

Sussex Centre for Human Rights Research Newsletter

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The pandemic is far from over, yet every day it challenges us as people, as researchers and as educators. Although the gradual return to a “normal” life has brought small joys for some, such as being able to step away from the computer screen, the return to in-person engagement and events has inevitably presented new, and different, challenges for us all. We continued to trial new ways of teaching, met colleagues new and old in person for the first time, and embraced alternative methods of connecting with those who were unable to return to campus. The 2021/22 academic year tested us as researchers, as community and as individuals. Nevertheless, some things have stayed constant. The members of the Sussex Centre for Human Rights Research (SCHRR) have continued to publish and disseminate their research and engage with national, regional and international organizations. Our Rights Research series has allowed our members to test new and developing research, and we were excited to welcome (virtual) external speakers including Prof Alexandra Xanthaki (the UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights) and Dr Ronagh McQuigg (Queen’s University Belfast). The SCHRR students also continued to impress. PhD students found creative ways to adapt and



collaborate with their colleagues, and the LLM in International Human Rights Law students continued a trend of producing excellent research and even being invited to present at a UN Expert Seminar.

We should all be incredibly proud of what we’ve achieved over the last year, despite the constant challenges.

Stephanie Berry, Nuno Ferreira and Charlotte Skeet
SCHRR Co-Directors

To find out more, please visit [SCHRR’s website](#)



NEWS

The Queer Judgments Project



Professor Nuno Ferreira (Sussex), Dr Maria Moscati (Sussex) and Dr Sen Raj (MMU) have launched a new project called “Queer Judgments”, in the vein of the Feminist Judgments and the Children’s Rights Judgments. The project brings together a global network of scholars and activists to re-write a selection of judgments from various jurisdictions around the world from a queer rights’ perspective. The project’s website will soon be available [here](#), and the project’s editors and contributors are currently working on an edited collection and a journal special issue.

Women in Refugee Law Network

The [Women in Refugee Law \(WiRL\)](#) network was set up in 2021 by [Dr Christel Querton](#) (UWE Bristol) and [Dr Moira Dustin](#) (University of Sussex) to bring together asylum seeking and refugee women, senior and early career scholars, practitioners, policymakers and activists working in this field around the globe. The purpose of the network is to re-centre the study of refugee women within refugee law, policy and practice. In particular, the initiative challenges the assumption that legal and policy changes in the last 30 years have displaced the need for continued research and advocacy efforts. It aims to safeguard advances and identify contemporary obstacles to the protection of women in refugee law, policy and practice. New members are welcome, please email Moira or [Elizabeth Mavropoulou](#) for details.

University of Sanctuary

SCHRR and LPS members have continued to contribute to the development of the [University of Sanctuary](#) initiative at Sussex, with Judith Townend and Nuno Ferreira co-chairing the group during 2021-22.

Nuno is stepping down from the (rotating) co-chair role this year; if anyone is interested discussing the role, or other opportunities to become involved with the project please contact judith.townend@sussex.ac.uk.

You can sign up to the mailing list at the bottom of this [web page](#).

To find out more, please visit SCHRR’s [website](#)

Minority Rights Scoping Workshop

MinorityRights@Sussex are organising a Minority Rights Scoping Workshop on 9 September 2022. The workshop will bring together academics working in the field to discuss the added value and significance of minority rights in the 21st century, with the aim of fostering connections, finding common ground/synergies and exploring the potential for future collaborations. This event is by invitation only but will be followed by a larger conference in 2023. Please contact Dr Elizabeth Craig for more information.

NQIFM Project

Professor Nuno Ferreira (LPS, as principal investigator), Dr Kamran Matin (Global Studies, as co-investigator) and Professor Andrew Yip (Nottingham, as co-investigator) were successful in a bid to the ESRC (£312,901) to fund the NQIFM project. NQIFM stands for 'Negotiating Queer Identities Following Forced Migration: A Comparative Study of Iranian Queer Refugees Living in Turkey, the UK and Canada'.

This is a two-year research project (2022-2023) that explores the experiences of people who have left Iran to escape persecution or discrimination on grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity (SOGI), with specific case studies in Turkey, the UK and Canada. In addition to providing a unique contribution to the academic literature in this field, the project is of broader public interest and aims to have a significant social and political impact in making recommendations that will be disseminated to relevant stakeholders with the intention of improving queer Iranian refugees in the country case studies and beyond.

