

Institution: London Metropolitan University
Unit of assessment: UoA20 Law
a. Overview <p>Research in Law at London Metropolitan University (LMU) was until 31 July 2013 located in the Faculty of Law, Governance and International Relations (FLGIR). FLGIR was dissolved on that date. Law teaching and research staff then entered the newly-formed Faculty of Business and Law (FBL) on 1 August 2013, a development which will aid the progress of Law research at LMU due to increased focus in the new faculty. Much of the material in this environment template refers to Law research when Law research-active staff were members of FLGIR. Any necessary additional information to cover the post-1 August 2013 period is included in this environmental template.</p> <p>The move of Law into FBL involved a shift of Law research active staff who until this time were organised into research clusters . i.e. groups of staff with cognate research interests . in the following subject areas: family law; human rights and data protection; constitutional issues; philosophy and law; and criminal law.</p>
b. Research strategy <p>During 2008-2013, a key Law research strategy was both to create new research centres and consolidate and develop extant ones. The overall objective was to nurture progress and further embed Law's already dynamic, vibrant and sustainable research culture, underpinned by production of REF-appropriate research outputs. Not only was the purpose to produce international-standard scholarly works but also to provide material which would form an integral component of teaching at undergraduate and especially postgraduate levels. During this period, Law experienced an increasingly focused approach to the resourcing of research activity, with selected Law research-active staff receiving faculty funding for teaching relief in support of REF-able research outputs, external research grant applications and public impact. Law research-active staff were also provided support via: funding for the faculty's regular Law research seminars, organisation of international conferences by Law research-active staff, attendance at national and international conferences, and an internal promotion to a professorial post for an extant member of staff (Professor Marilyn Freeman), with the effect of significantly bolstering the research profile of the Law subject group in FLGIR.</p> <p>During 2008-2013, Law research-active staff were responsible for the production and dissemination of:</p> <p>13 books, 29 peer-reviewed journal articles, 18 book chapters, and 19 other REF-able research outputs.</p> <p>During 2008-2013, members of Law staff successfully supervised four PhD students to completion. Currently (late 2013) Law has five postgraduate research students.</p> <p>To achieve these goals, the following measures were introduced and implemented during 2008-2013:</p> <p>Law-research active staff engaged with Law research students through a well-attended Research Student Seminar series. During 2010-2013, all Law research active staff were required to engage with research students in this way, via presentation of at least one research paper in the Research Student Seminar series</p>

(<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/faculties/law-governance-and-international-relations/lgir-research/lgir-research-events/>).

Integrate previously inexperienced staff into research student supervision via (1) the Vice-Chancellor's scholarship programme (2) other PGR entry, and (3) the supervisor training programme (STP). During 2010-11, two staff took the STP, three in 2011-12 and four in 2012-13.

Improve completion rates of postgraduate research students through new and improved mechanisms of supervisor oversight and advice. During 2010-11, four students transferred from MPhil to PhD. In 2011-12, the number increased to five and, in 2012-13, to six

Law Research Centres promote the Law profile, in various ways including: national and international lectures and conference presentations and, more generally, via the national and international research reputations of staff, who have a dedicated shop window via their individual staff pages and the research page of the faculty's website (<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/faculties/law-governance-and-international-relations/lgir-research/>)

In 2010 and 2013, the Centre for Family Law and Practice (CFLP), directed by Professor Marilyn Freeman, organised highly successful international conferences. In July 2013, CFLP organised the 2nd International Family Law and Practice Conference, entitled: 'Parentage, Equality and Gender' which attracted over 200 fee-paying attendees, to hear expert subject speakers from more than 25 different countries. The conference sessions over three days (July 3-5) covered key aspects of these topics within both Child and Family Law, including the specialist areas of International Child Abduction, Relocation and Forced Marriage which formed the linked themes of CFLP's inaugural conference in 2010. In addition, the July 2013 conference had a particular focus on issues related to both regular and alternative forms of parentage, as well as equality and gender in the wider areas of Child and Family Law, and finance.

