

Foreword

The second issue of this student-led journal is as riveting as the first. What a pleasure it is to encounter such topical and engaging articles as these. Indeed, they are as varied as those in the first issue, examining the regulation of cryptocurrency; British politics post-Brexit, and the killing of near-birth foetuses respectively. These articles cover different fields of law, in domestic, national and international jurisdictions. They concern new laws (cryptocurrency) and old (child destruction). Their proposed reforms are both detailed (amending liability thresholds) and wholesale (devolution). Nonetheless, these articles are united in their concern for social responsibility, and this makes for gripping reading.

If we read with this concern firmly in mind, shared themes do in fact appear. There is law's anxiety over how to regulate the immaterial (blockchain) and the invisible (unborn children). There is the question of what constitutes the 'real' – the economies of online multiplayer games? political identity based on cultural histories? the personhood of foetuses? And there is the effect of globalisation on the fundamental structures of economy and politics. Law, here, emerges as a midwife to the risk inherent in these financial, political and physical processes – risk that is caused by simple human frailty: greed, violence, forgetfulness, and fear.

None of the questions raised in these articles have easy answers, for they touch our deepest psychosocial traits. The human capacity to live in a metaphysical fantasy (of e.g. monetary value, territorial jurisdiction, and personhood) both defines us and destroys us. It is a tall order to ask such a blunt instrument as law to deal with

the drama – the passion and the sorrow – of identity, where such identity (a foetus, a Welsh person in the UK) is contiguous and symbiotic with its others. And yet, ask we must. For financial contracts can now be executed instantaneously. Brexit has rumbled Britain's historical fault-lines. Babies continue to be made, carried, and born.

In the global age it falls on law, then, to govern. But how, and by whom? The first article argues for jurisdictional co-ordination in the creation of a cryptocurrency regime. It introduces regulators as specialist economic bodies, governments, and exchange platforms themselves. The second article argues for the reintroduction of regional assemblies and notes the preferences of historic communities across England (in e.g. Yorkshire, Devon) as well as the Scottish and Welsh parliaments as potential decision-making powers. The third article argues for the criminalisation of foetal death during birth caused by recklessness (exempting the mothers). It cites the suffering of mothers whose near-birth babies have been killed by others, who have not had recognition of that loss.

In dark times, this journal is an encouragement to both academics and students. It shows us the value of reading and writing long form. It shows us the value of non-profit and independent work. And above all it shows us the value of fighting for laws and regimes that protect the vulnerable. It is an openness to the wider horizon that differentiates the young from the rest, and these articles demonstrate that with creativity and care.

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