# Institution: University of Leicester



# Unit of Assessment: 10 -- Law

#### a. Overview

Then Unit, which is coterminous with the School of Law, has 54 academic staff engaged in research and it is part of the College of Arts, Humanities and Law (CAHL). The School's Research Strategy is overseen by the School Research Committee. This is chaired by the Research Director who is a member of the College Research Committee, and the University Research Policy Committee, thereby forming a link to institutional research policies.

The overriding objective of the School's research strategy is the production of internationally excellent work. It achieves this by giving individuals the freedom to develop their own research agendas, while also providing support and encouraging collaboration on key themes through research centres and clusters, the interests of several of which overlap. The key research centres and clusters are described in detail below; they include the Centre for European Law and Internationalisation and the Socio-Legal Studies Group. Research in the School includes a wide range of methodologies and encompasses a variety of socio-legal or theoretical approaches, while retaining the best of doctrinal approaches. Socio-legal research within the School includes empirical research; much of this has social policy dimensions and impact beyond academia, which is valued and supported. Finally, the School ensures that PGRs are embedded within the research environment, for instance by encouraging their participation in the School's centres and clusters.

# b. Research strategy

# Evaluation of strategy post RAE 2008

In RAE 2008, the School described its research philosophy as pluralistic. It had already identified a shift away from a primary focus on doctrinal research and towards a wider range of research methodologies, and reflecting upon this decided to consolidate and promote developments in socio-legal research and research with social policy dimensions. In the RAE 2008 statement the School also noted a decreased emphasis on domestic law and a growth of research with an international or comparative dimension. This trajectory towards an international outlook has continued and been encouraged over the assessment period; the study of European, comparative and international law has moved from being treated as subject-specific and discrete interests, towards an approach that embeds a European and international outlook across research collaborations in the School. The School has ensured that the diversity of research interests that such a large academic unit is able to support is shaped into a coherent narrative through the work of research centres and clusters. This strategy of encouraging individual development of personal research agendas, while simultaneously promoting collaboration where possible, has been key to ensuring that all researchers, and in particular early career researchers, are embedded within the wider context of the unit's research, and are provided with appropriate support and guidance.

## Developing strength in research with an international outlook

The development of research with a European and international outlook has been promoted through the Centre for European Law and Internationalisation (CELI). CELI brings together researchers with an interest in the fields of EU Law, the law of the Council of Europe and the interaction between these organisations and trends of internationalisation, for example in relation to global trade. It was established in 2000 as the Centre for European Law and Integration but, following a period of reflection on strategy, it changed its title to the Centre for European Law and Internationalisation in 2011. This new title reflects the growing body of international law scholarship within the Centre and the objective of encouraging strength in this area of research. CELI is one of the School's largest research centres and there are over 20 academics and PGRs affiliated to it. We have particular strengths in research relating to EU Law and European/international commercial law, where there is a critical mass of scholars. CELI has been successful in attracting



external funding for the organisation of seminars and conferences. For example, CELI events received funding from the Modern Law Review and the University Association for Contemporary European Studies. CELI operates through an umbrella structure: its activities are coordinated by the Director (2000-12 **Szyszczak**, 2012- **Ziegler**) in conjunction with 5 clusters, each with its own coordinator: Corporate and Commercial Law; Conflict of Laws; Labour Law; International Law; Human Rights.

CELI's clusters undertake a variety of activities. Most frequently, collaborative research takes the form of conferences and lecture/seminar series, many including researchers and practitioners from the UK and elsewhere. For example, a conference on the 'Europeanisation of Private Law: Theory and Practice' in 2010 included 22 papers, while in 2012 a roundtable on the Proposal for Common European Sales Law brought together 10 speakers; both combined internal and external participants. In 2008, the Labour Law cluster organised a three-day seminar on the Right to Strike aimed at both academics and postgraduates. In 2010, a series of public lectures was held on the Treaty of Lisbon and in 2011 there was a series of lectures on Financial Crisis Management and Regulatory Reform. In 2012/13, a Conflict of Laws Scholars Forum was launched, which held three roundtable events and three seminars with guest speakers. Other CELI activities have included the organisation of an annual Human Rights Film Series.

