Welcome to the latest edition of the School of Law Newsletter, with a particular focus on our research clusters.

Since the last issue, the results of RAE 2008 have been announced. I am pleased to report that the School of Law at Queen’s celebrated an impressive top-ten ranking, finishing joint 7th (with Cambridge and Cardiff) in the UK (of 67 submissions). This is an outstanding result for the School and confirms that we are one of the leading centres of legal research in the UK. With University support, we embarked on an ambitious programme of strategic appointments – as well as building upon the existing strengths of the School – in order to transform our research culture. I am delighted to see an outcome that acknowledges the internationally excellent legal research ongoing here at Queen’s.

The performance in RAE 2008 is also reflective of the broader culture of scholarship within the School and is a tribute to the dedication and commitment of all our staff. Staff have published outstanding books with all the major academic publishers, a number of which have won international awards. They have also published in prestigious international peer-reviewed journals, contributed to major international conferences and shaped key debates.

We look forward to building upon this success in the future.

With best wishes,
Professor Colin Harvey
Head of the School of Law
Queen’s University Belfast

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The research cluster in Common and Comparative Law brings together legal academics who are working on doctrinal, analytical and comparative legal scholarship across a range of legal subjects, including commercial law, criminal law, family law, human rights law, information technology law, legal history, legal philosophy and property law.

New Staff
In September 2008, the Law School welcomed two new members of staff, now associated with the Common and Comparative law cluster: Dr Fiona Marshall and Dr Qingxiu Bu.

Dr Fiona Marshall
Fiona graduated with a LLB (Common and Civil Law with French) in 2001 from Queen’s University Belfast. In 2004, she began her doctoral studies at University College Dublin. In 2005, she conducted a seminar series entitled “Competition Law and the World Trade Organisation” for the Masters in Economics programme at UCD. She was awarded her PhD in 2008, which will be published as a monograph (Competition Regulation and Policy at the World Trade Organisation) by Cameron May Publishing in 2009. Fiona’s research interests concern various aspects of international trade law, in particular the legal issues surrounding the operation of the World Trade Organisation. Fiona is currently teaching modules on European Internal Market Law and Equity.

Dr Qingxiu Bu
Qingxiu Bu was educated at Soochow University, Groningen University and the University of Birmingham. Prior to his appointment at Queen’s, he lectured in law at the University of Wolverhampton and at Cardiff University. He has also had visiting fellowships at Lund University, Sweden and City University, Hong Kong. Qingxiu was awarded his PhD in 2008, which will be published as a monograph (Legal Issues in Corporate Governance) by Springer Press in 2010. Dr Bu’s research interests include corporate law, cross-border merger and acquisitions law and issues in comparative corporate governance models with particular emphasis on China. Qingxiu currently teaches modules on the Law of Torts, Equity, Corporate Governance Law and European Internal Market Law.

Mooting

In 2008, Ms Eileen Fegan was awarded a Queen’s Annual Fund Grant of £2,000 to help establish a Mooting and Debating Society at the Law School. In December 2008, Eileen, in conjunction with the Student Law Society’s Mooting Officer, Ulla Saar, organised a Demonstration Moot for all law students at Queen’s. The well attended event, which was chaired by Noelle McGrenara QC, saw Dr David Capper of the Law School opposing two newly qualified barristers David McKeown and Margaret Carson on an issue concerning the tort of nuisance.

The Demonstration Moot subsequently inspired an Internal Mooting Competition at the Law School, which, it is proposed, may become an annual event. If any alumni wish to get involved in this initiative, please contact Eileen at e.fegan@qub.ac.uk.
COMMON AND COMPARATIVE LAW: UPDATES

Seminar Series
Two seminars within the Law School’s Seminar Series attracted particular interest for members of the cluster. On 5 November 2008, Ms Una Woods (University of Limerick and the Irish Property Registration Authority) spoke on the topic of “The Role of Adverse Possession in the Context of Informal Transfers of Land.” On 12 November 2008, Dr Fiona De Londras (University College Dublin) presented a seminar entitled “Internationalising Common Law Courts.”

Staff Updates
Dr Heather Conway is a visiting scholar at Fordham University in New York from April-June 2009. During the visit, she will be working on several comparative property law projects; presenting property law-related seminars at Fordham; as well as delivering conference papers at the annual conferences of the Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities and the Canadian Law and Society Association.

Dr David Capper has presented numerous conference papers in the first half of 2009, including: “The Unconscionable Bargain in the Common Law World” Irish Society for Comparative Law, University of Limerick, 28 February; “Common Mistake – Void or Voidable” Durham University Institute for Corporate and Commercial Law, 12 March 2009; and “Undue Influence and the Abuse of Emotional Relationships” Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities, 3 April 2009.

