
NEWS AND EVENTS

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MountCrest University College and IALS Sign MoU to Develop Doctoral Studies Collaboration

The Director of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Professor Carl Stychin, travelled to Ghana to attend a ceremony marking the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with MountCrest University College in Accra. This marked a significant moment in the development of an ongoing collaboration between the two institutions. Under the agreement, legal academics in Ghana—beginning with those at MountCrest—will be able to enrol on the Institute’s Distance Learning Research Degrees Programme. This will allow them to obtain doctoral qualifications from the University of London while based in their home institution. Support for their studies will be offered at MountCrest in addition to University of London supervisors.

At the signing ceremony on 14 February 2024, Professor Stychin was joined by Ms Irene Ansa-Asare, the Rector of MountCrest University College, as well as academics, staff and students.

While at MountCrest, Professor Stychin also held a series of meetings with lecturers to discuss the programme and to offer support in the development of their research proposals.

The trip included the opportunity to visit the site of the new MountCrest campus in Larteh, which is currently in development. Ms Ansa-Asare and Professor Stychin also visited former President of Ghana, His Excellency John Agyekum Kufour, who offered his strong support for the programme and best wishes for its success.

Professor Stychin explained:

The Institute of Advanced Legal Studies welcomes the opportunity to deepen our relationship with MountCrest University College, a young and dynamic institution which is expanding opportunities for education in Ghana. We look forward to working with MountCrest to develop a new generation of Ghanaian legal scholars and to support their ambitions for university charter status. This agreement is the cornerstone of the Institute’s international agenda, building on our

long tradition of engagement in Ghana.

Ms Ansa-Asare said:

As MountCrest moves towards achieving charter status, it is our avowed commitment to shape the future of legal education in Ghana through international collaborations such as this one with the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies. We are proud of our shared commitment towards the promotion of scholarship in law and of the role of the Institute in particular in achieving our goals.

IALS Library Exhibitions

As part of the Library's continued work and focus on equity, inclusivity and social justice, there have been a series of exhibitions throughout 2023 highlighting key diversity and inclusion dates.

The theme of Black History Month was "Saluting our Sisters". The Library's exhibition highlighted the achievements of Black women in the field of law, showcasing items from the library and archive collections that illustrate their important contributions. It celebrated the careers of legal professionals whose success in the field has led the way for black women lawyers in future generations. Additionally, it highlighted the work of black women activists and campaigners who have fought

tirelessly for racial equality in the law: Gloria Cumper, Stella Thomas, Linda Dobbs, Barbara Mills, Jocelyn Barrow, Marta Osamer, Olive Morris, Mavis Best, Annie Ruth Jiagge and many more.

The LGBTQ+ History Month exhibition recognized 20 years since the repeal of section 28. Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988 had banned local authorities and schools from "promoting homosexuality".

For International Women's Day, a display of selected books and journals focused on women and the law and covered topics including Black women and international law, Islamic family law, United States property law cases, women in the legal profession and the history of women's status under English law.

The World Refugee Day exhibition highlighted the establishment of the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, first established on 20 June 2001. The Library has a large collection of United Nations (UN) documents and publications of legal interest and scholarly commentary relating to the work of the UN. The library also provides electronic access to HeinOnline's United Nations Law Collection.

National Windrush Day on 22 June 2023 marked 75 years since the HMT *Empire Windrush* arrived

in the United Kingdom (UK). The so-called “Windrush Generation” arrived in the UK between 1948 and 1971, and successive governments encouraged immigration from Commonwealth countries to address labour shortages in the wake of the Second World War. Nearly half a million people moved from the Caribbean to Britain. Named after the ship HMT *Empire Windrush* which brought one of the first large groups of Caribbean migrants to the UK in 1948, many of the Windrush Generation were returning to the UK having previously served in the British armed forces and worked for the war effort. The exhibition covered legislative acts from the Alien Act 1793 through to the Immigration Act 2014, and the Windrush Scandal. Under the 1948 British Nationality Act, as Commonwealth citizens, those who arrived were automatically British subjects, free to live and work permanently in the UK. However, many were never given formal documentation and, in subsequent years, were wrongly classified as illegal immigrants, were detained, deported and denied their legal rights to benefits, healthcare and social housing.

