

Call for Papers

COMMUNITY AND PURPOSE IN THE LAW SCHOOL

Association of Law Teachers' Annual Seminar 2024

Theme

There are varied reasons why Law Schools may lose their way. The switch to virtual teaching in COVID has created a loosening of bonds between and among those teaching and studying law. Connections were further strained by general changes within the United Kingdom's Higher Education sector. Funding gaps have left universities chasing students in unprecedented ways. Law schools are departments which can expand particularly rapidly. Although change is afoot, the reasons why we exist has not changed. This Annual ALT Seminar arose from – and is part of – various dialogues about ongoing changes in United Kingdom Higher Education. It proposes to recalibrate this discussion in a more positive direction, given the growing need to reconnect with core discussions about the Law School's purpose. Teaching – the sharing of knowledge and experiences – is inherently altruistic: the time is ripe to renew conversations about how, why, and who we teach.

The aim of this workshop is threefold. It enables rediscovery of those forgotten or neglected discussions about why Law Schools exist and the reasons why we are providing legal education. One might look to the past, in particular the establishment of individual Law Schools and the provision of legal education in a university setting as opposed to being at the Inns of Court. Second, it encourages us to think laterally about the wider issues in legal education, in particular those seen as negative changes. This allows us to consider the activities we undertake now to ameliorate past and future shifts and improve the student and staff experience. Finally, discussion of the concept of the collegiate community of the Law School allows further insights into the distinctiveness of legal education in the United Kingdom as opposed to Anglo-American or European models.

Submissions

Please send a 250 word abstract and short 1 page CV to v.barnes@qub.ac.uk by **15th March 2024**.

We aim to contact those who have proposed papers with a decision by 28th March.

Format

The Association of Law Teacher's Annual Seminar 2024 will be held on the 26th and 27th June at Queen's University Belfast.

It will operate in a hybrid format, although in person attendance in Belfast is encouraged.

A budget has been set aside to facilitate in person attendance. We hope to cover the travel expenses of speakers, and where possible, subsidize participants who might require support to attend. The Seminar has been funded by the generosity of the Association of Law Teachers and The School of Law, Queen's University Belfast.

About the Association of Law Teachers' Annual Seminar 2024

The Association of Law Teachers is a vibrant, welcoming and inclusive community of academics, professionals and practitioners engaged in legal education across countries. The Annual Seminar takes place each year. It is organised by [Dr Victoria Barnes](#), [Dr Norah Burns](#), [Dr Alice Diver](#) and [Dr Martin Regan](#) (Queen's University Belfast).