Ms Lisa Glennon was recently awarded a British Academy Research Grant to visit Fordham University where she will carry out comparative, empirical research investigating economic outcomes on divorce. Lisa’s article “Displacing Conjugal Family in Legal Policy – A Progress ive Move?” (2005) 17(2) Child & Family Law Quarterly 141 was selected for inclusion in a recent collation of the “most important and influential essays” on marriage and cohabitation from a range of international scholars (A Diduck (ed) Marriage and Cohabitation: Regulating Intimacy, Affection and Care, Ashgate, 2008).

Ms Katie Quinn is taking up a two-year secondment with the Law Commission for Northern Ireland.

Professor Philip Leith’s most recent publication (with Prof Meave McDonagh, UCC) is entitled “New Technology and Researchers’ Access to Court and Tribunal Information: the need for European Analysis” (2009) 6(1) SCRIPT-ed 33.

Dr Jack Anderson, promoted to senior lecturer in 2008, has recently published articles relating to sport and the law in the Criminal Law Review, the Tort Law Review, and the Oxford Yearbook of European Law.

Dr John Stannard is currently on research leave and is a visiting scholar at the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr Niamh Howlin was recently elected to the position of joint secretary of the Irish Legal History Society.

Dr Robin Hickey was recently appointed as the Co-ordinator of the Masters of Legal Science programme at the Law School.

Dr Sara Ramshaw is currently on research leave pursuing a postdoctoral fellowship at the Centre de recherche en éthique de l’Université de Montréal (CRÉUM), Montréal, Québec.

EDGAR GRAHAM MEMORIAL LECTURE

Professor Colin Harvey welcomes Professor John McEldowney, University of Warwick, to the Law School.

The Edgar Graham Memorial Lecture entitled “Managing the Constitution and Ruling by Law” was presented by Professor John McEldowney (University of Warwick) on 5 December 2008. The event marked the 25th anniversary of the murder of Edgar Graham. On 7 December 1983, Mr. Graham, a lecturer in the Faculty of Law at Queen’s, a barrister and an Ulster Unionist member of the Northern Ireland Assembly for South Belfast, was shot by the IRA outside the university library.
CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

New Staff
In September 2008, the Law School welcomed Dr Onder Bakircioğlu.

Onder obtained his LLB from the University of Istanbul; his MA (Human Rights and Democratization) from the University of Malta; and a LLM (International Human Rights Law) from the University of Essex. He recently and successfully defended his PhD at University College Cork, entitled: “The Historical Roots, Political Rationale and Objectives of the Right to Self-Defence in National and International Law: Should the Imminence Rule be Removed from the Traditional Contours of the Self-Defence Doctrine?” Onder’s current research focuses upon the use of private and international self-defence, war and terror, the just war doctrine and human rights; for example “Freedom of Expression and Hate Speech” (2008) 16 Tulsa Journal of Comparative and International Law 1.

Beyond Legalism
Team Conduct Fieldwork in Uruguay and Argentina

During November 2008, Prof Kieran McEvoy and Dr Louise Mallinder* conducted fieldwork in Uruguay and Argentina as part of their ongoing AHRC funded project (with Prof Brice Dickson). In both countries, the Beyond Legalism team researched the nature and impact of the different forms of amnesty laws and pardons, conducting interviews and focus groups with a range of people who have been involved in or affected by the amnesty processes, including victims and victims’ organisations, former combatants, civil society actors, local politicians and civil servants, legal professionals and local academics.

During the fieldwork, the Belfast team were assisted by local researchers: Martin Prats (Uruguay) and Leonardo Filippini (Argentina). In Uruguay, the team focused on the (unsuccessful) 1987 referendum campaign to annul the amnesty for members of the security forces, and the recently renewed efforts to trigger a second referendum. In Argentina, the team explored the mobilisation of civil society against the amnesty laws and pardons and investigated the current efforts to prosecute those responsible for the horrors of the “dirty war”. In the latter context, they were particularly struck by the dominance of victims’ voices and a related emphasis upon retribution for past misdeeds.

This fieldwork was the final part of data collection in this two-year project and the Beyond Legalism team will now focus on publishing its book Doing Deals with the Devil?, producing several journal articles and creating the project website. In addition, the team are currently organising an international conference on amnesty laws which will be held at the Wellington Park Hotel in Belfast on 22-23 June 2009.


CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Seminar Series

Criminology and criminal justice featured heavily in the Law School’s Seminar Series for 2008/2009. On 22 October 2008, Professor Maureen Cain (Cambridge) delivered a seminar “Crimes of the Global State”. In November 2008, Professor Sylvie Frigon (University of Ottawa) spoke on the topic of “Gendered Bodies, Dance and Imprisonment: Lessons for Criminology” and in that same month, Professor Nathan Pino (Texas State University) presented “Serial Offending and the Criminal Events Perspective”.