Enhance faculty output for the REF2014, mainly through award of teaching relief for research active staff with demonstrable capacity to produce REF-worthy research outputs of at least 3* standard.

To facilitate the output of submissions for REF 2014, FLGIR granted 11 research active staff, including Law staff, teaching relief in Autumn semester, 2010-11, and 15 research active staff in Spring semester, 2011-12. The teaching relief was paid for from income accruing to the faculty from RAE 2008 and it was tied to explicit research plans and outputs, which research active staff agreed with the faculty's associate dean for research and postgraduate, Professor Jeffrey Haynes. The aim was that each recipient of teaching relief would produce at least one piece of REF-able for the year they receive teaching relief.

During the medium-term, 2014-2019, the Law research strategy is to:

promote inter- and cross-disciplinary approaches through workshops and seminars and to generate more collaborative and innovative research proposals;
embed research more deeply within the university Law teaching curricula, at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels;
build stronger formal and informal partnerships nationally and internationally around core research areas;
increase funding from research councils and other funders commensurate with demonstrating both the importance and sustainability of excellent research.

Evaluate the achievement of these aims via:

involvement of increasing numbers of Law staff in research, especially younger colleagues; building on already impressive numbers of high-quality research outputs; focus on securing increased research impact and income; and Measures to improve recognition of Law research both inside and outside the university.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

During 2008-13, staffing strategy and staff development in Law were focused in the following:

Research as Scholarship

Teaching-related research and scholarship are a key purpose of research activity, developed with energy during 2008-2013 and continued during 2014-2020. Law academic staff have research and scholarship as integral components of their employment contracts. This provides a crucial opportunity to build, maintain and develop research as a scholarship theme, bringing well-developed inquiry skills into the classroom at both undergraduate and especially postgraduate levels.

The Education-Research Interaction

The value of research, in particular its applications through education, is a core purpose of the University as identified in the *Strategic Plan 2010/2013*. There are various ways that this goal is delivered in relation to Law, including making manifest links between research and postgraduate and final year undergraduate study, both for research students and taught masters courses (LLMs in International Commercial Law, International Trade, Transport and Maritime Law, International Human Rights law, International Law, and Legal Practice Top Up).

Enquiry-led learning developments

Regular Law research seminars targeted at both undergraduates and postgraduate students, led by both internal and external speakers;
Research methods training for Law undergraduate and postgraduate students;
Law undergraduate and postgraduate Projects . of varying lengths, between 10,000-20,000 words . that reflect a research focus and utilise research outputs, knowledge and skills of research- active faculty staff;

ii. Research students

Law had five PhD students in 2013. In May 2013, one of the Law PhD students successfully defended his thesis in a viva. Another Law PhD student is the recipient of a Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship to cover the cost of the fees associated with her studies..

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

During the assessment period, Law research income was approximately £150,000, accrued from RAE2008 funding. The money was primarily spent on funding teaching relief for selected research-active Law staff who were expected enter research outputs for REF2014.

Following publication of a Centre for Family Law and Practice Report on a Pilot Study into University Responses to Forced Marriage and Violence Against Women in the UK (available to download from dedicated webpage by [clicking here](#)), the Centre was awarded funding by the Forced Marriage Unit to continue its work on this issue. The research was conducted by

Professor Marilyn Freeman (FLGR) and Professor Renate Klein (Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, London Metropolitan University).

Law research benefitted from continuing university and faculty support. A recent Law staff promotion (Marilyn Freeman promoted to professor in 2011) is a significant development, underlining the importance of strengthening and expanding the portfolio of Law research at LMU. This continued strategic investment meant that Law teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels was strengthened by the involvement of a senior research-active colleague. In September 2013 a new LLM . in International Family and Child Law . commenced. This new course was designed to cover areas critical to the study and practical application of child and family law today. Increasingly, legal professionals and practitioners have to comprehend an international dimension to issues involving the child and the family. The new LLM explicitly drew on research strengths in the Law subject area.