Access to Justice: The Dialogue Box Project

Doctoral students, Ritabrata Roy (Law Politics and Sociology) and Sandhya Kerketta (Gender Studies) are collaborating on a qualitative research project on access to justice by victims of domestic violence in New Delhi, India. The project is conducted under a Delhi-based private research organisation, The Dialogue Box, from July 2022-September 2022. Throughout the six months long self-funded project, the researchers are going to conduct semi-structured interviews with 50 survivors and other social actors across New Delhi. More information is available in www.thedialoguebox.com.



ENGAGEMENT WITH HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES

Several SCHRR's members have engaged with national, regional and international bodies on human rights related issues.

Work with the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development

Dr Edward Guntrip is working with the [Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development](#), which is comprised of a group of independent experts and identifies and shares best practices and promotes the right to development. It reports to the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council. Edward is assisting one of the independent experts in relation to a [thematic study](#) on the 'Right to Development in International Investment Law'.

Submission to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Minority Rights

MinorityRights@Sussex, Dr Elizabeth Craig, Dr Isilay Taban (Brighton) and Dr Stephanie Berry submitted a paper in response to the UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues' call for inputs on 'The place of the human rights of minorities in the institutions, structures and initiatives of the United Nations' in June 2022. The submission highlighted how standards in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Minorities 1992 have subsequently been reflected and mainstreamed in the practice of UN treaty bodies, specifically in the Concluding Observations of the Human Rights Committee (HRC), Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) and Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). For further information, please read our [blog](#).

European Court of Human Rights: Art. 9

Dr Stephanie Berry is serving as a member of the legal team for on a [case](#) lodged at the ECtHR against France. The applicant is a French criminal lawyer who wears the hijab. She is challenging a ban by the Lille Bar Council, which prohibits French lawyers from wearing the hijab or other faith markers in court.

The legal team representing the applicant is being led by Sultana Tafadar QC. Stephanie is helping to draft the Article 9 ECHR submissions for the case.

House of Commons Select Committee on Justice

In November 2021, [Dr Judith Townsend](#) gave written and oral evidence to the House of Commons select committee on justice for a [short inquiry on court reporting and open justice](#).

Equality and the UK Asylum Process Inquiry

Building on the findings of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Claims of Asylum (SOGICA) project, Professor Nuno Ferreira made a [submission](#) and offered oral evidence to the '[Equality and the UK asylum process](#)' inquiry, Women and Equalities Committee, held in February 2022.

Right to a Healthy Environment

PhD Candidate Hannah Blitzer worked with the Center for International Environmental Law (Geneva) to strategically advocate for a resolution on the right to a healthy environment at the UN General Assembly. The [resolution](#) was supported by 161 states, with 8 abstentions. She also engaged with the UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on geoengineering and climate manipulation technologies.



SCHRR EVENTS

This year's SCHRR online and in-person [events](#) spanned a diverse range of research areas from minority rights to constitutionalism.

One of the event highlights for the 2021/22 academic year is **Professor Alexandra Xanthaki's** (Brunel Law School and UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights) presentation in November 2021: 'Fragmentation in the Field of Cultural Rights: Ways Forward'. Professor Xanthaki used the opportunity to discuss her mandate with the SCHRR and explore her ideas about how it can be developed.



In **October 2021**, the SCHRR's Rights Research series commenced with Dr Isilay Taban (University of Brighton) presented a paper, 'Facilitating Minority-Refugees' Access to Refugee Rights: An Intersectional Approach'.

In **October 2021**, the SCHRR co-hosted a joint session with the Critical Theory Research Cluster, 'Intersections in Research: Coffee and Chat'.

In **November 2021**, Dr Ronagh McQuigg (Queen's University Belfast) delivered a paper entitled 'Domestic Abuse during the COVID-19 Pandemic - International Human Rights Responses'.

In **November 2021**, we had two PhD work in progress presentations: Cecilia Manzotti (Sussex Law School) "The role and relevance of nationality status determination in asylum procedures under the CEAS and the potential impact of the "New Pact on Migration and Asylum"" and Isabella Leroy (Amsterdam Centre for Migration and Refugee Law)

'Exceptionalism in action?' The legal impacts of the COVID pandemic on the *Centro de Estancia Temporal de Inmigrantes* of Melilla'. In **November 2021**, the Co-Chairs of the 'People's Review' joined us for a widely co-sponsored event to discuss the failings of reviews and other forms of scrutiny and the parameters and aims of their call as an alternative to the Government's own process.