Staff Updates

At the 2009 SLSA Annual Conference, Professor Kieran McEvoy won the Socio-Legal Article Prize for “Beyond Legalism: Towards a Thicker Understanding of Transitional Justice” (2007) 34 Journal of Law and Society 411. In March 2009, he was the invited keynote speaker at the 35th Annual Wolfgang Friedman Conference hosted by the Human Rights Programme at Columbia University, NY.

Professor Shadd Maruna delivered a plenary address at the 27th Annual ATSA (Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers) conference in Atlanta, USA, in November 2008, and also delivered invited keynote lectures at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York and at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona. Publications for this year include pieces in European Journal of Criminal Policy and Research and Punishment & Society. Professor Maruna has been invited to be a Fellow of the new Straus Institute of the NYU Law School for 2010-2011.

Dr Pete Shirlow participated as the international expert in a conference organised by the International Alliance for Justice and No Peace Without Justice; entitled “The Status of Armed Forces and Groups in Iraq”; and held in Dokan (Kurdistan, Iraq) in November 2008. Conference delegates included representatives of the Iraqi National Assembly and the Kurdistan Regional Government. On 30 April 2009, Dr Shirlow was invited by the Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool, to deliver a lecture entitled: “Wee Women No More”: Female Partners of Republican Former Prisoners in Belfast.

In May 2009, Dr Azrini Wahidin (School of Sociology pictured second left with Clare Dwyer, Ruth Jamieson and Graham Ellison of the Law School) addressed the Law School on “Out of Trouble: Women in Prison.”

Dr Graham Ellison has been appointed by the United Nations Development Programme in Ankara as one of three senior international experts whose role is to advise the Turkish government on the legal and organisational aspects of the civilian oversight of the security sector as part of Turkey’s wider security sector reform and EU accession programme.

Dr Siobhán McAlister (with C Dwyer and C Davey) contributed a piece entitled “Researching Children’s Rights in the Context of Northern Ireland” in K Tisdall, J Davis, and M Gallagher (eds.) Researching with Children and Young People: Research Design, Methods and Analysis (London, Sage, 2009).

Dr Anne-Marie McAlinden was invited to deliver a seminar entitled “Restorative Justice and High Risk Sex Offenders” at the Mannheim Centre for Criminology & Criminal Justice, LSE, in December 2008. She has also been invited to become Research Adviser to the Northern Ireland Steering Group on Sex Offender Risk Management and is currently working on a monograph (Grooming: The Familial, Institutional and Internet Abuse of Children) due to be published by OUP, Clarendon Series in Criminology, in late 2010.

Dr Anne-Marie McAlinden at the launch of her award-winning book The Shaming of Sexual Offenders (Oxford, Hart, 2007).

STAFF FOCUS: PROFESSOR PHIL SCRATON

Phil Scraton was appointed to a Chair in Criminology at the Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice, the School of Law at Queen's in September 2003. On completion of his undergraduate studies at the University of Liverpool, Phil undertook a research masters (Images of Deviance and the Politics of Assimilation) examining the consequences of institutionalised racism on the Irish Travelling community in Liverpool, and went on to become a founder member of the Liverpool Traveller’s Free School and the Gypsy and Traveller Education Council. His doctoral thesis (Unreasonable Force: Class, Marginality and the Political Autonomy of the Police) focused on the use and abuse of police powers in the context of the inner-city uprisings of the early 1980s and the 1984-5 coal dispute. This work extended into researching deaths in controversial circumstances, particularly custody, and the issues arising from their investigation through coroners’ inquests and public inquiries, leading to the foundation of INQUEST, a charity that provides a free advice service to bereaved people on contentious deaths and other traumatising events.

Professor Scraton’s books include:


Arguably, Professor Scraton is best known for his work surrounding the 1989 Hillsborough Stadium. Commentary and analysis from Phil featured heavily in the UK and international media’s coverage of the 20th anniversary of the disaster. At the time of going to press, Professor Scraton was preparing for the launch of the third edition of his celebrated book Hillsborough: The Truth (Mainstream, 2009).

In the 1980s, Professor Scraton was appointed Principal Lecturer at Edge Hill University College where, with Dr Kathryn Chadwick, he established the Centre for Studies in Crime and Social Justice. He was Director of the Centre from 1986 to 2003, was promoted to Professor in 1990. In 2000, Professor Scraton, who has had visiting professorships in Toronto, Sydney and Melbourne, was awarded a Nuffield grant to set up a disasters’ research archive and an ESRC Seminars award to examine the aftermath of disasters and other traumatising events.

Professor Scraton reads from Power, Conflict and Criminalisation at Merseyside’s Writing on the Wall Festival 2008.

