

Institution: Keele University
Unit of Assessment: C20 Law
<p>a. Context</p> <p>Keele Law School has engaged with specific audiences at international, national and local levels: legal professions, judicial bodies, NGOs, public authorities, parliaments and local community groups. These audiences have benefited from research produced within the unit, especially in the key areas of Gender, Sexuality and Law; Legal Education and Professional Practice; Healthcare Law and Ethics; and, more recently, International Law.</p> <p>The main types of impact that are prioritised within the unit reflect a strategic and intellectual commitment to dialogue between academic and non-academic groups. This commitment, supported by externally funded research and collaboration with non-academic stakeholders, has seen impact in terms of challenging conventional ways of thinking among stakeholder groups (e.g. General Medical Council), changes in professional practice (e.g. criminal justice responses to organised crime; establishment of legal work experience schemes by professional bodies), public debate about complex social and ethical issues (e.g. sex-selection), influencing the drafting of legislation (e.g. Human Fertilisation and Embryology (HFE) Act 2008), and the improvement of public understanding (e.g. in relation to transgender issues). The culture of responsive external engagement has seen a similar strategy adopted by individual scholars across the research areas of Law and Religion, Property, and Disability Rights.</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>The REF period has seen a significant increase in our levels of engagement with external groups. Law's longstanding commitment to public engagement, has been strengthened by a systematic set of research planning procedures (reviews of individuals, the School and the Research Institute), supported by expertise and resources from the wider University, to maximise impact. Additional resources are provided by other parts of the University, including a dedicated Research and Enterprise Service unit (RES) and the Directorate of Marketing and Communications (MAC), which was established during the REF period.</p> <p>One striking example of the significant institutional support for impact work is seen in Wilkinson's dissemination activities. The Faculty Research Office supported the application and grant management of the Wellcome Trust funded Dissemination Project in 2011 (see below). Wilkinson's public engagement has been supported by University investment in public relations and generated appearances in national media including <i>The One Show</i>, and 5Live. Similarly, Francis' case-study has been facilitated by support from the Faculty Research Office, in particular, in order to take forward a funded PhD project with Inner Temple (matched by the University's Acorn Scheme).</p> <p>Law supports pathways to impact through seminars and workshops which involve non-academic stakeholders, often during the research process itself to ensure that research design is responsive to their needs. For example, 14 Alternative Globalisations events (an interdisciplinary group at Keele) were held between 2008 and July 2013, bringing together academics with prominent speakers from the UN (International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia), international non-government organisations (International Centre for Ethnic Studies, Colombo, Sri Lanka), and local third-sector organisations (e.g. Brighter Futures, ASPIRE, Savana). These events laid the foundation for the Community Legal Outreach Collaboration, Keele (CLOCK) (see below). In Healthcare Law and Ethics, Wilkinson's 'Dissemination Project' in 2011 encompassed two events engaging representatives of groups including activists, health professionals and policy makers. Francis' Legal Services Board hosted workshop, involved practitioners and academics discussing initial findings from the Work Experience study (2010) which enabled the researchers to respond to practitioner concerns in designing subsequent stages of the research.</p> <p>Another aspect of the approach to impact involves direct communication to non-academic audiences through responses to parliamentary consultations, practitioner oriented texts, and talks tailored to other external audiences. This wider contribution to public debate has been strengthened by the engagement of the McCann PR agency by MAC. This has enabled Sharpe to make important public contributions concerning transgender issues (e.g. <i>The Independent</i> and the <i>New Statesman</i> 2013) and to advise the Gender Recognition Advisory Group - informing its</p>

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submission to the Irish parliament regarding transgender recognition legislation (May and July 2010). Danaher's work on 'enhancement' aids in sport and education, communicated through his blogs and other social media, has attracted attention from not-for-profit groups in the U.S. and Qatar.

Researchers within the School have also been creative in **working with alumni to enhance engagement** with the profession and to maximise impact/generate research projects. Thus, for example, Francis' work with Fiona Woolf (past President of the Law Society) supported the development of UK Centre for Legal Education-funded research (2008-2009), and a barrister working on General Medical Council cases fed into Jacob's successful AHRC application in 2011. The President of the local Law Society (also an alumnus) was integral to strengthening practitioner support for the CLOCK project.

Law colleagues have built trust with professional, community and governmental organisations through **providing advice to and participating in relevant committees and boards**. Sharpe is a member of the International Legal Committee of the World Professional Association of Transgender Health (WPATH) and delivered a Report considering a WPATH consensus statement (Oslo, 17-20 June 2009). She has worked with Staffordshire Police on Trans Awareness (e.g. Staffordshire Police 'LGBT 'Listening to You' Awareness Conference' 9th February 2012). Krishnadas is a Trustee for a regional domestic violence charity (Savana) and an advisor to a major social community housing organisation (Brighter Futures).

Scholarship within the School is also produced with a commitment to generating a **direct impact on the development of Law**, in addition to achieving academic impact. Keren-Paz has been cited by the Israel Supreme Court on four occasions, and by several lower courts, in the relevant census period, and has influenced the development of the law in the areas of damages awards for personal injury and defamation, compensation for injuries to autonomy in medical and consumer contexts and standard of care determinations, and has "significantly influenced Israeli Supreme Court jurisprudence" (Porat). Sharpe's 2002 book formed the basis of counsel's submission for *W* in the Hong Kong appeal case of *W v Registrar for Marriages* (October 12-14 2011). The Gender Identity, Research and Education Society's (GIREs) written submission to the Public Bills Committee in the context of proposing legislative amendments to the Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Bill 2012, drew on Sharpe's 2012 *Modern Law Review* article, and direct advice from Sharpe. Fletcher spoke before the Irish Parliament's Joint Committee on Health and Children on the 21st May 2013, with a submission on proposed legislation regarding Irish abortion law.

