

NORTHUMBRIA LAW SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



**Northumbria
University**
NEWCASTLE

Law School



Who Sets the Law in Outer Space?

Lauren Napier was recently interviewed on BBC Radio Newcastle by Kelly Scott for the segment “Who sets the law in outer space?”. Lauren covered many space-related topics, including space governance, research, inclusivity in the sector, Northumbria modules, courses and NESST (North East Space Skills and Technology Centre). She also discussed her project ‘Women in Space’, where she, along with other Northumbria University colleagues, hope to gather information to complete outputs with policy suggestions on EDI issues around women working in the space industry.

[Listen now](#)

Strengthening Counter Fraud Across the NHS in England



Cerian Griffiths is leading on a new project, Strengthening Counter Fraud Across the NHS in England (SCAN). SCAN has received £892,857 (80% FEC) from the National Institute of Health and Care Research and aims to identify where approaches to counter fraud across the NHS in England can be improved, and to generate evidence and resources that will (re)shape the focus, organisation and activities of counter-fraud. The aim is to reduce the reputational and financial loss and the negative impacts on quality and safety of healthcare. The project has already resonated with policymakers and stakeholders in the health sector, and it being actively supported by the Public Sector Fraud Authority, the NHS Counter Fraud Authority and many others.

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Resistance, Hope and Law in Bangladesh



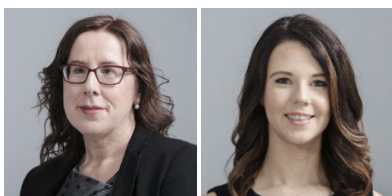
Lars Waldorf has been awarded seedcorn funding for the project “Resistance, Hope and Law in Bangladesh.” In June 2024, Bangladeshi students took to the streets after the Supreme Court reinstated a discriminatory quota system for government jobs. The protest transformed into a mass movement that ushered in Nobel prize-winning development economist Mohammed Yunus as interim head. The project explores Bangladeshis’ hopes for a new constitution and social justice through key informant interviews and focus groups (piloting arts-based methods) in Dhaka and Cox’s Bazar and will explore how hope and resistance effect legal and political change following successive mass protest movements.

RESEARCH NEWS AND UPDATES



Awareness of Social Media Use

Claire Bessant has been working with Defend Digital Me to raise awareness of the risk posed by school social media use, and advocating for the introduction of national guidance on the issue. On 18 November 2024 Claire presented her research at an event on AI in education, hosted by Defend Digital Me at the House of Lords. This dissemination work has been a great success as the final guidance on Domestic Abuse Protection Orders, which integrates the slide/diagram she included in her presentation and in her consultation response, and her suggestion that they include guidance about alternative routes in the appendix has also been included.



The Financial Remedy Application and Beyond

Amanda Newby and Kayleigh Richardson were recently thanked in the acknowledgments and referenced in the Law Commission's scoping report on "Financial remedies on divorce and dissolution". Their Chapter, "The Financial Remedy Application and Beyond: To what extent is the victim-survivor protected from further abuse?", is noted on page 104 of the report.

[Read now](#)



Legal Education in Primary Schools

Dr Malvika Unnithan and Dr Ali Struthers (Warwick University) received funding (£2,927.40) from the ALT to organise an event entitled "Legal Education in Primary Schools: Ideas, Realities and Practicalities" to take place in April 2025. This event will be used as a starting point to develop a project highlighting this research agenda and supporting the sharing of practices and ideas in this community.



Blessing Scams within Chinese Diaspora Communities

Professor Anqi Shen has provided expert knowledge and insights to assist BBC journalists in understanding the phenomenon of blessing scams, which have gained notoriety within Chinese diaspora communities in major UK cities. Her contributions were presented in a BBC World Service documentary podcast released on Wednesday 9 October 2024. Shen was also quoted in a BBC News article, "'Your son will die': How blessing scammers prowl streets", further showcasing her expertise in this area.

[Listen now](#)

EDUCATION NEWS AND UPDATES



Nizam Razzaq Visits Northumbria Law

Northumbria Law School recently welcomed Nizam Razzaq, Attorney at Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka and the Founding Director of Business Management School and Dr W. A. Wijewardena, president of BMS and former Deputy Governor of The Central Bank of Sri Lanka. Both Nizam and Dr Wijewardena have received honorary Doctorate of Civil Law degrees from Northumbria in recent years. BMS has a history of collaboration with UK higher education institutions and the Law School hope to continue and expand upon this partnership in the future. Nizam met with Michael Stockdale, members of the Law School and wider university, to receive an overview of the Law School and Student Law Office and discuss our programmes and potential future opportunities.



Breaking Down Barriers to Law

Siobhan McConnel, Jill Alexander and central teams have received an Education Enhancement Project Collaborative Award to support the Levelling Up Law Mentoring Scheme. The funding will aid students seeking work experience in London law firms and enable research into the scheme's impact on social mobility, contributing to the CITE Inclusivity Learning Circle. Additionally, they secured a research grant from the Association of Law Teachers for their project, 'Levelling Up Law - An Exploration of How Leading Law Firms Approach Widening Access to the Legal Profession'. This project seeks to understand more about how larger law firms are approaching diversity at the point of access to the profession and how such firms engage with students from widening participation backgrounds.



LexisNexis University Commercial Impact Award

The Law School has been shortlisted for the LexisNexis University Commercial Impact Award which recognises universities that excel in equipping their law students with strong commercial awareness and strategic-thinking skills. Entrants must demonstrate how their programmes or initiatives foster a deep understanding of the commercial landscape, preparing students to navigate the complexities of legal practice in a business context. Our shortlisting recognises the work of Dr Siobhan McConnell, Dr Jill Alexander, Andy Fishburn and the wider Law School in supporting our students with developing their commercial awareness.

Further Information

For further information about the Law School, including other news, events and previous newsletters, please visit northumbria.ac.uk. For comments and queries, please email amy.k.cameron@northumbria.ac.uk.