

## How do we research and teach equality and diversity in legal education settings?

Co-hosted by LERN and Sheffield Law School

Keynote speaker: Professor Hilary Sommerlad, University of Leeds  
Roundtable facilitator: Professor Lisa Webley, University of Westminster

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2016, Sheffield, Halifax Hall

Equality and diversity in the legal profession is something that matters to us all. A long-standing research agenda considers how diverse, or otherwise, various branches of the legal profession are, and what the implications are in terms of its legitimacy, efficiency, and other considerations.

There is also an emergent and growing body of research on equality and diversity in legal education. This research raises practical matters for law schools. At a time of many changes and challenges in both the justice system and in legal education, questions of access, support, career development and reward for students and practitioners who do not identify as belonging to 'dominant' or 'majority' groups could never be more timely and important.

Equality and diversity in legal education has many dimensions. The Equality Act 2010 lists age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, race (which includes nationality), religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation as 'forbidden grounds' of discrimination.<sup>1</sup> But equality and diversity more broadly also concerns social class and domicile.

The workshop will reflect on extant research and publications, to consider the following questions:

- Why should law schools teach students about equality and diversity?
- How should we do so?
- What lessons can we learn from research on diversity in legal education and its impacts?
- What can we learn from disciplines other than law, such as psychology?
- How does the equality and diversity agenda affect our methodologies and methods for research in legal education?

The workshop will build capacity in both legal education and research into legal education, in the area of equality and diversity. It will provide an opportunity to consider future collaboration and funding for research, including future cross-disciplinary and jurisdictional research. The workshop is open to anyone with an interest in equality and diversity in legal education or the legal profession, or both.

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<sup>1</sup> Equality Act 2010, Section 90 covers further and higher education. It prevents discrimination on any of the protected grounds (apart from marriage and civil partnership) in admissions and treatment of students. Differential fees for 'overseas' students on grounds of domicile, while indirectly discriminatory on grounds of nationality, are probably justified under the Act.

## EVENT PROGRAMME

<b>9.30</b>	<b>Registration &amp; Networking</b>
<b>10.00</b>	<p><b><u>Keynote Lecture - Legal Professionalism and Diversity: challenges for legal education and legal services providers in the contemporary UK context</u></b> Hilary Sommerlad, University of Leeds</p>
<b>11.00</b>	<b>Coffee</b>
<b>11.20</b>	<p><b><u>Session 1A – Inclusion, Unconscious Bias, and Affect-based learning</u></b> Chair: Chalen Westaby, Sheffield Hallam University</p> <p><b>Using the affective domain in teaching diversity and equality</b> Emma Jones, The Open University</p> <p><b>Inspired by Law: a gallery of and for inspiring lawyers – the faces of equality and diversity</b> Michael Rodney, Alan Birbeck, Kim Silver, London South Bank University</p> <p><b>The Fairness Project – an Interactive Workshop</b> Rachel Nir and Tina McKee, University of Central Lancashire</p> <p><b><u>Session 1B – Overcoming barriers to diversity in legal education</u></b> Chair: Charlotte O'Brien</p> <p><b>Disability in Legal Education: How to Achieve 'Inclusive Legal Education'?</b> Gauthier de Beco, University of Leeds</p> <p><b>Facilitating students' learning of equality and diversity issues by applying sociological concepts to the use of simulated clients in an employment law module</b> Jenny Gibbons, University of York</p> <p><b>"Defining the Paradigm of the Contemporary Globalized Legal Education"</b> Dr. Midjohodo Franck Gloglo, University of Laval, Canada</p>
<b>13.00</b>	<b>Lunch &amp; Networking</b>
<b>13.40</b>	<p><b><u>Session 2A – Diversity and Equality in Legal Careers</u></b> Chair: Andrew Callaghan, University of Sheffield</p> <p><b>Social mobility and socio-economic diversity in legal education: what can be learnt from an attempt to improve diversity at the Bar?</b> Elaine Freer, University of Cambridge</p> <p><b>Diversity data among solicitors and on GDL/LPC attainment</b> Debra Malpass, Solicitors Regulation Authority</p> <p><b>Collaborating with students to enhance imagined career futures with diverse law students</b> Tamara Hervey, James Cairns, Sarah McCloskey, Nellie Wanyama, Nazma Begum, University of Sheffield</p> <p><b><u>Session 2B – Ethical and intersectional questions</u></b> Chair: Jessica Guth, Leeds Beckett University</p> <p><b>The Henry Higgins Conundrum</b> Dominic De Saulles, University of Cardiff</p> <p><b>Only Relatively Equal? Differences and hierarchies in the Equality Act 2010 – diversity in the legal profession</b> Dr Steven Vaughan, University of Birmingham and Elisabeth Griffiths, University of Northumbria.</p>
<b>14.40</b>	<b>Tea</b>
<b>15.00</b>	<p><b><u>Roundtable on good practice and next steps</u></b> Chair: Lisa Webley, University of Westminster</p>
<b>16.00</b>	<b>Finish &amp; Departures</b>