



LERN Symposium 2015 – Press Release

The Legal Education Research Network (LERN) enjoyed a full house yesterday, 23 September, at the annual LERN Symposium 2015, where seven top legal education research experts shared their different perspectives and methodologies on producing high quality research. The event was hosted by the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS) in London, and was kindly supported by the Oxford University Press, as well as the longstanding allies of LERN, the Association of Law Teachers (ALT), the Socio-Legal Studies Association (SLSA) and the Society of Legal Scholars (SLS).

The range and diversity of ‘perspectives on legal education research’ presented at the symposium was extraordinary. Delegates pondered the value and limits of methodologies such as historical, socio-legal, or scholarly. Many speakers signalled the virtues of a combined multi-method approach, and suggested many available data resources, ranging from the National Archives, existing datasets, or they provided current examples of best practice in qualitative and quantitative data gathering. Prof Ron Barnett from the Institute of Education brought a breath of fresh air by challenging from an ‘external perspective’ the legal education experts to compare their own efforts with those of educators from other fields.

The Symposium culminated with the official launch of ‘Team LERN’ – a mentoring and collaborative initiative whereby members of LERN would help one another with helpful feedback and support so as to produce higher quality research output. [Experienced researchers can offer to become core members of Team LERN by filling in this form.](#)

Join LERN for the next major event, the LERN Showcase presenting the excellent output of LERN Grantees, on 9 December 2015. More information about LERN and future events can be found at <http://ials.sas.ac.uk/lern/lern.htm>.