

<p>Institution: Lancaster University</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: 20 (Law)</p>
<p>a. Context</p> <p>Law School researchers at Lancaster are committed to achieving impact beyond academia, illustrated by 93 impact events recorded during the REF period (e.g., see Impact Related Events webpage). Our research centres and clusters have well-established links with a range of external users, organisations and communities, e.g.:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Centre for Law and Society (CLS) collaborates with legal institutions, e.g. the British Institute of International and Comparative Law; cultural institutions such as the Imperial War Museum of the North, Salford, Amnesty International (Lancaster), and Lancaster City Council. It also works with Law Societies, e.g. Westmorland Law Society. 2. The Centre for Bioethics and Medical Law (CB&ML) works with the NHS, e.g., the Royal Lancaster Infirmary. 3. The Centre for International Law and Human Rights (CIL&HR) presents research findings to, e.g., Amnesty International, the UN, UNESCO, and other intergovernmental institutions, such as the Organisation for Co-Operation and Security in Europe. 4. The Criminology, Criminal Law and Justice (CCL&J) research cluster influences policy, e.g., the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the European Network against Racism, and the CPS. <p>Through our work with user communities, we have achieved the following types of impact:</p> <p>Impacts on practitioners and professional services through:</p> <p><u>Informing and stimulating practitioner debate by research findings:</u> e.g. CLS research on insolvency law has directed practitioner debate by way of a leading text used as an authoritative legal source in the field and seminars for practitioners (Case Study 2).</p> <p><u>Use of research findings in professional work or practice:</u> e.g. CLS research on insolvency, contract law and child sexual exploitation, CB&ML assisted dying research and CIL&HR research has been cited in national and international courts, such as the International Court of Justice and the Singapore Court of Appeal (Environment Template, p.9), and/or by legal counsel.</p> <p>Impacts on public policy, law and services through:</p> <p><u>Shaping or influence on policy made by government, quasi-government bodies, NGOs or private organisations:</u> e.g. the use of CIL&HR's research by an Israeli Judicial Commission, the CCL&J cluster's advisory work for the Sentencing Council on the guideline on Sexual Offences and with the CPS on policy and commissioned work for the Equality and Human Rights Commission.</p> <p><u>Influencing the work of NGOs or commercial organisations:</u> e.g. research on the investigation of alleged breaches of the international law of armed conflict in the CIL&HR has informed the approach taken by the Public Commission to Examine the Maritime Incident of 31 May 2010 (Israel) in its 2nd Report. Other CIL&HR research has directly influenced the development of authoritative principles on extra-territorial obligations related to economic, social and cultural rights used by NGOs such as Amnesty International and UN human rights bodies (Case Study 1).</p> <p><u>Legislative change, development of legal principle or effect on legal practice:</u> Advisory work within the CCL&J cluster for the CPS on the prosecution policy for indecent photographs of children has directly contributed to legal practice. CLS members have advised House of Lords' Committees.</p> <p>Impacts on creativity, culture and society</p> <p><u>Informing public or political debate:</u> e.g., CIL&HR research was used by the European Parliament, Foreign Affairs Committee at a public hearing on conscientious objection in 2009.</p> <p><u>Improved social welfare, equality; improved access to justice:</u> e.g. CCL&J research on hate crimes has influenced the way in which the government allocates funding for victim support services (Case Study 3).</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>Overall approach and commitment to impact</p> <p>Our research is geared towards vibrant work placing law within its social and cultural context and we see impact and engagement with users such as law enforcers, practitioners, policy makers and NGOs as an integral part of our research. To achieve our Research Strategy goal of fostering impact, the following specific strategies were employed during the reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deployment of the R&D fund to foster/enhance impact • utilisation of links with the Medical School to foster impact of CB&ML research • continued collaboration with the Consortium on Extraterritorial Human Rights Obligations to

Impact template (REF3a)

enhance contact with non-academic human rights institutions

In accordance with these strategies, research has been actively disseminated beyond academia via, e.g., the School's financial support of the 2009 Consortium on Extraterritorial HR Obligations conference, attended by 70+ invited participants from NGOs, the UN and academic institutions. As another e.g., the School's workload model enabled CB&ML staff to teach for the Medical School, leading to research engagement with and collaboration in projects likely to generate impact with the Royal Lancaster Infirmary (RLI). Fovargue and Ost then presented at the RLI for a Lancaster University and Hospital seminar series in 2012, leading to engagement with medical professionals.

We incorporate impact into our review structures, e.g., our Annual Research Review Panels and Personal Development Reviews, and it is an important part of our staffing policy, with their commitment to impact being a key factor in the appointments of, e.g., Gillespie, Donoghue and Sweeney. Our Research Impact and Visibility Developer discusses impact with staff and has created impact and visibility webpages (see e.g., [Fovargue's](#)), which are of strategic importance in publicising our research to potential end-users beyond this reporting period.

The School organised an Impact in Law symposium in 2012. Speakers included Gillian Douglas (Cardiff), who spoke about the Panel C impact criteria and Margaret Brazier (Manchester), who spoke about a project selected by RCUK as a Pathways to Impact best practice project. The event involved end-users, e.g., Nina Fletcher (Head of Research, Law Society) and was open to School staff and UK Law Schools, with 56 attendees (17 internal, 39 external). Our PGRs attended this event and an event showcasing CCL&J work as a pathway to impact for free (see p.3).

The School makes its research accessible beyond academia, e.g., all Centre events are advertised on our webpages and open to the public. Staff participated in the Faculty's 2013 Public Library Lectures, e.g., Gillespie. MacCulloch regularly updates his [Who's Competing?](#) blog, directed to an international legal practitioner audience. Rieder contributes opinion pieces to [newspapers](#).

