

<p>Institution: Birkbeck, University of London</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: Law</p>
<p>A Context</p> <p>The main non-academic user groups, beneficiaries and audiences for the Law School's research during the census period have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International, national and local policy-makers and public bodies • Legal professionals and legal professional bodies • NGOs, campaign and pressure groups in the UK and internationally • Members of the general public through media and other public outreach activities <p>The School is committed to the critical study of law and institutions of justice in their political and social contexts. In the census period the School has applied this critical attitude in order to speak to and influence constituencies and stakeholders beyond the academy. The School's strategy reflects this commitment to law as a means of bringing about social change and promoting social justice. The School's public engagement work has addressed international, national and local policy actors as well as civil society organisations in order to tackle social injustice, inequality and human rights abuses. Colleagues have made significant engagements with issues of equality and diversity, human rights, criminal justice, education, and development policy. The School has informed public and political debate, particularly in challenging established norms, modes of thought and practices in relation to, for example, HIV law and policy; minority rights; law and development; home education; sexual diversity; and criminal justice policy.</p>
<p>b Approach to impact</p> <p>In the census period the School has extended its commitment to the transformative potential of legal scholarship into developing an impact strategy which engages with constituencies and policy actors with the aim of promoting social justice and challenging inequality and exclusion. To this end the School has prioritised the following strategic objectives in the census period:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhancing its critical policy-orientated research. A key example of this objective was the establishment of the Institute for Criminal Policy Research (ICPR) at Birkbeck. The ICPR aims to improve criminal justice policy and to contribute to academic knowledge and public debate about crime and criminal justice. ICPR's conclusions and recommendations inform the policy-making of UK government departments and the European Commission, who are amongst its funders. (See case study Hough BBKUoA20CS2HOUGH). 2. Developing a critical legal practice strategy commencing with the highly successful clinical programme run jointly with the River House Clinic on HIV/AIDS law, which was short-listed for the 2013 THES Awards for Knowledge Exchange/Transfer Initiative of the Year. 3. Launching a major annual public/practitioner engagement event, Law on Trial in 2010. This event comprises a week of public lectures, workshops, visual media and legal advice sessions themed around an area of expertise within the Law School. Its speakers and audiences include NGOs, charities, campaign groups, social enterprises, outreach services, media and legal practitioners. Themes have included the future of legal education (2013); crime, order and justice (2012); social justice and inclusion (2011); and social rights (2010). 4. Committing to strengthening its links with the legal profession and, to this end, setting up several initiatives in the census period including the Judicial Conversations and Legal Practice seminar series, which facilitate engagement of practising lawyers and senior members of the judiciary with staff and students. Visiting senior national and international members of the judiciary include Justice Edwin Cameron of the South African Constitutional Court, Lady Justice Arden of the UK Supreme Court, and Lord Justice Etherton of the Court of Appeal. 5. Facilitating colleagues to develop their public engagement footprint through the appointment of an Impact and Knowledge Transfer (IKT) Officer and a Digital, Online and Social Media Co-ordinator. The IKT Officer works closely with colleagues in developing strategies for public and user engagement. The Digital, Online and Social Media Co-ordinator assists the School and individual researchers in publicising their research. Online dissemination of staff research is supplemented by social media updates on Twitter and Facebook. Since 2008 the School, together with <i>Backdoor Broadcasting Company</i>, began to provide free online podcasts of many of its seminars and conferences, and it now has over 30 podcasts publicly available. 6. Consolidating and increasing the School's presence in the public domain and media sphere,

working with **Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities (BIH)** and **Birkbeck Institute for Social Research (BISR)**, encouraging colleagues to engage critically with legal and public policy issues.

The School is assisted in its impact and knowledge transfer by strong College support. Colleagues make use of the College's **External Relations Unit (ERU)**, which matches staff expertise to media requests for responses to current issues. The **ERU** acts as the College's own media outlet disseminating staff activities and research work through the College website and its own online journal, publishing staff blogs and podcasting interviews and events of public interest. Colleagues have participated in **BISR**-organised workshops on working with non-academic partners.

The School has engaged a wide range of non-academic stakeholders in the census period:

