

The Centre for Socio-Legal Studies



Graduate Research Handbook 2024 – 2025



Welcome to CSLS



Dear Students,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies and Oxford. You have joined the largest group of socio-legal research students in the UK and that brings many rewards in its wake. As you will see from the layout of the Centre, we place our students at the heart of everything we do and supervision is one of the most important and fulfilling tasks we perform as academics. I am grateful to Fernanda for putting together such a wonderful course guide for you. You will find a lot of useful information provided in the guide. We ask that you read this thoroughly before approaching your supervisors or our administrative team with questions.

I look forward to meeting you, discussing methodology and learning about your research. As you will soon learn there are many opportunities for us to talk about and reflect on the nature of socio-legal studies in our Theory and Methods class and Monday seminar series in which well-known socio-legal scholars come to tell you about their work. We also host the socio-legal discussion forum organised by our students on Thursdays. But just as important are the informal discussions we have during Thursday afternoon tea or in the kitchen while making a cup of tea.

The Centre is a place where disciplines and people meet. It is also a supportive community of scholars. The other students, post-doctoral fellows and senior staff all have experience of the challenges you will face in the course of your MPhil or DPhil programme and we are all here to help you. I look forward to the many discussions we will have, to seeing you develop as a scholar and to you playing an active role in our collective life.

Linda Mulcahy

*Professor of Socio-Legal Studies
Director of CSLS*

Key Contacts

Director of CSLS	Professor Linda Mulcahy	linda.mulcahy@csls.ox.ac.uk
Deputy Director Director Of Graduate Studies	Professor Fernanda Pirie	fernanda.pirie@csls.ox.ac.uk

Centre Administration

Centre Administrator	Nikki Macmichael	nicola.macmichael@csls.ox.ac.uk Tel: 01865 284222
Administration Officer	Nadine Moustafa	nadine.moutafa@csls.ox.ac.uk admin@csls.ox.ac.uk Tel: 01865 284220

Student Representatives

Social Events Visiting Student Liaison Student rep for GPC	Marcus Dahl	marcus.dahl@law.ox.ac.uk
Organiser of the Socio- Legal Discussion Group	Vendula Kolařík Mezeiová	vendula.kolarikmezeiova@regents.ox.ac.uk

People at the Centre

Research Staff

<p>Dr Margarita Amaxopoulou <i>Postdoctoral Researcher</i></p>	<p>Researcher on InfoLead and ReMeD projects Leverhulme Early Career Fellow from May 2025</p>
<p>Dr Marie Burton <i>Senior Research Fellow</i></p>	<p>Access to justice; legal aid; the legal profession; social welfare law Researcher on the project 'An oral history of radical lawyering'</p>
<p>Dr Niklas Eder <i>Postdoctoral Researcher</i></p>	<p>Researcher on InfoLead and ReMeD projects</p>
<p>Dr Florian Grisel <i>Senior Research Fellow</i></p>	<p>Law and private governance; dispute resolution; law and social norms; transnational law; international arbitration.</p>
<p>Dr Fanni Gyurko <i>Postdoctoral Researcher</i></p>	<p>Researcher on the project 'No fault compensation schemes for Covid vaccine damage'</p>
<p>Dr Beata Huska <i>Postdoctoral Researcher</i></p>	<p>Researcher on HuRiEE project</p>
<p>Behram Khan <i>Research Assistant</i></p>	<p>Research assistant on the project 'An oral history of radical lawyering'</p>
<p>Dr Dominik Krell <i>Leverhulme Early Career Fellow</i></p>	<p>Saudi Arabia and the globalisation of Islamic Law</p>
<p>Dr Agnieszka Kubal <i>Associate Professor</i></p>	<p>PI on HuRiEE project (Who are the Humans behind Human Rights?) and PI on Comparative Perspectives on Judicial Activism Across Eastern Europe</p>
<p>Dr Marina Kurkchian <i>Emeritus Fellow</i></p>	<p>Sociology of law; comparative legal cultures; rule of law and regulative power of law in non-Western economies.</p>
<p>Dr Bettina Lange <i>Associate Professor in Law and Regulation</i></p>	<p>UK, German and EU environmental regulation; qualitative empirical socio-legal research methods, including discourse analysis; socio-legal theories of regulation</p>
<p>Dr Sonia Macleod <i>Senior Research Fellow</i></p>	<p>PI on the project 'No fault compensation schemes for Covid vaccine damage'</p>
<p>Dr Joe McAulay <i>Leverhulme Early Career Fellow</i></p>	<p>Dangerous spectacles: conspiracy theories, crime, and the law</p>

Dr Caitlyn McGeer <i>PI/ Postdoctoral Researcher</i>	PI on British Academy-funded GenDR research project
Professor Linda Mulcahy <i>Professor of Socio-Legal Studies</i>	Dispute resolution; access to justice; law, art and architecture; feminism; oral history; law and medicine
Hanna Oliinyk <i>Research Assistant</i>	Research assistant on HuRiEE project
Professor Fernanda Pirie <i>Professor of the Anthropology of Law</i>	Anthropology of law; legalism; history of law; Tibetan law
Dr Julius Schneider <i>Postdoctoral Researcher</i>	Researcher on Floods and Pandemics – a socio-legal study of evidence in regulation
Dr Nicole Stremlau <i>Head of PCMLP</i>	Media and development; freedom of expression; communication in war/post-war situations; strategic communication; Horn of Africa and Eastern African politics; political ideology and communication, PI on ReMeD and InfoLead
Dr Francesca Uberti <i>British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow</i>	Law and conspiracy: exploring the use of legalistic rhetoric and narratives in anti-authority worldviews
Dr Eleanor Whittingdale <i>Postdoctoral Researcher</i>	Researcher on Herstories – Oral History of the Rape Crisis Movement

We also encourage you to explore the activities of Principal Investigators and their programme/project associates and collaborators, at <https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/content/section-index/research-centre-socio-legal-studies>.

