

## PREFACE

Dear Readers,

On behalf of the Editorial Board of the UCL Journal of Law and Jurisprudence, we are happy to introduce the issue for the academic year 2022-2023.

Coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic has not been easy, new norms and expectations had to be adapted to; our Journal was no exception. In a bid to normalise things, where possible, meetings were conducted in person to give a face to the members on our Board. As society tried to move out of the shadows of pandemic and into the light of the new norm, the fatigue from the pandemic still lingered. As such, we continued with our predecessors' decision to only produce one issue for this academic year so as to ensure that the quality of our Journal remains rigorous.

After much careful (and difficult) consideration, three articles were selected for publication in this issue. Although the submissions covered a slew of different areas of law, the selected articles ranged from intellectual property to human rights and legal theory. We take this opportunity to share a little bit about them in no order of merit:

First, Salar Abassi's article provided an in-depth discussion on the jurisprudential and legal theory aspects of the religion of Islam with respect to inter-polity laws and relations. Amongst other issues, he sought to shed light on the fundamental pillars upon which Islam's inter-polity commands are formed and textually reinforced as being legally unquestionable and intrinsically legitimate.

Second, Anna-Lisa Lafay argued for the application of human rights law and philosophy to the international intellectual property regime. This is because the expansion of the current regime has detrimental consequences, such as exploitation of indigenous traditional knowledge. The employment of a human rights law criticism over the currently dominant rhetoric – in favour of the public domain which is described as a natural resource subject to over-privatisation – is therefore preferred to address these consequences.

Finally, and definitely not least, in her article, Vanessa Li Ka Hang explores how the Hong Kong Courts' approach to eliminate mandatory full sex-reassignment surgery as a prerequisite for female-to-male transgender people to change their gender markers on their Hong Kong identity cards fails to provide sufficient protection for the transgender community's fundamental rights. In considering the United Kingdom's Gender Recognition Act 2004 as a

possible model, she further argues that it is imperative to enact a gender recognition law to rectify the situation.

Our heartiest congratulations to the authors on their submissions. From submission to the revision and copyediting, the authors were patient and responsive through the entire process which allowed for the smooth publication of the articles. Despite the pool of quality articles, unfortunately, acceptance remains highly competitive. In any case, we hope that the experience and feedback provided by esteemed editors will be useful in your respective journeys.

Separately, without the support and double-blind peer-reviewing of articles by members of this year's Board – consisting of PhD, LLM, and stellar final-year LLB students from UCL Laws – this issue would not be possible. Our sincerest thanks and gratitude goes out to each of you for making this issue a success.

Lastly, we are indebted to the then-Senior Editors (now renamed as Managing Editors) – Ioannis Bazinas and James Milton – for their invaluable guidance throughout this journey to publish this issue. We are also grateful for the support from the outgoing Faculty Supervisor, Dr Narine Lalafaryan, as well as the incoming Faculty Supervisors, Dr Anna Donovan and Dr Pedro Schilling De Carvalho, and Ian Caswell from UCL Press for his technical assistance throughout this entire process.

Siyu Bao & Leon Vincent Chan  
Managing Editors