
Foreword

It is a rare privilege to be asked to write a foreword to mark the foundation of a new law journal. I am delighted to do so for the LSE Law Review. The most famous of all student-edited law journals is, of course, the Harvard Law Review. The latter began life in 1887, with the support of future Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis. At that time the editors were selected solely according to the grades they had received, although by the time future President Barack Obama headed the Review, candidates had to complete demanding written tests as well. By way of contrast, to take one example from England and Wales, the Law Quarterly Review (founded in 1885) was always run along more patrician lines for decades, having had only a handful of (lone) editors right up until the late 20th century. The editors included founding editor Sir Frederick Pollock and Sir Arthur Goodhart, the latter having edited the Law Quarterly Review for some 45 years. This very different – ‘English’ - way of appointing editors inevitably meant that issues of gender, diversity and inclusion have never quite had the influence on choice of journal editor(s) in England and Wales that they had from a much earlier time in the USA, although some Journals have made good progress in that regard. Happily, no such problems are likely to affect the LSE Law Review, whose editors will be drawn from the LSE’s famously diverse student body.

The older counterpart of the LSE Law Review, the Modern Law Review, has been run by the Department of Law since the foundation of the Review in 1937, and is currently edited by Pro-Director for Research and Professor of Law, Julia Black. At that time, the aim of the Journal was to move away from the ‘black letter’ approach of the more traditional Journals, and to introduce (consistent with the aims of the LSE as a whole) an outlet for more social science-focused legal research. Such research came to change the face of legal scholarship as a whole. How much such an approach was needed can be measured by the fact that even such a now well-established subject as Labour Law was at that time regarded with deep suspicion at Oxford and Cambridge, given its focus on collective action and evidence-based statutory intervention, both so alien to the more individualist common law tradition.

Even so, the titles of the articles in the first issue of the *Modern Law Review* in 1937 have a (reassuringly?) traditional feel to them: ‘A Scale of Values in the Common Law’, ‘Modern Trends in the Law of Torts’, and ‘The Problems of a Functional Jurisprudence’. By contrast, the first articles in this, the first issue of the *LSE Law Review*, reflect the extraordinary breadth and depth of contemporary legal scholarship. Articles with titles such as, ‘The Impact of Societal Structure and the Impact of Legal Regulation on Corporate Social Responsibility: A Comparative Perspective’ (Prin Shasiharan), or ‘The Dilemma of Balancing the Administration of Justice and the Preservation of Confidentiality in the Mediation Process’ (Mrinal Vijay) would have been largely unthinkable in pre-war Britain. The intellectual frame of reference in which such articles now make perfect sense simply did not exist. So, it is with great pleasure, and a real sense of excitement about the *LSE Law Review*’s potential for furthering legal scholarship, that I – and my colleagues – look forward to reading this and many further issues.

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