Message from the Director

Welcome to the RUSSLR Report covering activities in 2013

Established in 2007, the University of Adelaide Research Unit for the Study of Society, Law and Religion (RUSSLR) is the first centre or institute in Australia to study the relationship between society, law and religion—putting it at the leading edge in Australia of what is already a major research area worldwide.

RUSSLR’s principal objective is to create a space for dialogue on significant issues involving the relationship between society, law and religion in Australia. We seek to foster an environment where divergent views can be expressed with good will and respect in order better to understand the place and role of religion and law in contemporary Australian society.

The work of members of the RUSSLR Research Group within the Adelaide Law School covers a diverse range of scholarship covering a wide spectrum of ideas related to the intersection of society, law and religion.

2013 brought an exciting new development in the work of RUSSLR, with Deputy Director Associate Professor Bernadette Richards establishing a partnership with colleagues at Cardiff University Law School leading to the establishment of a Centre for Ethics, Law and Society (CELS), an international network of scholars interested in the intersection of law, ethics and society. CELS exists as a virtual research collaboration and aims to connect researchers and students around the world. The primary aims of CELS are to:

- Foster interdisciplinary and international collaboration,
- Provide a resource for academics, professionals, policy-makers and citizens,
- Provide a resource for those seeking research partners,
- Encourage international research in relevant areas, and
- Contribute to the ongoing discussion and debate surrounding the issues which arise around the intersection of law, ethics and society.

CELS is linked with RUSSLR and will expand on the research activities of the Unit. We envisage that there will be CELS visitors, seminars and joint research activities.

During 2013, RUSSLR, acting in partnership with ATF Press, established Ethics: Critical and Contemporary Perspectives, a journal under the General Editorship of Bernadette Richards, which draws upon scholarship from the humanities, social sciences and sciences in order to address the evolving and increasingly complex ethical issues facing the global community. The first issue addressed the theme of ‘The Ethics of Ethics’.

This Report outlines the activities of RUSSLR and its University of Adelaide members during 2013. As you will see from the Report, it was an exciting year, with both RUSSLR and its members making outstanding national and international contributions to the ongoing dialogue surrounding law and religion.

Paul Babie  
Director  
RUSSLR
I. RUSSLR Activities

A. 2013 Annual RUSSLR Oration
Associate Professor John Strawson, University of East London (UK), RUSSLR 2013 Law and Religion Oration: ‘Islamic Law encounters the Arab Spring – Egypt’s choice’, 25 November 2013

B. Speakers
Associate Professor Greg Taylor, ‘Austria’s Law against Defamation of Religion’, RUSSLR Public Lecture, 28 October 2013, Adelaide Law School

Dr Vanja-Ivan Savić, University of Zagreb, “What to Expect from Laws in Complex Religious and Ethnic Societies?: Insight into Bosnia and Lebanon”, RUSSLR Seminar series, 18 February 2013, Adelaide Law School

C. Conferences and Workshops
Is circumcision a crime?: A critique of the legal regulation of genital cutting in Germany and Australia, RUSSLR Workshop, 23 May 2013, Adelaide Australia

The JRCLS Asia-Pacific Law and Religion Conference, in conjunction with The J Reuben Clark Law Society, Adelaide Chapter, 7-8 June 2013, Adelaide Australia

Law, Faith & The Secular: A Symposium on Law & Religion, in conjunction with Griffith University, Faculty of Law, 28 November 2013, Brisbane, Australia

D. Journal
‘The Ethics of Ethics’, (2013) 1 Ethics: Critical and Contemporary Perspectives: Editor, Bernadette Richards; contributors Allan C Hutchinson, Grant Gillett, Jacques Arnould, and Robert Crotty
II. Research Activities of RUSSLR Members of the University of Adelaide

A. Books


Laura Grenfell, *Promoting the Rule of Law in Post-Conflict States* (Cambridge University Press, 2013)

Bernadette Richards and Jennie Louise, *Medical Law and Ethics, A Problem-Based Approach* (LexisNexis, 2013)

B. Book Chapters


Laura Grenfell, ‘Legal Pluralism and the Rule of Law in East Timor’ in Albert F Y Chen and Tom Ginsburg (eds), *Public Law in East Asia* (Ashgate Press, 2013)

C. Articles


Paul C Martin, ‘The Exploratory and Reflective Domain of Metaphor in the Comparison of Religions’ (2013) 48 *Zygon* 936-65