Dr Una Convery (University of Ulster); Dr Siobhán McAllister (Queen’s); Professor Phil Scraton; Dr Linda Moore (University of Ulster); Lawrence McKeown (author and playwright); Professor Shadd Maruna (Queen’s); and Deena Haydon (researcher and contributor), at the launch at Queen’s in December 2008 of The Violence of Incarceration (Routledge, 2008) and a Special Issue of Current Issues in Criminal Justice (The Criminalisation and Punishment of Children and Young People) both edited by Professor Scraton with contributions for researchers based in Northern Ireland.
GOVERNANCE

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Governance within the Law School facilitates research in subject areas that include (institutional and substantive) EU law, (national and supranational) administrative law, corporate governance, democratic theory and e-government. This broader research perspective encompasses the Institute of Governance, Public Policy and Social Research at Queen’s

New Staff

In September 2008, the Law School welcomed Ms Bal Sokhi-Bulley.

Bal graduated with a degree in European Law from the University of Warwick in 2003 and obtained a Masters in International Human Rights Law from the University of Nottingham in 2005. Currently, Bal is completing her PhD at the University of Nottingham, which is entitled Human Rights and the European Union: A Foucauldian Analysis and critically examines the governance/rights discourse of the EU from a governmentality perspective. An article based on this doctoral research is forthcoming (International Journal of Law and Context, 2009). Bal has previously published in the areas of women’s rights and non-discrimination whilst working as a Research Assistant at the Human Rights Law Centre, University of Nottingham (2005). Bal’s research interests are in the areas of human rights, critical theory and governance, and socio-legal theory and method. At present, she is lecturing on Constitutional Law and European Law modules.

ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY HONOURS LAW SCHOOL PROFESSOR

On St Patrick’s Day 2009, it was announced that John Morison, Professor of Jurisprudence at the School of Law, had been elected as a Member of the Royal Irish Academy. The Royal Irish Academy, which is an all-Ireland, independent, academic body that promotes study and excellence in the sciences, humanities and social sciences, is the principal learned society in Ireland. The criterion for election to membership, which is by peer nomination, is a “significant contribution to scholarly or scientific research as shown in the candidate’s published academic work.” Accordingly, election to the Royal Irish Academy is the highest academic honour in Ireland. This year twenty new members from across all disciplines were elected, along with eight honorary Members. In his membership of the RIA, Professor Morison now joins many of Ireland’s leading scholars, including Professor Peter Gregson, President and Vice-Chancellor of Queen’s and Professor Elizabeth Meehan (Emerita) of the School of Law.

Elizabeth Meehan continues to contribute widely to the community through her work on the Advisory Board on Naturalisation and Integration; the Northern Ireland Devolution Monitoring Report; and the Irish National Economic and Social Council. On 6 February 2009, Elizabeth delivered a paper (with F Mackay) on the politics of participation at a conference entitled “The Impact of Devolution on Everyday Life: 1999-2009” sponsored by the Institute for British-Irish Studies, UCD.

Professor John Morison (standing second from right) with participants from Queen’s; Holland; Indonesia; Lithuania; and Mongolia, on the Asia-link programme, which held its annual meeting at the Law School in 2008. The Asia-link project, which is co-ordinated by the University of Utrecht and funded by the European Commission, is intended to develop educational and public service training programmes on “Human Rights and Good Governance.”
ESRC-funded Project: Regulatory Regime Change in World Financial Markets: The Case of Sarbane Oxley

On 17-18 September 2008, the Institute of Governance hosted a colloquium entitled “The Globalisation of Corporate Governance? Reform Pressures and Processes in an Era of Financial Crises.” This ESRC-sponsored workshop marked the end of the award-reporting session for an interdisciplinary team, coordinated by Professor Sally Wheeler, working on this ESRC-funded collaborative research project to explore the dominant effect of the United States regulatory regime on global financial markets and on worldwide regulatory and economic governance regimes. The starting point was the 2002 Sarbanes-Oxley Act on corporate liability, introduced in the wake of a series of corporate scandals in the United States. See www.qub.ac.uk/sox/

Papers presented at the colloquium formed the basis for a special issue on Corporate Governance, Northern Ireland Legal Quarterly (vol 60 (1), Spring 2009) featuring papers by Professor Sally Wheeler (Non-executive Directors and Corporate Governance) and Dr Ciarán O’Kelly (History Begins: Shareholder Value, Accountability and the Virtuous State).

Staff Updates

Dr Gordon Anthony has recently delivered invited papers at the 2nd Annual Hart Judicial Review Conference; the European Public Law Centre (Athens); and for the Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities. In April 2009, he was a visiting lecturer at the Universidade Católica Portuguesa (Lisbon Campus).

Dr Subhajit Basu has been nominated for Membership of European Association of Tax Law. He has also been appointed as a member of Editorial Board of Global Business and Management Research Journal; co-Guest Editor of International Journal of Innovation in the Digital Economy; and he was re-elected as a Member of Executive Committee of BILETA.