In **December 2021**, the SCHRR hosted a book launch for the SOGICA project, of which Springer published a [two-volume open-access book](#) in 2021. Stakeholders from across three country case studies adopted in the project attended to discuss the book with the authors.

In **February 2022**, a book launch was held Dr Giorgia Baldi's *Un-Veiling Dichotomies: European Secularism and Women's Veiling*.

In **March 2022**, SCHRR PhD Co-Reps Christina Miliou-Theocharaki and Hannah Blitzer chaired a roundtable, jointly hosted by the Critical Theory Research Group.

In **March 2022**, Dr Elizabeth Craig delivered a work in progress, 'There is nothing new under the sun': European Minority Rights (re)appraised'.

In **May 2022**, Charlotte Skeet presented, 'What is Progress on 'work-in-progress'?: Writing a monograph which reconnects activism and constitutionalism, two steps forward and one step back'.

In **May 2022**, Elif Demirbas and Christina Miliou-Theocharaki delivered a PhD work in progress: 'Looking at the EU-Turkey Deal: The Implications for Migrants in Greece and Turkey'.

In **May 2022**, SCHRR's final event of the year was Dr Matthew Evans' book launch, *Beyond Transitional Justice: Transformative Justice and the State of the Field (or non-field)*, which saw the attendance of several contributors and discussants.



OTHER EVENTS & ENGAGEMENT

SCHRR members continued to organise and attend events, conferences and workshops on their cutting-edge research. Highlights from last year include:

Across the 2021/22 academic year **Professor Louiza Odysseos** and **Dr Bal Sokhi-Bulley** and convened a series of workshops for their After Rights: Politics, Ethics and Aesthetics Project. Topics included Rights, Process and Practice; Rights Abandonment and Protest; Rights, Temporality and Place; and Rights, Justice and Ecology.

In September 2021, Visiting Research Fellow **Dr Carmelo Danisi** and **Professor Nuno Ferreira** presented their paper 'Legal Violence and (In)visible Families: How Law Shapes and Erases Families in SOGI Asylum in Europe', at the conference '(Dis)connecting people? The law and practice of family reunification', University of Ghent, Belgium, and at the UACES 2021 annual conference

In October 2021, **Dr Judith Townend** was appointed to the [editorial board](#) of the U.S. based journal Communication Law and Policy (Taylor & Francis). More information about her policy/impact work can be found [here](#).

In January 2022, **Dr Femi Amao's** research project in collaboration with the International Law and Policy in Africa Network (ILPAN) and the Institute for African Women in Law (US) organised the book launch for the edited collection in January 2022). It was a virtual event. The legal counsel to the African union,

Ambassador Namira Negm was the keynote speaker at the book launch. About 50 participants from different part of the world attended the event.

In March-April 2022, **Dr Matthew Evans** participated and organised several activities at the International Studies Association's 2022 Annual Convention "*A Wider Discipline For A Smaller World*". He was a competition finalist of "ISA's Jargon Jumble - The Up Goer Five Challenge (Or, Can You Explain Your Research Using Only Common Words?)" and was invited to participate in a roundtable on the challenges of effective professional communication. Matthew also organised and chaired the roundtable, "Beyond transitional justice: Transformative justice and the state of the field (or non-field)".

In March 2022, PhD Candidate **Julia Winstone** contributed to a Youth Offending Service Inspection by HMiP, where she has volunteered as an Appropriate Adult, a Referral Order Panel chair and member since 2012 to promote children's' rights and youth justice. The inspection report was published in June 2022.

In May 2022, after co-drafting a March 2022 response to the Ministry of Justice's Bill of Rights consultation, PhD Candidate **Hannah Blitzer** co-organised and co-chaired an expert panel webinar, titled 'Recognising the Right to a Healthy Environment in the UK, with the UK Environmental Law Association. The expert panel included the former Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, Professor John H. Knox, Emeritus Professor (University of Edinburgh) Alan Boyle, and Dr Ben Christman (Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland).

