

INSTITUTE FOR LAW, POLITICS AND JUSTICE (iLPJ)

Thematic Statement

1. Thematic summary

This Institute brings together a substantial group of researchers working in the fields of, and exploring the intersections between, law and ethics, politics and international relations, and crime, migration, security and justice. The Institute comprises four primary Research Centres: ***Law, Ethics and Society; International Studies Politics and Philosophy; Criminological Research;*** and ***Social, Cultural and Postcolonial Research (SOCPOR)***. It is also host to the **International Network for Courts and Sentencing Research** and the ESRC funded **Bio-Politics of Security Network**. Each Centre maintains its distinctive identity based upon the conduct of research and publication, procurement of external funding, and knowledge partnership activity in fields where the Centres have built up an established national and international reputation. The Institute has a management and co-ordinating role that includes developing an infrastructure to support research and knowledge partnership work, stimulating grant applications, fostering new cross-Centre activities and groupings, managing Institute members' research time, and creating a supportive, high quality environment for postgraduate research students (in collaboration with the Graduate School). The Institute is located in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

2. Research Centres

CENTRE FOR LAW, ETHICS AND SOCIETY

All of the research based in the Centre for Law, Ethics and Society concerns itself with ethics and/or law. However, 'ethics' and 'law' are both understood inclusively. Thus, 'ethics' includes moral theory and applied philosophy, while 'law' includes all doctrinal, theoretical, empirical, comparative or other studies of legal and regulatory phenomena. One of the Centre's aims is to bridge the divide between law and (other) social science and humanities subjects. Hence, as well as undertaking traditional doctrinal work in law, many Centre members are engaged in socio-legal research or in other studies of legal phenomena which are multi- or inter-disciplinary. Similarly, many of the Centre's ethics researchers have a keen interest in the role of empirical data in applied ethics, and/or in collaboration with academics and practitioners from a wide range of disciplines. As well as carrying out research, the Centre provides a site for PGR students working in the abovementioned areas (including those on professional doctorates in medical ethics) and uses its expertise to deliver knowledge transfer programmes in selected thematic priority areas (notably research ethics and governance). The AHRC funded **Gender Sexuality and the Law Centre** and **PEAK** (Professional Ethics at Keele) operate within CLES.

CENTRE INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, POLITICS AND PHILOSOPHY

The Centre for International Studies Politics and Philosophy is primarily concerned to advance empirical and theoretical research on political thought and practice, especially the politics of modern states and all aspects of the international political system. It embraces a plurality of theoretical and methodological approaches, including those drawing on a number of disciplines, but members are committed to the highest standards of rigour within their chosen approach. Within the CISPP a

number of groups operate. These include the **Centre for Research on Environmental Action and Thought (CREATE)**; the **Forum for Philosophical Research**, the **Biopolitics of Security Network**, the **Keele South East European Unit**, and the **Forum for Sport in Global Politics and Society**. Members aim to produce research of international significance, of relevance to the advancement of knowledge for its own sake and/or for potential users. Where appropriate, members seek to attract funding for research projects from the leading national and transnational funding bodies. Members of the Institute offer their expertise to institutions of national and international governance, other political organisations, national and international media and, where appropriate, to private enterprise.

CENTRE FOR CRIMINOLOGICAL RESEARCH

The Centre for Criminological Research is dedicated to the advancement of research in the fields of crime and in/security, policing, criminal justice and punishment. Members of the Centre broadly conduct work that operates at the intersection between current debates in social theory, systematic empirical enquiry, and contemporary dilemmas in public policy. In so doing, they are also concerned broadly with the relationship between crime control, criminal justice and social justice, and with investigating questions of crime, in/security, criminal justice and punishment in ways that connect with contemporary social scientific and policy debates on, for example, social inclusion/exclusion, governance/regulation, gender, identity, and citizenship. Members of the Centre also conduct historical, comparative and psychosocial research on crime and justice. They deploy a wide range of methodologies to investigate these issues and are oriented to producing high quality social scientific work that is of international significance and of relevance to a wide range of policy audiences. The Centre in addition is developing a distinctive role in knowledge transfer partnership activities in community safety, criminal justice and allied fields of social policy.

CENTRE for SOCIAL, CULTURAL and POSTCOLONIAL RESEARCH (SOCPOR)

The mission of the Centre for Social, Cultural and Postcolonial Research (SOCPOR) is to foster and facilitate research at all levels - postgraduate, postdoctoral and advanced - in the fields of postcolonial comparative cultural research, grounded in sociological, anthropological and historical perspectives, in order to develop innovative theory in the social sciences. The core membership of the SOCPOR is made up of social anthropologists and sociologists working on the intersection between politics and culture in the contemporary world. Our collective aim is to build up a postgraduate cohort within the Research Institute to research in the fields of comparative social and cultural change in the 21st century, with particular emphasis on the postcolonial world, international migration, racism and difference, cultural hybridity, cosmopolitanism, human rights, utopias, modernity and knowledge production, conspiracy theory and witchcraft, transnational social movements, religion, political Islam, multiculturalism, globalisation and cultural consumption, space and place, and the politics of representation. In addition to its core membership, SOCPOR includes a range of scholars within the Research Institute working on issues of race, crime, ecological social movements and other issues in the developing world, and on the interface between these and First World societies. SOCPOR area studies expertise currently includes Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

3. Membership

Membership applications are invited from individuals at Keele whose research interests cohere with those of the Institute. All members of the Institute will be affiliated to one of its three Centres and will be asked upon application to nominate the Centre they wish to be aligned with.