

Editorial

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Following months of hard work, creative revisions, and close collaboration it is a wonderful privilege to be presenting the fifth volume of the York Law Review. As always, the York Law Review looks both to showcase and nurture the writers of some of the best undergraduate and postgraduate dissertations of their year. It is also our aim that we encourage current students to engage in legal research, to think about and investigate legal issues that matter to them, and to fuel their passion for law. Thus, anyone may be given the opportunity for their work to be published through our annual competition.

In this volume we have the pleasure of including three undergraduate and three postgraduate dissertations, as well as our two competition winners. All pieces of work stood out to our editorial team due to their timeliness, as well as their sensitive and thoughtful approaches to the legal themes they explore.

Harriet Green identifies the revolutionary effect technology has had on public functions and discusses how judicial review may respond to these changes, managing to be both instructive and innovative. Azeem Marhendra Amedi's article although situating itself within the constitutional democracy decline experienced in Indonesia, a fascinating case study in and of itself, also speaks to concerns that are relevant to democracies who are facing a rise in populism and authoritarianism everywhere. Emily Patterson asks us to re-evaluate our understanding of pre-nuptial agreements and in the process brings us face to face with our changing society, perceptions of gender-roles, relationships, and reminds us of the value of exploring different approaches in our attempt to modernise our laws.

The two following articles investigate issues which despite the attention they have attracted especially in feminist legal literature for a long time, are still the subject of heated debate today. Lauren Seery-Loudon, through a feminist lens, analyses the implications of a controversial case on the meaning of consent and in a refreshing move employs empirical methods to provide an insight to women's understanding of both the case and the issue at hand. Caitlin Day on the other hand explores the subtle legal and cultural barriers women still face to access abortion services in the UK arguing for abortion to be viewed as a medical operation.

We then follow Genevieve Celeste Steele's analysis of legislation seeking to protect elephants from extinction and ivory poaching practices; a piece that brings us face to face with our responsibility towards the environment, art, and history and how these different considerations sometimes clash in unexpected ways.

Finally, the volume ends with our two competition winners. Ellie Allan, a postgraduate student, poses some interesting questions around cultural heritage and restitution through an investigation of the case of a grave-robber. Roma Beke, an undergraduate student, ponders the viability and ramifications of extending the legal rights of animals echoing the concerns, enquiries, and passion towards nature of a growing number of young individuals who hope for a better relationship between nature and humanity.

While different, what all these pieces have in common is that they present interesting and salient legal issues for the reader to consider with a high awareness of the practical impact law has on our changing society. To their credit many of our writers have not just presented a problem but have tried to explore viable solutions, whether that is through utilising existing legal principles, entertaining the possibility of legal reform or contemplating the effects of a shift in perspective. These pieces are an example of the breadth and depth of discussion that may be initiated when curiosity is nurtured, and when people come together to support each other's work. It is our hope that the volume is a source of inspiration for other ambitious and inquisitive York Law students as well as our wider audience.

It goes without saying that the volume would not be the same without the time, work, and dedication of a number of wonderful people. First and foremost thank you to my lovely team and fellow editors, Cindy Leung, Amy Mitchell, Kamée Payton, and Rachel Deyis, for their commitment to their assigned authors, excellent communication, and creativity. We would also all like to thank the outgoing editor Shivangi Gangwar for her seamless passing of the torch and patience with our questions. Last but not least we are deeply grateful to Dr Mattia Pinto and Martin Philip, for their continual support, guidance, and instruction which was a constant reassurance through all these months.