Dr Peter Doran (Law School, pictured on right) greets John Ging, Head of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in Gaza. On 25 March 2009, the Law School co-hosted Trócaire’s 2009 Annual Lecture, given by Mr Ging on the topic “The Responsibility to Protect Civilians in Times of Conflict – What can we do?”

In February 2009, Dr Peter Doran delivered a paper entitled “The Politics...
Staff Updates (cont)


RESEARCH FUNDING SUCCESS FOR THE LAW SCHOOL

Dr Jean Allain and Dr Robin Hickey have been successful in their application for funding under the AHRC’s Research Network and Workshops Scheme for a project entitled “Slavery as the Powers Attaching to the Right of Ownership”. The project aims to hold two international conferences so as to determine the legal parameters of the definition of slavery in international law.

Dr Alison Mawhinney was awarded funding (£82,500) under the ESRC/AHRC Religion and Society Research Programme, Youth Call, small grants scheme (in conjunction with Ulrike Niens, Graduate School of Education at Queen’s and Norman Richardson, Stranmillis College) for a one-year research project entitled: “Opting out of religious education: the views of young people from minority belief backgrounds”

Alfa II-Dikia II Project

In 2008, the Alfa II-Dikia II project, which is coordinated by the European Centre of Public Law in Greece and funded by the European Commission, held a workshop entitled “Rights and Emergencies” in Belfast. The event was organised by Professor John Morison and Dr Gordon Anthony. Participants were from Queen’s and universities in Chile, Colombia, Greece and Italy.

Staff Updates

Since October 2008, Dr Dimitrios Doukas has delivered conference papers at the University of Oxford and the University of Glasgow. The former paper entitled “Free Movement of Broadcasting Services and Abuse of Law” will be published in 2009 as part of R de la Feria and S Vogenauer (eds) Prohibitions of Abuse of Law – A New General Principle of EU Law (Oxford, Hart). Dimitrios has recently been awarded a visiting Fellowship at St John’s College, Oxford for the period August-September 2009.

This year, Dr Mark Flear (with colleague Dr Sara Ramshaw) co-edited a special issue of the Maastricht Journal of European and Comparative Law. Mark contributed two papers to the special issue, which is the published output of the inaugural School of Law Annual Workshop, “New Technologies, European Law and Citizens”, held at Queen’s in September 2008.

Dr Brian Jack was co-ordinator of the Environmental Law Stream at the 2009 SLSA Conference. In April 2009, he delivered a paper entitled “Financial Penalties in the European Court of Justice” at the 7th Annual Conference for Environmental Professionals in Cork. Brian’s book Agriculture and EU Environmental Law is due for publication by Ashgate at the end of 2009.
ESRC FUNDING SUCCESS

Dr Gordon Anthony, Professor John Morison and Dr Dimitrios Doukas have been awarded an ESRC research grant for a 2-year project on Public Interest in the UK Courts (value £157,987). The aim of the project is to develop a taxonomy of uses of the term “public interest” by the UK courts and, in that way, to give insights into contemporary UK constitutionalism and the relationship between UK law and European law.

CHANGING AGEING PARTNERSHIP

The CAP project under the guidance of Research Manager Dr Una Lynch had a hugely successful beginning to 2009 with the publication of a series of CAP-funded research reports, a number of which were law related.

In September 2009, CAP is co-planning an International Research Conference entitled “Planning Together: Policies and Participation in Ageing Societies”. Further details are available at www.qub.ac.uk/sites/planningtogether/
HUMAN RIGHTS

Director, Research:
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The Human Rights research cluster within the Law School operates parallel with the School of Law’s Human Rights Centre. This broader research perspective encompasses links with local interest groups and NGOs, and the Centre also has close links with the Irish Centre for Human Rights located at the National University of Ireland, Galway.

European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation

The Human Rights Centre at the School of Law is part of the prestigious European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC) in Venice. Together with other participating universities across Europe, the EIUC administers a European Master’s Degree in Human Rights (EMA). Students for this degree spend their first semester in Venice, and go to one of the participating universities in the second semester. This year, the Law School has two students (Brazil and Italy) studying at Queen’s. The EIUC also provides teaching, research and networking opportunities, and staff members at the Human Rights Centre actively participate in these activities. For more information on EIUC/EMA, please contact Dr Tom Obokata, Assistant Director of the Human Rights Centre, at t.obokata@qub.ac.uk

New Staff

Sylvie holds a law degree from the University of Aix-en-Provence (2001) and a LLM from the University of Nottingham (2002). She completed her PhD thesis at the University of Bristol on the right of the child to religious freedom in international law (2006). While doing her PhD, she also taught at undergraduate level and did some consultancy work for the OSCE. From 2006-2008 she was a City Solicitors’ Educational Trust lecturer at the University of East London. Sylvie’s most recent research was on the rights of religious associations before the European Court of Human Rights. She is currently looking at the legal issues surrounding children and freedom of expression, and has lately published, “Children and Religion under Article 14 UNCRC: A Critical Analysis” (2008) 16(4) International Journal of Children’s Rights 475-504