1. In the area of **International policy-making**, **Everson** contributed to a European Parliament study on political representation in Europe and was commissioned by the European Central Bank to review its decision-making structures; **McAuslan's** research has informed land law reform with e.g. the World Bank, UN-Habitat, FAO, UNDP, DFID, Council of Europe and the EU; **Weait** has worked with UNAIDS on criminalisation of HIV transmission; and **ICPR** has secured EU funding for projects on local policing in EU-member states, and on the EU FIDUCIA 7 programme developing policy responses to emerging forms of crime across Europe.
2. Engagement with **national policy-makers** includes the use of **Weait's** work on phylogenetic analysis in evidence in criminal trials involving allegations of HIV transmission, and the use of his research on sentencing orders by the Sentencing Council and Crown Prosecution Service through National AIDS Trust campaign work. **ICPR** has worked with The Ministry of Justice's National Offender Management Service (NOMS) on one-to-one engagement with those under probation supervision for facilitating behavioural change.
3. Work with **local policy-makers and public bodies** includes **Monk** with local authorities including Essex and Staffordshire County Councils on elective home education; **ICPR's** work with two English police forces to assess the impact of sustained drug law enforcement efforts against street-level drug dealers; and its work with the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales on a study to identify the range of interventions young offenders receive within the Secure Estate's programme, and how these match the needs of young people in custody. **ICPR** is also carrying out an independent evaluation of the ESRC/College of Policing 'What Works Centre for Crime Reduction'.
4. Collaboration with **legal professionals and legal professional bodies** includes **Weait's** public engagement through the River House Law Clinic, which provides legal advice in relation to housing and employment for people living with HIV/AIDS in London; and **Moran's** research on the nature and impact of diversity on the judiciary, which has influenced the actions of the Law Society and Bar Council to promote diversity within the profession, and his engagement with the InterLaw Diversity Forum for LGBT Networks (which is made up of over 70 law firms and 40 corporate and financial institutions). The Forum submitted evidence, leveraging **Moran's** research, to government reviews of the judicial appointments process and judicial diversity.
5. Colleagues work with a wide range of **NGOs, campaign and pressure groups**, including **ICPR** with *Restorative Solutions* evaluating their programme of pre-sentence restorative justice in England and Wales, and its work with the charity *Safe Ground* on evaluating its impact on family relationships, prison regimes and re-offending; **Xenakis** with the *Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces* (NGO training on researching police corruption in South-East Europe); and **Weait's** work with *HIV in Europe* on identifying how criminal law disincentivises the timely uptake of testing by those at heightened risk of HIV infection.
6. Since 2008 the School has increased and strengthened its **media and public presence**:
 - **Douzinis** has been a regular contributor to *The Guardian's Comment is Free* website. He was commissioned to present a summary of his influential research on human rights as a 5-part series, which has been widely reproduced and translated into several languages (2009). **Douzinis** has also published some 30 articles since 2009 in *The Guardian* on the European economic, political and social crisis, presenting the most complete commentary on responses to the crisis and the resistance of Greeks and citizens of other crisis-hit Eurozone countries. Several other staff have contributed to *Comment is Free* in the census period including **Diamantides**, **El-Enany**, **Guardiola-Rivera**, **Macmillan**, **Motha**, and **Tuitt**. Staff regularly

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appear on other media sites, including: BBC Radio 4's *The Moral Maze* (**Monk** on sex education 2009), *Today* (**McAuslan** 2009); *Bringing Up Britain* (**Monk** on modifying children's behaviour 2009); *The World Tonight* (**Bowring** on the Politkovskaya case 2009; **Everson** on European labour rights 2009); *Start the Week* (**Guardiola-Rivera** on his research on Latin American politics and law 2011, **Hough** on justice and fairness 2012); BBC One's *Heir Hunters* (**Monk** as legal consultant and interviewee on the law of intestacy 2012); BBC Two's *Newsnight* (**Xenakis** on police violence in Greece 2008); Channel 4 *News* (**Bowring** on the Chilcot Inquiry and Iraq 2009, **Everson** on labour rights in the EU 2009); BBC World Service's *Newshour* (**Bowring** on the Khodorkovsky Trial in Russia 2010; **Xenakis** on civil unrest in Greece 2008).

- Several colleagues contribute to the highly successful blogsite [Critical Legal Thinking](#), whose aim has been to contribute to the dissemination of the techniques of critical theory to the public at large, as well as to help make sense of complex and interrelated forms of injustice – legal, economic, cultural, political – in the hope of promoting democratic mobilisation. The site was established during the census period by **Douzinis** and 3 PhD graduates of the School (Wall, Stone and Leung).

- The School supports **BIH** and colleagues are active participants in its public engagement activity. Examples of such activity include an innovative interdisciplinary conference on 'Poetry and Crisis' (2012) organised with the Serpentine Gallery and with participants including Homi Bhabha, William Kentridge and Eleanor Bron, as well as a symposium on 'Law and Performance' (2012) which brought together lawyers, artists and actors.

c Strategy and plans

The School's impact strategy is to ensure that its research continues to feed into campaigns for, and policy initiatives on, social justice and transformation through engagement with policy processes, public debate and professional practice. In particular the School will build on its engagement with the above mentioned stakeholders in the following ways:

- **Strengthen public and user engagement initiatives:** consolidate the Law on Trial initiative in order to further policy-led research and partnerships with non-academic user groups.
- **Enhance and develop knowledge transfer:** extend the involvement of the Impact and Knowledge Transfer Officer in staff training and the development of partnerships with non-academic users.
- **Consolidate and enhance links with legal professionals and professional bodies:** develop its successful critical legal practice initiative by mapping the feasibility of a Birkbeck Chambers – exploiting the potential offered by the Legal Services Act 2007 of collaboration between academics and practitioners in the provision of legal services (**Motha**); and develop a clinical initiative run in collaboration with the **Centre for Freudian Studies**, utilising **Salecl's** expertise in criminology and psychoanalysis.
- **Increase engagement with national and local policy-makers and public bodies:** build upon the successful integration of the **ICPR** into the School, in order to expand its reach into zones of public policy-making and to strengthen its critical engagement with criminal justice.

d. Relationship to case studies

All case-studies engage the School's mission of active critical policy engagement and display the potential of critical legal scholarship and practice to facilitate social justice and equality. The case-studies exemplify our strategy of enhancing links with the legal professions, policy-makers and NGOs and campaign groups.

- **McAuslan's** work on land law reform by contributing to sustainable development and poverty alleviation achieves the School's strategic objective of enhancing social justice through legal reform. (See our case [BBKUoA20CS1McAUSLAN](#))
- **Hough's** work into public trust in the police and courts across Europe links to the School's strategy to enhance its critical policy-orientated research. ([BBKUoA20CS2HOUGH](#))
- **Moran's** work on sexual diversity in the legal profession exemplifies the School's strategy on increasing engagement with the legal professions. ([BBKUoA20CS3MORAN](#))
- **Weait's** work on HIV law reform contributes to the School's strategy of engaging with public policy to enhance rights and social justice. (See [BBKUoA20CS4WEAIT](#))