

Preface

Dear Readers,

We are proud to present Volume 15 of the UCL Journal of Law and Jurisprudence. The Journal has a longstanding tradition of providing a platform for important doctrinal and theoretical discussions across all areas of law. This year's Volume is no different. In collaboration with the Editorial Board, we have worked tirelessly to ensure this Volume would contribute to the Journal's rich tradition and would help mark another chapter in its history.

When appointing our Editorial Board, we were impressed by the level of interest across the UCL Laws student community, from undergraduate to postgraduate and research students. We were delighted to welcome 19 exceptional editors for this year's Volume of the Journal. We are especially grateful to the Editors, who have dedicated their time, expertise, and efforts to deliver Volume 15. The breadth and depth of the expertise we have been able to rely on in creating this Volume is unmatched. Our Editorial Board's expertise includes Human Rights, Environmental Law, Intellectual Property, Jurisprudence and Legal Theory, amongst other fascinating specialisms. We are also grateful to the Faculty Advisor of the Journal, Dr. Stavros Makris, for his support and guidance in creating Volume 15.

Finally, we are thankful to the UCL Faculty of Laws for continuing to support the work of the UCL Journal of Law and Jurisprudence, now a successful publication for past 15 years. We were thrilled to receive submissions from scholars based all over the world, from recent graduates to established academics. This level of reach and impact has only been made possible through the skill and commitment of successive editorial teams generously supported by the UCL Faculty of Laws.

This year is also very meaningful for University College London as an institution, marking its bicentennial anniversary. In honour of that, we decided to make Volume 15 a thematic issue of the journal. This year's theme - "Retrospective: Looking Back & Ahead" - serves as a reminder that in order to understand where legal scholarship can go, we must first appreciate where it has been before. That is exactly what the authors of this Volume have done. Each contribution takes legal scholarship further, which enables us as students, scholars, and academics to understand the direction of travel in legal research.

Volume 15 begins with a moving Foreword from Prof. Virginia Mantouvalou, Professor of Human Rights and Labour Law at UCL Laws. This year, Professor Mantouvalou has edited a volume commemorating UCL's bicentennial anniversary,¹ and we are grateful that she has kindly contributed to Volume 15 of the Journal as well. Professor Mantouvalou reminds us of the value of legal scholarship and the impressive contributions that our University has made to law as a field of research and practice over the last 200 years.

In our first article, Mark Jhaveri analyses a timely topic of conversation: how we can respond to environmental harms caused by corporations. Jhaveri considers how English tort law might contribute to the broader legal toolkit in these complex cases.

After that, Eve Coffey then explores how the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg applies the 'margin of appreciation' in cases concerning sexual blasphemy, where the Court must contend with religion and sexual expression simultaneously. In such cases, Coffey finds tension in the Court's foundational commitment to freedom of expression.

In the third article, Saumya Verma considers legal pluralism in Malaysia through the Kelantan controversy, where the Federal Court found numerous provisions of Shari'ah law to be unconstitutional. Verma demonstrates that this case provides an excellent forum for thinking about the interactions of law and religion.

Isabella Gannon then brings us back into the realm of human rights law, considering sexual exploitation by UN Peacekeepers. Gannon's thought-provoking article explores extraterritoriality, especially with regards to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Finally, Joel Hames considers the Leveson Review and the impact of juryless trials on criminal justice in England and Wales. Through a comparative analysis with Northern Ireland, Hames offers a much-needed insight on perceptions of legitimacy and public participation in criminal justice.

All five authors have contributed novel ideas and approaches, enriching Volume 15 of the Journal – a Volume filled with fascinating legal research and nuanced argument that we are delighted to present you with. We are deeply proud to have played our part in continuing the

¹ See Virginia Mantouvalou (ed.), *UCL at 200: Two Centuries of Insight and Impact* (UCL Press, 2026), available at: < <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/about/ucls-bicentenary/ucl200-publications/ucl-200-two-centuries-insight-and-impact>> (accessed 22/06/2026).

legacy of promoting innovative and brilliant scholarship in the UCL Journal of Law and Jurisprudence. We hope you enjoy reading this Volume, and thank you for the trust you place in us.

Enzo Rebelo, Kerri Bridges, and James Ball

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