

This is gazette made by undergraduate students in the School of Law and Criminology. We want this to be a platform where students can engage with academic discourse and keep up with the department/industry.

We also encourage students from all disciplines to make submissions. You do not have to be a law student to write for us!

For any further queries, suggestions or questions please do not hesitate to contact the editorial team at:

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Opportunities for submitting content to the next issue will be announced via email soon. We hope you enjoy reading this one!

EDITOR'S NOTE



Introducing Magna Carta

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the second volume of Magna Carta, the Royal Holloway Law and Criminology Gazette. It is an absolute honour to be serving as Editor-in-Chief on this year's editorial board. Having started off as an Editorial Assistant last year, I am delighted to bring my passion for publishing through this gazette to you. This is the first of two issues for this academic year, one aiding you through the process of beginning a new year and the other reflecting back on it.

As you flip through the pages of the Magna Carta, you will find a diverse mix of information valuable to all students in the School of Law and Social Sciences, as well as any student at Royal Holloway interested in the sector. The gazette contains stimulating articles written by various students, essential information about events around campus and advice for career paths. This magazine is aimed at serving as a hub for students to access everything about the different areas of the law to make your experience as a student more exciting.

Creating this magazine alongside my remarkable team and interacting with many students and academics as a result has made these confusing times through the pandemic, lockdowns and isolation inspiring and optimistic. I have always wanted to hold a position of responsibility to make an impact in the community and the Magna Carta has done that for me. I am grateful to my editorial team, the students who feature in this issue and all the people who have aided in the process of this creation.

I hope that as you read through this issue, the information you find is useful and motivating towards achieving your goals.

HREDI CHHABRIA
Editor-in-Chief

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2020 - 2021



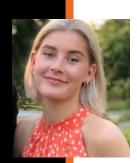
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Important headlines from the quarter brought to you by the Commercial Awareness Society

TIK TOK US BAN UPDATE

Donald Trump has recently approved a deal between TikTok and a US tech firm, pushing back the proposed ban of TikTok until 27th September. Following this date, the people in the US will be unable to download TikTok and US companies will no longer be able to do business with them. This ban has been implemented due to the US government's concern that Tiktok may be used by the Chinese government to spy on the application's users. Trump has given the date of 20th September for when the ban comes into effect. With Microsoft and Walmart failing to obtain a deal with TikTok, Oracle has managed to secure a deal, allowing the firm to become TikTok's cloud provider. The deal will allow the company Oracle to gain a 12.5% stake. Although the deal does not amount to a full takeover deal, it has met the terms of the Trump administration. Benefits that are expected from this deal consist of a rise in jobs estimated at around 25,000 US jobs, and a contribution of \$5 billion for the US education fund.



Photo by Julia Anderson

RELAUNCH OF THOMAS COOK



Photo by Harriet Mallinson

Through the relaunch as an online-only business, Thomas Cook resurfaced, after a downfall in 2019. Its collapse led to the loss of 9,000 jobs and left 150,000 customers stranded. With a longterm focus, the Chinese owners, Fosun, decided to make the business online-only. This long-term approach involved creation of a 'COVID friendly' website, allowing access to many destinations, including destinations on the UK government's travel list. Additionally, where government guidance incurs changes, customers will be allowed to change their bookings free of charge. This model has already been successful in China, as shown by the company securing up to 170,000 customers.

MEDICINAL CANNABIS FIRMS ALLOWED TO LIST

The Financial Court Authority (FCA) decided to allow medicinal cannabis companies to list on the London Stock Exchange. In 2018, medicinal cannabis was legalised for specific cases. It can only be imported from people who hold permission (MHRA License) or have approval from the Home Office to grow it. This means that UK and overseas firms will be permitted to list on the London stock exchange. However, this has posed a challenge for overseas firms where evidence must be provided to show that operations are legally permitted in the UK, regardless of whether they are licensed in their country. Firms involved in the sale and production of recreational cannabis will not be allowed to list on the London Stock Exchange. The Serious Crime Act prohibits dealings with income generated through conduct abroad which would constitute a crime in the UK. It is evident that the law and business surrounding cannabis continues to grow rapidly, with Canada having over \$1 billion dollars spent on legal cannabis in 2018 alone.



BODYSHOP PURCHASES PLASTICS

Photo by John Rapp



Photo by The Body Shop website

In order to decrease and eventually remove plastic pollution, The Body Shop announced it will purchase 600 tonnes of plastic, which will be sourced from India and used towards its product packaging. By 2040, it is estimated that oceans and landfills will be polluted by over a billion tonnes of plastic waste. With the implementation of these environmental measures, The Body Shop hopes to create a snowball effect, encouraging other companies to follow in its footsteps, successfully combating plastic pollution.



MERCEDES BENZ OWNER SETTLES FOR \$1.5BILLION

The owner of Mercedes Benz, Daimler AG, is ready to pay \$1.5 billion to settle a US Government lawsuit over emission test cheating. This is because Mercedes has allegedly installed "cheat" devices in 250,000 Diesel vehicles, allowing them to artificially produce lower emissions in test conditions. It was found that these vehicles, while being driven, were emitting up to 40 times more than advertised. As part of the settlement with the US governement, \$700 million goes to owners who filed a class-action lawsuit against the company along with ensuring the affected vehicles are repaired for free.



Photo by Mercedes-Benz website

JP MORGAN MOVES LONDON STAFF AHEAD OF BREXIT

J.P.Morgan

Photo by Youtube

With fears of Brexit negatively impacting the economy, JP Morgan plans to relocate 200 members of staff out of London. Brexit provisions could allow financial service firms to continue operating. Without this, UK firms will be unable to provide investment services in the European Union. Financial services firms like JP Morgan anxiously await for the transition period to end on the 1st January 2021, which is when the JP Morgan members will be expected to relocate with hopes of moving to destinations in Europe such as Paris, Frankfurt and Milan. The transition period is marked at the end of 2020, at which point EU Law will cease to apply in the United Kingdom.

AMAZON ADDS PODCASTS TO MUSIC SERVICE

Amazon Music now offers podcasts to its users from the UK, US, Germany and Japan. All users of Amazon Music, irrespective of whether they have active subscriptions, will be able to access this service. Podcasting has proven to be a profitable market and is expected to surpass \$1 billion profits this year itself. Additionally, podcasts can also be accessed on the Amazon Echo (the music speaker collection by Amazon). This highlights the versatile nature of the new podcast platform.



SUNAK'S SUPPORT SCHEME

Photo by Linkedin



Chancellor Rishi Sunak has put forward a new job support scheme which replaces the furlough scheme. The job support scheme will be available to companies who can offer their employees a third of their normal working hours. Sunak stated this scheme will not support businesses that rely on Government support entirely. Employees who have access to the Sunak's scheme will be paid a third of their wages for hours they do not work from their employer and the Government. Since the furlough scheme will come to an end in October 2020, this support scheme will act as a preventative measure against mass unemployment.

EU CHALLENGES APPLE BACK-TAX DECISION

The European Commission aims to appeal the ruling of the General Court of the European Union that Apple was not required to pay €13 billion back taxes to Ireland. The tax arrangement with Apple and Ireland led Apple to benefit, allowing Apple to channel its EU revenue through Ireland, paying only 12.5% in tax. In July 2020, the European General Court held that the European Commission lacked evidence for its claim that Apple broke tax laws. In order to pursue this claim the case will be taken to the Court of Justice of the European Union, where the situation will be evaluated further.



Photo by Brittany Coles



Photo by George Nixon

BANKS RETURN TO WORKPLACE

Following the UK Government guidance, all staff are encouraged to return to workplaces, trying to move closer to life before the pandemic. Following these guidelines, Barclays', Lloyds' and Societe Generale's many employees returned to work. However, with the change is guidance and the negative economic impact the COVID-19 pandemic has created, there is likely to be more unemployment in the future.

Uber BV v Aslam 2018

Jasmin Shahid/ 2nd Year/ LLB Law with Criminology

Background

The claimants, Aslam, Farrar and others, used the Uber application to pick up and drive customers to their destinations, operating as private hire vehicles. The contracts involving the private hire drivers define them as 'self-employed', meaning they are not entitled to statutory benefits. Aslam alleged that he and the others were workers and, therefore, were entitled to the National Minimum Wage and paid annual leave, as outlined in the Employment Rights Act 1996, the Working Time Regulations (WTR) 1998 and the National Minimum Wage Act (NMW) 1998.

The defendants, Uber BV, developer of the Uber application, claimed to be a technology company rather than a transportation company. Further, Uber denied the claim of employment as workers and claimed that the drivers were partners of the company, meaning they were not entitled to the employee benefits they demanded.

Issues

The employment tribunal considered the following issues: Were the claimants 'workers' as defined under statutory law, and thus entitled to statutory working rights? Could their contracts be overruled on the evidence provided?

