
EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

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Welcome to the second issue of the sixth volume of the new series of *Amicus Curiae*.

This is my first issue as joint editor of the journal,¹ and I thank the Consultant Editor, Professor Michael Palmer, and the Director of IALS, Professor Carl Stychin, for offering my co-editors and I this opportunity.

Academic publishing is a tool for knowledge production, but it is also about relations and collaboration; these two aspects of academic publishing are distinctive in *Amicus Curiae*. My previous experience with the journal was as guest editor on a special section on Children's Rights: Contemporary Issues in Law and Society (*Amicus Curiae* 5(2), 5(3), 6(1)). During that endeavour, the collaboration, between authors, editors and production team was a process that was relational, dynamic and creative. The relational approach was made possible to accommodate more creative contributions than the usual traditional legal

publication. Conscious that the law is the product of culture, the already well-established Visual Law section of the journal has been and still is inspirational in accommodating a variety of other creative outputs, including videos on the journal's YouTube channel and poems. Opening up to artworks, videos and poems does not, however, restrict the space for more traditional legal analysis and more practical contributions from practitioners. Thus, *Amicus Curiae* will continue to serve as a bridge between legal academia and legal practitioners, but it is also a journal that offers a space to all the different ways in which law is perceived, understood, designed and practised.

The issue starts with a special section on Surrogacy Beyond the Carceral: Culture, Law and Lived Experience, guest-edited by Maya Unnithan and myself. It starts with a brief "Introduction" from the guest editors that also includes a summary of the articles, and then

¹ My co-editors are Professor Pablo Cortes, University of Leicester, and Dr Amy Kellam, School of Advanced Study University of London.

moves on to showcase a selection of papers that were presented during a workshop at the Centre for Cultures of Reproduction, Technologies and Health at the University of Sussex.

This issue then presents two articles. The first is by Canan Çetin, Senanur Uysal, Kumru Isli and Ceren Öcalan. This discusses the findings of the research project “All the Same with Dance”, which investigated how cultural activities, particularly dance, contribute to migrant integration. Adopting qualitative methods, including semi-structured interviews, content analysis and focus group discussions, the study explored how dance fosters perceptions of commonality and helps reduce biases. The findings, presented in the article, show the transformative role of dance in enhancing cultural integration.

The second article by Yang LIN explores the growth and implementation of online dispute resolution (ODR) within China’s e-commerce sector, with a focus on the self-regulatory measures adopted by Alibaba’s Taobao platform. It outlines the development of ODR in China, uses Taobao’s crowdsourced jury system as a case study and reviews the platform’s rules and dispute resolution processes. The analysis, while showing Taobao’s influence on China’s e-commerce governance, highlights Taobao’s effectiveness in handling disputes while confronting key issues such as transparency, data privacy and legal accountability.

This issue then moves on to a note by Chris Thorpe that focuses on limited liability partnerships (LLPs) and the related tax regime. The author considers the concerns about confusion between employment and partnership statuses, highlighting the need for specific anti-avoidance regulations for LLPs.

After that, the issue presents six book reviews. Michael Palmer leads with a review of *Facing China: The Prospect for War and Peace* by Jean-Pierre Cabestan, a work that focuses on the growing tensions between the People’s Republic of China (PRC) and the United States of America and analyses the strategic, political and ideological dynamics and the historical context shaping this relationship. This is followed by Ling Zhou’s examination of *Consumer Protection in Asia* edited by Geraint Howells, Hans-W Micklitz, Mateja Durovic and André Janssen, a collection of essays which taken together offer a comparative overview of consumer protection laws across various Asian jurisdictions.

Johannes San Miguel Giralt reviews *Constitutional Change in the Contemporary Socialist World* by Ngoc Son Bui. The book adopts a comparative approach to explore the constitutional identity of the PRC, Lao, Vietnam, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea) and Cuba, showing how the socialist constitutional frameworks are refined through the tension between adoption and resistance to Western values. Then, Patricia Ng reviews *Lawyers*

for the Poor: Legal Advice, Voluntary Action, and Citizenship in England, 1890-1990 by Kate Bradley. This book investigates the development of free legal advice and assistance in the late 19th century and onwards. It looks at the manner in which access to these services has changed from 1890 to 1990, a period during which legislative developments were introduced to support and protect citizens from barriers they could face within housing, health and/or work.