Research Students – DPhil

Selina Abächerli, *Lincoln College*

Making 'Good' law: an anthropological analysis of debates about legislative standards in the UK (Supervisor: Prof F Pirie)

Roxane Agon, *Wolfson College*

(Supervisor: Dr F Grisel)

Nouf Albinhassan, *Linacre College*

Corporate Governance Field- Title: "Corporate Governance and the Sovereign: What corporate governance role do Sovereign Wealth Funds play?" (Supervisors: Dr F Grisel)

Kara Apland, *Balliol College (part-time)*

The limits of legal protection: a study of the use of institutions in Sri Lanka's child justice system (Supervisor: Prof F Pirie)

Muhammad Atcha, *Keble College*

(Supervisor: Prof F Pirie)

Benedikt Barthelmess, *Exeter College*

Domestic law-making and the transnational anti-money laundering governmentality (Supervisor: Dr B Lange)

Zeinab Bazzi, *St Anthony's College*

A 'Just' Welfare State for the Few?: The Dutch Childcare Benefit Scandal and the Changing Nature of the Welfare State (Supervisor: Dr F Grisel)

James Campbell, *Wolfson College (part-time)*

The Laws of Motion: Towards a Sensational Jurisprudence of Movement within the Court (Supervisor: Prof L Mulcahy)

Urania Chiu, *Exeter College*

At the frontiers between penal and psy discourses: Judicial constructions of the mentally dis/ordered defendant in Hong Kong sentencing judgments (Supervisor: Prof L Mulcahy, Dr C Foster and Dr M Dunn)

Freya Cole Norton, *Lincoln College*

The local welfare safety net: fit for purpose? (Supervisor: Prof L Mulcahy)

Marcus Dahl, *St Edmund Hall*

Indigenous political voice, the Uluru Statement and the demand for a constitutionally protected Voice to Parliament in Australia (Supervisors: Prof F Pirie and Prof A Wood)

Ana Carolina Dall'Agnol, *Wolfson College*

Foreign direct investment and the role of the law: the case of Mozambique (Supervisors: Dr F Grisel and Dr C Decker)

Ann-Marie Debrah, Exeter College

Phenotype, scientific racism and colonialism: the reintroduction of colonial categories of race in committee proceedings in Brazil (Supervisors: Prof L Mulcahy)

Luise Eder, Exeter College

How do transnational AI governance initiatives frame and steer regulatory and policy frameworks in the Global South? (Supervisor: Prof F Pirie)

Ekin Genc, Keble College (part-time)

Trust, Code, and Degeneracy: An Empirical Inquiry into the Fragile Private Order of Decentralized Finance (Supervisor: Prof F Pirie and Dr C Decker)

Rebekka Geremew Mankeshe, Queen's College

Law Beyond the State Project title: 'How climate change activists position themselves towards the law and why they choose to break it' (Supervisor: Prof F Pirie)

Irene Han, St Anthony's College

Costs in civil litigation: the impact of incentives on lawyer behaviour and the operation of the Civil Procedure Rules (Supervisor: Prof L Mulcahy)

Etienne Hanelt, Wolfson College

The costs of judicial authority and the politics of interference (Supervisors: Prof F Pirie and Prof E González Ocantos)

Daniel Herszberg, St Cross College

(Supervisor: Dr F Grisel)

Shruti Iyer, St Antony's College

Silicosis and the state: reframing contestations between capital and labour in contemporary India (Supervisor: Prof L Mulcahy)

Lama Karame, Exeter College

Age and the law: a critical approach to ageing under legal pluralism (Supervisors: Prof L Mulcahy and Prof J Herring)

Charlotte Kelly, Exeter College

How has the legal construction of the image of the adolescent in Singapore and Indonesia changed from the late colonial period to the modern day? (Supervisors: Prof J Herring)

Israr Khan, Regent's Park College

Analysing China's approach to investor-state disputes under the belt and road initiative (Supervisor: Dr B Lange)

Stephen Knight, Wolfson College (part time)

Humanely treating terrorist prisoners: how the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria observes international humanitarian law after the end of hostilities (Supervisor: Dr F Grisel)

Vendula Kolařík Mezeiová, Regent's Park College

Constructing the Legitimacy of Behavioral Regulatory Tools: A Post-structuralist Analysis of Tools to Promote the MMR Vaccination in France (Supervisor: Dr B Lange)

Nagi Koriki, *St Anthony's College*

The Limits of the State (Supervisor: Prof F Pirie)

Jade Kosche, *Wolfson College*

Behind the seams: private labour ordering and gender-based violence in Lesotho's garment factories – a work-centred legal ethnography (Supervisor: Prof F Pirie)

Fidelis Leite Magalhaes, *Wolfson College (part time)*

A socio-historical study of the role of media in nation-building in East Timor (Supervisor: Dr N Stremmlau)

Sarah Levy, *Green Templeton College*

A Tale of Two Seal Hunts: Contesting the conflation of Canadian sealing activities in law and policy (Supervisor: Dr B Lange)

Amanda Lindstrom, *St Antony's College (part-time)*

Business, Politics and Law: Socio-Legal Aspects of Global Health Supply Chain Governance and Pharmaceutical Manufacturer Due Diligence (Supervisors: Prof L Mulcahy and Prof A Davies)

Junyu Liu (Loveday), *Regent's Park College*

Living the rurality: the radiating effects of law on the corporate-peasant relationships in a Chinese agricultural enterprise (Supervisor: Dr F Grisel)

Anna Löbbert, *Lincoln College*

Denying the state through law: the case of the German Reichsbürger movement (Supervisor: Prof F Pirie)

Krzysztof Lukaszek, *New College*

Landlord–tenant property discourses in a post-communist society: a socio-legal case study of property restitution in Warsaw (1990–2021) (Supervisors: Dr B Lange and Prof A Layard)

Caio Machado, *Wolfson College*

Scientific disinformation and the public sphere in Brazil: how pseudo-science impairs democracy (Supervisor: Dr B Lange)

Angela Moore, *Brasenose College (part-time)*

Regulating asylum: the CEAS, the refugee crisis and the search of common standards (Supervisor: Dr M Kurkchian and Dr C Decker)

Maria Obrebska, *Reuben College*

Populism as 'caring against': the relationship between care and citizenship, as evidenced in the conflict around sexual education in Poland (Supervisor: Dr A Kubal)

Harshita Pandey, *St Antony's College (part-time)*

Beyond Consent and Coercion: Socialization and Law (Supervisor: Dr N Stremmlau)

Ayesha Pattnaik, *St Antony's College*

Concealed claims, contested citizens: a study of India's informal internal migrant workers (Supervisor: Prof F Pirie)

Pablo Peña Alegria, *Green Templeton College*

Property law and deforestation in the agricultural frontier of the Peruvian Amazon (Supervisor: Dr B Lange)

Aastha Prasad, *Green Templeton College*

From colonialism to late capitalism: trajectories of 'customary law' among tribes in Western India (Supervisor: Prof F Pirie)

Mihir Rajamane Rajendra, *Exeter College*

'Transgender' in India: Decoding the Dynamics of State Law and Gender as an Institution through a Material Perspective (Supervisor: Dr A Kubal)

Vidya Ramachandran, *St Peter's College*

(En)gendering removal: women's experiences of 'voluntary return' from the UK to India (Supervisor: Prof F Pirie)

Chiara Rohlf, *Hertford College*

Who defines corporate climate obligations? Exploring the blind spots and interaction between private regulatory initiatives and corporate climate law (Supervisor: Dr B Lange)