The final exhibition of 2023 was a School of Advanced Study collaboration celebrating 400 years of Shakespeare’s First Folio: 8 November 2023 marked the 400th anniversary of the day that the

First Folio of Shakespeare’s plays was entered into the Stationers’ Register and became available for purchase. To celebrate this important anniversary, the School of Advanced Study partnered with Senate House Library for a programme of First Folio-related activity. David Percik, Information Resources Manager, wrote a [blog](#) on the legal context of the time in which Shakespeare was writing. The publication of the First Folio coincided with that of several influential legal treatises in England. One particularly noteworthy example is the *Institutes of the Lawes of England* by Sir Edward Coke (1552-1634), who was an English barrister, judge and politician living in the same era as Shakespeare and who is regarded as one of the greatest jurists of Elizabethan and Jacobean times. Written in the late 1620s, Sir Edward Coke’s *Institutes* was widely recognized as a foundational document of the common law, and its impact extended far beyond England. The edition in the display, held by the IALS Library, is the fourth edition of the *Institutes*, published between 1639 and 1648.

In April 2024 there was an exhibition of Women Judges, celebrating 10 March which was designated as the international day of women judges by the UN General Assembly in 2021, with the first

official celebration happening a year later.

Redressing gender inequalities is at the core of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime's Strategy for the [Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women](#), and is a goal shared by the Global Programme for the implementation of the Doha Declaration, as it works to promote a culture of lawfulness around the world, providing education and training and support-

ing the full participation of women in every professional sphere.

The current exhibition on Trans Rights celebrates June 2024 Pride Month.

The Library exhibitions can be found at the entrance to the Library on the second floor of the Institute. Work is being undertaken to promote the library displays online so that they can be enjoyed more widely.

Selected Upcoming Events

2024 Course on Post-Legislative Scrutiny in the Context of the Climate and Environmental Emergency

Dates: 2 to 30 September 2024

Venue: Online Workshop via Zoom

Parliaments make and change laws. They also have a role in checking the implementation of laws and evaluating whether they achieve their intended outcomes. Implementation of legislation is complex and does not happen automatically. What is more, parliaments and elected representatives often have little information on what happens after a law is adopted. So, parliaments need mechanisms for effective *ex post* evaluation of legislation.

The systematic process of monitoring whether the laws parliament has passed are implemented as intended and evaluating if the laws have the expected impact is called post-legislative scrutiny (PLS). When conducted properly, PLS can reveal achievements and errors in the design of legislation, gaps in implementation and enforcement, and the positive and negative impacts that hinder or contribute to achieving policy goals and service delivery for citizens, as well as rule of law and democratic governance.

This makes PLS a critical lynchpin connecting parliaments with the national commitments signed off by governments in the framework of global multilateral processes such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The success of such multilateral agreements rests to a large extent on the ability of parliaments to

exert oversight and democratically enhance the quality of the legislation aimed at delivering these commitments.

Following the adoption of the Paris Agreement in December 2015, the first global stocktake of climate action concluded at COP28 in Dubai in December 2023. It has revealed substantial implementation gaps in the climate commitments of countries, putting the world on track to miss the objective of limiting global warming below the safer threshold of +1.5 to 2°C.

As parliaments are the main enforcement mechanism of multilateral climate and environmental objectives, PLS emerges as a vital instrument for the effective scrutiny of the legislation related to the pledges made under the Rio Conventions and its instruments, which are aimed at protecting biodiversity and combating desertification and climate change—eg the Paris Agreement.

During 2024 PLS on climate legislation will be vital to address the reasons for the implementation gap in climate actions. PLS on climate legislation also ought to inform multi-annual climate planning of governments as they design their second Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, due in November. PLS can input into preparing the legal instruments

required to deliver the NDCs, across various policy areas including agriculture, water and sanitation, infrastructure, energy, trade, taxation, transport, public health, etc. See [website](#) for details.

Corruption and Good Governance in Sports

Date: 25 September 2024

Venue: Online Workshop via Zoom

Speakers: Professor Dimitris Ziouvas, Panteion University of Athens; Professor Ilias Bantekas, Hamad bin Khalifa University; Professor Marko Begovic, American University in the Emirates; Sophie Kwasny, Executive Secretary of EPAS/ Head of Sport Division, Council of Europe; Ronan O’Laoire, Officer, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; Dr Christos Anagnostopoulos, UNESCO Chair in Governance and Social Responsibility in Sport.

The webinar will address mechanisms of fighting corruption and promoting good governance in sports, exploring how organized crime infiltrates sports through match-fixing and betting fraud and how international sports governance bodies promote ethical governance and best integrity practices in sports. International legal frameworks and practitioners’ views will be presented.

See [website](#) for details.

Podcasts

Selected law lectures, seminars, workshops and conferences hosted by the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in the School of Advanced Study are recorded and accessible for viewing and downloading.

See [website](#) for details.

SAS IALS YouTube Channel

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See [website](#) for details.
