

Foreword

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It is a particular pleasure to write this foreword to the seventh volume of the York Law Review. As a journal run by students to showcase the very best of their work, the Review occupies a distinctive and important place within the intellectual life of York Law School. Each volume reflects not only the strength of our students' scholarship, but also the collaborative, enquiry-led ethos that underpins our approach to legal education.

For me, this volume carries an additional, more personal significance. When I joined York Law School in 2018, the York Law Review was no longer in operation, having ceased publication several years earlier. One of the tasks I was given was to explore how it might be re-established. Working with a group of committed and highly capable students, we brought together a new editorial team, developed the structures needed to support the journal, and relaunched it with a renewed sense of purpose. That first revived edition demonstrated what our students could achieve when given the space, support, and responsibility to produce scholarship of real quality.

Since then, stewardship of the Review has passed into the hands of colleagues and successive editorial teams, each of whom has contributed to its continued development. It is immensely gratifying to see how the journal has evolved over the years—growing in confidence, ambition, and reach. The consistency of its success is a testament to the dedication, skill, and intellectual generosity of the students who edit and contribute to it. Each volume has offered something to be genuinely proud of, and this year's edition is no exception.

The articles in this volume exemplify the breadth, depth, and critical engagement that characterise York Law School scholarship. They address pressing contemporary issues while also pushing at the conceptual and normative boundaries of legal analysis.

The opening article explores the role of emotion in constitutional law, testing András Sajó's theory against the German constitutional framework. In doing so, it challenges the conventional assumption of legal neutrality and offers a nuanced account of how law both reflects and shapes democratic sentiment.

Questions of historical continuity and structural injustice are taken up in the analysis of British immigration law, which traces the persistence of colonial legal logics from the mid-twentieth century to the present day. By reframing contemporary controversies through the lens of imperial legacy, the article offers a powerful critique of narratives that treat exclusion as aberrational rather than systemic.

The volume also includes an important contribution on the treatment of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, focusing on age assessment practices in the UK. Through a careful engagement with international human rights standards, this work exposes the limitations—and potential harms—of current approaches, and calls for a more fundamentally child-centred framework.

In a different but equally timely vein, the article on misinformation and the decentralisation of media power examines the challenges posed by social media to traditional models of regulation. Its focus on system design and platform responsibility highlights the need for legal frameworks that can respond to rapidly evolving forms of communication and influence.

The ethical and legal complexities of medical innovation are explored in the discussion of fetal surgery, which interrogates the tension between maternal autonomy and fetal interests. By drawing on both ethical theory and legal doctrine, the article argues persuasively for reform that better reflects the realities of contemporary medical practice.

Global questions of accountability and justice are addressed in the analysis of corporate social responsibility in the wake of the Rana Plaza disaster. This article underscores the limits of voluntary regulatory regimes and makes a compelling case for enforceable legal mechanisms to protect workers' rights in global supply chains.

Finally, the volume looks beyond the Earth itself, with an examination of the regulatory challenges posed by satellite mega-constellations in low Earth orbit. By identifying gaps in existing international frameworks, the article highlights the urgent need for coordinated global governance in an increasingly crowded and contested domain.

Taken together, these contributions demonstrate not only technical legal competence, but also a willingness to engage critically with the social, political, and ethical dimensions of law. They reflect a community of students who are not content simply to describe the law as it is, but who are committed to questioning how it operates, whom it serves, and how it might be improved.

The production of this volume is, as ever, the result of considerable effort by the student editorial team. Their work—often undertaken alongside demanding academic commitments—requires care, precision, and collaboration. The quality of this volume is a clear reflection of that commitment, and they deserve to be warmly congratulated.

It is a pleasure to present this seventh volume of the York Law Review. It stands as a testament to the continued vitality of the journal and to the intellectual curiosity, rigour, and dedication of York Law School students. I am delighted to see how far the Review has come, and I look forward to its continued success in the years ahead.

Sue Westwood

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