Decision and analysis

The employment tribunal responded yes to both questions. Uber BV's employment contracts did not reflect the reality of the situation. The tribunal concluded that Uber's conduct reflected that of an employer/employee relationship, rather than that of a company hiring independent contractors. The tribunal found that the drivers were subject to specific controls by Uber. These included penalties for not working, ratings by customers and the prohibition of business relationships. Uber marketed them as a transportation service, not a technology service. Therefore, Aslam was a worker under statutory law, meaning they qualified automatically for NMW and annual leave under the NMWA 1998[1] and the WTR 1998.[2]

Photo by Institute of Licensing

Footnotes

[1] s 54.

[2] Reg 2.





Photo by Uber

I agree with the approach taken and the outcome in this case. Autoclenz Ltd v Belcher [3] concerned a similar issue when Autoclenz treated the claimants as workers, but defined them as self-employed. They also controlled employee penalties, customer interactions and sick days, similar to Uber's conduct towards Aslam. Aikens LJ, in his decision, recognised the disparity between the contracts and the conduct of Autoclenz, and recommended that the courts should take a 'realistic and worldly-wise' approach to the situation, rather than relying on the contract alone. [4] By adopting this approach, the tribunal evened out the balance of power between an individual and a company. With the trend of standardised contracts in the modern age, this is a huge step toward empowering workers.

In Consistent Group Ltd v Kalwak,[5] it was pointed out that standardised contracts 'form undermining substance' in the guise of still being legal and, therefore, are above reproach.[6] Kalwak also brings another aspect to light: Aslam was heavily reliant on Uber for work, as employees could not collect customer information or form business relationships. Kalwak considers this to be a significant point in deciding whether an individual is a worker or self-employed. The decision in Kalwak supports the decision in Aslam's case, concluding that the claimants are statutory workers regardless of written contracts. Their position is further strengthened by statutory law, and specifically the Private Hire Vehicles (London) Act 1998. It was Uber that had to satisfy the regulatory authority, provide bookings and make fare estimates, making them a transportation company under the 1998 Act[7], not a technology company. The ruling in Aslam's favour follows the trend of case and statutory law and sends a clear message that practices of this kind will not be tolerated by English law.

However, there is another side to this. Underhill LJ dissented from the majority judgement in *Uber BV v Aslam*, emphasising the need to exercise caution. He believes that the current legislation needs to be amended instead of interpreted.[8] While I disagree with his point of view, I do understand the need for caution when it comes to the current law. The job climate is changing in light of COVID-19, Brexit and the rapid development of 'the gig economy', more people fall between the cracks of legislation regarding wages. Additionally, the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill 2019-20 does not contain any clauses on workers rights.[9] Through membership to the European Union, we receive protections including holiday pay, maternity rights and discriminatory practices.

Footnotes

[3] [2011] UKSC 41.

[4] ibid, [92].

[5] [2008] EWCA Civ 430.

[6] ibid, [59].

[7] s 2.

[8] Uber BV v Aslam [2018] EWCA Civ 2748, [164].

[9] Daniel Ferguson, 'Removal of workers' rights in the new EU (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill' (House of Commons Library, 2019) < https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/workers-rights-and-the-new-eu-withdrawal-agreement-bill/> accessed 10 November 2020.

Parliament completed the first reading of a separate Employment Bill meant to encompass these rights (and protect those in the 'gig economy'). However, the date of a second reading is yet to be announced, which is worrying, given that the transition period for Brexit ends by 2021. If the bill is not ratified by then, the judgements in *Autoclenz*, *Uber*, and similar cases could be overturned as there are fewer legislative protections.

As well as the legal perspective, there are social implications in ruling in this way. Uber, at the time of the judgement, employed about 30,000 people in London alone.[10] All of these people now have statutory rights safeguarded by this judgement. More cases such as *Gorman v Terence Paul*[11] have followed Aslam's example, which considered false self-employment. In *Gorman*, the Court ruled that Gorman was employed, rather than self-employed, since Terence Paul had exercised control over her working hours and conditions. Thousands of beauty industry workers, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, are likely to be affected by Gorman's case.[12] From December, a job support scheme is being launched by the UK Government for employees with reduced hours[13] – something that would not have included Gorman and Aslam had they not challenged their employer in court. With Boris Johnson's government considering additional lockdown measures, as the last months of the year pass by, this scheme could be vital for supporting those workers affected by Gorman and Aslam's judgement. Had they been self-employed, they may not have seen financial support until the end of 2021.

As we come to the end of a turbulent year, legally and socially, the new decade brings more questions for law and the changing economy. The pandemic has changed how we live and work, bringing positive and negative changes to the relationship between companies and individuals. For example, Uber has been legally challenged by the App Drivers & Couriers Union for using an algorithm to fire their workers in the UK.[14] This case is considered the first case that tests the laws surrounding the General Data Protection Regulation. It is clear new legal issues are arising due to our increasingly technological employment systems.

Thus far, the courts have asserted that statutory and common law plus regulatory regimes support workers rather than companies, but this could change with the lack of an Employment Bill and the end of the Brexit transition. Regarding the economy, I think these decisions will give it a much-needed boost because more groups of people will be classed as statutory workers and be entitled to appropriate benefits like holiday pay and annual leave. Diversely, the impacts of Brexit and COVID-19 cannot be ignored and will likely affect the future. I suppose it is too much to hope that 2021 will be smooth sailing – but we can say that the courts are on our side and the government has made plans to protect our rights.

Footnotes

[10] Uber BV (n 8) [4].

[11] [2020] UKET 2410722.

[12] Adam McCulloch, 'Hairdresser was an employee and not self-employed, finds tribunal' (Personnel Today, 2020) https://www.personneltoday.com/hr/hairdresser-was-an-employee-and-not-self-employed-finds-tribunal/ accessed 13 November 2020

[13] UK Gov, 'Check if you can claim the Job Support Scheme' (GOV.UK, 2020) <www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-can-claim-the-job-support-scheme> accessed 28 October 2020.

[14] Hannah Boland, 'Uber drivers launch legal challenge over 'firing by algorithm" *The Telegraph* (London, 2020) <www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/2020/10/26/uber-drivers-launch-legal-challenge-firing-algorithm/> accessed 26 October 2020.

The Belt Road Initiative – Major Opportunity or Dangerous Threat?

Emilia W Kukielka/ 2nd year/ BA Politics and International Relations and Philosophy

The Belt Road Initiative (BRI), also known as 'One Belt, One Road', was first introduced by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013. The aim of this project was to encourage participation in 'the process of regional economic integration'[1] by 'speeding up the process of building up infrastructure and connectivity'.[2] The Belt Road Initiative is a combination of two major projects: the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Maritime Silk Road. The Silk Road Economic Belt connects three major trade routes: China to Europe, The Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean, while the 21st Maritime Silk Road is focused on connecting waterways. The BRI can be seen as a formal establishment of the historical trade route of the Silk Road which assisted in the creation of a 'blended universal stream'[3] of people, objects, and ideas. This article will provide an analysis of the impact of the BRI on host countries. The two main factors that demonstrate the benefits of the initiative are that it has encouraged regional integration and foreign investment. However, the project also poses certain disadvantages such as the political challenge to the US hegemony initiated by China, the undermining of the country's sovereignty and the 'debt-trapping'[4] agenda used to advance China's domestic policy and position within the multi-polar world.

The purpose of the BRI is to physically connect the countries involved through the building of ports, roads and railways and thus, simplifying methods of free trade through to the West. It has encouraged prosperity and has strengthened economic ties in the region in recent years which demonstrates a 'sharp contrast'[5] with the 'themes of isolation and fragmentation'[6] that have emerged in the West. The initiative has encouraged negotiations between the relevant members, creating a 'modern, comprehensive, high quality and mutually beneficial economic partnership agreement'.[7] An example of this is a new railway bridge across Amu Darya River connecting Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan 'opening new possibilities of trade'.[8] Previously, in situations like this, disagreements would occur but now, Asia is compromising and cooperating to ensure a deal. For example, the 2018 Astana meeting encouraged negotiations and led to a sign off on unresolved border issues between Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. This can be seen as 'fostering a new type of international relations featuring a win-win cooperation'[9] which was promised by President Xi Jinping. The multipolar world has reinforced the image of a strong united region, with China as one of the leading powers, bringing stability and peace if this project is a success. The interconnectivity and regional integration due to this are bound to assert mutual benefits for all the parties involved.

Being involved in this project will not only benefit the economies of the countries involved, but will also attract greater business ventures and investments from abroad. As more integration occurs,

Footnotes

[1] Peter Cai, Understanding China's Belt and Road (Lowy Institute, 2017) < www.lowyinstitute.org/publications/understanding-belt-and-road-initiative> accessed 15 November 2020.