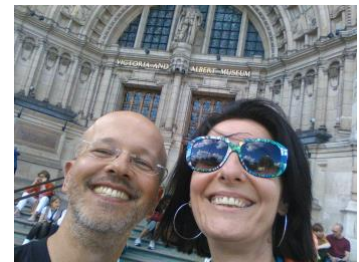
In May 2022, **Dr Matthew Evans** was a discussant for Associate Professor (UNSW Sydney) Jessica Whyte's book talk, *The Morals of the Market: Human Rights and the Rise of Neoliberalism*.

In June 2022, PhD Candidate **Julia Winstone** presented her idea for a research Youth Justice podcast at the LPS PGR Away Day, which she is developing to highlight children's voices for justice and to assist in developing a Children First approach to justice throughout the Youth Justice System. This also aims to develop a positive narrative for constructive change & development for justice involved children and to promote children's rights. Julia aims to develop this idea with advice from a podcasting company which has offered to assist.

Dr Judith Townend was research advisor and co-author for [a working report](#) funded by the JRSST Charitable Trust on the decline in provision of local news and information in local communities, which was published in June 2022

In June 2022, **Professor Nuno Ferreira** and **Dr Marica Moscati** presented on 'Children, dress codes, and the politics of identity', at the workshop 'Agency and Control' of the AHRC-funded network '[Not Only Dressed but Dressing:](#)

[Clothing-Childhood-Creativity](#)', held at the Victoria & Albert Museum.



In August 2022, **Dr Elizabeth Craig** is presenting a paper at the European Society for International Law Conference in Utrecht. The paper, 'Who are minority rights for? The role of petitions and the League of Nations minority rights regime', will be presented at the History of International Law Interest Group pre-conference workshop.



PUBLICATIONS

Books and Edited Collections

- Matthew Evans (ed.) *Beyond transitional justice: Transformative justice and the state of the field (or non-field)*. (Routledge, 2022)

Beyond Transitional Justice reflects upon the state of the field (or non-field) of transitional justice in the current conjuncture, as well as identifying new possibilities and challenges in the fields with which transitional justice overlaps (such as human rights, peacebuilding, and development).

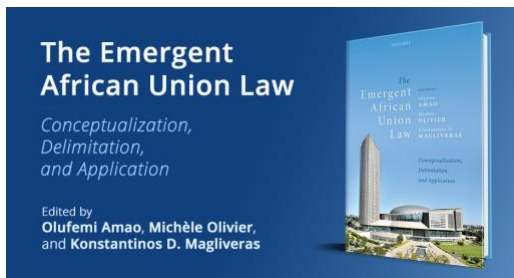
Chapters intervene at the cutting edge of contemporary transitional justice research, addressing key theoretical and empirical questions and covering critical, international, interdisciplinary, theoretical, and practice-oriented content. In particular, the notion of transformative justice is discussed in light of the emerging scholarship defining and applying this concept as either an approach within or an alternative to transitional justice. The book considers the extent to which transformative justice as a concept adds value to scholarship on transitional justice and related areas and asks what the future might hold for this area as a field - or non-field.

A timely intervention, Beyond Transitional Justice is ideal reading for scholars and students in the fields of human rights, peace and conflict studies, international law, critical legal theory, development studies, criminology, and victimology

- Gizem Guney, David Davies and Po-Han Lee, (eds) *Towards Gender Equality in Law: An Analysis of State Failures from a Global Perspective* (Palgrave 2022)

This book aims to find out how and why states in various regions and of diverse cultural backgrounds fail in their gender equality laws and policies. In doing this, the book maps out states' failures in their legal systems and unpacks the clashes between different levels and forms of law—namely domestic laws, local regulations, or the implementation of international law, individually or in combination. By taking off from the confirmation that the concept of law that is to be used in achieving gender equality is a multidimensional, multi-layered, and to an extent, contradictory phenomenon, this book aims to find out how different layers of laws interact and how they impact gender equality. Further to that, by including different states and jurisdictions into its analysis, this book unravels whether there are any similarities/patterns in how these states define and utilise policies and laws that harm gender equality. In this way, the book contributes to the efforts to devise holistic and universal policies to address various forms of gender inequalities across the world.

