

FOREWORD

I am delighted and honoured to be writing the foreword to the 2018 edition of the UCL Journal of Law and Jurisprudence, the UCL graduate students' flagship publication. The articles in this volume address a great range of pressing and challenging legal, theoretical and social issues. All authors take a critical approach towards the law, and put forward new normative proposals and fresh insights in each field.

Eva Kassoti examines and questions the role of international legal scholarship in the definition and prioritisation of public goods, such as environmental protection, peace, and social justice. The aim of the article is to address the problem of the 'democratic participation gap', which is said to be due to the fact that affected actors, such as civil society organisations, do not have the power to participate in the processes that decide the definition and provision of these goods. Naimeh Masumy discusses the role of the oil and gas industry in Iran, which whilst it has led to economic development, has also led to environmental damage. The piece puts forward a proposal for a different approach to legal regulation in order to make companies accountable. Luis Otavio Barroso da Graca examines the judicial review of the legislative process in Brazil. He suggests that the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court should change its approach to the scrutiny of the legislative process in order to comply with the rule of law. Patricia Liola Tona Katto examines anti-homosexual legislation in Uganda, which she argues has been the result of the colonial legacy which cannot be fruitfully challenged by external pressures, and suggests that for the laws to be effective it is crucial to change public attitudes towards LGBTQ rights in the country.

Catalina González Verdugo considers the role of e-commerce and its impact on competition law. More specifically, she examines the degree to which computer algorithms have the effect of inducing or enhancing tacit collusion, and argues that existing horizontal restraint regulations in the EU and the US may be able to address the problem of algorithmic tacit collusion. Jessica Filippi turns to the role of restorative justice in France, in the field of

and EU law on this issue, and proposes some changes in the field in order to comply better with principles of restorative justice. The piece also suggests that the purposes of criminal justice and restorative justice complement each other. Finally, Annina Julia Kotamäki turns to the topic of the regulation of foreign takeovers in the UK. The piece focuses particularly on the protection of public interest in this context against the background of uncertainty created by Brexit and by developments in the field of Artificial Intelligence. It proposes a range of suggestions for

reform, including the creation of a new independent body to address questions that arise in the context of foreign takeovers.

The quality of the papers is impressive, and so is the range of the topics as well as the jurisdictions that are covered. This quality serves as evidence of both the research skills and hard work of the contributors, but also the professionalism, skills and hard work of the editorial team of the journal, and specifically the PhD student editors Hitesh Dhorajiwala, Ed Robinson and Natalie Sedacca, who have to be congratulated warmly for bringing this project to fruition.

Professor Virginia Mantouvalou

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