Elsa Savourey, *Exeter College (part-time)*

Advancing the respect of human rights in global value chains: assessing the effectiveness of mandatory human rights due diligence (Supervisor: Dr F Grisel)

Johannes Vöhler, *Reuben College*

Socio-legal studies and EU law: "Judicial Independence in the EU – A Matter of Legal Culture?" (Supervisor: Dr A Kubal)

Lisa Völzmann, *St Antony's College*

Data for the public interest: the regulation of B2G data sharing in international data governance models (Supervisor: Dr B Lange)

Supakorn Wilartratsami, *St Antony's College*

Shifting legal consciousness under Thailand's new National Screening Mechanism for 'Protected Persons' (Asylum Seekers) (Supervisor: Dr N Stremlau)

Research Students – MPhil

Mohammad Asmi, *Oriel College*

Socio-political Dimension of Internet Freedom in India (Supervisor: Dr N Stremlau)

Ethan Ostrow, *Reuben College*

Restorative Justice as Legal-Governance: Tracing Technique Through Institutional Politics (Supervisor: Dr A Kubal)

Sachin Siwakoti, *Reuben College*

Evaluating Socio-Economic Rights Realization: Study of the Inequality Jurisprudence and Implementation Status in Nepal (Supervisor: Dr B Lange)

Lucy Tu, *Oriel College*

Pregnancy by Design: A Study of Genomic Technologies & Prenatal Personhood Laws (Supervisor: Dr N Stremlau)

Details of all research students enrolled in the Centre's programmes can be found at <https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/centres-institutes/centre-socio-legal-studies/current-students>

Centre Associates

The Centre has a number of Senior, University, and Postdoctoral Associates. Please see:

<https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/centres-institutes/centre-socio-legal-studies/associates>

Academic and Student Visitors

The Visitors' Programme is an important part of the Centre's activities. Visitors are welcomed for all or part of the academic year. Please feel free to contact any of our visitors who share similar research interests.

Details of current visitors and their research interests can be found at our website at <https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/centres-institutes/centre-socio-legal-studies/visitors-programme>.

Students' Community

You are joining a vibrant and supportive community of students. We hope that you will enjoy being part of it and that you will choose to become actively involved in the activities initiated and run by the students. Each year the Centre nominates student representatives, who are listed on page 3 of this handbook. Please feel free to approach them whenever you have any concern or question or if you would like to put forward an idea on how to make life at the Centre even better. The student representatives initiate a number of academic and social events to which you will be invited, and generally do their best to support you. Naturally, they will also need your support in return if they are to make things happen and to make life at the Centre something to relish.

One of the students' representatives will attend the meetings of the CSLS General Purposes Committee (GPC) held at least once a term, and will be encouraged to communicate your views to Centre staff. Please use this opportunity in full. Feedback will be provided on whatever items are brought to the meetings. Where suggestions for change are agreed, every effort will be made to implement them as soon as possible. As a part of the wider Law Faculty, DPhil students also elect a student representative from the CSLS to attend the Law Faculty's Board meetings and sit on its Graduate Studies Committee. The Centre strongly encourages students to get involved in this way. The person nominated can either be the student representative on the Centre's General Purposes Committee, or someone else.

Frontiers of Socio-Legal Studies Blog

The Centre's blog, launched in 2021, promotes debates about issues and methods in the socio-legal community. Much of its content is geared towards early career academics and students. Its editors are recruited from the student body, overseen by Professor Linda Mulcahy as the senior editor. The editorial team actively encourages contributions from the student body. You can see the blog here: [Frontiers of Sociolegal Studies](#). The [podcasts](#) on different methodologies should be of particular value to first year students.

Residence Requirements

The University takes residence requirements very seriously. You must be resident for at least six weeks in at least six terms of your programme. You may be granted dispensation from the requirements to keep residence only if it is necessary for you to carry out academic work elsewhere. Residence means residing within 25 miles of Carfax Tower. This is to enable you to be fully supported throughout your studies and to benefit from the Centre and University's research environments. Further detail is available at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/applying-to-oxford/university-policies/residence-requirements>.

Centre Facilities



Centre Access

You will have access to the Centre during normal building open times (which follow the [Social Sciences Library opening times](#)). If you require access to the Building Out of Hours (OOH), please make this request to the Centre Administrator. You will need to watch an online OOH induction and provide your University card details. Once you have OOH access, you will be responsible for ensuring the Centre is secure as you enter and leave – doors should be shut behind you throughout the building and valuables not left unattended.



Desk space

The Centre allocates a desk and PC/docking station to all new research students for their first year, and makes them available to continuing students depending on the availability of the space.

The communal areas of the Centre should be treated as a quiet working space for both students and researchers, so please keep long conversations to a minimum. Please also respect your working space by ensuring that any unwashed mugs, plates etc. are not left at your desk and keeping your space tidy.



Hot desks

For those who have not been allocated desks, there are 6 desks available for hot desking near the entrance of the centre.



Sofa Pods

There are two meeting pods located at the entrance to the Centre and these should be used for online meetings and phone calls so that others in the open plan area are not disturbed.



Terrace

We have a terrace with tables and benches which can be used by CSLS staff and students between 9am and 5:30pm, weather permitting. No smoking or alcohol consumption is permitted on the terrace.



IT

The Centre will automatically arrange an email account for you on the University's Nexus365 system: <https://help.it.ox.ac.uk/nexus365>. It will take the form `firstname.secondname@law.ox.ac.uk` and will be in addition to your college email address. A letter telling you your username and password for Nexus365 will be sent out to you, normally via your College.

Once you have activated your email account, remember to check regularly for messages. It is expected that you check your email on a regular basis during working hours for Centre and Faculty messages. Your Oxford Single Sign-On (SSO) gives you access to a range of Oxford-based

systems which require login access, such as Graduate Supervision Reporting (GSR). If you are allocated a PC, a Manor Road Building computer account will also be set up for you automatically and details will be emailed to you. If you are allocated a docking station and monitor, you will need to bring your laptop with you and use Eduroam as your WiFi connection.

If you need to contact the IT Team directly (itsupport@manor-road.ox.ac.uk) please do so through your @ox.ac.uk account; emails from external providers are automatically bounced back.



Photocopier/Printer/Scanner

All students can access the Centre's photocopier within the printer room, by using their university card, and the Centre allows a reasonable number of copies to be made per year. Please scan the QR code above the printer for user instructions.



Refreshments

You are welcome to use the Centre's kitchen, including the supplies of tea, coffee, milk and sugar. A microwave is available for heating food and drinks. Those using the kitchen are responsible for tidying up after themselves – this is not the administrators' job. There is a cafeteria on the first floor (open 08:30–15:30, Monday to Friday during term time) as well as a shared Common Room (used by all the academic departments in the building). There is café in the St Cross Building, run by the Missing Bean, which is open from 0th to 9th week each term. Vending machines for hot drinks and snacks and a water cooler are located on the first floor near the cafeteria. Please feel free to make use of the CSLS roof terrace to consume refreshments.