- Olufemi Amao, Michèle Olivier, and Konstantinos D. Magliveras (eds.), [The Emergent African Union Law: Conceptualization, Delimitation, and Application](#) (OUP, 2021)



The edited collection, published in October 2021 is one of the outputs from Dr Femi Amao's pioneering research on African Union Law. Femi was the lead editor for the book project. The book and the project have introduced a new legal order into the discourse on legal systems in the international community. The book provides in-depth understanding and analysis of the concept

of African Union law concept. The book covers various aspects of African Union law concept, including human rights, peace and security, terrorism etc. In addition, the book challenges long held perceptions on state sovereignty and governance assessing these within the context of pan Africanism and recent developments in a variety of fields such as human rights.

- **SOGICA Project monograph:** Carmelo Danisi, Moira Dustin, Nuno Ferreira and Nina Held, [Queering Asylum in Europe: Legal and social experiences of seeking international protection on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity](#) (Springer, 2021)



Articles

- Shahrzad Fouladvand and Tony Ward, '[Comparing Transnational Legal Orders: Criminalisation, Labour Law and Forced Labour](#)' (2022) 9 Journal of International and Comparative Law 25
- **SOGICA Project:** Carmelo Danisi and Nuno Ferreira '[Legal violence and \(in\)visible families: How law shapes and erases family life in SOGI asylum in Europe](#)', (2022) 22 Human Rights Law Review 1
- Stephanie E. Berry and Isilay Taban, '[The right of minority-refugees to preserve their cultural identity: An intersectional analysis](#)' (2021) 39 Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights 198
- Qingxiu Bu, '[The global governance on automated facial recognition \(AFR\): ethical and legal opportunities and privacy challenges](#)' (2021) 2 International Cybersecurity Law Review 113
- **SOGICA Project:** Moira Dustin and Nuno Ferreira, '[Improving SOGI Asylum Adjudication: Putting Persecution Ahead of Identity](#)', (2021) 40 Refugee Survey Quarterly 315

- Matthew Evans, '[Land and the limits of liberal legalism: Property, transitional justice and non-reformist reforms in post-apartheid South Africa](#)' (2021) 48 *Review of African Political Economy* 646

Book Chapters

- Stephanie E. Berry and Isilay Taban, 'The EU Migration Pact and Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion: A Progressive Step or Half Measure?' in [European Yearbook of Minority Issues](#) (Brill, 2022)
- Shahrzad Fouladvand, 'Najib Razak and 1MDB in Malasiya: Fraud and Corruption' in Elizabeth David-Barrett, Dan Hough, et. al., (eds.) [Understanding Corruption: How Corruption Works in Practice](#) (Agenda, 2022) pp.136-142.
- Matthew Evans 'In, against, and beyond transitional justice: Themes and dilemmas for the field (or non-field)' in Matthew Evans (ed.) [Beyond transitional justice: Transformative justice and the state of the field \(or non-field\)](#). (Routledge, 2022), Ch. 1
- Matthew Evans, 'Beyond disciplines, beyond fields, beyond transitional justice' in Matthew Evans (ed.) [Beyond transitional justice: Transformative justice and the state of the field \(or non-field\)](#). (Routledge, 2022), Ch. 4
- Nuno Ferreira, 'Interview: Nuno Ferreira', in Heleen Touquet (ed.), [Minorities, Belonging and Values: Perspectives on European Solidarity](#), (ASP Editions, Brussels, 2021) pp. 41-59
- Nuno Ferreira and Helen Stalford, 'Article 32 - Prohibition of child labour and protection of young people at work', in. Steve Peers, Tamara Hervey, Jeff Kenner, and Angela Ward (eds.), [The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights - A Commentary](#), (2nd ed, Bloomsbury, 2021) pp. 923-942
- Amir Paz-Fuchs, 'Trainees - the new army of cheap labour: Lessons from workfare' in Andrew Stewart, Rosemary Owens, Niall O'Higgins and Anne Hewitt (eds.), [Internships, Employability and the Search for Decent Work Experience](#) (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2021) pp. 255-268

Several SCHRR members contributed to Gizem Guney, David Davies and Po-Han Lee, (eds) *Towards Gender Equality in Law: An Analysis of State Failures from a Global Perspective* (above):

- Julia Winstone, 'Towards Gender Equality in the Solicitors' Profession in England and Wales: A Practical, Intersectional, Socio-legal Approach', Ch. 9
- Mary Frances Lukera, 'Exploring Barriers in the Enjoyment of Sexual and Reproductive Healthy and Rights in Kenya: A Case Study of Sex Workers', Ch.10