- [2] Ibid.
- [3] EE Kuzmina, The Pre-History of the Silk Road: Encounters with Asia (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008).
- [4] Deborah Brautigam, 'A Critical Look at China's 'trap diplomacy: The Rise of a Meme' (2020) 5(1) Area Development and Policy 1.
- [5] Peter Frankopan, The New Silk Roads: The Present and the Future of the World (Bloomsbury, 2019) .
- [6] Ibid.
- [7] Yasuyuki Sawada, 'A Special Report: Growing up Fast in Asian Development Bank' [2018] 1(1) Financing Review Asia 9.
- [8] Frankopan (n 5).
- [9] Ibid.

there will be an additional advantage of acceleration in the commercial product exchange system as 'investment breeds more investment'[10]. There is a strong correlation between the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as they are interdependent - the higher the FDI, the higher the country's GDP. The BRI has increased the amount of FDI in countries through better infrastructure and transportation networks, enhancing trade at a regional and global level. Not only has it become more attractive for potential business partners through increased GDP, but it has also encouraged domestic trading through the support of a stabilised economy. By being the main director of the project, China 'accounts for 20% of the FDI in BRI economies'[11]. The BRI has improved underdeveloped countries' economies, opened access to larger markets which encourages exports and imports from abroad and increased the flow of capital.

However, critics believe that the BRI Project is a 'debt trapping agenda'[12] which has carefully been constructed to manipulate and control smaller economies as a tool for China's expansion. China's investment and interest in underdeveloped economies has created suspicion over the ulterior motive of the project, which may be to increase China's power and influence. For example, as part of the scheme, China invested 934 million USD in the expansion of a port in Abidjan in 2016, which is the largest investment it has made.[13] Since West Africa is rich in natural resources, maintaining a strong influence in that region and having a reliable transport system within it would grant China power and leverage over other global powers. The interest in such ports helps solicit China's trading scheme since 'African countries renege on debt payments'[14] and 'operational control and access to resources'[15] increase the flow of capital. With this much power, critics discuss the possibility of corruption. China's intentions can be analysed as positive or negative, but many countries are sceptical with the BRI project and its benefits, assuming that it's a strategic ploy created to advance China's own regime given its imperialist history. [16]

Over the years as China has become one of the most significant figures in the global economy, some scholars argue that the BRI project is not as sensible as it may seem. The project is expected to cost around 1 trillion USD to implement. Out of that, \$850 billion dollars have been invested, with China contributing 40 billion USD.[17] The BRI, in part, resembles The Marshall Plan presented by the USA to rebuild the Western Economy. China is offering a geopolitical alternative to the world as a hegemon and has already taken control of the economic market. This is evident through the CNPC take over of Total in 2018, preventing the exploitation of 5 million dollars and 'strengthening China's hand in the energy sector'[18]. This type of influence and power over companies can be seen in the USA 2018 FIFA World Cup where the USA threatened Nike with tariffs over selling sportswear to Iran.[19] China is currently displaying the same amount of power and influence the USA once had.

Footnotes

[10] XM Chen, 'The World Bank Blog' (Foreign Investment Growth in the Belt and Road Economies: The Trade Post) https://blogs.worldbank.org/trade/foreign-investment-growth-belt-and-road-economies accessed 15 November 2020.

- [11] Ibid.
- [12] Brautigam (n 4).
- [13] Judd Devermont, 'Assessing The Risks Of Chinese Investments In Sub-Saharan African Ports' [2019] 1 Centre for Strategic and International Studies 4.
- [14] Ibid.
- [15] Devermont (n 13). ADD
- [16] Devermont (n 13).
- [17] Cai (n 1).
- [18] Brautigam (n 4).



Photo by HumanRightsWatch

This example confirmed the belief of many scholars that the power China holds has replaced USA 'in exports (passing Germany); in trade (passing the USA); and in manufacturing (claiming a title the USA had held for a century)'.[20] Thus, as the world order slowly reconstructs and balance is found, we can expect many changes in the preceding years .

In conclusion, the 'One Belt, One Road' scheme has various benefits for the East to advance its position in the world by increasing regional integration. However, the regime provides many challenges for the future. Despite mixed reviews from the media, the BRI project has been active for seven years and has seen a lot of progress. We can expect even more progress from the initiative as negotiations continue and only time will reveal whether it will proceed or be abandoned.



Photo by InformationAge



Photo by Rachel Ranosa

Footnotes

[20] K Min-Hyung, 'A Real Driver of US-China trade conflict: The Sino-US Competition for Global Hegemony and its Implications for the Future' (2019) 3(1) International Trade, Politics and Development 30.

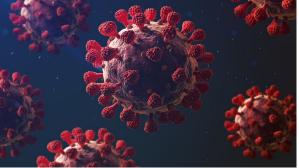


Photo by BBC news

Impacts of Covid -19 on Private Equity and its impact on the legal sector

Anna Mcleod/ 3rd Year/ LLB Law

Private equity is a form of investing whereby people buy and sell businesses once they raise capital and use this to become profitable.[1] The private equity industry has seen a decade of strong growth, outperforming the public markets in many ways. However, the Coronavirus outbreak has caused uncertainty and instability across the globe, shaking economies and forcing industries into bankruptcy.[2] This article assesses the damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and discusses the future of private equity.

The pandemic has had both positive and negative effects on the private equity industry. Due to the uncertainty of its future, the hospitality industry has been forced into bankruptcy.[3] Unlike the technology industry, hospitality services were closed during lockdown and the contagiousness of the Coronavirus has made people worry about where they frequent. More than ever, people have tended to stay home to keep their friends and family members safe. As a result, a large part of the future of private equity in the hospitality industry will be on restructuring business models and helping companies rebuild a more sustainable future.

The technology industry, on the other hand, has skyrocketed with investment opportunities within private equity due to the reliance on technology during the pandemic. Technology is one of the only industries that has had a positive growth due to the pandemic and this can be used as an advantage to support struggling industries by becoming incorporated into other industries, creating greater revenue. [4] The video conferencing application called Zoom is a prime example of the value and sustainability technology can provide to survive a global pandemic. Richard Waters from the Financial Times claimed that 'by the end of April, the number of medium and larger companies using Zoom was up more than three-fold from a year before, while revenue soared 169 per cent'. [5] Moreover, Larry Dignan, Editor-in-Chief of ZDNet, noted that 'Intel Capital is set to invest up to five hundred million US dollars in tech companies this year alone'. [6] These examples display how technology companies make for strong investment options within the private equity sector and have promising returns due to the robust nature of technological sustainability, especially since our 'new normal' consists of heavy reliance on technology.

Footnotes

- [1] James Chen, 'Government & Policy- Private Equity' (Investopedia, April 30 2020)
- [2] Davide Scigliuzzo and others, 'The Covid Bankruptcies: Guitar Center to Helicopter Charters' *Bloomberg* (New York, 4 December 2020) www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2020-us-bankruptcies-coronavirus/ accessed 16 December 2020.
- [3] Julian Gurule, 'Hotel Bankruptcies: Introduction to Critical Issues' Buchalter (Los Angeles, August 31 2020)
- <www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=147d9a80-d21f-466e-9c59-5ab7aeb020ec> accessed 17 November 2020.
- [4] Christina Quick Henderson, 'High-Tech Persists in Wake of Covid-19' Montana Business Quarterly (Missoula, July 7 2020) https://www.montanabusinessquarterly.com/high-tech-persists-in-the-wake-of-covid-19/ accessed 4 December 2020.
- [5] Tom Braithwaite, 'Prospering in the Pandemic: The Top 100 Companies' Financial Times (London, 19 June 2020)
- <www.ft.com/content/844ed28c-8074-4856-bde0-20f3bf4cd8f0> accessed 17 November 2020.
- [6] Digan Larry, 'Intel Capital invests \$132 million in 11 startups mostly focused on AI, autonomous computing' ZDNet (12 May 2020)

<www.zdnet.com/article/intel-capital-invests-132-million-in-11-startups-mostly-focused-on-ai-autonomous-computing/> accessed 17 November 2020.



Photo by Yale Insights

What does the future of private equity look like?

Finding ways to combat disruption is a key trend for the future of private equity. Emmanuel Laillier, head of private equity at Tikehau Capital, states that 'the current crisis is likely to accelerate the trend towards digitalisation of company processes across the board, from human resources and marketing through to compliance'.[7] Many aspects of our lives such as education, shopping and even medical appointments are becoming digitalised. Therefore, it can be said that continued investment in technology is likely. Digitalisation will also likely be a key trend in restructuring and supporting companies, as they work through the damage caused by the pandemic. The flexibility of technology and its reliability makes it a valuable tool for restructuring as well as an investment opportunity. Companies such as UberEats and Deliveroo have enabled restaurants to continue working and have a stream of income. It is likely new technology will continue to be innovative and investment in such companies will continue due to their ability to combat disruption. Resilience will be the future trend and a key focus for investors during the pandemic.



Photo by Johnathan Lambert

Footnotes

[7] Fordham Louise, 'Future of Private Equity: The Road Forward' Private Equity International (1 May 2020) https://www.privateequityinternational.com/future-of-private-equity-the-road-forward/ accessed 17 November 2020.

How technology is shifting our reality into a parallel of fictional dystopian societies - and the social and legal consequences of this

Sophie Short/ 1st Year/ LLB Law with Criminology



Photo by Shutterstock

With the immense growth of technology over the past 50 years, our society is beginning to manifest issues only previously seen in fictional dystopian universes – such as those depicted in Netflix's 'Black Mirror'. We watch these fictitious moral dilemmas and scoff in the belief that our society would never reach the same quandaries. However, this is evidently not the case. Technological advancements that we once believed were impossible, are now becoming a reality. These unprecedented changes are happening rapidly and covertly, which begs the question: are we prepared to tackle the potential major legal and social impacts that will come as a consequence of these progressive advancements?