Dishwasher

The dishwasher is run every day late in the afternoon. Please unload it if you are first into the Centre in the morning.



Afternoon tea

There is an informal afternoon tea at the Centre on Thursdays at 4pm throughout the year. You are encouraged to attend and take this opportunity to interact with other Centre members.



Tidiness

Centre members are required to keep the Centre tidy and as they would wish to find it. This includes the sofa areas and the kitchenette. After Centre events—seminars, afternoon teas—please help to wash and tidy away items you have used.



Showers

There are two showers in the Economics Department on the second floor which are available for use during normal opening hours, Monday to Friday.



Fire Information

In the event of the fire alarm sounding, evacuate Manor Road Building immediately via the nearest staircase (not via the building's main stairwell) and assemble on the pavement at Manor Place (the small road opposite Manor Road Building reception). Please read fire notices within the building and take the time to explore your exit routes in case of an emergency.



Access to Facilities

There is a ramped access to the main entrance and there is a powered door at reception. Accessible toilets are on each floor. For wheelchair access to the Centre, there is a lift. An infrared hearing loop is available by request in each of the teaching rooms. An evacuation chair is located at reception. Should you need any special assistance, please alert the Centre Administrator or building facilities staff via reception.



First Aid

First Aid can be administered by one of the Facilities Management team trained in first aid. There is a first aid box in the CSLS post room, at reception and in the locker room. Please contact reception to request first aid.



Accident reporting

Please report any accidents, incidents or near misses to the Centre Administrator.



Contemplation Room

There is a Contemplation Room in the St Cross Building next door, it is located on the ground floor and is open to all staff, students and visitors who may need a little time away from the busy spaces we occupy. It is a quiet, private space, for people to use for short periods during the working day to pray, rest or meditate.



Lactation Room

This is located in the Manor Road Building next to the accessible toilet on the third floor. For more details: <https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/equality-and-diversity/quiet-rooms>

For more information on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, please view the website here: <https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/equality-and-diversity/equality-diversity-inclusion>

Research

Research Supervision

Your research will be supported by your supervisor at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies (CSLS). A second supervisor may be arranged if additional expertise is needed for your project, in consultation with your main supervisor.

At Oxford, the primary focus is on the one-to-one relationship with your supervisor(s), who will provide feedback on your progress. It is generally expected that you will meet your supervisor(s) three times per term, though the frequency can vary depending on your research stage and needs. It is your responsibility to take the initiative in setting up meetings. Contact your supervisor as soon as you arrive to discuss your work schedule, and remember it is your responsibility to arrange these meetings.

At the end of each term, you are expected to submit a report on your academic progress via the Graduate Supervision Reporting System (GSR). This report allows you to review and comment on your progress, with your supervisor adding their own report.

If you have concerns about your supervision, discuss them first with your supervisor. The Director of Graduate Studies is also available for consultation.

Research Pathway

In the course of your DPhil, you will pass through three formal assessments:

1. Qualification Test (QT) or Transfer of Status:
 - This transition from probationary status (PRS) to DPhil status requires a thesis outline and a piece of written work, demonstrating a clear thesis proposal, familiarity with relevant literature, a sound methodology, and the ability to develop an argument to DPhil standard.
 - Aim to submit in Trinity Term of your first year, or at latest before the beginning of Michaelmas Term (your second year). Two assessors will read your work and conduct a viva.
 - Completion of the University's [Research Integrity Training](#) is required before submitting for the QT.
2. Confirmation of Status Test (CoS):
 - Conducted after the data-gathering stage and initial writing phase, typically by the end of the third year. You will submit two chapters, ideally including the Introduction, outlining the thesis's themes, structure, and argument. Two assessors will read your work and conduct a viva.
 - This test provides critical and constructive feedback to help you complete your thesis.
3. Final DPhil Viva:
 - Conducted by two experts in your research field, this viva determines whether your thesis meets the required standards and makes a contribution to the knowledge base. Most students complete their doctoral thesis in about four years, with guidance from their supervisor.

MPhil Students

- Work directly towards a single viva, to be completed by the end of the academic year (September). The MPhil thesis requires the same academic rigour as the DPhil, though on a smaller scale. MPhil students are encouraged to use secondary sources and data rather than extensive fieldwork.

For further details on assessments, submission requirements, deadlines, procedures, ethics, and risk assessment, consult the CSLS website: [CSLS Postgraduate Programme](#).

For any academic questions, your supervisor is your primary contact. For formal process enquiries, contact Nadine Moustafa, Administration Officer.

Research Funding

There are funding schemes available at Faculty, and more limited funds for research expenses available in the Centre, to support your research. More information on funding sources can be found here: [CSLS Funding and Employment](#).

Research Training

The Centre offers training for all new graduate students. Attendance at the Theory and Methods class, the weekly seminar series, and the Centre's annual lecture and related workshop is mandatory for first year students. Completion of all elements of this research training must be certified.

Theory and Methods

Please see below for the course outline.



Mondays 2.00–4.00pm, Seminar Room D

Seminar Series

Description: The Centre convenes a weekly research seminar in which papers are presented by research staff, members of other institutions within the University and speakers from other universities. There will be regular seminars in Michaelmas and Hilary terms. Attendance is compulsory for first year students. Even if a seminar does not directly address the topic of your research, they will all help you to gain an understanding of what constitutes a socio-legal approach to research and how different types of theoretical and methodological frameworks can be applied.

The series is followed by lunch in the third floor Atrium, which provides an important opportunity for students and staff to meet the speaker and other Centre members to discuss issues of common interest. Many students find informal conversations an invaluable source of advice and ideas.

Additional professional development seminars and activities for Hilary term and Trinity term will be announced during the year.



Schedule for Michaelmas term: Mondays 11.30–1.00pm, Seminar Room C
Schedule for Hilary term: Tuesdays 5.00–6.30pm, Seminar Room C (weeks tbc)

Students' Socio-Legal Discussion Group

Description: This Discussion Group is organised by students to discuss the progress of their research. It also includes seminars led by external speakers. Attendance is highly recommended and information will be widely distributed.



Thursdays 12.30–2.00pm, Seminar Room B

Research Clusters

The Centre explains its research to the outside world by grouping its activities around [a series of research clusters](#). Once a year the convenors of each cluster organise an informal workshop which all staff and students are free to attend. All conferences and seminars organised by the Centre are open to students.

The Annual Lecture 2025

The CSLS annual lecture will be held on **28th May 2025** in Week 6 of Trinity term, with the possibility of the speaker leading a workshop with research students the day before. Information about the speaker, along with confirmed times, will be shared once available.