Funding for impact

Departmental R&D funds have enabled staff to present at conferences offering networking opportunities with non-academics, e.g., R&D funds were utilised for Ost's presentation of CCL&J research and a PGR's attendance at the International Symposium on Victimology, The Hague in 2012. Ost was invited onto a panel by US attorney James Marsh. Thus, there was a clear impact funding rationale of enriching future collaboration with US legal professionals. We have ringfenced research income for impact fostering activities, e.g., supporting Gillespie's involvement in events for prosecutors. Our travel allowance has enabled staff to attend non-academic events, enhancing our interaction with end-users and helping enable the impact explained in the case studies.

Our interaction with users

1. Organisation of events: We engage general and academic audiences at impact-generating events, e.g., the organisation and use of R&D funds for a roundtable event in Rowe's honour attended by NGOs and armed forces representatives in 2012 (Environment Template, p.8). Staff and PGRs were encouraged to attend and develop links with end-users. We regularly undertake public engagement activities, e.g. an annual 6th form conference since 2012, and staff give research talks at schools, e.g., Ost at Penwortham Girls High School, Preston in 2011. The CCL&J cluster has drawn on university funding to foster the impact of their and PGRs' key research, e.g. a Pathways to Impact award for a child sexual exploitation seminar in 2013 with an audience drawn from the police, social workers and county council representatives. A public hate crime lecture by Iganski held in 2013 was attended by, inter alia, members of the Lancashire Constabulary.

2. Participation in events and dissemination of research: We are committed to enabling staff to present at public events and events aimed at various non-academic audiences, to working closely with local radio (e.g. Radio Lancashire) and raising public awareness of our research, e.g., Rowe was a panellist for a BBC Radio 4 debate on alleged abuses by British soldiers during armed conflict and Picciotto (emeritus) was interviewed on tax avoidance by the [Washington Post](#) in 2013.

3. Consultancy and work with practitioners: CLS research has been utilised in writing the

Handbook on European Non-Discrimination Law, the Council of Europe's official guide used for training law enforcers, prosecutors and the judiciary. Advice has been provided to the Tax Justice Network Advocacy Group. As part of a regional University of high institutional standing, the School actively supports the regional legal sector, e.g., for 19 years, we have offered tailor-made, research-led CPD seminars for Westmorland and Lancaster and Morecambe Law Societies.

Support for impact at Faculty and University levels

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences adopted a new strategic approach to impact in 2011, doubling funds allocated to enterprise and knowledge exchange (KE). The post of Associate Dean for Enterprise and the Enterprise Centre (EC) were created. The EC's focus has been on assisting departments to consolidate current activities, share best practice and build capacity. The EC's activities include public engagement and an ongoing programme of KE Fellowships encouraging academics new to impact. There are weekly workshops on various facets of impact and enterprise.

At University level, the Business Enterprise Board provides oversight for supporting impact. The KE Committee of Council ensures KE is highlighted and the Public Engagement Committee coordinates public engagement activity, maximising its internal and external profile. There are Public Engagement and Pathway to Impact Small Grant University schemes which the School has utilised (child sexual exploitation seminar, above). *Imagination@Lancaster* is developing 'KE toolkits'. The University has signed up to the Concordat for Engaging the Public with Research.

c. Strategy and plans

Beyond 2013, we will seek to ensure that our 'Overall Approach' to impact (see above, pp.1-2) is integral to our research wherever possible. To achieve this strategy, we will:

1. *prioritise* impact, working with potential research users at the *outset* of projects where possible
2. *identify new* users and partners outside academia and *formalisation* of impact
3. *consolidate* and *expand* involvement with *existing* users and partners outside academia
4. *continue to convey* the significance of impact to our PGR community

We will do the following to achieve these goals:

1. use the School's Research Committee and expand our Impact and Visibility Developer's role to oversee the maximisation of impact generation; make impact a regular item not just on the Research Committee agenda, but also staff meetings, e.g., those selected for impact case studies for REF14 to present at staff meetings; add a template to our Annual Research Review Panel form on how the individual's research could engage with non-academic users.
2. share best practice models at research away days; continue using R&D funds (and where available, other School funds) to foster/enhance the reach of research evidencing impact potential (e.g. furthering the impact of Sweeney's work on credibility in the asylum process and the [UN Refugee Agency](#) by organising an event involving Agency legal officers); using more staff public lectures as impact pathways; ensuring Centres have annual impact strategies.
3. maintain links with existing users via organising Centre events and social media updates (e.g. Twitter); strategic use of honorary positions to develop relationships with end users/bodies.
4. continue to encourage our PGRs to attend School and University impact-related events and utilise Faculty impact-related training. Include impact specific to legal research in PGR training.

d. Relationship to case studies

The research underpinning the case-studies is reflective of the School's hallmark contextual approach. The case studies relate to work conducted by CLS researchers (case study 2), the CIL&HR (case study 1) and the CCL&J research cluster (case studies 3 and 4). The impact evidenced in the case studies attaches to a diverse range of end-users. Some of the examples used above of the impact of our research derive directly from our case studies. The first case study exemplifies our research strategy to continue collaboration with non-academic human rights institutions. Its impact is identifiable at global levels. The second case study's impact reaches to legal end-users, stimulating practitioner debate and illustrates the use of research findings by legal practitioners and the judiciary. Our approach to generating impact via consultancy is exemplified by the third case study's research, commissioned by the Equality and Human Rights Commission. The fourth case study connects with the CCL&J research cluster and synergises with our approach of making engagement with users, e.g., policy makers, an integral part of our research.