Our society is beginning to reflect the issues that come with technological growth depicted through the progression of social media- shown in the Black Mirror episode 'Nosedive'. It is clear that social media has become a part of everyday life for many of us. The rise of social media has allowed us to stay connected with family and friends and has given us access to a wide variety of information. This spread of content is fueled by algorithms created to learn what type of content to show individual users, based on their preferences, individual demographic and personal data.[1] However, there is a horrific downfall to the reliance on algorithm-based social media. Beneath the positive side of social media, there is an underworld culture of explicit, inappropriate, and dangerous content that insights suicidal ideation and self-harm.[2]

One platform that has come under fire for this dangerous content is Instagram. Instagram has approximately 24 million users in the UK, of which roughly 3.4 million are between the ages of 13–17 years old.[3] With such a substantial amount of vulnerable young minds on the platform, it is alarming that harmful content has been left unfiltered. The recent suicide of 14-year-old Molly Russell highlights that the damaging effects of social media have already begun to show. After her suicide, officials investigated her social media usage and found that the algorithm used on Instagram had resulted in a perpetuation of images of self-harm and suicide which influenced her actions.[4] Instagram has since made pledges to take steps to create a safer and more protective platform.[5] Arguably, these pledges are long delayed as the application has already created an irreversible negative social impact. Thankfully, the legal sector has been trying to hold social media platforms like Instagram accountable.

Footnotes

- [1] see the various patent application regarding such processes by Google such as US Patent App 12/355 (2009) 452.
- [1] see the validas parent application regarding such processes by Coogle such that SCF therm App 12/303 (2007) 402.

 [2] Chartered Institute of Marketing, 'Half of British Teenagers Exposed to Harmful Content on Social Media' CIM (Maidenhead, 14 June 2019)

 <www.cim.co.uk/newsroom/release-half-of-teens-exposed-to-harmful-social-media/> accessed 16 December 2020.
- [3] Joseph Johnson, "UK: Instagram Users by Age 2020 | Statista" (Statista, 2020) <www.statista.com/statistics/1018012/instagram-users-united-kingdom/> accessed 3 November 2020.
- [4] Ibid.
- [5] Charlotte Henrey, 'Instagram is admitting responsibility for the content it hosts. What does that mean for social media?' (The Article, 2019)
- <www.thearticle.com/instagram-is-admitting-responsibility-for-the-content-it-hosts-what-does-that-mean-for-social-media> accessed 18 November 2020; Adam Mosseri, 'Instagram Policy Changes on Self-Harm Related Content Protecting Vulnerable Users | Instagram Blog' (Instagram.com, 2019)

OPINION PIECE

Currently, the Online Harms Reduction Regulator (Report) Bill [HL] 2019–21 is progressing through the Parliamentary process towards becoming law. This Bill aims to enforce online safety and hold companies accountable for creating a platform that facilitates the circulation of harmful behaviours and content. This is a significant step towards the progress of regulating technological advancements in our society. However, if this step had been taken earlier, it could have prevented more tragedies from occurring.

Another technological development that could have a potential major legal and social impact in our society is the advancement of tracking devices, as shown in the Black Mirror episode 'Arkangel'. Previously, tracking devices were impractical and unaffordable. However, this has changed as technology has advanced and adapted. Due to child disappearances, such as Madeleine McCann in 2007, the popularity of tracking devices has risen among parents..[6] Therefore, we must question whether this could result in legal repercussions surrounding issues of privacy.

The law on tracking devices is vague and largely outdated due to the surge in technological advancement.[7] For this reason, queries surrounding the legality of parents using tracking devices are difficult to answer. Tracking your child can also invoke a moral argument, more than a legal one. Every parent has a unique relationship with their child; therefore, it is difficult to know whether tracking a child is the right thing to do.

In general, a parent may legally track their child for wellbeing and safety reasons. However, tracking a child through their growth can affect their mental health whilst also being a breach of their private rights. [8] In a situation where an adolescent does not want to be tracked or watched-over, there may be a case for privacy breach under Article 16 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which states that "every child has the right to privacy- the law should protect the child's private, family, and home life". [9] With this legislation, the law may step into a situation where a parent is using tracking to an overbearing extent. Nevertheless, this has not had a major legal impact as of yet because it is hard for the law to stop a parent from wanting to watch over their child. Furthermore, it may be hard for the law to support any overriding reason as to why parents should be unable to watch-over their children. However, with the continuing rise in sales of spy equipment and growth in technology, this may eventually become an issue the law will have to answer.

It is clear that technological advancements are occurring faster than our legal system is prepared for, which has already led to tragic and unjust outcomes. The judicial system's awareness of technological growth needs to be heightened, especially as our society becomes progressively more technologically reliant.

Footnotes

[6] Melanie Vujkovic, 'More Parents Using GPS to track children but experts warn there could be consequences' *ABC News* (Sydney, 3 April 2019) https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-04-04/digitally-tracking-kids-more-parents-use-devices/10957906> accessed 16 December 2020.

[7]Lana M. Trick, 'Multiple-Object Tracking in Children: The "Catch the Spies" Task' (2005) 20 Cognitive Development 373.

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[9] Unicef UK, 'UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)' (Unicef UK, 2019) <www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/> accessed 19 November 2020.

How will Brexit affect both UK and EU climate policy and will this contribute to the on-going climate crisis?

Adam Flack/ 3rd Year/ LLB Law

'Take back control!' chanted the 'Brexiteers' in 2016, as the majority of citizens in the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union, expressing rage that the ruling political class had failed them. I ask, however, what use is national sovereignty when the world is in flames? The present is a time for the unification of efforts, not focusing on independent sovereignty. This article aims to express that even though Brexit provides an opportunity for both the European Union (EU) and the United Kingdom (UK) to be global climate innovators, this outcome seems unrealistic. This political movement has come at a time of climate crisis that may be devastating for our not-so-distant future generations.

UK Climate Policy

The UK gaining legislative sovereignty will require the transposition of EU law into our domestic jurisdiction by 1st January 2021.[1] On the face of the matter, it can be argued that there is little need for drastic changes to be made in domestic climate policy and environmental/energy legislation. This viewpoint is derived from the fact that the UK has always been a leader in fighting climate change. This argument is supported by the Climate Change Act 2008 which is more ambitious in relation to reducing global emissions than the targets set by the EU.[2] Also, the UK has maintained a carbon price higher than that of the EU Emissions Trading System and has been the first major economy to declare an elimination of coal-fired power stations by 2025.[3] However, with Brexit, what may occur is the eradication of 'red-tape' environmental regulatory burdens that the EU places on the UK which has the potential to significantly contribute to climate change.[4] Brexit will require the UK to have particularly high production rates, if it wishes to maintain trade deals with major economies across the globe, even with our European neighbours. With the aim of supporting businesses and economic growth as much as possible (such as supporting farmers opposed to EU pesticide regulations as they impose costs upon them),[5] I fear that these environmental regulatory burdens placed on the UK will be overlooked. Without Environmental Non-Governmental Organisations using EU environmental governance structures to hold the UK accountable for breaching environmental conduct[6], I am concerned that the UK's climate policy will prioritise economic success.

EU Climate Policy

There is not only unease about what domestic climate policy will look like after the withdrawal, but also what environmental standards the EU will possess without one of its major climate innovators. It has been identified by academics Cameron Hepburn and Alexander Teytelboym that there are three plausible outcomes for the EU climate policy over the next few years after the UK has withdrawn.[7]

Footnotes

- [1] European Union Withdrawl Act (EUWA) 2018 Sections 2 and 3.
- [2] Climate Change Act 2008 Sections 1, 2 and 3.
- [3] Department of Energy & Climate Change, 'Government announces plans to close coal power stations by 2025' UK.GOV (London, 18 November 2015) < www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-plans-to-close-coal-power-stations-by-2025> accessed 15 December 2020.
- [4] Charlotte Burns, Viviane Gravey, Andrew Jordan, Anthony Zito, 'De-Europeanising or disengaging? EU environmental policy and Brexit' [2019] 28 Environmental Politics 271.
- [5] Ibid.
- [6] Ibid
- [7] Cameron Hepburn & Alexander Teytelboym, 'Climate Change Policy after Brexit' [2017] 33 Oxford Rev Econ Policy 144.



Photo by News European Parliament

The first is that with the UK's emissions targets being much more ambitious than the EU's, weaker EU climate policies may arise. Secondly, the UK has, in the past, introduced climate policies that have been economically efficient, such as carbon pricing. Nevertheless, unless another member state introduces economically efficient climate policies, it is likely that, particularly for smaller economies in the EU, international 'appetite'[8] for climate action will fall. Finally, the UK has established ambitious climate targets, especially surrounding carbon pricing, and embedded them throughout the Commonwealth. It can be argued that without the UK as a member of the EU, the EU's international relations may fall through. As a result, there could be less global unification in the shared fight against climate change.[9]

Could Brexit be good for climate change?