Social Sciences Division

In addition to the basic course in 'Theory and Methods of Socio-Legal Research' outlined above, you may want to consider – in discussion with your supervisor – attending methodology classes for the social sciences offered by other departments, such as [Politics and International Relations](#), the [Saïd Business School](#), the [Centre for Criminology](#) and the [Department of Sociology](#).

Information about the training opportunities available within the Social Sciences Division and across the University is available [on the Division's website](#).

Useful Portals and Websites

New Students

- **Welcome to Oxford:** Find essential information to help you settle in and make the most of your time at Oxford. [New Students Portal](#)
- **Oxford Transition Support:** Provides resources to help you adjust to academic and social life at Oxford. [Oxford Transition Support](#)

Academic and Research Resources

- **CSLS Graduate Programme:** Information on the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies' postgraduate programmes. [CSLS Graduate Programme](#)
- **Research Ethics:** Guidance on maintaining ethical standards in your research. [University Research Ethics](#)
- **The Socio-Legal Studies Association (SLSA)** is the national learned society in our field. It hosts an annual conference and postgraduate conference. Membership is free for the first year for students: <https://www.slsa.ac.uk/>. They also produce an ethics statement: [SLSA Ethics Statement](#)
- **University Policy on Research Degrees:** Detailed policies and procedures related to research degrees at Oxford. [Research Degrees Policy](#)
- **Frontiers of Socio-Legal Studies:** <https://frontiers.csls.ox.ac.uk/>

Academic Support

- **University Student Handbook:** Comprehensive guide covering academic policies, student responsibilities, and support services. [Student Handbook](#)
- **Research Degree Stages:** Outline of the stages involved in completing a research degree. [Research Degree Stages](#)
- **Graduate Studies Office (GSO) Progression Forms:** Forms and guidance for progressing through your graduate studies. [GSO Progression Forms](#)
- **Changes in Student Status:** Procedures for changing your student status, including suspensions, extensions, and withdrawals. [Changes in Student Status](#)

Health and Welfare

- **Student Health and Welfare:** Information on health services, counseling, and welfare support available to students. [Health and Welfare](#)

Research Integrity and Training

- **Good Practice in Research:** Training and checklists to help you adhere to best practices in research. [Research Integrity Training](#)
- **Avoiding Plagiarism:** An online course designed to help you develop skills and judgement to avoid plagiarism. [Avoiding Plagiarism Course](#)

These resources provide essential support and guidance for navigating academic and personal life during your time at Oxford. Be sure to explore each link for detailed information and assistance.

Theory and Methods Course in Socio-Legal Research

Sessions for probationary research and MPhil students

The aims of these sessions are to:

1. Help students understand the intellectual origins of socio-legal studies and how the field relates to doctrinal scholarship and critical legal studies.
2. Introduce students from both law and social science backgrounds to the contributions of sociology, politics, anthropology, law, and economics to understanding the role of law in society.
3. Familiarise students with seminal and contemporary debates in socio-legal studies.
4. Enable students to situate their own research projects within the context of these debates and to identify their contribution to them.
5. Allow students to critically assess and compare key empirical methods for the collection and analysis of data.



Seminars take place – unless otherwise stated – on Mondays, 2.00–4.00pm in Seminar Room D

Michaelmas Term

Sessions in Michaelmas Term provide an introduction to key approaches and debates in contemporary socio-legal studies. The discussions will explore the nature of law, the various forms it takes, and the different roles it plays in a variety of social settings and relationships.

The readings listed here are essential preparation for the seminars. Please see the [Readings on theory and methods in socio-legal research](#) for key general texts and additional resources.

WEEK 1: Monday 14th October, Professor Linda Mulcahy **Histories of socio-legal studies**

Socio-legal study has many histories. This seminar will open with a consideration of the notion of a discipline and explore the extent to which law is distinguishable from other fields of study. It will go on to discuss how socio-legal approaches to the study of law can be distinguished from other schools of thought within the legal academy. This will involve us looking at doctrinal, critical and socio-legal traditions and the extent to which the ‘othering’ of doctrinal law is essential to law and society scholarship. We will also consider the ways in which socio-legal approaches are accurately treated as being synonymous with empirical approaches to the study of law. You are asked to read a seminal text by Pound in which he coins what has since become a term of art, “Law in the books and law in action”. The American Legal realism movement, of which Pound was a central figure, is often taken as the starting point in histories of ‘socio-legal,’ ‘law and society’ or ‘law in context’ scholarship. The deliberately provocative article by Bradney brings the history more up to date by considering the limitations of leaving law and society scholarship to lawyers. Harrington and Maji challenge us to think of alternative histories of socio-legal studies which place Africa at the centre.

Essential reading

Pound, R., 1910. ‘Law in books and law in action’, *Am. L. Rev.* 44, p.12.

Bradney, A. 1998. ‘Law as a parasitic discipline’, *Journal of Law and Society*, 25: 71–84.

Harrington, J. and A. Manji. 2017. ‘The limits of socio-legal radicalism: social and legal studies and third world scholarship’, *Social & Legal Studies*, 26: 700–15.

WEEK 2: Monday 21st October, Assoc. Prof. Florian Grisel **The social basis of law: theoretical approaches**

This session will explore the theoretical foundations of socio-legal approaches by examining the work of leading sociologists such as Max Weber and Emile Durkheim. We will analyse the ways in which a socio-legal approach differs from the doctrinal analysis of the law, and highlight the empirical dimension of this approach. We will critically analyse these theories and link their interpretations of what law is to the larger viewpoints of social philosophy. We will then discuss whether the models have relevance to empirical reality.

Essential reading

Durkheim, Emile. 1982. *The Rules of Sociological Method*. New York: The Free Press [Ch II]

Weber, Max. 1978. *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology*. Vol. 1.

Berkeley: University of California Press [Ch VIII.i.]

WEEK 3: 28th October, Assoc. Prof. Agnieszka Kubal
Legal culture and legal consciousness

This seminar investigates the intricate relationship between law and society through the interconnected concepts of legal culture and legal consciousness. By engaging with foundational and contemporary scholarly works, we examine how legal norms, practices, and beliefs are both shaped by and shape societal values and behaviours. The seminar will discuss the symbiotic relationship between legal culture and legal consciousness as two complementary conceptual lenses, revealing the cultural foundations of legal systems and their impact on social dynamics.

Essential reading

- Silbey, Susan S. 2005. 'After Legal Consciousness', *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 1: 323–68.
- Kurkchiyan, Marina. 2023. 'Legal Culture as an Approach to the Study of Law in Russian Society', in Hydén Håkan, et al. (eds), *Combining the Legal and the Social in Sociology of Law: An Homage to Reza Banakar*. London: Hart/Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Chua, Lynette and David M. Engel. 2019. 'Legal consciousness reconsidered', *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 15: 335–53.