Edited Special Journal Issues

- Carmelo Danisi, Moira Dustin, Nuno Ferreira, Nina Held and Christel Querton (eds), Special Issue on '[Sexuality, Gender and Asylum: Refugees at a Crossroads](#)' in *Frontiers in Human Dynamics*

Blogs

- Stephanie Berry, Elizabeth Craig and Isilay Taban McQuade, '[The place of minority rights in the practice of UN treaty bodies](#)' *LaPSe of Reason: Blogging from the School of Law, Politics and Sociology at the University of Sussex*, July 2022
- Hannah Blitzer and Christina Miliou Theocharaki (eds), with contributions from Mona Manjot Kaur Dhaliwal, Elif Demirbas and Laurenne Ajayi, '[On Conducting Critical Research: Reflections from the Critical Conversations Roundtable](#)' *LaPSe of Reason: Blogging from the School of Law, Politics and Sociology at the University of Sussex*, June 2022
- Matthew Evans, '[Demystifying journal publication: Thoughts for earlier career and interdisciplinary scholars](#)', *LaPSe of Reason: Blogging from the School of Law, Politics and Sociology at the University of Sussex*, April 2022
- Cecilia Manzotti, '[Without a nationality but not stateless: the recent judgment of the Swiss Federal Supreme Court in a case concerning the nationality status of a refugee originating from Western Sahara](#)', European Network on Statelessness, November 2021



PHD SUCCESSES

A huge congratulations are in order for all of our PhD students that passed their vivas, and for those that were awarded grants this academic year.

Dr Maria Bjarnadottir passed her viva on 2021, for her PhD entitled, ‘Does the internet limit human rights protection? Sexual privacy online and the limits of the law’. Maria was also the winner of the Adam Weiler Doctoral Impact Award 2021.

Laurenne Oluwakemi Abisioye Ajayi won a CHASE (Consortium for the Arts and Humanities in South-East England) grant for 30 months to facilitate her PhD project, “Reproductive Freedom and the Right to Abortion in Yorubaland”.

Part of the award will enable Laurenne to spend six months learning the Yoruba language. She will also be able to apply through CHASE for additional grants to support her fieldwork costs in Nigeria and any conference attendance and engagement. Laurenne is supervised by Professor Jo Bridgeman and Dr Charlotte Skeet



LLM News

The return to face-to-face teaching was overall, a highly positive and supportive experience. The LLM International Human Rights Law 2021/22 cohort was excellent, and students thrived throughout the year, producing excellent research including 6,000 word memoranda for the Clinic and actively participating in extra-curricular activities.

Model UN Human Rights Council

In December, students participated in the Annual Model UN Human Rights Council and attempted to agree a draft text for the Resolution on 'the Protection of the Family'.



Human Rights Clinic

The 2021/22 Human Rights Clinic was a resounding success. This year, small teams of students worked to produce 6,000 word memoranda for their clients. Memoranda will be made available on the [SCHRR's website](#) in due course, subject to client permission. This year we worked with four clients:

- ◆ **Child Rights Connect:** 'Children's civil and political rights: a case for standard-setting'. **Students:** Bethany Fieldhouse and Meg Middleton
- ◆ **International Communities Organisation:** 'Juxtaposing the issue of segregation against the right to education and the right to work for the youth in Mitrovica' **Students:** Igor Lowczyk and Harriet James-Standen
- ◆ **Survival International:** 'In the name of "climate change": Human rights violations in carbon offsetting projects'. **Students:** Henry Bonsor and Tom Chesley
- ◆ **Professor Alexandra Xanthaki (UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights):** 'Current Trends in Development and Cultural Rights' **Students:** Rebecca Gleig and Raquel Fernandes

Other Human Rights Clinic news:

- **Bethany Fieldhouse** and **Meg Middleton** interviewed Nigel Cantwell, an international expert on protection policies, who coordinated the inputs of the NGO group during the drafting of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as part of their clinic project.
- **Rebecca Gleig** and **Raquel Fernandes** (pictured) were invited by the UN Special Rapporteur to present their clinic research to a UN expert roundtable on 'Sustainable Development and Cultural Rights' on 30th May 2022.



Careers Events

Several human rights related careers events were hosted throughout the year, which were relevant to LLM International Human Rights Law Students.