As discussed, the legal and political shift does not look hopeful in relation to the fight against climate change. However, this step into the unknown does provide the EU and the UK with a chance to seize the opportunity to be global leaders in the environmental battle. There are a couple of potential ways in which Brexit may enable the EU and the UK to adapt their climate policy in a positive manner. First, this political and policy experiment of the UK could drive a competitive 'race to the top'[10] for the 'position of climate leader on the continent'.[11] Also, with the UK stepping down, other major economies have the chance to step up as climate leaders within the EU – such as Germany, by setting domestic energy targets for other member states.[12]

In conclusion, it is expected that Brexit could have a negative impact on climate change. Largely, this is due to expected changes in both the UK and the EU's climate policies that demonstrate submitting to economic pressure rather than preventing environmental harms. As an individual who will see the effects of this throughout my lifetime and knowing that my children will grow up in a completely different world, it frightens me that we are spending so many resources on separating ourselves when this is a time for unification.

Photo by Singularity Hub

Footnotes

[8] Ibid.

[9] Ibid.

[10] Alexandra-Maria Bosce, 'The UK's decision to leave the European Union (Brexit) and its impact on the EU as a climate change actor' [2019] 20 Climate Policy 265.

[11] Ibid.

[12] Ibid.



Farwa Ghazanavi/ 2nd Year/ LLB Law

Since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, Afghanistan has not seen peace.[1] Bloody historical ethnic conflict is still enshrined in the country today. With the destabilisation of the ongoing 'war on terror', as well as the never-ending peace talks with the Taliban - which usually result in violence - it alludes to the question of whether this war will ever truly end for the three generations of Afghans.

Historical ethnic conflict in Afghanistan was an integral component in numerous trade routes, such as the Silk Road, due to its geographical location in the heart of Asia.[2] Afghanistan has seen many great civilisations and empires pass through, leaving pieces of their rich culture behind. These cultures can be seen within the ethnic build-up of the country today. However, being a nation of multiple ethnic and cultural groups has led to immeasurable conflict in the country. Historically, the Hazaras, an ethnic minority group, have faced endless persecution.[3] In 1893 King Abdur Rahman Khan brutally murdered more than half of the Hazara population.[4] Such genocide explains why ethnic tensions exist and why developments in attaining peace are hindered.[5]

Footnotes

[1] The Editors Encyclopaedia Britannica, 'Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan' (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2020) <www.britannica.com/event/Soviet-invasion-of-Afghanistan> accessed 15 November 2020; The Associated Press, 'A Timeline of Key Events in Afghanistan's 40 Years of Wars' (Associated Press News, 2020) https://apnews.com/article/7011b5086a21f7f57c3cb218947742b2 accessed 15 November 2020.

[2] Bijan Omrani, 'Afghanistan And the Silk Road: The Land at The Heart of World Trade' By Bijan Omrani' (UNAMA, 2020)

https://unama.unmissions.org/afghanistan-and-silk-road-land-heart-world-trade-bijan-omrani accessed 15 November 2020.

[3] MRGI, 'Hazaras - Minority Rights Group' (Minority Rights Group, 2020) https://minorityrights.org/minorities/hazaras/ accessed 15 November 2020.

[4] Ibid.

[5] Ibid.

The War on terror

The War on Terror'[6] was first established after the atrocity of 9/11 which left 2,977 people dead. It refers to a global campaign, led by the US, in combating terrorism.[7] This urged the Taliban to retreat in 2001 and also saw the passing of the United Nations (UN) Security Council's Resolution 1378.[8] The passing of the resolution indicated that the UN had a key responsibility in constructing a new administration whilst encouraging stability and determining what aid would be beneficial. However, the war on terror produces devastating consequences that are frequently ignored, such as the thousands of civilian deaths in Afghanistan and the mass fleeing of Afghan refugees to "safe" neighbouring countries. It was recorded that 2.1 million Afghans had fled the country while 3.2 million were displaced internally after the launch of the war on terror.[9] With 2.5 million refugees currently registered and 2.99 million internally displaced persons, this issue appears constant and never-ending.[10] This showcases how the war on terror has led to the destabilisation of Afghanistan, as well as the resurgence of the Taliban and other terrorist groups causing more conflict. Arguably, the war on terror is plagued by its failures rather than its successes, as it has produced unprecedented destabilisation.

Progress made

In spite of all, Afghanistan has seen huge cultural progression, resulting in the spark of a new era centred around educational expansion and rights for women. Under Taliban rule, basic rights such as education and freedom, especially for girls and women, were non-existent and warranted a death sentence. However, with the aid of UNICEF and other Non-governmental organisations (NGOs), 40% of school-aged girls currently attend school.[11] Even though this is a small percentage and it demonstrates that the majority of school-aged girls still do not attend school, it is a step in the right direction. Overall, the Afghan literacy rate has increased to 43% in 2018 from 31% in 2010 and 18% in 1979 (Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan), highlighting the huge advancement in education over the years.[12] In 2018, 417 of the 2,565 candidates for parliament were women.[13] This highlights growth in the country with regards to rights for women and creates hope for additional positive changes within the law. Despite these developments, underlying cultural and social norms still suppress the rate of advancement. The nation wide presence of the Taliban and their ideals against female emancipation is one such example of the suppression.

Photo by Aljazeera

Footnotes

- [6] The Editors Encyclopaedia Britannica, 'War on Terrorism' (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2020) <www.britannica.com/topic/war-on-terrorism> accessed 15 November 2020.
- [7] CFR, 'A Timeline of The U.S. War In Afghanistan' (Council on Foreign Relations, 2020) <www.cfr.org/timeline/us-war-afghanistan> accessed 15 November 2020.
- [8] UNSC Res S/RES/1378 (14 November 2001) The Situation of Afghanistan
- [9] David Vine et al, 'Costs Of War' (Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs 2020)
- [10] UNHCR, 'Afghanistan' (UNHCR, 2020) <www.unhcr.org/uk/afghanistan.html> accessed 15 November 2020.
- [11] UNICEF, 'Education' (UNICEF, 2020) <www.unicef.org/afghanistan/education> accessed 15 November 2020.
- [12] The World Bank, 'Literacy Rate, Adult Total (% Of People Ages 15 And Above) Afghanistan | Data' (Data.worldbank.org, 2020) https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.ADT.LITR.ZS?locations=AF accessed 15 November 2020.
- [13] 'Historic Number Of Women Running For Afghan Parliament. Feminist Majority Foundation' (Feminist Majority Foundation, 2020)
- https://feminist.org/news/historic-number-of-women-running-for-afghan-parliament/> accessed 15 November 2020.

Current Affairs

Historic peace talks with the Taliban have been underway to attain a peace deal that could finally stop the violence that has plagued this nation. [14] However, terrorist attacks have increased causing civilian deaths to skyrocket. [15] At a targeted gun attack at the University of Kabul on the 2nd November 2020, 22 lives were claimed. [16] Additionally, two journalists were killed in targeted bomb attacks, [17] reflecting an ambush on access to education and the freedom of expression. How can such peace talks be successful when after daily peace meetings between the Taliban and the Afghan government, basic human rights such as the right to education and the freedom of expression are attacked?

The Future of Afghanistan

Even though huge steps have been taken in the direction of Human Rights, such as the development of rights for children and women, and despite upcoming peace talks with the Taliban, an imminent end to the war seems unrealistic. The bloodshed paints the roads red in Afghanistan and will continue to do so even if a peace deal is made, as seen in light of the Taliban's recent violent attacks. Such acts suggest a ceasefire is not in their future plans. [18]The younger generations have seen a glimpse of a future with freedom and what Afghanistan could look like without war, and are hopeful that, with increased levels of education and a push for social change, peace is possible. However, just like the Afghan roads which turn from concrete to dirt unexpectedly, Afghanistan's path into the future seems unclear.



Photo by Affinity



Photo by Lindsay Maizland and Zachary Laub

Footnotes

- [14] 'Historic Afghan Peace Talks Fraught with Uncertainty' (AP NEWS, 2020) https://apnews.com/article/afghanistan-qatar-elections-zalmay-khalilzad-taliban-7508dc10c3f389d2bdbfb7602c30bb1f accessed 15 November 2020.
- [15] 'UN: Afghan Peace Talks Fail to Halt Civilian Casualties' (Aa.com.tr, 2020) https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/un-afghan-peace-talks-fail-to-halt-civilian-casualties/2020904 accessed 18 November 2020.
- [16] "Act of Terror': At Least 22 Killed in Kabul University Attack' (Aljazeera.com, 2020) https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/11/2/gunshots-fired-inside-kabul-university-officials accessed 15 November 2020.
- [17] 'Explosion Kills Former Afghan TV Presenter in Capital' (AP NEWS, 2020) https://apnews.com/article/afghanistan-qatar-media-kabul-taliban-f17c1b2bd9a75a7cd60623ca9e214d51> accessed 18 November 2020. [18] ibid (n 9).