In her book review, Marian Roberts discusses *Children's Voices, Family Disputes and Child Inclusive Mediation: The Right to be Heard* by Anne Barlow and Jan Ewing. The book intervenes in the current debates concerning family justice and draws on empirical data from a research project in which the key participants were children who had experienced child inclusive mediation that gives children the opportunity to have their voices heard in family mediation. Finally, in a second review for this issue, Professor Palmer offers an evaluation of Albert Hung-yee Chen and Po Jen Yap's *The Constitutional System of the Hong Kong SAR: A Contextual Analysis*. This examines the changing constitutional position of Hong Kong as the former colony becomes increasingly incorporated into the mainland PRC.

In honour of the work of Tony Whatling, who sadly passed away recently, Mohamed M Keshavjee offers a heartfelt tribute in his obituary celebrating the dedication Tony gave to

the theory and practice of mediation in the United Kingdom and abroad. Allow me also to offer a personal memory of Tony who, through guest lectures, generously shared his knowledge with several of my students who took the alternative dispute resolution module which I used to teach at SOAS. His classes were lively, engaging and full of passionate personal recollections of his lived experience of mediation practice.

The following section, Visual Law, presents two contributions. The first, by Salvatore Fasciana, investigates the practical use of visual law and legal design in consumer protection within the video game industry. It focuses on the Pan European Game Information (PEGI) system and its limitations in game classification. While PEGI successfully conveys regulatory concerns through a standardized and accessible visual format, its content-based approach is shown to oversimplify the complex nature of video games and to neglect the dynamics of human-machine interaction. To address these shortcomings, the article advocates a PEGI model grounded in a classification system based on "gameplay bricks"—the rules and mechanics that define the gaming experience. By incorporating principles from visual law and legal design, this approach seeks to improve clarity, accessibility and comprehension of the legal messages conveyed through icons and indicators. Legal design plays a

crucial role in translating rule and mechanic structures into visual elements that empower consumers to make informed choices, aligning with PEGI's foundational policy goals.

In the second Visual Law piece, Lucy Finchett-Maddock, Daniel Hignell-Tully and Anders Hultqvist bring the reader into the experience of "A Royal Dis-Sent: Re-Writing and Re-Imagining a Series of Repetitive Beats CJA 1994", an event held at House of Annetta on London's Brick Lane on Sunday 2 November 2024. The gathering marked the 30th anniversary of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act (CJA) 1994 receiving royal assent, which notoriously criminalized raves and banned music "characterised by the emission of a succession of repetitive

beats" (section 63(1)(B)). The event explored the intersections of sound, law and aesthetics, unravelling themes of prohibition, nomadism, repetition and property. Organised by Dr Dann Hignell-Tully (London Guildhall) and Dr Lucy Finchett-Maddock (Bangor University) as part of the transdisciplinary project Instrumenting(s), the workshop investigated the relationships between sound, property and law. It examined how legalities and their resistances shape the history of land, employing legal, scientific and artistic research to develop a "geosocial instrument."

The Editor thanks Eliza Boudier, Narayana Harave, Michael Palmer and Marie Selwood for contributing to the production of this issue.

Enjoy your reading.

Addendum

For the article "[The Need to Update the Equality Act 2010. Artificial Intelligence Widens Existing Gaps in Protection from Discrimination](#)", published in *Amicus Curiae* 6(1) (2024): 142-168, the author Dr Tetyana (Tanya) Krupiy would like to make the following small addition to her text. "I would like to thank Njeri Njaggah and Jason Highfield for their valuable research assistance. Additionally, I would like to thank members of the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights (University of Oxford) and individuals who were visiting researchers at the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights in June 2024 for providing feedback on a draft of a concept paper for this article."

Corrigendum

In Maria Federica Moscati. "[Diversity, Inclusion and Equality in Mediation for Family Relations](#)." *Amicus Curiae* 5(1) (2023): 126-143, the word "eight" at page 130 in footnote 3 and at page 135, line 3, should read "nine".