In June 2022, LLM International Human Rights Law students were invited to attend the **International Organizations Careers series** (hosted online). The online career series involved 5 sessions with external and internal panel speakers who worked (or had worked) within or with international organizations, international law firms or NGOs. On all our panels, our external speakers included those who are decades-long in their respective fields, are Sussex LLM graduates who are 3-5 years post-graduation and/or are recent Sussex LLM graduates. All our panel sessions provided invaluable, practical and wide-ranging insights into the respective fields and our speakers were accessible, considerate and sincere.

We had three panel speakers in the **International Human Rights Law Session**, including the Director of Child Rights Connect (Geneva), the Acting Chief of the Legislative Support Unit (Democratization Department) of the Organization for the Security and Cooperation in Europe/Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and our SCHRR co-director, Dr Stephanie Berry.

In our **International Environmental Law** session, we had three legal researchers who are working (or had worked) with NGOs, leading research centres, UN Environment, European Commission and UK Parliament. We also had an international lawyer working with the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization, with previous experience working with the Alpine Convention and as diplomat in her home country.

In the **Refugee Law/International Humanitarian Law** Sessions, panellists discussed their experience working in the migration and humanitarian field. We had two Sussex LLM IHRL graduates speak about their work at the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Egypt and for the NGO, Fenix: Humanitarian Legal Aid. They were joined by a Senior Lecturer who has previously worked on the joint Customary International Humanitarian Law Project of the British Red Cross and International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as in the Human Rights Unit of the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs.

In our **International Criminal Law** session, we had three Sussex LLM graduates who worked (or had worked) in different international criminal tribunals, e.g. United Nations Mechanism for the International Criminal Tribunals, the International Criminal Court and the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia, as well as working in anti-impunity NGOs, such as Redress, Africa Legal Aid and Liberty (UK), and human rights teams in law firms.

Students also visited, as a virtual visit, the **Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons**. This virtual visit involved a fascinating presentation into the work of the OPCW that covered the historical treaty development, the practices of the organization and examples of recent areas of work. This was followed by a Q&A, with questions from both students and staff attendees.



Congratulations

Our former LLM International Human Rights Students have had great success over the past year:

- **Hope Pycroft (2019/20)** was recently appointed by international NGO, Global Witness.
- Current student, **Henry Bonsor**, has been appointed to the Housing team at LawStop.
- **Hannah Dale (2020-21)** is a Junior Consultant with Ardea International, having originally been appointed as a Human Rights Legal Research Assistant after completing her LLM.
- **Lauren Stewart (2019-22)** has been appointed Human Rights Officer with the British Institute of Human Rights (BIHR)

LLM STUDENT ALUMNI

Hannah Dale (LLM International Human Rights Law 2020-21)



I studied at the University of Sussex for both my LLB and LLM, and now work as a Junior Consultant for Ardea International – a specialist sustainability, business and human rights consultancy with expertise in modern slavery.

I started with Ardea as a part-time Legal Researcher a month after completing my LLM, before being promoted to a full-time role as a Junior Consultant after just 6 months. My work with Ardea includes, among other tasks, working directly with businesses to support them on business and human rights issues, preparing material for webinars and training sessions, and writing blogs for the website on topical issues. Part of this consists of collaborations with universities, creating material for lectures focused on human rights and environmental issues.

As part of my application to start with Ardea, I shared the concept behind some of the research that I completed as part of my LLM and have since had an article published in this area, through a contact that I was introduced to. My research on the impact of fast fashion on modern slavery was published in a series of Research Briefings, sponsored by the Modern Slavery Research Consortium.

Studying at Sussex was both what inspired me to pursue a career in this field and provided me with the skills needed to do so, with the LLM being particularly invaluable to this. A Masters was never really part of my plan until the coronavirus pandemic hit but as soon as I started the course, I could not believe that I had not considered it sooner. The two biggest assets of the course for me were the people, staff and students. You have the opportunity to interact with such a diverse group of people, from varied walks of life, which adds such great value to the content. The support from faculty is also worthy of a mention, as it remained at a high level throughout the course, even with COVID restrictions.

I loved studying at Sussex and will always remember the time I spent there. While the LLM was a last-minute decision for me, I am so glad that I went for it as would not be where I am today without it. If you are passionate about, or interested in pursuing a career in Human Rights, then I would strongly recommend the course regardless of your undergraduate background.

Find Out More:

SCHRR Website

SCHRR Twitter: @sussexhumanrts