WEEK 4: Monday 4th November, Professor Fernanda Pirie
Law and social order

The maintenance of order and resolution of disputes are often regarded as central functions of law. But, as Roberts demonstrates, different societies assess and approach conflict in very different ways, tolerating different levels and types of conflict. Order is not everywhere defined by an absence of conflict, as studies of feuding societies make clear. Moreover, many societies maintain a form of order perfectly well without resorting to law, even turning their backs on state law. These case studies will give us the chance to question the role that law is commonly assumed to play in societies and the relationship between state law and other forms of social ordering

Essential reading

- Roberts, Simon. 1983. The study of dispute: anthropological perspectives. In J. Bossy (ed.) *Disputes and Settlements*. CUP
- Moore, Sally Falk. 1973. 'Law and Social Change: the Semi-Autonomous Social Field as an Appropriate Subject of Study', *Law & Society Review* 7: 719–46.

WEEK 5: Monday 11th November, Professor Fernanda Pirie
Legal pluralism

How is law to be identified outside the formal legal systems of the nation state? What does it even mean to talk of 'non-state law'? Should it be identified by its sources, its functions, or its form? This seminar discusses debates about the nature of law generated by anthropological examples from around the world, including what is promoted as 'legal pluralism', and the ways in which they can be used to reflect upon what law is.

Essential reading

Merry, Sally Engle. 1988. 'Legal pluralism'. *Law and Society Review*, 22: 869–96.

Roberts, Simon. 2005. 'After government: on representing law without the state', *Modern Law Review* 68: 1–24.

**WEEK 6: Monday 18th November, Assoc. Prof. Agnieszka Kubal
Decolonizing social theory: implications for socio-legal studies**

Classic social theories of Weber and Durkheim are fundamentally theories of modernity. However, as Walter Dignolo observed: 'modernity' is a European narrative that hides its darker side, 'coloniality' (...) there is no modernity without coloniality' (2011: 1). We begin our attempt to decolonise social theory by explaining what it means for social theory to have been 'colonised'. We cannot treat the classic 'textbook' social theorists – all male, all white, all European, now all dead – as ahistorical and given. The structure of this session reflects the need to balance the voices of 'sociological classics' with those of the thus far 'invisible' social theorists: women and people of colour who were contemporaneous with the 'white and male' social theorists but whose writings were subject to the politics of invisibility or outright erasure (Lengermann and Niebrugge-Brantley 2001). This session will critically examine the implications of these neglected voices for socio-legal studies, exploring how decolonising social theory can inform and transform our understanding of law and society.

Essential reading

Connell, Raewyn. 1997. 'Why is classical theory classical?' *American Journal of Sociology* 102: 1511–57 .

Burawoy, Michael. 2021. 'Why is classical theory classical? Theorizing the canon and canonizing Du Bois', *Journal of Classical Sociology* 21: 245–59.

Crenshaw, Kimberlé. 1989. 'Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics', *The University of Chicago Legal Forum*, Vol. 1, pp. 139–67

**WEEK 7: Monday 25th November: Professor Linda Mulcahy
Feminism in socio-legal research**

Socio-legal studies has long drawn on feminist discourse and the notion of marginalized legal lives. Like post-colonial theory, critical race theory and LatCrit, feminist legal scholarship compels us to examine the ways in which formal law has been complicit in the production of privilege, hierarchy and inequality. It has also drawn attention to the ways in which gendered thinking about law and authority, and the very notion of an 'impartial' judge, are constantly constructed and re-constructed in legal texts. In this seminar we will examine two vivid accounts of what it means to be a feminist empirical researcher. We will also begin to look at the impact that being a feminist has on how you behave as a socio-legal scholar.

Essential reading

Bano, S. 2005. 'Standpoint, difference and feminist research', in R. Banaker R. and M. Travers (eds), *Theory and Method in Socio-Legal Research*. Oxford: Hart.

Whittingdale, E., 2021. 'Becoming a feminist methodologist while researching sexual violence support services', *Journal of Law and Society*, 48: S10–S27.

Talking about methods blog: 'Feminist judgements' with Rosemary Hunter, Sharon Cowan and Aoife O'Donoghue or 'Feminist legal biography' with Rosemary Auchmuty.

WEEK 8: Monday 2nd December: Professor Linda Mulcahy

Introduction to socio-legal methodology: the qualitative-quantitative spectrum

The session will provide a general survey of the social and philosophical roots of the various techniques available for data collection and analysis. Particular attention will be paid to the contested issues in social science research, such as: What are we trying to achieve when we are engaged in research activities? Do qualitative and quantitative approaches have equal claims to be considered 'scientific'? When we decide on which methods to use in collecting the information we need, what assumptions are we making and what do they imply? What philosophical approaches do these assumptions rest upon? What do the differences between the various approaches entail for the interpretation of the nature of knowledge and truth? Finally, having surveyed the dynamic interplay between theoretical concepts and empirical data, the discussion will stress the importance of constructing a conceptual framework that will ensure the consistency and integrity of a research project.

Essential reading

Silverman, David. 2020. *Interpreting Qualitative Data*. Sage Publications [Ch. 1]

Chalmers, A.F. 2013. *What is this thing called science?* Hackett Publishing [Ch. 1].

Hilary Term

These seminars will build on the last session of Michaelmas term to discuss the practical techniques available to carry out socio-legal research and the ways in which they relate to the theoretical approaches you might take. We will consider which questions you can ask and what methods can help you to answer them.

WEEK 1: Monday 20th January, Assoc. Prof. Agnieszka Kubal

Research design, sampling and methodological rigour in socio-legal research

In this introductory session, we will focus on the critical planning phase of socio-legal research, emphasising the development of effective research designs and research questions. Given the constraints of time and resources, we will discuss the practicalities of sampling and data analysis and explore how sampling decisions impact data generation, generalisability, reaching empirical and theoretical saturation. Additionally, we will also address how to recognise high-quality qualitative research in socio-legal studies and establish benchmarks for research rigour, striving for findings that are both reliable and insightful.