The approach to Impact is supported by recognition of its **importance within School and University policies on reward, promotion and flexible working**. Thus, Francis' promotion case drew on his impact work, in particular with Inner Temple, and Keren-Paz's promotion to Chair was based partly on his high profile and sustained impact, not only on case-law, but in support of Anti-Trafficking NGOs. Between 2000-2007 **Wasik** was given permission by Keele's Vice-Chancellor to work as Chair of the Sentencing Advisory Panel for one day per week, which has been the key pathway to deliver impact from his sentencing research. Wasik also sits as a Crown Court judge (part-time), again with the encouragement and support of the University.

The institutional importance of impact is further highlighted through individual mentoring relationships and through examples of best practice, shared with colleagues and archived online. For example, in 2010 Law organised a workshop on 'impact' delivered by leading gerontologist Professor Tom Scharf (NUI Galway) who had been involved in the REF impact pilot. The lessons from this have been widely shared and have informed our impact strategy. Outward facing education and research has also been prioritised in **staffing recruitment strategy** through recent appointments of staff whose work is premised upon direct interaction with stakeholders. For example, Davitti's fieldwork in Afghanistan, has not only established pathways to impact for her work on Human Rights and International Investment Law, but, responsively, has generated new research questions around the role of the UN Human Rights Field officer.

c. Strategy and plans

Law's commitment towards achieving the widest possible impact for its research will form a key part of post-REF strategic planning. As a first step at the Annual Research Away Day in 2013

(which set the ground-work for post-REF planning), as part of a focus on impact and outward engagement Wasik provided detailed reflections on nearly forty years of public service and engagement - now archived online for colleagues. The School's research webpages are also being updated and will showcase (initially) the three impact case-studies.

Law's strategy is to continue to build pathways to impact into every stage of the research process. Clear impact strategies will be required in research leave applications, and impact will continue to be embedded in research planning and promotion processes. Support will be provided not only through the expertise of colleagues across the Faculty, but through funding workshops within Law to support collaboration with non-academic stakeholders, and through flexibility in planning teaching and administrative commitments to enable this work to be delivered.

One key strategy will be **partnership-working** to generate research questions that respond to stakeholder needs, and to ensure that research findings have a direct impact on the working practices of research populations. Krishnadas' research on critical socio-legal methodologies, has formed the basis of major successful grant applications to UKIERI and the development of a research collaboration of thirty professionals from academia, the public and third sectors, and law firms (CLOCK), which will provide a model for other projects (for example Cruz on Sex-Work Activism). A key feature of the collaboration is the use of Krishnadas' work (drawing also on research from Brammer and Francis) to establish a new legal role, the Community Legal Companion (CLC), trained by the collaborative network and recognised by the local judiciary. The role of the CLC is to provide support and assistance to unrepresented litigants (227 assisted between Oct 2012 and July 2013). The initiative will also enable future research into legal services, and Krishnadas has had meetings with the EU Funding Officer (RES) to take this forward.

Another approach which will be regularly adopted (following the RI's highlighting of Rosenfeld's work on HIV and older populations), is the **structured engagement of key stakeholders**, to ensure they are informed of the research at every stage. In this way, the groundwork is laid, not only for stakeholder receptivity to research, but also for anticipation of the findings. Obokata's AHRC funded work on transnational organised crime (already identified by RCUK as a model of best practice in impact) will use an advisory committee, made up of non-academic stakeholders, and regular dissemination events throughout the course of the project. It thus, establishes a template from which other researchers are able to benefit. He is finalising an application for Follow-on Funding from the AHRC in order to facilitate wider dissemination of the research findings of this project by engaging a new set of stakeholders through a series of private and public events. Similarly, Jacob's AHRC funded fellowship (an historical study of GMC adjudication of research misconduct cases; 1990 - 2012) disseminated its findings in September 2013 to key stakeholders in a workshop on research integrity; her follow-on plans involve a creative partnership with a performance artist in order to maximise the reach of the impact in contributing to broader public dialogue about research misconduct and public faith in expert knowledge and regulation.

Law's strategic aims will seek to build impact through **targeted dissemination activities** (and will draw on the growing knowledge and experience within central support services). One example is seen in Keren-Paz's plans to deepen his collaborations with British and Israeli anti-trafficking NGOs, and in his plans to sustain his presentations to policy-makers at the governmental level. He has been invited by the Israeli Government Inter-Departmental Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinator to present his research to 300 state lawyers in a Ministry of Justice CPD event, to civil servants, and to members of the Israeli Parliamentary Anti-Human Trafficking Sub Committee.

d. Relationship to case studies

The Impact Case-studies are not isolated examples of impact work, but serve to illustrate the embedded nature of an outward engagement within Law, and the institutional support afforded to those undertaking such work. Thus, **Wasik's** work has been supported by flexible working arrangements approved by the Vice Chancellor and now operates as an exemplar for other staff. **Francis** and **Wilkinson** both benefitted from the significantly increased central support for the development of their research grants and impact activities and Francis' work has directly informed initiatives such as CLOCK.