In September 2008, the Law School welcomed Dr Sylvie Langlaude.
Budget Analysis, the Advancement of Economic and Social Rights in NI

Funded by Atlantic Philanthropies, the aim of this two-year project is to examine public expenditure in Northern Ireland by using an economic and social rights-based analysis. With it, the project team seek to develop a methodology that will strengthen the advocacy capacity of disadvantaged groups and their representatives in Northern Ireland. The project links with ongoing international efforts to develop and deepen the relationship between economic analysis and the assessment of human rights compliance. The project was launched in December 2008 and had its first seminar in January 2009, featuring members of the project's International Advisory Board: Anne Blyberg (Executive Director, International Human Rights Internship Programme);

Debbie Budlender, Research Specialist, Community Agency for Social Enquiry, South Africa; Professor Diane Elson (University of Essex); Martin Sigal (Director Civil Association for Equality and Justice, Argentina); and Sally-

Anne Way (Research Director, Centre for Economic and Social Rights). An international conference on Economic and Social Rights and Budget Decisions is scheduled for November 13th-14th 2009.

Advancing Travellers’ Rights

In October 2008, An Muina Tober, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, and the Human Rights Centre at the School of Law, co-organised a seminar on travellers’ housing rights. Speakers included barristers, Timothy Arthur Jones and Alyson Kirkpatrick; Sinead Lucey (Irish Human Rights Commission); and Geraldine Scullion (Equality and human rights consultant/formerly Director of European Roma Rights Centre). Participants at this very well-attended event included members of the Traveller Community, legal practitioners, representatives of statutory bodies and public authorities and academics. The future possibility of bringing strategic litigation on the issue of Travellers’ housings rights in Northern Ireland and elsewhere was discussed extensively.
Staff Updates

Professor Brice Dickson’s most recent publications include: “The Detention of Suspected Terrorists in Northern Ireland and Great Britain” (2009) 43 University of Richmond Law Review 927; and “Northern Ireland” in Anthony Lester et al, Human Rights: Law and Practice (London, LexisNexis Butterworths, 3rd ed, 2009). In March 2009, Brice gave oral evidence on the topic of emergency legislation to the House of Lords Select Committee on the Constitution. In April, he was an invited participant at a roundtable on a Bill of Rights for the United Kingdom held by the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights at Westminster.

In 2009, Dr Jean Allain, who was recently promoted to Reader at the Law School, delivered papers on the legal issues surrounding international slavery at the University of California, Stanford; the China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing; and the Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation, University of Hull. Jean’s work on slavery, which was cited by the Australian High Court in The Queen v Tang [2008] HCA 39, has lately resulted in a publication entitled “The Definition of Slavery in International Law” (2009) 52 Howard Law Journal 239.


HUMAN RIGHTS

STEPHEN LIVINGSTONE MEMORIAL LECTURE 2008

This annual School of Law event acknowledges the life and work of Professor Stephen Livingstone (1961-2004); Professor of Human Rights Law, a former Head of the School of Law at Queen’s, as well as a renowned human rights activist. The 2008 lecture entitled “Parliamentary Bills of Rights” was delivered by Mr Murray Hunt, Legal Adviser to the Joint Committee on Human Rights at Westminster on 27 November 2008.
Seminar Series

Human Rights-related seminars for this academic year began in September with a colloquium entitled “A Charter of Rights for the Island of Ireland” featuring Suzanne Egan (University College Dublin) and Professor Rachel Murray (University of Bristol). In October 2008, the Law School hosted Dr Wendy Savage who gave a presentation entitled “Women’s Reproductive Rights” and the Human Rights Centre co-sponsored the Annual Amnesty International Lecture given by Dr Mary Robinson as part of the Belfast Festival at Queen’s.

Throughout the academic year a number of events were held in conjunction with the International Law Association, Belfast Regional Seminar Series. For example, in November 2008, Elizabeth Kirk (University of Dundee) spoke on “The Good, the Bad and the Development: The Role of Non-Compliance in International Law.” On 18 March 2009, Professor Ademola Abass (Brunel University) presented a paper on “European Union and United Nations Cooperation with the African Union in Peace Operations.” On 13 May 2009, Dr Phoebe Okowa (Queen Mary, London) delivered a seminar on the topic of “Legal Problems of Implementing Responsibility in Conflict Zones: Lessons from the Congo.”

Staff Updates


Dr Tom Obokata and Dr Rory O’Connell co-wrote “The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Kingdom: Developing a Human Rights Culture” in M Suksi and V Jaichand (eds) 60 Years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Europe (Antwerp and Oxford: Intersentia, 2009).

