
NEWS AND EVENTS

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IALS News

IALS Partners on Successful £4.1 Million Social Justice Bid

In April, it was officially announced that the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS) will be partnering as a co-investigator in the establishment of the Centre for People's Justice. This new Centre is led by the School of Law and Social Justice at the University of Liverpool. The £5.8 million Centre includes a £4.1 million investment by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), part of UK Research and Innovation, and is the largest grant it has ever awarded to a Law School. This is in response to the AHRC's national call for proposals to establish a Centre for Law and Social Justice.

The Centre for People's Justice is a coalition of 45 organizations from community, business, philanthropic, cultural, artistic, charitable, legal, government and university sectors. It will work across the UK in partnership with the Universities of Glasgow, Sheffield, Swansea, Wrexham, Ulster and IALS.

Collaborating with household names such as *The Big Issue*, Citizens Advice, National Museums Liverpool and the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Centre will develop a creative programme of research and training aimed at connecting the public more closely with the ways in which the law is made, improving accountability for how the law is put into practice and enhancing people's understanding of their legal rights.

In the announcement, Professor Carl Stychin, Director of IALS, explained that:

As a national resource for the promotion and facilitation of legal research with a commitment to national research training, IALS looks forward to partnering on the development of the Centre. The Centre for People's Justice is closely aligned both to the IALS Library's ongoing commitment to social justice and decolonisation, led by our Librarian, Marilyn Clarke; and with our new Law and the Humanities Hub, led by Professor Anat Rosenberg. In addition, working with colleagues in the School of Advanced Study, we are ideally

positioned to engage with those researchers across the arts and humanities with a commitment to social justice and social change.

The Executive Chair of the AHRC, Professor Christopher Smith, said:

Our commitment to research in and innovation arising from the study of law and justice illustrates our belief in the potential of arts and humanities research to improve the lives of everyone across the UK and represents the growing importance and excellence of sociolegal research across the UK, which is of world class quality. Our legal system is, and has been for centuries, fundamental to a resilient and secure society. It is essential that access to justice is available to all, a principle enshrined already in Magna Carta. That's why this Centre's work is so important, and we look forward to its concrete and significant policy recommendations.

Dickson Poon School of Law Graduate receives Georg Schwarzenberger Prize

The Georg Schwarzenberger Prize in International Law was endowed by friends and former students of the late Professor Georg Schwarzenberger, a distinguished academic who taught international law at the University of London

from 1938 to 1975. It is awarded to a student in one of the law schools of the University of London on the basis of outstanding performance in public international law.

This year's winner, Mathies Andreas Beier, has distinguished himself academically and professionally. He began his studies at the Humboldt University of Berlin. He then pursued a degree in public international law at the Université Paris-Panthéon-Assas. In 2024 he completed an LLM in international dispute resolution with distinction from the Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London (KCL).

Mathies is currently a trainee lawyer at the Higher Regional Court in Berlin, where he is seconded to the Berlin Regional Court II. His LLM dissertation is entitled, 'Criminal law applicable to the merits in international commercial arbitration'. In this work, Mathies combines elements of national criminal law and international commercial arbitration with the principles of public international law.

Mathies' evidence of excellence in international law extended beyond his academic studies at the University of London. He was a driving force behind the KCL team in the 2024 Day of Crisis Competition, organized by the Hague Academy of International Law. He also volunteered at the KCL Human Rights and Environmental

Law Clinic, where he provided legal advice on issues at the intersection of human rights and environmental protection.

Changes in Light wins award at the Berlin Kiez Film Festival

The Institute is very happy to announce that *Changes in Light* has won the award for best short documentary at the Berlin Kiez Film Festival. Created by dance artist and scholar Anna Macdonald, Practitioner in Residence at IALS in 2024, in collaboration with

IALS Librarian Marilyn Clarke, library staff and videographer Marisa Zanotti, *Changes in Light* explores the impact of the affective qualities of libraries on those who use them as a way of revealing the colonial complexities of law itself. The film explores staff's embodied responses to colonial legacies alongside an exploration of movement and light within the building, offering a nuanced perspective on the complexity of structural change within institutions. See [website](#) for details.