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Monday 2 November 2020

Alibi Busting Workshop

Wednesday 4 November 2020

How to land a pupillage

Monday 9 November 2020

Advocacy Taster Workshop

Wednesday 11 November 2020

What does the SQE mean for me?

Monday 16 November 2020

What the heck is legal tech?

Monday 23 November 2020

Client Interviewing Skills

Wednesday 25 November 2020

Want to be sure you're right for the law?

Monday 30 November 2020

December

How to prepare for a Virtual Vac Scheme

Monday 7 December 2020

Law Conversion Taster Workshop

Thursday 10 December 2020

How to fund your legal training

Monday 14 December 2020



02

Royal Holloway Law Society President's Note

As President of the Law Society I will make every effort to support law students and work hard to ensure the delivery of regular training sessions in these challenging times. This year will be different for all of us, having to change the way we interact during the global pandemic but we are here to support and welcome you at Royal Holloway in a socially distant manner. As a final year student of Law LLB, I recognise the importance of the society on campus, especially to help our newer members transition during this period and adjust to the changes to interactions along with settling in at university.



Whilst most of our events will be held online, our goal of helping you take one step closer to achieving your goals remains as consistent as ever. For example, our first guest speaker will be presenting the variety of career paths available to you. You will have the chance to ask questions that may help you to decide which career route is best for you whether it be a solicitor, barrister or an in-house lawyer.

The Law Society has planned activities that will take place on daily basis that will help you gain professional skills essential for the legal sector. These include mooting, negotiations, client interviewing and mock court trials. We complete the training sessions for this skills within the first few weeks of term, ending with a peer feedback scheme that allows us to reflect on what we have learnt. Participating in these events lead to exciting internal and external competitions.

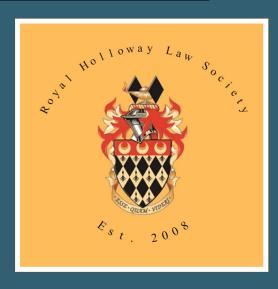
This year we have a careers representative in our committee, this will help you improve your CV and applications when applying jobs, work placements or further studies. We will also be taking part in Law Week this November, arranged by the Royal Holloway Careers Department where you have chance to meet representatives from top industry firms and academic institutions, these includes BPP University and University of law.

As law students we need a social life to destress from our studies and I will be making every effort to ensure we do not forget to enjoy our time at university! Our social events will be online as per the Student Union and the UK Government guidelines, however, if these regulations are to be changed moving forward, we will have plans in place to provide a packed social calendar. Please keep an eye on our social media pages for all the latest events and updates, I will be sending updated schedules regularly to keep you informed on our events.

I am looking forward to a great year and seeing you all soon.

Yours Sincerely,

Muhammad Aftab



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Instagram: elaw.rhul

Linkedin: https://www.linkedin.com/company/rhul-lawsociety/

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V: D	Friday	Thursday	Wednesday	Tuesday	Monday	Week (Autumn Term 2020)
Vice Presi						28th Sept
Mock Court (Harry Appl	Client Interviewing Training: 5:15pm-6:30	Mock Court Trial : 5:15pm- 6:30pm	Mooting: 5:15pm-6:30pm	Negotiation Training session : 6:15pm- 7:30pm BPP Virtual Open Evening-Law Conversion Course (PDGL) LLM Law and Legal Practice : 6:00pm- 7:00pm		5th Oct
Sec				7.000111		
Courtney Leigh Ha	Client Interviewing: 5:15pm-6:30pm	Mock Court : 5:15pm- 6:30pm BPP National Law Fair : 3:00pm-7:00pm	Mooting: 5:15pm-6:30pm	LPC/SQE	Negotiation Training session: 5:15pm- 6:30pm BPP- How to land a training contract: 6:00pm-7:00pm	12th Oct
Finance D Juli	Client Interviewing: 5:15pm-6:30pm	Mock Court : 5:15pm- 6:30pm		Negotiation Training session: 6:15pm-7:30pm BPP Virtual Open Evening - Barrister Training Course (BTC) LLM Legal Practice (Bar): 6:00pm-7:00pm	BPP-"What type of solictor do you want to be?": 6:00pm-7:00pm	19th Oct
Career Represe Olivi	Mediation Competitio 5:15pm-6:30pm	Mediation Training Session : 5:15pm-6:30pm	Mooting Practice session 5:15pm-6:30pm	Negotiation practice session : 6:15pm-7:30pm BPP Virtual Open Evening – Legal Practice Course (LPC) LLM Legal Practice (Solicitors) : 6:00pm-7:00pm	BPP- "What type of Barrister do you want to be?" : 6:00pm-7:00pm	26th Oct
Social Sec			BPP – Alibi Busting Workshop : 6:00pm-7:00pm	BPP Virtual Open Evening – Law Conversion Course (PDGL) LLM Law and Legal Practice : 6:00pm-7:00pm	BPP- "Beyond the law firm: alternative legal careers" : 6:00pm-7:00pm	2nd Nov (Reading Week)
Megan V		Client interviewing: 5:15pm- 6:30pm BPP Reginal Law Fair (London and the South): 3:00pm-7:00pm	BPP Reginal Law Fair (North of England) 3pm-7pm Mooting 5:15pm-6:30pm BPP – Advocacy Taster	Negotiation practice session : 6:15pm-7:30pm	BPP Reginal Law Fair (Midlands, South West and East of England) : 3:00pm-7:00pm BPP- "How to land a pupillage" : 6:00pm-7:00pm	9th Nov
Negotiation (BPP National Pupillage Fair:	Workshop 6pm-7pm Client Interviewing Competition	BPP Virtual Open Evening- Barrister Training Course (BTC) LLM Legal	BPP- "What does the SQE mean for	16th Nov (Law Week)
Megan Fried		3:00pm-7:00pm	6:00pm-7:00pm	Practice (Bar) : 6:00pm-7:00pm	me?": 6:00pm-7:00pm	
Mooting			Mooting: 5:15pm-6:30pm BPP- Client Interviewing Skills 6:00pm-7:00pm	Negotiations : 6:15pm-7:30pm BPP Virtual Open Evening-Legal Practice Course (LPC) LLM Legal Practice (Solicitors) : 6:00pm-7:00pm	BPP- "What the heck is legal tech?": 6:00pm-7:00pm	23rd Nov
Willian Client Interviewing				Negotiation Competition : 6:15pm- 7:30pm BPP Virtual Open Evening- Law Conversion Course (PDGL) LLM Law and Legal Practice : 6:00pm-7:00pm	BPP- "Want to be sure you're right for the law?" 6:00pm-7:00pm	30th Nov
Adriana F		BPP- Law conversion Taster Workshop : 6:00pm-7:00pm	BPP National Law Fair : 3:00pm-7:00pm	Mooting : 5:15pm-6:30pm	BPP- "How to prepare for a Virtual Vac Scheme": 6:00pm-7:00pm	7th Dec
				BPP Virtual Open Evening- Legal Practice Course (LPC) LLM Legal Practice (Solicitors) 6:00pm-7:00pm	BPP- "How to fund your legal training": 6:00pm-7:00pm	14th Dec (Winter Holiday)

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Commercial Awareness Society President's Note

It is an honour to be President of CAS for this academic year! My role this year is to provide you with an array of career-focused events as well as access to sought after resources that can help you in your journey to vacation schemes, training contracts and so on.



Commercial Awareness is possibly the most sought-after skill by recruiters in the legal and financial industry. But what exactly is commercial awareness? Although many people believe it refers to keeping up to date with financial news stories, it is much more than that. In a nutshell, commercial awareness is all about having an in-depth understanding of the market each organisation operates in. This refers to understanding the macro-economic trends that impact many industries around us and the possible opportunities that they can create. To impress potential employers, you must invest in developing your commercial awareness by showing an active interest in business affairs. However, that's not all, with any financial matter comes economic language that is often not taught. This is where commercial awareness plays a role.

At CAS, our aim is to create a holistic method of educating our members regarding all things commercial. This will be done by not limiting our content to only commercial awareness but also encompassing areas such as the complex application process that includes tests and interviews. We will do this through academic events such as workshops, business case studies and panel discussions. We will also be launching our flagship financial newsletter 'ANALYTICA' which will be an exclusive resource reserved only for our members. This will ensure our members keep up to date with complex financial stories around the world.

For further enquiries or if you just want to keep updated on our latest events, follow us on Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn.

We look forward to meeting all of you!



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Work Experience

'I wanted to pursue my interest in 🔍 property law so I worked within a familial company called 21st Century where I worked on the different legal aspects of building and developing land."

Hadjan Shad, 3rd Year LLB Law

I worked with the investment, tax and compliance teams in order to provide the clients with the best possible returns on their investments while ensuring that they are not exposed to unnecessary risk. All whilst obeying tax laws in whichever jurisdiction they live and work."

Olaf Gaanderse, 3rd Year LLB Law

Services in Winchester, I sat in the department of Commercial Contracts and Property. Tasks completed included; drafting contract amendments, specifically to align with GDPR requirements, locating property information from deed bundles as well as registering land."