#### Developing strength in socio-legal and interdisciplinary research

In RAE 2008, the School recognised an increase in the proportion of staff undertaking socio-legal research. Since then, its research strategy has sought to consolidate that trend, for example with a number of appointments with an explicit socio-legal remit: two Lecturers (**M'Boge**, **Sagy**), a Senior Lecturer (**Gilbar**), and a Professor (**Sommerlad**). In the same period, **Burton** was promoted to a Chair in Socio-Legal Studies. These appointees joined a large group of existing researchers who were already drawing on socio-legal methods and theory in their research. The School therefore now boasts a range of scholarship which seeks to place law in its broader social, political, economic or cultural context. There are also a growing number pursuing socio-legal studies via empirical research methods, both qualitative and quantitative. Many of these are engaged in research with social policy dimensions (for example, **Burton**'s research on domestic violence, **Cunningham's** research on vehicular homicide).

The School established a Socio-Legal Studies Group in 2011 to draw together its expertise and develop it further. This is the second group within the School which brings together over 20 academics and PGRs and meets regularly to present research in progress, examine proposed and successful research grant applications, and invite visiting speakers. It allows those with experience in empirical research methods to share this with researchers who are exploring the possibility of this kind of work. Training on empirical methodologies has been delivered through this group. It also provides a venue for discussion of socio-legal theory.

The embedding of socio-legal research has allowed the School to pursue more effectively its strategy of winning external income from research councils and other funders to release academics from other duties in order to complete major research projects. These are examined further below, but AHRC-funded projects have been undertaken by **Cumper**, **Cunningham**, **Voruz** and **Ulph**. In addition to projects funded by the research councils, policy relevant research funded by UK government departments and other public bodies has also been undertaken by members of the socio-legal group, reflecting the strategy of encouraging work with social policy dimensions and work with impact beyond academia. For example members of the socio-legal group (**Burton**, **Cammiss** and **Cunningham**) worked on a major project commissioned by the Ministry of Justice to examine the handling of rape and serious violent offences by the criminal justice system.

Successful collaboration of academics within the Law School is a key aspect of the research strategy; collaboration across (and outside) the University is also increasingly recognised and encouraged. A key example of how the Unit has achieved successful collaborations within the assessment period can be seen in its medical law research cluster (**Elliott**, **Miola**, **Wicks**) which participates in the Interdisciplinary Ethics Group and Midlands Medical Law Consortium. The



Midlands Medical Law Consortium (chaired by **Miola** in 2013) brings together academics from five universities to collaborate in research and funding bids. Leicester was a founding member of the Consortium, now in its third year, and counts as one of its successes securing £22,000 from the AHRC for a seminar series examining the influence of religion, faith and belief in various areas of medical law. The seminars were held in 2013, and the resulting outputs will be published in 2014/15. The Interdisciplinary Ethics Group was set up by medical lawyers at the School of Law to establish links with others across the University interested in medical law and ethics. Comprising of academics from the Medical School, Health Sciences, Biological Sciences and Genetics, it functions as a critical reading group, where an interdisciplinary perspective can be shared.

More broadly, the Legal Theory Reading Group considers theoretical approaches that often draw upon other disciplines, such as philosophy. Established in 2004, this Group has continued to meet over the assessment period and hosted a number of high profile conferences, such as the Colloquium on 'Normativity and the Law – A Kelsenian Perspective', a Symposium on 'The Constitutional Review under the UK Human Rights Act' and the Analytic Legal and Political Philosophy Conference. Most significantly, in 2009, the Critical Legal Conference was held in Leicester bringing together a large number of speakers and participants from around the world. This fits with the strategy to raise the profile of the Law School internationally. In practical terms, the Group provides academic staff and PGRs with a forum where they can present work in progress in an informal environment. Beyond exchange of ideas at the local level, the Group also runs a seminar series, where scholars from other universities are invited to present papers on a broad range of theoretical topics. Prominent theorists, such as Cooper, Green, Kavanagh, Koskenniemi, Kramer and Paulson, have given talks in this context.

#### Developing strength in research with social policy dimensions

Another component of the post RAE 2008 research strategy has been to encourage research with social policy dimensions. One of the examples of using centres to facilitate this aspect of the School's research is the Centre for Consumer and Essential Services (CESS). This combines legal and social policy expertise to explore the effects for consumers of regulation and provision of essential services. The CCES brings together five researchers, and other individuals within the School have joined individual projects. It carries out research and consultancy and has done projects for Which?, Consumer Focus, E.ON and UNISON. Since 2011, it has received two grants from EAGA Charitable Trust for work on vulnerable consumers. It has produced reports designed to highlight and improve the problems faced by people in a wide variety of vulnerable situations (e.g. Graham's report for the Legal Ombudsman (2011)).

