

## Queen Mary Law Journal: Special Conference Issue 2021

### Forward

Since 2010 the PhD candidates of the Queen Mary School of Law have organised the annual Queen Mary Postgraduate Legal Research Conference to bring together young minds and exchange fresh ideas. Following the conference, the best papers are selected for a special issue of the Queen Mary Law Journal (QMLJ).

When we started planning the tenth edition of the conference, scheduled for 2-3 July 2020, my colleagues and I compiled a list of the potential difficulties we might encounter during the process. Needless to say, a global pandemic was not among them. Due to the time constraint and the rising uncertainty surrounding the global situation at that time, we were obliged to cancel the conference. Nevertheless, we still felt that all the effort that the applicants put into their abstracts had to be accounted for and, for this reason we decided to select a handful of the abstracts we received and offer the authors the opportunity to publish their work. Selecting the articles for publication was anything but easy as the vast majority of the submissions received presented interesting perspectives and original ideas. We chose 7 abstracts that, in our view, best met the theme of the conference, ‘More of Less of Law?’, demonstrated considerable expertise and reflected contemporary global issues.

As a result, the QMLJ’s special issue gathers contributions from early career researchers and PhD candidates from a variety of institutions, at different stages of their academic paths, and working in various legal fields. The contributions touch a number of highly relevant subjects, ranging from European criminal and environmental law (Dimitrios Kaferanis and Stefano Porfido) and EU external relations in the management of migration (Eleonora Frasca) to an account of domestic legal frameworks on terrorism, politicisation of the judiciary, Brexit and transition to green energy (Ward Yperman, Ayesha Riaz, Pier Mario Lupinu, Alexandru Gociu). We would like to thank the authors for their excellent commitment and enthusiasm to the delivery of high quality articles and for bringing this issue to life.

Needless to say, this issue would not have been possible without the hard work of many administrators, professors and the QMLJ team. In particular, we would like to thank Professor Maksymilian del Mar, Dr Roxana Banu and Dr Costanza Russo, for their role in the conference and in reviving the Journal, Hayley O Hagan and Julie Bacon, who have been an indispensable

aid for us despite their busy schedule, and Jessica Shurson and Georgia Jenkins, for providing the QMLJ's editorial support.

Despite the unforeseen and unprecedented events that prevented us from hosting the conference in 2020, the Queen Mary Postgraduate Legal Research Conference has gone a long way since its inception in 2010. The groundwork laid by the previous School of Law PhD representatives would have enabled the Organising Committee to hold what we hope would have been a truly international, inclusive, and academically rigorous postgraduate conference. We are confident that the papers in this collection are indicative of the quality of the discussions and debate that would have characterised the conference.

Marta Minetti

**PhD students' representative**

On behalf of the conference organising committee.