Tom Obokata also provided expert comments during the drafting stage of the “Guiding Principles on Memoranda of Understanding Between Key Stakeholders and Law Enforcement Agencies on Counter-Trafficking Cooperation”, part of the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking conducted by the UN and the International Organisation for Migration.

Dr Rory O’Connell presented a paper, which will be published this year in Legal Studies, entitled “Cinderella comes to the Ball: Article 14 and the Right to Non-discrimination in the ECHR” at a conference organised jointly by the Human Rights Centre and the Bar Council of Northern Ireland on 25 April 2009. The conference was entitled “Privacy and Discrimination: Recent Developments in Domestic and European Convention Law” and speakers included the Hon Mr Justice Eady, High Court of England and Wales, and Mr Michael Boyle, Deputy Registrar of the European Court on Human Rights. The event, which was held at the BT Studios in the Waterfront Hall, was attended by over 80 participants, mostly barristers.
1968: Civil Rights – Then and Now

In October 2008, the Law School in conjunction with the Irish Studies Initiative and the School of Politics at Queen’s (and in association with the Civil Rights Commemoration Committee) held a one-day conference marking the 40th anniversary of the civil rights movement, featuring contributions from Richard English; Paul Bew; Paul Arthur; Edwina Stewart; Bob Purdie; Simon Prince; Patrick Speight; Michael Farrell; Kevin Boyle; and Margaret Ward.

2009:
Reflecting on the Report of the Consultative Group on the Past

In May 2009, the School of Law in Queen’s (in conjunction with the Transitional Justice Institute (UU); the Committee on the Administration of Justice and British Irish Human Rights Watch) hosted a two-day colloquium entitled “Reflecting on the report of the Consultative Group on the Past” On the second day at Queen’s, the perspectives of victims; survivors; former political prisoners; ex-combatants; the police; and politicians were heard and debated.

Members of the audience listen to representatives of the leading political parties in Northern Ireland on political perspectives on the Eames-Bradley report.
QUEEN’S STUDENT LAW SOCIETY SCOOPS NATIONAL AWARD

The Verdict, produced and published by the Student Law Society at Queen’s, received a National Media Award at the Smedias 2009 held at the Mansion House, Dublin on 2 April 2009. The award was for Society Publication of the Year, an outstanding achievement given that there was over 1,000 entries. Congratulations to all the editorial team on their hard work. The Verdict has been awarded £3,000 for their second publication by the Queens Annual Fund. This is a great accolade and it is encouraging that Queen’s is supporting this student publication to allow the Law Society to give their members the best “Queens experience” possible.

CELEBRATION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UDHR

On 10 December 2008, and in conjunction with local schools, the School of Law Human Rights Centre Student Committee hosted a creative writing competition display on the topic of “Your Impression of One Article of the UDHR.” The Foyer of the Students’ Union also saw a poster exhibition on “The Global Impact of the UDHR”. The Organising Committee arranged a round table discussion on the impact of the UDHR and a seminar facilitated by retired and serving law enforcement personnel on the “Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act and its Engagement with Human Rights”. The day’s events were sponsored by Amnesty International; Pujol Limited; New Century Consulting; Queen’s Students’ Union; and the Law School.
LONDON LAW FIRMS
STUDY TOUR

In 2008, the Careers Advisory service at Queen’s organised a week-long study tour of ten London law firms during which students gained an insight into the work, recruitment procedures and career opportunities at these firms. The Queen’s London Alumni Association also hosted an event for the students.

THE RETURN
OF THE MOOT

Under the direction of Ms Eileen Fegan, School of Law, and in conjunction with the Student Law Society’s Mooting Officer, Ulla Saar, a competitive, internal mooting competition was held at the School of Law. The final held in May 2009 (and pictured below) was adjudicated upon by the School of Law’s Judge-in-Residence, the Hon Mr Justice Donnell Deeny, who has proven to be a great supporter of this initiative.

In February 2009, the School of Law at Queen’s was represented at the Jessup International Court Moot in London. The team (Amy Colgan; Alex Redpath; Colin Sloan; Jack Meek and Patrick Conlon) won the “Spirit of Jessup 2009” Award. They were assisted in preparation by Ms Eileen Fegan, Dr Jean Allain, Professor Brice Dickson and Ulla Saar, Law Society Mooting Officer, helped organise the team and their involvement.
POSTGRADUATE STUDIES AT THE SCHOOL OF LAW

The School of Law at Queen’s recently celebrated an impressive top-ten ranking in the Research Assessment Exercise 2008, finishing joint 7th in the UK (with Cambridge and Cardiff) out of 67 submitting Law Schools.

The production of world-leading and internationally excellent research in Human Rights, Governance, Criminology and Criminal Justice, and Common Law explains why the School of Law at Queen’s is now rated as one of the leading centres of legal research in the UK.