D. Submissions
Gabrielle Appleby, Laura Grenfell, Anne Hewitt, Alexander Reilly and John Williams, University of Adelaide Law School Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Inquiry into the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2012

Anne Hewitt, Submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs Inquiry into the Exposure Draft of Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012

Laura Grenfell and Anne Hewitt, Submission to the Attorney-General’s Department Gender Recognition Guidelines Consultation regarding the Australian Government Guidelines on the Recognition of Gender Consultation Draft 2013

Laura Grenfell and Anne Hewitt, Submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs inquiry into the Sex Discrimination Amendment (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Intersex Status) Bill 2013

E. Conference/Seminar Presentations
Paul Babie, ‘Religious Freedom and Political Speech in Australia’, University of Alberta, Faculty of Law, Centenary Lecture, 17 September 2013, Edmonton, Canada

Paul Babie, Roundtable Participant, ‘Ecumenism in Education’, Flinders University School of Theology, 20 May 2013, Adelaide, Australia

Paul Babie, Workshop Participant, ‘Law, Faith and Secularism’, RUSSLR, Griffith Law School, and Multi Faith Centre, Griffith University, 28-29 November 2013, Brisbane, Australia


David Caruso, ‘Denying Consent to Medical Procedures involving Children on Grounds of Religion and Culture’, Regulation of Male Circumcision in Comparative Perspective Symposium, Adelaide Law School, 6 April 2013, Adelaide, Australia

Peter Burdon, ‘Thomas Berry and Ecological Law’, Catholic Teachers Association Annual Conference, 17 September 2013, Woodside, Australia

Laura Grenfell, ‘Courts, Care and Bodies: Is the Parens Patriae Jurisdiction a Jurisdiction of Care?’, Revaluing Care Workshop: Caring about Social Interconnection, Keele University (UK) and University of Adelaide, 1 September 2013, Adelaide, Australia

Anne Hewitt, ‘The imbalanced regulation of genital cutting in Australia’, Regulation of Male Circumcision in Comparative Perspective Symposium, Adelaide Law School, 6 April 2013, Adelaide, Australia
Anne Hewitt, Panel Participant, ‘Teaching law in broader contexts roundtable’, Australian Law Teachers Association 2013, 30 September 2013, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

Cornelia Koch, ‘Anti-vilification Laws – the Australian Experience and a Natural Law Perspective’, The JRCLS Asia-Pacific Law and Religion Conference, in conjunction with The J Reuben Clark Law Society, Adelaide Chapter, 7-8 June 2013, Adelaide Australia


Bernadette Richards, Staff Seminar, Cardiff University School of Law, July 2013, Cardiff, Wales
III. Other Activities of RUSSLR Members of the Adelaide Law School

A. Teaching
Paul Babie, Australian Constitutional Law: A Comparison of the Treatment of Religion and Property under the Australian and American Constitutions, University of Detroit Mercy, School of Law, July 2013, Detroit, USA

B. Community Service
Paul Babie, Advisory Editorial Board, Member (by invitation), Routledge Research Series in Law and Religion (UK)

Paul Babie, Chair, Editorial Board (by invitation), Interface: A Forum for Theology in the World (Australia)

Paul Babie, Commissioned Book Reviewer (by invitation), Journal of Law and Religion (Hamline University Law School, USA)

Paul Babie, Editorial Board (by invitation), International Perspectives in Victimology (California State University, Fresno, USA, and Tokiwa International Victimology Institute, Japan)

Paul Babie, Ethics Series Editorial Board – Chair (by invitation), ATF Press (Australia)

Paul Babie, Editorial Committee – Member (by invitation), Australasian Theological Book Reviewer (Australia)

Paul Babie, Editorial Board (by invitation), Ethics: Critical and Contemporary Perspectives (Australia)

Paul Babie, Remarks given for University of Adelaide Commemoration and Dedication for Those who have given their Bodies for Medical Research and Teaching, 29 February 2012, Adelaide

Anne Hewitt, Law Society of South Australia’s Representative, National Law Council of Australia, Equalising Opportunity in the Law Committee

Suzanne Le Mire, HREC Committee/Judicial Development Committee

Bernadette Richards, Deputy Chair, Southern Adelaide Clinical Human Research Ethics Committee

Bernadette Richards, Secretary, Australasian Association of Bioethics and Health Law