Grace Dipper, 3rd Year LLB Law

"During a two-week internship at **Hampshire County Council Legal**

worked as head of communications for the hub for Students Against Corona. It was my job to communicate to the local and wider community to deliver prescriptions and groceries. The model we used was then used to recreate more hubs around the world including Canada, America, India and Africa."

> Leia Paxton, 3rd Year, BSc Criminology & Sociology



A GUIDE TO YOUR FIRST YEAR



Welcome to Royal Holloway – you made the right choice! You have a very exciting year ahead of you, and it's up to you to make the most of it. There are so many activities to get involved in within the Law and Criminology Department and the university as a whole, so you won't be short of new things to experience.

1

check your emails and meet with your personal tutor regularly and study/organise independently, stay proactive!

https://intranet.royalholloway.ac.uk/stude
nts/help-support/find-out-aboutinternational-studentsupport/international-student-supportoffice.aspx

2

make friends on your course so you know when your deadlines are and have people to revise with

https://intranet.royalholloway.ac.uk/stude nts/help-support/gp-surgery/home.aspx

3

make sure you contact your lecturers when you are feeling unsure of something or need more information regarding a deadline

https://intranet.royalholloway.ac.uk/stu dents/helpsupport/counselling/home.aspx

4

Get involved with something extra curricular like a sports club or society!

https://intranet.royalholloway.ac.uk/student s/help-support/wellbeing/studentwellbeing.aspx





BPP's Careers Service has been brilliant with my pupillage applications and has definitely helped me get to where I am now.

At the careers events you can speak to different firms and chambers. You're making those networking connections that are so important when you later go for interviews.

Niamh Ingham Pupil Barrister



*BPTC graduates commencing pupillage between 2013-2017, aggregated. Source: BPTC Key Statistics, Bar Standards Board, 2019.

12 Wisit bpp.com/courses/law

December

Baker Mckenzie
Savas & Savage Solicitors Limited
Herbert Smith Freehills LLP
Gowling WLG (UK) LLP
Linklaters LLP
Slaughter and May
Bird & Bird
Dechert LLP
Mishcon de Reya LLP
Reed Smith

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

Dentons

lst December 2020 lst December 2020 4th December 2020 10th December 2020 10th December 2020 11th December 2020 13th December 2020 31st December 2020 31st December 2020

January

Latham & Watkins Kirkland & Ellis International LLP **CMS** Addleshaw Goddard Burges Salmon LLP Ashurst LLP Jones Day Watson Farley & Williams LLP **BLM** TLT LLP White & Case LLP Horwich Farrelly Blandy & Blandy LLP Charles Russel Speechlys LLP Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP **HFW** Macfarlanes LLP Hugh James Mayer Brown International LLP Parker Bullen LLP Sidely Austin LLP Withers LLP

3rd January 2021 3rd January 2021 3rd January 2021 3rd January 2021 4th January 2021 5th January 2021 7th January 2021 8th January 2021 8th January 2021 8th January 2021 10th January 2021 10th January 2021 15th January 2021 24th January 2021 31st January 2021 1st February 2021 14th February 2021

February

Simmons & Simmons LLP Russell-Cooke Kingsley Napley LLP Mills & Co. Solicitors Limited Womble Bond Dickinson

March

Moorse Barlow LLP Leathers Prior Ashtons Legal Stephens Scown

Wilkin Chapman LLP

Lee Bolton-Williams

Baines Wilson LLP

1st March 2021 15th March 2021

27th March 2021 29th March 2021

15th February 2021

21st February 2021

28th February 2021

28th February 2021

28th February 2021



January

Falcon Chambers
Park Square Barristers
Carmelite Chambers
QEB Hollis Whiteman
New Square Chambers
Dere Street Barristers

8th January 2021 10th January 2021 14th January 2021 20th January 2021 24th January 2021 31st January 2021

February

Crown Office Chambers
Pump Court Tax Chambers
Pallant Chambers
Queen Square Chambers
St John's Chambers
1 Hare Court
King's Chambers
Matrix Chambers
9 Gough Square
Five Paper
Lamb Building
1 Chancery Lane
Crown Office Row Chambers

lst February 2021
3rd February 2021
5th February 2021
5th February 2021
7th February 2021
7th February 2021
7th February 2021
10th February 2021
15th February 2021
17th February 2021
28th February 2021
28th February 2021

March

7 Harrington Street Chambers

26th March 2021

May

Regency Barristers Chambers

13th May 2021

July

Government Legal Profession

31st July 2021

FOIVI MOUZAKITI

Department of Law and Criminology
Crime and Punishment

What is your role within the university?

So, I'm a lecturer in the Law part of the Department and I teach both Tort and EU law; for Tort I'm the module convenor. In so far as my administrative responsibilities are concerned I'm obviously the academic liaison for the Gazette - to my delight - and I'm also responsible for postgraduate research students, so I organise seminars and workshops for them as part of their doctoral studies.

What made you choose academia?

That's a tough question! Every time I'm asked about it I always go back to the same point in time. When I was a first year ny very to academia and I re

law student, in my very first lecture, the lecturer came in and he started giving his lecture, I don't even remember what it was about, but I thought 'what an incredible job that is! I wish I could do that job one day'. It entered my mind and I never let it go. I practiced for a while, I practiced as a trainee. I trained as a lawyer and I qualified as a lawyer but, while practicing, kept applying for PhD positions throughout, all the time, because obviously that's the avenue to teaching. So, for me, teaching was what attracted me most

to academia and I really think that being able to be around young people as part of your work, all of the time, is really a blessing. For me, it was most about the teaching, I have to admit, rather than the research – its more often the other way around, but for me it was all about teaching.

What would you say is your favourite aspect of the law?

If I had to choose, I would say that the aspect that attracts me most is constitutional law, especially human rights. I have always been interested in the role of human rights as a

constraint to government power, especially in the context of the criminal justice system. If you look at it from a different perspective, I am also extremely interested in how human rights themselves have come, in our times, under increasing pressure by the adoption of legal measures that aim to guarantee our security, especially in the post 9/11 world. It has been very interesting to see how both the Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights have imposed legal limits on mass surveillance of individuals by the state in a series of constitutional cases that we have witnessed in the past couple of years. It has been, from this perspective, very interesting times for human rights and their role in constricting government power.

Even now, what was it? 2 weeks ago? The Court of Justice in the Privacy International case ruled that national measures that pertain to the surveillance of populations need to respect the rule of law and human rights. I think that's what interests me most and I think that looking at judicial interventions, such as these, are not only hopeful from a human rights perspective, but also extremely important for restoring the trust between individuals and the state. So, it has been this relationship, and the role of human rights in this relationship, that has always attracted me most as far as the law is concerned.

What areas of research do you specialise in?

I literally just finished my PhD, so for the past four years I have been doing research into the human rights implications of legal responses to

financial crime - so there you have the human rights aspect again. To be more precise, I am looking into the European Union's antimoney laundering legislation and what the impact is on the right to privacy and data protection. As part of anti-money laundering controls, all banks and financial institutions monitor financial transactions. If a transaction is considered suspicious, it is flagged as suspicious and they file a report with the national authorities known as Financial Intelligence Units. So, that's where my research comes in. I wanted to know about how Financial Intelligence Units process, store and exchange data between them and how this affects the right to privacy and data protection. It was actually very interesting because I was able to go to Financial Intelligence



Photo by Pinterest

Units in various states - I was in the UK, Greece and Luxemburg - and interviewed the police officers and financial crime analysts who work there. I was able to learn how they work from the inside, which was an invaluable experience to me, but it also opened my eyes to the fact that privacy and data protection are under increasing pressure as a result the surveillance of financial transactions.

What is something your students wouldn't necessarily know?

Something that my students wouldn't necessarily know? I mean I think most of them know that I have two terriers because I talk about them a lot and also teaching during COVID last year meant they had to see them and listen to them most of the time.



Photo by Foivi Mouzakiti

What else? I started learning classical ballet last year, which I think is quiet funny for a law lecturer and I think I also look very funny while trying to do that through online classes in my kitchen. So I think that's about it, nothing much more exciting than that.



Photo by Unsplash

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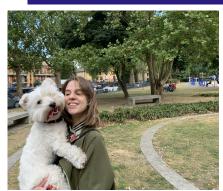


Photo by Foivi Mouzakiti

What tips would you give someone approaching this course?

That's a very good question. Obviously I think you're very privileged to be able to study law in such a research intensive environment. To take the most out of such an intense course, you have to do the reading and one of the things I tell my students all of the time is to please try and dedicate some of your time - I know you don't have much - to read some of the cases in full. I think that's extremely important; learning the case first-hand and not reading somebody else's account. I also think I would tell students to take advantage of all the help that is there for them.

Seek out your lecturers, ask them questions. Seek out all the other facilities within your institution, make the most of it because you are extremely lucky to have all this for the duration of your studies. What I also see is that students sometimes place a lot of pressure on themselves and a law degree is demanding so I would absolutely say that your mental and your physical health should be your absolute priority. Yes, you have to study a lot, but you have to avoid a burnout at all costs. You have to be kind to yourself during the duration of your studies. Study as much as you can, there'll come a time where you miss those years during law school where you're able to just study but be kind to yourselves, take care of yourselves.



