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## NEWS AND EVENTS

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### 'Law, Humanities and Pedagogy' Summer School

As a member institution of the School of Advanced Study, IALS is committed to contributing to the School's mission to be the national centre for the promotion and facilitation of research in the humanities. The School benefits from a special, dedicated funding stream from Research England to support this unique remit for the 'promotion and facilitation of research'. In October 2021 the School was awarded an additional investment—a one-off sum of £0.5 million—from Research England, with the purpose of advancing its new strategy; in particular, strengthening working with other institutions and external partners, promoting sustainability, and enhancing research culture. In response, the School launched a funding competition for proposals which would, *inter alia*, 'anticipate benefits for the humanities community generally' and be sustainable in the medium and long term.

One of the successful bids submitted by IALS builds upon its commitment to position itself as a

hub for the study and practice of legal education as well as a focus on the relationship between law and the humanities. The proposal is for a pilot project to support the development and delivery of a one-week summer school for advanced doctoral and early career academics in law on 'Law, Humanities and Pedagogy'. The target audience consists of those with a commitment to developing expertise in legal education from an interdisciplinary, 'law and humanities' perspective.

The call for applications to participate in the inaugural summer school will be launched this autumn. The summer school will be delivered in July 2023. It is hoped that it can be a regular feature of the Institute's calendar of training activities.

### IALS Archive designated an 'Accredited Archive Service' by the National Archives

The Institute of Advanced Legal Studies' (IALS) Library's small specialist legal archive has recently been designated an 'Accredited Archive Service' by The National Archives (TNA).

IALS is very pleased to be recognized by the TNA with this national archive award which demonstrates the quality of its archive service and the good management of the unique legal archives deposited there for the long term. For the future, the TNA accreditation award will help IALS apply for external funding for

archive conservation projects and archive cataloguing projects which will help to improve and develop the IALS Archives still further. The significant upgrade of the IALS Archive Room to national archive standards (as part of the IALS Transformation Project) was key to achieving this award.

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## Selected Upcoming IALS Events

### **IALS Law and Language Conference: Legislative Drafting as a form of Communication**

**Date and time:** Wednesday 6 July 2022, 10:00-18:00

There seems to be general agreement that legislative drafting is a form of communication and it is generally taken for granted that this topic is covered under the general principles of the ‘philosophy of law’. But there is precious little research on legislative drafting as a form of communication.

What kind of communication is it? Does it comply with communication theory models? Is it political communication or is it something else?

This conference will try to set the parameters for this original research and hopefully produce a special issue for the *European Journal of Law Reform*.

This seminar is organized in collaboration with the Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of Palermo

### **IALS Fellow’s Seminar: Regulatory and Supervisory Approach(es) to Artificial Intelligence—Implications for the Financial Sector in the European Union and Beyond**

#### **Presenter and Moderator:**

Professor Gudula Deipenbrock, Professor of Business Law, HTW Berlin, IALS Associate Research Fellow 2021/2022

**Date and time:** Friday 29 July 2022, 13:00

In April 2021, the European Commission submitted a Proposal for a Regulation laying down harmonized rules on artificial intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act) and amending certain European Union (EU) legislative acts (COM (2021) 206 final). The legislative procedure will have—it is expected—further progressed at the time of the event. The

presentation will discuss, against the backdrop of the (then) current state of the law-making procedure, the implications of the regulatory and supervisory approach at European level for the financial sector and beyond.

The event will address one of the most important legislative approaches to artificial intelligence worldwide. By narrowing the perspective to its (legal) implications for the financial sector it will allow specific insights into how the rapidly further-progressing digital transformation of the financial sector is responded to by the law. The pivotal realm of financial technology, here use cases of artificial intelligence in the realm of financial services and products, is of utmost importance not only for regulators and supervisors, but for the finance industry and thereby for London particularly in the aftermath of Brexit.

**ILPC Seminar Series:  
*Landmark Cases in Privacy  
Law Book Launch***

**Chair/Moderator:** Professor Paul Wragg & Dr Peter Coe

**Date and time:** Wednesday  
14 September 2022, 15:00

This new addition to Hart's acclaimed Landmark Cases series is a diverse and engaging edited collection bringing together eminent commentators from the United Kingdom (UK), the United States (US), Australia, Canada

and New Zealand, to analyse cases of enduring significance to privacy law.

The book tackles the conceptual nature of privacy in its various guises, from data protection to misuse of private information, and intrusion into seclusion. It explores the practical issues arising from questions about the threshold of actionability, the function of remedies, and the nature of damages.

The cases selected are predominantly English but include cases from the US (because of the formative influence of United States' privacy jurisprudence on the development of privacy law), cases from Australia, Canada, the Court of Justice of the EU, and the European Court of Human Rights. Each chapter considers the reception and application (and, in some instances, rejection) outside of the jurisdiction where the case was decided.

**IALS 75: Cryptocurrencies,  
Smart Contracts, and  
Alternative Payments:  
Regulating the 'Wild West'—  
Centre for Financial Law,  
Regulation & Compliance  
(FinReg) Conference**

**Dates:** 13-14 October 2022

2021 was a busy year for cryptocurrency. China banned Bitcoin, whereas El Salvador declared Bitcoin to be legal tender. The UK started exploring the

possibility of a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), while Nigeria went a step further and introduced its own CBDC, the eNaira. Cryptocurrency was described as key to greater financial inclusion across Africa, though some Central Banks (eg Kenya) issued warnings about the dangers. 2022 promises to be a similarly important year in the crypto-sphere. In January, UK politicians established a cross-party 'Crypto and Digital Assets Group' with the aim of creating law and rules that will support innovation, while also ensuring that consumers are protected. The European Commission continues to develop its Regulation on Markets in Crypto-Assets (MiCA) as part of the Digital Assets Strategy; similarly the US is currently considering legislation that would regulate cryptocurrency. Regulation is also being explored by UK regulator, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

2021 was also 'the year of the NFT'—indeed NFT (or non-fungible token) was declared Collin's Dictionary Word of the Year 2021. Christie's Auction House sold a Beeple NFT for \$69m. Multinational companies (eg Sony, Ferrari, Marvel, Visa) issued their own NFTs. Miramax sued Quentin Tarantino over his 'Pulp Fiction NFTs'. And there have been concerns that NFTs are used to launder criminal proceeds. Away from the media headlines though, NFTs are touted as a trusted digital asset, with checks, monitoring,

smart contracts and distributed blockchain ledgers. Thus, there is significant potential in the context of, for example, cross-border payments; international trade; healthcare records; and financial services.

While there are concerns relating to, amongst others, money laundering, criminal hacking and extortion, and environmental impacts, law enforcement, regulators and policymakers are increasingly looking at the need for, and the form of, regulation in this sphere. The head of the US Securities and Exchange Commission has described the crypto sector as a 'Wild West' and called for regulation. The chair of the UK FCA has suggested that legislators need to consider 3 issues when considering the role of crypto-regulation: **1.** how to make it harder for digital tokens to be used for financial crime; **2.** how to support useful innovation; and **3.** the extent to which consumers should be free to buy unregulated (speculative) tokens and to assume personal responsibility.

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## Law videos on SAS IALS YouTube channel

Selected law lectures, seminars, workshops and conferences hosted by IALS are recorded and accessible for viewing and downloading.

See [website](#) for details.