Law research at London Metropolitan University benefits from library services available which includes a dedicated Law Specialist Librarian (Ms. Christine Smart). Law researchers at LMU also benefitted until January 2013 . when the collection was transferred to the London School of Economics - from the close proximity on site of the Women's Library. The Women's Library is a world-renowned research archive, with a rich array of crucial documentation on women's and gender issues, including those related to legal matters. The Women's Library is Europe's largest collection of material relating to the lives of women and is a key part of British heritage. Objects related to the suffrage movement within the collection are already internationally recognised and The Women's Library is committed to further enhancing the profile and reputation of this exceptional collection.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

Making research results known to the public through public events and lectures and stakeholder dissemination via, for example, national and international conferences. See individual webpages for: research students (http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/depts/lgir/research/research-students/research-students_home.cfm) research seminars (http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/depts/lgir/research/faculty-research-seminars/faculty-research-seminars_home.cfm) research students's supervisors's research interests (<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/depts/lgir/research/supervisors-research-interests.cfm>), faculty research newsletters (<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/depts/lgir/research/research-newsletter.cfm>) research (http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/depts/lgir/research/research_home.cfm) and research news (<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/faculties/law-governance-and-international-relations/lgir-research/>).

Involving and consulting the public and stakeholders in research. This is done for example by highly successful Centre for Family Law and Practice international conferences held in both 2010 and 2013, which were open not only to academic and practitioners but also to members of the public (<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/faculties/law-governance-and-international-relations/lgir-research/lgir-research-centres/centre-for-family-law-and-practice/>).

Contributing to public debate and seeking to influence policy makers

A Law research centre, **The Centre for Family Law and Practice**, publishes an online-only peer-reviewed journal, *Family Law and Practice*, which seeks to reflect the mission of the Centre: to address the interface between academe and practice. The journal is published three times a year, with occasional special issues. (Details at: <http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/faculties/law-governance-and-international-relations/lgir-research/lgir-research-centres/centre-for-family-law-and-practice/our-online-journal/>).

Dr John Jupp, Senior Lecturer in Law on the Legal Practice Course, successfully defended

his PhD on criminal justice reform in Afghanistan in 2012. His PhD research led to him becoming a panel member adviser to Alistair Burt MP on the UK's role in justice and rule of law development in Afghanistan from April 2011.

In relation to the public impact of research into **Human Rights and Data Protection**, Douwe Korff, Professor of International Human Rights Law, undertakes frequent public appearances at various European Union (EU) institutions and national and international conferences, with the aim of disseminating his research findings into non-academic contexts. Evidence for the public impact of Professor Korff's work is provided by personal references (compiled in the relevant Impact Case Study) from those who recognise that Korff's work both significantly shapes and influences both policy and understandings of various governments, quasi-government bodies, non-governmental organisations and private organisations. During 2008-2013, Professor Korff helped train judges and prosecutors in many countries, including in Central Asia, the Caucasus and the Balkans, in fair trial and general human rights issues, on behalf of the United Nations, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe and the EU. As a data protection expert, Korff frequently undertakes either solely or as part of a team studies for the European Commission (EC) relating to the implementation of EC directives on data protection. Korff has also undertaken several studies for the United Kingdom Information Commissioner. Finally, Professor Korff serves as a consultant to many international trade associations and major international companies, and helped to establish the European Privacy Seal (EuroPriSe) in an e-TEN project, supported by the EC, during 2007-2009.

In relation to **legal constitutional issues**, Peter Leyland, Professor of Public Law, underwent an extensive round of public appearances in, *inter alia*, the UK, Thailand and Italy, during 2008-2013. Professor Leyland's work on legal constitutional issues is deemed highly relevant by several governments, especially in South-east Asia, who look to his work, either alone or in collaboration with Professor Andrew Harding, Director, Centre for Asian Legal Studies, National University of Singapore, to assist with the development of their countries' constitutions.