In 2009, it organised a major conference on the theme: 'Are regulators agents of social change and what are the implications of the equality and human rights agenda?'. This received funding from the Equality and Human Rights Commission and Consumer Focus, and participants included a wide range of regulators, such as Ofcom, Ofwat, the FSA. The Director of CCES (Graham) is a member of the Ofwat Future Regulation Advisory Panel and the European Commission's 'Working Group on Vulnerable Consumers in the Area of Energy'.

## Leicester Legal Research Forum

It is recognised that, in a large Law School, a limited number of research centres and clusters may not be able to embrace every dimension of research being undertaken within the unit. Consequently part of our strategy has been to provide an underpinning and flexible mechanism for encompassing wider research interests, and the Leicester Legal Research Forum was established in 2012. The Forum is open to any academic staff or PGRs. It meets regularly and provides an 'open house' for the presentation of work in progress, discussion of issues relating to research methods or the pursuit of research funding. It is expressly designed to be a supportive venue where individuals can bring challenges or obstacles that they have encountered in research and seek the advice and feedback of colleagues. In this context, the School operates a research seminar series with a programme of visiting speakers. This is another avenue through which research falling outside the confines of the centres and clusters can be accommodated. Finally, the



School launched its own Social Science Research Network Research Paper Series in 2013, which provides a venue for the dissemination of research by academics and PGRs.

Priority Areas for Further Development: Objectives and Activities in Research for Five Years Following Submission

The Unit anticipates that some of the existing trends in research will extend over the next five year period. It has identified four broad areas for pursuit in the next five years:

- Research with Impact: the process of preparing for the REF helped to shine a light on the School's successful engagement in research that is led or informed by the pursuit of impact beyond academia. This is discussed in more detail in our Impact Template, but a key priority for the next five years will be to strengthen the recognition and support for such research. This objective is highly congruent with the other future research objectives (listed below).
- Empirical Research: strength in empirical research began to emerge in the latter part of the REF cycle. The Socio-Legal Studies Group is assisting staff to improve their skills in this area. The School will continue to foster such research and enhance our capacity to support PGRs seeking to undertake empirical research projects.
- Rights: the School has a well-established reputation for expertise on EU Law and the ECHR. It will continue to pursue existing strengths in this field through CELI.
- Law and Social Policy: social policy is undergoing rapid reform, both domestically and internationally, in the wake of the enduring economic crisis. The School's research strengths make it well-poised to respond to changes underway in fields such as public utilities, consumer protection, employment law, and healthcare, criminal justice and the protection of vulnerable people. In pursuing such research, it will seek to extend interdisciplinary collaborations.

# c. People, including:

# i. Staffing strategy and staff development

The School recognises the importance of managing staff turnover in a way that protects the development of collaborative research activities. Almost all academic employees are working under contracts of indefinite duration, giving a high level of security of employment. During the REF period, we began succession planning for several key Chairs that required replacement due to retirement in the period 2012-2014. For example **Ziegler** was appointed to the Sir Robert Jennings Chair in International Law, while the previous postholder (**Shaw**) was given a fractional appointment in order to ensure a maintenance of our research capacity in this field during a transitional period. Inevitably, there have been departures for reasons other than retirement. Where these have been in key research themes, we have acted swiftly to ensure equivalent replacement to sustain the research base. For example, in the field of Human Rights, the departure of **Kavanagh** was matched with the recruitment of a replacement at the same level (**Wicks**). More generally, we have been closely attuned to the research centres and clusters in making recruitment decisions.

## Strategies for sustaining a research environment

In addition to the traditional system of appraisal, which supports staff to develop in all areas of academic life, the School runs Annual Research Reviews. These are carried out with two members of professorial staff. The meetings are designed to provide frank and constructive advice on enhancing research performance with a view to enabling critical self-reflection. Staff are encouraged to publish their best articles in peer-reviewed journals (and to be ambitious in terms of choice of journal), and to place monographs with major academic presses. The reviews are primarily focused on publications and other research activities in the previous 12 months and plans for future research projects and outputs. In particular, planned external funding applications are discussed and advice given.



