

## 2018 Year in Review

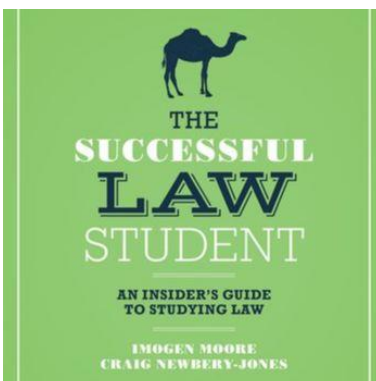
2018 was a year of change for the Law School as we [celebrated the achievements of Professor Joanne Conaghan](#), who stepped down as Head of School in July, and [welcomed Professor Ken Oliphant](#) as her successor. Under Professor Conaghan's leadership the School grew in both size and reputation for its world-leading expertise across the discipline – improving its profile both internally and externally. Professor Oliphant's plans to take us into a new era have already seen the creation of a new research centre for law at work, the introduction of innovative new courses and preparations to make sure our research excellence is reflected in the 2021 Research Excellence Framework. This review showcases this year's achievements in deepening the student experience, enriching the curriculum and influencing the political and legal landscape. It also provides a flavour of what's to come.

### Rankings



In June the Law school leapt from 37<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> (8<sup>th</sup> in England and Wales) in [the Guardian University league tables](#). In the same month a study by the Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS) ranked Bristol 6<sup>th</sup> [most impactful institution to study law in terms of higher law graduate earnings](#). In the recently released [THE World Rankings for Law](#), we slipped a little bit but remain in the top 60.

### Employability



To kick start this academic year, the School welcomed [Jo Cooksley as our first Law School Employability Advisor](#). The [2019 Law School Employability brochure](#) was launched, outlining the range of support we provide students in developing their careers - and a book co-written by our Education Director [Imogen Moore](#), '[The Successful Law Student: An Insider's Guide to Studying Law](#)', was published to give students across the country top tips on legal study.



**2017/18 saw our Law Clinic students winning awards for their pro-bono activities**, securing the accolade of Team of the Year for their Litigant in Person (LiP) service project, a service that was the focus of [a BBC Inside Out West feature](#), in which **Director John Peake** was interviewed. The [Human Rights Law Clinic](#) also continued to offer students opportunities to work with international, regional and national organisations engaged in the promotion and protection of human rights law.

## Diversity and Black History Month

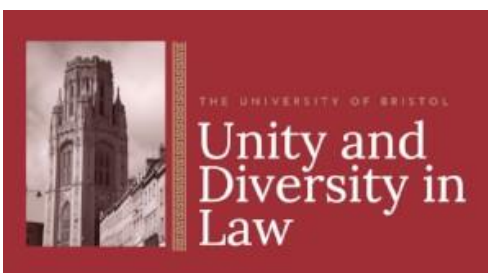


**For Black History Month, we're putting the spotlight on Dr Foluke Adebisi.** Foluke kicked off the year with an [interview with Ujima radio](#) discussing equality in the context of Vote100. This was followed by [an ICONS award](#) for her 'Formidable Dedication and Innovative Pursuits for Africa' and the launch of the first [Forever Africa Conference](#) event (FACE) which explored what's needed to strengthen Pan-African links within the University and Beyond.



**Foluke also featured in [the Bristol BME Power List](#)**, and alongside **Dr Yvette Russell** has introduced a new unit in [Law and Race](#), underlining our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusivity.

The vision moving forwards is to encourage more BME students to study law here – a mission helped by a good number of supportive students, many of whom helped organise FACE (photo) and were featured in the recent [Power List](#).



**We should also mention the [Unity and Diversity in Law event](#)**, organised by final year student Prekshi Gulia and pals, a great student-led initiative.

## Research and Reputation



As the issue of **Automated Facial Recognition** continued to stir up public debate, a white paper commissioned by CloudView saw **Prof Andrew Charlesworth** [call for an independent review of how the UK implements CCTV analytics technology](#). Meanwhile, in a co-authored [Nuffield Foundation briefing paper on divorce settlements](#), **Dr Emma Hitchings** [refuted widespread anecdotal depictions of women as lifelong 'alimony drones'](#).



**Dr Michael Naughton** submitted evidence to a Ministry of Justice inquiry into whether there is a continuing need for the [Criminal Cases Review Commission](#). **Prof Steven Greer** and **Dr Lindsey Bell** also took to the public stage, contributing to a [parliamentary inquiry into Freedom of Speech in Universities and the counter-terrorist Prevent duty](#).



**Prof Alan Bogg** [gave a lecture to judges of the Employment Appeal Tribunal](#) at their annual training day and **Prof John Coggon**, Co-Director of the Centre for Health, Law, and Society, was one of 5 speakers in an event - framed as [The X Factor for Evidence for the Public's Health](#) - hosted by the Health Foundation. And, **Prof Joanne Conaghan** was given the honour [chairing the Law](#) sub-paneling the forthcoming REF.



2018 also saw funding success for **Prof Judy Laing** and **Dr Sheelagh McGuiness**, who, with colleagues from the Bristol Medical School, secured [£1.5m from the Wellcome Trust](#) for a study to investigate what the 'best interests' are of patients who lack mental capacity. Likewise for **Prof Tonia Novitz**, who [secured £78k from the Swedish Research Council](#) for a project focussing on Swedish and EU labour laws and their alienating effects akin to those felt in the UK.