Applications are invited for PhD/ MPhil degrees which are awarded on the basis of original, independent research. Proposals are welcomed in any field of study within law, but are especially encouraged in the core areas of expertise at Queen’s: Human Rights; Criminology; Common Law; Corporate Governance; Sustainable Development; Governance; Environmental Law; Jurisprudence and Public Policy.

In addition to research degrees, applications are currently invited for the following postgraduate taught programmes:

- LLM in Human Rights Law
- LLM in Human Rights (Cross Border)
- LLM/MSSc in Human Rights and Criminal Justice
- LLM in Human Rights and Criminal Justice (Cross Border)
- LLM in Law and Governance
- LLM in Corporate Governance and Public Policy
- MSSc in Criminology
- MSSc in Criminal Justice

The School also offers a two-year conversion course – Masters in Legal Science (MLegSc)

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is 30th June 2009. However, late applications may be considered.

Further information and application forms may be obtained by contacting:

School of Law
Queen’s University
Belfast BT7 1NN
Email: pglawenquiries@qub.ac.uk
Tel: +44(0)28 90973451

www.law.qub.ac.uk/ProspectiveStudents/
INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL ON MINORITIES AND PARTICIPATION, 2008

During the first two weeks of August 2008, the Human Rights Centre in the School of Law was host to 48 students from 20 different countries in Europe and further afield, brought together as part of a European Union Intensive Programme, which is one of the activities of the Utrecht Network, a collaborative programme involving 33 highly respected universities in 28 countries. The students had panel discussions with representatives from the political parties, the public sector (Assembly, Human Rights Commission, Equality Commission, and Children’s Commissioner) and civil society (An Munia Tober, Women’s Support Network, Women into Politics, NICEM, and Chinese Welfare Association/Sai Pak). As part of the programme, the Law School hosted a book launch for a publication written by members of the teaching team: “The Tension Between Group Rights and Human Rights: A Multidisciplinary Approach” (Koen De Feyter and George Pavlakos, eds) including contributions from Dr Jean Allain and Dr Rory O’Connell.

CONVENTION ON MODERN LIBERTY, BELFAST, FEBRUARY 2009

On 28 February 2009, Belfast was live-linked to the Convention on Modern Liberty, a major human rights event that took place in London under the sponsorship of Rowntrees, OpenDemocracy, Liberty and the Guardian. There were two sets of four parallel sessions in Belfast, each focused on a different question relating to modern liberty and human rights in Northern Ireland. The Belfast event was co-sponsored by the Law School and Amnesty International.

INSTITUTE OF CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE ANNUAL LECTURE 2009

On 6 May 2009, Richard Garside, Director, Centre for Crime and Justice Studies, King’s College London, delivered the ICCJ Lecture 2009 entitled: “Risky Business: Why is the Government obsessed with ‘Risk’ and what should we do about it”

INTERNATIONAL LAW ASSOCIATION’S BELFAST REGIONAL SEMINARS:

In May 2009, the School of Law co-hosted “Legal Problems of Implementing Responsibility in Conflict Zones: Lessons from Congo” by Dr Phoebe Okowa, Queen Mary London (pictured here with Dr Jean Allain of the Law School).

MacDERMOTT LECTURE 2009

DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

The School of Law at Queen’s has inherited, and continues to sustain, a large body of alumni and friends. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Queen’s Law School alumnus, Sir Brian Kerr, on his elevation to the new Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, which will begin its work in the autumn. The Lord Chief Justice has been a great supporter of the Law School and we thank him for his contribution over the years.

We would also like you to think about getting involved in the Law School’s various activities. For the moment, there are three things we’d like you to consider. First, you might prefer to receive this Newsletter by email. If you do, please mail your address to the editor (jack.anderson@qub.ac.uk) and he will add you to the database. Second, in the next and future editions of the Law School’s Newsletter, we would like to feature news and reports on what you have been up to since you left us. If there is something you would like us to include, please email the editor and we can discuss. Third, we would like to establish a School of Law Alumni Chapter or Association. If you think this is a good idea and/or you’d like to get involved in its establishment, please do not hesitate to contact the editor at the above email or at: +44 28 90973470, Jack Anderson, School of Law, Queen’s University, Belfast, BT7 1NN.

Finally, we welcome your feedback and comment on any aspect of the Newsletter and look forward to hearing from you in 2009.  
With best wishes,

Professor Colin Harvey, Head of the School of Law, Queen’s University Belfast

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI OF THE FUTURE? STUDENT PRIZES 2007/8

Professor Colin Harvey and the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, Rt Hon Sir Brian Kerr with the Law Student Prize winners, 2007/8.

At the recent Law Students Awards Ceremony (2007/2008), Professor Harvey congratulated the winners on their achievements and proficiency in their chosen subjects. He also acknowledged the support given by parents and family and thanked the sponsors of the various awards. A full list of winners is available on the Law School’s website at http://www.law.qub.ac.uk/