In 2009, the School joined the College of Arts, Humanities and Law and this has enhanced support for staff in their research. During term-time, there is a weekly College research seminar, which addresses shared themes, such as preparing grant applications or interdisciplinary research topics (e.g. ethics, heritage, migration). The College operates a Development Fund to which all College academic staff can apply, regardless of the nature of their contract, for funding to support research projects or events. The College Study Leave Committee manages a scheme where all staff can apply for one semester of study leave after the completion of a period of six semesters. During the REF period, staff in the Law School were allocated, in total, 57 semesters of study leave.

The School ensures that at least one day per week during term-time is free from teaching and staff receive an individual research allowance which can be used to fund research-related expenses such as travel to conferences, or research assistance to help with pilot projects. The total financial support via research allowances during the REF period was just over £140,000. The School also provides financial and administrative support for the work of the centres and clusters. Furthermore, the University provides new senior staff with a 'start-up' fund in order to facilitate research initiatives.

The School includes 13 ECRs who took up their posts since 1 August 2009, and a central focus of the unit's staffing strategy is ensuring appropriate support for their research development. During the first three years of appointment, each ECR is appointed a mentor, normally from a related field of research. ECRs participate in the Annual Research Review process (see earlier). We strongly encourage ECRs to share draft versions of planned outputs for internal peer review prior to submission for publication. In terms of wider training, the Academic Practice Unit of the University provides a variety of training courses suitable for ECRs in topics such as organizing academic conferences and obtaining research funding. There is an annual University Research Focus Week, which provides accessible information on a range of funding organisations.

Research is a key component of career development at the University. Most staff who seek promotion do so on the basis of the 'research' path to a Senior Lectureship and excellence in research is a component of promotion to Readership or a Chair. Within the promotion process, staff are expected to demonstrate a balanced portfolio of research activity, i.e. publications, external income, conference presentations, PGR supervision, and evidence of standing in the field and/or impact of research. During the period in question, several staff were promoted based on their research quality to Senior Lecturer [Cammiss, Cortes, Cunningham, Gillies, Hartshorne, Hodson, Thomas, Voruz]; Reader [Bertea, O'Connell]; Chair [Burton, Cumper, Cunningham, Cygan, Miola, Wicks].

A range of staff have held Research Fellowships since 2008 and this is facilitated by the School. Visiting Fellowships were held by **Bertea** (Kiel, Modena and Emilia-Romagna, Verona); **Cortes** (Massachusetts, Stanford); **Crifò** (Northeastern University, Boston); **Cygan** (Brescia); **du Bois** (Cape Town); **Gillies** and **M'Boge** (Institute for Advanced Legal Studies); **Johnson** (Australian National University); **Kaime** (Johannesburg); **Marshall** (Herzliya, Israel); **Miola** (Oxford); Peyer (Georgetown); **Ryan** (EUI, Florence); **Sancho Villa** (Institute for Advanced Legal Studies, Monash); **Shaw** (Cambridge, Nanterre, Hebrew University); **Ziegler** (Lyon II, Bielefeld).

The University has an Equal Opportunities Policy in accordance with the Equality Act 2010. Just over 50% of academic staff in the School are women and since 2008 there has been an increase in the proportion of women professors. In 2008, 18% of full-time professors were women and this rose to 43% in 2013. The School includes a wide range of nationalities amongst its staff, with 50% of academic staff coming from outside the UK. The School has various institutional mechanisms in place to promote equality; these include equality as a standing item on the School Meeting agenda, which receives reports from the College Equal Opportunities Committee, and a dedicated School Equality Officer. The Officer's remit includes research and the College Equal Opportunities Committee has regularly examined equalities issues in the context of REF. Specialist training was provided by the University on ensuring equality of opportunity in the process of selection of staff for REF (in addition to the institutional Code of Practice). The study leave scheme described above is complemented by a 'special study leave' scheme that allows for additional periods of research



leave to complete key outputs. These periods are half a semester (i.e. 8 weeks). They have been used strategically to provide additional support for several members of staff with caring responsibilities, including staff on part-time contracts.

The University adheres to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers and it has received the European Commission 'HR Excellence in Research' award in recognition of its activities to implement the Concordat.

The University has a Research Code of Conduct which includes, for example, a statement of policy on authorship to ensure that all contributors are appropriately credited. It also has a separate Research Ethics Code of Practice for research involving human subjects. The implementation of these codes is overseen by University and College-level Research Ethics Committees, and the Law School Research Ethics Officer.

