

Foreword

Virginia Mantouvalou*

Since its founding in 1826, UCL has been at the forefront of academic excellence, nurtured in a culture of academic freedom, and an environment of inquisitive and rigorous thinking. Originally known as The London University, it was the first university to be established in London, the first entirely secular university in the UK to admit students regardless of religion, and the first university in the UK to admit women on equal terms with men. In 2026, we mark 200 years of this remarkable institution and celebrate our community's exceptional research. I was fortunate to be editor of the commemorative volume *UCL at 200: Two Centuries of Insight and Impact*,¹ which provides a window into the incredible research conducted across all UCL Faculties. This book includes pieces involving the Faculty of Laws: Tim Causer on 'Jeremy Bentham's Auto-Icon', Alison Diduck on 'Women in Legal Education and the Legal Profession', George Letsas, Philip Schoffield and Kevin Toh on 'Jurisprudence' and David Ormerod on 'Legal Reform'. In such a dynamic Faculty, there is so much happening every day. These pieces illustrate some of the brilliant work of our community, but they of course do not exhaust everything that we examine and that is excellent about our work. They offer only a glimpse of the rich and diverse scholarship produced across the Faculty.

This volume of the UCL Journal of Law and Jurisprudence, published during our Bicentennial year, further underlines some of the great strengths of the academic community in the Faculty of Laws. It illustrates the outstanding academic leadership of post-graduate and PhD students as editors and the quality of work produced when academics, students and others work together. The pieces featured in this volume examine issues of tort law and environmental harms in France, the UK and New Zealand, sexual blasphemy in the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, legal pluralism in Malaysia, the conduct of UN peacekeepers and extraterritorial human rights obligations, and juryless trials in Northern Ireland, England and Wales. The volume is admirable for the breadth, depth and urgency of the issues examined, and for its geographical reach across regions and continents. It reflects the importance we place on

* Professor of Human Rights and Labour Law, and Co-Director of the UCL Institute for Human Rights.

¹ See further, Virginia Mantouvalou (ed.), *UCL at 200: Two Centuries of Insight and Impact*, UCL Press, 2026.

pressing social issues, the role of the law in this context, and the imaginative solutions that the authors propose, all of which make it a fitting showcase of the Faculty's intellectual vitality.

The UCL Faculty of Laws is an extraordinary community. The editors, editorial board and authors should be congratulated for producing this new issue of the UCL Journal of Law and Jurisprudence, which exemplifies exactly that. There is no better way to celebrate our institution's 200 years than by showcasing such excellent work.