Photo by VGS family lawyers



Photo by Gettyimages

In follow up to your favourite aspect of the law, what is your least favourite aspect of the law?

My least favourite aspect of the law...that's a tough one. I have to go back to my student years to answer this. I have to say, my least favourite aspect was civil and criminal procedure. I come from a civil law jurisdiction, I didn't study in the UK, so it's all codified and I found that always increasingly technical and complex and dry. I remember, through all my years, that's the one thing I never got around to enjoying.

What is the most notable thing you're working on right now?

At the moment, as I mentioned earlier I just finished my doctorate degree, but I am still in the field of financial crime. I am doing some research on how financial technology companies - from cryptocurrency platforms to challenger banks - are managing financial crime risks. So this is focused on the risk of fraud because the risk of fraud is prevalent in this area, but also financial crime in general. That's an interesting piece of research; I don't know where its going to go but it has been interesting to learn about all these new financial technologies and cryptocurrencies.



"I see you" project

Student Volunteers write articles and produce legal information on the racial inequalities that may appear within our

justice system. This project is in support of

the Black Lives Matter Movement. Students

are supported by the Director of our Legal

Advice Centre, Nicola Antoniou, Red Lion

Chambers and Legal Lifelines, as well as

mentored by Senior Lecturer, Dr Rita

D'Alton Harrison.

https://www.redlionchambers.co.uk/

https://legallifelines.co.uk/member/micha

el-herford/

LEGAL ADVICE CENTRE

Current Projects

University of London Refugee Law Clinic

Working in collaboration with 10 other institutions that are part of the University of London (UoL), students from Royal Holloway will assist the Refugee Law Clinic, which provides pro bono legal advice for refugee clients.https://rli.sas.ac.uk/refugee-law-clinic Dr Simon Behrman (Lecturer within the Department of Law and Criminology), and Nicola Antoniou (Director of the Legal Advice Centre/Senior Lecturer) co-ordinate the recruitment of Royal Holloway students for this collaboration.

0. "

Nicola Antoniou: Director / Supervising Solicitor (set up the Legal AdviceCentre at Royal Holloway, which opened to the public in January 2020).

Mr Greg Smith: Legal Assistant (joined Ms Antoniou in January 2020 and has been an invaluable addition to the Legal Advice Centre).

Staff

COVID-19 Research: The impact of vulnerable people

Royal Holloway, University of London and the Afghanistan and Central Asian Association (ACAA) are collaborating on a research project to examine the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable people within the Afghan community. This project is being led by the Director of our Legal Advice Centre, Nicola Antoniou, University of London Refugee Law Clinic Professor Jill Marshall (specialist in international human rights law), Dr Alexander Gilder (specialising in public international law), and Ms Rabia Nasimi (Strategic Development

Manager at the award winning

Charity, Afghanistan and Central

Asian Association).

Student Session Dates

HMP Coldingley Law

Clinic

(Remote family law clinic)

In partnership with

Creighton and Partners

Solicitors, we provide free

legal advice to prisoners at

HMP Coldingley on family

law matters. These sessions

run remotely.

All sessions will take place remotely (via telephone or video call), until further notice.

Wednesdays, 1.30pm - 3.30pm
Wednesday 7 October 2020
Wednesday 14 October 2020
Wednesday 21 October 2020
Wednesday 28 October 2020
Wednesday 4 November 2020
Wednesday 11 November 2020
Wednesday 18 November 2020
Wednesday 25 November 2020
Wednesday 2 December 2020

9 December 2020 - 6 January
2021: Closed for winter

vacation period and summer

examination.



Photo by Edge Hill University

Partnership with Citizen's Advice (Runnymede & Spelthorne)

Our Student Advisers interview clients referred by Citizens Advice on a wide range of Legal topics, including Family, Benefits, Housing and Contract / Consumer Law.

Need to contact the legal advice centre?

Nicola Antoniou - nicola.antoniou@rhul.ac.uk

Remi Gruszka (remi.gruszka.lac@rhul.ac.uk) – Student IT Manager, responsible for several innovations within IT systems and general set-up.

I have two roles within the legal advice centre: student advisor and IT Service Manager for the Legal Advice Centre. My role is not only to support the students with IT and provide a liaison between the Legal Advice Centre and the IT Service Desk, but also to make sure that the Legal Advice Centre is a hub for IT excellence and innovation. Unknowing to some, we are actually bigger than some law firms, with over 40 people working for us! With the addition to the resources that we have from the college we are looking to be the best when it comes to IT usage, IT Security and Compliance, as well as creating new solutions! I came into this role naturally since I am involved with the IT team at Royal Holloway; therefore, it was easy for me to adapt into this role. As a student and as a student advisor I would STRONGLY recommend any students who are thinking about joining the legal advice centre to do so! It really gives students a feel into what being a solicitor is like, with not just problem questions like they have during their teaching but real live cases that they can work on, cases that can have an impact on the lives of the people that they are helping with real cases and gaining real experience.

Matthew Woo (matthew.woo.lac@rhul.ac.uk) – I See You Project, focusing on Stop & Search Laws

I am the co-ordinator of the Street Law Clinic as well as a student legal adviser. I am now leading a project called 'I See You', which aims to increase the legal awareness of the adolescents. The main reason for choosing the Legal Advice Centre was that this initiative allows me to use my professional skills to let more disadvantaged people get access to justice by through assistance from students. I will definitely recommend the Legal Advice Centre to the incoming students as this opportunity not only can enrich your legal knowledge, but you can also use the skills gained to offer pro-bono service to your fellow classmates.

Adriana Futejova (adriana.futejova.lac@rhul.ac.uk) – I See You Project, focusing on Black Lives Matter Legal Articles

Careers

LAW WEEK
PART TIME JOBS FESTIVAL
LANGUAGES WEEK
MUSEUMS, GALLERIES AND HERITAGE WEEK
MARKETING, PR AND COMMUNICATIONS
MEDIA WEEK

W/C 16TH NOVEMBER 2020 W/C 18TH JANUARY 2021 W/C 25TH JANUARY 2021 W/C 5TH FEBRUARY 2021 W/C 8TH FEBRUARY 2021 W/C 22ND FEBRUARY 2021

SKILLS FOR THE WORKPLACE:

EXCEL PART 1 WITH FDM 1ST DECEMBER, 12:30-2PM EXCEL PART 2 WITH FDM 3RD DECEMBER 12:30-2PM

LISTEN TO CAREER RECORDED WORKSHOPS- HTTPS://INTRANET.ROYALHOLLOWAY.AC.UK/STUDENTS/JOBS-CAREERS/CAREERS-SERVICE-ONLINE/ONLINE-WORKSHOPS-AND-WEBINARS.ASPX

Career Essentials workshops

These workshops are delivered by our team of Careers Consultants and cover the most popular topics requested by students. If you still have questions after watching a session, simply click on the name of the Careers Consultant below to book an appointment.

- · Career Essentials: Internships and work experience in 2020 delivered by Louise Ogle
- · Career Essentials: Your graduate job hunt, delivered by Louise Ogle
- · Career Essentials: Interviews, delivered by Ed McLean
- Career Essentials: Getting started with LinkedIn, delivered by Doreen Thompson-Addo
- Career Essentials: Using LinkedIn to find a job, delivered by Doreen Thompson-Addo
- Career Essentials: What to do if you don't know what to do, delivered by Gemma Seabrook
- · Career Essentials: Considering Further Study? delivered by Louise Ogle
- Career Essentials: Getting started with your Side Hustle delivered by Doreen Thompson-Addo
- · Career Essentials: CV Workshop delivered by Ed McLean
- Career Essentials: Cover Letters delivered by Ed McLean
- · Career Essentials: How to build a strong online network, delivered by Siobhan Swindells
- Career Essentials: How to Leverage Your Online Networks, delivered by Siobhan Swindells
- Career Essentials: LinkedIn Hacks Recruiters use to Hire Candidates, delivered by Doreen Thompson-Addo
- Career Essentials: Writing Applications for Unadvertised Jobs or Internships, delivered by Simon Mantell
- Career Essentials: Writing a great application for further study, delivered by Jo Edmondson

Next Steps workshops

Our Next Steps series are primarily targeted at finalists and recent graduates, but are useful for anyone.

- Next Steps: Finding Work in the Current Job Market, delivered by Gemma Seabrook
- Next Steps: What to do if you don't know what to do, delivered by Gemma Seabrook

Alumni Career Stories

You can listen to our alumni talking about their experiences of job hunting and hear their top tips.

- Sian Toogood, Classics department graduate, talks about job hunting
- Hamza Changazi, Management department graduate, talks about job hunting

We hope you enjoyed reading this issue!

For any further queries, suggestions or questions please don't hesitate to contact the editorial team at:

lawgazette.rhul@gmail.com

Opportunities for submitting content to the next issue will be announced via email soon. We hope you enjoyed reading this one!

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MAGNA CARTA

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ROYAL HOLLOWAY LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY GAZETTE

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