## On the issue of Brexit ...



From [‘The West Decides’](#) way back in April 2016, Prof Phil Syrpis has been involved in many debates around Brexit. In his 2018 [inaugural lecture](#) ‘And then there was Brexit’ he reflects on the challenges and opportunities for legal academics. Alongside local business leaders, Phil was a panellist in the first Bristol City Region Brexit Assembly which asked [‘What does Brexit mean for Bristol?’](#)



[Evidence submitted by Dr Albert Sanchez-Graells](#) was cited in a [House of Commons report](#) considered by the European Scrutiny Committee, in a section entitled ‘Brexit implications for UK-EU procurement’. Evidence submitted by Prof Eirik Bjorge entitled ‘Treaties, Brexit, and the Constitution’ was also cited in a [House of Commons report](#).



Focusing on the rights of individuals, Peter Dunne co-authored a [report](#), commissioned by and featured in an [article](#) in [Gay Star News](#), outlining the impact leaving the EU will have on LGBT rights in the UK. And Professor Michael Ford QC gave a [presentation](#) in Brussels on the impact of Brexit on the rights of workers in the UK and in the EU at an event organised by the Brussels Offices of the Austrian Federal Chamber of Labour and the Austrian Trade Union Federation.

## Research Centres



During the year we celebrated the launch of the [Centre for Law at Work](#) and the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the [Centre for Health, Law, and Society \(CHLS\)](#). These Centres enhance opportunities for colleagues to work together, signal our research strengths in these areas to the broader world, and extend the reach of research-led teaching in the School.

In which context we should congratulate **Prof John Coggon** and **Dr Oliver Quick** for getting this year's [Students' Award for Outstanding Supervision of Research Students](#) at the Bristol Teaching Awards.

## Spotlight on Human Rights Implementation Centre



The HRIC team has continued to forge forward with activities that contribute to the implementation of human rights and prevention of torture throughout the world. Earlier in the year, **Prof Sir Malcom Evans** was an [expert advisor to the UN Global Study of Children in Detention](#), and addressed the UN General Assembly in New York as Chair of the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT). Elsewhere, **Research Fellow Debra Long** delivered [training on torture prevention at a workshop in Uzbekistan](#).



On World's Ocean's day we focused on the work of **Dr Sofia Galiani** and her research into the protection of human rights at sea and kidnapping which will feature in the forthcoming **UNODC Maritime Crime Manual for Criminal Justice Practitioners**.



The HRIC also hosted a workshop on the role and governance of [lay visitors in monitoring places of detention in the UK](#), and joined forces with the CHLS to co-host a [workshop on 'Global Challenges in Securing Reproductive Rights and the Empowerment of Women and Girls'](#).

Other successes to highlight include **Prof Rachel Murray**'s award of £10,000 from the Faculty to support the development of a potential future bid for an ESRC Centre.

## In the news



**In the Media:** At the top of the year, [Prof Eirik Bjorge spoke to Russia Today about the potential extradition of Julian Assange](#). As the country geared up to conform to **GDPR**, **Prof Andrew Charlesworth** was interviewed about the new EU regulation by [BBC radio Bristol](#). More recently, Andrew appeared in The Robotics Law Journal, with a co-written article about how to get the most from facial recognition technology without risking personal freedoms.



In May, [Dr Yvette Russell was called up by Sky News and ITV West Country](#) to share her expertise on criminal law in response to the **Berlinah Wallace acid attack case**. **Prof Joanne Conaghan** spoke to BBC News 24 about the [investigation into Black Cab rapist John Worboys](#), and **Dr Claire Gammage** [provided expert commentary on negotiating new trade deals post-Brexit](#) in an interview with BBC Newsnight.



**In response to industrial action** about university pensions, **Dr Shreya Atrey** wrote [an article for the Times Higher Education on the issue of overseas scholars' right to strike](#). An article co-written by **Dr Katie Bales** and Prof Bridget Anderson of SPAIS was also covered in the THE, highlighting [risks posed to both asylum seekers and universities by new right-to-study rules](#).



**The centenary of the First World War** has seen **Prof Lois Bibbings** involved in numerous activities in Bristol and beyond, including [an interview on the BBC World Service about WW1 conscientious objectors](#).



More recently, a [Huffington Post article](#) about whether **Meghan and Harry's baby** will be British or American, included commentary from **Dr Devyani Prabhat**, on her research in migration, citizenship and nationality - and **Alice Venn**, who's coordinating our Environmental Law unit this year, published [an article in The Conversation](#) about how Courts can play a pivotal role in **combating climate change**.



## Inaugural Lecture Series



In her inaugural lecture, Prof Morag McDermont highlighted the need for regulatory systems to embed social justice in decision-making. [Prof Lois Bibbings](#)' inaugural lecture analysed legal cases from different historical periods and the evolution of law and society, while [Prof Chris Wilmore](#), who was recently named in the [Council's list of Inspiring Women](#), addressed the role of universities in delivering a more sustainable society.

## Our community

**Faculty Student Wellbeing Officers:** This year we have been particularly pleased to announce the introduction of our Faculty Student Wellbeing Officers - an expert team offering professional support and guidance within the School for students who may be feeling overwhelmed by university life and looking for some extra help.