Leyland is also series editor of a book series: *Constitutional Systems of the World* which enjoyed a dedicated launch at the most recent World Congress of Constitutional Law held in Mexico City in December 2010. Professor Leyland also helped organise a workshop at LMU in September 2010 dedicated to a publication called *Accountability in the Contemporary Constitution*. This was followed by a further workshop, held in May 2011 to mark the launch of a book involving Professor Leyland on constitutional issues in Thailand. The workshop attracted judges, ambassadors, journalists and academics with an interest in Thailand and South East Asia.

Professor Leyland was invited personally in June 2013 to participate in the research programme of the Media Studies Research Groups of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences Research Centre for the Humanities. This is co-ordinated by Dr Andras Koltay, Pazmany Peter Catholic University, Hungary. Research topics relevant to public law issues include: the system and hierarchy of the sources of media-related law; the right to privacy; the restriction of hate speech; the regulation of commercial communications; the models of the authorities in charge of regulating the media; self-regulation of the media; restrictions of market concentration in the media market; the models of public service media; regulatory issues related to the internet (<http://mta.hu/english/>).

Contributing to new media-enabled discussion forums

Professor Douwe Korff contributes extensively to new media-enabled discussion forums. These include: the Foundation For Information Policy Research (FIPR), for which he sits on the advisory council; ac@fipr.org (discussions involve FIPR advisory council members which

are often confidential and can be very technical, for example, focusing on state surveillance); alerts@fipr.org (emails sent daily to FIPR members on topics of interest); European Digital Rights Initiative (a federation of some 40-50 non-governmental organisations located throughout Europe, based in Brussels and focused on the EU and sometimes the Council of Europe, including issues relating to digital rights); edri-members@edri.org (broad policy discussions of relevance to the member organisations); and edri-dp-workgroup@mailman.edri.org (specialised discussion of European data protection and related issues, in particular the general data protection regulation currently going through the European legislative process). Finally, Professor Korff's activities in these regards also include participation in discussions on the currently highly controversial National Security Agency/ Government Communications Headquarters spying scandal, set in train by the renegade United States security analyst, Edward Snowden, in 2013.

Opening facilities, events and courses to the public

The faculty has an extensive programme of events open to the public, including international conferences, and summer schools (<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/faculties/law-governance-and-international-relations/summer-school/>). During July 2013, FLGIR ran week-long summer schools in Public Administration and Diplomacy and Global Governance; each focused on relevant legal issues in these contexts. Each of the summer schools was open to members of the public, and collectively attracted 34 attendees, paying over £25,000 in course fees. Course fees include a welcome reception, one mid-school excursion and course visits of academic interest.

Professor Douwe Korff is a member of the Advisory Council of the Foundation for Information Policy Research (FIPR), the leading think tank on information policy issues in the UK. He also works closely with various civil liberty organisations such as Liberty, Justice (the UK branch of the International Commission of Jurists), Statewatch, Privacy International, and European Digital Rights.

Professor Marilyn Freeman and Frances Burton, co-director of CFLP, work closely with various community groups via seminars and workshops, including during 2009-2013: Forced Marriage Seminar, International Perspectives on Nuptial Agreements, Relocation Seminar and Children and the Law Summer School Details at:

<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/faculties/law-governance-and-international-relations/lgir-research/lgir-research-centres/centre-for-family-law-and-practice/cpd-and-events/>

Engagement with alumni

The faculty has an Alumni Association (<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/faculties/law-governance-and-international-relations/our-students/alumni-society/>). It is a key network for former FLGIR students, including those from the Law subject area, to keep in contact with their former classmates and teachers. The Alumni Association holds social gatherings and seminars, having been inaugurated in June 2011 with a launch event with refreshments at the House of Commons. Since then, the Alumni Association has had speaker meetings on the US Presidential Elections in 2012, on the Eurozone crisis, on the Arab Spring in December 2012 and the The Euro-Crisis and Southern Europe in February 2013. Each talk was followed by a drinks reception.