Readings

Alford, Robert R. 1998. *The Craft of Inquiry. Theories, Methods, Evidence*. Oxford: OUP [Ch. 2 'Designing a Research Project', pp. 21–31]

Small, Mario Luis. 2005. 'Lost in Translation: How Not to Make Qualitative Research more Scientific', Note prepared for NSF Workshop on Interdisciplinary Standards for Systemic Qualitative Research, pp. 165–71

Schrank, Andrew. 2006. 'Maintaining Perspective is Essential: Bringing It All Back Home: Personal Reflections on Friends, Findings, and Fieldwork', in E. Perecman, & S.R.A. Curran, *A handbook*

for social science field research: Essays & bibliographic sources on research design and methods. SAGE Publications Ltd, pp. 217–36

WEEK 2: Monday, 27th January, Assoc. Prof. Agnieszka Kubal **Interviewing and focus groups**

In this seminar, we will examine one of the most widely used methods of data collection in socio-legal research: the interview. We will explore a variety of interviewing techniques and address the unique ethical and practical challenges of interviewing both 'elite' individuals and 'everyday' people. Interviews can take many forms, including administered surveys, structured, semi-structured, and unstructured interviews, as well as oral histories. This session will focus on in-depth interviews and their close counterpart, the focus group. We will discuss the benefits of using these methods, how to effectively design and conduct interviews and focus groups, and how to analyse the gathered data.

When reading the assigned articles by Roberts and Sokolić (both based on PhD research), consider whether the researchers employed the most suitable methods for their projects and the best strategies for overcoming any obstacles they encountered. Would you have approached it differently?

Essential reading

Bryson, Anna. 2021. The Politics of Preservation: Oral History, Socio-Legal Studies and Praxis, *Journal of Law and Society* 48 (S1): 74–87.

(on INTERVIEWS) Sean Roberts (2013) 'Research in challenging environments: the case of Russia's "managed democracy"', *Qualitative Research*, 13: 337-51.

(on FOCUS GROUPS) Ivor Sokolić (2016) 'Researching norms, narratives, and transitional justice: focus group methodology in post-conflict Croatia', *Nationalities Papers*, 44: 932–49.

WEEK 3: Monday 3rd February, Professor Fernanda Pirie **Ethnographic Methods**

Participant observation is a key technique of ethnographic socio-legal research methods. It is a type of research that could be regarded as diametrically opposed to the collection of quantitative data. This relates not only to the methods but to the types of questions that can be answered, the research design and the subsequent analysis of data. In the seminar we will discuss the practical issues of undertaking participant observation, but we will start by considering the how participant observation relates to other types of research and the continuum between quantitative and qualitative methods that were discussed in the first week. To this end you should do some reading on the nature of ethnography and participant observation and consider how your own project may be placed on the scale between quantitative and ethnographic methodologies. You should also read a case study about participant observation and anticipate whether you might encounter any similar practical issues in your own research.

Essential reading

Nader, Laura. 1986. 'From anguish to exultation', in P. Golde (ed.) *Women in the field*.

For theories of research methods, including participant observation, the following have reasonably good summaries:

Punch, K. F. 2005. *Introduction to Social Research: quantitative and qualitative approaches*.

Hammersley, M. and P. Atkinson. 1995. *Ethnography: principles in practice*. [Ch 1]

WEEK 4: Monday 10th February, Assoc. Prof. Nicole Stremiau and Dr Caitlyn McGeer Surveys

Surveys are a much-used form of data collection, which allow us to collect large amounts of generalisable data. They are used to capture both qualitative and quantitative data but in contrast to much qualitative work, commonly require those designing them to group responses into categories before the data has been collected. In this session we will consider the dangers of such pre-determined and deductive methods of data collection as well as their advantages. We will discuss how researchers and organizations use surveys as they are often at the core of indicators and indexes that can have significant impact on policies. Particular attention will be given to the challenges of survey research in difficult environments, including regions affected by crisis or conflict. We will spend some time critiquing the data contained in the Rule of Law Index, including the use of expert surveys. (see <https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/>).

Essential reading

Tourangeau, Roger, Lance J. Rips, and Kenneth Rasinski. 2012. 'Respondents' understanding of survey questions' in *The Psychology of Survey Response*. CUP.

Merry, Sally . 2011. 'Measuring the World: Indicators, Human Rights, and Global Governance', *Current Anthropology*, 52.

Fircow, Pamina and Robert Mac Ginty. 2017. 'Measuring Peace: Comparability, Commensurability, and Complementarity Using Bottom Up Indicators', *International Studies Review*, 19: 6–27.

WEEK 5: Monday 17th February, Professor Fernanda Pirie Using historical documents and archives

Historians have long debated the philosophical issues raised by archival research, starting with the nature of archives, themselves. But such debates should not dissuade socio-legal scholars from making use of available documentary sources. After all, laws are texts, and often preserved in archives. MPhil students often find an archive a good focus for a project and historical documents may give useful historic context to any research.

As with interview and survey data, all archival sources must be assessed and analysed on their own terms. In this session we will consider some of the particular issues raised by archival records: what can they reveal, how should they be interpreted, what are the significant gaps and silences, and how can we navigate extensive quantities of material? What are the practicalities of using archives?

Essential reading

Guha, Ranajit. 1983. *Elementary Aspects of Peasant Insurgency in Colonial India*. Delhi: OUP. [Ch. 1, Introduction. You should concentrate on his remarks, towards the end of the chapter, about sources.]

L'Eplattenier, Barbara. 2009. 'An Argument for archival research methods: thinking beyond methodology', *College English* 72: 67–79

Decker, Stephanie. 2013. 'The silence of the archives: business history, post-colonialism, and archival ethnography', *Management & Organizational History*, 8: 155–73.

WEEK 6: Monday 24th February, Assoc. Prof. Bettina Lange**Case studies**

A research design provides the 'scaffolding' for a socio-legal study. Researchers frequently frame their projects through the research design of one in-depth single, or multiple empirical case studies. Case studies can be used to address 'how' and, to some extent, 'why' research questions, e.g. through process tracing. They can generate 'comprehensive storylines', help to detect 'smoking guns' and generate 'confessions' (Blatter & Haverland, *Designing Case Studies*, 2012, p. 20). They have been used in socio-legal studies to analyse - for example - legal decision-making in organizations. But how do you actually construct and define the boundaries of 'a case'? How can case studies help to focus on specific instances of the empirical or conceptual phenomena you want to study? What are the analytical gains and limitations of framing your data collection through the case study research design?

Essential Reading

Clark, Tom, Liam Foster, Luke Sloan, and Alan Bryman. 2021. *Bryman's Social Research Methods*, 6th ed, OUP. [Ch. 3.6. Case Study Design']

Yin, R. 2018. 'Case study research and applications', 6th ed. Sag. [Chs 1 and 2]

Elliott, C, A. Janzwood, S. Bernstein, and M. Hoffman. 2023. 'Rethinking complementarity: The co-evolution of public and private governance in corporate climate disclosure', *Regulation & Governance*.

[Early view at: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/rego.12550>].

WEEK 7: Monday 3rd March, Dr Chris Decker**The dilemmas of working with quantitative data**

In the course of our research most of us rely on quantitative data, published statistics or attempt to count things even if we are doing qualitative research. In a world in which 'big data' is increasingly being discussed, it is important for us to understand the provenance of large data sets and to be able to judge the credibility of published data sets or those made available for secondary analysis. Without a basis knowledge of statistical significance, univariate, bivariate and multivariate analysis we cannot attempt to judge the credibility of published research. In this session we will look at some of the terms and models that are commonly used by statisticians and go on to consider the ways in which 'big data' impacts on the world of socio-legal studies.