## ii. Research students

The School of Law has always considered that a thriving PGR programme is a critical part of the research environment. Our annual in-take is approximately 7 FTE and currently we have around 45 FTE in our PGR community. 76% of our staff are currently involved in supervising PGR students. We have three types of PGR students: full time, part-time and distance learning (DL). The DL route offers an important opportunity for existing academics and professionals to upgrade their skills base and for the School to tap into their expertise. PhD completions by DL International PGRs are not captured in the REF4 data. Within the Law School, 8 PhDs were awarded to DL International PGRs in the period.

We devote significant time and resources to scrutinising applications for our PGR programmes. The admissions process is overseen by a senior academic and we take care to select applicants who fit within our research clusters. We spend time discussing the applicant's initial proposal, obtaining revisions, and interviewing them to ensure that there is a feasible proposal and a good fit between the supervisors and the student. We have been proactive in seeking to recruit students who will add to the research environment. We have held competitions to recruit 6 Graduate Teaching Assistants over the period; these positions are 4 year contracts combining part-time teaching and completion of a doctorate. We have had two University Anniversary scholarships since 2008, as well as an AHRC Scholarship, and a number of our PhD students have been the recipients of University and College funding. We are continually looking for other opportunities to fund PhD students; for example, two PhD students received a Modern Law Review Scholarship in the REF period. Between 2008 and 2013, the School of Law and the University offered financial support to 17 PGR researchers, exclusive of the AHRC and Modern Law Review Scholarships.

Once selected, our students undertake a carefully designed training programme. The College provides termly generic research skills courses for PGRs, with different courses for students at each stage of their doctorate. Within the School of Law, there is a dedicated training course that takes place in three week-long blocks over an academic year, thus allowing the attendance of part-time and DL students. This emphasizes methodology and philosophy of law in the first two training weeks. The third week takes the form of a 'Graduate Conference', where students present papers based upon their research. There are, in addition, modules offered in conjunction with our PGT programme on topics such as Comparative Law or Socio-Legal Studies and these are also available to PGRs.

As well as training, there is a careful review programme to ensure that PhD students are making satisfactory progress. All PhD students are initially registered on a probationary basis and only proceed to the next stage of their studies if they pass a Probation Review held at the end of the first year of their registration (second year for part-time/DL). Annual Progress Reviews are held thereafter ensuring that there is a formal assessment of progress throughout the doctoral programme. These meetings also provide students with an opportunity to receive feedback from staff beyond the supervisory team.



PGR students are encouraged to attend any of the research based sessions organised by academic staff and they contribute enthusiastically to the discussions as well as, on occasion, making their own presentations. There have been targeted initiatives to enhance the PGR community. For instance, with academic support and University funding, in 2008 the PGRs created a forum for fortnightly gatherings at which informal, constructive discussions could take place among the students, with the opportunity to feed back any concerns directly to the PGR Director. Growing out of this first step, a wide group of PGRs undertook a project to organise a conference on 'Human Rights Beyond Borders' in 2010. With guidance from academics, they successfully attracted funding and high profile guest speakers, as well as delegates from the UK and beyond. Within the University, our PGR students have consistently been selected (in a competitive process) to create posters for the annual Festival of Postgraduate Research, where research students across the University have the opportunity to showcase their research to diverse audiences. PGR students are also encouraged to attend other conferences outside the University. The School provides funding to support such activities and the CAHL operates a PGR Development Fund, to which applications can be made for conference expenses or costs relating to fieldwork.

The contribution of the PGR programme to our research environment can be seen in a number of ways. There is collaborative work between PGR students and their supervisors after successful submission of their theses (for example, **Davies** and **Szyszczak**). Our PGR students have also published work in top academic journals, for example Crosby in the *Criminal Law Review* and McClelland in the *Modern Law Review*. Since 2008, 15 PGRs have entered or returned to academia after submission of their theses, and currently there are 13 PGRs who are working in academia alongside their doctoral research, or will return to it after the submission of their theses. Some of our PGR students have in the past become academics at Leicester (**Cunningham**, **Watkins, Golynker**) and this has continued in the REF period (**Andreadakis, Rodgers**).

