked in the Clinic for over six years. I qualified as a solicitor late in life – I was in my thirties. I initially did it for a bet. I was managing advice centres and line-managing two solicitors. They were both brilliant but also a nightmare. They kept telling me that their duties as solicitors meant they couldn't do certain things and that I couldn't possibly imagine the difficulties and responsibilities of being a solicitor. I said it didn't seem that difficult. One said, 'I bet you couldn't do it'. I took the bet.

Before joining the Clinic I was a solicitor at the Child Poverty Action Group taking test cases on welfare rights. Before that I was a solicitor in Shelter's legal team specialising in homelessness law and housing law. I have always practiced social welfare law. Typically, my opponents are the DWP/HMRC or local authorities. My clients are, more often than not, the poor, vulnerable and marginalised.

**The Clinic team has expertise in social welfare law – are there particular challenges that you regularly face?**

We are in the chaos dimension – that's social welfare law. Everyday we're contacted by local people. All too often the bottom has dropped out of their lives. There's no legal aid for welfare benefits. Local advice centres have been decimated by cuts and are overwhelmed. Universal Credit (UC) has been 'rolled out' in Kent. If you think of the worse of the horror stories in the media about UC and then multiply by a hundred you will be approaching the devastation and ruin that this new benefit is visiting on peoples' lives. Delays and appalling decision making all wrapped in an IT system that demands that claimants communicate via an inaccessible online journal – it is a gigantic, malfunctioning machine that produces misery, poverty and debt. Apart from that it works well.

**How does the Clinic serve the local community?**

The Clinic tries to respond to need. We are lucky to have a team of expert solicitors – specialists in areas of social welfare law – immigration and asylum, family, employment, housing, criminal justice, access to land and welfare rights. With the unflagging support of local solicitors and barristers who give their time and expertise pro bono, ably supported by student advice session co-ordinators, the Clinic is able to offer free 30 or 45-minute interviews for clients in need of and unable to afford legal advice. There's no way the Clinic can make up for cuts in legal aid and irrigate advice desserts. The Clinic does what it can. What it does makes a difference.

**Why should law students get involved with the work of the Clinic?**

It is one thing to attend lectures and seminars, read learned text books, esoteric journal articles, reported cases etc. Vital, interesting and irreplaceable. It is another thing to see how the law is made – to participate. Volunteering and/or studying in the Clinic enables students to think and reflect on law, laws, the law from an internal perspective. To be inside rather than looking in from the outside. The Clinic is not skills based. We are not trainers or training students to be lawyers. Naturally students working on cases acquire and refine legal skills – and this is a good thing. The overriding purpose is academic; to enhance the legal education. Clinical legal education is immersive. Students working on live cases get to reflect on how the facts of a case, the law/specific laws and the legal process all interact in a myriad of conflicting ways. The law is made not found. Rights do not exist in the abstract. This is my passionate belief. Students learn that it is not that clients somehow become detached from their rights and are then miraculously reunited with them. Far from being a simple matter of looking up the 'correct' legal answer, students think, reflect, imagine and create arguments piece by piece. Students are making law in the Clinic and at the same time they develop analytical and critical faculties that assist in their studies at a critical law school.

**Do you have a particular vision for Kent Law Clinic?**

Like most 'stuff that works' the Clinic rests on a simple and clear premise. The Clinic is a joint endeavour between academic solicitors at Kent Law School, solicitors and barristers in practice locally and, most importantly, students. Kent Law Clinic aims to provide free legal advice and representation to people living and working in Kent who need legal assistance and are unable to afford it.



Equally, it aims to enhance the legal education of students. Students not only learn a new perspective on law but derive enormous satisfaction from creating solutions to problems that change lives – for the better.

Kent Law Clinic is a world class institution. Not enough people know that. I don't think we explain what we do, what the Clinic achieves. My hope is that we learn to communicate better and more widely. Kent Law Clinic students have a lot to say and what they say, think and write is insightful and often cutting edge. My ambition is to use the tools of the digital age and social media to increase our presence and influence. We live in bubbles. It's time a few bubbles were burst.

**Outside of work, how do you unwind? We hear you like to cook?**

It is true – I love to cook. I am not what you might call a 'Black Letter' cook. I don't always follow a recipe. I like to think that recipes, ingredients, taste and hunger are the source/sauce for inspiration. I make food like I make law: creatively, messily and with gusto. You never know until you've tried. I don't just cook up a storm. I love music: Americana, jazz, the works of Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen and Lucinda Williams in particular. There's more: reading, painting and writing. What I lack in technical execution I cover over with enthusiastic activity. Sometimes I sleep but, then again, I can sleep when I'm dead. I'm very much alive, for now. What can we do next? As Samuel Becket said: fail, fail again, fail better.