Essential Reading

Bryman, A. 2015. 'Secondary analysis and official statistics' (ch. 10) and 'Quantitative data analysis' (ch. 11), in *Social Research Methods*. Oxford: OUP.

Gandomi, A. and Haider, M. 2015. 'Beyond the hype: big data concepts, methods, and analytics'. *International Journal of Information Management*, 35: 137–44.

Posner, E. and M. De Figueiredo. 2005. 'Is the International Court of Justice Biased?' *The Journal of Legal Studies*, 34: 599–630.

Background Viewing

Dancing statistics: 'Correlation' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFjaBh12C6s>

Dancing statistics: 'Frequency' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dr1DynUzjq0>

Dancing Statistics: 'Variance' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGfwj4GrUIA>

WEEK 8: Monday 10th March, Assoc. Prof. Nicole Stremlau
Ethical issues and CUREC procedures

While every researcher looks forward to finalising the often-complicated institutional ethics processes for their study, ethical questions do not simply begin and end with ethics approval. By discussing research ethics in a comparative perspective, including how different societies define and govern research ethics, we are able to reflect on broader inequalities and power relations in the field. Conflict and resource-poor field sites, in particular, often pose significant ethical challenges, we will discuss on the on-going moral and ethical considerations that take place before, during, and after undertaking empirical research, including how your research might be used by others in ways you do not anticipate. It will include guidance on how to identify possible ethical issues and negotiate institutional ethics requirements, including questions of anonymity, privacy, and research data management. Please review the Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee materials: <https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/governance/ethics/apply/sshidrec#collapse4886676> and guidance from relevant professional associations for your research: <https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/governance/ethics/resources/guidance#collapse394976>

Essential Reading

Israel, Mark. 2017. 'Research ethics and integrity in socio-legal studies and legal research', *Research Methods for Law*, 180.

Tapscott, R. and D.R. Machón. 2024. 'Procedural ethics for social science research: Introducing the Research Ethics Governance dataset'. *Journal of Peace Research*, 0(0).

Krause, Peter and Ora Szekely. 2000. *Stories from the Field*. Columbia. Has short and accessible narratives from researchers about some of their experiences on fieldwork. Read a couple of the chapters most relevant to your work in section VII and VIII, including Erica Chenoweth's 'On Research that "Matters"' (pp. 26–76)

You can also explore the Bukavu Series (*Silent Voices*) and think about the different perspectives various groups bring to what constitutes ethics and what ethical dilemmas are important: <https://bukavuseries.com>

Trinity Term

WEEK 1, Monday 28th April, Dr Dominik Krell and others
Experiences of doing field research

In this session two or three of the Centre's senior doctoral students will be invited to share with the group their experience of conducting empirical research and discuss the problems that they have encountered in the final process of writing a full thesis draft. They will reflect upon the challenges that they have faced at the various stages of advanced research, how they have overcome them, and what lessons they have learned during the implementation of the project that they envisioned at the outset three years before.

WEEK 3, Monday 12th May**All day**

In this whole-day session, each student will be given an opportunity to make a presentation of her or his project before the Centre Fellows and other students and to receive constructive feedback. We expect the occasion to be an account of 'work-in-progress' in a congenial setting. You are also expected to attend the presentations of your fellow students and participate in the discussions. They are designed to help everyone to focus their research project and to prepare for the QT assessment.

Additional Sessions**MPhil students, Wednesday, 13 November, 11.00-1.00pm in Seminar Room F**

MPhil theses often rely upon archives, surveys, and other secondary datasets. Using and analysing these as sources of empirical information presents its own challenges, which we will explore in this session. It is primarily intended for first-year MPhil students, but some DPhil students may also find it useful.

All students, Tuesday, 5 November, 12.00-1.30pm in Seminar Room F

Writing styles

Part-time students, Michaelmas term, date tbc**Advanced students**

The Centre will organize a series of ad hoc sessions for students writing up their theses. The aim of these sessions is to discuss the difficulties and challenges of the later stages of the thesis-writing process and to allow students to share ideas and learn from the experiences of both other students and fellows.

Writing up and analysing data, Hilary term, date tbc

How do you start organizing your data and writing it up? This session will discuss the early stages of writing up. It is primarily intended for students in their third year, who have recently returned from fieldwork or who have almost finished gathering their data.

Confirmation and later stages, Trinity term, date tbc

This session will discuss the later stages of thesis preparation, up to and including submission and viva exam. We will discuss how you plan the final shape of your thesis and how you present the relationship between your empirical data and broader theoretical themes and debates. It is primarily intended for students who have already passed through their Confirmation of Status or who are coming up to submission for Confirmation.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I log on to my pc?

Please input the first part of your SSO (abcd1234) as your username and the barcode on your University card as the password.

How do I print documents using the CSLS printer?

Please scan the QR code above the printer for detailed instructions on how to print/scan/copy. You will be asked to log in when you first swipe your card on the printer. Please use the same login details as above to access the printer, thereafter you should just be able to swipe your card to log in.

Are there any sources of financial support for my research?

For details of funding possibilities, please consult: [Funding and Employment | Oxford Law Faculty](#).

Is there any equipment available for loan?

There is a high spec camera (with video recording capability), tripod, various kinds of microphone which may be useful for recording interviews during your fieldwork. Please contact the Centre Administrator or Administration Officer if you would like to borrow any of the Centre-owned equipment.

Am I entitled to [Socio-Legal Studies Association](#) membership?

The first year of membership is free to all students, £20 pa thereafter. Please view the website for other student benefits.

I need University ethics clearance for my fieldwork, how does this process work?

To obtain University ethics clearance for your fieldwork, all applications must now be submitted through the [Worktribe](#) online system. Starting from Thursday, 10th October 2024, Microsoft Word forms will no longer be accepted. For further guidance, consult the [Worktribe ethics applicant user guide](#) or [SSH IDREC and DREC application process](#) website or contact worktribe-ethics@it.ox.ac.uk for assistance.

Can I do some teaching?

There are some possibilities for students to take undergraduate tutorials, teach visiting students, or work as graduate student assistants. But the University imposes a limit on the number of hours students may spend on these activities and this only permitted after the PRS year. In any event, this must be discussed with your supervisor. Please refer to the pg20 of the Law Postgraduate Research Handbook 2023-24 which can be found [here](#).

*** Please note that the printed version of the handbook is up to date as it goes to press, but it may be best to consult the PDF version on the Centre website for the most recent revisions. ***

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