## d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

# Research funding

During the REF period, the School sought to enhance its research funding portfolio by helping individuals and research centres/clusters to respond both reactively and proactively to funding calls. Through various initiatives, the average level of research income increased during the REF period. Funding has been obtained from a variety of bodies, including the AHRC, the British Academy, the Leverhulme Trust, the Modern Law Review, the Society of Legal Scholars, the European Commission, the Fulbright Program, UK government departments and other public bodies/charities. Several key research grants have been awarded by the AHRC. Voruz was funded to conduct research in France at institutes that store transcriptions and recordings of annual, unpublished seminars by Michel Foucault. Cunningham was awarded an AHRC Early Career Fellowship for an empirical study of how the new causing death by driving offences created under the Road Safety Act 2006 have been operating in practice since they came into force in 2008; this involved analysis of police and Crown Prosecution Service files, as well as interviews with practitioners. Ulph was awarded an AHRC Placement Fellowship to work with the Museums Association and has recently been awarded an AHRC Fellowship on the ethical and legal status of museum collections. Cumper is the co-recipient of an ongoing AHRC Network grant that brings together scholars from a range of disciplines to examine how the statutory requirement on schools to provide a daily act of collective worship operates in different UK regions.

## Strategies for generating grant income appropriate to the discipline

We encourage staff, especially ECRs, to begin with small-scale applications and then progress to larger projects. The CAHL Research Strategy identifies internal peer review of grant applications as critical to enhancing the quality of applications. This takes place in two ways: within the Law School, staff experienced in obtaining grants or reviewing for funding bodies read draft applications, while within the CAHL there is a shared list of academics with experience of peer reviewing for different funding bodies and staff consult this list and circulate draft applications for comment in advance of submission. This is particularly valuable because it allows academics to



access the perspective of a peer reviewer from outside Law. In addition the CAHL maintains electronically available copies of successful applications that can be downloaded for consultation by potential applicants. Research centres and clusters have also been used as places to test out ideas for funding applications and for successful applicants to share their experience of 'what works' in relation to particular funding bodies.

The University Research Support Office (RSO) provides institutional assistance in notifying staff of all new opportunities to obtain funding, as well as detailed guidance on how to make an application. The RSO has a member of staff with specific responsibility for law who can be accessed easily and swiftly. There is also a dedicated EU funding team. Within the School, the Finance Officer is trained in the University's online research grant costing software and provides practical assistance to staff in completing complex application forms.

#### Investment in research infrastructure and facilities

The David Wilson Library provides a dedicated Law Librarian. As an indication of the normal level of annual library resources, the 2012-2013 Library Budget for Law was:

- Law periodicals: £88,938 (print and electronic subscriptions);
- Law other standing orders: £50,000 (looseleaf materials);
- Law electronic subscriptions: £77,605 (electronic databases);
- Law books: £62,138 (print and electronic books).

The School of Law has its own IT officer. Specialist support is provided where required for research projects (e.g. enhanced data security arrangements for sensitive data). Each member of staff has their own office, while there are shared office facilities for PGRs. The University operates a Research Infrastructure Fund worth £2.5m per annum. This is available for all researchers to bid for any infrastructure to support research.

# e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

#### Interdisciplinary Research

The centres and clusters discussed above exemplify the collaborative and interdisciplinary approach pursued within the School. This has been facilitated by the creation of the CAHL and, in particular, the weekly CAHL research seminars. The work of some researchers particularly lends itself to interdisciplinary perspectives. For example, **Cammiss**' work on narratives and law has entailed collaborations with researchers in work psychology and has been presented to research groups on language. **Miola** has regular collaboration with the medical profession: he frequently presents to medical groups/philosophers, publishes in non-legal journals and is a member of the Council of the Open Section of the Royal Society of Medicine. **Voruz**'s work on psychology and law has been published in interdisciplinary journals and she has given presentations to departments of psychology, politics, film studies and psychiatry. **Walsh**'s work on drug policy has been published in interdisciplinary journals and she gave a keynote address at the European Neuroscience and Society Network conference in 2012.

## <u>Networks and Clusters and Research Collaborations with Industry, Commerce, Third Sector and</u> <u>Other Users of Research</u>

The School's centres and clusters are discussed above, while notable examples of our collaborations beyond academia include **Ulph**'s AHRC Placement Fellowship working with the Museums Association. This entailed drafting guidelines which staff in the museum sector will routinely use from 2014 when they are considering the removal of items from museum collections for the purpose of transfer to other museums or a commercial sale. **Ahmed** is assisting a specialist sub-committee of the Civil Procedure Rule Committee. **Burton, Cammiss and Cunningham** collaborated with a social research company (TNS.BMRB) on a large scale empirical project commissioned by the Ministry of Justice on serious offences. **Cortes** is a member of the Advisory



Board of the Instituto Latino-Americano de Comercio Eletrónico and acted as an observer for the Internet Bar Organisation at the UN (UNCITRAL). **Kaime** is co-investigator on the D-Box Project, which seeks to develop a toolbox for humanitarian de-mining. The project is funded under the European Commission's FP7 framework and is a consortium including industrial concerns. **Ziegler** was a consultant for the European Parliament on the evolution of fundamental rights charters.

