

Oxford/Leiden Faculty Conference 26–27 September 2008

FROM TIME TO TIME members of the Oxford and Leiden Law Faculties hold a conference at which members of the two faculties give papers on related topics – a very valuable staff exchange, conducted in a relatively informal setting but allowing members to work together and therefore to cement further the long-established link between our two Faculties.



In 2008 it was Leiden's turn to host the conference, which took place on 26 and 27 September on the theme 'Interpretation of National Law in the Context of Transnational Law'. For Oxford, Stefan Vogenauer chaired one of the sessions and presented a paper on 'Interpretation of the UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts by National Courts'; John Cartwright gave a paper on 'Interpretation of English Law in Light of the Common Frame of Reference'; and Deirdre Dwyer on 'The Interpretation of the English Civil Procedure Rules in the Context of Article 6 ECHR'. Leiden colleagues presented a range of papers both on private law topics and on fundamental rights. The hospitality of the Leiden Faculty was, as always, outstanding. A volume containing the papers from the conference is to be published during 2009.

News from the Foundation for Law, Justice and Society

THE FOUNDATION FOR LAW, JUSTICE AND SOCIETY, affiliated with the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, enjoyed a rich programme of events in 2008, attended by prominent figures from government, business, academia, law, and the media.

In June, the Foundation was privileged to welcome the Chief Justice of South Africa to Oxford, to deliver a lecture on the constitutionalization of socio-economic rights in South Africa since Apartheid. He argued that the Constitution is best understood as a manifesto for positive transformation towards an equal society, and that in order to achieve this equality, 'judges should approach human rights adjudication so as to uplift the underprivileged'.

A large audience was attracted to the Foundation's lecture on Detention without Trial at the Aspen Institute, Colorado in July. The lecture and following workshop, which coincided with the Aspen Ideas Festival, served to strengthen the close links the Foundation enjoys with the Aspen Institute, and was covered by Joshua Rozenberg in *The Daily Telegraph*.

The House of Lords played host to the concluding symposium of our three-year 'Rule of Law in China' programme in October. The event was attended by a select group of fifty prominent figures in the field, including Lord Geoffrey Howe, former Chancellor of the Exchequer and President of the Great Britain China Centre, who remarked that the programme's policy briefs and reports showed a 'sophistication of analysis that is immensely impressive'.

The Foundation's lectures are available as podcasts which can be downloaded from the Foundation's recently relaunched website at: www.fljs.org/podcasts

Last year's annual lecture by Cass Sunstein was one of the top 100 global downloads from the new Oxford University page of iTunes U, to which the Foundation has been contributing this year.

The year 2009 looks set to be equally successful, beginning with our conference on International Courts on 28 January, when Professor Antonio Cassese will deliver a lecture on International Criminal Law and Victim-Centred Justice.

Housing issues in the twenty-first century

WITH THE SUPPORT of the John Fell Fund and Devonshires solicitors, the Faculty is running a series of interdisciplinary housing seminars on a number of current hot topics in housing.

The series has been organized by Sue Bright, together with Professor John Meullbauer (Economics), and Professor Peter Kemp (social policy). Topics discussed in Michaelmas Term were: house prices, housing supply, and the future of social housing. In Hilary and Trinity terms we are looking at the future of private renting, the changing legal landscape, homelessness, household formation, and climate change and housing. For further information, contact events@socres.ox.ac.uk