Library News

Fischer Reading Room

The 3rd floor reading room has been officially named the Fischer Reading Room. This is in honour of the very generous donation that has been made to the IALS library by the estate of Professor Thomas C Fischer and Mrs Brenda A Fischer. Professor Fischer was an American legal academic with particular interest in international law and globalization. He spent a year at IALS in 1996 having been awarded an Inns of Court Visiting Fellowship.

Study Rooms

In response to their popularity, three new study rooms have been added to the booking system. The booking system has also been upgraded, so now all six study rooms can be booked online and

users can check in and unlock rooms using the keypads. There are now two group study rooms (Rooms 201 and 210), two individual sound-proofed rooms (Rooms 203 and 204) and two individual silent study rooms (Rooms 205 and 206). All rooms are on the 2nd floor and can be booked online for two hours at a time.

Using AI for Academic Work

Katy Radford, the IALS Access Librarian, has created a [LibGuide on Using AI](#) for academic work which covers an evaluation of AI including academic integrity, acceptable uses for AI, and weaknesses of AI.

Selected Upcoming Events

Book launch: The Rule of Law in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Date: 9 October 2025

Venue: IALS Council Chamber, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, 17 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DR

This event is a two-hour book discussion of a volume that former IALS fellow Mirjam Künkler worked on during her time at IALS: *The Rule of Law in the Islamic Republic of Iran* published by Cambridge University Press in 2025.

The book is a comprehensive examination of how the legal and justice systems of the Islamic Republic function and have affected socio-political and cultural life in Iran. The chapters contain not only in-depth discussions of the various legal codes themselves but also provide invaluable insights into their application in practice.

The volume delves, in considerable empirical detail, into the substantive and procedural dimensions of the rule of law and breaks new ground in the socio-legal history of the Islamic Republic. Instead of focusing purely on the formal dimensions of the law, it understands the rule of law as part of the 'social imaginary' of modern Iran with roots in the Constitutional Revolution of 1906/1907. It thus illuminates the social and political

context in which the law operates; be this in the deep contestations in the Iranian Parliament over what precisely constitutes Islamization and what does not, the struggles of the legal profession to remain independent and resist attempts at regime incorporation, the debates among legal scholars on the age of criminal responsibility in Islamic law and youth incarceration, the tensions inside the Information Ministry over how the arts should be censored (including film, theatre, music, literature), the attempts of doctors to tackle the opioid addiction crisis together with high HIV infection levels and how the judiciary has responded to these bottom-up initiatives, the role of Islamic medical law in addressing infertility and in vitro fertilization, or in how human rights and women's rights NGOs have impacted reforms of Islamic family law, particularly regarding divorce and custody regulations. The book thus gives the reader a contextual and rich understanding of the ideology and practice of the law, and the political struggles and contestations which are mutually constituted with it. Importantly, it also asks broader questions about what the rule of law means in non-democratic contexts and how comparative research can improve ways of conceptualizing the quality of the rule of law across different areas of the law.

See [website](#) for details.

ILPC Annual Conference 2025 Regulating AI in a Changing World: Oversight and Enforcement

Dates: 20-21 November 2025

Venue: IALS Council Chamber,
Institute of Advanced Legal
Studies, 17 Russell Square,
London WC1B 5DR

The ILPC Annual Conference will include the ILPC Annual Lecture 2025, and we are delighted to announce that this will be delivered by Marcus Bokkerink.

Marcus Bokkerink was Chair of the UK Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) from 2022 to 2025. During his tenure he oversaw a raft of changes as the CMA took on its new post Brexit role, re-oriented the Authority's strategy to deliver tangible benefits for people,

businesses and the UK economy, stepped up its engagement with consumers and businesses, reformed its policies, advocated stronger Parliamentary oversight, and took on significant new powers under the Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Act. Previously, he was a Senior Partner and Managing Director at Boston Consulting Group (BCG), where he headed the firm's UK and European Consumer Practice and Strategy Practice, led a range of global client teams, and established and developed the firm's China business. At BCG he built up 30 years of experience helping businesses of all shapes and sizes to compete, grow, raise returns and create value.

See [website](#) for details.

Podcasts

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

See [website](#) for details.