## National and International Academic Collaborations

Further to the examples provided earlier (such as the Midlands Medical Law Consortium), the CELI Labour Law cluster is part of the European Working Group on Labour Law, a research network comprising six European universities. This holds an annual seminar and conducts comparative research projects. **Hodson** and **Lavers** established a network for research in Feminism and International Law under the auspices of the European Society of International Law. This has held several conferences and seminars since 2011. In 2013, **du Bois** was awarded funding by the British Academy International Partnership and Mobility Scheme for a joint project with the University of Cape Town. **Ryan** is co-Chair of the Migration and Law Network, which promotes migration law as a subject within UK universities. **Kaime** is co-Chair of the World Bank funded and affiliated Community of Practice on Sustainable Energy for All. Its mandate is to create knowledge on the legal aspects of sustainable energy for general dissemination and in particular to service the World Bank's Thematic Working Group on Environment and Natural Resources. **Caracciolo di Torella** participates in The Families and Work Network, an AHRC funded network comprising academics from a variety of disciplines as well as legal practitioners and other users, which has a regular seminar series.

#### Contribution to Journal Editorship

These include: British Yearbook of International Law (**Shaw**); Civil Justice Quarterly (**Crifò**); Clinical Ethics (**Miola**); Criminal Law Review (**Clarkson**); Culture/ Clinic (**Voruz**); E-Journal of International and Comparative Labour Studies (**Rodgers**); Feminist Legal Studies (**Johnson**); Frontiers of Legal Research (**Ahmed** and **Sanchez Graells**); Human Rights Law Review (**Wicks**); International Journal for Comparative Labour Law and Industrial Relations (**Lorber**); International Journal for the Semiotics of Law (**Voruz**); International Law Research (**Vargiu**); Israel Law Review (**Shaw**); Journal of Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Law (**Ryan**); Jurisprudence (**Bertea**); Law, Culture and the Humanities (**Voruz**); Medical Law Review (**Miola**); Medicine, Science and the Law (**Elliott**); Revista CES Derecho (**Cortes**); Revista Española de Protección de Datos (**Sancho Villa**); Revue de Droit Comparé du Travail et de la Securité Sociale (**Lorber**); Theoretical Criminology (**Voruz**); UK Clinical Ethics Network (**Miola**).

## Contribution to Professional Associations or Learned Societies

**Bell** has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Society of Legal Scholars (SLS) throughout the REF period. **Cunningham** was the convenor of the Criminal Justice subject section of the SLS (2010-2012). **Ulph** is the co-convenor of the Art, Culture and Heritage Stream and **Ahmed** is convenor of the Civil Procedure and ADR Stream, both of the Socio-Legal Studies Association's annual conference. Staff have contributed to peer-review processes for research funders including the AHRC (**Bell**, **Cumper**, **Graham**, **Ulph**), ESRC (**Burton**, **Cortes**, **Ryan**, **Ulph**), ERC (**Bell**), ESF (**Cumper**).

## Co-operation and Collaborative Activities for PGR Training

The School participated in the collaborative AHRC-funded training programme for doctoral students on legal research methodologies in European Union and International Law from 2006-2008. This brought together 10 UK Law Schools. In 2013, the School hosted the annual SLSA Postgraduate Conference. 50 PGRs from across the UK took part in training on topics such as developing an academic career and conference presentation. The School has a partnership with the University of Modena and Emilia-Romagna. Commencing in 2013, this brought together academics and PGRs from both Universities for an annual conference with papers delivered by a



combination of established academics, ECRs and PGRs.

In summary, the School has sustained and deepened its collaborative activities during the period. This has been complemented by an enhancement of support for PGRs and their active inclusion in research centres and clusters. In pursuing these objectives, an appropriate balance has been struck between encouraging growth in a range of methodologies, while recognising established strengths. The School is well-placed to develop further collaborative and interdisciplinary research in the coming period, including research with impact.